

Comes, Rachel

From: Taylor Anderson <taylor.ross.anderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: Petition for Rule Change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Commission

Petition for Rule Change

First Name: Taylor

Last Name: Anderson

Address: 236 East 7th Avenue
Groton, SD 57445

Phone Number: 6053804059

Email Address: taylor.ross.anderson@gmail.com

Rule Identification: 41:07:03:03 (5)

Describe the change you are seeking: Raising the minimum length limit for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) to 50 inches.

Explain the reason for the described change: Muskellunge fishing is largely a catch and release fishery. Many of the fish in the 40 inch mark are getting harvested due to an inadequate minimum length restriction. Other states have raised their minimum and are now producing "trophy class fish". For instance, Minnesota is at 54 inches. The fish in South Dakota are capable of reaching trophy class status if given the opportunity through catch and release. However, the 40 inch minimum is allowing many anglers to keep 40 inch fish which are not considered trophy size. It is also expensive for the SDGFP to raise muskies. The following paragraph was taken from the Aberdeen American News in an article back in July regarding muskies. "Studies from the Buckeye State show that each muskie stocked costs about \$12. To get a muskie to 40 inches, it requires stocking about 40 fish, making a 40-inch fish worth something in the neighborhood of \$480. To get a muskie to 50 inches, it requires stocking about 500 fish, making a 50-inch fish worth \$6,000." It is of my opinion that you will not find many anglers who will disagree with raising the minimum to 50 inches. I have spoken with fisheries biologist who are also in agreement with raising the minimum to 50 inches. Hopefully you guys agree to accept this petition. Thank you, Taylor Anderson