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## Mississippi River Walleye Regulation Proposal

The Mississippi River has a tremendous walleye fishery and is unequaled in statewide significance. Walleye fishermen travel from all corners of our state as well as the entire Midwest to fish for walleye in the Mississippi River. However, I believe that the walleye population in the Mississippi River that I fish and guide in has been declining over the past 10 years. I attribute this to increased fishing pressure, increases in fishing technology and loss of spawning habitat.

The current regulation for walleye is 15 inch minimum size with a 6 bag limit. This regulation does not provide the necessary protection to spawning female walleyes. I propose changing the 15 inch minimum size limit with a protected slot of 20 to 27 inches with one fish allowed over 27 inches. This would provide significant protection to spawning female walleye and allow the harvest of some larger fish.

This regulation has been implemented in IL. and IA. waters. The numbers of fish below, above as well as in the slot have continually grown. I believe that along with continued education that we will be able to bring this great rivers walleye population back to what history has shown it's capable of producing. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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