

Four Walleye limit/with one over 20 inches

Senator Carrie Ruud,

We at the DNR Walleye Workshop have had a discussion at our meetings and internally changing the current walleye limit from 6 to 4 with one walleye over 20 inches allowed in the bag limit of 4. This conversation was brought up for the last 5 years and we hope we are moving in the right direction to get this passed.

Over the years we have talked to thousands of anglers at boat launches, seminars, sport shows, and radio interviews and the over whelming support for the change has been a credit to the understanding from anglers the need. Within our State Walleye committee there is a total support for the change and delaying this process will be detrimental to the process.

The majority of the large walleye lakes in Minnesota and including border water lakes such as Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods have had in place a 4 walleye bag limit with great success and approval by anglers and business owners combined. It has not been detrimental to business and in fact has created an upward spike in success. The is a positive move in the right direction for the anglers of Minnesota and visitors as well.

In conversations with the DNR they also are in support of the change and publicly are supporting the moving forward with the Bill as a state wide regulation.

With the pandemic upon us there is an influx of new anglers and with this addition there is an added pressure on our bodies of water that may be a threat to populations of walleyes and other species. Adjusting limits because of social opinions is not the driving force in these adjustments, but saving fish for future generations of anglers should be at the forefront of these decisions.

I want to take this time to thank you on behalf of the State Walleye Committee and the anglers of Minnesota in taking the lead on introducing this Bill to the legislative branch of Minnesota government and continuing to never turn your back on the future of our outdoors.

Tom Neustrom

Grand Rapids Minnesota

State Walleye Committee, Leech Lake Advisory Committee, Mille Lacs Advisory Committee