

FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS - Saugeye

What is being considered?

The Department is proposing to establish a minimum size and creel limit for saugeye consistent with existing regulations for walleye.

- 15-inch minimum size
- 5 fish per day creel limit, 10 in possession
- No closed season

Why is this change necessary?

The Freshwater Fisheries and Hatcheries Division (FFHD) introduced saugeye (*Sander canadensis x vitreus*) to Piney Reservoir (Frostburg Reservoir) in Garrett County as a management tool to improve panfish size structure, to improve the reproductive success of largemouth bass by reducing the abundance of yellow perch, and to provide anglers with an additional gamefish. Saugeye are a member of the family percidae and are a hybrid cross between a female walleye (*Sander vitreus*) and male sauger (*Sander canadensis*). As a new introduction, no harvest regulations currently exist in Maryland for saugeye. This regulation would establish a minimum size and creel limit for saugeye consistent with the existing minimum size and creel limit for walleye (15-inch minimum size with a 5 fish per day creel, 10 fish in possession).

Who will this affect?

This action will affect recreational anglers fishing in non-tidal waters. Currently, saugeye has only been introduced to Piney Reservoir (Frostburg Reservoir) in Garrett County.

When will this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the winter of 2023-2024. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

No.