

Minnesota/Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources Border Water Regulation Review for the Mississippi River.

Summary of responses received during comment period

Responses collected during public meetings, from paper forms, and electronically distributed forms are all combined in the following results.

No analysis or filtering of data to address specific questions has occurred when preparing this summary.

Definitions

Daily Bag – is the total number of fish of a species or group of species that you can keep in one day.

Combined Bag – when two or more fish species are grouped into one daily bag limit.

Example – Walleye and Sauger have a combined bag limit on the Mississippi River. You can keep a total of 6 Walleye and Sauger in any combination.

Minimum length regulation – a fish would need to be at least X inches long before it could be kept.

Example – Northern Pike in Wisconsin's South Zone must be 26-inches long before they are legal to keep.

"1-Over" regulation – in a daily bag limit, you could only have one fish of this species over a certain length.

Example – In Minnesota inland waters, you can only keep 1 Walleye over 20 inches per day.

Definitions – length based regulations

"Slot Limit" – generally refers to a certain size range of fish that can or cannot be harvested.

Example – Lots of variation in length combinations have been used.

Q1 - Which meeting location are you attending tonight?

Red Wing	43
Wabasha	23
Prairie du Chien	15
La Crosse	51
Winona	23
Did not attend a meeting	695
Total	850

Q1 - Which meeting location are you attending tonight?



Q2 - What state do you live in?

Minnesota	293
Wisconsin	443
Iowa	83
Illinois	22
Other	9
Total	850

Q2 - What state do you live in?



Q3 -How far do you live from the Mississippi River?

0 to 5 miles	376
6 to 10 miles	82
11 to 30 miles	115
31 to 50 miles	95
More than 50 miles	181
Total	849

Q3 -How far do you live from the Mississippi River?



Q4 -How many days do you fish the Mississippi River in an average year?

1 to 10 days	151
11 to 25 days	232
26 to 50 days	220
More than 50 days	243
Do not fish the Mississippi River	1
Total	847

Q4 -How many days do you fish the Mississippi River in an average year?



Q5 -Of those days – about how many are spent ice fishing?

1 to 10 days	556
11 to 25 days	176
26 to 50 days	64
More than 50 days	17
Do not ice fish the Mississippi River	36
Total	849

Q5 -Of those days – about how many are spent ice fishing?



Q6 -What do you fish for the most on the Mississippi River?

Bass	81
Catfish	29
Northern Pike	17
Panfish	180
Walleye and Sauger	375
White Bass	1
Whatever is biting	164
Total	847

Q6 -What do you fish for the most on the Mississippi River?



Q7 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for White Bass?

Never	324
Rarely	313
Occasionally	197
Often	13
Almost Always	0
Total	847

Q7 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for White Bass?



Q8 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate White Bass fishing?

Very Poor	27
Poor	95
Fair	235
Good	153
Excellent	21
No Opinion	312
Total	843

Q8 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate White Bass fishing?



Q9 - What aspect of White Bass fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	68
High Catch Rates	219
More large / trophy size fish	74
Undecided / No opinion	483
Total	844

Q9 - What aspect of White Bass fishing is most important to you?



**Q10 - White Bass harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	253
About Right	234
Too Low	18
No opinion / Not sure	336
Total	841

**Q10 - White Bass harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**



**Q11 - What is the lowest daily bag for White Bass that you
would find acceptable?**

5	112
10	227
15	113
20	24
25 - current regulation	117
No opinion	251
Total	844

Q11 - What is the lowest daily bag for White Bass that you would find acceptable?



**Q12 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how often do you
fish for Largemouth Bass?**

Never	192
Rarely	215
Occasionally	248
Often	123
Almost Always	69
Total	847

**Q12 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how often do you fish for
Largemouth Bass?**



Q13 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Smallmouth Bass?

Never	138
Rarely	193
Occasionally	320
Often	152
Almost Always	45
Total	848

Q13 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Smallmouth Bass?



Q14 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Largemouth Bass fishing?

Very Poor	5
Poor	29
Fair	148
Good	328
Excellent	133
No Opinion	203
Total	846

Q14 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Largemouth Bass fishing?



Q15 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Smallmouth Bass fishing?

Very Poor	4
Poor	25
Fair	198
Good	355
Excellent	113
No Opinion	152
Total	847

Q15 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Smallmouth Bass fishing?



Q16 - What aspect of Largemouth Bass fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	66
High Catch Rates	202
More large / trophy size fish	288
Undecided / No opinion	285
Total	841

Q16 - What aspect of Largemouth Bass fishing is most important to you?



Q17 - What aspect of Smallmouth Bass fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	74
High Catch Rates	215
More large / trophy size fish	337
Undecided / No opinion	218
Total	844

Q17 - What aspect of Smallmouth Bass fishing is most important to you?



Q18 - Bass harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)

Too High	168
About Right	455
Too Low	52
No opinion / Not sure	169
Total	850

Q18 - Bass harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)



Q19 - What is the lowest daily bag for bass that you would find acceptable?

1	52
2	104
3	203
4	43
5 - current regulation	275
No opinion	169
Total	846

Q19 - What is the lowest daily bag for bass that you would find acceptable?



Q20 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Largemouth and Smallmouth bass?

Keep combined bag	512
Undecided	139
Separate bag limits	191
Total	842

Q20 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Largemouth and Smallmouth bass?



Q21 - What is your opinion of the existing 14-inch minimum length limit for Bass?

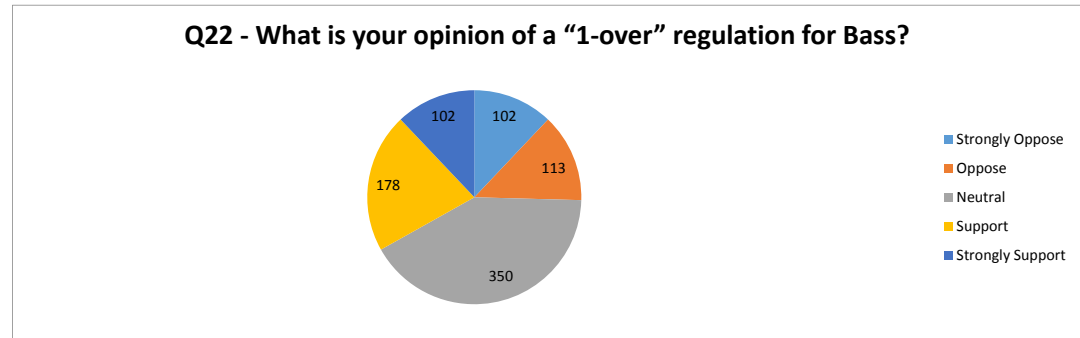
Drop it - no minimum	81
Make it shorter than 14"	68
Make it longer than 14"	130
Keep it - no change	439
Undecided / No Opinion	126
Total	844

Q21 - What is your opinion of the existing 14-inch minimum length limit for Bass?



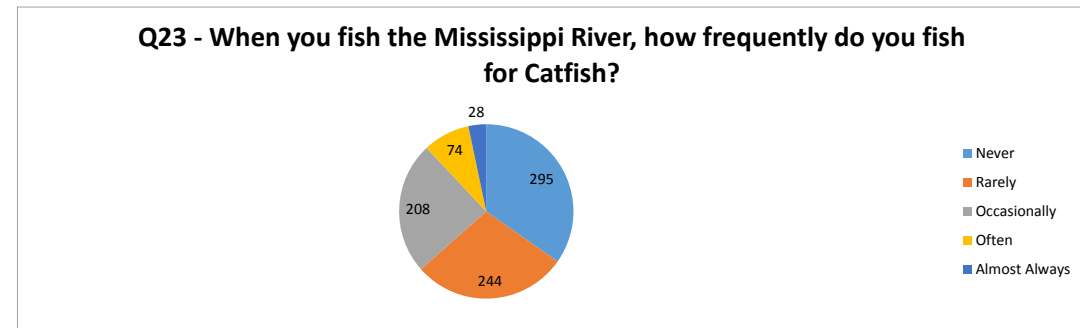
Q22 - What is your opinion of a “1-over” regulation for Bass?

Strongly Oppose	102
Oppose	113
Neutral	350
Support	178
Strongly Support	102
Total	845



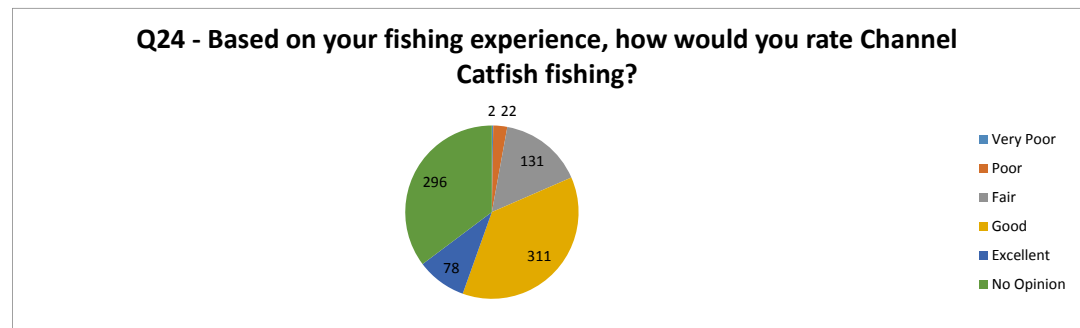
Q23 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish

Never	295
Rarely	244
Occasionally	208
Often	74
Almost Always	28
Total	849



Q24 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate

Very Poor	2
Poor	22
Fair	131
Good	311
Excellent	78
No Opinion	296
Total	840



Q25 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Flathead Catfish fishing?

Very Poor	6
Poor	48
Fair	169
Good	227
Excellent	46
No Opinion	342
Total	838

Q25 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Flathead Catfish fishing?



Q26 - What aspect of Channel Catfish fishing is most important

Harvest Opportunity	134
High Catch Rates	127
More large / trophy size fish	182
Undecided / No opinion	394
Total	837

Q26 - What aspect of Channel Catfish fishing is most important to you?



Q27 - What aspect of Flathead Catfish fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	117
High Catch Rates	89
More large / trophy size fish	238
Undecided / No opinion	394
Total	838

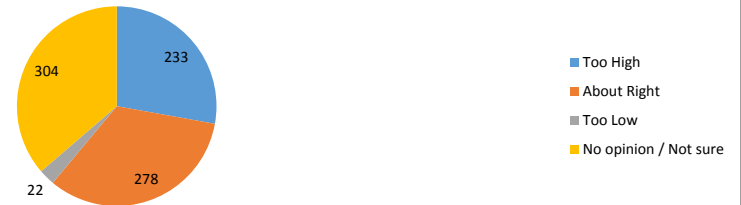
Q27 - What aspect of Flathead Catfish fishing is most important to you?



**Q28 - Channel Catfish harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	233
About Right	278
Too Low	22
No opinion / Not sure	304
Total	837

**Q28 - Channel Catfish harvest under current regulations
is (fill in blank)**



**Q29 - Flathead Catfish harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	277
About Right	227
Too Low	15
No opinion / Not sure	317
Total	836

**Q29 - Flathead Catfish harvest under current regulations
is (fill in blank)**



**Q30 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Channel Catfish
you would find acceptable?**

5 or less	215
10 - current MN side	214
15	38
20	5
25 - current WI side	62
No limit - current WI/IA	3
Unlimited - current WI/IA	29
No opinion	271
Total	837

**Q30 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Channel Catfish you would
find acceptable?**



Q31 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Flathead Catfish that you would find acceptable?

5 or less	331
10 - current MN side	135
15	21
20	7
25 - current WI side	44
No limit - current WI/IA	2
Unlimited - current WI/IA	27
No opinion	266
Total	833

Q31 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Flathead Catfish that you would find acceptable?



Q32 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Channel and Flathead catfish?

Keep combined bag	325
Undecided	235
Separate bag limits	267
Total	827

Q32 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Channel and Flathead catfish?



Q33 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" regulation for Channel Catfish?

Strongly Oppose	102
Oppose	100
Neutral	438
Support	119
Strongly Support	75
Total	834

Q33 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" regulation for Channel Catfish?



Q34 - What is your opinion of a “1-over” regulation for Flathead Catfish?

Strongly Oppose	102
Oppose	83
Neutral	398
Support	129
Strongly Support	123
Total	835

Q34 - What is your opinion of a “1-over” regulation for Flathead Catfish?



Q35 - If length based regulations were used, would you prefer they were applied to....

Flathead Catfish only	184
Channel Catfish only	22
Both species	314
Undecided	314
Total	834

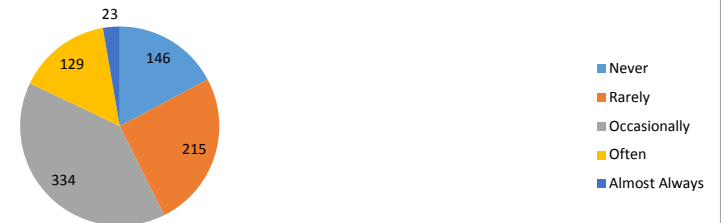
Q35 - If length based regulations were used, would you prefer they were applied to....



Q36 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Northern Pike?

Never	146
Rarely	215
Occasionally	334
Often	129
Almost Always	23
Total	847

Q36 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Northern Pike?



Q37 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Northern Pike fishing?

Very Poor	6
Poor	47
Fair	244
Good	341
Excellent	95
No Opinion	108
Total	841

Q37 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Northern Pike fishing?



Q38 - What aspect of Northern Pike fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	147
High Catch Rates	125
More large / trophy size fish	401
Undecided / No opinion	165
Total	838

Q38 - What aspect of Northern Pike fishing is most important to you?



Q39 - Northern Pike harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)

Too High	199
About Right	449
Too Low	56
No opinion / Not sure	133
Total	837

Q39 - Northern Pike harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)



Q40 - What is the lowest daily bag for Northern Pike that you would find acceptable?

1	36
2	163
3	228
4	23
5 - current regulation	278
No Opinion	109
Total	837

Q40 - What is the lowest daily bag for Northern Pike that you would find acceptable?



Q41 - What is your opinion of a minimum length regulation for Northern Pike?

Strongly Oppose	92
Oppose	107
Neutral	226
Support	257
Strongly Support	151
Total	833

Q41 - What is your opinion of a minimum length regulation for Northern Pike?



Q42 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" regulation for Northern Pike?

Strongly Oppose	93
Oppose	98
Neutral	280
Support	217
Strongly Support	146
Total	834

Q42 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" regulation for Northern Pike?



Q43 - If length based regulations are used for Northern Pike, which of these goals is most important to you?

Reduce overall harvest	61
Increase abundance of "harvest size" fish	229
Increase Catch and Release of larger fish	283
More Trophy size fish	251
Total	824

Q43 - If length based regulations are used for Northern Pike, which of these goals is most important to you?



Q44 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Panfish? (Sunfish, Crappie and Yellow Perch)

Never	54
Rarely	98
Occasionally	224
Often	319
Almost Always	154
Total	849

Q44 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Panfish? (Sunfish, Crappie and Yellow Perch)



Q45 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Sunfish fishing (Sunfish group = Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish)

Very Poor	12
Poor	54
Fair	202
Good	375
Excellent	118
No Opinion	80
Total	841

Q45 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Sunfish fishing (Sunfish group = Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish)



Q46 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Crappie fishing?

Very Poor	24
Poor	119
Fair	297
Good	264
Excellent	44
No Opinion	92
Total	840

Q46 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Crappie fishing?



Q47 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Yellow Perch fishing?

Very Poor	15
Poor	73
Fair	211
Good	303
Excellent	145
No Opinion	91
Total	838

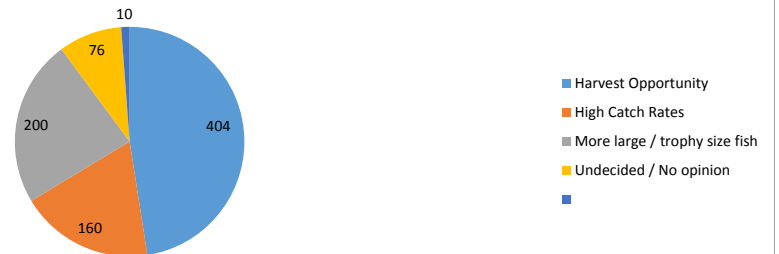
Q47 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Yellow Perch fishing?



Q48 - What aspect of Panfish fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	404
High Catch Rates	160
More large / trophy size fish	200
Undecided / No opinion	76
	10
Total	850

Q48 - What aspect of Panfish fishing is most important to you?



**Q49 - Sunfish harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	462
About Right	296
Too Low	15
No opinion / Not sure	69
Total	842

Q49 - Sunfish harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)



**Q50 - Crappie harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	468
About Right	283
Too Low	19
No opinion / Not sure	70
Total	840

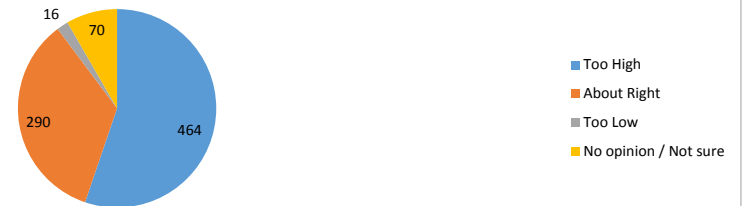
Q50 - Crappie harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)



**Q51 - Yellow Perch harvest under current regulations is
(fill in blank)**

Too High	464
About Right	290
Too Low	16
No opinion / Not sure	70
Total	840

Q51 - Yellow Perch harvest under current regulations is (fill in blank)



Q52 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Sunfish that you would find acceptable?

5	45
10	279
15	246
20	51
25 - current regulation	168
No Opinion	51
Total	840

Q52 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Sunfish that you would find acceptable?



Q53 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Crappie that you would find acceptable?

5	74
10	341
15	197
20	31
25 - current regulation	143
No Opinion	52
Total	838

Q53 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Crappie that you would find acceptable?



Q54 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Yellow Perch that you would find acceptable?

5	48
10	292
15	228
20	47
25 - current regulation	170
No Opinion	51
Total	836

Q54 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Yellow Perch that you would find acceptable?



Q55 - What is your opinion of a combined bag limit for all Panfish species?

Keep species bag limits separate	488
Undecided	96
Combine species bag limit	254
Total	838

Q55 - What is your opinion of a combined bag limit for all Panfish species?



Q56 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Sunfish? (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish)

Strongly Oppose	187
Oppose	188
Neutral	194
Support	178
Strongly Support	93
Total	840

Q56 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Sunfish? (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish)



Q57 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Crappie?

Strongly Oppose	165
Oppose	151
Neutral	178
Support	228
Strongly Support	117
Total	839

Q57 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Crappie?



Q58 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Yellow Perch?

Strongly Oppose	163
Oppose	158
Neutral	189
Support	220
Strongly Support	110
Total	840

Q58 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Yellow Perch?



Q59 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Walleye and Sauger?

Never	25
Rarely	78
Occasionally	216
Often	262
Almost Always	266
Total	847

Q59 - When you fish the Mississippi River, how frequently do you fish for Walleye and Sauger?



Q60 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Walleye fishing?

Very Poor	21
Poor	89
Fair	274
Good	343
Excellent	81
No Opinion	34
Total	842

Q60 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Walleye fishing?



Q61 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Sauger fishing?

Very Poor	29
Poor	119
Fair	303
Good	282
Excellent	69
No Opinion	42
Total	844

Q61 - Based on your fishing experience, how would you rate Sauger fishing?



Q62 - What aspect of Walleye fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	349
High Catch Rates	171
More large / trophy size fish	276
Undecided / No opinion	43
Total	839

Q62 - What aspect of Walleye fishing is most important to you?



Q63 - What aspect of Sauger fishing is most important to you?

Harvest Opportunity	378
High Catch Rates	218
More large / trophy size fish	191
Undecided / No opinion	54
Total	841

Q63 - What aspect of Sauger fishing is most important to you?



Q64 - Walleye harvest under current regulations is
(Fill in blank)

Too High	337
About Right	455
Too Low	16
No opinion / Not sure	32
Total	840

Q64 - Walleye harvest under current regulations is (Fill in blank)



Q65 - Sauger harvest under current regulations is
(Fill in blank)

Too High	322
About Right	469
Too Low	16
No opinion / Not sure	35
Total	842

Q65 - Sauger harvest under current regulations is (Fill in blank)



Q66 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Walleye and Sauger?

Keep a combined bag	609
Undecided	51
Separate bag limits	180
Total	840

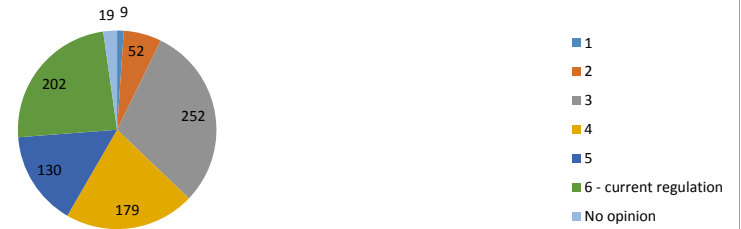
Q66 - What is your opinion of the combined bag for Walleye and Sauger?



Q67 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Walleye that you would find acceptable?

1	9
2	52
3	252
4	179
5	130
6 - current regulation	202
No opinion	19
Total	843

Q67 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Walleye that you would find acceptable?



Q68 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Sauger that you would find acceptable?

1	9
2	52
3	232
4	153
5	142
6 - current regulation	233
No opinion	23
Total	844

Q68 - What is the lowest daily bag limit for Sauger that you would find acceptable?



Q69 - What is your opinion of the existing 15-inch minimum length limit for Walleye?

Drop it - no minimum	44
Make it shorter than 15"	77
Make it longer than 15"	91
Keep it - no change	598
Undecided / No opinion	30
Total	840

Q69 - What is your opinion of the existing 15-inch minimum length limit for Walleye?



Q70 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Sauger?

Strongly Oppose	95
Oppose	131
Neutral	177
Support	271
Strongly Support	165
Total	839

Q70 - What is your opinion of a minimum length limit for Sauger?



Q71 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" type regulation for Walleye?

Strongly Oppose	106
Oppose	92
Neutral	183
Support	218
Strongly Support	243
Total	842

Q71 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" type regulation for Walleye?



Q72 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" type regulation for Sauger?

Strongly Oppose	128
Oppose	121
Neutral	245
Support	182
Strongly Support	166
Total	842

Q72 - What is your opinion of a "1-over" type regulation for Sauger?



Q73 - What is your opinion of a "slot limit" regulation that protects Walleye in a certain size range?

Strongly Oppose	119
Oppose	100
Neutral	144
Support	223
Strongly Support	257
Total	843

Q73 - What is your opinion of a "slot limit" regulation that protects Walleye in a certain size range?



Q74 - If length based regulations are used for Walleye, which of these would be most important to you?

Reduce overall harvest	98
Increase abundance of "harvest size" fish	349
Increase Catch and Release of larger fish	286
More trophy fish	100
Total	833

Q74 - If length based regulations are used for Walleye, which of these would be most important to you?



Q75 - If length based regulations are used for Sauger, which of these would be most important to you?

Reduce overall harvest	111
Increase abundance of "harvest size" fish	441
Increase Catch and Release of larger fish	208
More trophy fish	76
Total	836

Q75 - If length based regulations are used for Sauger, which of these would be most important to you?



Q76 - Regulations on Walleye or Sauger may shift harvest pressure to the other species. Which one would you like the DNRs to prioritize?

Walleye	614
Sauger	57
Undecided	167
Total	838

Q76 - Regulations on Walleye or Sauger may shift harvest pressure to the other species. Which one would you like the DNRs to prioritize?



Q77 - What did you think of the Audience Response System?

Didn't like it	10
It was okay	92
Really liked it	121
Not sure	40
Was not present for meeting	577
Total	840

Q77 - What did you think of the Audience Response System?

