MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

If the 13-inch size limit were still in effect, the sauger fishery in Lake Winnebago would be very limited, since both the males and females did not reach this size on the average until the end of their fourth year. In our sample, only 25.9 percent of the males and 21.4 percent of the females would have been legal-sized fish.

The sauger in Lake Winnebago could stand a greater harvest. The present daily bag limit of 5 walleyes and saugers in aggregate is not sufficient to harvest a sauger population that is short-lived, very stable and can attain high population levels. A daily bag limit of 5 saugers and 5 walleyes should be tried on Lake Winnebago to increase the sauger harvest. The argument that anglers cannot distinguish saugers from walleyes is not very realistic in view of similar problems existing with the northern pike and muskellunge and largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, which, nevertheless, have separate bag limits.

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