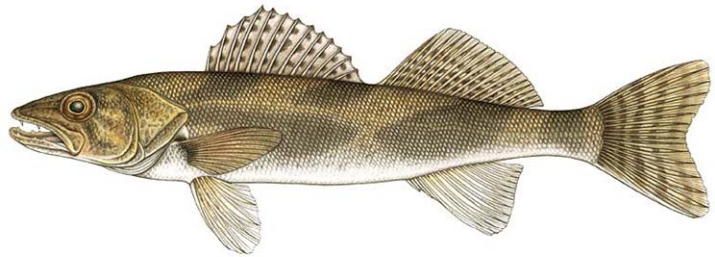




# Sauger

## *Sander Canadensis*



### **Physical Features**

Sauger, a close relative to the walleye is a well sought after fish on the lower Red River. Since it's so closely related to the walleye there are a few ways to distinguish one from the other. Saugers have a distinctive spotted dorsal (top of back) and caudal (rear or tail) fin, whereas walleyes have a distinctive white blot on their caudal fin. Other aspects that help identify the sauger are the dark brassy to almost black spots in some regions along their sides. Saugers have similar body types of walleyes but are on average smaller, reaching a maximum length of around 16", usually weighing 1 to 2 pounds.

### **Spawning**

Saugers tend to spawn in similar areas to walleyes. They spawn when temperatures reach 45 to 50 degrees in the spring, but often migrate deeper and sometimes prefer a faster moving current than their cousin, the walleye. They can often be found on gravel flats laying their eggs.

### **Habitat and Food**

Saugers are abundant in the Red River south of Grand Forks reaching down to Fargo and near the headwaters of the Red. They can be found in deep darker water or in more turbid waters because their eyes are light sensitive. Sauger can generally be found in deeper holes, behind humps in the river, or the edges of back currents otherwise known as "eddies".

### **Interesting Facts**

Sauger and their cousin the Walleye are so close genetically that they can interbreed. The result of this is a hybrid known as the "saugeye".

### **Angling Tips**

Saugers provide an excellent tasting meal and for a person's best chance to catch them they need to match the forage for that area. A few of angler's favorite baits include live minnows, jig and twister tails, as well as many minnow imitators. When fishing through the ice , a heavy jig tipped with a minnow and fished off the bottom is a popular bait.

---

### **For More Information Contact:**

River Keepers  
325 7th St S., Ste. 201  
Fargo, ND 58103-1846  
701-235-2895  
[www.riverkeepers.org](http://www.riverkeepers.org)

February 2011