### Identification of Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has stocked sauger and saugeye (a hybrid of the walleye and the sauger) in federal reservoirs where walleye have not flourished. The sauger is native to large rivers like the Kansas and Missouri. Both sauger and saugeye are better adapted to high flow and turbid water than the walley; saugeye establish fishable populations below impoundments when flushed. Saugeye have also been stocked as an additional predator in small lakes with stunted crappie.

It is important that anglers be able to identify what type of perch (the family of fishes that includes walleye and sauger) they catch because length limits on walleye, sauger and saugeye can differ in a given body of water. The information below identifies key characteristics needed to identify these three fish.

**Walleye**
- Spiny dorsal fin with indistinct streaks or blotches
- Cheeks with few scales (smooth)
- Dark blotch at rear base of spiny dorsal fin
- Blotches on sides indistinct and not extending far below the lateral line

**Sauger**
- Spiny dorsal fin with distinct circular spots
- Cheeks with few scales (rough)
- No blotch at rear base of spiny dorsal fin
- Blotches on sides dark, distinct and extending below the lateral line

**Saugeye (hybrid)**
- Spiny dorsal fin with distinct streaks often with one or two rows of spots at base
- Cheeks with scales (rough)
- Dark blotch at rear base of spiny dorsal fin
- Blotches on sides dark, distinct and extending below the lateral line

*Artwork by Joseph R. Tomelleri*