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 charactristics needed to identify these three fish.

