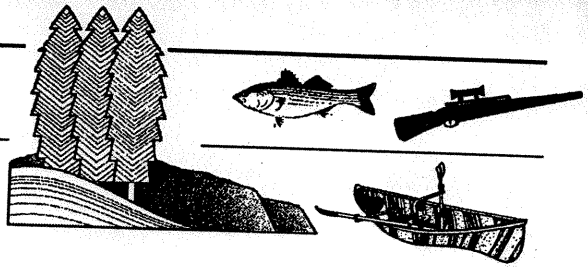


Assembly Committee on:

Natural Resources

State Representative

DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 1995

TO: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

FROM: DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair

RE: rule referral

The following Rules have been referred to our committee:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Clearinghouse Rule 95-026 | Relating to commercial fishing for whitefish in Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Submitted by Department of Natural Resources. |
| Clearinghouse Rule 94-164 | Relating to the administration of the county forest project loans. Submitted by Department of Natural Resources. |

Our current review period extends through June 9, 1995. Copies of each rule summary are enclosed. Please contact my office if you would like a copy of any rule.

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

NR 25.06(2)(d)1., Wis. Adm. Code
Commercial fishing for whitefish in Lake Michigan and Green Bay

Board Order No. FM-57-94
Clearinghouse Rule No. 95-026

Statement of Need

The whitefish population in Lake Michigan is healthy. Department biologists have recommended an increase from 1,300,000 to 1,460,000 pounds in the total allowable annual commercial harvest of whitefish from Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The increase would be divided among the three commercial fishing zones as follows: 13,695 pounds to zone 1, 123,255 pounds to zone 2 and 13,050 pounds to zone 3.

The current quota of 1.3 million pounds was almost completely harvested during the past quota year for the first time since quota management of the species began in 1989. The exploitable population continues to include several mature year classes, reflecting sustained good annual reproduction and good survival to age seven and older.

Modifications as a Result of Public Hearing

No modifications were made as a result of public hearing.

Appearances at the Public Hearing and Their Position

In support:

Neil F. Teskie, Teskie Fisheries, 12266 Hwy. 42, Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Dan Schwarz, 4399 Hwy. 57, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

In opposition - none

As interest may appear:

Rick Johnson, Johnson Fishery, 850 Hwy. 42, Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Charles Henriksen, Wis. Commercial Fishermen's Assoc., 1597 Birch Road, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

No changes were recommended.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed rule changes will increase the harvest of whitefish by commercial fishers of Lake Michigan. No additional compliance or reporting requirements will be imposed as a result of these proposed rule changes.