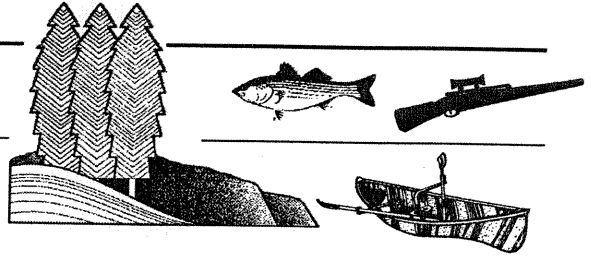

Assembly Committee on:

Natural Resources

State Representative

DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 1996
TO: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
FROM: DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair
RE: Rule Referral

The following Rule has been referred to our committee:

Clearinghouse Rule 96-023 Relating to sport fishing. Submitted by
Department of Natural Resources.

Our current review period extends through 7-25-96. A copy of the rule summary is enclosed. Please contact my office if you would like a copy of the rule.

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
REPEALING, AMENDING, REPEALING AND RECREATING, AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board adopts an order to repeal NR 20.03(6)(d)2w. and Table 5; to amend NR 20.03(1)(a)1.e. and 5m., (d)5. and 6., (2), (4)(d) and (g) Table 1, 4., 49. and 69., (6)(d)1.i. (Table 1) and 3., and 21.04(11); to repeal and recreate NR 20.015(2) and 20.03(1)(c); and to create NR 20.015(2i), 20.03(1)(k)2m. and 3m., related to sport fishing

FM-4-96

Analysis prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

Statutory authority: ss. 29.174 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.
Statutes interpreted: ss. 29.085 and 29.174(2)(a), Stats.

In this order:

Section 1 clarifies the definition of an artificial lure;

Section 2 defines barbless hooks as hooks without barbs or hooks with the existing barb compressed against the shank of the hook.

Sections 3 and 4 increase the minimum length for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 14" to 18" and reduce the daily bag limit from 5 of each daily to 1 of each daily on Lake Mendota, Dane county; Fox lake, Dodge county; and Big Muskego lake, including Bass bay, Waukesha county and correct an error in the season for Lazy lake, Columbia county;

Section 5 establishes a category system of regulations for walleye, sauger, and hybrids thereof that places waters into regulation categories based on characteristics of the walleye population;

Section 6 increases the minimum length limit for northern pike on Fox lake, Dodge county from 26 to 32 inches and reduces the daily bag limit from 2 to 1;

Section 7 changes the boundary of the northern pike zones from county lines to U.S. highway 10, which adds significant portions of Buffalo, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau, and Manitowoc counties to the southern zone. Small portions of Clark, Outagamie, Pierce and Waupaca counties would also be added, and portions of Calumet and Wood counties would be removed;

Section 8 changes the daily bag limit for panfish on the Chippewa flowage, Sawyer county, to 50 in total, of which only 15 may be crappie, during the period from the first Saturday in May to November 30, and establishes a daily bag limit of 15 panfish on the Chippewa flowage, none of which may be crappie, during the period from December 1 to March 1;

Section 9 reduces the daily bag limit from 50 to 15 in total and establishes a minimum length limit of 8 inches for bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and yellow perch in Big Muskego lake and Bass bay, Waukesha county;

Section 10 provides for a winter fishing season on the Chippewa flowage for bluegill, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and yellow perch from December 1 to March 1;

Sections 11 and 12 establish a catch and release angling season for trout with artificial lures and barbless hooks only from March 1 to the first Saturday in May for all trout waters statewide except spring ponds and other waters with seasons designated in the table of trout regulations, and exempts three sensitive waters from the early season (upper White river, Bayfield county; west branch of White river, Waushara county; portions of the Tomorrow river, Portage county), and;

Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16 increase the minimum length limit for muskellunge on the Wisconsin - Minnesota boundary waters and connected waters in Douglas county, from 36 inches to 40 inches.

SECTION 1. NR 20.015(2) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 20.015(2) "Artificial lure" means a spoon, spinner, plug or other fish bait made of hair, feathers, cork, wood, rubber, metal, plastic or other synthetic materials, or combinations of these materials. An "artificial lure" may not include natural or organic food stuffs such as corn, marshmallows, dough, cheese, meat, living or dead organisms or parts thereof, except hair, feathers, cork, wood and rubber.

SECTION 2. NR 20.015(2i) is created to read:

NR 20.015(2i) "Barbless hooks" means hooks with no barbs, or hooks with barbs that have been compressed to be in complete contact with the shank of the hook.

SECTION 3. NR 20.03(1)(a)1.e. is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
1.e. <u>Lazy lake, Columbia county;</u> Fish and Mud lakes (T9N, R7E, Sec. 3,4), <u>Lake Mendota, Dane county;</u> <u>Fox lake, Dodge county;</u> <u>Eagle lake, Racine county-;</u> <u>Big Muskego lake and Bass bay, Waukesha county.</u>	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	18

SECTION 4. NR 20.03(1)(a)5m. is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
5m. <u>Columbia lake, Lazy lake,</u> <u>Columbia county</u>	Continuous	1	18

SECTION 5. NR 20.03(1)(c) is repealed and recreated to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(c) WALLEYE, SAUGER AND HYBRIDS THEREOF (see also s. NR 20.04)			
1. Forest lake, Fond du Lac county	First Saturday in May to March 1	0	--
2. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	20
3. All urban waters of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties	Continuous	1 in total with largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and northern pike	No minimum length
4. Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2	15
5. Lake Wazee, Jackson county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	15
6. Trout lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15
7. Mineral, Spider and Moquah lakes, Ashland county; Silver lake, Columbia county; Lake Mendota and the following connected waters: Cherokee lake, Warner park lagoons, Pheasant Branch creek from its mouth upstream to county hwy. M, Sixmile creek from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19 in Sec. 8, and Yahara river from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19, all in Dane county; Fox Lake, Dodge county; Crane, Lucerne and Pickerel lakes, Forest county; Blackhawk, Cox Hollow and Twin Valley lakes, Iowa county; Grand Portage and Mercer lakes, Iron county; Yellowstone lake, Lafayette county; Pickerel and Rollingstone lakes, Langlade county; Lee lake, Richland county; Sand lake, Rusk county; Delavan lake and its tributaries, Walworth county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	18
8. All Green Bay tributary streams from their mouths upstream to the first dam or lake	Continuous	3	No minimum length

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>9. Three lakes chain (includes Big, Big Fork, Big Stone, Crystal, Deer, Dog, Fourmile, Island, Laurel, Little Fork, Long, Medicine, Moccasin, Planting Ground, Rangeline, Round, Spirit, Townline, Virgin and Whitefish lakes, all connecting waters and Eagle river downstream to Vilas county line), Oneida county; Eagle chain (includes Catfish, Cranberry, Duck, Eagle, Lynx, Otter, Scattering Rice, Voyageur, Watersmeet including Wisconsin river from Otter Rapids dam to county highway G; Yellow birch lake, all connecting waters and Eagle river upstream to Oneida county line), Vilas county</p> | <p>First Saturday in
May to March 1</p> | <p>3, but only 1
may be longer
than 18"</p> | <p>No minimum
length,
except the
possession
of fish from
14 through
18 inches is
prohibited</p> |
| <p>10. English lake, Ashland county; Chippewa river upstream from Holcombe dam including Holcombe flowage and tributaries, Long lake and Jump river, Chippewa county; portions of tributaries upstream from the highway or railroad bridge nearest the mouth that flow into the Chippewa river and its impoundments between Holcombe dam and Dells Pond dam, Chippewa and Eau Claire counties; Butternut and Franklin lakes, Forest county; Boot, Long and McDermott lakes, Iron county; North Spirit, Spirit, Thompson and Whitcomb lakes, Jump river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Price county; Chippewa river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Flambeau river upstream to the Thornapple flowage dam and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Jump river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Rusk County; Grindstone lake, Chippewa river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake in that portion of the Chippewa river downstream from the Radisson flowage dam, Sawyer county; Diamond, North Harper, Rib, Sackett and South Harper lakes, Jump river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Taylor county; Anvil, Big Portage, Forest, Lost Canoe, Plum and White Sand (T42N R7E S27) lakes, Vilas county</p> | <p>First Saturday in
May to March 1</p> | <p>5, but only 1
may be longer
than 18"</p> | <p>No minimum
length,
except the
possession
of fish from
14 through
18 inches is
prohibited</p> |

11. Chippewa river from Holcombe flowage dam to Dells Pond dam, all impoundments and tributaries (including tributaries to impoundments) upstream from their mouths to the first highway or railroad bridge, Chippewa and Eau Claire counties; Yellow river downstream from the Suetlik dam at Cadott and its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first highway or railroad bridge, Chippewa county

Continuous	5, but only 1 may be longer than 18"	No minimum length, except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited
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12. Gordon lake, Lake Galilee, Upper Clam and Zielke lakes, north fork Flambeau river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Ashland county; Bony, Jackson, Middle Eau Claire and Namekagon lakes, Pike lake chain (includes Buskey Bay, Millicent, Hart, Twin Bear, Eagle, Flynn and McCarry lakes), Bayfield county; Patten lake, Florence county; Bearskull, Catherine, Cedar, Echo, Fisher, Gile flowage, Island, Little Oxbow, Lower Springstead, Owl, Oxbow, Pine, Randall, Sandy Beach, Sherman, Spider and Upper Springstead lakes, north fork Flambeau river and its tributaries, west branch Montreal river and Turtle river upstream from Echo lake, Iron county; Enterprise, Jesse, Rose and Sawyer lakes, Langlade county; Pesabic lake, Lincoln county; Alva, Bearskin, Buckskin, Buffalo, Chain, Crescent, Dam, Diamond, East Horsehead, Echo, Fifth, Fourth, George, Hasbrook, Hat Rapids, Katherine, Lost (T38N R9E S24), Manson, Mercer, Moen, Muskellunge, Oneida, Pelican, Pine, Sand, Second, Sevenmile, Soo, Squash, Squirrel, Stone (T39N R9E S32) and Third lakes, Oneida county; north fork and south fork Flambeau river including impoundments and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Price county; south fork Flambeau river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Flambeau river upstream from Thornapple flowage dam including impoundments and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Rusk county; north fork, south fork and Flambeau river proper including tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Sawyer county; Alder, Averill, Big (T42N R6E S4), Big Arbor Vitae, Big Muskellunge, Birch, Boulder, Buckskin, Clear, Crab, Dead Pike, Emily, Fawn (T42N R5E S11), Fishtrap, Harris, High, Ike Walton, Island, Laura, Little Arbor Vitae, Little Star, Manitowish, North Crab, North Turtle, Oxbow, Presque Isle, Rest, Rock, Rush, South Turtle, Sherman, Spider, Squaw, Star, Stone, Van Vliet and Wild Rice lakes, Vilas county; Bass (Patterson) and Shell lake, Washburn county

First Saturday in
May to March 1

5, but only 1
may be longer
than 14"

No minimum
length

13. Tributaries to Lake Superior and their connected sloughs including: Bad river, White river, Fish creek and Kakagon river, Ashland county; Iron river and Fish Creek sloughs, Bayfield county; Bois Brule river, Middle river, Poplar river and Amnicon river, Douglas county

First Saturday in May to March 1 5, but only 1 may be longer than 20" 15

14. Spillerburg lake, Ashland county; Wilson lake, Iron county; Big Crooked (T42N R6E S12), Jenny and Sanford lakes, Vilas county

First Saturday in May to March 1 5 No minimum length

15. Lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan, Winnebago and the following connected waters: Fox river upstream to the dam above Princeton; Wolf river upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano; Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac; Puckyan river, Green Lake county; Embarrass river from its mouth upstream to the dam at Pella; Little Wolf river from its mouth upstream to the dam at Manawa; Waupaca river from its mouth upstream to the dam at Weyauega; Pine river upstream to the dam at Poysippi; Willow river upstream to the dam at Auroraville; Pumpkinseed creek upstream to the city hwy. D bridge, Winnebago county; and Shioc river, Outagamie county

Continuous 5 No minimum length

16. All other waters (See also ss. NR 20.037(3) and NR 20.04)

First Saturday in May to March 1 5 15

SECTION 6. NR 20.03(1)(d)5. is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
5. Diamond lake, Bayfield county; Fox lake, Dodge county; Bond lake, Douglas county; Butternut and Franklin lakes, Forest county; Puckaway lake, Green Lake county; Silver lake, Kenosha county; Big Eau Pleine reservoir, Marathon county; Largon lake, Polk county; Wilson flowage, Price county; Devils lake, Sauk county; Delavan lake and its tributaries and Geneva lake, Walworth county; Long lake, Waushara county; and the Wisconsin river and its flowages from the dam at Wisconsin Dells upstream to the dam at Lake DuBay			

SECTION 7. NR 20.03(1)(d)6. is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	26
6. All other waters of Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waushara, Winnebago and Weed counties; Prairie, Chetek, Pokegama, Mud, Ten Mile and Staples lakes, Barron county; Ellison, Muskellunge, Sand Bar and Tomahawk lakes, Bayfield county; Dunham lake, Burnett county; Stevens lake, Forest county; lake Six, Iron county; Bear, John and Munger lakes, Oconto county; Peshtigo flowage, Marinette county; Balsam, Long and Loveless lakes, Polk county; Slim lake, Washburn county; Partridge lake and Wolf river (downstream from Partridge lake), Waupaca county; all other waters of Portage county; all other waters south of U.S. highway 10			

SECTION 8. NR 20.03(1)(k)2m. is created to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(k) BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE, PUMPKINSEED (sunfish), YELLOW PERCH			
2m. Chippewa flowage, Sawyer county	First Saturday in May to November 30	50 in total, of which no more than 15 may be crappie	No size limit
	December 1 to March 1	15 in total, of which 0 may be crappie	No size limit

SECTION 9. NR 20.03(1)(k)3m. is created to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(k) BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE, PUMPKINSEED (sunfish), YELLOW PERCH			
3m. Big Muskego lake and Bass bay, Waukesha county	Continuous	15 in total	8

SECTION 10. NR 20.03(2) is amended to read:

NR 20.03(2) A Except as provided in sub. (1)(k)2m., a closed season is established for the taking, catching, or killing of fish of any variety or fishing for fish from December 1 to, but not including, the first Saturday in May of the next year, on all waters commonly known as the Chippewa flowage and that part of the Chippewa river except below the Chippewa flowage dam, commonly known as Winter dam, in the following described area, Sawyer county:

Township 39 north, range 6 west

Sections 1, 2 and 3

Township 39 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Township 39 north, range 8 west

Sections 1 and 12

Township 40 north, range 6 west

Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,

23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24,

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 8 west

Sections 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36

SECTION 11. NR 20.03(4) (d) is amended to read:

NR 20.03(4) (d) Open seasons. No person may fish for trout in any water or portion of any water except during the open season for that water or portion of water established by Table 1 or this paragraph. Where an open season for trout is not specified in Table 1 for a water or portion of water the open season is the first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30, both dates inclusive. During 1997, 1998 and 1999, fishing for trout is also allowed in streams where an open season for trout is not specified in Table 1, from March 1 at 5:00 a.m. to the first Saturday in May at 4:59 a.m., but the daily bag and possession limit for trout during this period is 0 and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

Note: The catch and release seasons from 1997 to 1999 do not apply to spring ponds, ponds or lakes.

SECTION 12. NR 20.03(4)(g), Table 1, subdivisions 4, 49 and 69 are amended to read:
TABLE 1

County	Water name	Portion	Regulation Category	Gear Restrictions, Size Limits, Daily Bag Limits, and Daily Size Limits for Category 5 Waters, and Open Season Exceptions for Other Categories (Open Seasons Include Both Dates)
4. Bayfield	All waters not listed except those portions of Lake Superior tributary streams regulated under sub. (1)(f)4.		1	
	Balsam pond	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in odd numbered years only
	Beaver lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in odd numbered years only
	Big brook	All	2	
	Bolen creek	All	2	
	Cap creek	All	2	
	Dechamps creek	All	2	
	Dechamps creek trib. (S32, T48N, R8W)	All	2	
	Eighteen Mile creek & springs	All	2	
	Five mile creek	All	2	
	Hanson creek	All	2	
	Hawkins creek	All	2	
	Hill creek	All	2	
	Iron river	All	2	
	Iron river (east fork)	Upstream from Orienta flowage	3	
	Iron river (east fork)	Downstream from East Fork road	3	
	Jader creek	Upstream from East Fork road	2	
	Johnson creek & springs	All	2	
	Kern creek	All	2	
	Little brook	All	2	
Little Star lake	All	2		
Long lake branch of White river	Upstream from Taylor lane	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in odd numbered years only	
Long lake branch of White river	Downstream from Taylor lane	5	Daily bag and size limit: 3 trout over 9", only 1 brown trout over 15"	
Long lake branch	All	2		

unnamed tribs.	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in even numbered years only
Marengo river and unnamed tribs.	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in even numbered years only
Middle creek	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30 in even numbered years only
Morgan creek	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
Namekagon river	CTH M downstream to Sawyer county line	3	
Nymphia lake	All	2	
Ounce river	Downstream from STH 27	2	
Overby lake (Blaisdell lake)	All	2	
Perch lake	All	2	
Pre-emption creek	All	2	
Shacte creek	All	2	
Spring creek	All	2	
Spring lake (S28, T44N, R9W)	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Mar. 1 in odd numbered years only
Tader creek	All	2	
Townsend creek	All	2	
Twenty Mile creek	All	2	
Twenty Mile creek unnamed tribs.	All	2	
Wanoka lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
Whiskey creek and unnamed tribs.	All	2	
White river	Upstream from Pikes bridge	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30
White river	Downstream from Pikes bridge	5	Daily bag and size limit: 3 trout over 9" only 1 brown trout over 15"
White river (east fork)	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30
White river (west fork)	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30
49. Portage Adams lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
Flume creek	All	3	
Little Wolf river	All	4	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
Rainy creek	All	3	
Spring lake	All	2	
Sunset lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1

Thomas lake	All		
Tomorrow river	Upstream from railroad bridge upstream from above Amherst upstream to First Street in Nelsonville to Clementson road	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1 Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30. Gear restriction: only artificial lures may be used. Daily bag limit: 1 trout. Size limit: brown trout 18", brook trout 10"
Tomorrow river (lower and middle)	Waupaca county line upstream to Amherst pond	4	
Tomorrow river (upper)	Upstream from EH-SS First St. in Nelsonville to <u>Clementson</u> road	4	
Tomorrow river (upper)	Clementson road upstream to Poncho creek	5	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30. Gear restriction: only artificial lures may be used. Daily bag limit: 1 trout. Size limit: brook trout 10", brown trout 14"
69. Waushara			
All waters not listed		2	
Johns lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Mar. 1
Mecan river and springs	All	3	
Pine river (lower)	Downstream from Wild Rose millpond	3	
Spring lake	All	2	
White River pond (west branch)	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Mar. 1
White river (main branch)	Upstream from Lower White river millpond	5	Gear restriction: only artificial lures may be used. Daily bag and size limit: 3 trout per day, only 1 brown trout over 15". Size limit: brook and rainbow trout 9", brown trout 12"
White river (west branch)	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Sept. 30
Wild Rose Mill pond	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to Mar. 1
Willow creek	Downstream from Blackhawk road	3	

SECTION 13. NR 20.03(6)(d)1.i. Table 1 is amended to read:

NR 20.03(6)(d) Minimum size limits. 1. The minimum size limits for muskellunge is 40 inches for all waters listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Waters with a 40-inch Minimum Size Limit on Muskellunge

County	Waters
i. Douglas	<u>Allouez bay</u> <u>Kimballs bay</u> <u>Little Pokegama bay</u> <u>Lower Eau Claire lake</u> <u>Nemadji river</u> <u>Pokegama bay</u>

SECTION 14. NR 20.03(6)(d)2w. and Table 5 are repealed.

SECTION 15. NR 20.03(6)(d)3. is amended to read:

NR 20.03(6)(d)3. The minimum size limit for muskellunge is 34 inches for all waters not listed in Tables 1,2,3,4 or 5 or 4.

SECTION 16. NR 21.04(11) is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open Season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(11) MUSKELLUNGE			
(a) St. Croix river and Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1	1	36 <u>40</u> inches
(b) St. Louis river	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1	1	36 <u>40</u> inches

The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on May 22, 1996.

The rules shall take effect on April 1, 1997, except for SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 12 which shall take effect on March 1, 1997, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(b), Stats.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By George E. Meyer, Secretary

(Seal)