Chapter WCD 24

CLAMS AND CLAMMING

WCD 24.01 Clamming in inland waters
WCD 24.02 Clamming; interstate boundary waters

(Sections 29.174 and 29.38, Wis. Stats.)

WCD 24.01 Clamming in inland waters. (1) SEASONS; LIMITS. There shall be maintained in the inland waters of the state of Wisconsin, not including the waters forming a common boundary between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota and Wisconsin and Iowa, the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other regulations for the taking of mussels and clams as specified. A closed season is established for the taking of mussels and clams for the entire period of each year except the open season period embraced within specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise expressly provided, no person shall take, catch or kill, or attempt to take, catch or kill any mussels or clams at any time other than the open season therefore, nor in any manner other than as provided.

Clams and mussels	Open season	Quantity	Min. length
(a) Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Florence, Forest, Green, Iron, Jefferson, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, St. Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Vilas and Washburn counties	April 15 to January 15	No limit By hand only	Not less than 1¾″ in greatest dimension
(b) In all other counties	June 1 to March 1	No limit	Not less than 1¾″ in greatest dimension

(c) All undersized mussels and clams shall be returned to the water without injury.

(2) USE OF BOAT OR RIG. Not more than one boat or rig may be used for taking mussels or clams. An additional boat for towing may be used when no mussel or clam taking apparatus is attached thereto.

(3) USE OF CROW-FOOT BARS, PITCH FORKS, DREDGE, ETC. (a) Not more than 4 crow-foot bars, or bars having hooks attached thereto adapted for the taking of mussels or clams, shall be had in possession by any person while taking mussels or clams at any one time, and not more than 2 of such crow-foot bars shall be placed in the water while taking mussels or clams, at any one time. No crow-foot bar of more than 20 feet in length shall be used.

(b) Pitchforks may be used in gathering clam shells.

(c) No person shall take, catch, or kill any mussels or clams at any time with the use of a dredge or by the use of any device except a crow-foot bar.

(4) POSSESSION OR CONTROL DURING CLOSED SEASON. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to have in their possession or under their control any mussels or clams taken from inland waters during the closed season for such mussels or clams, but shells legally taken may be possessed, bought, sold, or transported at any time.

History: 1–2–56; am. (1), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1–1–62.

WCD 24.02 Clamming; interstate boundary waters. (1) SEASON; LIMITS. There shall be maintained on the interstate boundary waters between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota and Wisconsin and Iowa, more particularly described and known as the Mississippi river, Lake Pepin, the St. Croix river, and Lake St. Croix, the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits, and other regulations for the taking of mussels and clams as specified in this section. A closed season is established for the taking of mussels and clams for the entire period of each year except the open period embraced within specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise provided, no person shall take, catch, or kill any mussels or clams at any time other than during the open season therefor, nor in any manner other than as provided in this section.

Clams and mussels	Open season	Quantity	Min. length
(a) Iowa–Wisconsin boundary waters	All year	No limit	Not less than 1¾″ in greatest dimension
(b) Minnesota–Wisconsin waters	May 15–March 1	No limit	Not less than 1¾″ in greatest dimensions

(c) All undersized mussels and clams shall be returned to the water without injury.

(2) USE OF DEVICES IN TAKING MUSSELS OR CLAMS. Not more than one boat or rig may be used for the taking of mussels or clams. An additional boat for towing may be used when no mussel or clam taking apparatus is attached thereto. Not more than 4 crow-foot bars, or bars having hooks attached thereto adapted for the taking of mussels or clams, shall be had in possession by any person while taking mussels or clams at any one time, and not more than 2 such crow-foot bars shall be placed in the water while taking mussels or clams at any one time. No crow-foot bar of more than 20 feet in length shall be used. Pitchforks may be used in gathering clam shells. No person shall take, catch, or kill any mussels or clams at any time with the use of a dredge or by the use of any device except a crow-foot bar.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to have in their possession or under their control any mussels or clams taken from such boundary waters during the closed season for such mussels and clams, but shells legally taken may be possessed, bought, sold, or transported at any time.

(4) This section shall also apply to all of the bays, bayous, and sloughs directly connected with the boundary waters mentioned in section WCD 24.02 (1).