

Chapter NR 25

COMMERCIAL FISHING — OUTLYING WATERS

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Note: Chapter NR 25 as it existed on September 30, 1976, was repealed and a new chapter NR 25 was created effective October 1, 1976.

NR 25.01 Purpose. (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates commercial fishing in the outlying waters.

(2) The rules contained in this chapter are not intended to, nor do they authorize, the sale or introduction into interstate commerce for purposes of human consumption or use fish taken from the outlying waters which fail to meet food and drug administration (FDA) standards.

(3) The following sections of this chapter are applicable to treaty fishers fishing in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior:

- (a) s. NR 25.02
- (b) s. NR 25.05
- (c) s. NR 25.06
- (d) s. NR 25.09
- (e) s. NR 25.10
- (f) s. NR 25.105
- (g) s. NR 25.11
- (h) s. NR 25.12
- (i) s. NR 25.13
- (j) s. NR 25.16
- (k) s. NR 25.17

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; emerg. cr. (3), eff. 4-22-86; cr. (3), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

NR 25.02 Definitions. Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, are defined as follows:

NR 25

(1) "Closed area" means any area designated as a refuge by rule or statute, or any area where fishing is restricted in any manner by rule.

(2) "Closed season" means that period of the year not embraced within the open season for each species of fish therefor as provided in s. NR 25.05 (1) during which the taking of the fish species enumerated is prohibited.

(3) "Commercial fish" is any species of game or rough fish for which an open season has been provided in s. NR 25.05.

(4) "Commercial fishing" means fishing for fish regulated by this chapter with commercial gear or methods other than those commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling, the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.09, or minnows.

(5) "Commercial fishing gear" or "commercial gear" is that equipment identified in or regulated by this chapter, with the exception of hook and line or angling equipment, gear for the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.09, or minnows.

(6) "Commercial ice fishing" means the setting and operating of commercial fishing gear through and from the surface of the ice.

(7) "Department" means department of natural resources.

(8) "Encircling nets" means purse seines as defined in sub. (22), and seines as described in s. 29.336 (3), Stats.

(9) "Entrapping nets" means trap nets as defined in sub. (27), and entrapping nets as described in s. 29.336 (1), Stats.

(10) "Final consumer" means the last or ultimate person who obtains a fish for its final use for eating or otherwise.

(11) "Final consumption" means the last or ultimate use of a fish by eating or otherwise.

(12) "Fisher" means any person engaged in fishing.

(12m) "Forage fish" means, when taken by trawl, only chubs which are not sorted for sale for human consumption, alewife, smelt and other rough fish species except carp and means, when taken by other commercial gear, only alewife and smelt.

(12t) "Foreign lake trout tag" means a tag authorized by the department for attachment to lake trout imported into the state.

(13) "Harvest limit", "harvest quota", "total allowable annual commercial harvest", "the total allowable commercial harvest" or "the annual allowable commercial harvest" means the total number or pounds of fish as established in this chapter which may be taken in a license year from the outlying waters or any portion thereof.

(14) "Illegal fish" means any or all fish taken at a time other than the open season, or of sizes other than prescribed in s. NR 25.05 or in excess of quotas as prescribed in s. NR 25.06, or taken by methods other than those prescribed in this chapter, or of the following species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, crappie, muskellunge, sturgeon, all species of salmon and trout except as otherwise prescribed in this chapter.

(15) "Illegal nets" mean those nets possessed or used in violation of this chapter or a statute.

(16) "Incapacity" means the inability to communicate in any manner or an adjudication of incompetency as defined in s. 880.01 (4), Stats.

(16m) "Import" includes the transport of fish by a common carrier or out of state fish dealer or producer into the state, or at the request of a licensed wholesale fish dealer, but does not include fish being transported through the state to a destination in another state.

(17) "Immediate family" means the spouse, children by birth or adoption, parents or siblings.

(18) "License year" means that period from July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year.

(19) "Licensed commercial fisher" means a person currently licensed under s. 29.33 (1), Stats.

(20) "Northern and southern Green Bay line" means that line described as a line in Green Bay drawn from the most northerly point of Friedmann's point at Fish creek, located in the southwest quarter of section 29, township 31 north, range 27 east, Door county; thence northwesterly to the most southeasterly point of Chambers island; thence along the southwest shoreline to the most southwesterly point of Chambers island; thence due west to the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.

(21) "Northern chub fishing zone" means those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, and east of a line extending through the marker buoy on Fisherman Shoal on a 23° bearing.

(22) "Northern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying north of the northern and southern Green Bay line.

(23) "Northern Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means that line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in township 32 or 33 north, range 29 east; thence in a northeasterly direction to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; thence along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; thence northerly to the southwesterly point of Shellswick dock, which is located on Lodbell's point on Washington island; thence along this dock to the shoreline of Lodbell's point; thence along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light; thence due north to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line.

(23m) "Smoked/fileted lake trout package tag" means an adhesive tag authorized by the department for attachment to packages of smoked, portioned or fileted lake trout.

(24) "Purse seine" means a net which consists of a wall or modified wall of net which is used to encircle fish. The top of the net is fitted with floats while the bottom is weighted. A line threaded through rings under the net allows fishers to close the bottom of the net, thus trapping fish in the enclosure so produced.

(25) "Southern chub fishing zone" means those waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line running due east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor.

(26) "Southern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying south of the northern and southern Green Bay line, including the Fox river as far as the dam at DePere.

(27) "Southern Green Bay — Lake Michigan line" means that line commencing at a point on the southwest shore of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal directly beneath the center of the Wisconsin public service company power line and extending in a northeasterly direction directly beneath and parallel to the center of the power line to a point on the northeast shore of the ship canal, all located in NE¼ NW¼, section 22, township 27 north, range 26 east, Door county.

(28) "Stretch measure" means the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified. Stretch measure means the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh.

(29) "Trap net" means a device constructed of netting, which may employ wings or wings and leads, directing the movement of fish through a tunnel of netting into inner hearts or built-in forebays wherein they are trapped by their own movement. Such nets may be referred to as shallow trap nets, submarine trap nets or deep water trap nets but shall not include drop nets or fyke nets.

(30) "Trawl" means a large conical bag of netting to which are often attached wings of netting, which is towed in the water and captures fish by scooping rather than encircling them. The mouth of the bag is normally kept open laterally by 2 large boards, one on each side so rigged that they serve to spread the entire net, and these boards are secured to towing lines running to the vessel or vessels engaged in towing the net through the water.

(31) "Trawl cast" means the single placement, towing and retrieval of a trawl.

(32) "Treaty fisher" means an enrolled tribal member of either the Bad River or Red Cliff bands of Chippewa Indians exercising off-reservation commercial fishing rights in Lake Superior recognized by *State v. Gurnoe*, 53 Wis. 2d 390 (1972).

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. (6) to (18) to be (7) to (19), (19) to (21) to be (22) to (24), (22) to be (21), cr. (6) and (20), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; renum. (8) to (14) to be (10) to (16), (15) to be (18), (16) to (18) to be (20) to (22), (19) to (24) to be (24) to (29), cr. (8), (9), (17), (19) and (23), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; renum. (16) to (29) to be (17) to (30), cr. (16), Register, June, 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; am. (20), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; renum. (16) to (30) to be (15) to (31) and cr. (16), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. cr. (32), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. cr. (23f), (23i), (23r), (23x), (27i), (27j), (27r), and (27k), eff. 5-5-86; cr. (12m), (12t), (16m), (23m) and (32), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

NR 25.03 Commercial fishing licenses. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Not more than 21 licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Superior may be issued for each license year except that this section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under permit or contract issued under s. 29.62 or 29.625, Stats.

(b) Applications for licenses authorizing commercial fishing on Lake Superior which have been filed in accordance with sub. (3) shall be reviewed and approved or denied pursuant to the following criteria:

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1. For the first year of eligibility the applicant must show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment.

2. To retain eligibility for the second year and thereafter, the applicant shall show proof of:

a. A \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment not to include vehicles other than those directly employed in operating nets.

b. At least 30 days lifting nets on Lake Superior during the previous license year unless unavoidable circumstances prevented the applicant from lifting nets. These circumstances shall be reviewed by the Lake Superior commercial fishing board which shall in these cases recommend approval or denial of the license.

3. Any applicant failing to meet the criteria of par. (b) will not be eligible to reapply for such license until the application period for the succeeding license year.

(c) Licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified under par. (b):

a. First to individuals who have been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior during the preceding license year.

2. Next to individuals who were not licensed the preceding year, but who had been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior for at least 2 years.

3. Next to individuals who worked as a licensed crew member on Lake Superior under s. 29.33 (4) (a), Stats., for at least 2 years.

4. Next to other Wisconsin residents and nonresidents residing in states allowing Wisconsin residents similar privileges.

5. When the number of qualified applicants for licenses exceed the number of licenses available and those applicants are not affected by the priorities established in par. (c), the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications.

(d) The Lake Superior commercial fishing board shall review applications for licenses and recommend approval or denial of licenses to the department no later than May 31 preceding the license year for which application is being made.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN. (a) The number of licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Michigan issued for any license year shall be limited to the maximum number issued for either of the immediately preceding 2 license years, except that this section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under a permit or contract issued under s. 29.62 or 29.625, Stats.

(b) Applications for licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Michigan which have been filed in accordance with sub. (3) shall be reviewed and approved or denied pursuant to the following criteria:

1. For the first year of eligibility the applicant shall show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment.

2. To retain eligibility for the second year and thereafter, the applicant shall show proof of:

a. A \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment not to include vehicles other than those directly employed in operating nets.

b. At least 30 days lifting nets on Lake Michigan during the previous license year unless unavoidable circumstances prevented the applicant from lifting nets. These circumstances shall be reviewed by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board which shall in these cases recommend approval or denial of the license.

3. Any applicant failing to meet the criteria of par. (b) will not be eligible to reapply for such license until the application period for the succeeding license year.

(c) Licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified under par. (b):

1. First to individuals who have been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan during the preceding license year.

2. Next to individuals who were not licensed the preceding year, but who had been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan for at least 2 years.

3. Next to individuals who worked as a licensed crew member on Lake Michigan under s. 29.33 (4) (a), Stats., for at least 2 years.

4. Next to other Wisconsin residents and nonresidents residing in states allowing Wisconsin residents similar licensing privileges.

5. When the number of qualified applicants for licenses exceed the number of licenses available and those applicants are not affected by the priorities established in par. (c), the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications.

(3) APPLICATION. Application for licenses authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters shall be made on forms provided by the department. Applications, if mailed, shall be postmarked no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made. If applications are submitted to the department other than by mail, they shall be received and stamped with a date stamp of the department indicating receipt no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made. This section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under permit or contract issued under s. 29.62 or 29.625, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (1), Register, August, 1980, No. 296, eff. 9-1-80; am. (1) (a), (2) (a) and (3), cr. (2) (b) and (c), Register, March, 1981, No. 303, eff. 4-1-81; am. (1) (a), (2) (c) 5. and (3), r. and recr. (1) (b) 2. and 3., (2) (a), r. (2) (b) and (2) (c) 3., renum. (2) (c) (intro.), 1. and 2. to be (2) (b) (intro.) 1. and 2., renum. (1) (b) 4. to be (1) (c) and am., renum. (1) (b) 5. to be (1) (c) 5. and am., renum. (1) (c) to be (1) (d) and am., renum. (2) (c) 4. to be (2) (c) and am., cr. (2) (b) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; emerg. am. (2) (a), (b) (intro.) and (c) (intro.), cr. (2) (d), (e) and (f), eff. 5-5-86.

NR 25.04 Transfer of commercial fishing licenses. Any licensed commercial fisher may transfer their valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters to another person who meets the criteria under s. NR 25.03 and s. 29.33, Stats., for obtaining such a license, subject to the conditions stated in this section.

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(1) Application for license transfers shall be made on forms provided by the department.

(2) A licensee may designate on the application for their license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters a person to whom the licensee wishes that license to be transferred in the event of the licensee's death or incapacity. This designation may be changed during the license year as requested in writing by the licensee. The designated person would have to meet the criteria under this section for the transfer to occur.

(a) In the absence of such a designation, or a qualified transferee, or a transferee capable of accepting the transfer under this section, members of the immediate family of the licensee who meet the eligibility requirements of this section shall be offered the license. The offer shall be made by the department in the following order:

1. Spouse;
2. Children, eldest first, then in order of age;
3. Parents;
4. Siblings, eldest first, then in order of age.

(b) Any transferee under this subsection who relies on commercial fishing gear of a deceased licensee to meet the eligibility criteria of this chapter, but such gear has not been distributed or assigned in accordance with appropriate probate procedures shall have 2 years from the date of acceptance of the transfer to meet those eligibility requirements. During that time, the license shall be held in abeyance by the department.

(c) All offers of transfer under this subsection shall be accepted within 30 days from the date of offer or be considered refused.

(3) Licenses may not be transferred if the licensee or the transferee is charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws under which conviction could cause revocation or suspension of that license. This subsection shall apply from the issuance of the citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.

(4) Licenses may not be transferred to any person who currently has a license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under revocation or suspension.

(5) License transfers shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the commercial fishing board of the body of water for which the license authorizes commercial fishing. Such review and approval or denial shall occur no later than the next regular quarterly meeting of the appropriate commercial fishing board.

(6) This section does not apply to the transfer of a license from one boat to another as provided for under s. 29.33 (2) (d), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. Register, June 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; emerg. cr. (7), eff. 5-22-86.

NR 25.05 Open seasons; size limits; possession limits. (1) OPEN SEASONS. In the outlying waters there shall be an open season subject to other conditions established in this chapter and by statute on the various species of fish embraced within specified dates, both inclusive, as follows. During

any time other than the open season no person may take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter.

Species	A Green Bay	B Lake Michigan	C Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout	No open season	No open season	November 28 to September 30, subject to ss. NR 25.06 (1) (a) and 25.07 (1) (a)
(b) Siscowet	No open season	No open season	At all times in waters greater than 55 fathoms in depth
(c) Whitefish	December 1 to October 25	December 1 to October 25	November 28 to September 30.
(d) Chubs	No open season	March 1 to January 15, subject to ss. NR 25.06(2)(a), 25.07(2)(a) and 25.09	At all times
(e) Yellow perch	July 1 to April 9 except 1. Gill nets may be used from May 20 to April 9; 2. From January 1 to April 9 only commercial ice fishing is legal; 3. All to be subject to ss. NR 25.06(2)(b) and 25.07(2)(b)	August 1 to April 30	No open season
(f) Northern pike	May 20 to March 9	No open season	No open season
(g) Alewives, bullheads, burbot, catfish, gizzard shad, suckers, menominees, smelt, white bass	At all times	At all times	At all times
(gm) Carp	No open season except by permit issued under s. 29.625, Stats.	No open season except by permit issued under s. 29.625, Stats.	At all times
(h) Lake herring	No open season	No open season	At all times
(i) Walleye, sauger	No open season	No open season	No open season
(j) Others	No open season	No open season	No open season

(2) **SIZE LIMITS.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, no fish of a length or size less than that specified for each variety of any of the following varieties may be possessed or under control. The measurement of the length of a fish within the meaning of this chapter shall be taken in a straight line in a natural position without manipulation from the tip of the snout to the end of the fully extended tail fin. The measurement of length shall apply without allowance made for the shrinkage of the fish.

Species	A	B	C
	Green Bay	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout			17 inches
(b) Siscowet			No size limit
(c) Whitefish	17 inches	17 inches	17 inches
(d) Yellow perch	8 inches in northern Green Bay, 7½ inches in southern Green Bay	8 inches	
(e) Walleye	18 inches		
(f) Northern pike	20 inches	20 inches	
(g) Catfish	16 inches	16 inches	
(h) Others	No size limit	No size limit	No size limit

(3) POSSESSION LIMITS. Except as otherwise provided, no person may possess species of fish for which there is no open season. The possession limit for species of fish for which an open season is provided and a quota has been established shall be the individual quota established by commercial fishing boards for the person possessing such fish.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. am. (1) (d) and cr. (3), eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (1) (d), Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg., am. (2) (b), eff. 7-1-81; am. (2) (b), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (i), eff. 5-20-82; am. (1) (d) and (i), (2) (e), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) and (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; emerg. am. (1) (g) and cr. (1) (gm), eff. 6-20-84; am. (1) (d), Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; am. (1) (g) and cr. (1) (gm), Register, March 1985, No. 351, eff. 4-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. am. (1) (a) and (c), eff. 4-22-86; am. (1) (a), (c), (d) and (e), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

NR 25.06 Quotas and catch fees. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) *Lake trout*. The total allowable annual harvest of lake trout by state and tribal commercial fishers and tribal home use fishers under par. (b) during the open season in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior east of Bark Point shall be determined by the natural resources board based upon recommendations from the department, the U.S. fish and wildlife service and the Great Lakes fishery commission. No lake trout quota is established for the waters of Lake Superior west of Bark Point for state or tribal commercial and tribal home use fishers. All lake trout harvested by state and tribal commercial and tribal home use fishers in these waters shall be deducted from the lake trout quota established for the waters of Lake Superior east of Bark Point.

1. The total allowable commercial and home use harvest in the waters of Lake Superior east of Bark Point may not exceed 39,000 lake trout during the open season.

2. That number of lake trout to be harvested by non-Indian licensed commercial fishers from the waters of Lake Superior east of Bark Point may not exceed 13,000 lake trout during the open season.

3. That number of lake trout to be harvested by the Red Cliff and Bad River bands, including both commercial and home use fishers, from the waters of Lake Superior east of Bark Point may not exceed 26,000 lake trout during the open season. The Red Cliff and Bad River bands shall inform the department of the extent and method of the allocation between commercial and home use fishers. If the Red Cliff and Bad River bands do not reach an agreement on the method of allocating the tribal quota between them, the department may divide the quota 26.5% for the Bad River band and 73.5% for the Red Cliff band.

4. All lake trout and siscowet harvested by commercial and home use fishers shall be tagged in accordance with sub. (3).

5. The department may recall tags furnished or authorized in accordance with sub. (3), when necessary to implement a quota reduction.

(b) *Harvest of fish from Lake Superior for home use by Lake Superior Chippewas.* Members of the Bad River and Red Cliff bands of Lake Superior Chippewas may harvest species of fish for which there is an open season during said season, under home use permits issued by their respective tribal councils.

1. Home use permits will be issued to the heads of households only, and only one permit will be issued to an individual.

2. Permittees are restricted to the use of no more than 350 feet of gill net and sale of fish pursuant to these permits is prohibited. These fishing activities shall be restricted to waters adjacent to the reservations of the Bad River and Red Cliff bands.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) *Chubs.* The total allowable annual commercial harvest of chubs in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may not exceed 3,500,000 pounds, not including forage fish allowed under par. (c).

2. No more than 400,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in the northern chub fishing zone.

3. No more than 3,000,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in the southern chub fishing zone.

4. The department reserves 100,000 pounds of the total allowable annual commercial harvest of chubs to be used for special assessment.

(b) *Yellow perch.* The total allowable annual commercial harvest of yellow perch in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest in Green Bay for any license year may not exceed 400,000 pounds.

(c) *Forage fish.* The total allowable annual commercial harvest of forage fish in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest of forage fish by trawls in any license year may not exceed 18,000,000 pounds in Lake Michigan and Green Bay, of which no more than 2,500,000 pounds may be taken from Green Bay.

2. The total allowable commercial harvest of forage fish in Lake Michigan and Green Bay by commercial gear other than trawls may not exceed 500,000 pounds in any license year.

3. This paragraph shall be in effect until May 1, 1988.

(3) **TAGGING OF FISH.** All fish species or subspecies required to be tagged in accordance with this section shall be tagged with tags furnished or authorized by the department before being brought to any dock or shore when fishing in open water and before being transported when fishing with nets under ice. Such fish shall be individually tagged.

(a) Tags authorized shall be approved in writing by the secretary of the department and shall conform to the following minimum specifications:

1. Tags shall be individually, serially numbered in nonrepeating number series.

2. Tags shall be color-coded by year in a color which does not repeat in the next consecutive year.

3. Tags shall include an appropriate state or tribal identification.

4. Tags shall only be ordered in a number sufficient to limit the harvest to a biologically determined quota.

5. Issuing authorities shall maintain records of tag allotments to individual fishers by tag serial numbers. Tag records shall be open to inspection by state conservation wardens during regular office hours.

6. Tags are valid for use only for the license season.

(b) Untagged fish may not be left unattended.

(c) Untagged fish may not be transferred between watercraft.

(d) Tags shall be locked and remain attached to fish until prepared for final consumption. Tags shall remain with smoked or filleted fish until sold to final consumers. Commercial fishers of the outlying waters or licensed wholesale fish dealers shall not be considered final consumers and must be in possession of tags for smoked and filleted fish.

(e) Tags provided or authorized by the department for tagging fish may not be transferred.

(f) No person may possess or use tags furnished or authorized by the department for tagging fish which have been modified or tampered with.

(g) No treaty fisher may lift nets in Wisconsin waters while in possession of tags issued by a tribe or another state for fish taken in Michigan waters.

(4) **ALLOCATION.** The harvest quotas established shall be allocated to individual commercial fishing licensees in accordance with s. NR 25.07.

(5) **CATCH FEES.** Catch fees to be charged for commercial harvest of fish species whose populations are sustained or supplemented through stocking shall be determined and assessed as follows:

(a) The department shall determine catch fees annually for each fish species population subject to this subsection and shall provide this information upon request by February 15 of each year.

(b) The catch fee for a given fish species population shall be equivalent to the department's direct cost in providing those fish for commercial harvest.

(c) Catch fees shall be charged on a per fish harvested basis.

(d) Catch fees shall be collected through the sale of fish tags furnished or authorized by the department in accordance with sub. (3) at offices indicated on the quota applications provided under s. NR 25.07 (3). The total number of tags that may be purchased by an individual licensee shall be equivalent to that licensee's individual catch quota as determined in accordance with s. NR 25.07.

(e) Unused fish tags purchased in accordance with par. (d) shall be returned by the licensee to the department at the office where purchased within 15 days of the end of the open season for that fish species population. The department shall return the catch fees paid by that licensee for those unused fish tags.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. am., eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (2) (a), Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (2) (a), eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; am. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (2) (a) 1. and (3) (f), renum. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. to 3., Register, July, 1984, No. 343, eff. 8-1-84; reprinted to correct error in (2) (a) 2., Register, August, 1984, No. 344; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 1-2-86; emerg. cr. (3) (a) and (g), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. am. (1) (a) 3, eff. 5-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (a), Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86; am. (2) (a) 1. to 3. and (b) 1., cr. (2) (c) and (3) (a) and (g), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

NR 25.07 Individual licensee catch quotas. (1) **LAKE SUPERIOR.** The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (1) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior shall be by the Lake Superior commercial fishing board upon application in accordance with sub. (3), and as follows:

(a) *Lake trout.* 1. Each licensed commercial fisher shall receive an equal share of the annual lake trout harvest quota established under s. NR 25.06 (1) (a) 2.

2. Allocation of the lake trout quota to individual licensees shall be by issuance of appropriate tags by the department. The number of tags issued to each individual licensee shall be based on the average dressed weight of individual lake trout commercially harvested during the previous year.

(2) **LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY.** The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (2) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board upon application in accordance with sub. (3), as follows:

(a) *Chubs.* 1. Chub fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas shall be issued to all applicants meeting the following criteria:

a. Presently licensed commercial fishers;

b. Ownership of a boat of 35 feet in overall length or longer which shall be used by the applicant in fishing under their chub permit;

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c. The boat shall be equipped with a powered net lifter.

2. All permittees under subd. 1. who select the northern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations:

a. No more than 300,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of July 1 through January 15; and no more than 100,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of March 1 through June 30 except that this amount shall be adjusted based on the reported catch of the previous period within a license year.

b. The department shall notify all permittees to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of the period quotas as established in subpar. a. have been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9., and the legal fish harvested.

3. All permittees under subd. 1. who select the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations:

a. In the southern chub fishing zone, 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. shall be allotted to 32 individual permittees as follows:

Fisher Rank	Percent of Allotted Quota
1-5	3.94
6-10	3.64
11-15	3.34
16-20	3.04
21-25	2.74
26-30	2.44
31-32	2.15

1) The fisher rank of each individual permittee shall be based on their individual authorized regular season chub harvest from April 1, 1981 through December 31, 1982. This harvest determination shall be based on the permittee's reported catch during that period adjusted to the legal amount under subd. 1. b. 4) and 5), Register, June, 1981, No. 306. The highest resulting number shall be assigned the fisher rank of 1, and the following numbers assigned sequential ranks until the 32 individual quota allotments are all assigned. If there are any ties for a given fisher rank, a public drawing will be conducted by the department and the permittee selected will receive that fisher rank. The permittee or permittees not selected will go to the next lower fisher rank. Additional drawings will be conducted as needed to resolve all ties. Any remaining permittees not receiving individual quota allotments shall fish under the provisions of subpar. b.

2) No individual quota allotted under subpar. a. may exceed 70,000 pounds, until each individual allotted quota equals 70,000 pounds. When the quota allotted to an individual permittee reaches 70,000 pounds, any additional harvest quota shall be divided equally among the remaining individual allotted quotas not equalling 70,000 pounds. When all individual allotted quotas each equal 70,000 pounds, for a total of 2,240,000 pounds, any further increases shall be divided equally among the indi-

vidual quota allotments. Quota allotments shall be made in whole pound increments.

Note: If 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. equaled 1,890,000 pounds, permittees in fisher rank 1-5 would have individual quotas of 74,466 pounds. The excess over 70,000 pounds for each would be totalled, being 22,300 pounds, and divided equally among the remaining 27 individual quotas, 826 pounds each.

3) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the number of permittees allotted an individual quota, those permittees ranking below the vacancy shall automatically advance in rank to fill the vacancy. Any vacancy at fisher rank 32 may be filled by the permittee fishing under the provisions of subpar. b. who has the highest total reported regular season chub harvest for the previous 2 license years.

b. In the southern chub fishing zone, 10% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. shall be allotted to permittees who do not receive individual allotted quotas under subpar. a.

1) No more than 10% of this allotment may be taken by any one permittee during the license year.

2) No permittee may take more than 40% of the maximum amount established in subpar. b. 1) during any one of the quota periods of July 1 through September 30, October 1 through December 31, or March 15 through June 30.

3) Whenever the total amount of chubs allocated under subpar. b. 1) does not equal the amount provided in subpar. b., the surplus shall be divided equally among permittees under subpar. b.

c. No more than the amount of one maximum individual quota allotted under subpar. a.1) and 2) may be taken on any one boat in the southern chub zone during the license year except as provided under subpar. d. If it is necessary to transfer a chub fishing permit to another boat, this limit shall be applied in total on the boats involved.

d. Any permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subpar. a.1) and 2) may transfer up to 50% of their allotted chub quota to another permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subpar. a.1) and 2).

1) Such a quota transfer shall be in effect only during the current license year, and shall be subject to sub. (6).

2) The total amount of chubs harvested from the boat designated under subd. 1.b. by the transferor may not exceed the amount remaining in that individual chub quota allotment after this transfer.

3) This subparagraph shall be in effect until January 1, 1986, and shall be reviewed while in effect by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board.

e. The department shall notify permittees to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of their allotment as established in subds. 3.a. and b. has been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9., and the legal fish therein harvested.

4. Each permittee shall submit weekly fishing reports on forms provided by the department. The weekly fishing reports shall be mailed to the department at the address provided on the forms and shall be post-Register, October, 1986, No. 370

marked no later than the Monday following the weekly report period during the open season. Weekly fishing reports shall be filed by each permittee regardless of whether the permittee fished or not.

(b) *Yellow perch.* 1. Green Bay yellow perch fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas shall be issued to all applicants:

a. Holding a valid commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.33, Stats., and

b. Who reported a commercial harvest of yellow perch legally taken while operating under their commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.33, Stats., from the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay between January 1, 1979 and December 31, 1982, and

c. Who applied for and received a Green Bay yellow perch fishing permit for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is presently being made, unless unavoidable circumstances prevented application for or receipt of that previous permit. Those circumstances shall be reviewed by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board which in these cases shall approve or deny the pending permit application.

d. Any licensee who fails to apply for and receive a permit under this paragraph is not eligible for future Green Bay yellow perch fishing permits under this paragraph until the provisions of subd. 2.c. are applicable.

2. The individual licensee catch quota issued to each permittee shall be determined as follows:

a. Each permittee shall receive a percentage of the total allowable annual commercial harvest as established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 1. That percentage shall be calculated by dividing the total commercial harvest of yellow perch from the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay reported under that license during the period from January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1982, by the overall total reported commercial harvest of yellow perch from those waters during that period, and multiplying the result by 100. The resulting percentage shall be rounded off to 2 decimal places or to hundredths of a percent. Any resulting percentage of less than 0.01% shall be considered 0.01% for allocation of an individual licensee catch quota. The individual licensee catch quotas will be allocated in whole pound increments.

Note: If during the base catch period (January, 1979 — December 1982), a permittee reported catching a total of 20,200 pounds of perch and the overall total reported perch harvest was 1,600,000 pounds, that permittee's individual license catch quota percentage would be 1.26%. If the total allowable annual commercial harvest was set at 100,000 pounds, that permittee's individual licensee catch quota would be 1,260 pounds.

b. If the number of eligible permittees is inadequate to utilize the total allowable commercial harvest as established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 1. and as allocated under subpar. a., the surplus will be divided among the eligible permittees based on the percentages calculated for each permittee under subpar. a.

c. Any future increase of the total allowable annual commercial harvest as established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 1. that exceeds 521,285 pounds will be divided equally among all licensed commercial fishers who apply

for Green Bay yellow perch fishing permits, regardless of past yellow perch harvest records.

3. Fishing under permits issued under subd. 1. may be done from any boat listed on the permittee's commercial fishing license or through the ice.

4. Each permittee shall submit weekly fishing reports on forms provided by the department.

a. The weekly fishing reports shall be carried while fishing under the permit and the catch information for that day's fishing shall be recorded on the weekly fishing report before bringing the catch to dock or shore. This requirement does not include the weighed total catch.

b. The weekly fishing reports shall be mailed to the department at the address provided on the forms and shall be postmarked no later than the Monday following the weekly report period during the open season. Weekly fishing reports shall be filed by each permittee regardless of whether the permittee fished or not.

5. Based on the information received in the weekly fishing reports, the department shall notify individual permittees when 75% of their catch quota, as allocated under subd. 2., has been harvested.

(3) APPLICATION. (a) Applications for individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits under this section shall be made annually on forms provided by the department.

(b) Applications, if mailed, shall be postmarked no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made. If applications are submitted to the department other than by mail, they shall be received as indicated by a date stamp of the department, no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made.

(c) The applications shall be reviewed by the department and approved or denied no later than June 15 preceding the license year for which application is being made, unless there are circumstances that may prevent the applicant from being a licensed commercial fisher on July 1 of the license year for which application is being made. In those cases, the applicant shall be notified of the approval or denial of the application in conjunction with the notice of approval or denial of the license authorizing commercial fishing on the outlying waters.

(d) Applicants for Lake Michigan chub fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas under sub. (2) (a) 1. shall select and designate on their application either the northern chub fishing zone or the southern chub fishing zone as the zone they wish to fish chubs in.

(4) ASSESSMENT QUOTA. Fish harvested under contract for the department for assessment purposes may not be considered part of nor deducted from an individual licensee catch quota.

(5) PERIOD OF VALIDITY. Individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits determined and issued in accordance with this section shall be issued on a license year basis. They shall be valid only during the open season for the species of fish subject to the harvest quota and only while the quota holder or permittee holds a valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies.

(6) REINSTATEMENT OF QUOTA RIGHTS. If the commercial fishing license of a quota holder is revoked under s. 29.33, Stats., the right to that quota and ranking, if any, shall be reinstated upon reinstatement of the revoked license and upon proper application.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. r. and recr. and cr. (2) (a) 1. eff. 5-16-79; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. (2) (a) 1., Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (a), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. cr. (2) (a) 1. b. 6), eff. 1-2-82; am. (2) (a) (intro.) Register, April, 1982, No. 316, eff. 5-1-82; emerg. am. (2) (a) 1. b. and c., eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a) 1. b. and c. and (3), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; cr. (2) (a) 1. b. 6), Register, February, 1983, No. 326, eff. 3-1-83; am. (1) and (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; r. and recr. (2) (a) 2., (2) (b) and (3), r. (2) (a) 4. and 5., renum. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4. and am., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (1) (b) 1., (2) (b) 2. c. and 5., cr. (2) (b) 1. c. and d., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. b. and 2. a., renum. (2) (a) 3. c. to be 3. d., cr. (2) (a) 3. c., Register, July, 1984, No. 343, eff. 8-1-84; am. (2) (a) 2. intro. and b., 3. intro. and d., r. and recr. (3) to (6), Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; emerg. am. (2) (a) 3. b. 2), eff. 3-15-85; am. (2) (a) 3. c., renum. (2) (a) 3. d. to be 3. e., cr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, May, 1985, No. 353, eff. 6-1-85; am. (1) (a), Register, June, 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; am. (2) (a) 3. b. 2), Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. am. (2) (a) 3. d., eff. 5-5-86; am. (2) (a) 2. a. and b., r. (2) (a) 2. c., Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

NR 25.08 Transfer of individual licensee catch quotas. Individual licensee catch quotas allotted under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a), (2) (a) 3. a., and (2) (b) may be transferred by the licensee receiving the quota allocation to another valid licensee authorized to engage in commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies, who meets all criteria for receiving such a quota other than previous fishing history, subject to the conditions stated in this section.

(1) Application for individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be made on forms provided by the department.

(2) All or part of an individual licensee catch quota allotted under s. NR 25.07 (2) (a) 3. a. and (2) (b) may be permanently transferred by the quota holder. Such a transfer may occur in conjunction with the transfer of the quota holder's valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under s. NR 25.04.

(3) A licensee may designate on the application for their individual licensee catch quota a person to whom the licensee wishes that quota to be transferred in the event of the licensee's death or incapacity. This designation may be changed during the license year as requested in writing by the licensee. The designated person shall meet the criteria under this section for the transfer to occur.

(a) In the absence of such a designation, or a qualified transferee, or a transferee capable of accepting the transfer under this section, members of the immediate family of the licensee who meet the eligibility requirements of this section shall be offered the quota. The offer shall be made by the department in the following order:

1. Spouse;
2. Children, eldest first, then in order of age;
3. Parents;
4. Siblings, eldest first, then in order of age.

(b) Any transferee under this subsection who relies on commercial fishing gear of a deceased licensee to meet the eligibility criteria of this chap-

ter, but such gear has not been distributed or assigned in accordance with appropriate probate procedures shall have 2 years from the date of acceptance of the transfer to meet those eligibility requirements. During that time, the quota shall be held in abeyance by the department.

(c) All offers of transfer under this subsection shall be accepted within 30 days from the date of offer or be considered refused.

(d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply to quotas granted for license year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 and subsequent license years.

(4) Individual licensee catch quotas may not be transferred if the quota holder or the recipient are charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws under which conviction could cause revocation or suspension of their respective commercial fishing license. This subsection shall apply from issuance of the citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.

(5) Individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the commercial fishing board of the body of water for which the quota applies. Such review and approval or denial shall occur no later than the next regular quarterly meeting of the appropriate commercial fishing board.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85.

NR 25.09 Commercial fishing gear. Licensed commercial fishers conducting commercial fishing operations may only use the following gear subject to the conditions stated in this section and in the areas designated:

(1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) *Gill nets*:

1. With a mesh size of not more than 1¼" stretch measure.

2. With a mesh size of not less than 2⅞" and not more than 2¾" stretch measure.

a. Not more than 35 meshes in depth in water 12 to 90 feet (2 to 15 fathoms) deep or 210 feet (35 fathoms) and deeper.

b. Not more than 60 meshes in depth may be used provided the bottom maitre cord or lead line is at least 6 feet (1 fathom) above the lake bottom.

3. With a mesh size of not less than 2½ inch and not more than 3 inch stretch measure:

a. Only in water 60 feet (10 fathoms) deep or deeper.

b. Only from November 15 through March 31.

4. With a mesh size of not less than 4½ inch stretch measure:

a. Not more than 30 meshes in depth and only when set on the bottom of the lake.

b. No more than 10,000 feet of these nets may be used by each licensed commercial fisher in water less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep and then only from November 28 through September 30.

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