

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NR 20 295

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(c) YELLOW PERCH	Green Bay Lake Michigan Lake Superior	Continuous Continuous Continuous	50 50 50	No size limit No size limit No size limit
(d) TROUT AND SALMON	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay, except as provided in subd. 2.	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day, except as provided in subd. 2.	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout, except as provided in subd. 2.	10
	2. Lake Michigan, within the following area: From the end of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal on a course of 136° for 17.5 nautical miles, then west for 16.8 nautical miles to the end of the Algoma north pier, then along the north side of that pier to the shore of Lake Michigan, then north along the shore to the base of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal, then along the south side of that pier to its end.	All year except there is no open season for lake trout.	5 in total of which none may be lake trout. No person may possess lake trout when fishing in this area of Lake Michigan.	10
	3. Lake Superior	All year except the open season for lake trout is from December 1 through September 30.	10 in total of which only 5 may be trout and only 3 of these 5 may be lake trout and only one of these 5 may be rainbow trout.	10 except the minimum length for lake trout is 17 and for rainbow trout is 28

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Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within ¼-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
	2. Waters within ¼ mile, of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands.	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	12
	3. Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
(f) LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	40
(fg) RUFFE	Green Bay Lake Michigan Lake Superior	No open season	—	—
(fh) WHITE PERCH	Lake Superior	No open season	—	—

(g) Herring of any size with no bag limit may be taken by hook and line at all times in the outlying waters.

(h) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon Bay by trolling from a motor driven boat or sailboat during the open season therefor. It shall be unlawful to spear any species or variety of fish in the outlying and reserve waters at any time, except that rough fish may be speared from sunrise to sunset in all outlying waters and may be taken with the use of spear guns by the method commonly known as skin diving by divers under the water in Lake Michigan. Northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.

(2) As used in sub. (1), Green Bay shall mean Green bay, Sturgeon bay, Sawyer's harbor and the Fox river from its mouth up to the dam at DePere.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (a) Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) and (1) (a), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (a) and (d); renum. (1), (e), (f) and (g) to be (1) (f) (g) and (h); cr. (1) (e), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and recr. Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1), (g) and (j), Register, June, 1984, No. 342 eff. 1-1-61; r. and recr., Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (d) and (1) (i), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 96, eff. 1-1-64; am. (1) (intro. par.), (b) and (g), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. intro. par., Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; r. and recr. (1) (d), (f), and (g), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; am. (1) (d) and (g), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 10-1-68; r. and recr. (1) (e); r. (f); renum. (g) and (h) to be (f) and (g); renum. (i) to be (h) and am., Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; r. and recr. (1) (d) and r. (1) (f), Register, March, 1969, No. 159, eff. 4-1-69; renum. from WCD 20.02 to be NR 20.02, and am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (1) (f), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 9-23-72; am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1972, No. 203, eff. 1-1-73; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 11-16-72; am. (1) (d), Register, May 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73, am. (1) (d) 1 and (e), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (e), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff.

1-1-79; am. (1) (c), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; am. (1) (d), Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; r. and recr. (1) (c), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; r. and recr. (1) (c), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; cr. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (c), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; emerg. am. (1) (d) 3., eff. 4-22-86; r. and recr. (1) (d) 1. and 2., Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86; renun. (1) (d) 3. to be (1) (d) 2. c. and am. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (d), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (1) (a) and (e), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; am. (1) (d) 3., cr. (1) (fg) and (fh), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90.

NR 20.03 Season tables; open and closed seasons, size and bag limits and measurements. (1) The open seasons specified in the following table apply to fishing in open waters and fishing through the ice, except that the department shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice in specified waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish and that a closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing. The closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected. Posting is deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that a closed season is in effect. The closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as the waters are covered with ice and so long as posting is continued. The department may also, following scientific investigation and study, establish bag limits and size limits on the individual inland waters when it finds that the taking of fish will aid in management of the fishery and insure the citizens of this state additional opportunities for good fishing. Such special regulations shall become effective only after public informational meetings are held. The department may also establish an urban fishing program by posting the open and closed seasons on specified waters. For open seasons in specified waters see s. NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish, except trout as specified in sub. (5), shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person may have in possession or under control more than the daily bag limit while on the ice or waters or while fishing in the state of Wisconsin. The measurement of all fish taken shall be in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the utmost end of the tail fin fully extended.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
1. b. Browns lake, Racine county and Pretty lake, Waukesha county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	16
c. Wilson lake, Iron county; Kimball lake, Mueller lake and Sawyer lake, Langlade county; Rockland lake, Racine county; and Beulah Lake, Walworth county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 16 inches is prohibited.
d. Day lake, Ashland county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	18
e. Lake Three, Ashland county; Crooked and Lund lakes, Bayfield county; Evelyn and One Man lakes, Iron county; and Cochran Lake, Price county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	18

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
f. Gile flowage, Iron county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	15
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 9 and 12 inches is prohibited.
4. Blake and Loveless lakes, Polk county and Wabasso lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 15 inches is prohibited.
5. Spruce lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass) (see also s. NR 20.04 (4) (a) 2. and 5.	Continuous	2	12
6. Little Bass lake, Oneida county (smallmouth bass) and Wildwood lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass). See also s. NR 20.04 (8) (d)	First Saturday in May to November 15	5	12
7.c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	None may be kept until May 1, 1992; 5 thereafter	14
8. Palette lake (sec. 3, T41N, R7E), Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	2	16
9. All other inland waters north of a line beginning with state hwy. 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, following state hwy. 70 east to its intersection with state hwy. 27, then south following state hwy. 27 to its intersection with state hwy. 64, then east following state hwy. 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette, then due east to the waters of Green Bay; and all inland waters in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties north of a line beginning with the state hwy. 29 bridge over the Fox river, following state hwy. 29 east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee, then continuing due east to the waters of Lake Michigan.	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
10. In all other inland waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	14
(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
3. Trout lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15
4. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2 in aggregate with sauger	15
5. Balsam lake, Polk county	First Saturday in May to March 1.	3	16
6. Lake Winnebago and waters upstream on the Fox river to the state hwy. 23 bridge at Princeton and waters upstream on the Wolf river to the dam in the city of Shawano	Continuous	5 in aggregate with sauger	No size limit

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
7. Lake Mendota and its following tributaries: 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	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15 until March 1, 1991 18 thereafter
8. In all other waters (See also s. NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with sauger	15
(cm)SAUGER	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with walleye	No size limit
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)			
1. In all waters of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	No size limit
2. Mason lake, Adams county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	22
3. Shawano lake in Shawano county and all waters in Menominee county	No closed season	25	No size limit
4.a. Beaver Dam lake, Dodge county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	26
5. Lake Mendota and its following tributaries: 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 and Wilson flowage, Price county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
6. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2	No size limit
7. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
(e) MUSKELLUNGE (includes hybrid muskellunge)			
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	36
2. Long lake, Iron county; Bone lake, Polk county; Winter lake, Sawyer county; and Big lake (sec. 4, T42N, R6E), Vilas county	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	34
3. Nancy lake, Washburn county	No open season in years 1987 to 1995; beginning in 1996, the open season is the same as that for all other waters north of state highway 10	—	—
4. Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1	1	36
5. All other waters north of U.S. hwy. 10	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	32
6. All other waters south of U.S. hwy. 10	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	32

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(f) TROUT AND SALMON (any variety except lake trout and splake in inland lakes.)			
2. All Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributary streams upstream to the first dam or lake or to the third county highway "C" bridge on the Kewaunee river. (See also s. NR 20.04 (3) (c).)	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout	10
4. Lake Superior tributary streams except Montreal river and waters upstream from the following:	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
Ashland county			
Bad river-Copper falls			
Brunsweller river-state hwy. 13			
Marengo river-state hwy. 13			
Potato river-Guerney falls			
White river-White river dam			
Bayfield county			
Iron river-Orienta dam			
Little Sioux river-falls in NE ¼ of the NE ¼, sec. 13, T49N, R5W			
Siskowitt river-falls in SW ¼ of the NW ¼, sec. 35, T51N, R5W			
Douglas county			
Amnicon river-Amnicon falls			
Black river-Big Manitou falls			
Middle river-U.S. hwy. 2			
Poplar river-U.S. hwy 2			
There is a special early and extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary streams.	Saturday nearest April 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15.	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 salmon 12 rainbow trout 12
ASHLAND COUNTY:			
Bad river from its mouth upstream to Copper Falls; Potato river from its mouth upstream to Guerney falls; White river from its mouth upstream to White River dam; Brunsweller and Marengo rivers to hwy. 13			
BAYFIELD COUNTY:			
Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); north fork Fish creek (T47N, R5W, sec. 1) from its mouth upstream to the junction with Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction with the east fork of Flag river; Iron river from its mouth upstream to Orienta dam; Sioux river from its mouth upstream to Big Rock falls (T49N, R4W, sec. 19); Siskowitt river from its mouth upstream to second bridge (T51N, R6W, sec. 35).			
DOUGLAS COUNTY:			
Brule river from its mouth upstream to the U.S. hwy. 2 bridge crossing			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
Amnicon river from its mouth upstream to Amnicon falls; Middle river from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2; Nemadji river from its mouth upstream to Great Northern Railroad Bridge (T47N, R14W, sec. 4); Black river from its mouth upstream to Big Manitou falls; Poplar river from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2 and the St. Louis river from its mouth upstream to the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line.	During the special early and extended open season, fishing in the Brule river, excluding taking smelt with gear specified in NR 20.09 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
IRON COUNTY:			
Graveyard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
b. There is a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
BAYFIELD COUNTY:			
Bono creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Boyd creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Onion river from its mouth up to Lake Superior District Power Company power line (T49N, R4W, sec. 6); Pikes creek from its mouth upstream to the Red dam; Pine creek from its mouth upstream to junction with Little Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 11) and Whittlesey creek from its mouth upstream to Town Hall road.			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE, except as provided in par. (f)	First Saturday in January to September 30	2 in aggregate	17
1. Trout lake (sec. 12, 13, 24, T41N, R6E; sec. 7, 8, 17, 19, 20, T41N, R7E, Vilas county) in the south basin commonly known as South Trout lake, north to the narrows identified as Cathedral Point.	No open season	—	—
2. Palette lake, Vilas county	No open season through 1991	—	—
(h) CATFISH			
In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties and the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad tracks	No closed season	25	No size limit
In all other waters	No closed season	10	No size limit
(i) WHITE BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(j) ROCK BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(k) BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE, PUMPKINSEED (sunfish), YELLOW PERCH	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit
(l) YELLOW BASS (STRIPED)	No closed season	None	No size limit
(m) BULLHEADS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(n) CISCO AND WHITEFISH	No closed season	25 pounds and one fish in aggregate	No size limit
(o) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(p) SHOVELNOSE (Sand or Hackleback) Sturgeon			
1. Chippewa river below the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. Chippewa river above the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No open season	—	—
2. In all other waters south of highway #64 (except in the Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream)	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. The Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream	No open season	—	—
3. In all other waters north of highway #64	No open season	—	—
(q) ROCK AND LAKE STURGEON			
1. Hook and line season			
a. In all waters except Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Winnebago and connecting waters; in the Embarrass river from the Pella dam, Shawano county downstream to its confluence with the Wolf river in Outagamie county; and the Nemadji river, Allouez Bay, Little Pokegama Bay, Pokegama Bay and Kimballs Bay, Douglas county; the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan; and the Fox river downstream from milepost No. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek in Green Lake county to Lake Butte des Morts	First Saturday in September to October 15	1 per season	45
2. Spearing season			
a. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters	Third Saturday in February through the following Sunday (1986 only)	See b.	45
b. Lake Winnebago	Second Saturday in February to March 1	The bag limit on speared sturgeon is one per season regardless of the water in which speared	45

c. No person may have in possession or under control any spear or similar device in any building, tent, shanty or similar enclosure on the waters of Lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne in Winnebago county, Lake Poygan in Waushara and Winnebago counties; Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties and all connecting waters including the Embarrass river from the Pella dam downstream to the Wolf river and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan and the Fox river from milepost

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par), (1) (a), (1) (f) 2. and 3., (1) (q) 1. and 4. and (3), cr. (1) (e) 1. and (1) (f) 1. a. and 2. a., Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (a), (c), (d), (f) 1. and 2. and (q) 1. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (1) (q) 2. eff. 1-12-76; am. (1) (a), (d), (e), (f) and (p), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (a) 3, (1) (f) 3 and (3), r. (1) (f) 1c, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. (1) (a) 1. and (d) 2., am. (1) (d) 1., (1) (f) 1. f. and (1) (f) 3., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (c), (f) 2. and 3. and (p) 1., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. am. (1) (f) 1. a., eff. 4-10-80; am. (1) (f) 1. a., Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (1) (intro.), (f) 1. and 3., (q) 2., cr. (1) (f) 5., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; am. (1) (a) 3., (1) (f) 1. a., d. and 2., renum. (1) (f) 1. f. to be (1) (f) 1. g., cr. (1) (f) 1. f., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (q) 2., Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; cr. (1) (a) 1. and (1) (e) 2., Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82; am. (1) (e) (intro.), (f) 1. intro. and a., (1) (f) 3., (1) (g) and (q), (3), renum. (2) (b) to be (2) (c), cr. (2) (b) and (1) (e) 3., Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; am. (1) (a) 1., (1) (e) 2., r. and recr. (1) (k), r. (1) (e) 3., Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1. and (2) (b) 1., renum. (1) (a) 4. to be (1) (a) 5., cr. (1) (a) 4., r. and recr. (1) (c), (e) and (f), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; renum. (1) (a) 4. to be (1) (a) 6., (1) (f) 4. to be (1) (a) 7., cr. (1) (a) 4. and 5 and (1) (f) 4., am. (1) (f) 7. intro. and a. and (1) (k), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; renum. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and (d) 4. to be (1) (a) 8., (c) 4. and (d) 5., cr. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and (d) 4., Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1) (a) 4. and (q) 2.a., cr. (1) (d) 2., (g) 1. and (5), r. and recr. (1) (f) and r. (1) (u), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (1) (g) 2., Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; renum. (1) (e) 3. and 4. to be 4. and 5., cr. (1) (e) 3., Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6-1-87; am. (1) (a) 1. c. and (q) 1. a., renum. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and 4. and (d) 4. and 5. to be (1) (a) 7. c., (c) 3. c., 5. (d) 4. c. and 6., cr. (1) (a) 1. d., 7. a. and b., (c) 3. a. and b., 4., (d) 4. a. and b., and 5., Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (1) (a) 6., (e) 4. and 5., r. (1) (c) 1., renum. (1) (c) 2. to 5. to be 1. to 4., r. and recr. (1) (f) 2. and 3., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; emerg. cr. (1) (c) 3m., eff. 9-6-88; r. (1) (a) 1. a. and 2., r. and recr. (1) (a) 8. and (f) 4., cr. (1) (a) 9., Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; emerg. renum. (1) (c) 4., (d) 6., (e) 4. and 5., cr. (1) (c) 4., (d) 6., (e) 4. and 5., eff. 4-22-89; emerg. am. (1) (c) 3., renum. (1) (c) 5., cr. (1) (c) 5., eff. 5-5-89; am. (1) (a) 3. and (d) 5., renum. (1) (a) 8. and 9. to be (1) (a) 9. and 10., cr. (1) (a) 8., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (1) (c) 3., renum. (1) (c) 4. to be 5., cr. (1) (c) 4., Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89; am. (1) (intro.), (c) and (f) 4., r. (1) (f) 1., 3., 5. to 7., renum. (1) (d) 6., (e) 4. and 5. to be (1) (d) 7., (e) 5. and 6., cr. (1) 4., (cm), (d) 6., (e) 4., (t) and (u) and (5), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; emerg. am. (5) (g), cr. (5) (h), (6) and table 2, eff. 2-2-90; am. (1) (a) 7. c., r. (1) (c) 2. c. and (d) 4. c., Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; renum. (1) (c) 7. to be 8., cr. (1) (a) 1. e. and f., (c) 7., am. (1) (c) 3. and (d) 5., Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90; r. (1) (a) 7. a. and b., (c) 2. a. and b. and (d) 4. b., am. (1) (d) 4. a., Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10-1-90.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.03 see the history note for NR 20.03 as it appeared in the October, 1973 Administrative Register.

NR 20.035 Alternate size and bag limits. (1) PURPOSE. Notwithstanding any provision of ch. NR 21, 22, 23 or this chapter, for all or part of any inland, boundary or outlying water, the department may apply the alternate size limits, bag limits or both under this section for fish species identified in this section in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource of the water to which the proposed alternate limit would apply.

(2) PROCEDURE. The department shall follow the procedures in this subsection in applying an alternate size limit or bag limit under this section.

(a) Notice. The department shall prepare and distribute a notice of its intent to apply an alternate limit under this section. The notice shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985, Stats., in a general circulation newspaper in the vicinity of the water and, if the proposal has statewide significance, in the official state newspaper. A copy of the notice shall be sent to individuals and organizations which the department believes may be interested in the matter. The notice shall include a description of the water affected, the fish species affected, the alternate limit which will apply, and the date the alternate limit will take effect. The notice shall invite the public to submit written comments and indicate that a public

information meeting will be held on the alternate limit if requested in writing within 10 days after the notice is published.

(b) *Public information meeting.* If a public information meeting is requested under par. (a), the department shall conduct the public information meeting in the vicinity of the affected water. At the meeting the department shall describe the factual basis for its intended decision and shall receive comments from the public on the matter.

(c) *Determination.* If, based on facts and information available to it, including comments received in response to the notice and at any public information meeting which may be held, the department concludes that a condition described in sub. (3) affects fish in a specific water, it shall apply the corresponding alternate limit. The alternate limit shall take effect upon the posting of the notice under par. (d).

(d) *Posting.* The department shall post notice at public access sites on the affected water that an alternate limit applies to a species of fish found in that water. The notice shall set out the name or description of the water or that part of the water to which the proposed alternate limit would apply, the species of fish affected, the corresponding alternate limit and the effective date of the alternate limit.

(e) *List.* The department shall maintain a current list of all waters to which an alternate limit under this section applies. The list shall be available for public inspection at the department's central office during regular office hours.

(3) **ALTERNATE LIMIT.** (a) *Size limits.* No size limit shall apply to walleye, largemouth bass or smallmouth bass if, for the particular species in a particular water, the department finds:

1. Angler exploitation of the species is less than 15% of the population of fish larger than the original size limit.

2. Total adult mortality for that species is less than 30% of the population.

3. More than 10% of the fish tested of that species in the size range from the originally applicable size limit to 3 inches larger than the originally applicable size limit, in fillets with the skin on, contain .75 parts per million or more mercury, 2 parts per million or more PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl), 5 parts per million or more DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane), 5 parts per million or more Toxaphene, 0.3 parts per million or more Chlordane, or 0.3 parts per million or more Dieldrin.

4. Walleye males do not grow to a length of at least 13 inches in 4 years or largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 12 inches in 5 years in all inland waters lying north of a line beginning at the state highway 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, then east on state highway 70 to its intersection with state highway 27, then south on highway 27 to its intersection with state highway 64, then east along highway 64 to its end, then continuing east to the waters of Green Bay or in inland waters of Brown, Kewaunee or Door counties north of a line beginning with the state highway 29 bridge over the Fox river, then east along state highway 29 to its end, then continuing east to Lake Michigan.

5. Largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 14 inches in 6 years in inland waters other than those identified in subd. 4.

(b) *Bag limits.* If the department finds under sub. (2) that one or more of the following conditions exists in a particular water, the corresponding alternate bag limit shall apply to the named species of fish in that water.

(4) **TERMINATION OF ALTERNATE LIMITS.** Any time the department has reason to believe that the condition which led to the application of an alternate limit under this section no longer affects a species of fish in a particular water, it may remove the alternate limit by following the procedures under sub. (2) (a) to (c). Following its determination to remove an alternate limit the department shall remove or modify the posted notices of alternate limits and the original bag limit or size limit shall then apply.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90.

NR 20.037 Modifications in daily bag limit and minimum size limit in response to tribal harvest. (1) **ADJUSTMENT.** In order to prevent a total harvest of more than 35% of the adult walleye population or 27% of the adult muskellunge population, the secretary may lower the daily bag limit on walleye and increase the minimum size limit for muskellunge in specific waters in response to the harvest goals of the Chippewa bands for their spear, net or trap fisheries. The adjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until March 1 of the year following the tribal harvest. The safe harvest levels on individual waters shall be determined by the department.

(a) *Walleyes.* The daily bag limit will be reduced when the department is notified by the Chippewa bands of their harvest goals on individual waters. The extent of the reduction depends upon the percent of the safe harvest they intend to take and the age of the population estimate used to determine the safe harvest or if a regression model was used to determine the safe harvest. The daily bag limits to be used with the different percentages and for various basis of determining the safe harvest are as follows:

Daily bag limit	Reduced daily bag limits for walleye angling		
	% of safe harvest to be speared, trapped or netted		
	current pop. est.	pop. est. made 1-2 yrs. ago	pop. est. made 3 yrs. ago or more or regression model.
4	1-7	1-14	1-20
3	8-18	15-39	21-54
2	19-36	40-76	55-84
1	37-68	77-94	85-94
0	69 or more	95 or more	95 or more

(b) *Muskellunge.* The minimum size limit will be increased when the department is notified by the Chippewa bands that their harvest goal on an individual water is 60% or more of the safe harvest. The minimum size limits to be used with different percentages of the safe harvest are as follows:

Increased minimum size limits for muskellunge angling	
% of safe harvest to be speared, trapped or netted by tribes	Minimum size limit
60-94	45 inches
95 or more	55 inches

(2) **READJUSTMENT.** If the Chippewa bands inform the department that they have completed harvesting and their goal has not been reached, the secretary may raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum size limit to the limit specified as appropriate using the percent of the safe harvest level expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1). If a new population estimate is made, the safe harvest level shall be changed accordingly and the daily bag limit or minimum size limit shall be adjusted according to the percentage of the new safe harvest level that is expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1). The readjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until March 1 of the year following the tribal harvest.

(3) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.** (a) Reduced daily bag limits calculated pursuant to this section are individual lake limits and may be combined, but no person may exceed a total daily bag limit of 5 walleyes.

(b) While fishing no person may possess fish on any water in excess of the bag limit or under the size limit for that water.

(4) **NOTICE.** Adjustments and readjustments of bag limits and minimum size limits under subs. (1) and (2) shall become effective upon publication of the adjustment or readjustment in the official newspaper in the area affected.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89

NR 20.04 Open seasons in specified waters. (3) SPECIAL WATERS-LAKES. (a) There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described waters; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

- 8. Calumet county-Winnebago
- 11. Columbia county-Columbia
- 13. Dane county-Koshkonong
- 14. Dodge county-Lost and Sinnissippi
- 17. Dunn county-Dunville bottoms
- 20. Fond du Lac county-Mullet and Winnebago
- 24. Green Lake county-Big Green, Maria and Puckaway
- 28. Jefferson county-Bean, Goose, Hahns, Koshkonong, Red Cedar and Mud (at Koshkonong)
- 39. Marquette county-Buffalo
- 50. Portage county-Bass and Pleasant
- 54. Rock county-Koshkonong
- 60. Sheboygan county-Sheboygan marsh
- 69. Waupaca county-Campbell, Crystal, Cynco (Rice), Hatch, Kinney, Partridge, Partridge Crop, Silver, and White

70. Waushara county-Fish (at Wautoma), Beans, Pine (at Hancock), Poygan and Big Twin

71. Winnebago county-Butte des Morts, Little Butte des Morts, Poygan, and Winneconne, and Winnebago

(am) SPECIAL WATERS-RIVERS AND STREAMS. There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described rivers, streams, and impoundments thereon; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

1. Baraboo river in Sauk and Columbia counties.
2. Black river including sloughs and bayous from the dam at Black River Falls in Jackson county downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi river.
3. Chippewa river including sloughs, bayous and flowages from the Holcombe dam in Chippewa county downstream to the Burlington Northern railroad bridge in Buffalo and Pepin counties, and streams flowing into this part of the Chippewa river from their mouths up to the first highway or railroad bridge.
 - a. Yellow river from Lake Wissota upstream to the Suetlik dam at Cadott in Chippewa county.
4. Eau Claire river including sloughs and bayous in Eau Claire county from the Altoona dam downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river.
 - a. Eau Galle river beginning at the Lake Eau Galle dam in Dunn county downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river, Pepin county.
5. Embarrass river beginning at the dam at Pella in Shawano county downstream to the Wolf river in Outagamie county.
6. Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac county.
7. Fox river downstream from the westerly crossing of highway #33 at Portage in Columbia county and in Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Winnebago and Outagamie counties downstream to the dam at De Pere in Brown county.
 - a. Puckyan river in Green Lake county.
8. Fox river in Kenosha county and upstream in Racine county to the Waterford dam.
9. Grand river from Fairwater in Fond du Lac county downstream to the Fox river in Marquette county.
10. La Crosse river including Lake Neshonoc sloughs and bayous from the Perch lake dam at Sparta downstream to the Mississippi river.
11. Lemonweir river including all connecting flowages, bays, sloughs and bayous in Juneau and Monroe counties and the East Fork

Lemonweir upstream to the highway #173 bridge and the South Fork Lemonweir upstream to the Tomah dam.

12. Little Wolf river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Manawa downstream to the Wolf river.

13. Pecatonica river in Iowa, Lafayette and Green counties.

14. Pine river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Poysippi downstream to Lake Poygan.

15. Pumpkinseed creek in Winnebago county from county trunk "D" bridge downstream to Lake Poygan.

16. Red Cedar river including all connecting sloughs and bayous in Dunn county from its confluence with the Chippewa river to the Lake Menomin Northern States Power Dam.

17. Rock river waters.

a. Rock river in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties and all waters in the Horicon marsh.

b. Crawfish river in Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

c. Beaver Dam river beginning at the dam in the city of Beaver Dam in Dodge county downstream to the Crawfish river.

d. Scuppernong river beginning at the dam at Palmyra in Jefferson county downstream to the Bark river.

e. Bark river beginning at the dam at Hebron in Jefferson county downstream to the Rock river.

f. Yahara river beginning at the dam at Fulton in Rock county downstream to the Rock river.

g. Busseyville creek in Dane and Jefferson counties beginning at the Rockdale dam downstream to Lake Koshkonong.

h. Waterloo (Maunasha) creek beginning at the dam (Malthouse) at Waterloo in Jefferson county downstream to its confluence with the Crawfish river, Dodge county.

18. Rubicon river in Dodge county.

19. Shioc river in Outagamie county.

20. Waupaca river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Weyauwega downstream to the Wolf river.

21. White river below dam at Burlington to Fox river in Racine county.

22. Wildcat river in Dodge county.

23. Willow river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Auroraville downstream to Lake Poygan.

24. Wisconsin river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander, Oneida county, downstream to the Burlington Northern railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties and streams in Columbia county flowing into the Wisconsin river from their

mouths upstream to the first highway bridge, except the Baraboo river which has the year round season for its entire length.

25. Wolf river in Winnebago, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and in Shawano county upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano.

26. Yellow river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the highway 54 dam at Dexterville, Wood county, downstream to its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county.

27. Yellowstone river from the dam downstream in Lafayette county.

(b) The department shall open the season for fishing with dip nets in any waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that the fish populations in such waters are threatened with imminent mortality because of depletion of dissolved oxygen or other adverse habitat conditions under which fish will not survive. During such open season all species of fish may be taken by means of dip nets not more than 3 feet in diameter or 3 feet square, but no person shall have more than 25 pounds and one fish of any species of game fish of any size so taken in his possession. No person shall fish with more than one such dip net. Such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected, such posting being deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that such open season for fishing with dip nets is in effect. Such open season shall remain in full force and effect only so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued.

(c) Except for streams posted pursuant to ch. NR 26, there is no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except lake trout, sturgeon, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, upstream to the first dam or lake except the Kewaunee river where this rule applies upstream to the third county highway "C" bridge.

(d) During the period of October 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May of the following May, annually, upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, except the Kewaunee river where this paragraph applies upstream to the third county hwy. "C" bridge, hook and line fishing is restricted to baits using a hook with a maximum gape size of one-half inch from point to shank. During this period, fishing with hook and line is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise on all streams tributary to Lake Michigan and Green Bay except the Menominee river, Oconto river and its tributaries and the Fox river.

(4) **EXPERIMENTAL WATERS; PERMITS; REPORTS.** (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in the waters of Nebish, Spruce, Mystery, Escanaba and Pallette lakes situated in sections 34 and 35, township 42 north, range 7 east, and sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, township 41 north, range 7 east, Vilas county except under the following conditions:

1. Fishing in such waters is authorized only under permit, which may be secured at the checking stations indicated by posted signs in the immediate area.

2. Fishing in such waters is restricted to hook and line or rod and reel with fishing in Spruce lake further restricted to the use of artificial lures

only and except that cisco may be taken in Pallette lake by means of dip nets or seines described under s. NR 20.11 (2).

3. The provisions of this section shall apply to such waters throughout the year.

4. All permits are valid only for the date issued and shall be turned in at the checking stations at the termination of each day's fishing activities by the fisher.

5. There is a continuous open season with no daily bag limit or size limit for all species of fish contained in these waters except for the following: In Nebish lake, no person may take smallmouth bass from 9 to 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 5 for smallmouth bass; in Pallette lake, no person may take smallmouth bass less than 16 inches long, there is a daily bag limit of 2 for smallmouth bass and there is no open season through 1991 for lake trout; and in Spruce lake, no person may take largemouth bass less than 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 2 for largemouth bass.

6. All fish taken pursuant to this section shall be exhibited to the department or its agents at the checking station for examination, identification and marking.

History: 1-2 56; am. (3) (a) 28, 56 and 71, (3) (am) 7, cr. (3) (am) 3 a, 7 a and 24 a and r. (4) (c) 1 and 2, Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (c) 2, 3, and 4, Register, October, 1975, No. 238, eff. 11-1-75; am. (3) (am) (intro.), (c) 2, 3, and 4, r. (4) (c) Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (4), r. (5) (a) 3 and cr. (7) and (8), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (7) (a) and (b), Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; am. (3) (c) 2 to 4, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (a) 69., (am) 3, and 24., (b), (4) (a) 5., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; r. (3) (c) 4.1, cr. (8) (c) and am. (3) (c) 4.b., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. cr. (7) (e), eff. 4-1-80; cr. (7) (e), Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (7) (e) and r. (8) (a) 1. a., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1981, No. 304; am. (2) (c) 4. e., Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; am. (3) (a) 14., (3) (c) 4. d., (4) (a) 2. and 5., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3) (c) 3. and 4. intro., b., d. and f., r. and recr. (7) (e), renum. (8) to be (9), cr. (8), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; renum. (3) (c) 1. and 2. to be (3) (c) and (d) and am., renum. (3) (c) 3. and 4. to be (3) (d) 1. and 2., renum. (3) (c) 4. j. to be 2.i, Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (3) (d) 1. and 2. intro. and h., (4) (a) 5., r. (3) (d) 2.a., r. and recr. (7) and (8), renum. (9) to be (8) and am. (8) (b), cr. (8) (d), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2. e., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2. intro. (4) (a) 2. and 5., (7) (d) and (8) (b), cr. (7) (e), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; r. (3) (d) 2. i., Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 10-1-85; cr. (7) (f) and (g), am. (8) (a), (b) and (c), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; renum. (3) (am) 26. to be 27., cr. (3) (a) 11, and (3) (am) 26., r. and recr. (3) (am) 3. and 24., Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (4) (a) 5., Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; r. and recr. (3) (d), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; r. (3) (a) 56., am. (3) (am) 13., cr. (7) (h), Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (3) (c), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; r. and recr. (4) (a) 5., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. cr. (4m), eff. 8-4-89; r. (5) to (8), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (3) (a) 14., Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10-1-90.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.04 see the history note for NR 20.04 as it appeared in the December, 1974 Administrative Register.

NR 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions. (1) (a) *I Waters and methods.* No person shall take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout except that rough fish may be taken by hand.

(b) *Trolling.* No person may fish in the inland waters of the state from a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any boat in tow of a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any sailboat when in motion; or by means of shutting or drawing off water for that purpose unless the person is backtrolling. Casting and immediate re-