

Chapter WCD 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

WCD 20.01 Closed seasons. There shall be and are provided and established the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other regulations for the several varieties and species of fish, crayfish, and frogs in the waters within the state of Wisconsin. A closed season is established for each variety of fish, crayfish and frogs named in this chapter extending during all the time of the year except the open season period embraced within the specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise expressly provided no person shall take, catch or kill fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit and no person shall take, catch or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than hook and line, nor at any time other than the open season therefor, nor have in his possession or under his control any fish, crayfish, or frogs in excess of the possession limit, or below the minimum size therefor during the open season.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58.

WCD 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters. (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in the outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits, number of hooks and lines and ice fishing regulations shall be the same as those prescribed for the inland waters of the county in which such outlying waters are located, except as otherwise specifically provided in the following table:

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(a) WALLEYE AND SAUGER (Bag limit means total of all)	Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(b) NORTHERN PIKE	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit

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Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(c) PERCH-----	In all outlying waters, including bounded bays and reserve waters	At all times	No bag limits or size limit; except during the closed season for commercial fishing in the waters of southern Green Bay and in the waters of Lake Michigan and northern Green Bay when there shall be a daily bag limit of 50 per day and such fish taken during the closed season shall not be sold, traded or bartered in any manner.	
(d) TROUT AND SALMON..	Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior	Continuous	5 in aggregate	10
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS---	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	July 1 to February 15	5 of each	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Saturday nearest June 7 to February 15	5 of each	No size limit

(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.

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, December, 1960, No. 60, 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, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1963, No. 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. 1-1-68; 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.

WCD 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 conservation director shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when he finds after scien-

Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac county.

Fox river (except Little Lake Butte des Morts) 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 DePere in Brown county.

Fox river in Kenosha county and upstream in Racine county to the Waterford dam.

Grand river from Fairwater in Fond du Lac county downstream to the Fox river in Marquette county.

La Crosse river from the Lake Neshonoc dam downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi river.

Lemonweir river in Juneau county including all connecting flowages, sloughs and bayous.

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

Pecatonica river in Lafayette and Green counties.

Pigeon river in Sheboygan county.

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

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

Red Cedar river in Dunn county from its confluence with the Chipewewa river to the Menomonie Northern States Power Dam.

Rock river waters. The Rock river waters include:

1. Crawfish river in Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson counties.
2. Beaver Dam river beginning at the dam in the city of Beaver Dam in Dodge county downstream to the Crawfish river.
3. Scuppernong river beginning at the dam at Palmyra in Jefferson county downstream to the Bark river.
4. Bark river beginning at the dam at Hebron in Jefferson county downstream to the Rock river.
5. Yahara river beginning at the dam at Fulton in Rock county downstream to the Rock river.
6. Busseyville creek in Dane and Jefferson counties beginning at the Rockdale dam downstream to Lake Koshkonong.

Sheboygan river upstream to the Kohler dam in Sheboygan county.

Shioc river in Outagamie county.

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

Willow river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Aurora-ville downstream to Lake Poygan.

Wisconsin river and flowages beginning at Grandmother dam (T33N, R6E, Sec. 3) in Lincoln county downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties including all connecting sloughs and bayous, including that part of the Yellow river from its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county upstream to the highway #54 dam at Dexterville.

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

Yellowstone river from the dam downstream in Lafayette county.

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

(b) The conservation director shall open the season for fishing with dip nets in any waters when he 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 1 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 and such dip net fishing shall be carried on only during the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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 Commission 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) There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except sturgeon and smallmouth bass from the mouth upstream to the first dam in any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay except the Pigeon river in Sheboygan county which shall be open upstream to County Truck MM. 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 except that during the period from September 16 to but not including the second Saturday in the following May there shall be a minimum size limit of six inches on brook, brown, and rainbow trout and salmon and a daily bag limit of five of which only two may be rainbow trout or salmon and during such period hook and line fishing is restricted to the use of natural baits only with a single barbed hook no. 8 or smaller and the use of double, treble or similar gang hooks and artificial baits is prohibited.

(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 Murphy flowage located on that part of Hemlock creek extending from county highway "F" in section 29 upstream to the inlet in section 27, township 36 north, range 9 west, Rusk county and in the waters of Nebish, Spruce, Mystery, Escanaba and Palette 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 shall be done only with hook and line or rod and reel except that cisco may be taken in Palette lake by means of licensed dip nets or seines.

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 fisherman.

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 in Escanaba Lake there shall be a minimum size limit of 22 inches on northern pike, a daily bag limit of 2 splake in Pallette Lake, a daily bag limit of 5 and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on coho salmon in Pallette Lake and a daily bag limit of 10 trout in Nebish Lake.

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

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in the waters of Mauthe lake located in sections 11, 12, 13 and 14, township 13 north, range 19 east, Fond du Lac county; in the waters of the Yellowstone river, including Yellowstone lake, from the dam located in section 1, township 3 north, range 4 east, upstream to the highway F bridge in section 35, township 4 north, range 4 east in Lafayette county; and all that water commonly known as the Fox river and Little Lake Butte des Morts extending from immediately below the dam in the city of Neenah and the dam and lock in the city of Menasha, both in Winnebago county, and extending downstream to the uppermost dam in the city of Appleton in Outagamie county and in Rush lake in Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties, except under the following conditions:

1. Fishing in such waters shall be done only with hook and line or rod and reel except that rough fish and minnows may be taken as authorized under the general fishing regulations in the county in which such waters are located.

2. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to such waters through the year with the exception of Rush lake as provided in subsection (3) (b) and Little Lake Butte des Morts as provided in section WCD 20.03 (1) (s).

3. There is a continuous open season with no daily bag limit or size limit for all species of fish, except sturgeon, contained in such waters.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in, on or along any waters situated in Governor Dodge State Park upstream from the dam forming Twin Valley Lake, except under the following conditions:

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

2. Fishing in such waters shall be done only with hook and line or rod and reel. Bag limits, possession limits and size limits shall be the same as prescribed in the season tables except that from the second Saturday in May to February 15 there shall be a minimum size limit of 22 inches on northern pike.

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

4. Fishing is prohibited from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. of the following day.

5. All fish taken pursuant to this section shall be exhibited to the Conservation Commission or its agents at the checking station in a whole and uncleaned condition for examination and recording. When checking station personnel are not on duty, each permittee shall complete a creel census form provided and deposit the form at the checking station.

(5) FLY FISHING ONLY. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" in the following described waters:

1. *Peshtigo river*—In, on or along that part of the Peshtigo river lying in Marinette county, beginning at the Johnson Falls dam in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, township 33 north, range 19 east, and extending downstream to the foot of Spring Rapids in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 15, township 32 north, range 19 east, with a daily bag limit of 5 trout and a minimum size limit of 12 inches on trout.

2. *Wolf river*—In, on or along that part of the Wolf river lying in Langlade county, beginning at the railroad trestle in section 19, township 32 north, range 14 east extending downstream to the east-west quarter line dividing the west half of section 33, township 32 north, range 14 east marked by a road which runs along side the Diercks irrigation pond with a daily bag limit of 5 trout per day and a minimum size limit of 12 inches on trout.

3. *Wolf river*—In, on or along that part of the Wolf river lying in Menominee county, beginning at the head of the ledge rock area known as "The Trip" and located near the east line of section 27, township 30 north, range 15 east, extending downstream to the foot of "Ducknest Rapids" located just above the south line of section 27, township 30 north, range 15 east, as designated by signs posted by the Wisconsin Conservation Department on each bank of the Wolf river at the beginning, end and within said described area.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this chapter shall apply to the area described herein.

History: 1-2-56; Cr. (5), Register, March, 1956, No. 3, eff. 4-28-56; am. (1) through (5), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) (c), (3) (a) and (b) and (4) (b) and (c), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (a), (3) (a), and (b), (4) (c), and (5) (a), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (3) (a) (b) emerg. eff. 2-1-59; am. (3) (a), (b), emerg. eff. 2-28-59; r. (1) (a), am. (3) and (4) (c) 2., Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; cr. (4) (d), Register, May, 1960, No. 53, eff. 6-1-60; am. (1) (d) and (e), (3), (4) (b) 2. and (4) (b) 4., Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (4) (b) 1., Register, March, 1961, No. 63, eff. 4-1-61; am. (1), (2) (c), (3) (a), (4) (b) 1., and (4) (c) intro. par., Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (3) (b) and (4) (d) 2., Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; r. (1) (d); am. (3) (a) and (b); (4) (a) 2. and 5. and (4) (b) 1. and (4) (d) 2., Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; am. (3) (a); r. and recr. (3) (b), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. (3) (a), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; r. and recr. (1) (g); cr. (1) (h) (i); am. (3) (a), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; cr. (5) (a) 3, Register, April, 1967, No. 136, eff. 5-1-67; r. (1) (b) 1., am.

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(4) (a) 5., Register, May, 1967, No. 137, eff. 6-1-67; r. and recr. (1); am. (3) (a), (4) (a) 5, and (4) (b), 1.; Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; r. (4) (b), Register, June, 1968, No. 150, eff. 7-1-68; emerg. am. (3) (c), eff. 9-30-68; am. (3) (a) and (c), (4) (a) 2, and (d), (intro. par.), Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; am. (4) (a) 5., Register, March, 1969, No. 159, eff. 4-1-69.

WCD 20.05 Season for crayfish and frogs. (1) CRAYFISH. There is no closed season on crayfish or crabs in the inland waters except in Manitowoc county where there is a closed season from March 1 to but not including the Saturday nearest June 15.

(2) **METHOD OF TAKING.** Crayfish or crabs may be taken in the following ways: by hand, minnow seines, minnow dip nets and minnow traps where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows (see minnow regulations, section WCD 20.10) and by crab traps with the entrance of the trap not to exceed 1½ inches in diameter. Each such trap shall have securely attached to it a label or tag clearly bearing in the English language the name and address of the operator. All such traps shall be raised and the crayfish or crabs removed therefrom at least once in every 24 hours.

(3) **FROGS. (a)** The open season for taking, killing or capturing frogs shall be from the Saturday nearest May 1 to December 31.

(b) All frogs taken legally during the open season may be held, purchased, and sold during the closed season. Persons engaged in the business of propagating frogs may possess and sell frogs at any time.

(c) There shall be no open season for bullfrogs in Jefferson and Walworth counties.

(d) It is unlawful to take frogs with the aid or use of any firearms.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2) and (4) (a), r. (3) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and recr. Register, March, 1959, No. 39, eff. 4-1-59; am. (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (1) and (4) (a), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; r. and recr., Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; cr. (3) (d), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66.

WCD 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions. (1) (a) 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.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture or kill fish or fish for fish of any variety at any time in the inland waters of this 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. The restrictions contained in this paragraph do not apply to the waters of Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Racine, Rusk and Washburn counties; Kakagon slough in Ashland county; Lake Eau Claire from Lake Eau Claire dam in section 5, township 26 north, range 6 west, upstream to the Troubled Waters bridge on highway "G" in section 12, township 26 north, range 6 west; Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties; the Wisconsin river and flowages beginning at the Nekoosa dam in Wood county downstream to the Prairie du Sac dam in Sauk county, including all connecting sloughs and bayous, Green lake in Green Lake county; Chetac lake in Saw-

yer county; Holcombe flowage and Lake Wissota including all streams flowing into Lake Wissota upstream to the first road bridge except the Chippewa river which shall extend upstream to the Jim Falls dam in Chippewa county; Eau Galle, Menomin and Tainter lakes in Dunn county; and in the Island Lake chain in Chippewa county.

(c) *Fishing near dams.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish by means other than hook or line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam in the inland waters at any time.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (b) Register, April, 1958, No. 28, eff. 5-1-58; am. (2), Register, August, 1958, No. 32, eff. 9-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (2), Register, August, 1959, No. 44, eff. 9-1-59; am. (1) (b), r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (b) and (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (2), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b); cr. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (e), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1963, No. 88, eff. 5-1-63; am. (1) (b); r. (2), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. (1) (a) and (c); r. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67.

WCD 20.07 Prohibited methods of fishing. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Wis. Stats. or by commission order:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish or fish for fish of any variety with more than 2 lines or 2 poles with 1 line attached to each pole and with 1 hook or bait to each line.

(b) Any fisherman fishing with not more than 1 line or pole with 1 line attached thereto may have attached to such line not more than 2 lures or 2 hooks or 2 baits.

(c) Any fisherman fishing through the ice with hook and line on Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties and Lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne in Winnebago county and Lake Poygan in Waushara and Winnebago counties may fish with not more than three lines with not more than one hook attached to each line.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish with or leave any fish line or lines unattended in any waters; it shall be unlawful for any person to take any fish by snagging or fouling in any manner or with the aid or use of any firearm or pellet gun in any manner or by any means other than angling or trolling.

(e) No person shall use as bait any minnows or other fish on any waters which have been chemically treated for trout management and which are so identified and designated by signs posted on the shores thereof by the conservation department.

(2) No person shall, except as expressly provided, have in his possession or under his control on any of the inland waters or shores of inland waters between the hours of sunset and sunrise any gun, bow and arrow, spear or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish. Burbot or lawyers, but no other species of fish, may be taken by means of spears from sunset to sunrise in the waters of the Amnicon and Nemadji rivers and the Black river upstream to the Soo line bridge in Douglas county and the Bad river in Ashland county from December 15 to January 15 only. All species of fish of any size, but subject to the bag limits