

Chapter NR 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

NR 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 hook or 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; renum. from WCD 20.01 to be NR 20.01, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

NR 20.015 Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Artificial fly" means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(2) "Artificial lure" means a bait designed to attract fish which do not include any natural bait.

(3) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing.

(4) Fishing includes taking, capturing or killing fish or fishing for fish of any variety at any time in the waters of the state.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; renum. (1) and (2) to be (3) and (4), cr. (1) and (2), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

Register, February, 1984, No. 338

NR 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) | Lake Michigan and Green Bay | At all times | 3 | No size limit | |
| | Lake Superior | At all times | 5 | No size limit | |
| (b) NORTHERN PINE- | Lake Michigan and Green Bay | At all times | 5 | No size limit | |
| | Lake Superior | At all times | 5 | No size limit | |
| (c) YELLOW PERCH | Green Bay | Continuous | 25 | No size limit | |
| | Lake Michigan | Continuous | 50 | No size limit | |
| | Lake Superior | Continuous | 50 | No size limit | |
| (d) 1. TROUT AND SALMON | Lake Michigan, Green Bay | Continuous | 5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout | 10 | |
| | 2. TROUT AND SALMON EXCLUDING LAKE TROUT | Lake Superior | Continuous | 10 in aggregate of which only 5 may be trout | 10 |
| | 3. LAKE TROUT | Lake Superior | December 1 to September 30 | 5 in aggregate with trout | 10 |
| (e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS | 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 | No size limit | |
| | Town of Washington Island | July 1 to March 1 | 5 of each | No size limit | |
| | Lake Superior | Second Saturday in May to March 1 | 5 of each | No size limit | |
| (f) LAKE STURGEON | Lake Superior | Continuous | 1 per yr | 40 | |

(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