

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Note: Chapter NR 25 as it existed on September 30, 1976, was repealed and a new chapter NR 25 was created effective October 1, 1976.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

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

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:

(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.
- (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) "License year" means that period from July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year.
- (17) "Licensed commercial fisher" means a person currently licensed under s. 29.33 (1), Stats.
- (18) "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.
- (19) "Northern chub fishing zone" means those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending due east from the red navigational buoy marking the entrance of Baileys Harbor, except between April 1, 1983 and July 1, 1985 when it 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.
- Note: This definition creates different boundaries for the "northern chub fishing zone" for a period not to extend beyond July 1, 1985. During that period, the fishery in the zone will be closely monitored and evaluated. If found necessary, the department will propose appropriate amendments prior to July 1, 1985.
- (20) "Northern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying north of the northern and southern Green Bay line.

Species	A	B	C
	Green Bay	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout	No open season	No open season	December 1 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	December 1 to September 30.
(d) Chubs	No open season	April 1 to December 31, subject to ss. NR 25.06(2)(a), 25.07(2)(a) and 25.08	At all times
(e) Yellow perch	July 1 to April 9 except 1. Commencing May 20, 1984, 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)	June 11 to April 9	No open season
(f) Northern pike	May 20 to March 9	No open season	No open season
(g) Alewives, bullheads, burbot, carp, catfish, gizzard shad, suckers, menominees, smelt, white bass	At all times	At all times	At all times <i>emergency in (1)(g) 6-20-84</i>
(h) Lake herring	No open season	No open season	At all times
(i) Walleye, sauger	No open season	No open season	No open season <i>or (1)(g)m</i>
(j) Others	No open season	No open season	No open season <i>6-20-84</i>

(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 Green Bay	B Lake Michigan	C 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.

NR 25.06 Quotas and catch fees. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Lake trout. The total allowable annual harvest of lake trout by commercial methods during the open season in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior 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.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may not exceed 180,000 pounds of lake trout.

2. That quantity of lake trout to be harvested by non-Indian licensed commercial fishers from the waters of Lake Superior may not exceed 80,000 pounds annually.

3. Eligible members of the Red Cliff and Bad River bands of Lake Superior Chippewas as determined by the respective tribal councils may harvest under permits issued by their respective tribal councils 100,000 pounds of lake trout from Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior annually. Copies of the permits will be provided to the department at the time of issue.

4. All lake trout and siscowet shall be tagged in accordance with sub. (3).

(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 3,000,000 pounds, not including incidental catches allowed elsewhere in this chapter.

2. No more than 350,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in the northern chub fishing zone.

3. No more than 2,550,000 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 350,000 pounds.

(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.

(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.

(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.

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 individual quota of 4,400 pounds of lake trout; except

2. Each such licensed commercial fisher who fishes with pound or trap nets only shall receive a quota of lake trout in the amount of 3,200 pounds.

3. Whenever the total of that quantity of lake trout allocated in subs. 1. and 2. exceeds the total amount established in s. NR 25.06 (1) (a)2., individual allocations shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.

4. Whenever that quantity of lake trout allocated in subs. 1. and 2. does not equal in total the amount provided in s. NR 25.06 (1) (a)2., individual allocations may be increased on a pro rata basis.

(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:

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(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;
 - 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) (a) shall be subject to the following limitations:

a. In the northern chub fishing zone, no more than 125,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during each of the 3-month periods encompassed by the months of July, August and September, and the months of October, November and December, and for the period from April 1, 1983 to July 1, 1985, no more than 100,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the 3-month period encompassed by the months of April, May and June.

Note: This subpar. allows the harvest of chubs in the northern chub fishing zone during the months of April, May and June for a period not to extend beyond July 1, 1985. During that period, the fishery in the zone will be closely monitored and evaluated. If found necessary, the department will propose appropriate amendments prior to July 1, 1985.

b. The department shall notify all permittees to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of the 3-month quota as established in subpar. a. has been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.08 (2) (a) 9., and the legal fish therein harvested.

c. The quota for the following 3-month period shall be adjusted based on the actual reported catch of the previous periods within a given license year, except that no more than 100,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the 3-month period encompassed by the months of April, May and June.

3. All permittees under subd. 1. who select the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (a) 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 per-

mittee 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 individual 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 established in subpar. b. 1) during any of the 3-month fishing periods encompassed by the months of July, August and September, the months of October, November and December, and the months of April, May and June respectively.

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. 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. 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 25.08 (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-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) Applications for individual license year catch quotas shall be made on forms provided by the department. Applications, if mailed, shall be postmarked no later than March 15 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 March 15 preceding the license year for which application is being made.

(a) 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.

(4) The harvest quota established by the department from which individuals may be allotted quotas shall not include that poundage reserved for assessment purposes in s. NR 25.06.

(5) Individual catch quotas determined and issued in accordance with this section shall be issued on a license year basis and be valid only during the open season for the species of fish subject to a harvest quota and only for so long as the applicant holds a valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the waters to which the applicant's quota applies.

(6) Individual catch quotas may not be transferred to another valid licensee authorized to engage in commercial fishing in the waters to which the applicant's quota applies without review and approval of the commercial fishing board which allotted the quota to the applicant.

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.

Register, July, 1984, No. 343

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NR 25.08 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 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure.

2. With a mesh size of not less than 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and not more than 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 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 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 December 1 through September 30.

c. May be used in water more than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep at any time.

5. Shall be lifted a minimum of:

a. Once every 72 hours (3 days) in open water less than 96 feet (16 fathoms) deep.

b. Once every 120 hours (5 days) in open water 96 to 210 feet (16 to 35 fathoms) deep.

c. Once every 240 hours (10 days) in open water more than 210 feet (35 fathoms) deep.

d. Once every 120 hours (5 days) in commercial ice fishing.

(b) *Entrapping nets:*

1. Only when the pot or crib is set, placed or operated in water not more than 78 feet (13 fathoms) deep.

2. May be set, placed or operated only by permit issued under s. NR 25.09 (4) in that part of Lake Superior lying between a line extending due north from the harbor entrance at Cornucopia in section 34, township 51 north, range 6 west, Bayfield county, and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Bad river in section 17, township 48 north, range 2 west, Ashland county, and including all of the Apostle Islands area.

3. May be used up to 10 such nets by each licensed commercial fisher, that being the maximum number of pots or cribs allowed.

4. Shall be lifted a minimum of once every 168 hours (7 days).

5. Shall be removed from the water or shall have the fish holding or pot portion rendered inoperable during the closed seasons for whitefish and lake trout, on pound nets and trap nets.

(c) *Encircling nets and trawls*: Only for taking fish species for which there is no minimum size limit and which are legal in other commercial fishing gear.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) *Gill nets*:

1. With a mesh size of not more than 1¾ inch stretch measure for taking smelt only.

2. With a mesh size of not less than 2¾ inch and not more than 2 ½ inch stretch measure in southern Green Bay only.

3. With a mesh size of not less than 2½ inch and not more than 2¾ inch stretch measure:

a. For chubs in Lake Michigan, in the northern and southern chub fishing zones only.

b. For other legal fish species in Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

4. With a mesh size of 2¾ inch or less stretch measure may not exceed 60 meshes in depth.

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

a. Only in southern Green Bay in water less than 30 feet (5 fathoms) deep.

b. Only for taking rough fish and northern pike.

c. From May 20 to March 9, except during the closed season for whitefish.

d. Not more than 30 meshes in depth.

6. With a mesh size of not less than 4½ inch and not more than 6½ inch stretch measure:

a. In those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending due east from the red navigational buoy marking the entrance of Bailey's Harbor, except between April 1, 1983 and July 1, 1985 when it is in those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Bailey's Harbor on 135° bearing.

Note: This subparagraph allows the use of gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 4½ inch and not more than 6½ inch stretch measure in a larger area of northern Lake Michigan for a period not to extend beyond July 1, 1985. During that period, the fishery will be closely monitored and evaluated. If found necessary, the department will propose appropriate amendments prior to July 1, 1985.

b. In Green Bay.

c. Only during the open season for whitefish.

d. May not exceed 30 meshes in depth for one-half of the total length of these nets set at any time by a licensed commercial fisher, and the remaining half may not exceed 50 meshes in depth.

7. With a mesh size of not less than 6½" stretch measure:

a. Only for taking rough fish.

b. Only during the open seasons for whitefish and yellow perch.

c. Not more than 12 meshes in depth.

8. With a mesh size of 4 inch or larger stretch measure, not to exceed 12,000 feet may be used by each licensed commercial fisher at any one time.

9. Shall be lifted a minimum of:

a. Once every 24 hours (1 day) in open water less than 180 feet (30 fathoms) deep.

b. Once every 120 hours (5 days) in open water 180 feet (30 fathoms) deep or deeper.

c. Once every 48 hours (2 days) in commercial ice fishing.

(b) *Entrapping nets:*

1. Drop nets and fyke nets:

a. Only during the open season for yellow perch, except by permit issued under s. NR 25.09 (4).

b. May be used up to 30 drop nets or fyke nets in aggregate by each licensed commercial fisher, that being the maximum number of pots allowed.

c. Shall be lifted a minimum of once every 72 hours (3 days).

2. Pound nets and trap nets:

a. Only when the pot or crib is set, placed or operated in water not more than 78 feet (13 fathoms) deep.

b. May be used up to 12 pound nets or trap nets in aggregate by each licensed commercial fisher, that being the maximum number of pots or cribs allowed.

c. Shall be lifted a minimum of once every 120 hours (5 days).

d. Shall be removed from the water or shall have the fish holding or pot portion rendered inoperable during the closed season for whitefish.

(c) *Seines:*

1. With a mesh size of not less than 3 inch stretch measure.

2. Not less than 75 feet in length.

(d) *Trawls:*

1. In southern Green Bay:

a. Only for taking fish species for which there is no minimum size limit, and which are legal in other commercial fishing gear.

b. Only in water more than 24 feet (4 fathoms) deep.

c. Only north of a line from the southernmost point of Little Tail point to the Green Bay navigation channel entrance light.

2. In Lake Michigan:

a. Only south of a line extending due east from the Sturgeon Bay coast guard station.

b. Only for taking fish species for which there is no minimum size limit, not to include those species for which an allowable annual harvest limit has been established under s. NR 25.06 (2).

c. No more than 1% by weight of the catch from each trawl cast may be composed of fish species which are legal in other commercial fishing gear. The provisions of s. NR 25.07 (2) shall apply.

(3) **NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT.** (a) Nets do not have to be lifted on Sunday, except as required by notice issued under s. NR 25.07.

(b) The lifting requirements of this section shall apply except during extreme adverse weather conditions which would place a fisher in danger of serious injury or death.

(4) **NET MESH MEASUREMENT.** Whenever the size of mesh of any net is specified in this chapter, the size shall be considered stretch measure.

(a) Stretch measure shall be determined by exerting a one pound strain on a mesh knot and measuring the mesh opening immediately above that knot on which the strain is applied from the inside edge of that knot to the inside edge of the knot directly opposite. Measurement shall be made by inserting the measuring device at the uppermost knot in the mesh and reading at the lowermost knot.

(b) The weight and measuring devices to be used under par. (a) shall be tested, approved and certified by the Wisconsin department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, or other governmental entity authorized to do so.

(c) Measurement shall be made of meshes in a wet condition.

(d) If the majority of 10 or more meshes selected at random by the enforcement officer from any part or parts of the net are found to be illegal, the entire net shall be considered illegal and shall be seized and held subject to the order of the court.

(5) **MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR.** Whenever any gill nets, encircling nets or trawls catch illegal fish of any species in an amount equal to 10% or more by weight or numbers of the total legal catch, those nets shall be immediately removed from the water, and may not be reset, placed, replaced, recast or operated during that same day unless:

(a) All parts of the net are moved a distance of at least 3 miles from that site; or

(b) Moved to a water depth where no part of the net is within 30 feet (5 fathoms) in depth of the water depth at which the catch of illegal fish was made.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; am. (2)(b)2., Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (2)(a)5., Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78; emerg. am (1), (2)(a) (intro.), 3. and 9., eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (2) (a) 3., Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. r. and recr. (3) (a) 4., r. (5) (a) 3., renum. (5) (b) to be (5) (c), cr. (5) (b), eff. 7-1-81; r. and recr. (3) (a) 4., r. (5) (a) 3., renum. (5) (b) to be (5) (c), cr. (5) (b), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; renum. (5) and (6) to be (6) and (7), renum. (4) (g) to be (5) (a), renum. (4) (h) and (i) to be (5) (b) and (c) and am., cr. (5) (intro.), Register, November, 1981, No. 311, eff. 12-1-81; am. (2) (a) 9. and (2) (b) 2., Register, April, 1982, No. 316, eff. 5-1-82; renum. (5) and (6) to be (6) and Register, June, 1984, No. 342

(6m), cr. (5), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (2) (a) 2. and (5) and r. (6) (b) and (c), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; r. and recr. Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.

NR 25.09 Restricted commercial fishing areas. The following restrictions apply to the use of the specified commercial fishing gear in the indicated areas:

(1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, or entrapping nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. Allouez bay, Superior bay, and St. Louis bay, all in Douglas county and as described in s. 29.015, Stats.

2. All waters within one-fourth mile of the mouth of any navigable stream flowing into Lake Superior.

3. All waters within one-fourth mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater from April 15 through November 30.

4. That portion of Chequamegon bay lying south of a line beginning at the easternmost point of Houghton point in section 27, township 49 north, range 4 west, Bayfield county, then proceeding northeasterly to the signal light on the western end of Long island in section 13, township 48 north, range 4 west, Ashland county, then along the south or west shore of Long island and on across the cut, if present, along the south or west shore of Chequamegon point to where Chequamegon point joins the mainland in section 1 or 12, township 48 north, range 3 west, Ashland county.

(b) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. All waters bounded by a line beginning at the mouth of Graveyard creek in section 3, township 47 north, range 1 west, extending north to the Gull Island Shoals refuge south boundary as described in s. NR 26.23 (1) (a), then east to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, then southerly along the state line to the shore at the mouth of the Montreal river in section 7, township 47 north, range 1 east, all in Iron county.

2. That portion of Siskiwit bay lying south of a line extending from Roman (Quarry) point in section 29, township 50 north, range 6 west, to Squaw point in section 22, township 50 north, range 6 west, all in Bayfield county.

3. All waters bounded by a line beginning at the signal light on the western end of Long island in section 13, township 48 north, range 4 west, then extending northeasterly to the southernmost point of Madeline island in section 6, township 49 north, range 4 west, then due east to the western boundary of Gull Island Shoals refuge as described in s. NR 26.23 (1) (a), then southerly along the refuge boundary to the mouth of the Bad river in section 17, township 48 north, range 2 west, then northwesterly along the shoreline to the point of beginning, all in Ashland county, except waters within one mile of the mainland shoreline in Ashland county.

4. All waters less than 90 feet (15 fathoms) deep lying between a point extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river in section 34, township 50 north, range 9 west, and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster in section 5, township 50 north, range 7 west, all in Bayfield county.

5. All waters less than 210 feet (35 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river in section 34, township 50 north, range 9 west, Bayfield county, and the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line, except all waters more than 90 feet (15 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Bois Brule river in section 10, township 49 north, range 10 west, Douglas county, where gill nets with a mesh size of 3 inches or less stretch measure may be used from November 15 through December 31.

6. All waters less than 72 feet (12 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster in section 5, township 50 north, range 7 west, and a line extending due north from the northernmost point of Roman (Quarry) point in section 29, township 50 north, range 6 west, all in Bayfield county, except that portion of Bark bay lying southwesterly of a line beginning at Roman (Quarry) point and extending northwesterly to Bark point in section 24, township 50 north, range 7 west, all in Bayfield county, which shall be open from April 1 through May 31.

7. All waters less than 54 feet (9 fathoms) deep or within one mile of the mouth of any stream flowing into Lake Superior, lying between a line extending due east from the breakwall light at Port Superior in Pikes bay in section 27, township 50 north, range 4 west, and a line extending due east from the easternmost point of Houghton point in section 27, township 49 north, range 4 west, all in Bayfield county, from August 16 through May 31.

8. All waters lying east of Madeline island bounded by a line extending due east from the southernmost tip of Madeline island in section 6, township 49 north, range 4 west to the western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge as described in s. NR 26.23 (1) (a), and a line extending from the east end of Hagen road on Big Bay point on Madeline island in sections 19 and 30, township 50 north, range 2 west, to that same western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge, all in Ashland county, from June 1 through August 31.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, or entrapping nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. Bailey's harbor, Detroit harbor, Eagle harbor, Egg harbor, Fish Creek harbor, Jackson harbor, Little Sturgeon bay, Moonlight bay, North bay, Riley's bay, Rowley's bay, Sawyer harbor, Sturgeon bay, Washington harbor and West harbor, all in Door county and as described in s. 29.015, Stats.

2. All waters within one-half mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater.

3. All waters within one-half mile of the shoreline of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Racine counties.
4. All waters within one-fourth mile of the mouth of any navigable stream flowing into Lake Michigan or Green Bay.
5. All waters within one-fourth mile of the shoreline in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties.
6. That portion of southern Green Bay bounded by a line beginning at the silo west of Little Sturgeon Bay at 87°35'W longitude in the SE ¼ SE ¼, section 33, township 28 north, range 24 east, then proceeding northeasterly 7.75 statute miles on a 54° bearing through the Sherwood Point shoal signal buoy and 0.37 statute miles beyond to latitude 44°55'N, then due east on a 44°55' bearing, 2.75 statute miles to the shoreline in section 12, township 28 north, range 25 east, all in Door county.
7. That portion of southern Green Bay lying north or east of a line beginning at the south end of Ogden street in the city of Marinette in section 9, and running southeasterly to the most southwesterly point of Seagull bar in section 16, then along the north or east shoreline of Seagull bar to the Red Arrow park public boat landing located in section 9, all in township 30 north, range 24 east, Marinette county.
8. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south and west of a line beginning at the southern side of the base of Long Tail point in section 24, township 25 north, range 20 east, and following the south or west shore of Long Tail point to its southernmost point, then to where the navigation channel intersects latitude 44°35'N, then southwesterly along the west side of the navigational channel, as marked, for 3.5 statute miles to the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant outlet on the west bank of the Fox river in section 25, township 24 north, range 20 east, all in Brown county.
9. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south or east of a line beginning at the mouth of Renard creek located in SW ¼ NW ¼, section 21, township 26 north, range 23 east, Door county, and running southwesterly to the east end of the concrete sea wall located at the end of Point Comfort road in SW ¼ SE ¼, section 20, township 25 north, range 22 east, Brown county.
10. Fox river including all connected sloughs, bayous, and tributaries from the DePere dam downstream to its mouth lying south of a line beginning at the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant and running easterly across the Fox river to the outlet of the Green Bay metropolitan sewerage district plant outfall, all in Brown county.

(3) FISH REFUGES-OUTLYING WATERS. No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated at any time in or on those water areas in Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay as described in s. NR 26.23.

(4) RESTRICTED AREA PERMITS. Permits allowing commercial fishing in restricted areas as described in subs. (1) and (2), or as required in s. NR 25.08 will be issued as follows:

(a) *Application criteria and procedure.* 1. Applicants shall be licensed commercial fishers, or have contracts for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters issued under s. 29.62 or 29.625, Stats.

2. Applications shall be made on forms provided by the department, at least one week prior to commencing fishing operations, unless otherwise authorized.

3. A permit shall be issued to an applicant meeting the criteria in this paragraph, unless the department denies the application under par. (b) in writing, within 6 business days of receipt of the application.

4. Permits shall be reapplied for at least once each license year. The permit period may not extend beyond the end of the license year.

(b) *Denial, revocation or temporary suspension of permits.* 1. The department may deny, revoke, or temporarily suspend a permit applied for or issued under this subsection in whole or in part, as resource management requires, if one or more of the following conditions exists or are likely to occur:

a. Damage to fish habitat.

b. Excessive incidental catch of illegal fish, as defined in s. NR 25.08 (5).

c. Spawning concentrations of illegal fish.

d. Concentrations of recently stocked fish.

e. Concentrations of immature fish.

f. Presence of protected or endangered plants or animals as listed in ch. NR 27.

2. The department shall give notice of a denial, suspension, or revocation pursuant to provisions of s. 227.14 (3), Stats. Any telephonic notice of suspension shall be promptly confirmed in writing.

3. Any suspension exceeding 7 days shall be reviewed and approved by the department's district director, or their designee, within the first 6 business days of the suspension period. Any revocation, or suspension in excess of 25 days, shall be reviewed by the office of the secretary, or its designee, with opportunity for the permittee to be heard. The revocation or suspension shall be reviewed within 10 business days of receipt of the permittee's request for opportunity to be heard. A permittee is not required to request to be heard by the office of the secretary prior to seeking judicial review.

4. A denial, suspension, or revocation of a permit under this paragraph shall not bar an otherwise qualified applicant from applying for permits for other locations.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.09, Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.

NR 25.10 Handling of illegal fish. All illegal fish taken during commercial fishing operations on the outlying waters shall be immediately returned to the water, except that a department employe on board a vessel Register, June, 1984, No. 342

or otherwise accompanying fishers engaged in such commercial fishing operations may retain illegal fish taken.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

NR 25.11 Processing of fish. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person operating any fishing boat or boats or any other conveyance on the outlying waters to carry or transport on board such boat or boats or any other conveyance used at any time in the transportation of fish or fishing gear, any instrument or device by which fish can be ground up or so mutilated that identification of the species and measurement of the individual fish are impossible.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person operating on the outlying waters to have in possession or under control on such waters or to bring to shore any fish ground up or so mutilated that identification and measurement of the individual fish are impossible.

History: Renum. from NR 25.13 (3)(a) and (b), Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

NR 25.12 Commercial fishing reports. (1) All commercial fishing reports shall be signed by the commercial fishing licensee under whose license the fish were taken.

(2) On or before the 10th day of each month each person licensed pursuant to s. 29.33, Stats., or fishing as an eligible member of the Red Cliff and Bad River bands of Lake Superior Chippewas, shall report for the preceding calendar month to the department in writing on forms provided for this purpose by said department such information relative to their fishing activities as may be deemed necessary by the department for management of the fishery, and to prevent depletion of the fish supply.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.14 and am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

NR 25.13 Movement of gill nets. History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.16 and am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.

NR 25.13 Possession of fishing equipment. (1) No licensed commercial fisher or any member of the crew or any person aboard the boat shall have in possession any game fish or sport angling equipment while operating commercial fishing gear or while traveling to or from the operation of such gear in any of the outlying waters.

(2) No person shall have in possession any commercial fishing gear while on the outlying waters unless in possession of a valid license issued pursuant to s. 29.33, Stats. or otherwise authorized by the department.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.17 and am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.14, Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.

NR 25.14 Taking of fish by or for the department. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the department or its agents from taking fish or authorizing by special permit as prescribed in s. 29.51(2), Stats., the taking of fish for purposes of obtaining spawn for fish propagation or by contract

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for studies, investigations, and surveys in accordance with s. 23.09(2), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.11, Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum from NR 25.15, Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.

NR 25.15 Severability. Should any section or portion of this chapter be declared invalid or unconstitutional for any reason, the remainder of the chapter shall not be affected thereby.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.16, Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.