

Chapter NR 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

**NR 20.01 Purpose; general restriction.** Seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other regulations for fishing in Wisconsin waters are established in this chapter. No person may take, catch, kill or fish for fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit, by means other than hook and line, during other than the open season or possess or control any fish in excess of the possession limit or below the minimum size limit, except as expressly provided in this chapter.

**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; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1984, No. 340; r. and recr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

**NR 20.0125 License waiver.** (1) On the third Saturday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the inland or outlying waters.

(2) The license waiver of sub. (1) does not apply to commercial fishing license requirements.

**History:** Cr. Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87.

**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 does not include any natural bait.

(2m) "Business day" has the meaning given it in s. 421.301 (6), Stats.

(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.

(4g) "Setline" means a line with one or more hooks fastened to it and designed to be set or left unattended in the water for the purpose of taking fish.

(4t) "Set or bank pole" means a pole equipped with line with one or more hooks fastened to it, designed to be used for fishing from the banks of lakes or rivers and set or left unattended.

(5) "Telemetry device" means any device attached or implanted in fish that transmits a sonic or electronic signal to aid in fishing.

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; reprinted to correct error in (2), Register, April, 1984, No. 340; cr. (5), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; cr. (4g) and (4t) Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86; cr. (2m), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87.

**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) <b>WALLEYE AND SAUGER</b> (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) <b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(c) <b>YELLOW PERCH</b>	Green Bay	Continuous	50	No size limit
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit
(d) 1. <b>TROUT AND SALMON</b>	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

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
	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.	10 except the minimum length for lake trout is 17
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS	Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within ¼-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands) Town of Washington Island Lake Superior	First Saturday in May to March 1  July 1 to March 1 Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each  5 of each 5 of each	No size limit  No size limit 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 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; renum. (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.

**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 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.

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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)
<b>(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>			
1.a. Park lake and Silver lake, Columbia county; Forest lake, Fond du Lac county; Beckman lake and Zanders lake, Green county; Blue Spring lake, Jefferson county; and Little Elkhart lake, Sheboygan county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	14
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
2. Clear lake (sec. 16, T39N, R7E) Oneida county (smallmouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	12
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	None	10
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.a. Beaver Dam lake, Dodge county (largemouth bass)	No open season	—	—
b. Ripon millpond, Fond du Lac county (largemouth bass)	No open season	—	—
c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county (largemouth bass)	No open season	—	—
8. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
<b>(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER</b>			
1. In all waters of Barron, Burnett, Polk and Sawyer counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	13
2.a. Beaver Dam lake, Dodge county (walleye)	No open season	—	—
b. Ripon millpond, Fond du Lac county (walleye)	No open season	—	—
c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county	No open season	—	—
3. Lake Mendota, Dane county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
4. In all other waters (See also s. NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	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	No open season	—	—
b. Ripon millpond, Fond du Lac county	No open season	—	—
c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county	No open season	—	—
5. Lake Mendota, Dane county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
6. 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. All other waters north of U.S. hwy. 10	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	32
5. All other waters south of U.S. hwy. 10	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	32
(f) TROUT AND SALMON (any variety except lake trout and splake in inland lakes.)			
1. All inland waters south of a line from the Mississippi river to and along state hws. 33, 82, 23 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan, except for Lake Michigan tributary streams. In addition, certain waters are further restricted in s. NR 20.04.	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in aggregate	9
a. There is a special early trout season in all waters of Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk counties and the lakes (ponds) of Dane, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties.	January 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May	2 in aggregate	9
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

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
3. All inland waters north of a line from the Mississippi river to and along state hwy. 33, 82, 12 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan, except for Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior tributary streams and the south fork of Main creek, Rusk county. In addition, certain waters are further restricted in s. NR 20.04	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to May 31	10 in total of which only 5 may be rainbow and brown trout	6
	June 1 to September 30	10 in total	6
4. Lake Superior tributary streams.	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to May 31	5 in aggregate	6
	June 1 to September 30	10 in aggregate	6

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<p>a. There is a special early and extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary streams.</p>	<p>Saturday nearest April 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15. During the special early and extended open season, fishing in the Brule river, excluding taking smelt with gear specified in s. NR 20.09 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.</p>	<p>5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be rainbow trout</p>	<p>10</p>
<p><b>ASHLAND COUNTY:</b> 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 upstream to hwy. 13</p>			
<p><b>BAYFIELD COUNTY:</b> 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 (T41N, R6W, sec. 35).</p>			
<p><b>DOUGLAS COUNTY:</b> Brule river from its mouth upstream to the U.S. hwy. 2 bridge crossing.</p>			
<p><b>IRON COUNTY:</b> 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.</p>			
<p>b. There is a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary waters.</p>	<p>October 1 to November 15</p>	<p>5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be rainbow trout</p>	<p>10</p>
<p><b>BAYFIELD COUNTY:</b> 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 Wittlesey creek from its mouth upstream to Town Hall road.</p>			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>DOUGLAS COUNTY:</b>			
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.			
5. South fork of Main creek, Rusk county	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
6. There is an extended open season for trout and salmon on the following inland waters.	October 1 to November 15, Ament lake, Lincoln county is open on even year dates only and Tahoe lake, Lincoln county is open on odd year dates only	5 in aggregate	6
a. Ponds north of a line from the Mississippi river to and along state hwy. 33, 82, 23 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan. Gilmanton pond in Buffalo county; Banach lake in Burnett county; Anderson lake in Douglas county; Sand lake (T39N, R18E, sec. 13) in Florence county; Bug, Logger and Valley lakes in Forest county; Hoffman and Oxbow ponds in Jackson county; Pence, Rogers and Townline lakes in Langlade county; Ament, Hanson, Larsen, Morgan, Moraine and Tahoe lakes in Lincoln county; Horseshoe lake in Manitowoc county; Cataract, Evans, Hans Biegel, Kickapoo Spring and Pinnacle Rock ponds in Monroe county; Little Bass lake (T39N, R7E, sec. 15) in Oneida county; Bluegill, Fallison, Firefly, Weber, Little John Jr., Otto Mielke, Pauto and Wildwood lakes in Vilas county; and Keller lake, Waupaca county. (See also s. NR 20.04 (8)).			
b. Ponds south of a line from the Mississippi river to and along hwy. 33, 82, 23 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan. Quarry lake in Sheboygan county; Esofea and Timber Coulee ponds in Vernon county and Lannon Park pond in Waukesha county.		3 in aggregate	9
7. There is an extended open season for trout and salmon on all other inland lakes containing trout or salmon except natural spring and spring ponds.	October 1 to March 1		
a. North of a line from the Mississippi river to and along state hwy. 33, 82, 23 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan.		5 in aggregate	6
b. South of a line from the Mississippi river to and along state hwy. 33, 32, [82], 23 and 151 and extending east to Lake Michigan.		3 in aggregate	9
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE, except as provided in par. (f)	First Saturday in January to September 30	2 in aggregate	17

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
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
(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, Winnebago, 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

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>2. Spearing season</b>			
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 no. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek, in Green Lake county downstream to Lake Butte des Morts, except during the open season for spearing sturgeon when such open season is in effect on a specified water named above.

(r) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(s) ROUGH FISH (except for threatened and endangered species. See s. NR 27.03)	Continuous	None	No size limit

(2) (a) Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit the sturgeon, with the person's sturgeon tag attached as required by s. 29.148, Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station established for that purpose. Sturgeon shall be exhibited at a sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the waters where speared not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day speared. Upon approval by the officer, the officer shall attach a special tag to each sturgeon indicating that it has been inspected and recorded and the tag shall remain attached and locked to the sturgeon until the carcass is finally consumed.

(b) 1. Any person who has taken a lake sturgeon by legal methods other than spearing must immediately attach a lake sturgeon tag, furnished by the department. The tagged lake sturgeon shall be registered at a department lake sturgeon registration station no later than 6:00 p.m. the day after the fish was caught. Registration tags attached to the fish by the department shall remain attached until the carcass is finally consumed.

2. Sturgeon tags shall be available in each year prior to the open season. Persons may obtain no more than one tag unless fishing Michigan boundary waters in which case 2 tags may be obtained.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport any sturgeon in or on any motor-driven vehicle from the time such sturgeon is taken to the time it is lawfully registered pursuant to par. (a) unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and in such manner so that the sturgeon tag at-

tached to the sturgeon cannot be handled or manipulated by any occupant of the vehicle.

(3) A closed season is established for the taking, catching, or killing of fish of any variety or fishing for fish from December 1 to, but not including, the first Saturday in May of the next year, on all waters commonly known as the Chippewa flowage and that part of the Chippewa river in the following described area, Sawyer county:

Township 39 north, range 6 west

Sections 1, 2 and 3

Township 39 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Township 39 north, range 8 west

Sections 1 and 12

Township 40 north, range 6 west

Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 8 west

Sections 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36

(4) In those waters for which a permit for treatment with toxicant has been issued, the department of natural resources may direct that all species of fish of any size may be taken by dip nets, minnow seines and spears with no bag or possession limit from the date of issuance of said permit until the commencement of treatment and such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the waters affected and by publication in one or more newspapers having wide circulation in the area affected.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par), (1) (a), (1) (f) 2. and 3., (1) (q) 1. and 4. and (3), cr. (1) (c) 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. l., 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) (c) (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) (f) 5., 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,

Register, July, 1988, No. 391

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.

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 20.04 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-Beaver Dam, 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.