

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; am. (1) (a) and (e), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; am. (1) (d) 3., cr. (1) (fg) and (fh), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90.

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

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

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 9 and 12 inches is prohibited.
4. Blake and Loveless lakes, Polk county and Wabasso lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 15 inches is prohibited.
5. Spruce lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass) (see also s. NR 20.04 (4) (a) 2. and 5.	Continuous	2	12
6. Little Bass lake, Oneida county (smallmouth bass) and Wildwood lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass). See also s. NR 20.04 (8) (d)	First Saturday in May to November 15	5	12
7.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. Palette lake (sec. 3, T41N, R7E), Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	2	16
9. All other inland waters north of a line beginning with state hwy. 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, following state hwy. 70 east to its intersection with state hwy. 27, then south following state hwy. 27 to its intersection with state hwy. 64, then east following state hwy. 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette, then due east to the waters of Green Bay; and all inland waters in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties north of a line beginning with the state hwy. 29 bridge over the Fox river, following state hwy. 29 east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee, then continuing due east to the waters of Lake Michigan.	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
10. In all other inland waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	14
(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
2.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	—	—
3. Lake Mendota, Dane county Trout lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15
4. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2 in aggregate with sauger	15
5. Balsam lake, Polk county	First Saturday in May to March 1.	3	16

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
6. Lake Winnebago and waters upstream on the Fox river to the state hwy. 23 bridge at Princeton and waters upstream on the Wolf river to the dam in the city of Shawano	Continuous	5 in aggregate with sauger	No size limit
7. In all other waters (See also s. NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with sauger	15
(cm)SAUGER	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with walleye	No size limit
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)			
1. In all waters of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	No size limit
2. Mason lake, Adams county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	22
3. Shawano lake in Shawano county and all waters in Menominee county	No closed season	25	No size limit
4.a. Beaver Dam lake, Dodge county	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 and Wilson flowage, Price county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
6. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2	No size limit
7. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
(e) MUSKELLUNGE (includes hybrid muskellunge)			
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	36
2. Long lake, Iron county; Bone lake, Polk county; Winter lake, Sawyer county; and Big lake (sec. 4, T42N, R6E), Vilas county	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	34
3. Nancy lake, Washburn county	No open season in years 1987 to 1995; beginning in 1996, the open season is the same as that for all other waters north of state highway 10	—	—
4. Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1	1	36
5. All other waters north of U.S. hwy. 10	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	32
6. All other waters south of U.S. hwy. 10	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	32
(f) TROUT AND SALMON (any variety except lake trout and splake in inland lakes.)			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
2. All Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributary streams upstream to the first dam or lake or to the third county highway "C" bridge on the Kewaunee river. (See also s. NR 20.04 (3) (c).)	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout	10
4. Lake Superior tributary streams except Montreal river and waters upstream from the following:	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
<b>Ashland county</b> Bad river-Copper falls Brunsweller river-state hwy. 13 Marengo river-state hwy. 13 Potato river-Guerney falls White river-White river dam			
<b>Bayfield county</b> Iron river-Orienta dam Little Sioux river-falls in NE ¼ of the NE ¼, sec. 13, T49N, R5W Siskowit river-falls in SW ¼ of the NW ¼, sec. 35, T51N, R5W			
<b>Douglas county</b> Amnicon river-Amnicon falls Black river-Big Manitou falls Middle river-U.S. hwy. 2 Poplar river-U.S. hwy 2			
There is a special early and extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary streams.	Saturday nearest April 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15.	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12
<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 to hwy. 13			
<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 (T51N, R6W, sec. 35).			
<b>DOUGLAS COUNTY:</b> Brule river from its mouth upstream to the U.S. hwy. 2 bridge crossing			

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

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

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

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

(a) **Notice.** The department shall prepare and distribute a notice of its intent to apply an alternate limit under this section. The notice shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985, Stats., in a general circulation newspaper in the vicinity of the water and, if the proposal has statewide significance, in the official state newspaper. A copy of the notice shall be sent to individuals and organizations which the department believes may be interested in the matter. The notice shall include a description of the water affected, the fish species affected, the alternate limit which will apply, and the date the alternate limit will take effect. The notice shall invite the public to submit written comments and indicate that a public information meeting will be held on the alternate limit if requested in writing within 10 days after the notice is published.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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