

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 first Sunday 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; am. (1), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89.

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.

(2g) "Backtrolling" means to fish from a motor-driven boat while operating the boat in such a way that the boat is progressing toward the rear.

- (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.
- (4a) "Muskellunge" means fish of the species *Esox masquinongy* and includes muskellunge - northern pike hybrids.
- (5) "Green Bay" means those waters of Lake Michigan located to the west of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (6) "Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means a line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 33, T33N, R29E; then running northeasterly to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; then running along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; then running northerly to the southwesterly point on Shellswick dock, which is located on Lobdell's point on Washington island; then running along Shellswick dock to the shoreline of Lobdell's point; then running along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light; then running north to its terminus at the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.
- (7) "Lake Michigan" means those waters of Lake Michigan located east of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line
- (8) "Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.
- (9) "Safe harvest" means a level of harvest that incorporates an appropriate margin of safety, estimates of the population and acceptable exploitation rates which will reasonably prevent harvest of more than 35% of the population of adult walleyes or 27% of the population of adult muskellunge. The margin of safety assures that the true safe harvest is not exceeded in more than 1 of 40 cases. For waters where a population estimate has not been made, a regression model based upon population estimates from other waters will be used. The margin of safety used depends upon the age of the population estimate was made and whether a regression model was used.
- (10) "Secretary" means secretary of the department of natural resources.
- (11) "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.
- (12) "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.
- (13) "Telemetry device" means any device attached or implanted in fish that transmits a sonic or electronic signal to aid in fishing.
- (14) "Unattended line" means a line where the person using the line is not actively directing attention to it. Failure to immediately respond to

**NR 20.16 Monthly sport trolling fishing reports.** (1) A monthly sport trolling fishing report form required by s. 29.166 (2), Stats., shall be completed by the sport trolling licensee guiding persons in sport trolling. Copies of the report form shall be provided by the department. The licensee's name, license number, date, locations fished, number of anglers, number of lines fished, hours fished, total number of fish caught and other information required by the report form shall be accurately and legibly recorded on the form in the English language within ½ hour after completing each trip's fishing activities after returning to the dock or shore. The number of fish of each species caught and the tag numbers, if any, may be recorded on the form after returning to the dock or shore but shall be recorded on the form prior to midnight of the day of each trip. The report form shall be exhibited to a conservation warden upon request.

(2) The entire monthly sport trolling fishing report form provided by the department, including any voided and unused pages, shall be signed and dated by the sport trolling licensee and submitted to the department on or before the 10th day of each month for the preceding calendar month.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1992, No. 439, eff. 8-1-92.

**NR 20.17 Report of licensed guides.** All Wisconsin guides licensed under the provisions of s. 29.165, Stats., and operating in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall report to the department on blanks to be furnished by the department detailed information regarding their fishing activities which shall include the quantity, the varieties of fish taken, and any other information pertaining to their fishing activities required by the department.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73; am., Register, June, 1974, No. 222, eff. 7-1-74.