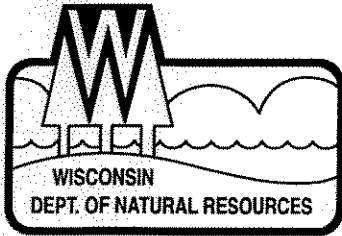


MAR 29 2003



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

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March 24, 2003

Honorable DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Room 323 North
State Capitol,

Subject: Clearinghouse Rule No. 02-142
Fishing for walleye and sauger on Escanaba Lake

Dear Representative Johnsrud:

On March 5, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources requested the Department of Natural Resources to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule No. 02-142 relating to fishing for walleye and sauger on Escanaba Lake, Vilas County.

This letter is to inform you that, following meetings with members of your committee, the Department is not proposing any modifications to the proposed rule.

Under s. 227.19(4)(b)2., Stats., the Department of Natural Resources refers this rule to your Committee for an additional 10 working day review on this decision. If the Department does not hear from you within 10 working days of the receipt of this notification, the Department will continue processing this rule.

Sincerely,

Scott Hassett
Secretary

cc: Sen. Neal Kedzie
Ken Stigler - 208 RJC
Ed Emmons - SS/RC
Tim Andryk - LS/5
Carol Turner - LS/5

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board adopts an order to create NR 20.20(64)(h)10. relating to fishing for walleye and sauger in Escanaba Lake, Vilas County.

FH-48-02

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

Statutory authority: ss. 29.014(1) and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.
Statutes interpreted: s. 29.014(1), Stats.

The proposal is part of a 10-year research project that would study the effects of a 28-inch minimum length limit and a daily walleye bag of one at Escanaba Lake, Vilas County. Escanaba Lake is one of five designated research lakes in the Northern Highlands Fisheries Research Area. The Wisconsin Conservation Commission established the NHFRA in 1946 for the express purpose of providing lakes for fish research. Escanaba is the only lake in the research area that has walleyes. The lake's walleye population has been unregulated by size, bag and season restrictions since 1946. The primary objective of this proposal is to reduce walleye harvest at Escanaba Lake to near zero so that Escanaba Lake can be used as a control in an ongoing walleye harvest study currently being conducted at private lakes in Vilas County. Knowledge of the characteristics of a limited harvest population will allow for better interpretation of the effects of harvest on other walleye populations in study lakes. An additional objective is to increase the number of bigger walleye caught. This proposal is expected to reduce harvest of walleye but still provide a fishing opportunity for the anglers.

SECTION 1. NR 20.20(64)(h)10 is created to read:

(64) VILAS (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DIALY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	10. Escanaba lake	a. Hook and line. Daily permit required (see s. NR 20.14)	Continuous	1 in total	28

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s.227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 3. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule as approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on December 4, 2002.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Scott Hassett, Secretary

(SEAL)