



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2011 Wisconsin Act 177**  
[2011 Assembly Bill 176]

**Minimum Harvest Requirements  
for Commercial Fishing**

The statutes provide that no person may conduct commercial fishing operations in outlying waters, including the Great Lakes, unless the person is issued a commercial fishing license by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR is authorized to promulgate rules defining the qualifications of commercial fishing licensees. Under this authority, the DNR promulgated ch. NR 25, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes a requirement that, in order to qualify for a commercial fishing license, an applicant must have harvested in the previous license year at least a certain amount of fish.

2011 Wisconsin Act 177 prohibits the DNR from promulgating rules that impose any minimum harvesting requirements on commercial fishing license applicants that require an applicant to have harvested, in any previous period of time, a specified minimum amount of fish.

**Effective date:** Act 177 takes effect on April 17, 2012.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.