



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 297
[2017 Assembly Bill 913]

Taking Rough Fish and Catfish

State law allows the taking of rough fish (including suckers, common carp, Asian carp, goldfish, freshwater drum, burbot, bowfin, garfish, sea lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, rainbow melt, and mooneye) by bow and arrow or crossbow, if the arrow or bolt is equipped with a metal barbed tip and is attached to the bow or crossbow with a tethered line that allows for retrieval. Rough fish taken in this manner may not be released or returned to the waters of the state, or left on the ice or banks of any waters of the state. If the DNR establishes an open season for taking rough fish by bow or crossbow on a particular body of water, the DNR must allow rough fish to be taken in this manner from sunset to sunrise during that open season. Under DNR rule, rough fish may generally be taken by hand.

2017 Wisconsin Act 297 expands the application of current requirements relating to taking rough fish by bow and arrow or crossbow to make them applicable to catfish. In addition, the Act prohibits the DNR from promulgating or enforcing a rule that prohibits the taking of rough fish or catfish with a bow and arrow, crossbow, or by hand. The Act authorizes DNR to promulgate or enforce a rule that establishes bag or length limits, season dates, zones, or any other limitations applicable to rough fish or catfish if the rule is consistent with the purposes of ch. 29, Stats.

Effective date: April 18, 2018

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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.wisconsin.gov>.