

## **Report From Agency**

### REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

NR 20 and 21, Wis. Adm. Code  
Hook and line harvest of lake sturgeon

Board Order No. FH-42-07  
Clearinghouse Rule No. 08-012

#### Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

An increase in angling pressure directed at lake sturgeon, particularly from nonresident anglers, has led to a steady increase in the number of lake sturgeon harvested annually during the hook and line season. Exploitation in some lake sturgeon fisheries has been recently estimated to be between 20-30%. An annual exploitation rate of 5% has been a long standing management goal for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin. The over-exploitation of a long-lived, slow growing species can have a severe impact on the sustainability of the population.

The proposed rule change increases the minimum length limit of lake sturgeon from its current 50" limit to a 60" limit and reduces the season length from 6 weeks to 4 weeks on all inland waters where lake sturgeon are now harvested and the Lower St. Croix River on the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters. The regulation change would significantly reduce the number of lake sturgeon harvested each year (up to 80%). The rule change would likely affect sturgeon anglers' (both resident and nonresident) opportunities to harvest a fish, but will ultimately provide protection to Wisconsin's sturgeon populations.

#### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received at any of the three public hearings, nor were any written comments received..

#### Modifications Made

No modifications were made as a result of the public hearings.

#### Appearances at the Public Hearing

No one appeared at the public hearings.

#### Changes to Rule Analysis and Fiscal Estimate

No changes were required.

#### Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

The recommendations have been incorporated.

#### Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed rule does not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. Therefore, a final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required.