ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDING RULES

The statement of scope for this rule, SS094-14, was approved by the Governor on August 27, 2014, published in Register No. 705 on October 1, 2014, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on October 29, 2014. This permanent rule was approved by the Governor on June 23, 2015.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to amend NR 20.10 (8) and (9); 20.20 (11) (c) 1. a., (11) (k) 1., (16) (a) 2. a., (16) (g) 1. a., (32) (f) 1., (37) (a) 1., (37) (c) 1., (37) (e) 2., (37) (i) 1., (42) (e) 1., (44) (g) 1., (63) (c) 2. and 3., (64) (h) 2., (71) (a) 1., (71) (c) 1., (71) (cm) 1., (71) (d) 1., (71) (e) 2., and (71) (g) 1.; relating to minor changes to fisheries administrative code.

FH-12-14

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

- **1. Statutes Interpreted:** Sections 29.014(1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats., have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to Wisconsin fishing rules.
- **2. Statutory Authority:** Sections 29.014(1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats.

3. Explanation of Agency Authority:

Section 29.014(1), Stats., directs the department to establish and maintain conditions governing the taking of fish that will conserve the fish supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing.

Section 29.041, Stats., provides that the department may regulate fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters and outlying waters.

Section 29.053 (2), Stats., provides that the department may establish conditions governing the taking of fish for the state as a whole, for counties or parts of counties, or for waterbodies or parts of waterbodies.

4. Related Statutes or Rules:

If approved by the Natural Resources Board at its December meeting, the department will be concurrently proposing a rule (FH-14-14) that will make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other fishing regulations. The rule is being pursued to help meet management goals and objectives for waters and their fish species, such as providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes. The proposed regulations in FH-14-14 will be available for public review and comments at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings held on the second Monday of April 2015.

5. Plain Language Analysis:

The proposed rule addresses minor changes to administrative code relating to the regulation of fishing. The rule is being pursued to ensure the rule language that governs fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters is accurate and properly reflects the desired management of Wisconsin waters. The objectives are to:

- remove sections of code that are outdated or have been replaced by other statute or code changes,
- correct errors that occurred during the drafting of rules, and
- add or repeal language to clarify intent of original rules.

SECTION 1 clarifies the boundaries around the Lake Winnebago System in which a spearer can possess an unregistered lake sturgeon. Updates are needed due to roadway construction and naming changes over

time.

SECTION 2 changes the Columbia Lake (Columbia County) 18" minimum length limit and 3 daily bag limit on hybrid striped bass to no minimum length, no bag limit. Hybrid striped bass are considered an invasive species under NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code, and are therefore no longer imported and stocked in any Wisconsin waters. The department would like to continue to allow catch and harvest of any existing striped bass in Columbia Lake under a no minimum length-no bag limit regulation. If striped bass were removed from listing in administrative code, there would be no open season and none could be harvested under NR 20.20 (73)(p), which states all species not listed in NR 20.20 have no open season.

SECTION 2 also removes the current harvest regulations (18-inch minimum length limit and 3 fish daily bag limit) for walleye on Silver Lake (Columbia County). The lake has not been stocked with walleye since 2000 and there is no longer a population of walleye in the lake. Therefore, the special regulation is no longer necessary and can be removed from the lake and from listing in the regulations booklet. The regulation will return to the general statewide walleye regulation of 15-inch minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit.

SECTION 3 reinstates the allowance of night fishing on the Brule River in Douglas County downstream from Hwy 2 for all species during the regular trout open season (first Saturday in May - September 30). It prohibits night fishing during the early trout open season (last Saturday in March to May 4) and extended trout open season (October 1 to November 15). The current regulation is an error in code that occurred when the administrative code was revised in 1992, and subsequently re-formatted and further misinterpreted in 1999. Although the unintended error was codified in 1999, it was not published as such in the Trout Regulations Guide until the 2012-2013 fishing season, causing confusion among anglers and law enforcement. The current regulation prohibits anglers from fishing at night during the entire open season on the Brule, which reduces the overall number of harvest and catch-and-release opportunities, particularly for brown trout, which are most active during the night. Making this change will return the regulations to what is commonly understood and enforced.

SECTION 4, 6, and 8 amend trout stream names in code to accurately reflect common names and reduce angler confusion of where regulations begin and end. In La Crosse and Monroe counties, the code language is changed to say "Coon creek (Bohemian Valley Creek)" instead of Bohemian Valley Creek. In Vernon County, the code language is changed to specify naming and regulations on sections of Coon Creek, which crosses CTH P in more than one place, and Timber Coulee Creek.

SECTION 5 extends the boundary of Wisconsin River regulations (year-round open season on bass, pike, walleye) another 100 feet on the connecting Eau Claire River in Marathon County. The Wisconsin River regulations currently apply up to the first bridge on the Eau Claire River. This proposal extends the regulations another 100 feet to the Schofield Dam, which is a prominent boundary that boaters cannot travel past and is how it is currently listed in the regulations booklet. Law Enforcement also enforces Schofield Dam as the regulation boundary. This extension will provide additional fishing opportunity to that small area of the river without any biological concerns.

SECTION 7 and SECTION 9 change the regulations boundary between the Three Lakes Chain in Oneida County and the Eagle Chain in Vilas County from the county border to the Long Lake (Burnt Rollways) Dam in Oneida County. The dam has been used locally as a border and is a more obvious boundary to anglers rather than an invisible county line.

SECTION 10 changes all listing of the Neenah-Menasha dam to "dams" in 20.20(71). There are two waterways and two dams that should be clarified in code.

SECTION 10 also makes set pole/bank pole/setline fishing open seasons for catfish and rough fish the same throughout all Lake Winnebago System waters in Winnebago County. Currently all set pole/bank pole/setline regulations for rough fish and catfish in Lake Winnebago System waters are the same except for the stretch of water between Lake Butte des Morts and Eureka Dam, where a season is open for catfish and closed for rough fish. This was a result of inadvertent wording of code language and there is no biological or management reason for applying the differing regulations for these methods of fishing. This amendment will make regulations governing rough fish angling methods the same throughout all Lake Winnebago System waters of Winnebago County.

6. Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Statutes and Regulations: Authority to promulgate fishing regulations is granted to states. None of the proposed changes violate or conflict with federal regulations.

7. Comparison with Similar Rules in Adjacent States:

Fisheries management rules are generally similar in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Each bordering state regulates fishing by the use of seasons, bag limits and size limits. Specific seasons and bag and size limits may differ for species among the surrounding states, but the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois all have statewide seasons and bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters.

8. Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies:

Fishing regulations, such as length and bag limits or season dates, are used as a tool to ensure good fishing exists into the future. The department has used different types of fishing regulations in order to: control angler impacts on fish populations; maintain numbers and sizes of fish in a lake or stream; provide different types of fishing experiences, such as fishing for dinner or for a trophy fish; and make access to fishing as fair as possible.

This rule includes minor changes to administrative code that support existing policies and fisheries management goals. The department took steps to insure the accuracy, integrity, objectivity and consistency of data were used in preparing the proposed rule and related analysis.

9. Analysis and Supporting Documents Used to Determine the Effect on Small Business or in Preparation of an Economic Impact Report:

The proposed rule will have minimal impact on sport anglers and is not expected to have an economic impact. As with any change in regulations, there will be a requirement for anglers to learn the new rules. However, a majority of this rule change clarifies code to reflect existing policies for which anglers must already comply. The department works to notify the public of new regulations via press releases, the internet, and fishing regulations pamphlets.

10. Effect on Small Business (initial regulatory flexibility analysis):

It is not expected that there will be any economic impact directly related to these rule changes. The department conducted an economic impact analysis (with a public comment period from December 4-18, 2014) and determined that no individuals, businesses, local governments, or other entities will be adversely affected economically. 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.

11. Agency Contact Person:

Kate Strom Hiorns Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921

Phone: 608-266-0828 or 266-5206. Fax: 608-266-2244

Email: kathryn.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov

12. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Written comments may be submitted at the public hearing on March 16, 2015, and by regular mail, fax, or email to the contact person listed above. Written comments may also be submitted to the Department using the Wisconsin Administrative Rules website at http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov. The comment submission deadline is March 16, 2015.

SECTION 1. NR 20.10 (8) and (9) are amended to read:

NR 20.10 Special sturgeon spearing restrictions. (8) Possess a sturgeon speared from lake Butte des Morts, Poygan or Winneconne under s. NR 20.20 (73) (e) 2. b. outside the following area unless the sturgeon has been registered pursuant to sub. (10): from the intersection of highways 45 and 21 in Oshkosh west on highway 21 to highway 116; north on highway 116 to county highway B; west on county highway B to county highway D; west on county highway D to highway 49; north on highway 49 to county highway H; east on county highway H to highway 10; east on highway 10 to highway 110; south on highway 110 to county highway M; south on county highway M to highway 45 to highway 21 east on county highway H to highway 110; east on highway 110 to county highway II; south on county highway II to county highway M; south on county highway M to highway 116; east on highway 116 to highway 116 to highway 45; south on highway 45 to highway 45 to highway 45; south on highway 45 to highway 45 to highway 45; south on highway 45 to highway 21.

(9) Possess a sturgeon speared from Lake Winnebago under s. NR 20.20 (73) (e) 2. e. b. outside the following area unless the sturgeon has been registered pursuant to sub. (10): from the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha, east on highway 114 to highway 55; south on highway 55 to U.S. highway 151; south on U.S. highway 151 to Scott street in Fond du Lac; west on Scott street to highway 45; north on highway 45 to Main street in Oshkosh; north on Main street to Waugoo avenue; east on Waugoo avenue to Bowen street; north on Bowen street to North Shore drive; north on North Shore drive to county highway A; north on county highway A to highway 114 in Neenah; east on highway 114 to the

intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha south on U.S. highway 151 to Winnebago drive in Fond du Lac; west on Winnebago drive to Scott street; west on Scott street to highway 45; north on highway 45 to Main street in Oshkosh; north on Main street to Waugoo avenue; east on Waugoo avenue to Bowen street; north on Bowen street to county highway A; north on county highway A to highway 114 in Neenah; east on highway 114 to the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha.

SECTION 2. NR 20.20 (11) (c) 1. a. and (k) 1. are amended to read:

NR 20.20 (11) COLUMBIA (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Hybrid striped	1. Columbia lake	a. Hook and	Continuous	3 None	18 <u>None</u>
bass		line			
(k) Walleye,	1. Fox river upstream	a. Hook and	First Saturday in	3 in total	18
sauger and	from Park lake to the	line	May to the first		
hybrids	easterly crossing of		Sunday in March		
	highway 33, Park				
	lake , Silver lake				

SECTION 3. NR 20.20 (16) (a) 2. a. and (g) 1. a. are amended to read:

NR 20.20 (16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin–Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin–Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(a) All species 2. Brule river downstream from U.S. hwy. 2

a. Hook and line fishing is only allowed

from one-half

hour before sunrise to

one-half hour

after sunset

during the

period from

the last Sat-

urday in

March to

November 15

is prohibited

from one-half

hour after

sunset to one-

half hour

before sunrise

from the last

Saturday in

March to the

day before the

first Saturday

in May and

from October

<u>1 to</u>

November 15

As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)

As As specified specified in this in this subsection or sub. (73) (73)

(g) Trout and	1. Brule river	a. Hook and	Last Saturday in	5 in total	Brook
salmon	downstream from	line. Fishing	March to	but only 2	trout 8,
	U.S. hwy. 2,	is prohibited	November 15	may be	brown
	Amnicon river	from one-half		brown	trout 10,
	downstream from	hour after		trout	salmon
	Amnicon falls,	sunset to one-		longer	12,
	Middle river	half hour		than 15"	rainbow
	downstream from	before sunrise		and only 1	trout 26
	U.S. hwy. 2,	on the Brule		may be a	
	Nemadji river	river from the		rainbow	
	downstream from	last Saturday		trout	
	Great Northern	in March to			
	railroad bridge,	the day before			
	Black river	the first			
	downstream from	Saturday in			
	Big Manitou falls,	May and from			
	Poplar river	October 1 to			
	downstream form	November 15			
	U.S. hwy. 2,				
	St.Louis river				
	downstream from				
	the Wisconsin-				
	Minnesota state line				

SECTION 4. NR 20.20 (32) (f) 1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (32) LA CROSSE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout and	1. Bohemian Valley	a. Hook and	First Saturday in	5 in total	maximum
salmon	creek Coon creek	line	May at 5:00 a.m. to	but none	length
	(Bohemian Valley		September 30	may be	limit 12"
	creek)			longer	
				than 12"	

SECTION 5. NR 20.20 (37) (a) 1., (c) 1., (e) 2., and (i) 1. are amended to read:

NR 20.20 (37) MARATHON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

As

specified

subsection

in this

or sub. (73)

(a) All species	1. Big Eau Pleine	a. Motor	As specified in this	As
	reservoir upstream to	trolling is	subsection or sub.	specified
	the first state hwy.	permitted	(73)	in this
	153 bridge, Wisconsin			subsection
	river including			or sub.
	sloughs, bayous and			(73)
	flowages upstream to			
	the first dam or			
	highway bridge,			
	except the eastern			
	boundary of the			
	Wisconsin River and			
	Peplin and Johnson			
	Creeks and the Little			
	Eau Claire River, at			
	Lake DuBay, is the			
	south- bound lane of			
	Interstate 39 and the			
	eastern boundary of			
	the Wisconsin river			
	and the Eau Claire			
	river is the Schofield			

<u>dam</u>

a. Hook and (c) Largemouth 1. Wisconsin river Continuous 5 in total and smallmouth including all sloughs, line bass bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except the eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and Peplin and Johnson Creeks and the Little Eau Claire River, at Lake DuBay, is the south-bound lane of Interstate 39 and the eastern boundary of the Wisconsin river and the Eau Claire river is the Schofield dam (e) Northern pike 2. Wisconsin river a. Hook and Continuous 5 None including all sloughs, line bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except the eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and Peplin and Johnson Creeks and the Little Eau Claire River, at Lake DuBay, is the south-bound lane of Interstate 39

14

	boundary of the				
	Wisconsin river and				
	the Eau Claire river is				
	the Schofield dam				
(i) Walleye,	1. Wisconsin river	a. Hook and	Continuous	5 in total	15
sauger and	including sloughs,	line			minimum,
hybrids	bayous and flowages				but the
	upstream to the first				possession
	dam or highway				of fish
	bridge, except the				from 20 to
	eastern boundary of				28 is
	the Wisconsin River				prohibited
	and Peplin and				and only 1
	Johnson Creeks and				fish may
	the Little Eau Claire				be longer
	River, at Lake DuBay,				than 28
	is the south-bound				
	lane of Interstate 39,				
	Eau Claire river				
	downstream from the				
	Schofield dam and the				
	eastern boundary of				
	the Wisconsin river				
	and the Eau Claire				
	river is the Schofield				
	<u>dam</u>				

SECTION 6. NR 20.20 (42) (e) 1. is amended to read:

and the eastern

 $NR\,20.20\,(42)\,MONROE\,(\mbox{for species and waters not listed see $sub.\,(73)})$

(e) Trout and	1. Rullands Coulee	a. Hook and	First Saturday in	5 in	Maximum
salmon	creek, Bohemian	line	May at 5:00 a.m.	total but	length
	Valley creek Coon		to September 30	none	limit 12
	creek (Bohemian			may be	
	Valley creek)			longer	
				than 12	

SECTION 7. NR 20.20 (44) (g) 1. is amended to read:

 $NR\,20.20\,(44)\,ONEIDA$ (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

1. Three lakes chain (g) Walleye, a. Hook and First Saturday in 5 in total None (includes Big, Big sauger and hybrids line May to the first but only Fork, Big Stone, Crystal, Deer, Dog, Sunday in March 1 may Fourmile, Island, be Laurel, Little Fork, Long, Medicine, longer Moccasin, Planting than 14" Ground, Rangeline, Round, Spirit, Townline, Virgin, and Whitefish lakes, all connecting waters and Eagle river downstream to Vilas county line the Long Lake (Burnt Rollways) dam), Alva, Bearskin, Buckskin, Buffalo, Crescent, Diamond, George, Hasbrook, Katherine, Lost (T38N R9E S24), Mercer, Moen chain including Moen, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth lakes and connecting waters, Muskellunge, Oneida, Pine (T37N R9E S4), Soo, Squash and Squirrel lakes and Sugar Camp chain including Dam, Sand, Echo, Chain and Stone (T39N R9E S32) lakes

SECTION 8. NR 20.20 (63) (c) 2. and 3. are amended to read:

and connecting waters

NR 20.20 (63) VERNON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Trout and salmon	2. Timber Coulee creek from CTH P upstream to Olstad road Coon creek from CTH P upstream to the confluence with Timber Coulee creek and Timber Coulee creek from the confluence with Coon creek upstream to Olstad Road	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	All trout caught shall be immediately released	None
	3. Coon creek (Bohemian Valley creek) from confluence with Timber Coulee creek upstream to CTH P (at the Vernon-LaCrosse couny line), Timber Coulee creek other than that portion from CTH P from its confluence with Coon creek upstream to Olstad road, Bishop branch	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total but none may be longer than 12"	Maximum length limit 12"

SECTION 9. NR 20.20 (64) (h) 2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye,	2. Eagle chain	a. Hook and	First Saturday in	3 in total	None
sauger and	(includes Catfish,	line	May to the first	but only	except the
hybrids	Cranberry, Duck,		Sunday in March	1 may	possession
	Eagle, Lynx, Otter,			be	of fish
	Scattering Rice,			longer	from 14
	Voyageur, Watersmeet			than 18"	through
	including Wisconsin				18 is
	river from Otter				prohibited
	Rapids dam to county				None
	highway G, Yellow				except the
	birch lake, all				possession
	connecting waters and				of fish
	Eagle river upstream				from 14 to
	to Oneida county line				<u>18 is</u>
	the Long Lake (Burnt				prohibited
	Rollways) dam in				and only 1
	Oneida county)				<u>fish may</u>
					be longer
					<u>than 18</u>

SECTION 10. NR 20.20 (71) (a) 1., (c) 1., (cm) 1., (d) 1., (e) 2., and (g) 1. are amended to read:

NR 20.20 (71) WINNEBAGO (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Fox river	a. Motor	As specified in	As	As
	downstream from	trolling is	this subsection or	specified	specified
	Neenah-Menasha	permitted	sub. (73)	in this	in this
	dam dams including			subsection	subsection
	Little Butte des			or sub.	or sub.
	Morts lake, Rush			(73)	(73)
	lake				

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Fox river downstream from Neenah-Menasha dam dams including Little Butte des Morts lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total	14
(cm) Muskellunge	1. Fox river downstream from Neenah-Menasha dam dams including Little Butte des Morts lake	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	50
(d) Northern pike	1. Fox river downstream from Neenah-Menasha dam dams including Little Butte des Morts lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5	None
(e) Rough fish	2. Butte des Morts lake, Little Butte des Morts lake, Poygan lake, Winnebago lake, Winneconne lake, Fox river downstream from Butte des Morts lake, Fox river upstream from Eureka dam, Wolf river Lake	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting sunrise to sunset	Continuous	None	None

Winnebago system

dams including

Little Lake Butte des

Morts

waters

		b. Spearing	April 21 to	None	None
			February 1		
		c. Set or bank	Saturday nearest	None	None
		pole and	May 20 to		
		setline 500	September 30		
		feet or more			
		from any			
		dam			
/	4.50	**		~ .	3.7
(g) Walleye,	1. Fox river	a. Hook and	Continuous	5 in	None,
sauger and	downstream from	line		total	pursuant
hybrids	Neenah-Menasha				to s. NR

20.35

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule takes effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

SECTION 12. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on May 27, 2015.

Dated at Madison, wisconsin	.
	STATE OF Wisconsin DNR
	DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
	BY
	Cathy Stepp, Secretary
(SEAL)	