

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 20 Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No.
FH-06-16

Wisconsin Statutory 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.

Federal Authority

States may manage the fish and wildlife resources located within their boundaries provided they do not conflict with regulations established in the Federal Register. None of these rule changes violate or conflict with the provisions established in the Federal Code of Regulations.

Comparison with 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 the same. 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.

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None.

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

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.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

The department will hold a hearing on May 2, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. in room 608 of the Natural Resources State Office Building (GEF-2), 101 South Webster St., Madison, 53707. The hearing will be followed by board adoption during summer 2017 followed by a request for the governor's signature and

legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None.

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