

Notice of Submittal of Proposed Rule to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse

On October 18, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources submitted a proposed rule to the Wisconsin Legislative Council Clearinghouse pursuant to s. 227.15 (1), Wis. Stats.

Analysis

The proposed rule affects Chapters NR 25, relating to commercial fisheries of lake whitefish in Lake Michigan. This rule will establish gear, monitoring and reporting requirements for trawling as an alternative to other types of gear for harvesting whitefish. Previously, trawling for whitefish occurred as part of a study under a memorandum of understanding between the department, a commercial fishing company and Sea Grant. Trawling will continue to be limited in a portion of commercial fishing Zone 3 near Two Rivers, and electronic harvest reporting will be required if fishers elect to trawl. The use of trawling gear as an alternative to trap nets may alleviate user conflicts between commercial and sport fishers, as trawls are not left in the water to catch fish, thereby posing obstacles to sport angler navigation and trolling.

Statement of Scope

The scope statement for this rule, SS 049-15, was approved by the Governor on May 19, 2015, published in Register No. 713B, on May 27, 2015, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on August 12, 2015.

Agency Procedure for Promulgation

A public hearing is required and will be held on a date to be determined.

Agency Organizational Unit Primarily Responsible for Promulgating Rule

Bureau of Fisheries Management

Agency Contact Person

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Approved by:

Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources