

Report From Agency

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE NR 19-26, Wis. Adm. Code Board Order No. FH-10-24 Clearinghouse Rule No. CR 25-032

Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

This rule will apply fishing regulations to waters of the state to accomplish management goals. Examples of management goals include improving the size structure of game fish, increasing the density or abundance of certain fish species, increasing the survival of mature adults, establishing statewide regulations that provide harvest opportunities while protecting fish populations, and aligning regulations with public desires for certain waterbodies. The department utilizes the annual Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings, held annually statewide, to gain broad public feedback from outdoor recreators on standard fishing regulation change proposals.

Summary of Public Comments

The department solicited broad public input through public hearings held throughout the state on April 14, and an online questionnaire and public comment period open from April 14 – 16, 2025. The 2025 total participation included input from 9,276 individuals. All of the fisheries questions advanced in this rule were supported statewide by the public. The department additionally held a virtual public hearing pursuant to ch. 227, Stats., on May 22, 2025. No one attended the virtual public hearing online on May 22, 2025. Two written comments were received during the open comment period.

Modifications Made

Based on the input received from Forest County residents through the Spring Hearing survey, the department decided not to advance that proposal to restrict trolling to one line as it was not supported locally.

Appearances at the Public Hearing

No one attended the virtual public hearing online on May 22, 2025.

Changes to Rule Analysis and Fiscal Estimate

No modifications or changes were made to the rule analysis or fiscal estimate based on the changes made by not advancing the proposal to restrict trolling to one line in Forest County.

Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

The Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse submitted comments on form, style, grammar, and clarity. Changes to the proposed rule were made to address all recommendations by the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses. These rules are applicable to individual anglers and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. Therefore, under s. 227.19 (3m), Stats., a final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required.

Response to Small Business Regulatory Review Board Report

The Small Business Regulatory Review Board did not prepare a report on this rule proposal.