

Chapter WCD 23

WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

WCD 23.01 Waters classified. The interstate inland boundary waters covered by this chapter are as follows:

Name	Location	
(1) MENOMINEE RIVER (including the entire Twin Falls dam impoundment in Florence county, Wisconsin and Dickinson county, Michigan)	Florence and Marinette counties—Wisconsin Menominee, Dickinson and Iron counties—Michigan	
(2) BRULE RIVER.....	Florence and Forest counties—Wisconsin Iron county—Michigan	
(3) SMOKY LAKE.....	T 42 N, R 12 E, Sec. 35 and 36 T 43 N, R 37 W, Sec. 21, 28, 29, 32 and 33	Vilas county—Wis. Iron county—Mich.
(4) NORWOOD LAKE (BOOT).....	T 42 N, R 12 E, Sec. 20 T 43 N, R 38 W, Sec. 23 and 24	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(5) LAC VIEUX DESERT.....	T 42 N, R 11 E, Sec. 4, 10, 11, 12 and 15 T 43 N, R 38 and 39 W	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(6) ELEANOR LAKE OR BIRCH LAKE	T 42 N, R 11 E, Sec. 5 and 6 T 43 N, R 39 W, Sec. 2 and 3	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(7) CRYSTAL LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 10 and 11 E, Sec. 36 and 31 T 43 N, R 39 W, Sec. 3 and 4	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(8) BIG BATEAU LAKE (BIG BASS).....	T 43 N, R 10 E, Sec. 30 T 44 N, R 40 W, Sec. 26 and 27	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(9) LAKE MAMIE.....	T 43 N, R 9 E, Sec. 17, 20 and 21 T 44 N, R 41 W, Sec. 23	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(10) CROOKED LAKE.....	Connects Mamie and West Bay lake T 44 N, R. 41 W, Sec. 14, 15, 22 and 23	Gogebic county—Mich.
(11) WEST BAY LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 and 9 E, Sec. 13 and 18 T 44 N, R 41 W, Sec. 15, 16 and 22	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(12) BIG LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 E, Sec. 13, 14, 23 and 24 T 44 N, R 41 W, Sec. 16 and 17	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(13) CRAMPTON LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 E, Sec. 10, 14 and 15 T 44 N, R 41 W, Sec. 18	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(14) PLUM LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 E, Sec. 9 T 44 N, R 42 W, Sec. 11, 12 and 13	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(15) TENDERFOOT LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 E, Sec. 7 and 8 T 44 N, R 42 W, Sec. 10 and 11	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(16) ROACH LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 8 E, Sec. 6 and 7 T 44 N, R 42 W, Sec. 3, 4, 9 and 10	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(17) LITTLE PRESQUE ISLE LAKE.....	T 43 N, R 7 E, Sec. 3 T 44 N, R 42 W, Sec. 6	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(18) KUNSCHE LAKE.....	T 44 N, R 7 E, Sec. 30 T 45 N, R. 43 W, Sec. 34	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(19) BASIN LAKE.....	T 44 N, R 7 E, Sec. 30 T 45 N, R 43 W, Sec. 34	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.

Name	Location	
(20) STATE LINE LAKE.....	T 44 N, R 6 E, Sec. 26 T 45 N, R 43 W, Sec. 29 and 32	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(21) LITTLE STATE LINE LAKE.....	T 42 N, R 7 E, Sec. 32 T 44 N, R 43 W, Sec. 2	Vilas county—Wis. Gogebic county—Mich.
(22) MONTREAL RIVER.....	Iron county—Wisconsin Gogebic county—Michigan	

WCD 23.02 Seasons; limits. There are provided and established the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other fishing regulations for the several varieties and species of fish in the waters herein designated. A closed season is established for each variety of fish named herein extending during all the time of the year except the open season period embraced within the specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise expressly provided no person or persons shall take, catch, or kill fish of any variety, or fish for fish by any means other than with hook and line; nor at any time other than the open season therefor; nor have in his possession or under his control any fish, in excess of the daily bag or possession limit, or below the minimum size therefor during the open season.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Bag and possession limit	
		Number each day	Minimum length (inches)
(1) Largemouth black bass and smallmouth black bass (Bag limit means total of both).....	Third Saturday in June–December 31	5	No size limit
(2) Pike (yellow walleye or sauger) in Menominee river and Bad Water lake and in the Brule river from the Wash- burn bridge located in section 8, T 40 N, R 18 E, Florence county down- stream to its mouth.....	No closed season	5	13
In all other waters.....	Saturday nearest May 15–March 15	5	13
(3) Northern pike or pickerel in Me- nominee river and Bad Water lake and in the Brule river from the Washburn bridge located in section 8, T 40 N, R 18 E, Florence county, downstream to its mouth.....	No closed season	5	14
In all other waters.....	Saturday nearest May 15–March 15	5	14
(4) Muskellunge.....	Saturday nearest May 15–November 1	1	30
(5) Trout (any variety except lake trout) (Bag limit means total of all).....	Last Saturday in April–September 7	10	7
(6) Crappie (calico and strawberry bass) (Bag limit means total of all)	No closed season	25	No size limit
(7) Bullheads.....	No closed season	25	No size limit
(8) Sunfishes and bluegills (Bag limit means total of all).....	No closed season	25	No size limit
(9) Rock bass.....	No closed season	25	No size limit
(10) Perch.....	No closed season	25	No size limit
(11) Rock or lake sturgeon.....	September 5– October 15	3 per season	30

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(12) **MEASUREMENT OF FISH.** The measurement of all fish taken shall be in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the utmost end of the tail fin fully extended.

**WCD 23.03 Hook and line fishing.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to use or operate more than 2 lines or 2 poles with one line attached to each pole, and with one bait to each line, except that fly fishermen may use 2 flies to one line, or to fish with any line or lines and hooks left in the water unattended.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish of any variety from any boat while being propelled by motor or sail, or while in tow of a motor boat or sail boat, in the waters of Lac Vieux desert, Lake Mamie, Crooked lake, West Bay lake, Big lake, and Tenderfoot lake.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish of any variety during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout. For the purpose of this rule the Montreal river and that portion of the Brule river above the Washburn bridge located in section 8, township 40 north, range 18 east, Florence county, Wisconsin, shall be considered trout waters.

**WCD 23.04 Fishing near dams.** It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish by any means other than with hook and line within 200 feet below any dam.

**WCD 23.05 Spears.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession or under his control in the nighttime on any waters specified in this chapter, any spear or similar device that might be used to take, catch or kill fish, or at any time on any waters containing trout or in which trout have been planted. } a

(2) Northern pike or pickerel, but no other species of fish, may be taken by means of spears through the ice from January 1 to February 28, inclusive, from sunrise to sunset, subject to the bag, possession and size limits prescribed for such fish in section WCD 23.02. } g

(3) Rough fish may be taken by means of spears in the daytime only from April 1 to May 14 in the waters of the Menominee river. } 3a

**WCD 23.06 Dip nets.** (1) Dip nets may be used for taking rough fish and smelt from April 1 to May 14, inclusive, in the Menominee river, except that it shall be unlawful to use any dip net in that part of the Menominee river beginning at the upstream side of the Hattie Street bridge in Marinette-Menominee and extending upstream to the first dam and within 200 feet below all other dams. } f

(2) Such dip nets used for taking, catching, and killing rough fish and smelt shall be defined as follows: } g

A piece of netting suspended from a square or round frame not exceeding 9 feet square or 9 feet in diameter making a bag when lifted not more than 4 feet deep.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to use or operate any dip net in any manner other than by raising and lowering vertically when fishing.

**WCD 23.07 Ice fishing.** (1) **NIGHT ICE FISHING.** No person shall take, catch or kill fish, or fish for fish of any variety through the ice from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise with hook and line in any of the inland boundary waters specified in this chapter.

(2) **FISH SHANTIES.** Buildings, vehicles, tents, fish shanties or similar enclosures may be used on the ice for fishing purposes in the waters specified in this chapter. The door of any such enclosure or shelter shall be equipped with a latch which will permit the door to be readily opened from the outside at all times while enclosure or shelter is occupied. All such shelters shall be removed from the ice on or before the close of the ice fishing season each year on all waters listed in this chapter, or previous to that time by the order of the conservation commission or by its agents when they feel that the ice has become unsafe for travel thereon.

(3) **NAME OF OWNER.** All buildings, tents, fish shanties and similar enclosures or shelters maintained, occupied, or used for fishing purposes on the ice of any inland boundary waters specified in this chapter shall have in the English language the name and address of the person owning or using the same painted on the outside thereof in such manner as to be readily seen and read at all times.

**WCD 23.08 Reciprocity.** All residents of Wisconsin and Michigan holding a resident fishing license from their respective states, or residents of states other than Wisconsin and Michigan holding an angling license issued by either state, may fish in any of the waters listed in section WCD 23.01. This reciprocity applies only to hook and line fishing and the taking of minnows for such fishing, but minnows so taken shall not be sold, traded or bartered.