

Chapter WCD 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

WCD 20.01 Closed seasons. There shall be and are provided and established the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other regulations for the several varieties and species of fish, crayfish, and frogs in the waters within the state of Wisconsin. A closed season is established for each variety of fish, crayfish and frogs named in this chapter 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 shall take, catch or kill fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit and no person shall take, catch or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than hook and line, nor at any time other than the open season therefor, nor have in his possession or under his control any fish, crayfish, or frogs in excess of the possession limit, or below the minimum size therefor during the open season.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58.

WCD 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters. (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits shall be the same as those prescribed for the inland waters of the county in which such outlying waters are located, except as otherwise specifically provided in the following table:

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(a) WALLEYE AND SAUGER (Bag limit means total of all)	Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(b) NORTHERN PIKE OR PICKEREL.....	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(c) PERCH.....	In all outlying waters, including bounded bays and reserve waters	At all times	No bag limits or size limit; except during the closed season for commercial fishing in the waters of southern Green Bay and in the waters of Lake Michigan and northern Green Bay when there shall be a daily bag limit of 50 per day and such fish taken during the closed season shall not be sold, traded or bartered in any manner.	
(d) LAKE TROUT.....	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	Saturday nearest December 11 to September 30	No bag limit	17
(e) LARGEMOUTH BASS.....	In all outlying waters	Saturday nearest June 7 to February 15	5	No size limit
(f) SMALLMOUTH BASS.....	In all outlying waters	Saturday nearest June 7 to February 15	5	No size limit
(g) TROUT (any variety except splake and lake trout)..... (Bag limit means total of all)	Lake Superior	Saturday nearest May 1 to September 7 September 8 to, but not including, the Saturday nearest May 1	10 of which only 5 may be rainbow trout 5	6 13

(h) Herring of any size with no bag limit may be taken by hook and line at all times in the outlying waters.

(i) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon Bay by trolling from a motor-driven or sailboat during the open season therefor. It shall be unlawful to spear any species or variety of fish in the outlying and reserve waters at any time, except that carp may be speared from sunrise to sunset in all outlying waters and may be taken with the use of spear guns by the method commonly known as skin diving by divers under the water in Lake Michigan. Northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (a) Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) and (1) (a), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (a) and (d); renum. (1), (e), (f) and (g) to be (1) (f) (g) and (h); cr. (1) (e), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and recr. Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (g) and (j), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; r. and recr., Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (d) and (1) (l), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62.

WCD 20.03 Season tables; open and closed seasons, size and bag limits and measurements. (1) The open seasons specified in the following table apply to fishing in open waters and fishing through the ice, except that the conservation director shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when he finds after scientific investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice

(c) There shall be no open season for bullfrogs in Jefferson and Walworth counties.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2) and (4) (a), r. (3) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and recr. Register, March, 1959, No. 39, eff. 4-1-59; am. (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (1) and (4) (a), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62.

WCD 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions. (1) (a) *Waters and methods.* No person shall take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout.

(b) *Trolling.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture or kill fish or fish for fish of any variety at any time in the inland waters of this state from a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any boat in tow of a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any sailboat when in motion. The restrictions contained in this paragraph do not apply to the waters of Green Lake in Green Lake county and Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties.

(c) *Fishing near dams.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish by means other than with hook and line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam in the inland waters at any time, except that whitefish and cisco may be taken with dip nets, subject to section WCD 20.11, within 200 feet of the Long Lake dam on the Brill river at the outlet of Long Lake in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 24, township 37 north, range 11 west, Washburn county and within 200 feet of the Mikana dam on the Red Cedar river at the outlet of Red Cedar lake in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21, township 36 north, range 10 west, Barron county. Bullheads and rough fish may be taken within 200 feet below the Castle Rock and Petenwell dams in Adams and Juneau counties from sunrise to sunset with dip nets not to exceed 18 inches in diameter or 18 inches on any side of a square or rectangle with a handle not to exceed 3 feet in length.

(d) *Drawdowns.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture or kill fish or fish for fish of any variety at any time by means of shutting or drawing off water for that purpose.

(e) *Gaffs, Caldron Falls.* The use of gaff hooks, firearms or fish spikes as an aid in the taking or landing of fish in the Caldron Falls reservoir from the Caldron Falls dam upstream to the county highway C bridge all in Marinette county is prohibited.

(2) **FISHING DURING OPEN SEASON FOR WATERFOWL.** It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in any manner during the open season for waterfowl in the Sheboygan Marsh in Sheboygan county except that it shall be lawful to fish from shore, and from piers or through the ice in such waters at all times during the open season established by this chapter.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (b) Register, April, 1958, No. 28, eff. 5-1-58; am. (2), Register, August, 1958, No. 32, eff. 9-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (2), Register, August, 1959, No. 44, eff. 9-1-59; am. (1) (b), r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (b) and (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (2), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61 am. (1) (b); cr. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62.

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WCD 20.07 Prohibited methods of fishing. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Wis. Stats. or by commission order:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish or fish for fish of any variety with more than 2 lines or 2 poles with 1 line attached to each pole and with 1 hook or bait to each line.

(b) Any fisherman fishing with not more than 1 line or pole with 1 line attached thereto may have attached to such line not more than 2 lures or 2 hooks or 2 baits.

(c) Any fisherman fishing through the ice with hook and line in Lake Winnebago may fish with not more than 3 lines with not more than 1 hook attached to each line.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish with or leave any fish line or lines unattended in any of the inland waters; it shall be unlawful for any person to take any fish by snagging or fouling or by any means other than angling and trolling.

(e) No person shall use as bait any minnows or other fish in the following waters which are identified by posting: McCall lake in Adams and Marquette counties; Cammerer lake in Ashland county; Little Granite lake in Barron county; Beaver, Joanne, Long and Nymphia lakes, an unnamed lake in section 12, township 44 north, range 7 west, and an unnamed lake in section 20, township 44 north, range 9 west all in Bayfield county; Banach and Little Round lakes in Burnett county; Dark lake in Chippewa county; Stewart lake in Dane county; Anderson lake in Douglas county; Valley lake in Forest county; East Alaska lake in Kewaunee county; Horgan and Moraine lakes in Lincoln county; Bullhead lake in Manitowoc county; Big Twin, Icehouse and Pickerel lakes in Polk county; Patterson and Timms lakes in Price county; Three lakes in Rusk county; North Twin and Spruce lakes in Taylor county; Weber, Pauto and Otto Mielke lakes in Vilas county; Lake Como in Walworth county; Sawmill, Tozer and West lakes in Washburn county; and Wallace lake in Washington county.

(2) No person shall, except as expressly provided, have in his possession or under his control on any of the inland waters or shores of inland waters between the hours of sunset and sunrise any gun, bow and arrow, spear or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish. Burbot or lawyers, but no other species of fish, may be taken by means of spears from sunset to sunrise in the waters of the Amnicon and Nemadji rivers and the Black river upstream to the Soo line bridge in Douglas county and the Bad river in Ashland county from December 15 to January 15 only. All species of fish of any size, but subject to the bag limits of each species of fish as set forth in this chapter, may be taken during the open season in the natural channel of the Chippewa river in Chippewa county from the Jim Falls dam downstream to the first bridge by hook and line, by hand, or by a dip net not to exceed 3 feet in diameter or 3 feet square, except that during the open season for rock or lake sturgeon, gaff hooks, spears, and other legal fishing gear may be used for taking fish, and such fish may be foul hooked during such season.

(3) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by hand at any time in all waters.

(4) (a) No person shall have in his possession or under his control on any of the inland waters or shores of inland waters at any time