

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chapter NR 1

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD POLICIES

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**NR 1.01 Great Lakes fishery management.** (1) In accordance with the Conservation Act (23.09, Wis. Stats.) and other legislative direction, the policy of the natural resources board is to provide a flexible system for the protection, development and utilization of the waters and fish populations of the Great Lakes for the maximum public benefit.

(a) Since management of the Great Lakes is a matter of intrastate, interstate, federal and international interest, cooperation shall be sought in developing management objectives and measures for stocks of common concern.

(b) The Great Lakes fisheries are to be considered part of a diverse community in the environment of man. It is the policy of the natural resources board to promote efforts which will maintain and enhance the quality of this community and its environment.

(c) Management of the fishery resources shall be based on a sound understanding of the dynamics of interacting fish stocks. To this end, it is the policy of the natural resources board to encourage research, inventories of the resource base, and collection of harvest and utilization statistics on which to base management decisions.

(d) The fishery resources of the Great Lakes, though renewable, experience dynamic changes and are limited. The resources shall be managed in accordance with sound biological principles to attain optimum sustainable utilization. Management measures may include but are not limited to seasons, bag and quota limits, limitations on the

type and amount of fishing gear, limitation as to participation in the fisheries and allocation of allowable harvest among various users.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76.

**NR 1.015 The management of wildlife, preamble.** (1) The conservation act (section 23.09(1), Wis. Stats.) requires the department of natural resources to provide an adequate and flexible system for the protection, development and use of forests, fish and game, lakes, streams, plant life, flowers and other outdoor resources in this state. Specific authorities and missions of the department for wildlife protection and use besides the general authority are:

- (a) Protect and manage nongame species, particularly endangered, threatened and uncommon species;
- (b) Acquire and lease lands;
- (c) Conduct research and surveys;
- (d) Establish long-range resource management plans and priorities;
- (e) Manage wildlife habitat on public land;
- (f) Provide regulations to govern the harvest of game species and furbearing mammals;
- (g) Establish resource management information and education programs; and
- (h) Propagate wildlife.

(2) The primary goal of wildlife management is to provide healthy life systems necessary to sustain Wisconsin's wildlife populations for their biological, recreational, cultural and economic values. Wildlife management is the application of knowledge in the protection, enhancement and regulation of wildlife resources for their contribution toward maintaining the integrity of the environment and for the human benefits they provide.

(a) The department's wildlife program ranges from endangered and threatened species management to the production of huntable game. At its best, wildlife management is a process that requires a considerable degree of harmony between people and land to provide the quality landscapes and diverse habitats necessary to produce and support all types of wildlife.

(b) Public concern for the welfare of wildlife resources can help to instill a land ethic in what has become a predominantly urban population. Public support for the maintenance of native or near-natural plant communities, as necessary wildlife habitat, indirectly assures continued opportunities for a whole range of human interactions with nature that goes well beyond hunting or wildlife-oriented recreation.

(c) The department's wildlife management program is financed in large part by user contributions, particularly license fees and excise taxes on selected equipment purchased by hunters; however, management programs directed at hunted game species provide very significant indirect benefits for a wide range of other wildlife. New sources of funds are needed to supplement the existing financial base and

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for daily entrance to state parks and forest areas and shall be stipulated prior to the granting of state aid. Fees shall not be increased without the written approval of the department.

**History:** Cr. Register, April, 1975, No. 232, eff. 5-1-75; renum. from NR 1.32, Register, October, 1977, No. 262, eff. 11-1-77.