

## Chapter NR 20

## FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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## (Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

**NR 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 or 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; renum. from WCD 20.01 to be NR 20.01, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

**NR 20.015 Definitions.** For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (1) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing.
- (2) Fishing includes taking, capturing or killing fish or fishing for fish of any variety at any time in the waters of the state.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77

**NR 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters.** (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in the outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits, number of hooks and lines and ice fishing regulations 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:

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Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(a) <b>WALLEYE AND SAUGER</b> (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) <b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(c) <b>PERCH</b>	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) <b>1. TROUT AND SALMON</b> excluding lake trout in Lake Superior	Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10
	<b>2. LAKE TROUT</b> in Lake Superior	Lake Superior	December 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate with trout and salmon
(e) <b>LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>	Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within 1/4-mile of Washington Island)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
	Washington Island	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
(f) <b>LAKE STURGEON</b>	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	40

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

(h) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon Bay by trolling from a motor driven boat 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 rough fish 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) (i), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; am. (1) (intro. par.), (b) and (g), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. intro. par., Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; r. and recr. (1) (d), (f), and (g), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; am. (1) (d) and (g), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; r. and recr. (1) (e); r. (f); renum. (g) and (h) to be (f) and (g); renum. (i) to be (h) and am., Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; r. and recr. (1) (d) and r. (1) (f), Register, March, 1969, No. 159, eff. 4-1-69; renum. from WCD 20.02 to be NR 20.02, and am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (1) (f), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 9-23-72; am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1972, No. 203, eff. 1-1-73; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 11-16-72; am. (1) (d), Register, May 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73, am. (1) (d) 1 and (e), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75.

**NR 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 department shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice in such waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish therein and that such closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing therein and such closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected, such posting being deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that such closed season is in effect and such closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued. The department may also, following scientific investigation and study, establish size limits on individual inland waters when it finds that the taking of fish will aid in management of the fishery and insure the citizens of this state additional opportunities for good fishing. For open seasons in specified waters see section NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person shall have in his possession or under his control more than the daily bag limit while on the ice or waters or while fishing in the state of Wisconsin. 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.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
1. In all waters of Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn counties			
	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	10
2. Clear lake (sec. 16, T39N, R7E) Oneida county (smallmouth bass)			
	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	12
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)			
	Continuous	None	8

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
In all waters of Barron, Burnett, Polk, Sawyer and Washburn counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	13
In all other waters (See also section NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	No size limit
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also section NR 20.04)			
1. In all waters of Dane, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2 (except that there is a daily bag limit of 5 and no minimum length in Wisconsin river in Dane county)	22
2. In all waters of Barron, Burnett, Polk, Sawyer and Washburn counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	18
3. Shawano lake in Shawano county and all waters in Menominee county	No closed season	25	No size limit
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
(e) MUSKELLUNGE (includes hybrid muskellunge)			
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	30
(f) 1. Trout and Salmon (any variety except splake and lake trout) (Bag limit means total of all)			
a. Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk county waters, including lakes (ponds)	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
b. Crawford and Vernon county streams	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
d. Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson and Rock county lakes (ponds)	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
e. Lake Michigan tributary streams (upstream to the first dam or lake)	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10
f. All other inland waters	First Saturday in May at 5 a.m. to but not including June 1	5 in aggregate	6
	June 1 to September 30	10 in aggregate	6

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
2. There shall be a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following waters	Saturday nearest April 1 to, but not including the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	10
Ashland county:			
Bad river from its mouth upstream to Copper falls; Potato river from its mouth upstream to Guerney falls; White river from its mouth upstream to White river dam; Brunsweller and Marengo rivers upstream to highway 13.			
Bayfield county:			
Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); Fish creek from its mouth upstream to the junction of Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction with the Little Flag river (T49N, R8W, sec. 2); Iron river from its mouth upstream to Orienta dam; Sioux river from its mouth upstream to Big Rock falls (T49N, R4W, sec. 19); Siskowitt river from its mouth upstream to second bridge (T41N, R6W, sec. 35).			
Iron county:			
Graveyard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
There shall be a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following water:			
Douglas county:			
Brule river from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2	Saturday nearest April 1 to, but not including the first Saturday in May and October 1 through December 31	5 in aggregate	10
3. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on the following waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	6
Risk creek pond in Adams county; Balsam pond, Beaver lake, Little Star and Spring (sec. 28, T44N, R9W) lakes in Bayfield county; Gilmanton pond in Buffalo county; Banach lake in Burnett county; Anderson lake in Douglas county; Sand lake (sec. 13, T39N, R18E) in Florence county; Bug, Logger and Valley lakes in Forest county; Hoffman, Lowe Creek pond, Trout Run SCS, Trout Run Church and Oxbow ponds in Jackson county; McGee, Pence and Townline lakes in Langlade county; Ament, Hanson, Morgan, Moraine and Tahoe lakes in Lincoln county; Horseshoe lake in Manitowoc county; Cataract, Evans, Hans Biegel, Kickapoo Spring and Pinnacle Rock ponds in Monroe county; Bass lake (sec. 15, T39N, R7E) in Oneida county; Quarry lake in Sheboygan county; Eleva pond in Trempealeau county; Esofea and Timber			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
Coulee ponds in Vernon county; Bluegill, Firefly, Weber, Little John, Jr., Otto Mielke and Pauto lakes in Vilas county; Lannon Park pond in Waukesha county; and Keller lake, Waupaca county.			
4. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on all other lakes containing trout or salmon except natural spring and spring ponds			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE	October 1 to March 1 First Saturday in January to September 30	5 in aggregate 2 in aggregate	6 17
(H) CATFISH			
In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties and the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad tracks			
In all other waters	No closed season	25	No size limit
(i) WHITE BASS	No closed season	10	No size limit
(j) ROCK BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(k) CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL, PERCH, PUMPKIN-SEED (Sunfish)	No closed season	None	No size limit
(l) YELLOW BASS (STRIPED)	No closed season	25 in aggregate	No size limit
(m) BULLHEADS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(n) CISCO AND WHITEFISH	No closed season	25 pounds and one fish in aggregate	No size limit
(o) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(p) SHOVELNOSE (Sand or Hackleback) Sturgeon			
1. Chippewa river below the Eau Claire dam	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. Chippewa river above the Eau Claire dam	No open season	—	—
2. In all other waters south of highway #64 (except in the Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream)	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. The Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream	No open season	—	—
3. In all other waters north of highway #64	No open season	—	—
(q) ROCK AND LAKE STURGEON			
Hook and line season			
1. In all waters: (except Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Winnebago and connecting waters; in the Embarrass river from the Pella dam at Shawano downstream to its confluence with the Wolf river in Outagamie county; and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan; and the Fox river downstream from milepost No. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek in Green Lake county to Lake Butte des Morts)			
Lake Butte des Morts)	First Saturday in September to October 15	1 per season	45
Spearing season			
2. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters			
3. Lake Winnebago	No open season Second Saturday in February to March 1	— The bag limit on speared sturgeon is	— 45

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
		one (1) per season regardless of the water in which speared	

4. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any spear or similar device in any building, tent, shanty or similar enclosure on the waters of Lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne in Winnebago county, Lake Poygan in Waushara and Winnebago counties; Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties and all connecting waters including the Embarrass river from the Pella dam downstream to the Wolf river and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan and the Fox river from milepost no. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek, in Green Lake county downstream to Lake Butte des Morts, except during the open season for spearing sturgeon when such open season is in effect on a specified water named above.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(f) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(u) SUCKER AND REDHORSE	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit

(2) (a) Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit such sturgeon, with his sturgeon tag attached as required by section 29.148, Wis. Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station established for such purpose. Such sturgeon shall be so exhibited at such sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the waters where speared not later than 6:00 p.m. on the day speared. Upon approval by the officer, said officer shall attach a special tag to each sturgeon indicating that it has been inspected and recorded and such tag shall remain attached and locked to such sturgeon until the carcass is finally consumed.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport any sturgeon in or on any motor-driven vehicle from the time such sturgeon is taken to the time it is lawfully registered pursuant to section NR 20.03 (2) (a) unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and in such manner so that the sturgeon tag attached to the sturgeon cannot be handled or manipulated by any occupant of the vehicle.

(3) A closed season is established for the taking, catching, or killing of fish of any variety or fishing for fish from December 1 to, but not including, the first Saturday in May of the next year, on all waters commonly known as the Chippewa flowage and that part of the Chippewa river in the following described area, Sawyer county:

Township 39 north, range 6 west

Sections 1, 2 and 3

Township 39 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Township 39 north, range 8 west

## Sections 1 and 12

Township 40 north, range 6 west

Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 8 west

Sections 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36

(4) In those waters for which a permit for treatment with toxicant has been issued the department of natural resources may direct that all species of fish of any size may be taken by dip nets, minnow seines and spears with no bag or possession limit from the date of issuance of said permit until the commencement of treatment and such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the waters affected and by publication in one or more newspapers having wide circulation in the area affected.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par), (1) (a), (1) (f) 2. and 3., (1) (q) 1. and 4. and (3), cr. (1) (e) 1. and (1) (f) 1. a. and 2. a., Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75. am. (1) (a), (c), (d), (f) 1. and 2. and (q) 1. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (1) (q) 2 eff. 1-12-76; am. (1) (a), (d), (e), (f) and (p), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (a) 3, (1) (f) 3 and (3), r. (1) (f) 1c, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 20.03 see the history note for NR 20.03 as it appeared in the October, 1973 Administrative Register.

**NR 20.04 Open seasons in specified waters.** (3) **SPECIAL WATERS-LAKES.** (a) There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described waters; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

- 8. Calumet county-Winnebago
- 13. Dane county-Koshkonong
- 14. Dodge county-Beaver Dam, Emily, Lost and Sinnissippi
- 17. Dunn county-Dunville bottoms
- 20. Fond du Lac county-Mullet and Winnebago
- 24. Green Lake county-Big Green, Maria and Puckaway
- 28. Jefferson county-Bean, Goose, Hahns, Koshkonong, Red Cedar and Mud (at Koshkonong)
- 39. Marquette county-Buffalo
- 50. Portage county-Bass and Pleasant
- 54. Rock county-Koshkonong
- 56. St. Croix county-Pine (at Baldwin)
- 60. Sheboygan county-Sheboygan marsh
- 69. Waupaca county-Campbell, Crystal, Cynco (Rice), Hatch, Kinney, Partridge, Partridge Crop, Silver, and White, and Marion millpond



70. Waushara county-Fish (at Wautoma), Beans, Pine (at Hancock), Poygan and Big Twin

71. Winnebago county-Butte des Morts, Little Butte des Morts, Poygan, and Winneconne, and Winnebago

(am) SPECIAL WATERS-RIVERS AND STREAMS. There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described rivers, streams, and inpoundments thereon; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

1. Baraboo river in Sauk and Columbia counties.
2. Black river including sloughs and bayous from the dam at Black River Falls in Jackson county downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi river.
3. Chippewa river including sloughs and bayous beginning at the Holcombe flowage dam in Chippewa county downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad in Buffalo and Pepin counties.
  - a. Yellow river from Lake Wissota upstream to the Suetlik dam at Cadott in Chippewa county.
4. Eau Claire river including sloughs and bayous in Eau Claire county from the Altoona dam downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river.
  - a. Eau Galle river beginning at the Lake Eau Galle dam in Dunn county downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river, Pepin county.
5. Embarrass river beginning at the dam at Pella in Shawano county downstream to the Wolf river in Outagamie county.
6. Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac county.
7. Fox river downstream from the westerly crossing of highway #33 at Portage in Columbia county and in Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Winnebago and Outagamie counties downstream to the dam at De Pere in Brown county.
  - a. Puckyan river in Green Lake county.
8. Fox river in Kenosha county and upstream in Racine county to the Waterford dam.
9. Grand river from Fairwater in Fond du Lac county downstream to the Fox river in Marquette county.
10. La Crosse river including Lake Neshonoc sloughs and bayous from the Perch lake dam at Sparta downstream to the Mississippi river.
11. Lemonweir river including all connecting flowages, bays, sloughs and bayous in Juneau and Monroe counties and the East Fork Lemonweir upstream to the highway #173 bridge and the South Fork Lemonweir upstream to the Tomah dam.

12. Little Wolf river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Manawa downstream to the Wolf river.

13. Pecatonica river in Lafayette and Green counties.

14. Pine river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Poysippi downstream to Lake Poygan.

15. Pumpkinseed creek in Winnebago county from county trunk "D" bridge downstream to Lake Poygan.

16. Red Cedar river including all connecting sloughs and bayous in Dunn county from its confluence with the Chippewa river to the Lake Menomin Northern States Power Dam.

17. Rock river waters.

a. Rock river in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties and all waters in the Horicon marsh.

b. Crawfish river in Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

c. Beaver Dam river beginning at the dam in the city of Beaver Dam in Dodge county downstream to the Crawfish river.

d. Scuppernong river beginning at the dam at Palmyra in Jefferson county downstream to the Bark river.

e. Bark river beginning at the dam at Hebron in Jefferson county downstream to the Rock river.

f. Yahara river beginning at the dam at Fulton in Rock county downstream to the Rock river.

g. Busseyville creek in Dane and Jefferson counties beginning at the Rockdale dam downstream to Lake Koshkonong.

h. Waterloo (Maunesh) creek beginning at the dam (Malthouse) at Waterloo in Jefferson county downstream to its confluence with the Crawfish river, Dodge county.

18. Rubicon river in Dodge county.

19. Shioc river in Outagamie county.

20. Waupaca river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Weyauwega downstream to the Wolf river.

21. White river below dam at Burlington to Fox river in Racine county.

22. Wildcat river in Dodge county.

23. Willow river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Auroraville downstream to Lake Poygan.

24. Wisconsin river and flowages beginning at the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander in Oneida county downstream to the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties including all connecting sloughs and bayous including that part of the Yellow river and all connecting flowages, sloughs and bayous from its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county upstream to the highway no. 54 dam at Dexterville.

a. Mill creek in Portage county.

25. Wolf river in Winnebago, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and in Shawano county upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano.

26. Yellowstone river from the dam downstream in Lafayette county.

(b) The department shall open the season for fishing with dip nets in any waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that the fish populations in such waters are threatened with imminent mortality because of depletion of dissolved oxygen or other adverse habitat conditions under which fish will not survive. During such open season all species of fish may be taken by means of dip nets not more than 3 feet in diameter or 3 feet square, but no person shall have more than 25 pounds and 1 fish of any species of game fish of any size so taken in his possession. No person shall fish with more than one such dip net and such dip net fishing shall be carried on only during the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected, such posting being deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that such open season for fishing with dip nets is in effect. Such open season shall remain in full force and effect only so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued.

(c) 1. Except as provided in the following subdivisions 2, 3, and 4, and except for posted streams, there shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except sturgeon, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass in waters of Lake Michigan, Green Bay and upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream which is a tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay.

2. During the period from the first Saturday in May to September 30, the bag limits, minimum size limits and regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter apply to the waters of Lake Michigan, Green Bay and upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream which is tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay.

3. During the period from October 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May of the following May, annually, upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, the minimum size of trout and salmon shall be 10 inches and the daily bag limit shall be 5 fish in the aggregate, of which only 3 may be lake trout. During such period, hook and line fishing is restricted to baits using a hook with a gape size not larger than one-half inch from point to shank. During such period, fishing with hook and line is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise on all streams tributary to Lake Michigan and Green Bay, except the Menomonee river.

4. During the period from October 1 through January 31, it shall be lawful to take trout and salmon by hand without the use of any device and by foul hooking or snagging while fishing with hook and line, using a hook with a gape size of not larger than one-half inch from point to shank, in the following waters only. During such period fishing by hand and hook and line on the following waters is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise, except in the Menomonee river. The size limit on trout and

salmon shall be 10 inches and the bag limit shall be 5 fish in the aggregate.

a. Brown county - Fox river upstream to the dam at DePere.

b. Door county - Sturgeon Bay ship canal from the Lake Michigan shoreline westerly to a line extending from the Hills Point light north to the point at which Gordon road intersects with the north shore of Sturgeon Bay.

c. Kenosha county - Pike river upstream to the first dam, and the Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore from the mouth of the Pike river northward a distance of one-half mile.

d. Kewaunee county - Kewaunee river upstream to the first dam, Ahnapee river upstream to 500 feet below the Forestville dam.

e. Manitowoc county - Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore except within 500 feet of any public utility discharge flume, and all streams tributary to Lake Michigan upstream to the first dam.

f. Marinette county - all streams tributary to Green Bay upstream to the first dam, and the waters of Green Bay.

g. Milwaukee county - Kinnickinnic river, Menomonee river, Milwaukee river, Oak creek, all upstream to the first dam.

h. Oconto county - all named and unnamed streams tributary to Green Bay upstream to the first dam, and the waters of Green Bay.

i. Ozaukee county - Sucker creek upstream to the first dam.

j. Sheboygan county - Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore except within 500 feet of any public utility discharge flume, and all streams tributary to Lake Michigan upstream to the first dam.

(4) EXPERIMENTAL WATERS; PERMITS; REPORTS. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in the waters of Nebish, Spruce, Mystery, Escanaba and Palette lakes situated in sections 34 and 35, township 42 north, range 7 east, and sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, township 41 north, range 7 east, Vilas county except under the following conditions:

1. Fishing in such waters is authorized only under permit, which may be secured at the checking stations indicated by posted signs in the immediate area.

2. Fishing in such waters shall be done only with hook and line or rod and reel except that cisco may be taken in Palette lake by means of licensed dip nets or seines.

3. The provisions of this section shall apply to such waters throughout the year.

4. All permits are valid only for the date issued and shall be turned in at the checking stations at the termination of each day's fishing activities by the fisher.

5. There is a continuous open season with no daily bag limit or size limit for all species of fish contained in these waters except in Nebish lake there shall be a daily bag limit of 10 trout in aggregate and an 8-inch minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

6. All fish taken pursuant to this section shall be exhibited to the department or its agents at the checking station for examination, identification and marking.

(5) FLY FISHING ONLY. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" in the following described waters:

1. *Peshtigo river*—In, on or along that part of the Peshtigo river lying in Marinette county, beginning at the Johnson Falls dam in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 32, township 33 north, range 19 east and extending downstream to the foot of Spring Rapids in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 15, township 32 north, range 19 east, with a daily bag limit of 5 trout and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

2. *Wolf river*—In, on or along that part of the Wolf river lying in Langlade county, beginning at the railroad trestle in section 19, township 32 north, range 14 east extending downstream to the eastwest quarter line dividing the west half of section 33, township 32 north, range 14 east marked by a road which runs along side the Diercks irrigation pond with a daily bag limit of 5 trout per day and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this chapter shall apply to the area described herein.

(7) EXPERIMENTAL TROPHY TROUT STREAMS. (a) *Castle Rock creek*—In, on or along that part of Castle Rock creek, Grant county, from the Church road bridge in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/2 section 36, T7N, R2W, downstream to the county trunk Q bridge in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 31, T7N, R1W.

1. *Castle Rock Springs* - In, on or along the springhead and spring tributary of Castle Rock creek in the SW 1/4 NE 1/4, section 36, T7N, R2W, Grant county.

(b) *Doc Smith creek* — In, on or along that part of Doc Smith creek, Grant county, from and including the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 1, T6N, R2W, downstream to its mouth (Castle Rock creek).

(c) For the purpose of this section it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" and with the use of artificial lures. Artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout. An artificial lure means a bait designed to attract fish which does not include any natural bait.

1. There is a 0 bag limit for trout and the open season is from January 1 to September 30, both dates inclusive.

(d) Race-Willow creek - In, on or along that part of Race-Willow creek. St. Croix county, known as the Race in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, section 8; SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, section 17; and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 18, T29N, R19W, a trout daily bag limit of one fish is established, the minimum size limit of which shall be 13 inches. The open season is the first Saturday in May beginning at 5:00 a.m. through September 30, both dates inclusive.

1. For the purpose of this section, fishing is restricted to fly fishing and artificial lures described in NR 20.04 (7) (c).

(8) EXPERIMENTAL TROUT LAKES (ponds). (a) Bayfield county. 1. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on even year dates only.

- a. Anderson
- b. Blaisdell
- c. Mimi
- d. Nymphia

2. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on odd year dates only.

- a. Balsam
- b. Beaver
- c. Little Star
- d. Spring

(b) The open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this section shall apply to NR 20.03 (1) (f) l.f. and NR 20.03 (1) (f) 3.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3) (a) 28.56 and 71, (3) (am) 7, cr. (3) (am) 3 a. 7 a and 24 a and r. (4) (c) 1 and 2, Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (c) 2, 3, and 4., Register, October, 1975, No. 238, eff. 11-1-75; am. (3) (am) (intro.), (c) 2, 3. and 4., r. (4) (c) Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (4), r. (5) (a) 3 and cr. (7) and (8), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (7) (a) and (b), Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; am. (3) (c) 2 to 4, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 2-1-78.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 20.04 see the history note for NR 20.04 as it appeared in the December, 1974 Administrative Register.

**NR 20.05 Season for crayfish and frogs.** (1) CRAYFISH. There is no closed season on crayfish or crabs in the inland waters except in Manitowoc county where there is a closed season from March 1 to but not including the Saturday nearest June 15.

(2) METHOD OF TAKING. Crayfish or crabs may be taken in the following ways; by hand, minnow seines, minnow dip nets and minnow traps where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows (see minnow regulations, section NR 20.10) and by crab traps with the entrance of the trap not to exceed 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Each such trap shall have securely attached to it a label or tag clearly bearing in the English language the name and address of the operator. All such traps shall be raised and the crayfish or crabs removed therefrom at least once in every 24 hours.

(3) **FROGS.** (a) The open season for taking, killing or capturing frogs shall be from the Saturday nearest May 1 to December 31.

(b) All frogs taken legally during the open season may be held, purchased, and sold during the closed season. Persons engaged in the business of propagating frogs may possess and sell frogs at any time.

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

(d) It is unlawful to take frogs with the aid or use of any firearms.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (2) and (4) (a), r. (3) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and rec. 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; r. and rec. Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; cr. (3) (d), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; renum. WCD 20.05 to be NR 20.05; am. (2), Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

**NR 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions. (1)**

(a) *Waters and methods.* No person shall take, capture, or kill fish of any variety of fish for fish during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout except that rough fish may be taken by hand.

(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 the 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; or by means of shutting or drawing off water for that purpose. Casting and immediate retrieval of a bait or lure while positioning a boat by means of an electric motor, where motors are permitted, shall not be deemed trolling. The restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to the waters of Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Racine, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn and Waukesha counties and the following named lakes and rivers including their flowages and sloughs:

1. Adams county—Mason
2. Ashland county—Kakagon
9. Chippewa county—Chain; Holcombe flowage; Long 32-8
10. Clark county—Arbutus
13. Dane county—Crystal; Kegonsa; Koshkonong; Mendota; Monona; Waubesa
14. Dodge county—Beaver Dam; Fox; Sinnissippi
15. Door county—Clarks; Kangaroo
17. Dunn county—Menomin; Tainter
18. Eau Claire county—Altoona; Big Dells pond; Eau Claire
19. Florence county—Halsey; Twin Falls flowage
21. Forest county—Butternut; Franklin; Kentuck; Lucerne; Metonga; Pickerel; Pine; Wabicon
24. Green Lake county—Green; Maria; Puckaway

27. Jackson county—Arbutus
28. Jefferson county—Koshkonong; Rock
29. Juneau county—Kilburn flowage
30. Kenosha county—Elizabeth
32. La Crosse county—Neshonoc
34. Langlade county—Post (Lower); Post (Upper); Rolling Stone
35. Lincoln county—Mohawksin; Spirit R. flowage
37. Marathon county—Big Eau Pleine reservoir
38. Marinette county—Chalk Hills flowage; High Falls reservoir; Noquebay
39. Marquette county—Buffalo
42. Monroe county—Monroe county flowage
43. Oconto county—Christy; Machickanee (Stiles pond); White Potato
44. Oneida county—Columbus; Katherine; Rainbow flowage; Sugar Camp; Thunder; Willow flowage
50. Portage county—Little Eau Pleine flowage
51. Price county—Pike; Round
54. Rock county—Koshkonong
56. St. Croix county—Cedar
57. Sauk county—Redstone
58. Sawyer county—Chetac; Grindstone; Lac Court Oreilles; Nelson; Round; Whitefish; Windigo; Winter
59. Shawano county—Shawano
60. Sheboygan county—Sheboygan marsh
64. Vilas county—Big Portage; Black Oak; Kentuck; Laura; Smoky; Stormy
65. Walworth county—Beulah; Como; Delavan; Geneva; Whitewater
67. Washington county—Big Cedar; Pike
69. Waupaca county—Partridge; White
70. Waushara county—Poygan
71. Winnebago county—Butte des Morts; Little Butte des Morts; Poygan; Rush; Winnebago; Winneconne

Wisconsin river from county trunk A east of Tomahawk, Lincoln county, downstream; the Chippewa river from Holcombe downstream and the Fox river from Buffalo lake downstream to the dam at De Pere.



(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 hook or line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam in the inland waters at any time.

**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; am. (1) (e), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1963, No. 88, eff. 5-1-63; am. (1) (b); r. (2), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. (1) (a) and (c); r. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; am. (1) (b), Register, June, 1970, No. 174, eff. 7-1-70; renum. WCD 20.06 to be NR 20.06, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1973, No. 214, eff. 1-1-74; am. (1) (b), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 61 and 68, Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77.

**NR 20.07 Prohibited methods of fishing.** (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Wisconsin Statutes or by department order:

(a) It shall be unlawful other than ice fishing 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 other than ice 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 fisher fishing through the ice with hook and line on all inland waters may fish with not more than 3 hooks.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish with or leave any fish line or lines unattended in any waters; it shall be unlawful for any person to take any fish by snagging or fouling in any manner unless otherwise specifically provided. Any such fish illegally taken other than in the mouth by snagging or fouling must be immediately returned to the water. It is also unlawful for any person to fish with the aid or use of any firearm or pellet gun in any manner or by any means other than angling or trolling. Dip nets (landing nets) 3 feet or less in diameter and a gaff may be used for the purpose of landing fish legally hooked.

(e) No person shall use as bait or possess or release any minnows or other fish except trout on any waters or shores of such waters which have been chemically treated for trout management and which are so identified and designated by signs posted on the shores thereof by the department of natural resources.

(ee) No person shall place minnow traps in waters which have been chemically treated to reestablish a trout fishery.

(f) No person shall use minnows as bait while fishing through the ice in Green Lake, Green Lake county except where the lake is 50 feet or less in depth.

(g) No person may sort fish of a particular species after the legal bag limit is filled. Any such fish taken after the legal bag limit is filled must be released immediately.

(2) No person shall, except as expressly provided, possess or control on any of the inland waters or shores of inland waters at any time any gun, bow and arrow, spear, net or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish.

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

(4) (a) It is unlawful as prescribed in subsection (2) to take, catch or kill fish in the counties of Ashland (except in the Bad river as provided in paragraph (e)), Bayfield, Iron, Oconto (in that portion of the county west of highway #141 only), Oneida, Pierce, Price, Sawyer and Vilas counties and except that rough fish may be taken sunrise to sunset with bow and arrow from the Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1 each year in Iron county.

(b) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by means of spear or spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow from April 21 to March 1, inclusive, sunrise to sunset in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of Brown, Buffalo, Calumet (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Clark, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Forest, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon (except that spearing is prohibited in the Big Eau Pleine flowage from the dam upstream to highway 97 from November 1 to April 20), Marinette, Monroe, Oconto (in that portion of the county east of highway 141 only), Outagamie (except during the sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Pepin, Portage, St. Croix, Shawano, Trempealeau, Winnebago (except Waukau creek and during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), and Wood.

(c) It shall be lawful for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or by spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow at any time of the year, sunrise to sunset, in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk (except it is illegal to spear fish while skin diving or with bow and arrow in Devil's lake), Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), and in Waukau creek in Winnebago county.

(d) It is lawful to take white bass, yellow bass (striped), rock bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and bullheads with the use of spears and spearguns by skin diving and scuba diving in all waters where spearing for rough fish is permitted subject to the same seasons prescribed in subsection (4) (a), (b), (c) and (e) and subject to bag limits prescribed in section NR 20.03, Wis. Adm. Code.

(e) It shall be lawful for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or by spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow, sunrise to sunset, from the Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1, inclusive, on the inland waters or from shores of inland waters in the counties of Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn, Polk and Barron. Burbot (but no other species) may also be speared from sunset to sunrise in the Amnicon and

Nemadji rivers and the Black river upstream to the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad bridge from December 15 to January 31, inclusive, in Douglas county and the Bad river, Ashland county.

(5) (a) The possession or use of a gun, bow and arrow, spear or similar device for the taking, catching or killing of fish in or on any designated trout stream is prohibited at all times except as indicated in subsections (5) (b) and (c).

(b) Suckers and carp may be speared, sunrise to sunset only, from Saturday nearest March 15 to, but not including the Saturday nearest May 1, in the following trout waters in Waushara county:

2. Willow creek between the point where the two branches of said stream unite in section 12, township 18 north, range 11 east, town of Marion and the dam in Auroraville.

3. The Pine river between the point where the said stream crosses the highway in section 3, township 19 north, range 12 east, town of Leon to the dam in Poyssippi.

(c) Turtles may be taken from trout streams the year-round by the method commonly known as "hooking".

(7) It shall be unlawful to use goldfish or alewife in any form or manner for bait or to have goldfish or alewife in possession on the inland, boundary or Lake Superior waters of the state. Alewife but not goldfish may be possessed and used for bait in Lake Michigan waters.

(8) No person shall, except as otherwise expressly provided, set, place, use, operate or have in possession or under control any snag line or snag pole, snaghook or parts thereof or cluster of fish hooks that might be attached to same designed to be placed in or drawn through the water for the purpose of catching or drawing such hooks into the body of fish or used for that purpose; except that carp, but no other species or variety fish, may be taken by means of a gaff hook through the ice, sunrise to sunset, in the outlying and reserve water of Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

(9) No person shall use or have in his possession or under his control or maintenance in any of the inland waters of this state, any live box, crib or similar device except receptacles carried by or with the fisherman to contain his catch while fishing, that might be used for the keeping of fish unless he shall have securely attached thereto in such a manner as to be readable and legible at all times a tag of permanent material bearing the name and address of the owner or user.

(10) No person shall fish for trout in inland waters without a trout stamp of current issue with the signature of the licensee written in ink across its face and firmly affixed by its own adhesive to the back of a valid fishing or sportsman's license.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (d), (4) (a), (b) (c) and (e) and (7), cr. (1) (ee) and (g), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (2), renum. (3) (a), to (e) to be (4) (a) to (e) and am. eff. 4-30-76; r. (1) (ff) and (5) (b) 1, r. and recr. (2) and (3), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (c), (4) (b) and (e), (5) (a), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; cr. (10), Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 20.07, see the history as it appeared in January, 1975, Administrative Register.

**NR 20.08 Turtle traps.** A maximum of 5 hoop net turtle traps are allowed with a mesh of not less than 8 inch stretch measure providing such traps are so set that not less than 2 inches of the hoops extend above the surface of the water, and float and tank type turtle traps not exceeding 4 feet square or 4 feet in diameter may be used for trapping turtles. Each such trap while in use shall have attached thereto in such manner as to be visible and legible at all times, a metal tag bearing the name and address of the operator of such trap and it shall be unlawful for any other person to tend or operate such trap.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; renum. WCD 20.08 to be NR 20.08, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75.

**NR 20.09 Dip nets in inland and outlying waters.** (1) **GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.** Except as provided in this section and in sections NR 20.04, NR 20.10 and NR 20.11 no person shall set, use or operate any dip net in any of the inland or outlying waters of the state for taking, catching or killing any variety of fish. No person, while operating a dip net for rough fish, shall fish for fish in any other manner at that time and no person shall fish with hook and line from any boat that has a dip net attached. Only one dip net per person is permitted for the taking of smelt and minnows. Such dip net must be attended at all times while in use and such nets shall only be raised and lowered vertically when fishing.

(a) It is unlawful to sell, barter or trade in any manner any suckers taken pursuant to this section.

(2) **USE OF DIP NETS.** (a) *Definition.* Dip nets used for taking, catching, or killing rough fish shall be defined as follows: a piece of netting suspended from a round or square frame not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square.

(b) *Marinette and Oconto counties.* Not more than one dip net per person may be used at any time for the taking, catching, or killing of rough fish in Marinette and Oconto counties in all the streams and rivers flowing into Green Bay from a point 200 feet upstream from the mouth, and extending a distance of 15 miles inland in a straight line.

(c) *Brown, Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Sheboygan counties.* One dip net per person may be used all year for the taking, catching and killing of rough fish in all the nontrout designated streams and rivers, excluding lakes, flowing into Lake Michigan and Green Bay and in the counties of Brown, Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Sheboygan in that part of each such stream or river beginning at the mouth and extending upstream to a point 500 feet below the first dam located on such stream or river.

(d) *Fond du Lac county.* One dip net per person may be used, sunrise to sunset, from May 1 to March 15, for taking, catching or killing rough fish, except suckers, in that part of the Fond du Lac river in Fond du Lac county beginning at its mouth and extending upstream three miles.

(e) *Dodge and Jefferson counties.* One dip net per person may be used sunrise to sunset for the taking, catching or killing of rough fish all year in the following waters:

1. In the Rock river in Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties.
2. In the Crawfish river in Jefferson county.

3. In Beaver Dam lake in Dodge county.

4. In the Beaver Dam, Crawfish and Wildcat rivers in Dodge county.

5. In the Bark river and tributaries to Hebron dam and in creeks and tributaries of the Rock and Crawfish rivers in Jefferson county.

(f) *Calumet county*. One dip net per person may be used from April 25 to May 31, both dates inclusive for the removal of rough fish from that part of Lake Winnebago within a distance of 500 feet from the shoreline of Calumet county.

(g) A dip net not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used in all other waters except designated trout streams at any time of the year, sunrise to sunset, for the taking of rough fish with no bag or possession limit except for suckers and redhorse for which there is an aggregate daily bag limit of 50.

(3) SMELT. (a) Dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used at any time for the taking, catching or killing of smelt in all the streams and rivers flowing into Lake Michigan and the northern and southern parts of Green Bay, in that part of each of such streams beginning at or in the bay or lake and extending upstream to a point 500 feet below the first dam located on any such stream or a distance of five miles inland on any of such streams where no dam is located within five miles of the mouth.

(b) Dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square, may be used from April 1 to May 25 for the taking, catching, or killing of smelt and suckers in all streams flowing into Lake Superior in Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties and the Brule river in Douglas county from a point beginning at their mouths and extending inland for a distance of one-half mile in a straight line. Zoning does not apply on Bear creek, Bluff creek and Nemadji river, the St. Louis river and the other non-trout streams in Douglas county and in the waters of the Chippewa, Bad, and White rivers in Ashland county not inhabited by trout, or on streams where active sea lamprey control structures are located. The taking of rough fish by dip netting is permitted from April 1 to July 15 below the posted portion of a stream on which such an active lamprey control structure is located.

(c) Seines not more than 75 feet in length and not more than 6 feet in depth may be used from April 1 to May 25 for the taking, catching and killing of smelt and suckers in all the outlying waters except that portion of the Fox river in Brown county upstream from 1,500 feet below the dam in the city of De Pere.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to leave dip nets or seines unattended within 25 feet of the edge of waters named in (3) (a), (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) Dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used for the taking, catching or killing of smelt in Lake Lucerne, Forest county and the Flambeau lake chain, Vilas county, including

thoroughfares and tributary streams 200 feet upstream and downstream from the lake basins. The open and closed seasons shall be at the directive of the district director.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (2) (b), (d) and (e), and (3) (b), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) intro. par. and (2) (a), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59, am. (2) (f), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (2) (c), Register, December 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (1) intro. par.; (2) (c), (3) (a) and (c), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; cr. (2) (g), Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (2) (g), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; r. and recr. (1) (a) and (2) (g), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; am. (2) (b) and (c), Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; cr. (3) (d), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; renum. WCD 20.09 to be NR 20.09, am. (1) (intro. par.), Register, November, 1970, No. 170, eff. 1-1-71; am. (1) (e) and (1) (e) 1., Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1), (2) (b), (c) and (g) and cr. (3) (e), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 20.10 Minnow nets, traps, and seines.** (1) **USE LIMITED.** No persons shall set, use, or operate any minnow seine, minnow dip net or minnow traps in any of the inland waters of this state for taking, catching, or killing fish of any variety, other than as specified in this section.

(2) **BAG LIMIT.** It shall be unlawful for any person except licensed bait dealers to take in any waters in any one day more minnows than are specified in subsection (4) (c). The possession and transportation of minnows legally taken is permitted throughout the state.

(3) **INSECT LARVAE.** Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to take, gather or collect (or attempt to do so) for the use or sale as bait by himself or others any of the larvae or nymphs of aquatic insects in or from any stream or spring hole tributary thereto inhabited by trout. A licensed fisherman may take such larvae or nymphs from trout streams by hand during the trout season for his immediate personal use as bait in the stream from which taken and no such larvae or nymphs may be carried away from the stream from which taken.

(4) **INLAND WATERS.** (a) The following described gear only may be used for the taking of minnows for bait:

1. *Minnow seines.* Minnow seines shall not exceed 25 feet in length and 6 feet in depth flat measure and shall contain mesh not to exceed one-half inch stretch measure.

2. *Minnow dip nets.* Minnow dip nets shall be defined as follows: A piece of netting suspended from a round or square frame not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square.

3. *Minnow traps.* Minnow traps shall be of a length not greater than 24 inches and of a width not greater than 16 inches square or in diameter with an opening in the throat of the trap not larger than 1 ½ inches in diameter. Such traps shall have securely attached to them a label or tag clearly bearing in the English language the name and address of the operator. All minnow traps shall be raised and the minnows removed from them at least once in every 24 hours.

(b) It shall be unlawful to use minnow seines, minnow dip nets or minnow traps of any type or description in any inland streams or spring holes tributary thereto inhabited by trout except that not to exceed three minnow traps may be used in all trout streams during the open season for trout. Licensed bait dealers may use not more

than 20 traps without permits in all trout streams during the open season for trout.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person, except bait dealers licensed pursuant to section 29.137, Wis. Stats., to have in possession or under control more than 600 minnows at any time.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (4), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (2), (4) (a) 3 and (b), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (4) (a) 2., Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (4) (c), cr. (4) (d), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; r. and recr. (3), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (3) and (4) (a) 1., Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; r. and recr. (4) (a) 1., Register, November, 1965, No. 119; eff. 1-1-66; r. (4) (d), Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; renum. from WCD 20.10 to be NR 20.10, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. (4) (a) 2, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 20.11 Whitefish and cisco in inland waters.** (1) The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall apply to the use of all nets and seines used for taking whitefish and cisco.

(2) Cisco dip nets shall not exceed 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square and such seines shall not exceed 75 feet in length or 6 feet in depth and with a mesh not greater than 2 inches stretch measure.

(3) (a) The open season for fishing whitefish and cisco with such dip nets and seines in all inland waters except Lake Lucerne in Forest county shall be from the Saturday nearest October 10 to January 15.

(b) Dip nets only may be used for the taking of whitefish and cisco from Keyes lake in Florence county with a daily bag limit of 3 fish from the Saturday nearest October 10 to January 15.

(4) No person shall have in possession or under control at any time more than 25 pounds and 1 fish in aggregate of whitefish or cisco taken from inland waters.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (4), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (3), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (3) Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; renum. (3) to be (3) (a); cr. (3) (b), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; renum. from WCD 20.11 to be NR 20.11, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

**NR 20.12 Setlines and set or bank poles in inland waters.** (1) For the purpose of this section, a setline is defined as a line with a hook, or hooks (excluding stainless steel hooks) fastened to it and designed to be set and left in the water for the purpose of taking fish.