

ther state, may fish in any of the waters of the Mississippi river lying between the Chicago, Burlington Northern railroad tracks on the Wisconsin side of the river and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad tracks on the Minnesota side of the river, including all sloughs and backwaters, bays and newly-extended water areas connected with the main channel of the Mississippi river by a channel which is navigable at periods when the water is approximately equal to normal pool elevation as created by the U.S. Department of the Army, and in the waters of Lake St. Croix, and the St. Croix river and the St. Louis river as defined in s. NR 21.02 (16). This reciprocity applies only to sport fishing, spearfishing, dip netting, and the taking of minnows and crayfish for such fishing. (29.085, 29.16, 227.11)

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

NR 21.04 Sport fishing; seasons and limits. All regulations applicable to sport fishing are as follows unless expressly provided elsewhere in this chapter or the law. (23.11, 29.085)

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(1) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
(a) St. Louis river and St. Croix river downstream to the highway #10 bridge at Prescott	Saturday preceding Memorial Day to March 1	5 in aggregate	No size limit
(b) Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Continuous	5 in aggregate	No size limit
(2) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
(a) St. Louis river and St. Croix river downstream to Prescott	Saturday nearest May 1 to March 1	6 in aggregate	No size limit
(b) Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Continuous	6 in aggregate	No size limit
(3) NORTHERN PIKE			
(a) St. Louis river and St. Croix river downstream to Prescott	Saturday nearest May 1 to March 1	5	No size limit
(b) Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Continuous	5	No size limit
(4) WHITE OR YELLOW BASS, CRAPPIES, ROCK BASS, SUNFISH OR BLUE-GILLS AND PERCH			
(a) St. Louis river and St. Croix river downstream to the highway #10 bridge at Prescott	Continuous	25 of each	No size limit
(5) CATFISH			
(a) St. Louis river and St. Croix river downstream to the highway #10 bridge at Prescott	Continuous	10 in aggregate	No size limit
(b) Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Continuous	25 in aggregate	No size limit
(6) BULLHEADS			
(a) St. Croix and Mississippi rivers	Continuous	No bag limit	No size limit
(7) LAKE STURGEON			
(a) St. Croix and Mississippi rivers	Saturday nearest May 1 to October 31	1 per season	45 inches

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(b) St. Louis river (8) SHOVELNOSE STURGEON	No open season	—	—
(a) Mississippi river from the Red Wing dam upstream and the St. Croix and St. Louis rivers	Saturday nearest May 1 to October 31	1 per season	45 inches
(b) Mississippi river from the Red Wing dam downstream	Continuous	10	No size limit
(9) PADDLEFISH (SPOON-BILL CATFISH)	No open season	—	—
(10) ROUGH FISH (11) MUSKELLUNGE	Continuous	No bag limit	No size limit
(a) St. Louis river, St. Croix river and Mississippi river from Prescott downstream	Saturday nearest May 1 to March 1	1	30 inches
(12) CRAYFISH (29.415 - new)	May 1 to March 1	No bag limit	No size limit
(13) OTHER SPECIES	Inland regulations of adjoining counties as contained in NR 20, apply.		

(14) A person shall not possess or have under control more than the daily bag limit while fishing on the ice or in the waters of the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters. (29.085)

(15) A person shall not possess or have under control more than 2 times the daily bag limit when not on the waters or ice during the open season for each species. (29.085)

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79; am. (7) (a) and cr. (7) (b), Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88.

NR 21.05 Sale of fish. (1) Fish, other than rough fish during the open season, taken by hook and line, spear or bow and arrow shall not be sold, purchased, bartered, offered for sale, or under control or in possession for the purpose of sale or barter. (23.11, 29.135, 29.48, 227.11)

(2) Rough fish taken by other than commercial gear may be bought and sold during the open season. A wholesale fish dealer's license is required if such fish are sold to any person other than the final consumer. (23.11, 29.135, 29.48, 227.11)

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

NR 21.06 Sport fishing restrictions. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided, only the following methods or manners of fishing shall be lawful. Any person: (29.085)

(a) May fish for fish with no more than 3 hooks, baits or lures.

(b) May use dip nets 3 feet or less in diameter and a gaff only for the purpose of landing fish legally hooked. However, such dip nets may be used to remove winterkilled fish in those areas and at those times designated by the department by posting.

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(c) May take, catch, kill or fish for fish by means of trolling from a motor-driven boat, sailboat or other boats.

(d) May take rough fish by means of spear, bow and arrow or dip nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square only from sunrise to sunset from the Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1, except that the use of dip nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square for the taking of rough fish in the St. Croix river downstream to the St. Croix Falls dam is permitted from the Saturday nearest May 15 to June 30 each year.

(e) May only fish with a line or lines while they are attended.

(2) Sorting. Any fish taken and retained in possession that is not released freely into the water immediately after capture shall be considered part of the fisher's bag limit and shall not be released after such possession.

(3) Possession of illegal equipment. No spear, spring gaff or bow and arrow shall be possessed in a fish house (shanty). No person shall have in possession on the water or immediate banks of the water any spear, bow and arrow or similar device except during the open season.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79; am. (1) (a), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86.

NR 21.07 Ice fishing shelters. Buildings, vehicles, tents, fish shanties or similar enclosures may be used on the ice for fishing purposes on the Mississippi river, Lake St. Croix, the St. Croix river and St. Louis river as defined in s. NR 21.02 (16) from the time the ice forms; provided, however, that all such enclosures or shelters shall be removed from the ice on or before March 1 of each year. The door of any such enclosure or shelter must be equipped with a latch which will permit the door to be readily opened from the outside at all times while the enclosure or shelter is occupied. The name and residential address of the person owning such shelter or enclosure must be painted or permanently affixed in the English language on the outside of the structure with lettering a minimum of one inch square. Residents of Wisconsin or Minnesota angling from a fish house shall comply with the law of their respective states relative to licensing and identification of fish houses. Residents of states other than Wisconsin and Minnesota who hold a nonresident fishing license from either state must comply with the law of the issuing state relative to the licensing and identification of fish houses. (29.283, 29.085, 227.11)

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

PART 2. MINNOWS

NR 21.08 Minnow nets and traps. Only those minnow seines, minnow dip nets, cast nets, minnow traps or crayfish scoops described below and operated in the manner specified may be used for the taking of minnows: (23.11, 29.137, 29.085)

Type of Gear	Period Gear May Be Used	Specifications	Restrictions
(a) Seine	All year	Seines shall not exceed 50 feet in length and 8 feet in width flat measure and shall not contain mesh which exceeds one-half inch stretch measure.	
(b) Dip Net	All year	Dip nets shall consist of a square or round frame not to exceed 8 feet in diameter or square with netting suspended from it which when lifted makes a bag not to exceed 4 feet deep.	Dip nets may only be used by the method of raising or lowering them in a vertical direction.
(c) Traps	All year	Traps shall not exceed 24 inches in length and 16 inches in diameter with an opening in the throat of the trap no larger than one and one-half inches in diameter.	Traps must have securely attached to them a label or tag bearing the name and address of the owner in the English language. Traps must be raised and the minnows removed at least once a day between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset.
(d) Cast Net	All year	Cast nets shall not exceed 7 feet in diameter or mesh of more than one-half inch stretch measure.	
(e) Crayfish Scoop	All year	A metal frame covered with hardware cloth not to exceed 4 feet in length, 2 feet in width and 18 inches in depth. A handle of any length may be attached.	May be used to harvest crayfish, minnows and dragon fly larva.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

NR 21.09 Carp as bait. Live carp taken and possessed for the purpose of bait shall only be transported by boat or other floating conveyance while in possession on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters and by vehicle on and including state highway 35 and roads west from Victory, Vernon county to junction with federal highway 63 Pierce county. (23.11, 29.137, 227.11)

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

PART 3. COMMERCIAL FISHING

NR 21.10 Reciprocity. For the purpose of fishing under a commercial fishing license or taking turtles or tortoises, licensed persons from either Wisconsin or Minnesota shall have the privilege of fishing commercial gear or taking turtles between the banks of the channel of the Mississippi river containing the state line, Lake St. Croix and the St. Croix river. They may land their nets and setlines on the banks. The operation of commercial fishing gear in the bayous and sloughs beyond the banks of the channel of the Mississippi river which contains the state line, or the banks of Lake St. Croix and the St. Louis river as defined in section Register, December, 1987, No. 384