

Chapter NR 1

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD POLICIES

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NR 1.01 Management of fisheries and aquatic resources (1) To meet its responsibilities established by statute, department programs shall be based on scientific management principles which emphasize the protection, perpetuation, development, and use of all desirable aquatic species.

(2) The goal of fish management is to provide opportunities for the optimum use and enjoyment of Wisconsin's aquatic resources, both sport and commercial. A healthy and diverse environment is essential to meet this goal and shall be promoted through management programs.

(3) Aquatic resources include both nongame and game species of fish, other aquatic animals and their habitats. Endangered and threatened species form a special group that will be managed according to ch. NR 27 and s. 29.415, Stats.

(4) To assure its effectiveness, the management program shall be based upon a close working relationship among all functions of the department, other governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the public. The department will keep interested parties informed of policies, plans and management. To anticipate change and meet future demand, the department shall engage in long-range planning of management programs.

(5) Financing the department's fish and aquatic resource management program through, in large part, user fees, particularly license fees and

excise taxes on selected equipment purchased by sport and commercial fishers, is an established principle. Although user fees collected for a specific purpose are targeted at that purpose, they provide significant indirect benefits for a wide range of wildlife and users. When beneficiaries are a broader or different segment of the public, other funding sources will be sought.

(6) Wisconsin law enunciates a trust doctrine which secures the right of all Wisconsin citizens to quality, non-polluted waters and holds that waters are the common property of all citizens. Fish management programs will vigorously uphold the doctrine that citizens have a right to use in common the waters of the state and these waters shall be maintained free of pollution.

(7) With access to Wisconsin's lakes and streams a prerequisite for their use by the public, the acquisition and development of public access to waters should be accelerated, particularly in the more populous areas of the state.

(8) Wild and wilderness lakes and streams are a special and limited resource providing unique settings for enjoyment of fishing and other outdoor activities. Additional efforts are required to designate lakes and streams for this status. Special management methods that increase fishing quality shall be encouraged on these waters. Such methods may include trophy fishing, regulated harvest, special seasons, and controlled entry.

(9) Sport fishing should remain a true amateur sport which combines the pleasures and skills of angling with wildlife and scenic enjoyment, contemplation, and other subtle pleasures, not competition. Recent trends toward commercialization of sport fishing through contests and tournaments will be closely monitored. Appropriate action within the existing authority will be taken to control excesses.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80.

NR 1.015 Management of wildlife, preamble. (1) The conservation act (s. 23.09 (1), 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 fur-bearing mammals;
- (g) Establish resource management information and education programs; and

(e) In its liaison activities with federal, local and other state agencies and in the absence of regulatory authority, the department shall strongly recommend avoidance of wetland areas and concur with their use or alteration only when necessary to minimize the overall environmental impacts of a proposal. In such cases, the recommended amount of wetland use or alteration shall be held to the minimum.

(f) The department, in evaluating the wetland effects of proposed actions, shall not recognize the conveyance of land (or other consideration) to local units of government, the state of Wisconsin or the federal government as off-setting the adverse impacts of the proposal and shall only consider the net effects of the action by itself.

(g) The department shall ensure that its proposals for administrative rules and for legislation include appropriate provisions, consistent with this rule, except as otherwise provided by law.

(h) The department shall cooperate with appropriate governmental units, the public and private groups to further the protection and enhancement of wetlands and to provide opportunities for education on wetland values and ecology.

(i) For its activities subject to the requirements of this rule, the department shall establish procedures, within the existing decision-making framework, to cause evaluations to be made and decisions rendered in accordance with the standards described in sub. (5). The department shall also take steps to ensure that its decisions altering or affecting wetlands are documented and available for review. The department shall, in selecting a course of action, indicate how impacts on wetlands were considered in the decision-making process.

(7) **MONITORING AND REPORTING.** The board intends that the department shall evaluate and monitor its own progress in achieving the objectives of this rule and shall establish procedures, subject to board approval, for reporting such progress to the board.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1978, No. 267, eff. 4-1-78; r. and recr. Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; am. (4) (c) and cr. (4) (d), Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84.