

Chapter NR 22

WISCONSIN-IOWA BOUNDARY WATERS

NR 22.01 Purpose (p. 341)	Subchapter III — Commercial Fishing
NR 22.015 License waiver (p. 341)	NR 22.10 Boundary, commercial fishing (p. 345)
NR 22.02 Definitions (p. 341)	NR 22.11 Commercial fishing (p. 345)
Subchapter I — Sport Fishing	NR 22.12 Commercial fishing gear (p. 346)
NR 22.03 Reciprocity, sport fishing or spearing and dip netting (p. 342)	Subchapter IV — Turtles and Tortoises
NR 22.04 Sport fishing: seasons and limits (p. 343)	NR 22.13 Turtles and tortoises (p. 349)
NR 22.05 Sale of fish (p. 343)	Subchapter V — General Provisions
NR 22.06 Sport fishing (p. 343)	NR 22.14 Transportation (p. 350)
NR 22.07 Ice fishing shelters (p. 344)	NR 22.15 Taking of fish by and for the department (p. 350)
Subchapter II — Minnows	NR 22.16 Conflicting rules (p. 350)
NR 22.08 Minnow nets and traps (p. 344)	
NR 22.09 Carp as bait (p. 345)	

Note: Chapter NR 22 as it existed on March 31, 1982, was repealed and a new chapter NR 22 was created effective April 1, 1982.

**NR 22.01 Purpose.** (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates fishing in the Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters.

(2) The rules contained in this chapter are not intended, nor do they authorize introducing into interstate commerce for purposes of human consumption or use, fish taken from the Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters which fail to meet or comply with food and drug administration (FDA) standards.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.

**NR 22.015 License waiver.** (1) On the first Sunday in June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters.

(2) The license waiver of sub. (1) does not apply to commercial fishing license requirements.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; am. (1), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89.

**NR 22.02 Definitions.** Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purpose of this chapter, are defined as follows:

(1) "Closed season" means that period of the year not included in the open season for each species of fish as provided in this chapter.

(2) "Commercial fish" means species of rough and detrimental fish as defined in this chapter, shovelnose (hackleback) sturgeon 25 inches and over in length, catfish 15 inches or over in length or 12 inches or over dressed and bullheads of any length when taken with commercial fishing gear under a commercial fishing license.

(3) "Commercial fishing gear" or "commercial gear" means that equipment specifically authorized for use in commercial fishing by this chapter.

(4) "Commercial fishing licenses" means those licenses issued under ss. 29.34, 29.343, 29.36 and 29.37, Stats., authorizing commercial fish harvests.

(5) "Dressed fish" means fish with the head and viscera removed but the tail on.

(6) "Fisher" means any person engaged in fishing.

(7) "Length of fish" means unless otherwise specified, that distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the outermost end of the tail or caudal fin fully extended.

(8) "Minnows" mean all species defined as such in s. 29.01 (3) (a), Stats., and bullheads not exceeding 4 inches in length.

(9) "Possession limit" means double the daily bag limit.

(10) "Rough fish" means all species defined as such in s. 29.01 (3) (a), Stats., including grass carp which is also known as amur carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*).

(11) "Sport fishing" means any fishing, including the methods commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling conducted without a commercial fishing license and with other than commercial fishing gear.

(12) "Stretch measure" means the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified and is the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh with the mesh fully stretched. Such measurements shall apply to all nets except basket traps or slat nets.

(13) "Supervisor" means any department employe assigned or designated to oversee fishing activities conducted under this chapter.

(14) "Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters" means all waters from the burlington northern railroad tracks on the east side of the Mississippi river extending west from the railroad tracks to that part of the river following the boundaries between the states of Wisconsin and Iowa.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82; am. (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (2), Register, December, 1993, No. 456, eff. 1-1-94.

### Subchapter I — Sport Fishing

**NR 22.03 Reciprocity: sport fishing or spearing and dip netting.** Any person holding a hook and line fishing license issued by either Iowa or Wisconsin may fish in waters of the Mississippi river lying between the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad tracks on the Iowa side of the river, and the burlington northern railroad tracks lying on the Wisconsin 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 when the waters are approximately equal to the normal pool elevation as created by the U.S. army corps of engineers. This reciprocity applies only to hook and line fishing, spearing, dip netting, and the taking of minnows and crayfish for such fishing. Spearing and dip netting are prohibited within 200 feet of any U.S. army corps of engineers locks and dams. Residents of either Wisconsin or Iowa

Type of gear	Period of year may be used dates inclusive	Specifications	Restrictions
(1) Setline	All year	Each licensee is limited to 8 setlines with not to exceed a total of 50 hooks on each line or 4 setlines with not to exceed 100 hooks on each line, either not to exceed a total of 400 hooks in the aggregate.	<p>Frogs or game fish, or any part of, whether dead or alive, may not be used as bait in the Mississippi river.</p> <p>Lines shall be equipped with a metal tag stamped to designate the number of the license covering it attached to a buoy or stake at one end of the setline so it will be visible above the surface of the water.</p> <p>At one end of every licensed setline there shall be placed and maintained a white flag, not less than 16 inches square, with the upper end of the shaft extending at least 2 feet above the water and numbered with figures at least 3 inches in height corresponding with the number of the license authorizing the use of such setline. It shall be lawful to use buoys in lieu of flags providing that same are numbered with figures at least 3 inches in height corresponding with the number of the license authorizing the use of such setlines.</p> <p>Lines shall be lifted and fish removed at least once each day following the day set unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents.</p> <p>Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11.</p>
(2) Set or bank poles	All year	Not to exceed 5 set or bank poles.	<p>Frogs or game fish, or any part of, whether dead or alive, may not be used as bait in the Mississippi river.</p> <p>Each set or bank pole shall have securely attached a metal tag stamped with the number of the license covering the pole.</p> <p>Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.02 (2).</p>

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(3) Seine	All year	No size restriction	Licenses may not take more than 100 lbs. plus one fish of catfish per day, 15 inches or over in length from the Saturday nearest October 1 to April 30.
(4) Gill nets	All year	Only gill nets with a mesh of 7 inches stretch or larger used.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Gill nets may not be used as a drag seine or drift net at any time.  All gill nets shall be lifted and emptied of fish at least once each day between May 1 and September 1, at least once each 2-day period when set during the remaining open water period and at least once each 4 days when set under ice, unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents.
(5) Buffalo net	All year	No size restriction.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Shall be raised and emptied except for bait once each 4-day period unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents.
(6) Bait net	All year	Any size mesh not over 4 foot hoop front.  Lead or leads not allowed.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Shall be raised and emptied except for bait once each 4-day period unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents.
(7) Frame net	Sept. 1 thru June 1	Any size mesh not to exceed 4 x 8 foot front with a single lead.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Shall be raised and emptied once each 2-day period unless a longer period is authorized by the department or its agents.  Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11.

(8) Basket traps (Slat nets)	Saturday nearest May 1 thru Oct. 31	Not more than 6 feet in length and not more than 72 inches in circumference, over-all dimensions and with one end closed with webbing of a mesh not less than one and one-fourth inches bar or square measure. Such webbing shall be attached in such a manner that the length, depth or width of each mesh is not decreased	Each net shall have attached a metal tag stamped to designate the kind of net and the number of the license.  Restricted to the use of 50 nets per licensee.  All traps shall be lifted at least once every 2-day period, unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents. Nets may not be set within 100 feet of any muskrat or beaver house.  Any slat net found in the waters during the closed season and any slat net found on the Wisconsin banks or shores without a tag showing evidence of being used in the last 5 months shall be seized and held subject to the order of the court or judge under ss. 29.05 and 29.343, Stats. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. May be used in a drifting manner only.
(9) Trammel net (Drift)	All year	Not more than 300 feet in length. No mesh size restriction.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Licensed commercial fisher or crew shall be in attendance when net is fished. The harvest of catfish with a dead set trammel net is illegal. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11.
(10) Trammel net (Drive set)	All year	Not more than 300 feet in length with a mesh of 7 inches stretch or larger.	Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11. Licensed commercial fisher or crew shall be in attendance when net is fished. The harvest of catfish with a dead set trammel net is illegal. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22.11.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82; am. (1), Register, November, 1981, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (7), Register, December, 1993, No. 456, eff. 1-1-94.

**Subchapter IV — Turtles and Tortoises**

NR 22.13 Turtles and tortoises. All turtles taken with commercial gear or traps may be possessed and sold only upon compliance with the following conditions.

(1) A small game license or commercial fishing license shall be possessed to take, possess or have under control a turtle or tortoise.

(2) Snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) with a dorsal surface of the carapace or shell which measures less than 10 inches in length may not be possessed.

(3) Turtle traps constructed of webbing shall be of mesh size at least 6 inches stretch measure. Traps constructed of wire mesh shall have at least one square opening in the top panel measuring at least 4 inches on a side and one of the same dimensions near the bottom of each of the side panels.

(4) Turtle traps may be set in shallow waters only; tops of traps must extend a minimum of 2 inches above the water surface.

(5) Turtle traps shall be checked and turtles shall be removed at least one day following the day set.

(6) No individual may operate more than 40 traps.

(7) When in use, each turtle trap shall have the name of the owner attached or printed on the trap visible from above, bearing the address of the owner or operator. Such inscription shall be of dimensions no less than 2½ inches in length and 5/8 inches in width.

(8) No person other than the operator or owner identified on the trap tag may tend or operate a turtle trap or remove a turtle from it.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.

### Subchapter V — General Provisions

**NR 22.14 Transportation.** Any properly licensed resident or nonresident holder of an angling or commercial fishing license from the state of Iowa having lawfully taken fish or turtles in the boundary waters described in this chapter during the open season may land on the Wisconsin side of the boundary waters and personally transport fish to the state of Iowa by the most direct practicable route.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.

**NR 22.15 Taking of fish by and for the department.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits the department by contract or otherwise from carrying out its management of the boundary waters as required by the law or department policy.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.

**NR 22.16 Conflicting rules.** Where there are differences in elements of the boundary waters regulations of Iowa and Wisconsin, anglers and commercial fishers shall comply with the regulations of the state in whose territorial waters they are fishing.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.