

Chapter NR 20

FISHING: INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

NR 20.01 Purpose; general restriction. Seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other regulations for fishing in Wisconsin waters are established in this chapter. No person may take, catch, kill or fish for fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit, by means other than hook and line, during other than the open season or possess or control any fish in excess of the possession limit or below the minimum size limit, except as expressly provided in this chapter.

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; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1984, No. 340; r. and recr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

NR 20.0125 License waiver. (1) On the first Sunday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the inland or outlying 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 20.015 Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Artificial fly" means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(2) "Artificial lure" means a bait designed to attract fish which does not include any natural bait.

(2d) "Attached", for the purpose of s. 29.148 (4), Stats., means affixed to the sturgeon carcass immediately in front of the tail.

- (2m) "Business day" has the meaning given it in s. 421.301 (6), Stats.
- (2r) "Current validated sturgeon carcass tag", for the purpose of s. 29.148 (4), Stats., means an unused tag of the current year validated according to the requirements of s. NR 20.18 (2).
- (3) "Fisher" means any person engaged in fishing.
- (4) "Fishing" includes taking, capturing or killing fish or fishing for fish of any variety at any time in the waters of the state.
- (4a) "Muskellunge" means fish of the species *Esox masquinongy* and includes muskellunge - northern pike hybrids.
- (5) "Green Bay" means those waters of Lake Michigan located to the west of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (6) "Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means a line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 33, T33N, R29E; then running northeasterly to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; then running along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; then running northerly to the southwesterly point on Shellswick dock, which is located on Lobdell's point on Washington island; then running along Shellswick dock to the shoreline of Lobdell's point; then running along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light; then running north to its terminus at the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.
- (7) "Lake Michigan" means those waters of Lake Michigan located east of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (8) "Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.
- (8m) "Position fishing" means fishing from a boat in a manner where the fishing line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by the use of a motor.
- (9) "Safe harvest" means a level of harvest that incorporates an appropriate margin of safety, estimates of the population and acceptable exploitation rates which will reasonably prevent harvest of more than 35% of the population of adult walleyes or 27% of the population of adult muskellunge. The margin of safety assures that the true safe harvest is not exceeded in more than 1 of 40 cases. For waters where a population estimate has not been made, a regression model based upon population estimates from other waters will be used. The margin of safety used depends upon the age of the population estimate was made and whether a regression model was used.
- (10) "Secretary" means secretary of the department of natural resources.
- (11) "Setline" means a line with one or more hooks fastened to it and designed to be set or left unattended in the water for the purpose of taking fish.
- (12) "Set or bank pole" means a pole equipped with line with one or more hooks fastened to it, designed to be used for fishing from the banks of lakes or rivers and set or left unattended.

the varieties of fish taken, and any other information pertaining to their fishing activities required by the department.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73; am., Register, June, 1974, No. 222, eff. 7-1-74.

NR 20.18 Sturgeon spearing. (1) **POSSESSION OF EQUIPMENT.** No person may have in possession or under control any spear or similar device in any building, tent, shanty or similar enclosure on the ice or waters of Lakes Buttes des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan, except during the specified spearing season, or on the ice or waters and tributaries of the Wolf river from the lower dam at Shawano downstream to Poygan, the Embarrass river from Pella dam downstream to the Wolf river, in the Schioc river from the Outagamie-Shawano county line downstream to its confluence with the Wolf river, the Little Wolf river from Manawa Dam downstream to the Wolf river, the Fox river from milepost No. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek, in Green Lake county to the Princeton dam downstream to Lake Butte des Morts during the open sturgeon spearing season.

(2) **STURGEON TAG.** (a) *Tags.* A sturgeon carcass tag shall be issued with each sturgeon spearing license and shall remain intact until the spearer spears a sturgeon. While sturgeon spearing, no person may possess a validated sturgeon carcass tag unless it is attached to a legally killed sturgeon.

(b) *Validation.* Any person who spears a sturgeon shall immediately validate the sturgeon carcass tag by slitting the marks designating the month, day, length of fish, time and location of kill. Failure to completely validate the sturgeon carcass tag renders the possession of the sturgeon illegal and the sturgeon carcass tag invalid.

(3) **TRANSPORTATION.** No person may 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 sub. (4) unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and in such manner so that the sturgeon carcass tag attached to the sturgeon cannot be handled or manipulated by any occupant of the vehicle.

(4) **RECORDING STURGEON.** (a) *Registration.* Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit the sturgeon, with the person's sturgeon carcass tag attached as required by s. 29.148, Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station. Sturgeon shall be intact and registered at a station on Lake Winnebago if speared in Lake Winnebago. Sturgeon shall be intact and registered at a station on Lake Butte des Morts, Winneconne or Poygan if speared in Lake Butte des Morts, Winneconne or Poygan. Sturgeon shall be exhibited at a sturgeon registration station not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day speared. The registration tag shall remain attached and locked to the sturgeon until the carcass is prepared for final consumption.

(b) *Registration tagging.* Upon verification of license information, the station operator shall:

1. Complete and retain the registration portion of the sturgeon's license.

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2. Lock a registration tag to the carcass immediately in front of the tail.

3. Remove the validation portion of the sturgeon carcass tag leaving the remainder of the sturgeon carcass tag attached to the sturgeon.

History: Cr. (1), (2) and (4), (3) renum. from NR 20.03 (2) (c) and am., Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93.