

## Chapter NR 25

### COMMERCIAL FISHING IN OUTLYING WATERS AND WHOLESALE FISH DEALERS

#### Subchapter I — General Provisions

- NR 25.01 Purpose.
- NR 25.02 Definitions.
- NR 25.022 Lake trout tagging and identification.
- NR 25.025 Vehicle identification requirements.

#### Subchapter II — Commercial Fishing — Outlying Waters

- NR 25.027 Definitions.
- NR 25.03 Commercial fishing licenses.
- NR 25.04 Transfer of commercial fishing licenses.
- NR 25.05 Open seasons; size limits; possession and harvest limits.
- NR 25.06 Quotas, catch fees and special regulations.
- NR 25.07 Individual licensee catch quotas.
- NR 25.08 Transfer of individual licensee catch quotas.
- NR 25.09 Commercial fishing gear.

- NR 25.10 Restricted commercial fishing areas.
- NR 25.102 Commercial fishing in southern Green Bay.
- NR 25.105 Exemptions.
- NR 25.11 Handling of illegal fish.
- NR 25.12 Processing of fish.
- NR 25.13 Commercial fishing reports.
- NR 25.135 Fleet reporting programs.
- NR 25.14 Possession of fishing equipment.
- NR 25.15 Taking of fish by or for the department.
- NR 25.18 Landing and transportation of fish.

#### Subchapter III — Wholesale Fish Dealers

- NR 25.20 Definition.
- NR 25.21 Wholesale fish dealer reports.

**Note:** Chapter NR 25 as it existed on September 30, 1976, was repealed and a new chapter NR 25 was created effective October 1, 1976. Corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register, December, 1998, No. 516](#).

#### Subchapter I — General Provisions

**NR 25.01 Purpose.** (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates commercial fishing in outlying waters and wholesale fish dealers doing business in Wisconsin.

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

(2m) The following shall apply to any agreements relating to the allocation or management of Lake Superior resources which are entered into between the department and a tribe or tribes with reserved treaty rights in the Lake Superior commercial fishery:

(a) The department shall assess implementation of any agreements and any experimental regulations established by the agreements using factors including scientific data, biological indicators, and metrics related to the health, safety, and welfare of users.

(b) In the event the department determines the sustainability of any Lake Superior resource or the health, safety and welfare of its users are or are likely to be jeopardized, the department shall take action to address the department's concerns, including good faith negotiation or the modification or termination of any agreement, in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

**Note:** In December 2018, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources entered into an agreement relating to the allocation and management of Lake Superior fishing resources ("the Agreement"). The Agreement contains provisions applicable to both tribal treaty fishers and non-tribal commercial fishers in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior. For tribal members, the Agreement provisions are enforceable through tribal codes adopted by the Tribes. For non-tribal members, the state's regulations have been amended to be consistent with applicable provisions in the Agreement. Biological representatives of the state and the two tribes have identified specific goals for assessing state and tribal commercial fishing seasons under the Agreement. Those specific goals are reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary. The Agreement contains provisions for modification or, if necessary, for termination for any reason by any party. Grounds for amendment or termination include, but are not limited to, adverse conditions which, in the opinion of any party, could jeopardize the sustainability of the Lake Superior resources or the health, safety, and welfare of resource users.

(3) Except as modified by an agreement with the tribe of the treaty fisher, the following sections of this chapter are applicable to treaty fishers fishing in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior:

- (a) Section [NR 25.02](#).
- (ag) Section [NR 25.022](#).
- (ar) Section [NR 25.027](#).
- (b) Section [NR 25.05](#).
- (c) Section [NR 25.06](#).
- (d) Section [NR 25.09](#).
- (e) Section [NR 25.10](#).
- (f) Section [NR 25.105](#).
- (g) Section [NR 25.11](#).
- (h) Section [NR 25.12](#).
- (i) Section [NR 25.13](#).
- (k) Section [NR 25.21](#).

**History:** Cr. [Register, September, 1976, No. 249](#), eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. [Register, October, 1979, No. 286](#), eff. 11-1-79; emerg. cr. (3), eff. 4-22-86; cr. (3), [Register, October, 1986, No. 370](#), eff. 11-1-86; emerg. am. (3) (intro.), eff. 3-10-87; am. (3) (intro.), [Register, December, 1987, No. 384](#), eff. 1-1-88; [CR 19-103](#): cr. (2m) [Register July 2020 No. 775](#), eff. 8-1-20; [CR 23-008](#): am. (1), cr. (3) (ag), (ar), r. (3) (j), am. (3) (k) [Register October 2023 No. 814](#), eff. 11-1-23.

**NR 25.02 Definitions.** Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, are defined as follows:

(3) "Chunked" means fish from which the viscera, head and tail have been removed.

(6) "Commercial fish" is any species of game or rough fish for which an open season has been provided in s. [NR 25.05](#).

(7) "Commercial fisher" means a person required to obtain a license under s. [29.519 \(1m\)](#), Stats.

(11) "Condition of the fish" or "description of the fish" means the form that fish are in, and includes but is not limited to fresh round, fresh dressed, frozen dressed, fresh fillet, frozen fillet, fresh chunked, frozen chunked, smoked dressed, smoked fillet, smoked chunked, fresh snipped or frozen snipped.

(12) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of natural resources.

(15) "Domestic lake trout" means a lake trout taken from the waters of the state, but not from a fish farm registered with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.

(16) "Dressed fish" means fish from which only the viscera have been removed.

(23) "Fillet" means the slab side of fish from which the viscera, head, tail and bones have been removed, except for the pin bones, which may or may not have been removed.

(24) “Final consumer” means the last or ultimate person who obtains a fish for its final use for eating or otherwise.

(25) “Final consumption” means the last or ultimate use of a fish by eating or otherwise.

(26) “Fish” means any processed or unprocessed fish of those species which are found in the waters of the state as defined in s. 281.01 (18), Stats., including parts of fish, fish eggs or fish products.

(28) “Fisher” means any person engaged in fishing.

(31) “Foreign lake trout” means lake trout harvested outside of Wisconsin and imported into the state.

(34) “Illegal fish” means any fish taken, possessed or controlled in violation of this chapter or a statute, including fish that have not been reported or for which a record has not been created as required.

(36) “Import” includes the transport of fish by a common carrier or out-of-state fish dealer or producer into the state, or at the request of a licensed wholesale fish dealer, but does not include fish being transported through the state to a destination in another state.

(39) “License year” means that period from January 1 through December 31.

(51) “Pounds” means the avoirdupois weight in pounds of fish in the round with head, gills and viscera intact, except with respect to chubs sorted for human consumption, menominee and whitefish, where it means the avoirdupois weight in pounds of dressed fish.

(52) “Purse seine” means a net which consists of a wall or modified wall of net which is used to encircle fish. The top of the net is fitted with floats while the bottom is weighted. A line threaded through rings under the net allows fishers to close the bottom of the net, thus trapping fish in the enclosure so produced.

(53) “Record” has the meaning given it in s. 29.503 (1) (cm), Stats.

(56) “Snipped” means headless with viscera partially removed.

(62) “Stretch measure” means the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified. Stretch measure means the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renun. (6) to (18) to be (7) to (19), (19) to (21) to be (22) to (24), (22) to be (21), cr. (6) and (20), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; renun. (8) to (14) to be (10) to (16), (15) to be (18), (16) to (18) to be (20) to (22), (19) to (24) to be (24) to (29), cr. (8), (9), (17), (19) and (23), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; renun. (16) to (29) to be (17) to (30), cr. (16), Register, June, 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; am. (20), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; renun. (16) to (30) to be (15) to (31) and cr. (16), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. cr. (32), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. cr. (23f), (23i), (23r), (23x), (27f), (27i), (27r), and (27k), eff. 5-5-86; cr. (12m), (12t), (16m), (23m) and (32), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; cr. (28m), Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (7g), (7n), (23g), (33) to (35), am. (14), (21) and (25), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. r. (12m) and (28m), eff. 4-1-91; r. (12m) and (28m), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (21), Register, April, 1997, No. 496, eff. 5-1-97; am. (25), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99; am. (25), Register, December, 2000, No. 540, eff. 1-1-01; correction in (19) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register July 2006 No. 607; reprinted to correct error in (35) Register February 2007 No. 614; correction in (16) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register February 2007 No. 614; CR 08-060: am. Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; correction in (44) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register June 2009 No. 642; CR 09-016: am. (39) Register January 2010 No. 649, eff. 2-1-10; CR 13-001: am. (8), (9), (46) Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13; CR 15-074: cr. (18m), r. (50) Register May 2016 No. 725, eff. 6-1-16; CR 16-061: cr. (3m) Register September 2017 No. 741, eff. 10-1-17; CR 19-091: am. (39) Register March 2020 No. 771, eff. 4-1-20; CR 19-134: cr. (9m), am. (66) Register April 2020 No. 772, eff. 5-1-20; correction in (9m) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register April 2020 No. 772; EmR1923: emerg. cr. (2m), (69m), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: cr. (2m), (69m) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; CR 23-008: renun. (1), (2), (2m), (3m), (4), (5), (8) to (10) to be NR 25.027 (1) to (10), am. (11), renun. (13), (14), (17) to (22), (27), (29), (30), (32), (33), (35), (37), (38), (40) to (49), (54), (55), (57), (59) to (61), (63) to (72) to be NR 25.027 (1) to (24), (26) to (56) Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.02.

## NR 25.022 Lake trout tagging and identification.

(1) IMPORTING FOREIGN LAKE TROUT. (a) No person may import or cause to be imported into Wisconsin any foreign lake trout by means of a boat authorized to be used under a license issued pursuant to s. 29.519 (1m), Stats.

(b) No wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish may sell, buy, barter, trade, possess, control, transport or cause to be transported any domestic lake trout unless the fish is tagged with a valid, current commercial fish tag issued or authorized by the department. The tag shall be attached through the gills and mouth of whole or dressed lake trout. Producers of fish and their crew members may not possess filleted or chunked domestic lake trout on the ice or on board a boat.

(c) All commercial fish tags issued or authorized by the department or by a governmental agency of another state or country, when severed from the lake trout are considered state property and may be claimed by the department within one year of the date they were severed.

(2) FILLETED, PORTIONED OR SMOKED DOMESTIC LAKE TROUT. Lawfully possessed domestic lake trout which are intended for smoking, portioning or filleting may have the tags removed immediately prior to smoking, portioning or filleting.

(3) USED TAGS. (a) When lawfully possessed, lake trout which were tagged with a commercial fish tag issued or authorized by the department or by a governmental agency of another state or country and imported into this state are sold at retail or to a retail outlet, the wholesale fish dealer shall remove and retain the commercial fish tags. The department may reclaim such tags within one year at the wholesale fish dealer's place of business.

(b) No person may reuse any commercial fish tag issued or authorized by the department or by a governmental agency of another state or country.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; CR 08-060: am. (title), (1) (title), (a), (2) (title) and (3) (b), r. and recr. (1) (b), r. (1) (c) to (e) and (2) (b) to (e), renun. (1) (f) and (2) (a) to be (1) (c) and (2) and am., Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 23-008: renun. from NR 25.16 Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

**NR 25.025 Vehicle identification requirements.** As required under s. 29.503 (4) (e), Stats., no wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish may transport or cause to be transported any fish unless the transporting vehicle or boat is clearly marked on each side of the vehicle or boat with the word “FISH” in letters of block characteristic at least 4 inches high and of contrasting color with the background, and the correct business name of the wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish in letters one inch high, all in the English language.

**History:** CR 08-060: cr. Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 23-008: renun. from NR 25.19 Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

## Subchapter II — Commercial Fishing — Outlying Waters

**NR 25.027 Definitions.** Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, in this subchapter:

(1) “Allouez Bay” means that body of water in Douglas county lying south of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 29, township 49 north, range 13 west, and running due east in a straight line to the water's edge on north line of section 28, same township and range.

(2) “Baileys Harbor” means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most southerly point in section 21, township 30 north, range 28 east at N45°03.303', W87°05.526', and running in a straight line west-

Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.

erly to the south line of section 20, same township and range at N45°03.294', W87°07.505'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(3) "CPE" means catch-per-unit-of-effort, which is the average number of fish caught per 1,000-foot lift of gill net or per lift of trap net, and includes all dead and live fish.

(4) "Cisco" means the fish species commonly known as lake herring or as cisco.

(5) "Closed area" means any area designated as a refuge by rule or statute, or any area where fishing is restricted in any manner by rule.

(6) "Closed season" means that period of the year not embraced within the open season for each species of fish therefor as provided in s. NR 25.05 (1) during which the taking of the fish species enumerated is prohibited.

(7) "Commercial fishing" means fishing for fish regulated by this chapter with commercial gear or methods other than those commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling, the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.20, or the taking of minnows.

(8) "Commercial fishing gear" or "commercial gear" is that equipment identified in or regulated by this chapter.

(9) "Commercial fishing license" means, for the purposes of s. 29.503 (2) (b), Stats., those licenses issued pursuant to ss. 29.519, 29.523, 29.526, 29.529, 29.531, 29.533, and 29.535, Stats.

(10) "Commercial ice fishing" means the setting and operating of commercial fishing gear through and from the surface of the ice.

(11) "Detroit Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most southerly point in section 14, township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°20.016', W86°56.451', and running in a straight line to the most southerly point in section 18, township 33 north, range 30 east at N45°20.054', W86°54.139'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(12) "Diverter" means a type of commercial fishing gear inside a trawl net before the cod end, used to sort fish by size, through which all fish caught must pass and which diverts larger fish out of the net.

(13) "Eagle Harbor" means that body of water in Door county south and east of a line drawn from the most northeast point in section 9, township 31 north, range 27 east at N45°10.496', W87°13.340', easterly to the water's edge on the north line of section 12, same township and range at N45°11.140', W87°09.679'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(14) "Egg Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 26, township 30 north, range 26 east at N45°03.245', W87°18.005', and running in a straight line east to the north line of section 25, same township and range at N45°03.265', W87°16.938'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(15) "Electronic communication device" means a device with access to the internet or local networks capable of storing or replicating data on a hard drive, transmitting data over a network, displaying data on a screen, and recording data via an input apparatus.

(16) "Electronic fish reporting system" means a system established or authorized by the department for reporting daily

commercial fishing activity and other required information to the department by electronic means.

(17) "Encircling nets" means purse seines as defined in sub. (52), and seines as described in s. 29.522 (3), Stats.

(18) "End of the day" means 11:59 p.m. of the day the fish are landed.

(19) "Entrapping nets" means trap nets as defined in sub. (48), and entrapping nets as described in s. 29.522 (1), Stats.

(20) "Fish Creek" means that body of water in Door county lying south and east of a line commencing at the most northerly point in the southwest quarter of section 29, township 31 north, range 27 east at N45°07.925', W87°14.926', and running northeasterly in a straight line to the water's edge on the north line of that section, township and range at N45°08.480', W87°14.505'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(21) "Fleet reporting program" means a program of catch assignment and reporting under s. NR 25.135.

(22) "Float plan" means a description of the day's proposed commercial fishing activity that includes the commercial fisher's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, date and intended time of leaving the pier or shore for commercial fishing activity, targeted species, port of departure, intended port of return, intended time of return, and the type of commercial fishing gear involved.

(23) "Harvest limit", "harvest quota", "total allowable annual commercial harvest", or "the total allowable commercial harvest" means the total number of pounds of fish as established in this chapter which may be landed in a license year from the outlying waters or any portion thereof, except as otherwise prescribed in this chapter.

(24) "High value species" means whitefish when a commercial fisher's whitefish individual catch quota in any zone is less than 13,656 pounds and yellow perch.

(25) "Home use fisher" means an enrolled tribal member of either the Bad River or Red Cliff band of Chippewa Indians exercising off-reservation fishing rights in Lake Superior recognized by *State v. Gurnoe*, 53 Wis. 2d 390 (1972), who takes fish for non-commercial disposition, including consumption by the member or member's family or donation for charitable purposes.

(26) "Immediate family" means the spouse, children by birth or adoption, parents or siblings.

(27) "Incapacity" means the inability to communicate in any manner, hospitalization with a terminal illness or terminal injuries as certified by a licensed physician, or an adjudication of incompetency as defined in s. 54.10 (3), Stats.

(28) "Jackson Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying south and west of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 27, township 34 north, range 30 east at N45°24.061', W86°50.876', and running in a straight line northwesterly to the most easterly point in the northeast quarter of section 28, same township and range at N45°24.226', W86°51.141'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(29) "Licensed commercial fisher" means a person currently licensed under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats.

(30) "Little Sturgeon Bay" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 35, township 28 north, range 24 east at N44°51.098', W87°33.022', and running in a northeasterly direction to the most northerly point in section 36, same township and range at N44°51.486', W87°31.900'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.



(31) “Lost net” means a commercial fishing net that cannot be located by the commercial fisher within 24 hours after the net was required to be lifted or a commercial fishing net that is missing or was stolen, regardless of the net’s last known location.

(32) “Moonlight Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying north and west of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 15, township 30 north, range 28 east at N45°04.403′, W87°04.823′, and running in a straight line northeasterly to the most southerly point in section 14, same township and range at N45°04.706′, W87°03.909′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(33) “Non-work days” for a commercial fisher licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., means Sundays, January 1 (New Year’s Day), third Monday in January (Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday), Good Friday, last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4<sup>th</sup> (Independence Day), first Monday in September (Labor Day), fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve), December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day) and December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year’s Eve).

(34) “North Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 35, township 31 north, range 28 east at N45°07.492′, W87°03.455′, and running in a straight line to the west line of section 25, same township and range at N45°08.200′, W87°03.017′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(35) “Northern and southern Green Bay line” means that line described as a line in Green Bay drawn from the most northerly point of Friedmann’s point at Fish creek at N45°07.925′, W87°14.926′, located in the southwest quarter of section 29, township 31 north, range 27 east, Door county; thence northwesterly to the most southeasterly point of Chambers island at N45°09.505′, W87°19.714′; thence along the southwest shoreline to the most southwesterly point of Chambers island at N45°10.680′, W87°22.608′; thence due west to the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line at N45°10.680′, W87°24.775′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(36) “Northern chub fishing zone” means those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, and east of a line from the point where the line extending on a 135° bearing from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor intersects the 35 fathom contour, to the easternmost point of Rock Island at N45°24.454′, W86°48.313′, then following the northeast shore of Rock Island to the northernmost point of Rock Island at N45°25.709′, W86°49.691′, then proceeding north to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line at N45°26.648′, W86°49.691′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(37) “Northern Green Bay” means those waters of Green Bay lying north of the northern and southern Green Bay line.

(38) “Northern Green Bay-Lake Michigan line” means that line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 29, township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°17.443′, W86°58.647′; thence in a northeasterly direction to the range light (signal light) on Plum island at N45°18.225′, W86°57.298′; thence along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station at N45°18.782′, W86°56.877′; thence northerly to the southwesterly point of Shellswick dock at N45°20.016′, W86°56.451′, which is located on Lodbell’s point on Washington island; thence along this dock to the shoreline of Lodbell’s point; thence along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer’s Bluff light at

N45°25.211′, W86°56.189′; thence due north to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line at N45°26.648′, W86°56.362′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(39) “Riley’s Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 36, township 28 north, range 24 east at N44°51.486′, W87°31.900′, and running in a northeasterly direction to the most northerly point in section 30, township 28 north, range 25 east at N44°52.369′, W87°31.007′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(40) “Rowley’s Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the water’s edge on south line of section 25, township 32 north, range 28 east at N45°12.535′, W87°01.954′ and running southeasterly to the most southerly point in section 32, township 32 north, range 29 east at N45°12.695′, W87°00.158′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(41) “Southern chub fishing zone” means those waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.459′, W87°29.522′ to its intersection with the 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour, then proceeding northerly along the 45 fathom depth contour to its intersection with a line extending east from the entrance of Algoma harbor at N44°36.397′, W87°25.792′, then proceeding east along a line from the entrance of Algoma harbor at N44°36.397′, W87°25.792′ to its intersection with the Wisconsin-Michigan state line at N44°36.397′, W86°48.390′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(42) “Southern Green Bay” means those waters of Green Bay lying south of the northern and southern Green Bay line, including the Fox river as far as the dam at DePere, and westerly of the Southern Green Bay — Lake Michigan line.

(43) “Southern Green Bay — Lake Michigan line” means that line commencing at a point on the southwest shore of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal directly beneath the center of the Wisconsin public service company power line and extending in a northeasterly direction directly beneath and parallel to the center of the power line to a point on the northeast shore of the ship canal, all located in NE1/4 NW1/4, section 22, township 27 north, range 26 east, Door county.

(44) “St. Louis Bay” means that body of water in Douglas county lying between a line commencing at the most northerly point of section 10, township 49 north, range 14 west, running due north to the Minnesota boundary, and the north line of sections 20 and 21, running due west to the Minnesota boundary.

(45) “Standard fish box” means any container with outer dimensions no greater than 18 inches in width, 32 inches in length and 12 inches in depth used or designed for holding fish.

(46) “Sturgeon Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying south and east of a line commencing at the most northerly point of section 23, township 28 north, range 25 east at N44°53.582′, W87°26.043′, and running in a northeasterly direction to the water’s edge on north line of section 13, same township and range at N44°54.451′, W87°24.390′.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(47) “Superior Bay” means that body of water in Douglas county lying south and east between Minnesota point and the main land of Douglas county extending from a line drawn from the most southerly point in section 20, township 49 north, range 13 west, to the most northerly point in section 29, same township and range.

(48) “Trap net” means a device constructed of netting, which may employ wings or wings and leads, directing the movement of fish through a tunnel of netting into inner hearts or built-in fore-bays wherein they are trapped by their own movement. Such nets may be referred to as shallow trap nets, submarine trap nets or deep water trap nets but shall not include drop nets or fyke nets.

(49) “Trawl” means a large conical bag of netting to which are often attached wings of netting, which is towed in the water and weighted such that its sweep line maintains contact with the bottom throughout the drag, and captures fish by scooping rather than encircling them. The mouth of the bag is normally kept open laterally by 2 large boards, one on each side so rigged that they serve to spread the entire net, and these boards are secured to towing lines running to the vessel or vessels engaged in towing the net through the water.

(50) “Treaty fisher” means an enrolled tribal member of either the Bad River or Red Cliff bands of Chippewa Indians exercising off-reservation commercial fishing rights in Lake Superior recognized by *State v. Gurnoe*, 53 Wis. 2d 390 (1972).

(51) “Washington Harbor” means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the water’s edge on the north line of section 25, township 34 north, range 29 east at N45°24.344’, W86°55.714’, and running in a straight line easterly to the water’s edge on the north line of section 25, same township and range at N45°24.357’, W86°55.014’.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(52) “West Harbor” means that body of water in Door county and adjoining water in sections 2, 10 and 11, township 33 north, range 29 east, lying east of a line starting at the most northwesterly point of land in section 10 of township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°21.511’, W86°57.224’, and running in a northerly direction to the most northwesterly point of land in section 2, township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°22.453’, W86°57.077’.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(53) “WI-1” and “WI-2” mean Wisconsin Statistical Districts 1 and 2 as defined in the Lake Trout Management Plan of the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The line between the districts extends due north from the northernmost tip of Bark Point at N46° 53.21’, W91°11.16’ with WI-1 waters to the west and WI-2 waters east to the Michigan border.

(54) “Zone 1” means all waters in southern Green Bay.

(55) “Zone 2” means all waters in northern Green Bay and all Lake Michigan waters north of a line running due east from the eastern shore of Door county along 44° 40’ north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state boundary at N44°40.000’, W86°46.820’.

(56) “Zone 3” means all waters of Lake Michigan south of a line running due east from the eastern shore of Door county along 44° 40’ north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state boundary at N44°40.000’, W86°46.820’.

**History:** CR 23-008: cr. (title), (intro.), renum. (1) to (24) from NR 25.02 (1), (2), (2m), (3m), (4), (5), (8), (9), (9m), (10), (13), (14), (17) to (22), (27), (29), (30), (32), (33) and, as renumbered, am. (3), (8), (24), cr. (25), renum. (26) to (55) from NR 25.02 (35), (37), (38), (40) to (49), (54), (55), (57) to (61), (63) to (72) *Register* October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23; correction in (19) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., *Register* October 2023 No. 814.

**NR 25.03 Commercial fishing licenses.** (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) 1. Not more than 10, subject to subd. 2., licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Superior may be issued for each license year except that this section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying

waters under permit or contract issued under s. 29.417 or 29.421, Stats.

2. Notwithstanding the total number of licenses established in subd. 1., the department may issue up to 21 licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Superior if required by the terms of cooperative agreements between the department and persons licensed during the 1995-1996 license year.

3. A person may hold more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., for commercial fishing on Lake Superior, if the person meets the criteria of par. (b) for each license separately.

**Note:** The Wisconsin Attorney General and the Department of Natural Resources interpret *LeClair et al. v. Natural Resources Board and DNR*, 168 Wis. 2d 227 (Ct. App. 1992), (review denied June 2, 1992) and prior cases to hold that commercial fishing licenses and quotas do not establish property rights and are subject to the full regulatory authority of the state. By voluntarily withdrawing from the commercial fishery in conjunction with the creation of this subdivision and the amendment of ss. NR 25.03 (1) (a) and 25.06 (1) (a) 2., (effective February 1, 1997), participating commercial fishers acknowledge this interpretation and agree to cooperate in reducing the size of the commercial fishery while enhancing the lake trout fishery of Lake Superior.

(b) Applications for licenses authorizing commercial fishing on Lake Superior which have been filed in accordance with sub. (3) shall be reviewed, and approved or denied, pursuant to the following criteria:

1. The applicant shall show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment not to include vehicles other than those directly employed in operating nets.

2. Any applicant failing to meet the criteria of this paragraph will not be eligible to reapply for a license until the application period for the succeeding license year.

(c) Licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified under par. (b):

1. First to individuals who have been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior during the preceding license year and who are applying for renewal of that license.

2. Next to individuals who were not licensed the preceding license year, but who had been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior for at least 2 years.

3. Next to individuals who worked as a licensed crew member on Lake Superior under s. 29.519 (4) (a), Stats., for at least 2 years.

4. Next to other Wisconsin residents and nonresidents residing in states allowing Wisconsin residents similar privileges.

5. When the number of qualified applicants for licenses exceed the number of licenses available and those applicants are not affected by the priorities established in subds. 1. to 4., the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications.

(d) The Lake Superior commercial fishing board shall review applications for licenses and recommend approval or denial of licenses to the department no later than one month before the end of the license year preceding the license year for which application is being made.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN. (a) No more than 65 licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Michigan may be issued for each license year. This section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under a permit or contract issued under s. 29.417 or 29.421, Stats.

(am) A person may hold more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., for commercial fishing on Lake Michigan, if the person meets the criteria of par. (b) for each license separately.

(b) Applications for licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Michigan which have been filed in accordance with sub. (3) shall be reviewed, and approved or denied, pursuant to the following criteria:

**Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.**

1. The applicant shall show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment not to include vehicles other than those directly employed in operating nets.

2. Any applicant failing to meet the criteria of this paragraph will not be eligible to reapply for a license until the application period for the succeeding license year.

(c) Licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified under par. (b):

1. First to individuals who have been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan during the preceding license year and who are applying for renewal of that license.

2. Next to individuals who were not licensed the preceding license year, but who had been licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan for at least 2 years.

3. Next to individuals who worked as a licensed crew member on Lake Michigan under s. 29.519 (4) (a), Stats., for at least 2 years.

4. Next to other Wisconsin residents and nonresidents residing in states allowing Wisconsin residents similar privileges.

5. When the number of qualified applicants for licenses exceed the number of licenses available and those applicants are not affected by the priorities established in subds. 1. to 4., the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications.

(d) The Lake Michigan commercial fishing board shall review applications for licenses and recommend approval or denial of licenses to the department no later than one month before the end of the license year preceding the license year for which application is being made.

**(3) APPLICATION.** Application for licenses authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters shall be made on forms available from the department and shall be returned to the department no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made. To be timely, applications, if mailed, must be postmarked no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made and if submitted to the department other than by mail must be received and stamped with a date stamp of the department indicating receipt no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made. Late applications for licenses may not be acted upon by the department but shall be returned to the applicant along with the applicant's license fee.

**(4) ROUGH FISH LICENSES.** This section does not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under permit or contract issued under s. 29.417 or 29.421, Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (1), Register, August, 1980, No. 296, eff. 9-1-80; am. (1) (a), (2) (a) and (3), cr. (2) (b) and (c), Register, March, 1981, No. 303, eff. 4-1-81; am. (1) (a), (2) (c) 5. and (3), r. and recr. (1) (b) 2. and 3., (2) (a), r. (2) (b) and (2) (c) 3., renum. (2) (c) (intro.), 1. and 2. to be (2) (b) (intro.) 1. and 2., renum. (1) (b) 4. to be (1) (c) and am., renum. (1) (b) 5. to be (1) (c) 5. and am., renum. (1) (c) to be (1) (d) and am., renum. (2) (c) 4. to be (2) (c) and am., cr. (2) (b) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; emerg. am. (2) (a), (b) (intro.) and (c) (intro.), cr. (2) (d), (e) and (f), eff. 5-5-86; am. (2) (a) and (b) (intro.), cr. (2) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; am. (2) (a), (b) (intro.) and 1., r. (2) (b) 2. intro. and a., (2) (c) to (e), renum. (2) (b) 2. b. to be (2) (b) 2. and am., r. and recr. (2) (b) 3., Register, April, 1988, No. 388, eff. 5-1-88; cr. (2) (b) 4., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. r. (2) (b) 2., renum. (2) (b) 3. and 4. to be 2. and 3. and am. 3., am. (3), cr. (4) eff. 4-1-91; r. (2) (b) 2., renum. (2) (b) 3. and 4. to be 2. and 3. and am. 3., am. (3), cr. (4), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (1) (b) 2., Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; cr. (1) (a) 2., Register, January, 1997, No. 493, eff. 2-1-97; r. and recr. (2) (b) 3., cr. (2) (b) 4. and 5., Register, March, 1998, No. 507, eff. 4-1-98; am. (2) (b) 3. a. and b., Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01; CR 08-060: cr. (1) (a) 3. and (2) (am) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 09-016: am. (1) (b) to (d), (2) (a) and (3), r. (2) (b) 2., renum. (2) (b) 3. to 5. to be (2) (b) 2. to 4. and am., cr. (2) (b) 5., (c) and (d) Register January 2010 No. 649, eff. 2-1-10; CR 13-001: am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 2. to 4., renum. (1) (b) 5. to 2., am. (2) (b) (intro.), r. (2) (b) 2. to 4., renum. (2) (b) 5. to 2. Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13.

## NR 25.04 Transfer of commercial fishing licenses.

Any licensed commercial fisher may transfer their valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters to another person who meets the criteria under s. NR 25.03 and s. 29.519, Stats., for obtaining such a license, subject to the conditions stated in this section.

**(1)** Application for license transfers shall be made on forms provided by the department.

**(2)** A licensee may designate on the application for their license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters a person to whom the licensee wishes that license to be transferred in the event of the licensee's death or incapacity. This designation may be changed during the license year as requested in writing by the licensee. The designated person would have to meet the criteria under this section for the transfer to occur.

(a) In the absence of such a designation, or a qualified transferee, or a transferee capable of accepting the transfer under this section, members of the immediate family of the licensee who meet the eligibility requirements of this section shall be offered the license. The offer shall be made by the department in the following order:

1. Spouse;
2. Children, eldest first, then in order of age;
3. Parents;
4. Siblings, eldest first, then in order of age.

(b) If, under the criteria of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter, a prospective transferee under this subsection is not eligible to receive a license at the time it is offered, but he or she could become eligible within 2 years, the department shall offer the license to the person. If the person accepts the license within 30 days of the offer, the person shall have 2 years from the date of acceptance to show that he or she meets the eligibility requirements of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter, during which time the license shall be held in abeyance by the department. However, if it becomes apparent to the department that the person cannot become eligible within 2 years from the date of acceptance; if the person fails to become eligible within the 2-year period; or if the person does not accept the offer within 30 days, the department shall offer the license to the next prospective transferee under this subsection, if any exist.

(c) All offers of transfer under this subsection shall be accepted within 30 days from the date of offer or be considered refused.

**(3)** Licenses may not be transferred if the licensee or the transferee is charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws under which conviction could cause revocation or suspension of that license. This subsection shall apply from the issuance of the citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.

**(4)** Licenses may not be transferred to any person who currently has a license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under revocation or suspension.

**(5)** License transfers shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the commercial fishing board of the body of water for which the license authorizes commercial fishing. Such review and approval or denial shall occur no later than the next regular quarterly meeting of the appropriate commercial fishing board.

**(6)** This section does not apply to the transfer of a boat from one license to another as provided for under s. 29.519 (2) (e), Stats.

**(7)** In addition, a licensed commercial fisher may not transfer a license authorizing commercial fishing on Lake Michigan to

another person unless the proposed transferee meets the eligibility requirements of s. NR 25.03 (2) (b) 1.

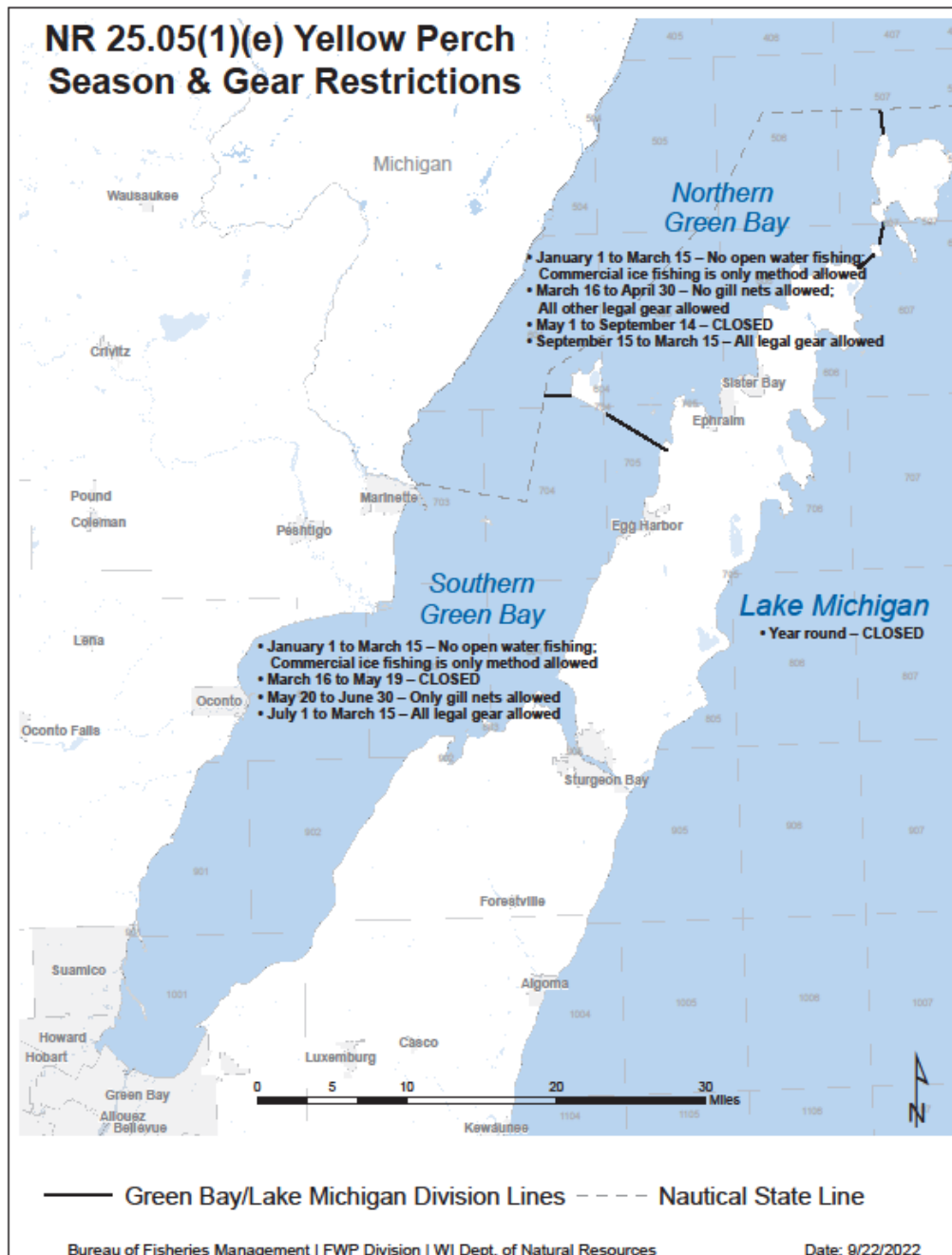
**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. Register, June 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; emerg. cr. (7), eff. 5-22-86; cr. (7), Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; am. (7) (intro.), Register, April, 1988, No. 388, eff. 5-1-88; emerg. am. (7) (b), eff. 4-1-91; am. (7) (b), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; r. and recr. (2) (b), Register, June, 1997, No. 498, eff. 7-1-97; CR 08-060: am. (6) and (7) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09.

**NR 25.05 Open seasons; size limits; possession and harvest limits. (1) OPEN SEASONS.** In the outlying waters there shall be an open season subject to other conditions established in this chapter and by statute on the various species of fish embraced within specified dates, both inclusive, as follows. During any time other than the open season no person may take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter.

		A	B	C
		Green Bay	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior
Species				
(a)	Lake trout	No open season	No open season	November 28 to September 30, subject to the requirements in ss. NR 25.06 (1) (a), 25.07 (1) (a), and 25.09 (7) and subdivided into the following periods: 1. Period 1: November 28 to March 31 2. Period 2: April 1 to May 31 3. Period 3: June 1 to September 30
(b)	Siscowet	No open season	No open season	At all times in waters greater than 55 fathoms in depth
(c)	Whitefish	December 1 to October 31	December 1 to October 31	November 28 to September 30, subdivided into the following periods: 1. Period 1: November 28 to March 31 2. Period 2: April 1 to May 31 3. Period 3: June 1 to September 30
(d)	Chubs	No open season	1. In the northern chub fishing zone: a. From April 26 to January 15. b. From January 16 to April 25, only in water 45 fathoms deep or deeper. 2. In the southern chub fishing zone: a. From April 26 to January 15, only in water south of 44° 32' north latitude. b. From January 16 to the end of February, only in water 45 fathoms deep or deeper. c. From March 1 to April 25, only in water south of 44° 32' north latitude which is 45 fathoms deep or deeper.	At all times
(e)	Yellow perch	1. Southern Green Bay: a. January 1 to March 15 – no open water fishing; commercial ice fishing is the only method allowed b. March 16 to May 19 – no open season c. May 20 to June 30 – only gill nets are allowed d. July 1 to March 15 – all legal gear under this chapter is allowed 2. Northern Green Bay: a. January 1 to March 15 – no open water fishing; commercial ice fishing is the only method allowed b. March 16 to April 30 – no gill nets allowed; all other legal gear under this chapter is allowed c. May 1 to September 14 – no open season d. September 15 to March 15 – all legal gear under this chapter is allowed  See map for details	No open season	No open season
(g)	Menominees (round whitefish)	At all times	At all times	At all times
(gm)	Carp, bullheads, burbot, catfish, gizzard shad, suckers, white bass, white perch	No open season except by permit or contract issued under s. 29.417, 29.421 or 29.424, Stats.	No open season except by permit or contract issued under s. 29.417, 29.421 or 29.424	At all times
(gn)	Smelt	At all times except trawls may be used only from June 15 to September 30 and only from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise	At all times except trawls may be used only from Nov. 15 to April 20	At all times
(h)	Cisco	No open season	No open season	January 1 to December 31



	A	B	C
	Green Bay	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior
(i) Walleye, sauger	No open season	No open season	No open season
(j) Others	No open season	No open season	No open season



(2) **SIZE LIMITS.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, no fish of a length or size less than that specified for each variety of any of the following varieties may be possessed or under control. The measurement of the length of a fish within the meaning of this chapter shall be taken in a straight line in a natural position without manipulation from the tip of the snout to the end of the fully extended tail fin. The measurement of length shall apply without allowance made for the shrinkage of the fish.



Species	A	B	C
	Green Bay	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout			No size limit for gill nets and a maximum of 25 inches for entrapping nets
(b) Siscowet			No size limit
(c) Whitefish	17 inches	17 inches	17 inches
(d) Yellow perch	8 inches in northern Green Bay, 7½ inches in southern Green Bay	8 inches	
(e) Walleye	18 inches		
(g) Catfish	16 inches	16 inches	
(h) Others	No size limit	No size limit	No size limit

**(3) POSSESSION AND HARVEST LIMITS.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person may do any of the following:

(a) Possess species of fish for which there is no open season.

(b) While on the water, possess species of fish outside of the open season for that species.

(c) Catch, take or kill more fish than authorized by his or her harvest limit, except as provided in par. (g). The harvest limit for species of fish for which an open season is provided and a quota has been established shall be the individual quota established by commercial fishing boards or the department for the person harvesting the fish.

(d) Fish for a species of fish in a zone for which the person has no harvest limit.

(e) At the time of landing, possess fish eggs that weigh more than 25% of the simultaneously landed dressed carcasses of fish of the species from which the eggs were taken.

(f) At the time of landing, possess fish viscera that weighs more than 50% of the simultaneously landed dressed carcasses of fish of the species from which the viscera were taken.

(g) Take, catch or kill more fish, by species and zone, than authorized by the total of the person's individual catch quotas and permits under the person's fleet reporting program, if the person is engaged in fleet reporting under s. NR 25.135.

(h) Take catfish with a bow and arrow or crossbow or by hand under the authority of a commercial fishing license.

**(4) ICE FISHING.** Commercial fishing through the ice in Green Bay and Lake Michigan is prohibited after March 31 during each license year.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. am. (1) (d) and cr. (3), eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (1) (d), Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (2) (b), eff. 7-1-81; am. (2) (b), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (i), eff. 5-20-82; am. (1) (d) and (i), (2) (e), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (1) and (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; emerg. am. (1) (g) and cr. (1) (gm), eff. 6-20-84; am. (1) (d), Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; am. (1) (g) and cr. (1) (gm), Register, March 1985, No. 351, eff. 4-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; am. (1) (cr), (e), (g) and (gm), r. (1) (f) and (2) (f), cr. (1) (gn) and (4), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. am. (1) (a) and (c), eff. 4-22-86; am. (1) (a), (c), (d) and (e), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; am. (1) (d), (e), (g) and (gm), r. (1) (f) and (2) (f), cr. (1) (gn) and (4), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. am. (2) (a), eff. 11-28-90; emerg. am. (1) (g), (gn) and (3), eff. 4-1-91; am. (2) (a), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91; am. (1) (g), (gn) and (3), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; emerg. am. (1) (e), eff. 7-1-96; emerg. am. (1) (e), eff. 10-1-96; am. (1) (e), Register, December, 1996, No. 492, eff. 1-1-97; am. (1) (d), Register, April, 1997, No. 496, eff. 5-1-97; am. (1) (d), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 1-1-99; am. (3), Register, July, 1999, No. 523, eff. 8-1-99; am. (1) (d), Register, December, 2000, No. 540, eff. 1-1-01; CR 01-115: am. (1) (d), Register February 2002 No. 554, eff. 3-1-02; CR 01-145: r. and recr. (1) (d), Register July 2002 No. 559, eff. 8-1-02; CR 06-111: r. and recr. (1) (d) Register June 2007 No. 618, eff. 7-1-07; CR 08-060: am. (3) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR11-049: am. (1) (c) Register August 2012 No. 680, eff. 9-1-12; CR 19-009: cr. (3) (h) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; correction in (3) (h) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register February 2020 No. 770; CR 19-134: am. (4) Register April 2020 No. 772, eff. 5-1-20; EmR1923: emerg. am. (1) (a), (c), (h), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: am. (1) (a), (c), (h) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; CR 23-008: r. and recr. (1) (e), am. (4) Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.05.

**NR 25.06 Quotas, catch fees and special regulations. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR.** (a) *Lake trout.* The total allowable published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.

annual harvest of lake trout by state and tribal commercial fishers and tribal home use fishers under par. (b) during the open season in WI-1 and WI-2 shall be determined by the department and approved by the natural resources board. The department shall subdivide the total allowable catch for WI-1 and WI-2 among state anglers, state commercial fishers, tribal commercial fishers, tribal home use, and department assessment.

**Note:** Pursuant to a December 2018 agreement between the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the department's harvest quota recommendation is based on the advice of a biological committee with members from both bands and the department.

1. 'WI-1.' The total allowable commercial and tribal home use harvest in WI-1 may not exceed 6,000 lake trout and shall be allocated as follows:

a. That number of lake trout to be harvested by non-tribal licensed commercial fishers from the waters of WI-1 may not exceed 4,000 lake trout.

b. That number of lake trout to be harvested by the Red Cliff and Bad River bands, including both commercial and tribal home use fishers, from the waters of WI-1 may not exceed 2,000 lake trout.

2. 'WI-2.' The department shall utilize the WI-2 lake trout population model for calculating the department recommendation for the total allowable commercial and home use harvest of lake trout. The recommendation for the total allowable commercial harvest for WI-2 shall be calculated at least every 3 years using the output from the population model. The population model shall use the following quantitative data for lake trout: commercial and recreational harvest; commercial and recreational fishing effort; adult lake trout index in spring fishery-independent survey; juvenile lake trout index in summer fishery-independent survey; age compositions of lake trout in commercial, recreational, and fishery-independent surveys; length at age; weight at age; maturity schedule; and sea lamprey mortality estimates. An appropriate exploitation rate based on recent harvest trends shall be applied to the model estimates, and the department may also account for mortality and presence of hatchery-origin fish in the system to reach the total allowable catch recommendation.

a. For any given lake trout season after November 27, 2026, the total allowable commercial and tribal home use harvest in the waters of WI-2 will be determined under subd. 2. (intro.).

b. For 2024 through the open season ending September 30, 2026, the number of lake trout harvested by non-tribal licensed commercial fishers from waters of WI-2 may not exceed 7,500 lake trout and the number of lake trout to be harvested by the Red Cliff and Bad River bands, including both commercial and tribal home use fishers, from the waters of WI-2 may not exceed 44,500 lake trout.

**Note:** If the Red Cliff and Bad River bands do not reach an agreement on the method of allocating the tribal quota between them, the department may divide the quota 50% for the Bad River band and 50% for the Red Cliff band, or by any other equitable method.

(am) *Recall of lake trout tags.* The department may recall tags furnished or authorized in accordance with sub. (3), when necessary to implement a quota reduction.

(b) *Harvest of fish from Lake Superior for home use by Lake*

*Superior Chippewas.* Members of the Bad River and Red Cliff bands of Lake Superior Chippewas may harvest species of fish for which there is an open season during said season, under home use permits issued by their respective tribal councils.

1. Home use permits will be issued to the heads of households only, and only one permit will be issued to an individual.

2. Permittees are restricted to the use of no more than 350 feet of gill net and sale of fish pursuant to these permits is prohibited. These fishing activities shall be restricted to waters adjacent to the reservations of the Bad River and Red Cliff bands, and during the closed season for lake trout no part of any net may extend beyond one-quarter mile from the shoreline of those waters.

3. In no instance may a boat fish both commercial and home use nets at the same time. If such home use nets are fished by a commercial licensee, those nets must be labeled as home use and must be marked in the same manner as required for commercial nets under s. NR 25.09.

4. Permittees shall limit the use of gill nets to mesh sizes of 2 3/4 inch stretch measure or smaller, and 4 1/2 inch stretch measure or larger.

5. All game fish harvested under permits issued under this section shall be tagged in accordance with sub. (3). The Bad River and Red Cliff bands shall provide quarterly home use harvest reports on forms supplied by the department.

(c) *Cisco.* The total allowable annual harvest of cisco by state and tribal fishers during the open season in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior may not exceed 1,794,000 round weight pounds, as determined by the department and tribes and:

1. The total allowable state harvest of cisco in the waters of Lake Superior may not exceed 897,000 round weight pounds in a calendar year. A portion of the state allowable harvest shall be reserved for recreational harvest and assessment purposes.

2. The total harvest of cisco by state licensed commercial fishers may not exceed 890,000 round weight pounds.

3. The total harvest of cisco by state recreational fishers and from department assessment activities shall not exceed 7,000 round weight pounds.

4. The total allowable harvest by the Red Cliff and Bad River bands, including both commercial and tribal home use fishers in the waters of Lake Superior, may not exceed 897,000 round weight pounds in a calendar year.

(2) **LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY.** (a) *Chubs.* The total allowable annual commercial harvest of chubs in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may not exceed 3,600,000 pounds.

2. No more than 600,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in the northern chub fishing zone.

3. No more than 3,000,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in the southern chub fishing zone.

4. The department reserves 100,000 pounds of the total allowable annual commercial harvest of chubs to be used for special assessment.

(b) *Yellow perch.* The total allowable annual commercial harvest of yellow perch in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest in zone 1 for any license year may not exceed 100,000 pounds.

2. The total allowable commercial harvest in zone 2 for any license year may not exceed 4,655 pounds.

3. The total allowable commercial harvest in zone 3 for any license year may not exceed 107,345 pounds.

(c) *Smelt.* 1m. The total allowable annual commercial harvest of smelt in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

2m. The total allowable commercial harvest of smelt in any license year may not exceed 1,000,000 pounds in Lake Michigan and Green Bay, of which no more than 25,000 pounds may be taken from Green Bay.

(d) *Menominees.* 1. The total allowable annual commercial harvest of menominees in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department.

2. The total allowable commercial harvest of menominees in Lake Michigan and Green Bay may not exceed 75,000 pounds in any license year, with no more than 1,000 pounds to be taken from zone 1, 46,000 pounds from zone 2 and 28,000 pounds from zone 3.

(e) *Whitefish.* 1. The total allowable annual commercial harvest of whitefish in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and the total allowable annual commercial harvest of whitefish in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay shall be determined by the natural resources board based on recommendations from the department and results from Green Bay and Lake Michigan whitefish population models described under subd. 2. a.

2. a. The department shall utilize the Green Bay whitefish population model for calculating the department recommendation for the total allowable commercial harvest of lake whitefish in Green Bay and shall utilize the Lake Michigan whitefish population model for calculating the department recommendation for the total allowable commercial harvest of lake whitefish in Lake Michigan. The recommendation for the total allowable commercial harvest for each area shall be calculated every three years using output from the population models. The population models shall use the following quantitative data for each whitefish management unit: weight at age, length at age, maturity schedule, trap net harvest by weight, trap net fishing effort by number of lifts, age composition of whitefish caught in trap nets, gill net harvest by weight, gill net fishing effort by number of lifts, age composition of whitefish caught in gill nets, recreational harvest by numbers, recreational fishing effort by angler hours, age composition of recreationally caught whitefish, and, in Green Bay, young-of-the-year index survey. An appropriate exploitation rate based on recent harvest trends shall be applied to the Green Bay and Lake Michigan model estimates, respectively, and the department may also account for whitefish mortality to reach the total allowable commercial harvest recommendation for Green Bay and the total allowable commercial harvest recommendation for Lake Michigan.

b. For the 2022 and 2023 license years, the allowable harvest for zone 1 shall not exceed 48.4148% of the total allowable commercial harvest of whitefish in Green Bay determined under subd. 2. a. or 569,788 pounds. For any given license year after December 31, 2023, the allowable harvest for zone 1 shall not exceed 67.9758% of the total allowable commercial harvest of whitefish in Green Bay determined under subd. 2. a. or 800,000 pounds, whichever is less. For any given license year, the allowable harvest for zone 3 shall not exceed 43.9135% of the total allowable commercial harvest of whitefish in Lake Michigan determined under subd. 2. a. or 351,487 pounds, whichever is less, and the allowable harvest for zone 2 shall consist of the total allow-

able commercial harvest for Green Bay less the allowable harvest for zone 1 plus the total allowable commercial harvest for Lake Michigan less the allowable harvest for zone 3, and shall be implemented in accordance with subd. 2. c. and s. NR 25.07 (2) (e) 5.

c. If the allocation for zone 2 exceeds the allowable harvest for zone 2 produced by the Green Bay and Lake Michigan population models as described under subd. 2. b., the adjusted amount of whitefish that may be allocated to the Green Bay waters of zone 2 shall be calculated by the following formula:  $[X + ((\text{zone 2 recommended allocation} - (X+Y)) * (X/(X+Y)))]$ , and the adjusted amount of whitefish that may be allocated to the Lake Michigan waters of zone 2 shall be calculated by the following formula:  $[Y + ((\text{zone 2 recommended allocation} - (X+Y)) * (Y/(X+Y)))]$ , where X is the difference between the Green Bay total allowable commercial harvest calculated under subd. 2. a. and the zone 1 allowable harvest under subd. 2. b., and Y is the difference between the Lake Michigan total allowable commercial harvest calculated under subd. 2. a. and the zone 3 allowable harvest under subd. 2. b. For accuracy, decimals shall be rounded to nearest sixth decimal place.

d. For the 2022 and 2023 license years, the Green Bay total annual allowable commercial harvest shall be 1,176,889 pounds, the Lake Michigan total annual allowable commercial harvest shall be 800,407 pounds, the zone 1 annual allowable harvest shall be 569,788 pounds, the zone 2 annual allowable harvest shall be 1,056,021 pounds, and the zone 3 annual allowable harvest shall be 351,487 pounds.

(3) TAGGING OF FISH. All harvested fish species or subspecies required to be tagged in accordance with this section shall be tagged with tags furnished or authorized by the department upon completing the net lift and before being transported by boat when fishing in open water and before being transported when fishing with nets under ice. Fish shall be individually tagged.

(a) Tags authorized shall be approved in writing by the secretary of the department and shall conform to the following minimum specifications:

1. Tags shall be individually, serially numbered in nonrepeating number series.

2. Tags shall be color-coded by lake trout open season in a color which does not repeat in the next consecutive lake trout open season.

3. Tags shall include an appropriate state or tribal identification.

4. Tags shall only be ordered in a number sufficient to limit the harvest to a biologically determined quota.

5. Issuing authorities shall maintain records of tag allotments to individual fishers by tag serial numbers. Tag records shall be open to inspection by state conservation wardens during regular office hours.

6. Tags are valid for use only for the lake trout open season for which they are issued.

(b) Untagged fish may not be left unattended.

(c) Untagged fish may not be transferred between watercraft.

(d) Tags shall be locked and remain attached to fish until prepared for final consumption. Tags shall remain with smoked or filleted fish until sold to final consumers. Commercial fishers of the outlying waters or licensed wholesale fish dealers shall not be considered final consumers and must be in possession of tags for smoked and filleted fish.

(e) Tags provided or authorized by the department for tagging fish may not be transferred, except when transferring a lake trout

quota allotment as provided in s. NR 25.07 (1) (a) 2. to another licensee.

(f) No person may possess or use tags furnished or authorized by the department for tagging fish which have been modified or tampered with.

(g) No treaty fisher may lift nets in Wisconsin waters while in possession of tags issued by another tribe or jurisdiction.

(h) All unused tags issued under this section for the commercial harvest of lean lake trout shall be returned to the department within 30 days of the close of the fishing season for lake trout described in s. NR 25.05 (1) (a).

(4) ALLOCATION. The harvest quotas established shall be allocated to individual commercial fishing licensees in accordance with s. NR 25.07.

(5) CATCH FEES. Catch fees to be charged for commercial harvest of fish species whose populations are sustained or supplemented through stocking shall be determined and assessed as follows:

(a) The department shall determine catch fees annually for each fish species population subject to this subsection and shall provide this information upon request by February 15 of each year.

(b) The catch fee for a given fish species population shall be equivalent to the department's direct cost in providing those fish for commercial harvest.

(c) Catch fees shall be charged on a per fish harvested basis.

(d) Catch fees shall be collected through the sale of fish tags furnished or authorized by the department in accordance with sub. (3) at offices indicated on the quota applications provided under s. NR 25.07 (3). The total number of tags that may be purchased by an individual licensee shall be equivalent to that licensee's individual catch quota as determined in accordance with s. NR 25.07.

(e) Unused fish tags purchased in accordance with par. (d) shall be returned by the licensee to the department at the office where purchased within 15 days of the end of the open season for that fish species population. The department shall return the catch fees paid by that licensee for those unused fish tags.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. am., eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (2) (a), Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (2) (a), eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; am. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (2) (a) 1. and (3) (f), renun. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. to 3., Register, July, 1984, No. 343, eff. 8-1-84; reprinted to correct error in (2) (a) 2., Register, August, 1984, No. 344; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 1-2-86; emerg. cr. (3) (a) and (g), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. am. (1) (a) 3., eff. 5-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (a), Register, July, 1986, No. 367, eff. 8-1-86; am. (2) (a) 1. to 3. and (b) 1., cr. (2) (c) and (3) (a) and (g), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; emerg. am. (1) (a) 1. to 3., eff. 3-10-87; am. (1) (a) 1. to 3., Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (2) (c) 3., Register, April, 1988, No. 388, eff. 5-1-88; am. (2) (b) (intro.) and 1., (c) 1., a. 2. (b) 2. and 3., (2) (d) and (e), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, January, 1990, No. 409, eff. 2-1-90; emerg. am. (1) (a) 1. to 4., eff. 11-28-90; emerg. am. (2) (c) (intro.) and 1., r. (2) (c) 2. and 3., eff. 4-1-91; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; am. (1) (a) 1. to 4., Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91; am. (2) (c) (intro.) and 1., r. (2) (c) 2. and 3., Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (2) (a) 1. and 2. and (e) 2., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; emerg. am. (2) (b) 1. eff. 7-1-94; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, January, 1995, No. 469, eff. 2-1-95; am. (2) (a) 2., cr. (2) (c) 2., Register, February, 1995, No. 470, eff. 3-1-95; emerg. am. (2) (b) 2. and 3., eff. 7-1-95; am. (2) (e) 2., Register, July, 1995, No. 475, eff. 8-1-95; am. (2) (b) 2. and 3., Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95; am. (1) (a) 2., Register, January, 1997, No. 493, eff. 2-1-97; am. (2) (e) 2., Register, April, 1997, No. 496, eff. 5-1-97; am. (1) (a) (intro.), 1. to 4. and (2) (b) 1., Register, June, 1997, No. 498, eff. 7-1-97; am. (2) (e) 2., Register, April, 1999, No. 520, eff. 5-1-99; am. (2) (c) 1., Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99; CR 01-037: am. (2) (b) 1., Register February 2002 No. 554, eff. 3-1-02; CR 01-115: r. (2) (c) 2., Register February 2002 No. 554, eff. 3-1-02; emerg. am. (1) (a) 1. to 3. eff. 11-1-02; CR 02-096: am. (1) (a) 1. to 3. Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5-1-03; CR 02-144: am. (2) (c) 1. Register June 2004 No. 582, eff. 7-1-04; CR 03-107: am. (2) (b) 1. Register June 2004 No. 582, eff. 7-1-04; CR 05-085: am. (2) (b) 1. Register March 2006 No. 603, eff. 4-1-06; CR 05-115: am. (1) (a) 1. to 3. Reg-

*Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.*



ister July 2006 No. 607, eff. 8-1-06; CR 07-075: am. (2) (b) 1. Register April 2008 No. 628, eff. 5-1-08; CR 08-060: am. (3) (intro.) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 09-016: am. (3) (a) 2. and 6., cr. (3m) Register January 2010 No. 649, eff. 2-1-10; corrections in (3m) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register January 2010 No. 649; CR 09-083: r. and recr. (2) (e) 2. Register March 2010 No. 651, eff. 4-1-10; CR 13-001: r. (3m) Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13; EmR1401: emerg. am. (1) (a) 1. to 3., eff. 1-13-14; CR 13-111: am. (1) (a) 1. to 3. Register August 2014 No. 704, eff. 9-1-14; EmR1627: emerg. cr. (1) (c), eff. 10-1-16; CR 16-061: cr. (1) (c) Register September 2017 No. 741, eff. 10-1-17; EmR1804: emerg. am. (1) (a) 1. to 3., eff. 2-6-18; CR 17-071: am. (1) (a) 1. to 3., Register June 2018 No. 750 eff. 7-1-18; renum. (2) (c) (intro.), 1. to (2) (c) 1m, 2m. under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register April 2020 No. 772; EmR1923: emerg. am. (title), r. and recr. (1) (a), cr. (1) (am), am. (1) (b) 2., cr. (1) (b) 3. to 5., am. (3) (g), cr. (3) (h), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: am. (title), r. and recr. (1) (a), cr. (1) (am), am. (1) (b) 2., cr. (1) (b) 3. to 5., am. (3) (g), cr. (3) (h) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; EmR2120: emerg. am. (1) (a) 2., (c) (intro.), 1., 2., 3., cr. (1) (c) 4., eff. 7-23-21; CR 21-024: am. (1) (a) 2., (c) (intro.), 1., 2., 3., cr. (1) (c) 4., eff. 7-23-21; am. (1) (a) 2., (c) (intro.), 1., 2., 3., cr. (1) (c) 4. Register October 2021 No. 790, eff. 11-1-21; EmR2114: emerg. am. (2) (e) 2. b., c., eff. 5-21-21; CR 21-099: am. (2) (e) 1., r. and recr. (2) (e) 2. a., b., cr. (2) (e) 2. c., d. Register July 2022 No. 799, eff. 8-1-22; CR 23-008: am. (1) (b) 2., (3) (e), (h) Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23; corrections in (2) (e) 2. b. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7. and s. 35.17, Stats., Register October 2023 No. 814; EmR2401: emerg. am. (1) (a) (intro.), 2. (intro.), a., b., eff. 1-12-24; CR 24-073: r. and recr. (1) (a), am. (1) (c) 1. to 3. Register May 2025 No. 833, eff. 6-1-25; correction in (1) (a) 2. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register May 2025 No. 833.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.06.

### NR 25.07 Individual licensee catch quotas. (1)

**LAKE SUPERIOR.** The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (1) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior shall be by the department upon application in accordance with sub. (3), and as follows:

(a) *Lake trout.* 1. Each licensed commercial fisher shall receive an equal share of the annual lake trout harvest quota established under s. NR 25.06 (1) (a) Table.

2. Allocation of the lake trout quota to individual licensees shall be by issuance of appropriate tags by the department.

(b) *Cisco.* Each state commercial license shall be allotted an equal individual licensee catch quota of the total allowable annual cisco harvest quota established under s. NR 25.06 (1) (c).

**(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY.** The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (2) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be by the department upon application in accordance with sub. (3), as follows:

(a) *Chubs.* 1. A chub fishing permit shall be issued under this subdivision to each applicant who selects the northern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d), is a licensed commercial fisher and held a Lake Michigan chub harvest permit for the northern chub fishing zone for the 1985-1986, 1986-1987 or 1987-1988 license year.

1m. A chub fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota shall be issued under this subdivision to each applicant who selects the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) and is a licensed commercial fisher.

3. All permittees under subd. 1. who select the northern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations beginning January 1, 2012:

a. No more than 150,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of January 1 through the end of February; no more than 300,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of March 1 through September 30, except that this amount shall be increased to include the portion of the allowable harvest for the previous period that is not reported as harvested in that period or decreased by the amount the reported harvest during the previous period exceeded the harvest limit for that period; and no more than 150,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of October 1 through December 31, except that this amount shall be increased to include the por-

tion of the allowable harvest for the previous period that is not reported as harvested in that period or decreased by the amount the reported harvest during the previous period exceeded the harvest limit for that period.

b. During the quota periods of January 1 through the end of February and March 1 through September 30, the department shall notify all licensed commercial fishers to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of the period quotas as established in subd. 3. a. have been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10., and the legal fish harvested. During the quota period of October 1 through December 31, the department shall notify all licensed commercial fishers to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 80% of the period quota as established in subd. 3. a. has been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10., and the legal fish harvested.

(am) *Chubs; southern fishing zone limitations.* All permittees under par. (a) 1m. who select the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. In the southern chub fishing zone, 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. shall be allotted to 32 individual permittees as follows:

Fisher Rank	Percent of Allotted Quota
1-5	3.94
6-10	3.64
11-15	3.34
16-20	3.04
21-25	2.74
26-30	2.44
31-32	2.15

a. The fisher rank of each individual permittee shall be based on their individual authorized regular season chub harvest from April 1, 1981 through December 31, 1982. This harvest determination shall be based on the permittee's reported catch during that period adjusted to the legal amount under subd. 1. b. 4) and 5), Register, June, 1981, No. 306. The highest resulting number shall be assigned the fisher rank of 1, and the following numbers assigned sequential ranks until the 32 individual quota allotments are all assigned. If there are any ties for a given fisher rank, a public drawing will be conducted by the department and the permittee selected will receive that fisher rank. The permittee or permittees not selected will go to the next lower fisher rank. Additional drawings will be conducted as needed to resolve all ties. Any remaining permittees not receiving individual quota allotments shall fish under the provisions of subd. 2.

b. No individual quota allotted under subd. 1. may exceed 70,000 pounds, until each individual allotted quota equals 70,000 pounds. When the quota allotted to an individual permittee reaches 70,000 pounds, any additional harvest quota shall be divided equally among the remaining individual allotted quotas not equalling 70,000 pounds. When all individual allotted quotas each equal 70,000 pounds, for a total of 2,240,000 pounds, any further increases shall be divided equally among the individual quota allotments. Quota allotments shall be made in whole pound increments.

**Note:** If 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. equaled 1,890,000 pounds, permittees in fisher rank 1-5 would have individual quotas of 74,466 pounds. The excess over 70,000 pounds for each would be totalled, being 22,300 pounds, and divided equally among the remaining 27 individual quotas, 826 pounds each.

c. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the number of permittees allotted an individual quota, those permittees ranking below the vacancy shall automatically advance in rank to fill the vacancy. Any vacancy at fisher rank 32 may be filled by the permittee fishing under the provisions of subd. 2. who has the highest total re-



ported regular season chub harvest for the previous 2 license years.

2. In the southern chub fishing zone, 10% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. shall be allotted to permittees who do not receive individual allotted quotas under subd. 1.

a. No more than 10% of this allotment may be taken by any one permittee during the license year.

c. Whenever the total amount of chubs allocated under subd. 2. a. does not equal the amount provided in subd. 2., the surplus shall be divided equally among permittees under subd. 2.

4. Any permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subd. 1. a. and b. may transfer up to 100% of his or her allotted chub quota to another permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subd. 1. a. and b. A quota transfer under this subdivision shall be in effect only during the current license year, and shall be subject to sub. (6).

5. Any permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subd. 1. may temporarily transfer, for the remainder of the current license year, all or part of his or her individual chub quota allotment to a person who holds a permit under subd. 2., subject to s. NR 25.08 (intro.), (1), (4), and (5). However, a quota transfer approved under s. NR 25.08 (5) is not valid and may not be fished until either of the following occurs:

a. The transferee reaches his or her limit under subd. 2. a. upon taking 10% of the “racehorse” allotment made under subd. 2. during the license year; or

b. The department, acting under subd. 6., has closed the southern chub zone “racehorse” fishery by notifying permittees fishing under subd. 2. to cease fishing; all of the transferee’s nets in the water have been lifted and the legal fish in the nets harvested; and one calendar day has passed.

6. The department shall notify permittees to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of their allotment as established in par. (am) 1. and 2. has been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10., and the legal fish therein harvested.

(b) *Yellow perch in zone 1.* 1. No person may fish for yellow perch with commercial gear in zone 1 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. Yellow perch fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas for zone 1 shall be issued to all applicants:

a. Holding a valid commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats., and

b. Who reported a commercial harvest of yellow perch legally taken while operating under their commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats., from the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay between January 1, 1979 and December 31, 1982, and

c. Who applied for and received a Green Bay yellow perch fishing permit or a yellow perch fishing permit for zone 1 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made.

d. Any licensee who fails to apply for and receive a permit under this paragraph is not eligible for future yellow perch fishing permits under this paragraph until the provisions of subd. 3. b. are applicable.

3. The individual licensee catch quota issued to each permittee shall be determined as follows:

a. Each permittee shall receive a percentage of the total allowable annual commercial harvest as established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 1. That percentage shall be calculated by dividing the total commercial harvest of yellow perch from the Wisconsin waters of

Green Bay reported under that license during the period from January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1982, by the overall total reported commercial harvest of yellow perch from those waters during that period, and multiplying the result by 100. The resulting percentage shall be rounded off to 2 decimal places or to hundredths of a percent. Any resulting percentage of less than 0.01% shall be considered 0.01% for allocation of an individual licensee catch quota. The individual licensee catch quotas will be allocated in whole pound increments.

**Note:** If during the base catch period (January, 1979 — December 1982), a permittee reported catching a total of 20,200 pounds of perch and the overall total reported perch harvest was 1,600,000 pounds, that permittee’s individual license catch quota percentage would be 1.26%. If the total allowable annual commercial harvest was set at 100,000 pounds, that permittee’s individual licensee catch quota would be 1,260 pounds.

b. Any future increase of the total allowable annual commercial harvest as established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 1. that exceeds 521,285 pounds shall be divided equally among all licensed commercial fishers who apply for yellow perch fishing permits, regardless of past yellow perch harvest records.

4. Fishing under permits issued under subd. 2. may be done from any boat listed on the permittee’s commercial fishing license or through the ice.

(bg) *Yellow perch in zone 2.* 1. No person may fish for yellow perch with commercial gear in zone 2 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A yellow perch fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 2 shall be issued to each applicant who holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats., reported a commercial harvest of yellow perch legally taken from zone 2 between January 1, 1983 and December 31, 1987 and, effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a yellow perch fishing permit for zone 2 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of yellow perch assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by dividing the total commercial harvest of yellow perch from zone 2 during the period from January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1987, reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of yellow perch from zone 2 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

(br) *Yellow perch in zone 3.* 1. No person may fish for yellow perch with commercial gear in zone 3 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A yellow perch fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 3 shall be issued to each applicant who holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats., reported a commercial harvest of yellow perch legally taken from zone 3 between January 1, 1984 and December 31, 1988 and, effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a yellow perch fishing permit for zone 3 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of yellow perch assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (b) 3. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by dividing the total commercial harvest of yellow perch from zone 3 during the period from January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1988, reported under that license by the total reported commercial har-

vest of yellow perch from zone 3 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

(c) *Menominees*. 1. No person may fish for menominees with commercial gear in zone 1, 2 or 3 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A menominee fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 1, 2 or 3, respectively, shall be issued to each applicant who:

a. Holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats.,

b. Effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a menominee fishing permit for the respective zone for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made; and

c. Reported a commercial harvest of menominees legally taken from zone 1 between January 1, 1979 and December 31, 1988, from zone 2 between January 1, 1983 and December 31, 1987, or from zone 3 between January 1, 1984 and December 31, 1988.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of menominees assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (d) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined as follows:

a. In zone 1, by dividing the total menominee commercial harvest from zone 1 during the period from January 1, 1979 to December 31, 1988 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of menominee from zone 1 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

b. In zone 2, by dividing the total menominee commercial harvest from zone 2 during the period from January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1987 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of menominee from zone 2 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100, or

c. In zone 3, by dividing the total menominee commercial harvest from zone 3 during the period from January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1988 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of menominee from zone 3 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

(d) *Whitefish in zone 1*. 1. No person may fish for whitefish with commercial gear in zone 1 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A whitefish fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 1 shall be issued to each applicant who:

a. Holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats.,

b. Effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a whitefish fishing permit for zone 1 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made; and

c. Reported a commercial harvest of whitefish legally taken from zone 1 between January 1, 1979 and December 31, 1988.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of whitefish assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by di-

viding the total whitefish commercial harvest from zone 1 during the period from January 1, 1979 to December 31, 1988, reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of whitefish from zone 1 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

(e) *Whitefish in zone 2*. 1. No person may fish for whitefish with commercial gear in zone 2 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A whitefish fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 2 shall be issued to each applicant who:

a. Holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats.,

b. Effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a whitefish fishing permit for zone 2 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made; and

c. Reported a commercial harvest of whitefish legally taken from zone 2 between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1988.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of whitefish assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (d) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by dividing the total whitefish commercial harvest from zone 2 during the period from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1988 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of whitefish from zone 2 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

5. Licensees with an individual licensee catch quota issued under this paragraph may fish for whitefish in either the Green Bay waters of zone 2, the Lake Michigan waters of zone 2, or both. Licensees shall cease fishing for whitefish in either the Green Bay waters of zone 2, the Lake Michigan waters of zone 2, or both as follows:

a. When the whitefish total allowable commercial harvest in Green Bay as established under s. NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2. a. less the zone 1 allowable harvest set under s. NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2. b. has been reported caught, the department shall notify licensees to cease fishing for whitefish in Green Bay waters of zone 2, except that all whitefish nets in the water shall be lifted or rendered inoperable under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10. or (b) 2. and the legal fish may be harvested.

b. When the whitefish total allowable commercial harvest in Lake Michigan as established under s. NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2. a. less the zone 3 allowable harvest set under s. NR 25.06 (2) (e) 2. b. has been reported caught, the department shall notify licensees to cease fishing for whitefish in Lake Michigan waters of zone 2, except that all whitefish nets in the water shall be lifted or rendered inoperable under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10. or (b) 2. and the legal fish may be harvested.

(f) *Whitefish in zone 3*. 1. No person may fish for whitefish with commercial gear in zone 3 unless the person has a permit for that zone issued by the department under this paragraph.

2. A whitefish fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota for zone 3 shall be issued to each applicant who:

a. Holds a commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats.,

b. Effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a whitefish fishing permit for zone 3 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made; and

c. Reported a commercial harvest of whitefish legally taken from zone 3 between January 1, 1984 and June 30, 1989.

3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of whitefish assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (d) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by dividing the total whitefish commercial harvest from zone 3 during the period from January 1, 1984 to June 30, 1989 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of whitefish from zone 3 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.

4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

(g) *Smelt*. 1. No person may fish for smelt with commercial gear in Lake Michigan or Green Bay unless the person is authorized to do so by a permit issued by the department under subd. 2. or 5., and the person complies with the terms and conditions of the permit, this chapter and s. 29.519, Stats.

2. A “racehorse” smelt fishery permit for Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be issued to each applicant who holds a valid commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats. Licensees who hold a permit under both this subdivision and subd. 5. may not fish in the “racehorse” smelt fishery until all individual licensee catch quotas issued under subd. 5. have been reported caught. Trawl gear may not be used to harvest smelt in the “racehorse” smelt fishery except by licensees who hold a permit under both this subdivision and subd. 5.

3. Permittees under subd. 2. may harvest smelt from either Green Bay or Lake Michigan, or both, but shall cease fishing for smelt in Green Bay and in Lake Michigan, respectively, when notified by the department. Notwithstanding s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) 2m., the department shall notify all “racehorse” smelt fishery permittees to cease fishing in Green Bay or Lake Michigan upon receipt of information that 85% of the smelt allocated under subd. 4. for the “racehorse” fishery for Green Bay or Lake Michigan, respectively, has been caught, except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10., and the legal fish harvested.

4. The portion of the total annual Green Bay smelt harvest limit set in s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) 2m., allocated to the Green Bay “racehorse” smelt fishery for licensees holding permits issued under subd. 2. is X pounds, where  $X = (A) (B) (D) (E)$ , and the portion of the total annual Lake Michigan and Green Bay smelt harvest limit set in s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) 1m., allocated to the Lake Michigan “racehorse” smelt fishery, excluding Green Bay, by licensees holding permits issued under subd. 2. is Y pounds, where  $Y = (A) (C) (D) (E)$ . In these equations,

A = the total annual Lake Michigan and Green Bay smelt harvest limit, in pounds, set in s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) 1m.;

B = 35.19932%;

C = 64.80067%;

D = in any license year, the total number of Lake Michigan commercial fishing licensees minus the number of licensees issued quota smelt fishery permits under subd. 5.; and

E = .0004241

5. A quota smelt fishery permit and individual licensee catch quota for Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be issued to each applicant who holds a valid commercial fishing license issued under s. 29.519, Stats., and reported a commercial harvest by

trawls of smelt legally taken from the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay or Lake Michigan between July 1, 1991 and June 30, 1992:

a. Individual licensee catch quotas issued under this subdivision shall comprise the remaining portion of the total allowable annual commercial harvest limits set for Green Bay and for Lake Michigan and Green Bay in s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) 2m., after subtraction of the pounds of smelt required for the Green Bay and Lake Michigan “racehorse” smelt fisheries established under subd. 2.

b. Two separate individual licensee catch quotas, expressed as percentages of the poundages calculated under subd. 5., shall be calculated for each permittee subject to this subdivision. The first percentage shall be calculated by dividing the total commercial harvest of smelt reported lawfully harvested from the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay under each license during the period of July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992 by the overall total reported commercial harvest of smelt from Green Bay during that period, and multiplying the result by 100. The second percentage shall be calculated by dividing the total commercial harvest of smelt reported lawfully harvested from the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan, excluding Green Bay, under each license during the period of July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992 by the overall total reported commercial harvest of smelt from Lake Michigan during that period, and multiplying the result by 100. The resulting percentages shall be rounded off to 2 decimal places or to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.

c. A quota smelt fishery permittee who receives an individual licensee catch quota for Green Bay may take all or part of the Green Bay quota from either Green Bay or Lake Michigan, but no quota smelt fishery permittee who receives an individual licensee catch quota for Lake Michigan may take any portion of the Lake Michigan quota from Green Bay.

(3) APPLICATION. (a) Applications for individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits under this section shall be made on forms available from the department and shall be returned to the department no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made.

(b) To be timely, applications, if mailed, must be postmarked no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made and if submitted to the department other than by mail must be received and stamped with a date stamp of the department indicating receipt no later than 60 days before the license year for which application is being made. Late applications for individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits may not be acted upon by the department but shall be returned to the applicant.

(c) The applications shall be reviewed by the department and approved or denied no later than 15 days before the license year for which application is being made.

(d) Applicants for Lake Michigan chub fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas under sub. (2) (a) and (am) shall select and designate on their applications the northern chub fishing zone, the southern chub fishing zone or both zones as the waters they wish to fish chubs in.

(4) ASSESSMENT QUOTA. Fish harvested under contract for the department for assessment purposes may not be considered part of nor deducted from an individual licensee catch quota.

(5) PERIOD OF VALIDITY. Individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits determined and issued in accordance with this section shall be issued on a license year basis. They shall be valid only during the open season for the species of fish subject to the harvest quota and only while the quota holder or permittee holds a valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies.



(6) **REINSTATEMENT OF QUOTA RIGHTS.** If the commercial fishing license of a quota holder is revoked under s. 29.519, Stats., the right to that quota and ranking, if any, shall be reinstated upon reinstatement of the revoked license and upon proper application.

(7) **REALLOCATION OF SURPLUS TOTAL ALLOWABLE COMMERCIAL HARVEST.** If the number of eligible permittees is inadequate to utilize a total allowable commercial harvest established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3., (b), (c), (d) or (e) and allocated under sub. (2) (am) 1., (b), (bg), (br), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) 5., the surplus shall be divided permanently among the remaining eligible permittees based on the percentage calculated for each permittee under sub. (2) (am) 1., (b), (bg), (br), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) 5., respectively.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. r. and recr. and cr. (2) (a) 1. eff. 5-16-79; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. (2) (a) 1., Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (a), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. cr. (2) (a) 1. b. 6, eff. 1-2-82; am. (2) (a) (intro.), Register, April, 1982, No. 316, eff. 5-1-82; emerg. am. (2) (a) 1. b. and c., eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a) 1. b. and c. and (3), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; cr. (2) (a) 1. b. 6, Register, February, 1983, No. 326, eff. 3-1-83; am. (1) and (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; r. and recr. (2) (a) 2., (2) (b) and (3), r. (2) (a) 4. and 5., renum. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4. and am., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (1) (b) 1., (2) (b) 2. c. and 5., cr. (2) (b) 1. c. and d., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. b. and 2. a., renum. (2) (a) 3. c. to be 3. d., cr. (2) (a) 3. c., Register, July, 1984, No. 343, eff. 8-1-84; am. (2) (a) 2., intro. and b., 3. intro. and d., r. and recr. (3) to (6), Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; emerg. am. (2) (a) 3. b. 2, eff. 3-15-85; am. (2) (a) 3. c., renum. (2) (a) 3. d. to be 3. e., cr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, May, 1985, No. 353, eff. 6-1-85; am. (1) (a), Register, June, 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; am. (2) (a) 3. b. 2, Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. am. (2) (a) 3. d., eff. 5-5-86; am. (2) (a) 2. a. and b., r. (2) (a) 2. c., Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; r. and recr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (2) (c), Register, January, 1988, No. 385, eff. 2-1-88; am. (2) (a) 3. b., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; r. (2) (a) 3. d. 3, am. (2) (a) 1. and 3. intro., cr. (2) (a) 1m., r. and recr. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, January, 1989, No. 397, eff. 7-1-89, except (2) (a) 3. d. 3, eff. 2-1-89; r. (2) (a) 4., (b) 4. and (c) 5., am. (2) (b) 5., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. renum. (2) (b) 1. to 3. to be 2. to 4. and am. 2. intro., c. and d., 3. c. and 4., cr. (2) (b) 1., (bg) and (d) to (g), eff. 7-1-89; renum. (2) (b) 1. to 3. to be 2. to 4. and am. (2) (b) 2. intro., c. and d., 3. c. and 4., cr. (2) (b) 1., (bg), (br) and (d) to (g), Register, October, 1989, No. 406, eff. 11-1-89; emerg. r. (2) (b) 5. and (c), renum. (2) (d) to (g) to be (2) (c) to (f), am. (3) (a) and (b), eff. 4-1-91; r. (2) (b) 5. and (c), renum. (2) (d) to (g) to be (2) (c) to (f), am. (3) (a) and (b), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; r. (2) (a) 3. b. 2 and c., (b) 3. b., (bg) 4. and (br) 4., am. (2) (a) 3. d., renum. (2) (a) 3. e., (b) 3. c., (bg) 5. and (br) 5. to be (2) (a) 3. f., (b) 3. b., (bg) 4. and (br) 4., cr. (2) (a) 3. e. and (7), Register, November, 1991, No. 431, eff. 12-1-91; am. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; reprinted to correct error in (2) (a) 2. a., Register, May, 1993, No. 449; am. (1) (a) 2., Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; correction in (2) (a) 2. b. and 3. f. made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, November, 1993, No. 455; r. and recr. (2) (a) 1. and 1m., am. (3) (d), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 7-1-94; am. (2) (a) 2. a., b., Register, February, 1995, No. 470, eff. 3-1-95; cr. (2) (g), am. (7), Register, October, 1995, No. 478, eff. 11-15-95; corrections in (2) and (3) (d) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1. and 7., Stats., Register, February, 1996, No. 482; am. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, April, 1997, No. 496, eff. 5-1-97; corrections in (7) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, April, 1997, No. 496; am. (1) (intro.), (2) (intro.), (b) 1. c. (bg) 2. and (br) 2, Register, July, 1999, No. 523, eff. 8-1-99; CR 09-016: am. (2) (a) 2. (intro.) and (3) (a) 2. (c), cr. (2) (a) 3. Register January 2010 No. 649, eff. 2-1-10; corrections in (2) (a) 2. (c), (2) (a) 3. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register January 2010 No. 649; CR 13-001: r. (2) (a) 2., am. (2) (b) 2. c., (bg) 2., (br) 2., r. (2) (g) 5. d., am. (3) (c) Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13; EmR1627: emerg. cr. (1) (b), eff. 10-1-16; CR 16-061: cr. (1) (b) Register September 2017 No. 741, eff. 10-1-17; renum. (1) (b) 1. to (1) (b) 1m. under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections in (2) (g) 3., 4., 5. a. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register April 2020 No. 772; correction in (1) (a) 1. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register February 2021 No. 782; EmR2120: emerg. am. (1) (b) (title), eff. CR 21-024: am. (1) (b) (title) Register October 2021 No. 790, eff. 11-1-21; CR 21-099: cr. (2) (e) 5. Register July 2022 No. 799, eff. 8-1-22.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.07.

**NR 25.08 Transfer of individual licensee catch quotas.** Individual licensee catch quotas allotted under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a) or (b) or (2) (am) 1., (b), (bg), (br), (c), (d), (e), or (f) may be transferred by the licensee receiving the quota allocation to another valid licensee authorized to engage in commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies, who meets all criteria for receiving such a quota other than previous fishing history, subject to the conditions stated in this section.

(1) Application for individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be made on forms provided by the department.

(2) All or part of an individual licensee catch quota allotted under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a) or (2) (am) 1., (b), (bg), (br), (c), (d), (e) or (f) may be permanently or temporarily transferred by the quota holder.

(2m) A northern chub fishing zone permit issued under s. NR 25.07 (2) (a) 1., may be permanently transferred by the permit holder only in conjunction with the transfer of the permit holder's valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under s. NR 25.04.

(2t) (a) All or part of an individual licensee catch quota allotted under s. NR 25.07 (2) (g) 5., may be temporarily or permanently transferred by the licensee receiving the quota allocation to another licensee who also holds a valid quota smelt fishery permit and individual licensee catch quota issued under s. NR 25.07 (2) (g) 5.

(b) A quota smelt fishery permit and individual licensee catch quota allotted under s. NR 25.07 (2) (g) 5., may be transferred by the licensee receiving the permit and catch quota to a person who does not also hold a valid quota smelt fishery permit and individual licensee catch quota issued under s. NR 25.07 (2) (g) 5., only in conjunction with the transfer of the permit holder's valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under s. NR 25.04.

(3) A licensee may designate on the application for their individual licensee catch quota a person to whom the licensee wishes that quota to be transferred in the event of the licensee's death or incapacity. This designation may be changed during the license year as requested in writing by the licensee. The designated person shall meet the criteria under this section for the transfer to occur.

(a) In the absence of such a designation, or a qualified transferee, or a transferee capable of accepting the transfer under this section, members of the immediate family of the licensee who meet the eligibility requirements of this section shall be offered the quota. The offer shall be made by the department in the following order:

1. Spouse;
2. Children, eldest first, then in order of age;
3. Parents;
4. Siblings, eldest first, then in order of age.

(b) 1. If a prospective transferee under this subsection is not eligible under the criteria of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter to receive a Lake Superior quota at the time it is offered, but he or she could become eligible within 2 years, the department shall offer the quota to the person. If the person accepts the quota within 30 days of the offer, the person shall have until 2 years from the date of acceptance to show that he or she meets the eligibility requirements of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter, during which time the quota shall be held in abeyance by the department. However, if it becomes apparent to the department that the person cannot become eligible within 2 years from the date of acceptance; if the person fails to become eligible within the 2-year period; or if the person does not accept the offer within 30 days, the department shall offer the quota to the next prospective transferee under this subsection, if any exist.

2. If a prospective transferee under this subsection is not eligible under the criteria of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter to receive a Lake Michigan quota at the time it is offered, but he or she could become eligible within 2 years, the department shall offer the quota to the person. If the person accepts the quota within 30 days of the offer, the person shall have until 2 years from the date



of acceptance to show that he or she meets the eligibility requirements of s. 29.519, Stats., and this chapter, during which time the quota shall be held in abeyance by the department. However, if it becomes apparent to the department that the person cannot become eligible within 2 years from the date of acceptance; if the person fails to become eligible within the 2-year period; or if the person does not accept the offer within 30 days, the department shall offer the quota to the next prospective transferee under this subsection, if any exist.

(c) All offers of transfer under this subsection shall be accepted within 30 days from the date of offer or be considered refused.

(d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply to quotas granted for license year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 and subsequent license years.

(4) Individual licensee catch quotas may not be transferred if the quota holder or the recipient are charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws under which conviction could cause revocation or suspension of their respective commercial fishing license. This subsection shall apply from issuance of the citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.

(5) Individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the department. Such review and approval or denial shall occur within 20 business days after receipt by the department of a complete transfer request. The department shall notify the appropriate commercial fishing board of any transfer denial.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; emerg. am. (intro.), eff. 7-1-89, am. (intro.), Register, October, 1989, No. 406, eff. 11-1-89; am. (intro.) and (2), cr. (2m), Register, November, 1991, No. 431, eff. 12-1-91; am. (2), Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; am. (2m) and (5), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. (intro.) and (2), cr. (2t), Register, October, 1995, No. 478, eff. 11-15-95; correction in (intro.) and (2) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, February, 1996, No. 482; r. and recr. (3) (b) and cr. (3) (b) 2., Register, June, 1997, No. 498, eff. 7-1-97; am. (5), Register, July, 1999, No. 523, eff. 8-1-99; correction in (2t) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., Register, July, 1999, No. 523, eff. 8-1-99; EmR1627: emerg. am. (intro.), eff. 10-1-16; CR 16-061: am. (intro.), Register September 2017 No. 741, eff. 10-1-17; correction in (intro.) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register September 2017 No. 741.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.08.

**NR 25.09 Commercial fishing gear.** Licensed commercial fishers and treaty fishers conducting commercial fishing operations may only use the following gear subject to the conditions stated in this section and in the areas designated:

(1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (ad) *Gill nets - 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.* The licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not more than 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure.

(ah) *Gill nets - 2  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch.* The licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 2  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and not more than 3 inch stretch measure under the following conditions:

1. From January 16 to November 9, the licensee may use gill nets of this size stretch measure only when the bottom lead or maître cord, line, or rope is on the lake bottom, only when the depth of water at that location is 12 to 60 feet (2 to 10 fathoms) deep or 210 to 330 feet (35 to 55 fathoms) deep, and only when the number of meshes does not exceed 35 meshes in depth.

2. From November 10 to January 15, the licensee may use gill nets of this size stretch measure only when the bottom lead or maître cord, line, or rope is on the lake bottom, only when the depth of water at that location is 60 to 330 feet (10 to 55 fathoms) deep, and only when the number of meshes does not exceed 35 meshes in depth.

3. At any time of year, the licensee may use gill nets of this size stretch measure, provided that the bottom maître cord or lead line is at least 6 feet (1 fathom) above the lake bottom and the top

maître cord or float line is at least 12 feet (2 fathoms) below the surface of the water, and that the number of meshes does not exceed 60 meshes in depth.

(am) *Gill nets - 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch.* The licensee may set gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch stretch measure under all of the following conditions:

1. The licensee may set gill nets with 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch stretch measure not exceeding 36 meshes in depth and only when set on the bottom of the lake.

2. In addition to the requirement in subd. 1., the licensee may set gill nets with 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch stretch measure not exceeding 36 meshes in depth in waters less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep only from November 28 through September 30.

3. In addition to the requirements in subds. 1. and 2., in water less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep, the total maximum feet of gill net with mesh size equal to 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch and greater that the licensee may set shall be determined by the department according to this subdivision based on CPE in order to ensure that total allowable state and tribal annual lake trout harvest quotas and individual fishers' harvest quotas are not exceeded.

a. The lake trout open season under s. NR 25.05 is divided into 3 periods. The department shall determine CPE and determine the total maximum feet of gill net with mesh size equal to 4  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch and greater which may be set by all licensees during each of the following 3 periods:

period 1: November 28 through March 31;

period 2: April 1 through May 31;

period 3: June 1 through September 30.

b. CPE for each period shall be determined from department-monitored state and tribal net lifts occurring during each period.

d. The 3-year average CPEs shall be calculated by the department as the average of the monitored CPEs for the corresponding periods of the preceding 3 lake trout open seasons using data from department-monitored net lifts.

e. No commercial fisher may set more than his or her allowable gill net effort during each period of the lake trout open season. The department shall use the following formula to determine each commercial fisher's allowable gill net effort in feet of net:

period 1 allowable gill net effort:

$$\frac{\text{Individual Lake Trout Quota}}{\text{Period 1 CPE}} \times 1000$$

period 2 allowable gill net effort:

$$\frac{[\text{Unused Effort Period 1}][\text{Period 1 CPE}]}{\text{Period 2 CPE}}$$

period 3 allowable gill net effort:

$$\frac{[\text{Unused Effort Period 2}][\text{Period 2 CPE}]}{\text{Period 3 CPE}}$$

f. The department shall make available allowable gill net effort limitations for period 1 by November 1 of each year. If a commercial fisher's allowable gill net effort has not been used by the end of period 1 or 2 and is reported by the commercial fisher according to s. NR 25.13, the remaining balance of allowable gill net effort in feet of net shall be carried over to succeeding periods within the lake trout open season but not carried over to the next lake trout open season. The department shall determine gill net effort limitations for periods 2 and 3 within 5 working days after the start of periods 2 and 3 using remaining allowable gill net effort reported according to s. NR 25.13.

g. The department shall calculate the allowable gill net effort for the overall state commercial and tribal effort in the same manner.

**Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.**

ner as described in subd. 3. e., except that the state or tribal lake trout quota shall be used instead of the fisher's individual quota.

4. Upon use of all tags issued for lake trout to the licensee under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a), or upon use of the total number of feet of gill net permitted to be set in any time period under subd. 3., a licensee may not set gill nets with a mesh size of  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inch stretch measure in water less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep for the remainder of the lake trout open season.

6. The licensee may not set or place gill nets in the waters of Lake Superior from a boat or watercraft from January 15 through March 31, except as authorized by the department in a permit issued under sub. (6).

7. The licensee may not set or place gill nets within one-quarter mile shoreward of the pot and lead of any entrapping net, except that if a trap net is set within one-quarter mile of a gill net, that gill net may continue to be lifted and reset in the same location.

(ar) *Gill nets - unrestricted size.* The licensee may set gill nets with no restrictions on mesh size or the number of meshes in depth at any time during the year only in water more than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep and only when set on the bottom.

(as) *Gill net marking requirements.* 1. A license holder shall legibly mark each gill net with the license number or fleet reporting number of the license holder on each float or on each lead, and shall mark the bowls of the buoys on each end of the gang with the license number of the license holder in accordance with s. 29.516 (2) (d) 1., Stats.

2. Except as provided in subd. 4., a license holder shall tag each gill net with a mesh size of less than  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inches with an informational tag supplied by the department on the buoy staff above the water line. Each tag shall list the license number or the fleet reporting number of the license holder and "Less than  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inches."

3. Except as provided in subd. 4., a license holder shall tag each gill net with a mesh size of  $4\frac{7}{16}$  inches or greater with an informational tag supplied by the department on the buoy staff above the water line. Each tag shall list the time and date upon which the gill net was set, the length of the gang of nets, and the license number or fleet reporting number of the license holder.

4. A license holder may supply his or her own informational tag to meet the requirements in subds. 2. and 3.

(av) *Gill net lifting requirements.* The licensee shall lift each gill net a minimum of:

1. Once every 72 hours in open water less than 96 feet (16 fathoms) deep.

2. Once every 120 hours in open water 96 to 210 feet (16 to 35 fathoms) deep.

3. Once every 240 hours in open water more than 210 feet (35 fathoms) deep.

4. Once every 120 hours in commercial ice fishing.

(b) *Entrapping nets.* 1. The licensee may use entrapping nets only when the pot or crib is set, placed, or operated in water not more than 90 feet (15 fathoms) deep, and only when the mesh size of the trap net pot or crib, excluding shoaling twine, is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inch stretch measure or greater.

2. The licensee may set, place, or operate entrapping nets only by permit issued under s. NR 25.10 (4) in that part of Lake Superior lying between a line extending due north of a point one mile east of the mouth of the Iron river in section 34, township 50 north, range 9 west, Bayfield county, and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Bad river in section 17, township 48 north, range 2 west, Ashland county, including all of the Apostle Islands area.

3. Each licensee may use up to 10 entrapping nets per license, as measured by the number of pots or cribs.

4. The licensee shall lift each entrapping net a minimum of once every 168 hours.

5. Each entrapping net shall have the fish holding pot portion rendered inoperable during the closed seasons for whitefish and lake trout and shall have the webbing removed from the water within 3 days after the close of the lake trout season.

6. The licensee may not place entrapping nets within one-half mile of any other entrapping net.

7. The licensee may not place or operate entrapping nets in the waters of Lake Superior during the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September if the mesh covering the top of the hearts of the nets is less than 14 inch stretch measure.

8. The licensee may not place or operate entrapping nets in the waters of Lake Superior from a boat or watercraft from November 28 through March 31.

9. A licensee fishing with entrapment nets in the area west of Bark Point known as WI-1 may harvest cisco, whitefish, and lake trout less than 25 inches in length, and only from April 1 to September 30.

10. The licensee may not place or operate entrapping nets within one mile of a designated trout stream.

11. The licensee shall mark and maintain each entrapping net with 2 flags, one above the other, on a single staff attached to the inside or shallow lead end of the net, one flag on a staff attached to the pot or lifting buoy, one flag on a staff attached to the anchor at the outward end of the king line, and one float measuring a minimum of 5 inches in diameter attached to the anchor at the outward end of each net wing. All staffs shall be marked with reflective tape. All flags shall measure not less than 9 inches high by 18 inches wide and shall be displayed so that the top edge of the flag is not less than 5 feet above the water, except that the lower of 2 flags on one staff shall be displayed so that the bottom edge is not less than 3 feet above the water. Two flags displayed on one staff shall be separated by not less than 6 inches. All floats and all flags except the flag attached to the king line anchor shall be of a highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange or blaze orange with a color range between 595 nm and 605 nm. The flag attached to the king line anchor shall be a dark color other than orange. The license number or fleet reporting number of the commercial fishing license holder shall be displayed and maintained in legible, block figures at least 1 inch high on the bowl of the pot or lifting buoy. Flags are not required October 16 through April 14.

(bm) *All nets.* The following regulations shall apply to all nets:

1. No net may be placed within one-quarter mile of any other net, except that if a trap net is set illegally within one-quarter mile of a legally placed gill net, that gill net may continue to be lifted and reset in the same location in accordance with par. (am) 7. Entrapment nets are further subject to s. NR 25.09 (1) (b) 6.

2. Within 24 hours of setting any portion of a net, the net shall be fully deployed and actively fishing.

(c) *Encircling nets and trawls.* Encircling nets and trawls are prohibited.

(d) *Disposition of fish caught in nets.* All lake trout caught in gill nets not less than  $4\frac{6}{16}$  inch stretch measure set in waters less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep shall be kept and tagged except that, during November 28 through May 31, live lake trout may be released. Lake trout caught in gill nets in waters 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep or deeper or in entrapping nets may be returned to the lake or kept and tagged, except that dead lake trout

25 inches or less in length caught in entrapping nets shall be kept and tagged. All lake trout, dead or alive, larger than 25 inches in length caught in entrapping nets shall be returned to the lake. All lake trout and siscowet harvested by commercial and home use fishers shall be tagged in accordance with s. NR 25.06 (3).

(e) *Ice buoy standards.* Whenever ice may reasonably be expected to encroach upon fishing gear, in lieu of the requirements in s. NR 25.09, no commercial fisher may fish except with gear that meets the following standards:

1. Ice buoys shall have an overall minimum length of 12 feet.
2. At least two feet of any ice buoy shall extend above water with the license number of the commercial fisher visible.
3. The top foot of the above-water portion of an ice buoy shall be marked with the highly visible color known as hunter orange or blaze orange.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) *Gill nets.* 1. 'Gill nets of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure for smelt.' For taking smelt only, a licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not more than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure not exceeding 60 meshes in depth in Green Bay and 30 meshes in depth in Lake Michigan.

2. 'Gill nets of  $2\frac{3}{8}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure in southern Green Bay.' In southern Green Bay only, a licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not less than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inch and not more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure not exceeding 60 meshes in depth.

3. 'Gill nets of  $2\frac{3}{8}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure in the southern chub fishing zone in Lake Michigan.' In water more than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep in the southern chub fishing zone in Lake Michigan only except as provided in subd. 4., a licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not less than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inch and not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure, and not less than 24 meshes and not more than 60 meshes in height.

4. 'Gill nets of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure.' In any of the following areas and under the following conditions, a licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch and not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure:

a. For chubs in Lake Michigan, a licensee may use gill nets of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure in the northern chub fishing zone only and those nets may not exceed 60 meshes in depth.

b. For other legal fish species in Lake Michigan and Green Bay, a licensee may use gill nets of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure only in the areas and with the restrictions described under subd. 4. c. and d.

c. In Lake Michigan in waters less than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep outside the northern chub fishing zone, a licensee may use gill nets of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure only if the gill nets do not exceed 18 meshes in depth.

d. In Green Bay, or within the northern chub fishing zone, or in waters 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep or deeper in Lake Michigan, gill nets of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure may be used only if the gill nets do not exceed 60 meshes in depth.

6. 'Gill nets of 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure in southern Green Bay.' A licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 4 inch and not more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure in southern Green Bay under all of the following conditions and in accordance with subd. 9.:

a. Gill nets of 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure may be used only in water less than 30 feet (5 fathoms) deep.

c. Gill nets of 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure may be used only from May 20 to March 9, except that these gill nets may not be used during the closed season for whitefish.

d. Gill nets of 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure may not be more than 30 meshes in depth.

7. 'Gill nets greater than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch

stretch measure.' A licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size greater than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch and not more than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure under all of the following conditions and in accordance with subd. 9.:

a. Gill nets of this size may be used in those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Bailey's Harbor on 135° bearing.

b. Gill nets of this size may be used in Green Bay.

c. Gill nets of this size may only be used during the open season for whitefish.

d. Gill nets of this size may not exceed 30 meshes in depth for one-half of the total length of these nets set at any time by a licensed commercial fisher, and the remaining half may not exceed 50 meshes in depth.

8. 'Gill nets greater than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure.' A licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size greater than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch stretch measure under all of the following conditions and in accordance with subd. 9.:

b. Gill nets of this size may be used only during the open seasons for whitefish and yellow perch.

c. Gill nets of this size may not be more than 12 meshes in depth.

9. 'Total gill net length with gill nets of 4 inch or larger stretch measure.' A licensee may use gill nets with a mesh size of 4 inch or larger stretch measure. The total length of gill nets used under each license may not exceed 12,000 feet at any one time.

10. 'Gill net lifting requirements.' A licensee shall lift all gill nets within the following time intervals:

a. Once every 24 hours in open water less than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep for all mesh sizes in Green Bay.

am. Once every 24 hours in open water less than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep for mesh sizes greater than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch stretch measure in Lake Michigan.

b. Once every 120 hours in open water 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep or deeper for mesh sizes of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  or less inch stretch measure in Lake Michigan.

c. Once every 48 hours in commercial ice fishing.

d. Once every 120 hours in open water less than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep for mesh sizes of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inch or less stretch measure in Lake Michigan.

(b) *Entrapping nets.* 1. A licensee may use drop nets and fyke nets under all of the following conditions:

a. A licensee may only use drop nets and fyke nets during the open season for yellow perch, except by permit issued under s. NR 25.10 (4).

b. The licensee may use up to 30 drop nets or fyke nets in aggregate under each license, as measured by the number of pots or cribs allowed.

c. The licensee shall lift drop and fyke nets a minimum of once every 72 hours.

2. A licensee may use pound nets and trap nets under all of the following conditions:

a. Only when the pot or crib is set, placed or operated in water not more than 150 feet (25 fathoms) deep, except from June 29 to Labor Day south of a line extending from the Lake Michigan shoreline along 44°52'30" north latitude where the entire net, including the lead, is set, placed or operated in water not more than 150 feet (25 fathoms) or less than 60 feet (10 fathoms) deep.

b. From the day following Labor Day to June 28, the licensee may use no more than 12 pound nets and trap nets in aggregate under each license, as measured by the number of pots or cribs, except in southern Green Bay as described under s. NR 25.102.

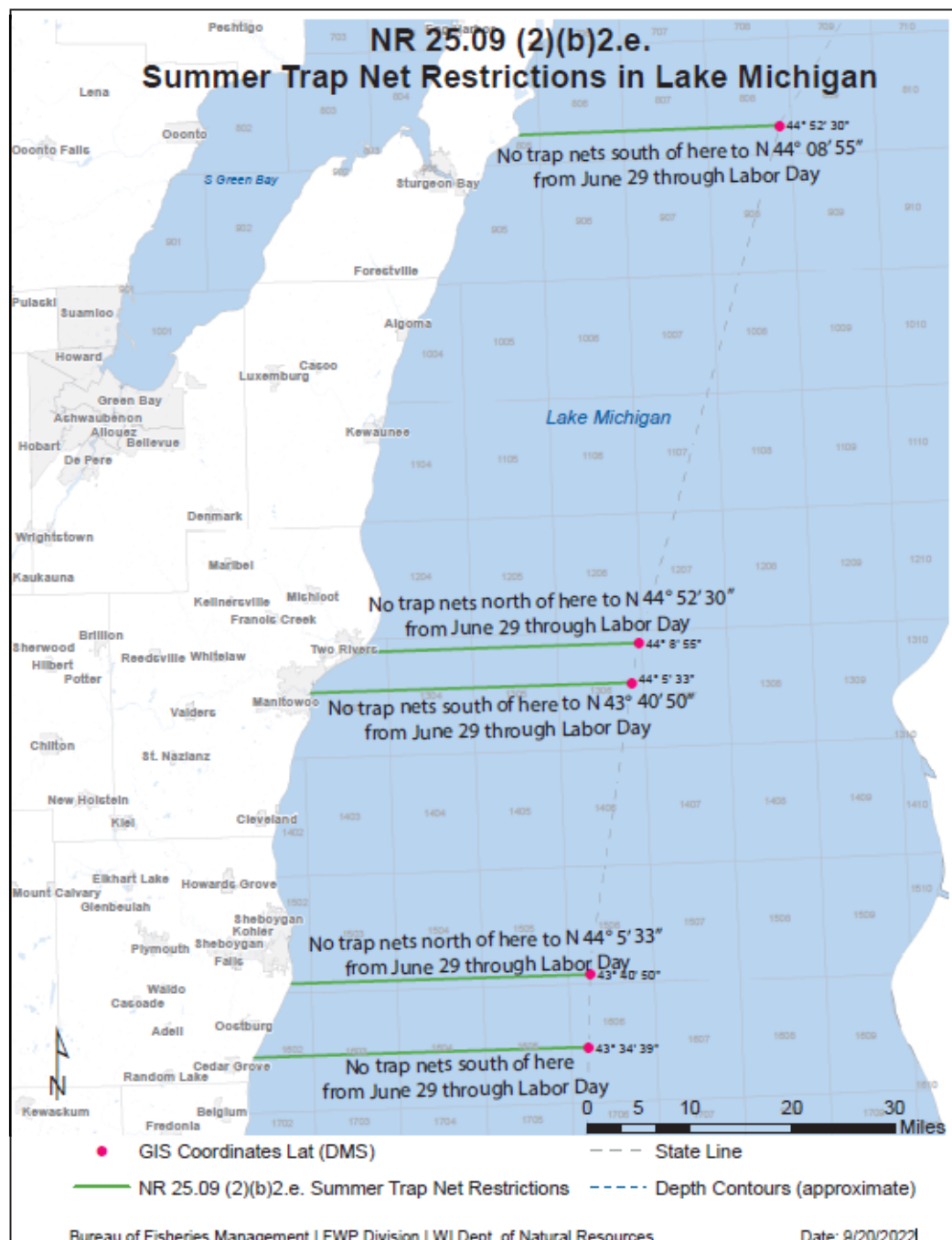
**Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.**

From June 29 to Labor Day in the waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending from the Lake Michigan shoreline along 44°52'30" north latitude, the licensee may use no more than 3 pound nets and trap nets in aggregate under each license, as measured by the number of pots or cribs, while north of this line the licensee may use no more than 12 pound nets and trap nets in aggregate under each license.

c. The licensee shall lift nets under this subdivision a minimum of once every 120 hours.

d. Each net shall have the fish holding or pot portion rendered inoperable during the closed season for whitefish and shall have the webbing removed from the water within 14 days after the close of the whitefish season.

e. From June 29 through Labor Day, a licensee may not use pound nets or trap nets in Lake Michigan between 44°52'30" north latitude and 44°08'55" north latitude, between 44°05'33" north latitude and 43°40'50" north latitude, and south of 43°34'39" north latitude. Unless the department has granted an extension of time, the licensee shall remove the webbing of each pound net and each trap net from the water by June 28 and may not reinstall it until the day after Labor Day. If adverse weather conditions or unanticipated equipment problems prevent removal of the webbing by June 28, a licensee may request and the department may grant a brief extension of time sufficient to allow safe removal. See map for details.





f. The licensee shall mark each pound or trap net with 2 flags, one above the other, on a single staff attached to the inside or shallow lead end of the net, one flag on a staff attached to the pot or lifting buoy, one flag on a staff attached to the anchor at the outward end of the king line, and one float measuring a minimum of 5 inches in diameter attached to the anchor at the outward end of each net wing. All staffs shall be marked with reflective tape. All flags shall measure not less than 9 inches high by 18 inches wide and shall be displayed so that the top edge of the flag is not less than 5 feet above the water, except that the lower of 2 flags on one staff shall be displayed so that the bottom edge is not less than 3 feet above the water. Two flags displayed on one staff shall be separated by not less than 6 inches. All floats and all flags required under this subd. 2. f. except the flag attached to the king line anchor shall be of a highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange or blaze orange with a color range between 595 nm and 605 nm. The flag attached to the king line anchor shall be a dark color other than orange. The license number or fleet reporting number of the commercial fishing license holder shall be displayed and maintained in legible, block figures at least 1 inch high on the bowl of the pot or lifting buoy. Flags are not required October 16 through April 14.

g. A licensee may use pound nets and trap nets for legal fish species in Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

(c) *Seines*. A licensee may use seines. Seines shall have a mesh size of not less than 3 inch stretch measure and shall be at least 75 feet in length.

(d) *Trawls*. 1. In southern Green Bay north of a line from the southernmost point of Little Tail point to the Green Bay naviga-

tion channel entrance light at 87°54'4.176" west longitude, 44°39'11.088" north latitude only, a licensee may use trawls only under the following provisions:

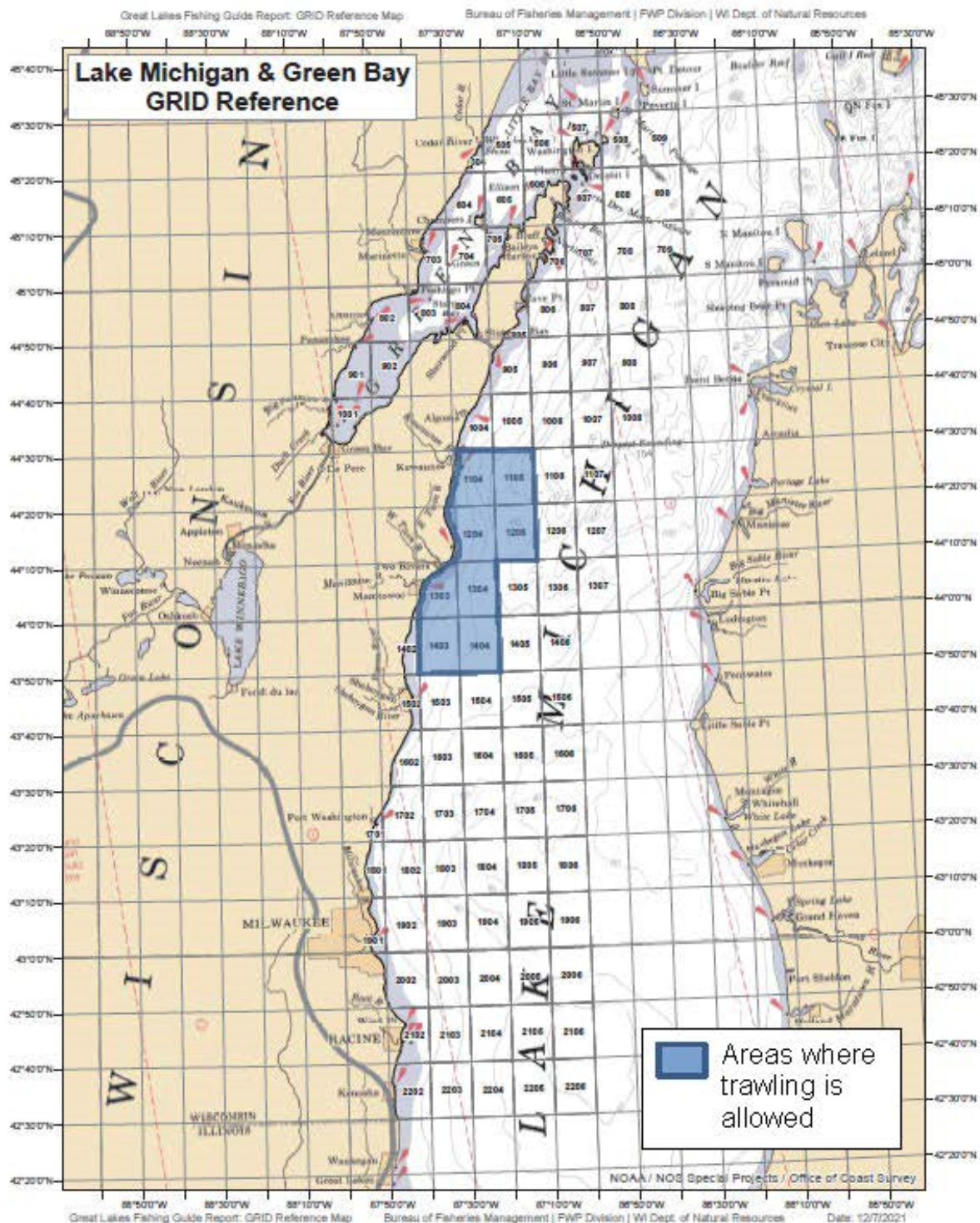
a. The licensee may only use trawls for taking smelt under s. NR 25.06 (2) (c).

b. A licensee trawling under this subdivision may only use trawls in water more than 65 feet deep.

d. A licensee trawling under this subdivision shall use diverters with openings no larger than  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch wide.

2. In Lake Michigan, a licensee may use trawls under all of the following conditions:

a. A licensee may use trawls only in waters 60 feet (10 fathoms) deep or deeper bounded by a line beginning at a point where 44° 30' north latitude intersects with the Wisconsin shore of Lake Michigan, then proceeding east along 44° 30' north latitude, to its intersection with 87° 10' west longitude, then proceeding south along 87° 10' west longitude to its intersection with 44° 10' north latitude then proceeding west along 44° 10' north latitude to its intersection with 87° 20' west longitude, then proceeding south along 87° 20' west longitude to its intersection with 43° 50' north latitude, then proceeding west along 43° 50' north latitude to its intersection with 87° 40' west longitude, then proceeding north along 87° 40' west longitude to its intersection with 44° 00' north latitude, then proceeding west along 44° 00' north latitude to the Wisconsin shore of Lake Michigan and then north along the shore to the point of beginning. This area can also be described as all of grids 1105, 1205, 1304, 1403 and 1404, and part of grids 1104, 1204, and 1303. See map for details.



b. A licensee may use trawls for taking smelt as provided in s. NR 25.06 (2) (c) except chubs may be harvested during the trawling season for smelt, subject to s. NR 25.07 (2) (a), and whitefish may be harvested subject to the requirements in this subdivision and s. NR 25.09 (2m).

c. Beginning July 1, 1991, when used to harvest smelt in Lake Michigan, diversers with openings no larger than 1½ inch wide shall be used.

d. Until October 31, 2025, whitefish may be taken by trawling from December 1 to August 31 from one hour before sunrise

to one hour before sunset. Trawls shall consist of a head rope height not greater than 45 meters. The wing mesh shall not be less than 4.5 inches stretch measure. The beginning of the trawl bag where it attaches to the wing shall not be less than 2 inches stretch measure and not greater than 4.5 inches stretch measure and shall have a fishing circle not greater than 250 meshes. The cod end of the trawl bag shall not be less than 4.5 inches stretch measure and shall begin with a fishing circle not greater than 80 meshes. The net shall be composed of twine material capable of remaining open under tension. No trawl may be deployed for longer than one hour per drag, measured from the time the trawl door enters the water until the time the trawl door leaves the water upon retrieval.

e. Any person taking whitefish using a trawl under this subdivision shall submit commercial fishing reports on whitefish subject to the requirements in s. NR 25.13 (2), and on incidental harvest subject to the requirements in s. NR 25.13 (2) (g).

**(2m) VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.** A licensee taking whitefish using a trawl under sub. (2) (d) 2. shall capture a video record of the on-board activity on any vessel engaged in trawling for whitefish as provided in this subsection. The licensee shall comply with all the video surveillance system requirements in this subsection unless the licensee notifies the department of a system malfunction as described in subd. 3. The video record shall be made by using a video surveillance system that complies with all of the following requirements:

(a) 1. The system shall consist of not fewer than two cameras capable of recording video in color and infrared, at not less than 5 frames per second and 470 TV lines resolution. The licensee shall position one camera to clearly capture the area of the vessel in which fish are emptied from the bag of the trawl net, and the licensee shall position one camera to clearly capture the area of the vessel where incidentally caught fish are measured before being returned to the water. Placement of the cameras is subject to all of the following:

a. The licensee shall place a measuring board with visible measuring units in inches near the bycatch chute, arranged so that each incidentally caught fish passes across the measuring board in a manner allowing determination of species and length in view of the camera prior to the fish's return to the water.

b. Upon direction from the department, the licensee shall reposition any of the cameras if the activities identified in this paragraph are not visible or are unclear in any video record generated under this section after being viewed by the department under par. (c).

2. The video record generated by the cameras described in subd. 1. shall be recorded on a hard drive that has memory capacity of not less than 1 terabyte and is capable of retaining not less than 30 days of video records generated as required under par. (b), with each frame of the video record stamped with the date and time of capture.

3. The video recording system shall be equipped with an audible alarm warning that indicates system malfunction. If a system malfunction occurs, the licensee shall immediately cease trawling and shall contact the department within 2 hours of returning to the dock. Upon restoration of system functionality, the licensee shall notify the department and shall resume using the system.

(b) The licensee shall activate the video recording system under par. (a) upon engine ignition each time a vessel is operated for the purpose of taking whitefish with a trawl and shall provide that the video recording system remains in operation until the vessel returns to its dock and the engine is turned off.

(c) The licensee shall maintain all video records captured un-

der this subsection for 30 days following their recording. The licensee shall provide the video record to the department upon request through a wireless internet transmission or with a removable storage device.

**(3) NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT.** (a) Nets do not have to be lifted on Sunday, except as required by notice issued under s. NR 25.07.

(b) The lifting requirements of this section shall apply except during extreme adverse weather conditions which would place a fisher in danger of serious injury or death.

(c) Upon finding that a net has been lost, stolen or is missing, the owner or operator of the net shall immediately inform the department by notifying a department conservation warden. A net owner or operator who recovers a lost, stolen or missing net shall also immediately notify a department conservation warden of the recovery of the net.

(d) A commercial fisher who is engaged in fleet reporting shall display the fleet reporting number issued by the department on the buoys of all nets operated under the fleet reporting program of s. NR 25.135 in place of the individual commercial fishing license numbers.

(e) 1. All gill nets in the water and marked with a commercial fishing license number or a fleet reporting number shall count toward the total allowable gill net effort authorized under sub. (1) (am) or the linear feet of nets authorized under sub. (2) (a) 9.

2. All entrapment gear in the water and marked with a commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number shall count toward the total allowable number of nets under subs. (1) (b) 3. and (2) (b) 1. b. and 2. b., whether the pots are open or closed.

(f) After setting, moving, replacing, or recasting a trap net for whitefish in Green Bay or Lake Michigan and before starting for the dock or shore, the licensee, or a member of the licensee's crew, shall record all of the following in accordance with s. NR 25.13 (2) (at):

1. The latitude and longitude at which the pot and lead line buoy of the net are set.

2. A unique name for that trap net.

**(4) NET MESH MEASUREMENT.** Whenever the size of mesh of any net is specified in this chapter, the size shall be considered stretch measure.

(a) Stretch measure shall be determined by exerting a one pound strain on a mesh knot and measuring the mesh opening immediately above that knot on which the strain is applied from the inside edge of that knot to the inside edge of the knot directly opposite. Measurement shall be made by inserting the measuring device at the uppermost knot in the mesh and reading at the lowermost knot.

(b) The weight and measuring devices to be used under par. (a) shall be tested, approved and certified by the Wisconsin department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, or other governmental entity authorized to do so.

(c) Measurement shall be made of meshes in a wet condition.

(d) If the majority of 10 or more meshes selected at random by the enforcement officer from any part or parts of the net are found to be illegal, the entire net shall be considered illegal and shall be seized and held subject to the order of the court.

**(5) MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR.** (a) Except as provided in par. (bm), whenever any gill net lift, encircling net lift or trawl drag catches illegal fish of any species in an amount equal to 10% or more by weight or numbers of the total legal catch, the licensee shall immediately remove the net from the wa-



ter, and may not reset, place, replace, recast, or operate the net during that same day unless:

1. All parts of the net are moved a distance of at least 3 miles from that site; or

2. Moved to a water depth where no part of the net is within 30 feet (5 fathoms) in depth of the water depth at which the catch of illegal fish was made.

(bm) When trawling for whitefish from August 1 to 31 pursuant to sub. (2) (d) 2. d., all of the following requirements apply:

1. When a single trawl drag catches illegal fish of any species in an amount equal to 10% or more by weight or numbers of the total legal catch, the licensee shall immediately remove the trawl from the water, and may not reset, replace, recast, or operate any trawl during the same day unless the licensee moves and operates all parts of the trawl a distance of at least 3 miles from that site or to a water depth where no part of the trawl operates within 30 feet (5 fathoms) in depth of the water depth at which the catch of illegal fish was made.

2. Notwithstanding the requirement in subd. 1., when a single trawling vessel catches a daily average of at least 2 lake sturgeon, or a daily average of 10 to 49.9% by weight of incidental catch of illegal fish and any whitefish returned to the water, out of the dressed whitefish reported harvested by weight in a single week from Sunday to Saturday, the licensee may not reset, replace, recast, or operate any trawl during the following week unless the licensee moves and operates all parts of the trawl a distance of at least 6 miles from that site.

3. Notwithstanding the requirements in subds. 1. and 2., when a single trawling vessel catches 3 or more lake sturgeon or catches more than 50% by weight of incidental catch of illegal fish and any whitefish returned to the water out of the dressed whitefish reported harvested by weight in a single day, the licensee shall cease all trawling activities for the following 3 days.

4. The following formula shall be used to determine the percentage of incidental catch of illegal fish out of the reported whitefish harvest for the purposes of subds. 1. to 3.:  $[(\text{number of whitefish} \times 1.37) + (\text{number of lake trout and other incidentally caught species} \times 5.86)] / \text{reported whitefish harvest in pounds} \times 100$ .

**Note:** Weights are determined for incidental catch based on average fish weights.

**(6) LAKE SUPERIOR OPEN WATER PERMIT.** The department may issue a permit authorizing the setting of nets from a boat or watercraft in the waters of Lake Superior for specific time periods during the period of January 15 to March 31 if it determines that open water conditions exist and weather forecasts predict that there will be adequate time to recover the nets prior to ice formation.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; am. (2) (b) 2., Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (2) (a) 5., Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78; emerg. am. (1), (2) (a) (intro.), 3. and 9., eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (2) (a) 3., Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. r. and recr. (3) (a) 4., r. (5) (a) 3., renum. (5) (b) to be (5) (c), cr. (5) (b), eff. 7-1-81; r. and recr. (3) (a) 4., r. (5) (a) 3., renum. (5) (b) to be (5) (c), cr. (5) (b), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; renum. (5) and (6) to be (6) and (7), renum. (4) (g) to be (5) (a), renum. (4) (h) and (i) to be (5) (b) and (c) and am., cr. (5) (intro.), Register, November, 1981, No. 311, eff. 12-1-81; am. (2) (a) 9. and (2) (b) 2., Register, April, 1982, No. 316, eff. 5-1-82; renum. (5) and (6) to be (6) and (6m), cr. (5), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; am. (2) (a) 2. and (5) and r. (6) (b) and (c), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; r. and recr. Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; renum. from NR 25.08 and am. (1) (b) 2. and (2) (b) 1.a., Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; am. (2) (a) 6.a., Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; emerg. am. (1) (a) 4. b., eff. 4-22-86; am. (1) (a) 4. b., renum. (2) (a) 3. to 9. to be 4. to 10. and am. 5. and 10. a. and b., cr. (2) (a) 3., 4. c. and d., r. and recr. (2) (d) 2., Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; am. (2) (d) 2. c., Register, April, 1988, No. 388, eff. 5-1-88; am. (2) (a) 10. a., cr. (2) (a) 10. d., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (2) (a) 1. and 2., 4.a., c. and d., (b) 2.d., r. and recr. (2) (a) 3., r. (2) (a) 5., 6.b. and 8.a., cr. (2) (b) 2.c. and (d) 1.d., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. am. (1) (a) 4. a., (2) (b) 2. e., (d) 1. a., b. and d., 2. b., cr. (1) (a) 4. bm. and d. to g., (b) 6., r. and recr. (2) (d) 2. c., eff. 4-1-91; am. (1) (a) 4. a., cr. (1) (a) 4. bm., d. to g. and (b) 6., Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91; am. (2) (b) 2. e., (2) (d) 1. a., b. and d., 2. b., r. and recr. (2) (d) 2. c.,

Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (1), Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; am. (2) (b) 2. e., Register, February, 1995, No. 470, eff. 3-1-95; corrections and renumbering of (1) (a) 1. to 5. to be (1) (ad), (ah), (am), (ar) and (av) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., 2. and 7., Stats., Register, April, 1997, No. 496; am. (1) (am) 3. c., 5. and (b) 2., cr. (1) (b) 9., Register, June, 1997, No. 498, eff. 7-1-97; am. (2) (b) 2. a., Register, April, 1999, No. 520, eff. 5-1-99; CR 01-115: am. (2) (b) 2. a. and e., Register February 2002 No. 554, eff. 3-1-02; CR 02-096: am. (1) (ah) 3., r. (1) (am) 3. c., cr. (1) (as) Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5-1-03; CR 02-143: am. (2) (b) 2. a., b. and e. Register September 2003 No. 573, eff. 10-1-03; CR 03-106: cr. (2) (b) 2. f. Register July 2004 No. 583, eff. 8-1-04; CR 05-115: am. (1) (am) 3. d. and (b) 7. Register July 2006 No. 607, eff. 8-1-06; CR 08-060: am. (1) (am) 5., 6., (as), (2) (a) 9., (b) 1. b., 2. b. and f., cr. (2) (b) 2. g., (3) (c), (d), (e) and (6) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; correction in (1) (am) 3. f. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register June 2009 No. 642; correction in (1) (am) 4. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register January 2010 No. 649; CR 11-008: cr. (1) (b) 11., am. (2) (b) 2. a., f. Register November 2011 No. 671, eff. 12-1-11; CR 15-074: am. (1) (am) 3. f. Register May 2016 No. 725, eff. 6-1-16; CR 19-134: am. (2) (d) 2. b., cr. (2) (d) 2. d., e., (2m), renum. (5) (intro.) to (5) (a) (intro.) and am., renum. (5) (a), (b) to (5) (a) 1., 2., cr. (5) (bm) Register April 2020 No. 772, eff. 5-1-20; corrections in (2) (d) 2. b., (2m) (a) 3., (5) (a) (intro.), (bm) (intro.), 3., 4. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register April 2020 No. 772; EmR1923: emerg. am. (1) (am) 3. b., (b) 5., 9., cr. (1) (bm), (d), (e), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: am. (1) (am) 3. b., (b) 5., 9., cr. (1) (bm), (d), (e) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; correction in (1) (d) made under s. 35.17, Stats., and (1) (d) (title) created under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2. Register July 2020 No. 775; correction in (5) (a) (intro.) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register February 2021 No. 782; EmR2114: emerg. cr. (2) (a) 9m., (3) (e) 1., eff. 5-21-21; CR 21-099: cr. (3) (f) Register July 2022 No. 799, eff. 8-1-22; CR 23-008: am. (intro.), (1) (ad), (ah), (am) (intro.), 1., 2., 3. (intro.), a., b., d., f., r. (1) (am) 3. h., am. (1) (am) 4. to 7., (ar) to (b), (bm) 1., (2) (a) 1. to 9., 10. a., cr. (2) (a) 10. am., am. (2) (a) 10. b. to d., (b) 1., 2. (intro.), a. to d., r. and recr. (2) (b) 2. e., am. (2) (b) 2. f., g., c. 1., r. (2) (c) 2., am. (2) (d) 1. (intro.), a., b., r. (2) (d) 1. c., am. (2) (d) 1. d., 2. (intro.), a., b., (3) (f) 1. Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23; correction in (1) (b), (2) (b) 2. f. made under s. 35.17, Stats., (2) (a) 8. to 10. titles made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., and (2) (c) 1. renum. to (2) (c) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register October 2023 No. 814; EmR2401: emerg. am. (1) (b) 1., eff. 1-12-24; CR 24-073: r. (1) (am) 5., r. and recr. (1) (as), am. (1) (b) 1. Register May 2025 No. 833, eff. 6-1-25.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.09.

**NR 25.10 Restricted commercial fishing areas.** The following restrictions apply to the use of the specified commercial fishing gear in the indicated areas:

**(1) LAKE SUPERIOR.** (a) *Areas restricted to the taking of rough or detrimental fish and whitefish.* No commercial fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, or entrapping nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. Allouez bay, Superior bay, and St. Louis bay, all in Douglas county.

2. All waters within one-fourth mile of the mouth of any navigable stream flowing into Lake Superior.

3. All waters within one-fourth mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater from April 15 through November 30.

4. That portion of Chequamegon bay lying south of a line beginning at the easternmost point of Houghton point in section 27, township 49 north, range 4 west, Bayfield county, then proceeding northeasterly to the signal light on the western end of Long island in section 13, township 48 north, range 4 west, Ashland county, then along the south or west shore of Long island and on across the cut, if present, along the south or west shore of Chequamegon point to where Chequamegon point joins the mainland in section 1 or 12, township 48 north, range 3 west, Ashland county.

(b) *Areas restricted to the taking of rough or detrimental fish only.* No commercial fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. 'Saxon Harbor.' All waters bounded by a line beginning at the mouth of Graveyard creek in section 3, township 47 north, range 1 west, extending north to the Gull Island Shoals refuge south boundary as described in s. NR 26.02, then east to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, then southerly along the state line to the shore at the mouth of the Montreuil river in section 7, town-



ship 47 north, range 1 east, all in Iron county, except from November 15 through December 15 in water 84 feet (14 fathoms) deep or deeper, when and where gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 2 1/2 inch and not more than 3 inch stretch measure may be used for taking cisco.

2. 'Siskiwit Bay.' That portion of Siskiwit bay lying south of a line extending from Roman (Quarry) point in section 29, township 50 north, range 6 west, to Squaw point in section 22, township 50 north, range 6 west, all in Bayfield county.

3. 'Sand Cut.' All waters bounded by a line beginning at the Chequamegon Point light on the western end of Long island in section 13, township 48 north, range 4 west at 46°43'12"N, 90°48'10"W, then extending northeasterly to the southernmost point of Madeline island in section 6, township 49 north, range 4 west at 46°45'09"N, 90°34'08"W, then due east 2.5 miles to 46°45'11"N 90°44'05"W, then due south 1 mile to 46°44'22"N 90°44'05"W, then due east to 46°44'22"N 90°36'06"W, then due north to 46°45'11"N 90°36'06"W, then due east to the western boundary of Gull Island Shoals refuge as described in s. NR 26.02, then southerly along the refuge boundary to latitude 46°40'00"N at 90°37'15"W, then due west to the mainland shoreline commonly known as Long Island, then northwesterly along the shoreline to the point of beginning, all in Ashland county, except waters within 1 1/2 miles of the mainland shoreline in Ashland county. No person may fish with entrapment nets in waters starting at 46°45'11"N 90°44'05"W, then due south 1 mile to 46°44'22"N 90°44'05"W, then due east to 46°44'22"N 90°36'06"W, then due north to 46°45'11"N 90°36'06"W, then due west to the starting coordinates of 46°45'11"N 90°44'05"W.

4. 'Iron River to Cranberry River.' All waters less than 72 feet (12 fathoms) deep lying between a point extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river in section 34, township 50 north, range 9 west, and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster in section 5, township 50 north, range 7 west, all in Bayfield county except float nets described in s. NR 25.09 (1) (ah) 3. may be fished from October 15 to December 31, a minimum distance of 1/2 mile from shore.

5. 'Minnesota boundary to Iron River.' All waters less than 210 feet (35 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river in section 34, township 50 north, range 9 west, Bayfield county, and the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line, except all waters more than 90 feet (15 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river and a line extending due north from the mouth of the Bois Brule river in section 10, township 49 north, range 10 west, Douglas county, where gill nets with a mesh size of 3 inches or less stretch measure may be used from November 15 through December 31.

6. 'Cranberry River to Bark Point.' All waters less than 72 feet (12 fathoms) deep lying between a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster in section 5, township 50 north, range 7 west, and a line extending due north from the northernmost point of Roman (Quarry) point in section 29, township 51 north, range 6 west, all in Bayfield county.

9. 'Outer Island.' Those waters less than 35 fathoms lying north of latitude 46°59'18"N refuge line, in grids 1212, 1312 and east of longitude 90°25'00"W and south of latitude 47°05'00"N in grids 1311 and 1211.

10. 'Bark Bay.' That portion of Bark bay lying southwesterly of a line beginning at Roman (Quarry) point and extending northwesterly to Bark point in section 24, township 51 north, range 7 west, all in Bayfield county, which shall be open for gill nets from April 1 through May 31 and for entrapment nets only from June 1 to September 30.

(c) *Van Tassells Point.* No commercial fishing gear of any kind except by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish only from June 1 to August 15 may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters: the area from the easterly most tip of Houghton Point, section 27, township 49 north, range 4 west, Bayfield county, northerly along the shoreline to the entry to the city of Bayfield marina, then easterly to Point Defroid on Madeline island, section 30, township 50 north, range 3 west, Ashland county, then southerly along the western end of the island to the tip of Grants Point, section 6, township 49 north, range 3 west, Ashland county, then southerly to Chequamegon Point on the western tip of Long island, section 13, township 49 north, range 4 west, Ashland county, thence southwesterly to the eastern tip of Houghton Point, except that float nets as described in s. NR 25.09 (1) (ah) 3. may be fished, bottom set gill nets of not less than 4 7/16 inch minimum stretch measure may be fished from November 28 to March 31 of the following year north of latitude 46° 45'00"N at a minimum depth of 19 fathoms, gill nets of not greater than 1 3/4 inch stretch measure may be fished for smelt and cisco under the ice, but must be at least 1/2 mile from the mouth of any trout stream, and entrapment gear for smelt may be allowed by permit from ice out to May 15. Commercial trap nets operated under permits issued under sub. (4) for the restricted area described in this paragraph, but not including the exception for float nets as described in s. NR 25.09 (1) (ah) 3., shall be limited to a maximum of one per commercial fishing license and may not be set within the following waters: the area from 46°44'01"N 90°50'00" then southeast to 46°43'00"N 90°49'00"W then southwest to 46°42'00"N 90°50'00"W then northwest to 46°43'01"N 90°50'02"W then northeast to 46°44'00"N 90°50'00"W. All commercial fishing gear operated under permits issued under sub. (4) for the restricted area described in this paragraph, but not including the exception for float nets as described in s. NR 25.09 (1) (ah) 3., shall have the fish holding pot portion rendered inoperable after August 15 and shall have the webbing removed from the water on or before August 18.

(d) *Shoreline areas.* Fishing within these areas is subject to the following restrictions:

1. 'Red Cliff shoreline.' No person may place or operate entrapment nets within 1/2 mile of shore on the westernmost boundary at 46°55'08"N, 90°59'37"W, extending along the 22.6-mile reservation shoreline to the southernmost boundary at 46°50'45"N, 90°47'17"W.

2. 'Bad River shoreline.' No person licensed by the state or the Red Cliff band may commercially fish within an area, the boundary of which begins at 46°43'54"N 90°48'27"W, then northeast in a line to 46°44'16"N 90°48'07"W along the eastern boundary of Van Tassell's restricted area described in s. NR 25.10 (1) (c), then east to 46°43'27"N 90°45'52"W at a distance of 1/2 mile from the shoreline, then continuing east at a distance of 1 1/2 miles from the shoreline to the eastern boundary of the Bad River Reservation. To accommodate a 3/4-mile safe zone of passage within the Sand Cut Restricted Area, the far northwestern corner of the 1 1/2-mile-wide portion of Bad River shoreline area is bounded by an arc between the points 46°43'54"N 90°45'26"W and 46°43'51"N 90°44'37"W.

3. 'Madeline Island Reservation shoreline.' No person may place or operate entrapment nets in an area starting at the westernmost corner of the Trust parcel, extending due north 1 1/2 mile to 46°52'56"N 90°35'22"W and continuing along a 1 1/2 mile contour of the island to a maximum easterly boundary of 46°50'56"N 90°32'15"W then circling southwest at a maximum southerly boundary of 46°49'27"N 90°34'26"W then due north to the island.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) No commercial

**Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.**

fishing gear of any kind except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, or entrapping nets by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters:

1. Bailey's harbor, Detroit harbor, Eagle harbor, Egg harbor, Fish Creek harbor, Jackson harbor, Little Sturgeon bay, Moonlight bay, North bay, Riley's bay, Rowley's bay, Sawyer harbor, Sturgeon bay, Washington harbor and West harbor, all in Door county and as described in s. 29.417, Stats.

2. All waters within one-half mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc or Sheboygan counties.

3. All waters within one-fourth mile of the mouth of any navigable stream flowing into Lake Michigan or Green Bay.

4. All waters within one-fourth mile of the shoreline in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties.

5. That portion of southern Green Bay bounded by a line beginning at 87°35'W longitude 44°51.029' N latitude, then proceeding northeasterly 7.75 statute miles on a 54° bearing through the Sherwood Point shoal signal buoy and 0.37 statute miles beyond to latitude 44°55'N, then due east on a 44°55' bearing, 2.75 statute miles to the shoreline in section 12, township 28 north, range 25 east, all in Door county.

6. That portion of southern Green Bay lying north or east of a line beginning at the south end of Ogden street in the city of Marinette in section 9 at N45°05.049', W87°35.810', and running southeasterly to the most southern point of Seagull bar in section 15 at N45°04.154', W87°34.536', then along the north or east shoreline of Seagull bar to the Red Arrow park public boat landing located in section 9 at N45°05.233', W87°35.225', all in township 30 north, range 24 east, Marinette county.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

7. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south and west of a line beginning at the southern side of the base of Long Tail point in section 24, township 25 north, range 20 east at N44°37.558', W88°00.575', and following the south or west shore of Long Tail point to its southernmost point at N44°35.126', W87°58.908', then easterly to where the navigation channel intersects latitude 44° 35'N, then southwesterly along the west side of the navigational channel, as marked, for 3.5 statute miles to the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant outlet at N44°32.363', W88°00.395' on the west bank of the Fox river in section 19, township 24 north, range 21 east, all in Brown county.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

8. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south or east of a line beginning at the mouth of Renard creek located in SW 1/4 NW 1/4, section 21, township 26 north, range 23 east at N44°42.837', W87°43.251', Door county, and running southwesterly to the east end of the concrete sea wall located at the end of Point Comfort road in SW 1/4 SE 1/4, section 20, township 25 north, range 22 east, Brown county at N44°37.180', W87°51.307'.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

9. Fox river including all connected sloughs, bayous, and tributaries from the DePere dam downstream to its mouth lying south of a line beginning at the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant and running easterly across the Fox river to the outlet of the Green Bay metropolitan sewerage district plant outfall, all in Brown county.

(b) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except entrapping nets authorized by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, perch, whitefish or menominee may be

used, set, placed or operated in the waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, and north of a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.459', W87°29.522' to its intersection with a line that follows the 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour, then proceeding north along that 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour to its intersection with 44°32' north latitude, then proceeding east along 44°32' north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, except as provided under pars. (c), (d), (f) and (g).

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(c) No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated in all waters bounded by a line beginning at the outer end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.405', W87°25.769' and proceeding along the north side of that pier to the shore of Lake Michigan, then proceeding north along the shore to its intersection with 44°52'30" north latitude, then proceeding east along 44°52'30" north latitude to its intersection with a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, then proceeding on a line bearing 135° to its intersection with the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, then proceeding south along the Wisconsin-Michigan state line to its intersection with a line extending east from the outer end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.405', W87°25.769', then proceeding west along that line to the point of beginning.

**Note:** All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

(d) Gill nets not to exceed 18 meshes deep only for yellow perch and menominees authorized by permit under sub. (4) may be used in waters of Lake Michigan lying between a line extending east along 44°55'50" north latitude from the Lake Michigan shoreline and a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy to Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing.

(f) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except pound nets authorized by permit under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish and rough or detrimental species may be used, set, placed or operated in the waters of Lake Michigan in depths less than 45 fathoms (270 feet) deep in the area between a line extending east from the end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.405', W87°25.769' and a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.459', W87°29.500'.

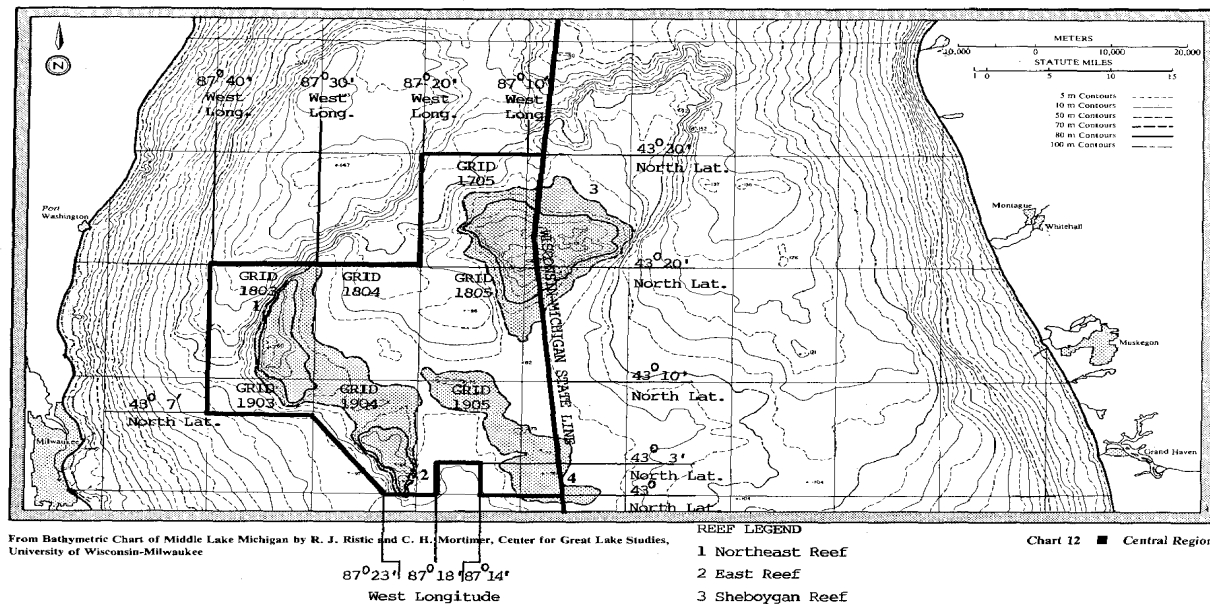
(g) Except as provided under par. (a) 2., no commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated in any waters within one-half mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater in Green Bay or Lake Michigan.

(h) No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated in any waters within one-half mile of the shoreline of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee or Racine county.

(i) No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated in all waters bounded by a line beginning at a point where 43 degrees 7 minutes north latitude and 87 degrees 40 minutes west longitude intersect, northerly to 43 degrees 20 minutes north latitude, easterly to 87 degrees 20 minutes west longitude, northerly to 43 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, easterly to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, southerly along the Wisconsin-Michigan state line to 43 degrees north latitude, westerly to 87 degrees 14 minutes west longitude, northerly to 43 degrees 3 minutes north latitude, westerly to 87 degrees 18 minutes, southerly to 43 degrees north latitude, westerly to 87 degrees 23 minutes west longitude, northwesterly to 43 degrees 7 minutes north latitude, and westerly to 87 degrees 40 minutes west longitude.

**Note:** This closed area encompasses the elevated areas of the lake bed commonly known as the Sheboygan reef, the Northeast reef, the Milwaukee reef, and the East reef and can be further described as the northern third of grid 1903, the northeastern

two thirds of grid 1904, all of grid 1905 except a rectangular area along its southern border, all of grids, 1705, 1803, 1804 and 1805, and those portions of grids 1706, 1806 and 1906 in Wisconsin waters as shown on the following map.



(3) **FISH REFUGES-OUTLYING WATERS.** No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated at any time in or on those water areas in Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay as described in Ch. NR 26.

(4) **RESTRICTED AREA PERMITS.** Permits allowing commercial fishing in restricted areas as described in subs. (1) and (2), or as required in s. NR 25.09 will be issued as follows:

(a) *Application criteria and procedure.* 1. Applicants shall be licensed commercial fishers, or have contracts for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters issued under s. 29.417 or 29.421, Stats.

2. Applications shall be made on forms provided by the department and shall contain all information required by the department on the form, at least one week prior to commencing fishing operations, unless otherwise authorized.

3. A permit shall be issued to an applicant meeting the criteria in this paragraph, unless the department denies the application under par. (b) in writing, within 6 business days of receipt of the application.

4. Permits shall be reapplied for at least once each license year. The permit period may not extend beyond the end of the license year.

(b) *Denial, revocation or temporary suspension of permits.*

1. The department may deny, revoke, or temporarily suspend a permit applied for or issued under this subsection in whole or in part, as resource management requires, if one or more of the following conditions exists or are likely to occur:

- a. Damage to fish habitat.
- b. Excessive incidental catch of illegal fish, as defined in s. NR 25.09 (5).
- c. Spawning concentrations of illegal fish.
- d. Concentrations of recently stocked fish.
- e. Concentrations of immature fish.
- f. Presence of protected or endangered plants or animals as listed in ch. NR 27.
- g. Mortality of illegal fish resulting from capture in commercial fishing gear greater than or likely to be greater than 10% of the weight or number of the legal catch.

cial fishing gear greater than or likely to be greater than 10% of the weight or number of the legal catch.

2. The department shall give notice of a denial, suspension, or revocation pursuant to provisions of s. 227.51 (3), Stats. Any telephonic notice of suspension shall be promptly confirmed in writing.

3. Any suspension exceeding 7 days shall be reviewed and approved by the department's district director, or their designee, within the first 6 business days of the suspension period. Any revocation, or suspension in excess of 25 days, shall be reviewed by the office of the secretary, or its designee, with opportunity for the permittee to be heard. The revocation or suspension shall be reviewed within 10 business days of receipt of the permittee's request for opportunity to be heard. A permittee is not required to request to be heard by the office of the secretary prior to seeking judicial review.

**Note:** District directors are now known as regional directors.

4. A denial, suspension, or revocation of a permit under this paragraph shall not bar an otherwise qualified applicant from applying for permits for other locations.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renun. from NR 25.12, Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; renun. from NR 25.09 and am. (4) (intro.) and (5) (b) 1.b., Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; emerg. am. (1) (b) 1. and 3., eff. 4-22-86; am. (1) (b) 1. and 3., Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; am. (2) (a) 2. and (b), r. (2) (a) 3., renun. (2) (a) 4. to 10. to be 3. to 9., r. and recr. (2) (c), cr. (2) (d) to (h) and (4) (b) 1.g., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (1) (b) 4. and 6., r. (1) (b) 7., cr. (1) (b) 9. and (c), Register, June, 1997, No. 1997, No. 498, eff. 7-1-97; cr. (2) (i), Register, December, 1998, No. 516, eff. 4-1-99; CR 01-115: am. (2) (b), r. (2) (e), Register February 2002 No. 554, eff. 3-1-02; CR 05-115: am. (1) (b) 9. Register July 2006 No. 607, eff. 8-1-06; CR 08-060: am. (1) (b) 3., 8., (c), (2) (a) 6. to 8., (b), (c) and (f) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 13-082: am. (1) (c) Register May 2014 No. 701, eff. 6-1-14; CR 15-023: am. (1) (b) 1., 3., 8., (3) Register December 2015 No. 720, eff. 1-1-16; EmR1804: emerg. r. (1) (b) 8., eff. 2-6-18; CR 17-071: r. (1) (b) 8., Register June 2018 No. 750 eff. 7-1-18; correction in (1) (b) 4., (c) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register March 2020 No. 771; EmR1923: am. (1) (b) 1., cr. (1) (b) 2. (title), am. (1) (b) 3., 4., cr. (1) (b) 5. (title), am. (1) (b) 6., 9., cr. (1) (b) 10., am. (1) (c), cr. (1) (d), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: am. (1) (b) 1., cr. (1) (b) 2. (title), am. (1) (b) 3., 4., cr. (1) (b) 5. (title), am. (1) (b) 6., 9., cr. (1) (b) 10., am. (1) (c), cr. (1) (d) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; create (1) (a) (title), (b) (title), (d) (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., and correction in (1) (d) 2. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2020 No. 775; CR 23-008: am. (1) (a) 1., (2) (a) 5., (f), (4) (a) 2. Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

## NR 25.102 Commercial fishing in southern Green



**Bay.** For commercial fishers fishing for whitefish in that portion of southern Green Bay south of the line at 44° 50' N latitude, commonly known as grids 901, 902 and 1001, all of the following requirements apply:

(1) Each commercial fisher may set, use, or operate no more than one trap net per license at a time.

(2) The commercial fisher shall notify the department through the phone number, email address or other method specified by the department no later than 4 p.m. the day prior to lifting a trap net. The notification shall include the license number and name of the licensee, name and location of net to be lifted, departure location, date of departure, and time of departure.

(3) The commercial fisher or a member of the commercial fisher's crew shall report the number of incidentally caught fish of each species through the electronic fish reporting system, in accordance with s. NR 25.13.

**History:** CR 21-099: cr. Register July 2022 No. 799, eff. 8-1-22.

**NR 25.105 Exemptions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter:

(1) From June 1 through March 31, treaty fishers using boats less than 18 feet in length may harvest perch and walleye from the waters of Chequamegon Bay within one mile of the mainland shoreline in Ashland county between the easternmost boundary of the Bad River reservation on Chequamegon Point and a line extending due north from the westernmost boundary of the Bad River reservation as authorized by the department. Only one authorized boat may fish in this area at a time.

(2) From ice out to the Friday before Memorial day, treaty fishers may fish for whitefish and harvest 1,462 incidentally-caught lake trout in those waters defined in s. NR 25.10 (1) (b) 1. The 1,462 lake trout harvested in this area shall be allocated as part of the quota defined in s. NR 25.06 (1) (a) Table. The department may require distinctive tags for this harvest.

(3) Red Cliff treaty fishers may harvest 5,000 pounds (round weight) of walleye annually within the restricted areas west of Bark Point and east of a point one mile west of Port Wing.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; emerg. cr. (3), eff. 3-10-87; cr. (3), Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; correction in (2) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register February 2021 No. 782.

**NR 25.11 Handling of illegal fish.** All illegal fish taken during commercial fishing operations on the outlying waters shall be immediately returned to the water, except that a department employee on board a vessel or otherwise accompanying fishers engaged in such commercial fishing operations may retain illegal fish taken.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.10, Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85.

**NR 25.12 Processing of fish.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person operating any fishing boat or boats or any other conveyance on the outlying waters to carry or transport on board such boat or boats or any other conveyance used at any time in the transportation of fish or fishing gear, any instrument or device by which fish can be ground up or so mutilated that identification of the species and measurement of the individual fish are impossible.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person operating on the outlying waters to have in possession or under control on such waters or to bring to shore any fish ground up or so mutilated that identification and measurement of the individual fish are impossible.

**History:** Renum. from NR 25.13 (3) (a) and (b), Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.11, Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85.

**NR 25.13 Commercial fishing reports.** (2) ELECTRONIC REPORTING. (ad) A person required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., to conduct commercial fishing operations on Lake Michigan, Green Bay, or Lake Superior, or fishing as a treaty fisher, shall submit a daily fishing report to the department by means of the electronic fish reporting system that includes all of the following:

1. The licensee's name, address, license number or fleet reporting number.
2. The date.
3. The name and number of the boat fished.
4. The licensee's fishing location and depth.
5. The licensee's fishing effort.
6. The gear used.
7. The estimated pounds of each fish species harvested for each fishing trip, excluding estimated pounds of lake trout taken in Lake Superior.
8. The number of lake trout taken in Lake Superior.
9. The weighed pounds of harvest.
10. The weighed catch by species for commercial fish.
11. The number of incidentally caught fish of the species and waters that the department annually specifies.
12. All other information called for on the report form.

(ah) A licensee shall report all fishing activities for the day under par. (ad) before 11:59 p.m. of each day during which the licensee engages in on-water fishing activity. Reports shall be submitted in the English language on electronic forms provided for this purpose by the department and include such information as may be deemed necessary by the department for management of the fishery and to prevent depletion of the fish supply. Except as provided under par. (c), the daily report shall be submitted using an electronic communication device operated by the licensee or a licensee's crew member. The daily fishing report, which may include a record of the report on an electronic communication device, shall accompany the fish to the dock or shore and be made available to a department representative upon request.

(ap) The department shall issue unique login credentials to the licensee and, upon request of the licensee, to any licensee crew member in order to access the electronic fish reporting system and submit reports. A person shall only enter or submit a record into the electronic fish reporting system using their own department issued login credentials.

(at) The licensee or member of the licensee's crew may submit the report in any of the following ways:

1. By direct input through an electronic communication device to the electronic fish reporting system after completing the last net lift of the day but before starting for the dock or shore, and no later than 11:59 p.m. that same day.

2. By recording all required information on a daily paper report form supplied by the department after completing the last net lift of the day but before starting for the dock or shore, then submitting this information through an electronic communication device to the electronic fish reporting system no later than 11:59 p.m. that same day.

**Note:** Pursuant to s. 29.519 (4) (d), Stats., the licensee is responsible for all acts of crew members conducting commercial fishing activities for the licensee.

(b) Reports submitted using the electronic fish reporting system are considered approved by the licensee upon submittal.

(c) If the electronic communication device malfunctions or is unable to connect to the electronic fish reporting system, the licensee or a licensee's crew member shall complete a paper copy of the report for that day after completing the last net lift of the day but before starting for the dock or shore, and before 11:59

p.m. the same day. The paper copy of the fishing report shall accompany the fish to dock or shore. After each trip's information has been recorded, the report may not be transported for the rest of the day in such a way that it can be altered except to record information pertaining to additional fishing trips taken that day. Upon reestablishing the functionality of the electronic communication device or reestablishing connection with the electronic fish reporting system, the licensee or licensee's crew member shall enter the daily fishing activity information and information from any paper reports completed under this paragraph and shall submit them electronically to the department. The paper copy of the report shall be retained as part of the licensee's records required under s. 29.519 (5) (dm), Stats., and made available to a department representative upon request.

**Note:** Pursuant to s. 29.519 (6), Stats., all records of commercial fishing activity are subject to inspection upon request of a duly authorized department representative. This includes electronic records on a portable electronic communication device.

**Note:** Paper report forms are provided by the department to each licensee at the beginning of the license year. Additional forms may be obtained by writing: DNR, 110 South Neenah Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

(e) Except for reporting trawl fish harvest under par. (g), when the landed catch cannot be weighed by the end of the day, the licensee or crew member shall note in the comment box of the report form submitted under this section that the landed catch cannot be weighed and reported until the next business day. The licensee or crew member shall then weigh the landed catch the next business day and report the weight by fish species and other information required by the department on the form of the electronic fish reporting system before 11:59 pm of that day.

(f) In addition to the other requirements in this subsection, each person required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., to conduct commercial whitefish fishing operations on Lake Michigan or Green Bay, or a member of the licensee's crew, shall report the name of the lifted trap net pursuant to s. NR 25.09 (3) (f) to the department after lifting the trap net and before starting for the dock or shore through the electronic fish reporting system in accordance with par. (at).

(g) When fishing with trawls in Lake Michigan or Green Bay, the following electronic reporting requirements also apply:

1. After the last lift of the trip and prior to returning to dock or port, a licensee or crew member fishing by trawl shall record the estimated pounds of each fish species harvested by zone as provided under par. (f).

2. Before 11:59 p.m. each day, the licensee or a crew member fishing by trawl on the waters of Green Bay shall report to the department the landed pounds of smelt and pounds of incidental catch.

3. A licensee or crew member fishing by trawl on the waters of Lake Michigan other than Green Bay, within 24 hours of landing the catch on all days except non-work days and days immediately preceding non-work days, shall electronically report to the department the landed pounds of chubs and roe intended for human consumption, pounds of smelt, and pounds of incidental catch. When trawl caught fish are landed on days that immediately precede non-work days and on non-work days, the commercial fisher or crew member shall report the landed catch within 48 hours of the estimated catch entry.

(h) Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the department, no licensee, crew member, agent, wholesale fish dealer, or other person may transport, cause to be transported, deliver, receive, or offer to deliver or receive for transportation to a location outside of Wisconsin, any fish or fish parts taken from outlying waters unless the fish have been reported as part of a weighed catch as required under this section.

(6) FISH INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. The weight

in pounds of any fish that in whole or in part is ultimately used for or intended for human consumption shall be reported as part of the commercial fisher's individual catch quota harvest or chub zone permit harvest by the commercial fisher who caught it.

(7) DISPOSITION RECORDS. Each commercial fisher shall maintain a printed disposition record in the English language of all fish harvested by the commercial fisher as required by s. 29.519 (5) (a) and (c), Stats., that includes all of the following:

- (a) The complete name, address and commercial fishing license number of the commercial fisher.

- (b) For each wholesale sale, each retail sale over 15 pounds and each donation over 15 pounds: the complete name, address and wholesale fish dealer license number, if any, of the buyer or recipient; the weight in pounds of each species of fish; condition of the fish and the date of each sale or donation.

- (c) For each retail sale of 15 pounds or less and donation of 15 pounds or less, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of each sale or donation.

- (d) For fish spoiled or otherwise destroyed or utilized, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of disposal or utilization.

(8) UNRECORDED OR UNREPORTED FISH. No person may possess, control, transport or cause to be transported any fish which has not been recorded or reported as required under ss. 29.503 and 29.519, Stats., and this chapter.

(9) ANNUAL INVENTORY. (a) Each commercial fisher required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., shall complete an annual inventory of fish in possession, ownership or under control, including fish in cold storage facilities, and report that inventory to the department within 15 days of completion as required under s. 29.519 (5m), Stats. The inventory report shall be on forms available from the department and shall include the species, condition and weight in pounds of fish, the location of the fish by street address, date of the inventory, the commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, signature of the licensee and any other information required on the inventory report form.

- (b) Each commercial fisher shall complete the inventory required by par. (a) and submit the inventory report to the department. The commercial fisher shall designate the month and day in which annual inventory reports will be submitted. The licensee shall thereafter complete the annual inventory within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

- (c) Within 30 days after the transfer of a commercial fishing license, the transferee shall complete an inventory of fish and submit an inventory report as required under par. (a). At the time the inventory report is submitted, the transferee shall designate and advise the department of the month and day on which the transferee will subsequently submit the annual inventory report. The transferee shall thereafter complete the annual inventory within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

- (d) Upon written request to the department, a licensed commercial fisher may request a change in the date of the designated annual inventory report submittal. The effective date for the change may not be more than 15 months from the previous designated inventory report submittal date. A change in the annual inventory report submittal date may not be requested more than once per 12 months.

- (e) A commercial fisher who does not possess, own or control any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon on the date of the annual inventory shall submit the inventory report to the department as required by pars. (a) and (b) indicating that the commercial fisher does not have any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon in possession,

ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities on the date of the inventory.

**(10) HIGH VALUE SPECIES.** In addition to the reporting requirements contained under sub. (2), when fishing for a high value species, each commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

**(11) ENHANCED REPORTING.** In addition to the reporting requirements contained under sub. (2), any person convicted of 2 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter is subject to the enhanced reporting requirements of this section in addition to any court-ordered penalties, at the following levels:

(a) For conviction of harvesting more than 1,000 pounds of fish in excess of the person's annual quota, failing to report more than 2,000 pounds of catch during a 12-month period, fishing during the closed season, or possessing 200 pounds or more of fish in violation of ch. 29, Stats., or this chapter, the commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

(b) For 3 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 36-month period, the commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

(c) For more than 5 violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 36-month period or 3 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 12-month period, in addition to the requirements of par. (b), upon returning to the dock, the commercial fisher or crew member shall weigh the catch not more than 30 minutes after landing and prior to loading or moving the fish from the dock or landing site, and enter and save the species and weight in pounds of the fish in a paper biweekly report form or the electronic fish reporting system. If the actual weight in pounds of the fish is saved in a paper biweekly report form or the electronic fish reporting system prior to returning to shore, the commercial fisher or crew member is exempt from this paragraph.

(d) In the event that the weight of the fish cannot be entered or saved due to mechanical failure or other problems associated with the electronic communication device:

1. The commercial fisher or crew member shall immediately notify the department of the problem and verbally provide the date, time, licensee's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the weight in pounds of fish by species by calling a department designated telephone number.

2. If the commercial fisher or crew member is unable to reach the department designated telephone number, the commercial fisher or crew member shall immediately complete a report on a paper form available from the department upon weighing the fish, but before loading the fish for transport. The report shall include the date, licensee's name, commercial fishing number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the weight in pounds of the fish by species and grid, and the signature of the individual completing the report. The report shall be presented to a department representative upon request and shall be retained as part of the commercial fisher's records under s. 29.519 (5), Stats.

3. Upon reestablishing the functionality of the electronic reporting unit, the licensee shall enter the weighed catch and other requested daily fishing activity data for the date and submit it electronically to the department as required under sub. (2) (c).

(e) A commercial fisher shall remain under the enhanced re-

porting requirements of this subsection for a period of 24 months from the date of conviction of the offense triggering this subsection.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.14 and am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.12, Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; am. (2), cr. (3), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (3) (intro.) and (b), Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (2), Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; CR 08-060: cr. (1) (title), (3) (title), (4) to (11), am. (2), (3) (intro.) to (b) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; corrections in (4) and (5) (c) 4. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2. and 7., Stats., Register June 2009 No. 642; CR 15-074: r. and recr. (1), (2), r. (3) to (5), am. (9) (b), (11) (c), (d) (intro.) Register May 2016 No. 725, eff. 6-1-16; corrections in (10), (11) (intro.), (d) 3. made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register May 2016 No. 725, eff. 6-1-16; EmR1627: emerg. cr. (1) (d), eff. 10-1-16; CR 16-061: cr. (1) (d) Register September 2017 No. 741, eff. 10-1-17; EmR1923: am. (1) (a), r. (2) (d), eff. 12-30-19; CR 19-103: am. (1) (a), r. (2) (d) Register July 2020 No. 775, eff. 8-1-20; EmR2114: emerg. am. (2) (intro.), (f) 1., cr. (2) (fm), eff. 5-21-21; CR 21-099: r. (1), renum. (2) (intro.) to (2) (ad) (intro.) and (ah) and am., cr. (2) (ad) 1. to 12., renum. (2) (a) to (2) (ap) and am., cr. (2) (at), am. (2) (c), (e), r. and recr. (2) (f), am. (10), (11) (intro.) Register July 2022 No. 799, eff. 8-1-22.

**Note:** See the table of Appellate Court Citations for Wisconsin appellate cases citing s. NR 25.13.

**NR 25.135 Fleet reporting programs. (1) FLEET REPORTING FOR LAKE SUPERIOR.** (a) The department may authorize a person who holds more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats., and s. NR 25.03 (1) (a) 3. for commercial fishing on Lake Superior to participate in a fleet reporting program involving those licenses if the person applies for fleet reporting on a form available from the department in accordance with s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year.

1. The application shall include the person's name, commercial fishing license numbers, descriptions of the boats to be included in the fleet reporting program, and the order of the licenses to which the person's daily reported catch will be credited.

2. All commercial fishing licenses held by the person shall be included in the fleet reporting program.

(b) The allowable gill net effort authorized under s. NR 25.09 (1) (am) and the number of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (1) (b) 3. for any license included in a person's fleet reporting program may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program.

**(2) FLEET REPORTING FOR LAKE MICHIGAN.** (a) The department may authorize a person who holds more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats., and s. NR 25.03 (2) (am) for commercial fishing on Lake Michigan to participate in a fleet reporting program involving those licenses if it determines that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The person applies for fleet reporting on a form available from the department in accordance with s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year and the application includes all of the following:

a. The person's name, commercial fishing license numbers and descriptions of the boats to be included in the fleet reporting program.

b. For each license, a description of the individual catch quotas, by species and zone, "racehorse" chub fishing permits or "racehorse" smelt fishery permits to be included in the fleet reporting program.

c. The order of the licenses to which the person's daily reported catch will be credited.

3. All commercial fishing licenses held by the person are included in the fleet reporting program.

**(3) FLEET REPORTING NUMBER.** Upon approval of a person's fleet reporting program under sub. (1) or (2), the department shall issue a fleet reporting number for the person's use in place of commercial fishing license numbers to identify commercial fishing gear under s. NR 25.09 (1) and (2) and in reports under s. NR 25.13.

**Published under s. 35.93, Stats. Updated on the first day of each month. Entire code is always current. The Register date on each page is the date the chapter was last published.**



(4) **QUOTA TRANSFERS LIMITED.** In addition to any other transfer limitations, individual catch quotas may not be transferred between the person's licenses included in a fleet reporting program except in conjunction with license applications under s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year.

(5) **CREW.** Crew members licensed under s. 29.519 (4), Stats., to engage in commercial fishing for a person whose fleet reporting program has been approved under sub. (1) or (2) may engage in commercial fishing activities for the person under the person's other commercial fishing licenses without being specifically listed as crew members under the person's other licenses.

(6) **BOATS.** Boats authorized under any license included in a person's fleet reporting program approved under sub. (1) or (2) may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program without being specifically authorized under the person's other licenses and without any additional fee.

(7) **NETS.** The linear feet of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9. and the number of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (2) (b) 1. b. and 2. b. for any license included in a person's fleet reporting program approved under sub. (2) may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program.

(8) **LICENSE TRANSFERS.** A person authorized to participate in fleet reporting under sub. (1) or (2) who obtains a commercial fishing license by transfer shall add the transferred commercial fishing license to the person's fleet reporting plan at the time that the license transfer is approved by the department. A person authorized to participate in fleet reporting under sub. (1) or (2) who transfers a commercial fishing license shall remove the transferred commercial fishing license from the person's fleet reporting plan at the time that the license transfer is approved by the department.

(9) **WITHDRAWAL FROM FLEET REPORTING.** A person participating in a fleet reporting program may withdraw from the program by providing written notice to the department. The notice shall include the person's name, address, fleet reporting number, commercial fishing license numbers, a statement indicating the person's desire to withdraw from the program, signature and date of signature. The withdrawal from the fleet reporting program shall take effect at the end of the license year.

**History:** CR 08-060: cr. Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 09-016: am. (1) (a) 1. Register January 2010 No. 649, eff. 2-1-10; CR 13-001: am. (1) (a) 1., (2) (a) 1. c., r. (2) (a) 1. d., 2. Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13.

**NR 25.14 Possession of fishing equipment. (1)** No licensed commercial fisher or any member of the crew or any person aboard the boat shall have in possession any game fish or sport angling equipment while operating commercial fishing gear or while traveling to or from the operation of such gear in any of the outlying waters.

(2) No person shall have in possession any commercial fishing gear while on the outlying waters unless in possession of a valid license issued pursuant to s. 29.519, Stats. or otherwise authorized by the department.

(3) Unless otherwise authorized by the department, no person may raise, remove or otherwise tamper with another person's commercial fishing gear set in any water. This restriction does not apply to agents of the department or to a person licensed as a crew member for the person whose gear the licensed crew member is raising, removing or otherwise tending.

(4) Unless authorized by the department, no commercial fisher licensed by the department under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., may do any of the following:

(a) Operate or allow any of the commercial fisher's crew members to operate any boat listed on the commercial fisher's license if there are any lake trout tags on board the boat that were not issued by the department to a department-licensed commercial fisher.

(b) Allow any boat listed on the commercial fisher's license to be used for setting, removing, raising or otherwise tending any net that was not placed by a department-licensed commercial fisher in accordance with s. NR 25.09.

(c) Allow any of the commercial fisher's nets that are marked or identified as department-licensed nets to be used by any person who is not a commercial fisher licensed by the department under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., or who is not the commercial fisher's crew member.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.17 and am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.14, Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; renum. from NR 25.13, Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; CR 08-060: cr. (3) and (4) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09.

#### **NR 25.15 Taking of fish by or for the department.**

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the department or its agents from taking fish or authorizing by special permit as prescribed in s. 29.705 (1), Stats., the taking of fish for purposes of obtaining spawn for fish propagation or by contract for studies, investigations, and surveys in accordance with s. 23.09 (2), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; renum. from NR 25.11, Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; renum. from NR 25.15, Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; renum. from NR 25.12, Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85.

#### **NR 25.18 Landing and transportation of fish. (1)**

**LANDING OF FISH.** Fish and fish parts caught in commercial fishing operations and kept by commercial fishers for sale or other use shall be brought to shore in Wisconsin to one of no more than 2 ports designated by the licensee on his or her Great Lakes commercial fishing license application for open water operations and to one of no more than 2 ports selected by the licensee from a list of ports designated for ice fishing operations from the following Wisconsin primary or secondary ports and unloaded and transported by land, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the department or in the case of an emergency, following notice to the nearest U.S. coast guard station. Commercial fishers, crew members and their agents who do not comply with the department's written authorization shall be considered to be in violation of this section and the written authorization shall be revoked.

(a) The primary ports for Lake Superior are Bayfield (includes Bodins and Bay Fisheries docks), Cornucopia, Port Wing, Raspberry Bay, Red Cliff and Superior (Siverson's dock). The secondary ports for Lake Superior are LaPointe and Washburn.

(b) The following ports are primary ports for Lake Michigan:

1. Brown County: Suamico.
2. Door County: Baileys Harbor, Ellison Bay, Gills Rock (includes Teskie's, Weborg's and Voight's docks), Sand Bay (includes Sand Bay, Old Sand Bay and Rowley's Bay docks), Jackson Harbor (Washington Island) and Sturgeon Bay.
3. Kenosha County: Kenosha.
4. Kewaunee County: Algoma and Kewaunee.
5. Manitowoc County: Two Rivers.
6. Marinette County: Marinette (includes Menekaunee open water port).
7. Milwaukee County: Milwaukee.
8. Oconto County: Oconto and Pensaukee.
9. Ozaukee County: Port Washington.
10. Racine County: Racine.
11. Sheboygan County: Sheboygan.

(c) The following ports are secondary ports for Lake Michigan:

1. Brown County: Duck Creek, Windjammers and Green Bay.
2. Door County: Chaudoir's dock, Detroit Harbor (Washington Island), Egg Harbor, Jacksonport, Murphy park, Nordheim (Washington Island), Old Stone Quarry (Sturgeon Bay), Sister Bay, and Wave Pointe Resort.
3. Marinette County: Peshtigo river.
4. Oconto County: Little Suamico and Geano Beach.

(d) The following ports are secondary ice fishing only ports for Green Bay:

1. Brown County: Hook Road.
2. Door County: Ern Joy's, Oak Orchard, Pagel's Resort, Porcupine Bay, Sand Bay Resort, Sugar Creek and Waters End (at Sister Bay).
4. Marinette County: Red Arrow park, Pond Road and Leaf Road Landing.

**(2) SECONDARY PORT USE.** No commercial fisher or crew member may land fish or fish parts at a secondary port unless the commercial fisher or crew member called in a float plan each day to a department designated telephone number prior to the start of the day's fishing activity advising that the secondary port would be used.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; am. Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; CR 08-060: am. Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 13-001: am. (1) (c) 2. Register August 2013 No. 692, eff. 9-1-13.

### Subchapter III — Wholesale Fish Dealers

**NR 25.20 Definition.** In this subchapter, "wholesale fish dealer" has the meaning given in s. 29.503 (1) (e), Stats., and includes a holder of a commercial fishing license or contract under ch. 29, Stats., who sells fish under s. 29.503 (2) (b), Stats., to another wholesale fish dealer or to a retailer, even if the seller is exempt from the wholesale fish dealer license requirement under s. 29.503 (2) (b), Stats.

**History:** CR 23-008: cr. Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.

**NR 25.21 Wholesale fish dealer reports. (1)** RECORD KEEPING. Licensed wholesale fish dealers who purchase fish outside of Wisconsin for sale within this state, are subject to the record-keeping requirements of s. 29.503 (5), Stats.

**(2) ANNUAL INVENTORY.** (a) Each wholesale fish dealer

shall complete an annual inventory of Great Lakes fish and all species of sturgeon in possession, ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities, and report that inventory to the department within 15 days of completion as required under s. 29.503 (5) (br), Stats. The inventory report shall be on forms available from the department and shall include the species, condition and weight of fish, the location of the fish by street address, date of the inventory, wholesale fish dealer license number, signature of the licensee and any other information required on the inventory report form.

(b) Each wholesale fish dealer shall complete the inventory required by par. (a) and submit the inventory report to the department. The wholesale fish dealer shall designate and advise the department of the month and day in which annual inventory reports will be submitted. The wholesale fish dealer shall thereafter complete the inventory on an annual basis within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

(c) Within 30 days after receipt of a new wholesale fish dealer license, the wholesale fish dealer shall complete an inventory of fish and submit an inventory report as required under par. (a). At the time the inventory report is submitted, the wholesale fish dealer shall designate and advise the department of the month and day in which future inventory reports will be submitted. The wholesale fish dealer shall thereafter complete the inventory on an annual basis within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

(d) Upon written request to the department, a wholesale fish dealer may request a change of the designated date for the annual inventory report submittal. The effective date for the change may not be more than 15 months from the previous designated inventory report submittal date. A change in the annual inventory report submittal date may not be requested more than once per 12 months.

(e) A wholesale fish dealer who does not possess, own or control any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon on the date of the inventory shall submit the inventory report to the department as required by pars. (a) and (b) indicating that the wholesale fish dealer does not have any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon in possession, ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities on the date of the inventory.

**History:** Emerg. cr. eff. 4-22-86; cr. Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; CR 08-060: am. (1), r. and recr. (2) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09; CR 15-074: am. (2) (b) Register May 2016 No. 725, eff. 6-1-16; CR 23-008: renum. from NR 25.17 Register October 2023 No. 814, eff. 11-1-23.