

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

in all outlying waters and may be taken with the use of spear guns by the method commonly known as skin diving by divers under the water in Lake Michigan. Northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (a) Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) and (1) (a), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (a) and (d); renum. (1), (e), (f) and (g) to be (1) (f) (g) and (h); cr. (1) (e), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; r. and recr. Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1), (g) and (j), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; r. and recr., Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (d) and (1) (i), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; am. (1) (intro. par.), (b) and (g), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. intro. par., Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; r. and recr. (1) (d), (f), and (g), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; am. (1) (d) and (g), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; r. and recr. (1) (e); r. (f); renum. (g) and (h) to be (f) and (g); renum. (i) to be (h) and am., Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; r. and recr. (1) (d) and r. (1) (f), Register, March, 1969, No. 159, eff. 4-1-69; renum. from WCD 20.02 to be NR 20.02, and am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (1) (f), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 9-23-72; am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1972, No. 203, eff. 1-1-73; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 11-16-72; am. (1) (d), Register, May 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73, am. (1) (d) 1 and (e), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (e), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (c), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79.

**NR 20.03 Season tables; open and closed seasons, size and bag limits and measurements.** (1) The open seasons specified in the following table apply to fishing in open waters and fishing through the ice, except that the department shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice in such waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish therein and that such closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing therein and such closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected, such posting being deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that such closed season is in effect and such closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued. The department may also, following scientific investigation and study, establish size limits on individual inland waters when it finds that the taking of fish will aid in management of the fishery and insure the citizens of this state additional opportunities for good fishing. For open seasons in specified waters see section NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person shall have in his possession or under his control more than the daily bag limit while on the ice or waters or while fishing in the state of Wisconsin. The measurement of all fish taken shall be in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the utmost end of the tail fin fully extended.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>			
2. Clear lake (sec. 16, T39N, R7E) Oneida county (smallmouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	12
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	None	8
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER</b>			
In all waters of Barron, Burnett, Polk and Sawyer counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	13
In all other waters (See also section NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	No size limit
<b>(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also section NR 20.04)</b>			
1. In all waters of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	No size limit
3. Shawano lake in Shawano county and all waters in Menominee county	No closed season	25	No size limit
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
<b>(e) MUSKELLUNGE (includes hybrid muskellunge)</b>			
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	30
<b>(f) 1. Trout and Salmon (any variety except splake and lake trout)</b> (Bag limit means total of all)			
a. Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk county waters, including lakes (ponds)	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
b. Crawford and Vernon county streams	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
d. Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson and Rock county lakes (ponds)	January 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
e. Lake Michigan tributary streams (upstream to the first dam or lake)	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10
f. All other inland waters	First Saturday in May at 5 a.m. to but not including June 1	10 of which only 5 may be rainbow or brown trout in aggregate	6
	June 1 to September 30	10 in aggregate	6
2. There shall be a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following waters	Saturday nearest April 1 to, but not including the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	10
Ashland county: Bad river from its mouth upstream to Copper falls; Potato river from its mouth upstream to Guerneville falls; White river from its mouth upstream to White river dam; Brunswailler and Marengo rivers upstream to highway 13.			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>Bayfield county:</b>			
Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); Fish creek (T47N, R5W, sec. 1) from its mouth upstream to the junction of Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction with the Little Flag river (T49N, R8W, sec. 2); Iron river from its mouth upstream to Orienta dam; Sioux river from its mouth upstream to Big Rock falls (T49N, R4W, sec. 19); Siskowitt river from its mouth upstream to second bridge (T41N, R6W, sec. 35).			
<b>Iron county:</b>			
Graveyard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
There shall be a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following water:			
<b>Douglas county:</b>			
Brule river from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2	Saturday nearest April 1 to, but not including the first Saturday in May and October 1 through December 31	5 in aggregate	10
3. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on the following waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	6
Risk creek pond in Adams county; Gilmanton pond in Buffalo county; Banach lake in Burnett county; Anderson lake in Douglas county; Sand lake (sec. 13, T39N, R18E) in Florence county; Bug, Logger and Valley lakes in Forest county; Hoffman, Lowe Creek pond, Trout Run SCS, Trout Run Church and Oxbow ponds in Jackson county; Pence, Rogers and Townline lakes in Langlade county; Ament, Hanson, Larsen, Morgan, Moraine and Taho lakes in Lincoln county; Horseshoe lake in Manitowoc county; Cataract, Evans, Hans Biegel, Kickapoo Spring and Pinnacle Rock ponds in Monroe county; Bass lake (sec. 15, T39N, R7E) in Oneida county; Silverthorn lake in Sawyer county; Quarry lake in Sheboygan county; Eleva pond in Trempealeau county; Esofea and Timber Coulee ponds in Vernon county; Bluegill, Firefly, Weber, Little John, Jr., Otto Mielke and Pauto lakes in Vilas county; Lannon Park pond in Waukesha county; and Keller lake, Waupaca county.			
4. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on all other lakes containing trout or salmon except natural spring and spring ponds			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE	October 1 to March 1 First Saturday in January to September 30	5 in aggregate 2 in aggregate	6 17

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(h) CATFISH In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties and the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad tracks	No closed season	25	No size limit
In all other waters	No closed season	10	No size limit
(i) WHITE BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(j) ROCK BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(k) CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL, PERCH, PUMPKINSEED (Sunfish)	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit
(l) YELLOW BASS (STRIPED)	No closed season	None	No size limit
(m) BULLHEADS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(n) CISCO AND WHITEFISH	No closed season	25 pounds and one fish in aggregate	No size limit
(o) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(p) SHOVELNOSE (Sand or Hackleback) Sturgeon			
1. Chippewa river below the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. Chippewa river above the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No open season	—	—
2. In all other waters south of highway #64 (except in the Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream)	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. The Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream	No open season	—	—
3. In all other waters north of highway #64	No open season	—	—
(q) ROCK AND LAKE STURGEON Hook and line season			
1. In all waters: (except Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Winnebago and connecting waters; in the Embarrass river from the Pella dam at Shawano downstream to its confluence with the Wolf river in Outagamie county; and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan; and the Fox river downstream from milepost No. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek in Green Lake county to Lake Butte des Morts)	First Saturday in September to October 15	1 per season	45
Spearing season			
2. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters	No open season	—	—
3. Lake Winnebago	Second Saturday in February to March 1	The bag limit on speared sturgeon is one (1) per season regardless of the water in which speared	45

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<p>4. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any spear or similar device in any building, tent, shanty or similar enclosure on the waters of Lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne in Winnebago county, Lake Poygan in Waushara and Winnebago counties; Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties and all connecting waters including the Embarrass river from the Pella dam downstream to the Wolf river and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan and the Fox river from milepost no. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek, in Green Lake county downstream to Lake Butte des Morts, except during the open season for spearing sturgeon when such open season is in effect on a specified water named above.</p>			
(r) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(u) SUCKER AND REDHORSE	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit

(2) (a) Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit such sturgeon, with his sturgeon tag attached as required by s. 29.148, Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station established for such purpose. Such sturgeon shall be so exhibited at such sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the waters where speared not later than 6:00 p.m. on the day speared. Upon approval by the officer, said officer shall attach a special tag to each sturgeon indicating that it has been inspected and recorded and such tag shall remain attached and locked to such sturgeon until the carcass is finally consumed.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport any sturgeon in or on any motor-driven vehicle from the time such sturgeon is taken to the time it is lawfully registered pursuant to section NR 20.03 (2) (a) unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and in such manner so that the sturgeon tag attached to the sturgeon cannot be handled or manipulated by any occupant of the vehicle.

(3) A closed season is established for the taking, catching, or killing of fish of any variety or fishing for fish from December 1 to, but not including, the first Saturday in May of the next year, on all waters commonly known as the Chippewa flowage and that part of the Chippewa river in the following described area, Sawyer county:

Township 39 north, range 6 west

Sections 1, 2 and 3

Township 39 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Township 39 north, range 8 west

Sections 1 and 12

Township 40 north, range 6 west

Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 8 west

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Sections 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36

(4) In those waters for which a permit for treatment with toxicant has been issued the department of natural resources may direct that all species of fish of any size may be taken by dip nets, minnow seines and spears with no bag or possession limit from the date of issuance of said permit until the commencement of treatment and such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the waters affected and by publication in one or more newspapers having wide circulation in the area affected.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par), (1) (a), (1) (f) 2. and 3., (1) (q) 1. and 4. and (3), cr. (1) (e) 1. and (1) (f) 1. a. and 2. a., Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (a), (c), (d), (f) 1. and 2. and (q) 1. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (1) (q) 2 eff. 1-12-76; am. (1) (a), (d), (e), (f) and (p), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (a) 3, (1) (f) 3 and (3), r. (1) (f) 1c, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. (1) (a) 1. and (d) 2., am. (1) (d) 1., (1) (f) 1. f. and (1) (f) 3., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (c), (f) 2. and 3. and (p) 1., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 20.03 see the history note for NR 20.03 as it appeared in the October, 1973 Administrative Register.

**NR 20.04 Open seasons in specified waters.** (3) **SPECIAL WATERS-LAKES.** (a) There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described waters; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

8. Calumet county-Winnebago
13. Dane county-Koshkonong
14. Dodge county-Beaver Dam, Emily, Lost and Sinnissippi
17. Dunn county-Dunville bottoms
20. Fond du Lac county-Mullet and Winnebago
24. Green Lake county-Big Green, Maria and Puckaway
28. Jefferson county-Bean, Goose, Hahns, Koshkonong, Red Cedar and Mud (at Koshkonong)
39. Marquette county-Buffalo
50. Portage county-Bass and Pleasant
54. Rock county-Koshkonong
56. St. Croix county-Pine (at Baldwin)
60. Sheboygan county-Sheboygan marsh
69. Waupaca county-Campbell, Crystal, Cynco (Rice), Hatch, Kinney, Partridge, Partridge Crop, Silver, and White
70. Waushara county-Fish (at Wautoma), Beans, Pine (at Hancock), Poygan and Big Twin
71. Winnebago county-Butte des Morts, Little Butte des Morts, Poygan, and Winneconne, and Winnebago

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artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" in the following described waters:

1. *Peshtigo river*—In, on or along that part of the Peshtigo river lying in Marinette county, beginning at the Johnson Falls dam in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 32, township 33 north, range 19 east and extending downstream to the foot of Spring Rapids in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 15, township 32 north, range 19 east, with a daily bag limit of 5 trout and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

2. *Wolf river*—In, on or along that part of the Wolf river lying in Langulade county, beginning at the railroad trestle in section 19, township 32 north, range 14 east extending downstream to the eastwest quarter line dividing the west half of section 33, township 32 north, range 14 east marked by a road which runs along side the Diercks irrigation pond with a daily bag limit of 5 trout per day and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this chapter shall apply to the area described herein.

(7) EXPERIMENTAL TROPHY TROUT STREAMS. (a) Castle Rock creek—In, on or along that part of Castle Rock creek, Grant county, from the Church road bridge in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/2 section 36, T7N, R2W, downstream to the county trunk Q bridge in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 31, T7N, R1W.

1. Castle Rock Springs - In, on or along the springhead and spring tributary of Castle Rock creek in the SW 1/4 NE 1/4, section 36, T7N, R2W, Grant county.

(b) Doc Smith creek — In, on or along that part of Doc Smith creek, Grant county, from and including the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 1, T6N, R2W, downstream to its mouth (Castle Rock creek).

(c) For the purpose of this section it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" and with the use of artificial lures. Artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout. An artificial lure means a bait designed to attract fish which does not include any natural bait.

1. There is a 0 bag limit for trout and the open season is from January 1 to September 30, both dates inclusive.

(d) Race-Willow creek - In, on or along that part of Race-Willow creek, St. Croix county, known as the Race in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, section 8; SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, section 17; and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 18, T29N, R19W, a trout daily bag limit of one fish is established, the minimum size limit of which shall be 13 inches. The open season is the first Saturday in May beginning at 5:00 a.m. through September 30, both dates inclusive.

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1. For the purpose of this section, fishing is restricted to fly fishing and artificial lures described in NR 20.04 (7) (c).

(8) **EXPERIMENTAL TROUT LAKES** (ponds). (a) Bayfield county. 1. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on even year dates only.

- a. Anderson
- b. Blaisdell
- c. Mimi
- d. Nymphia

2. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on odd year dates only.

- a. Balsam
- b. Beaver
- c. Little Star
- d. Spring

(b) The open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this section shall apply to NR 20.03 (1) (f) l.f. and NR 20.03 (1) (f) 3.

(c) In McGee lake, Langlade county, there shall be an open season for trout from the first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to and including September 30. A daily bag limit of 2 trout with a no size limit shall be in effect. The use of minnows is prohibited.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3) (a) 28.56 and 71, (3) (am) 7, cr. (3) (am) 3 a. 7 a and 24 a and r. (4) (c) 1 and 2, Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (c) 2, 3., and 4., Register, October, 1975, No. 238, eff. 11-1-75; am. (3) (am) (intro.), (c) 2., 3. and 4., r. (4) (c) Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (4), r. (5) (a) 3 and cr. (7) and (8), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (7) (a) and (b), Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; am. (3) (c) 2 to 4, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (a) 69., (am) 3. and 24., (b), (4) (a) 5., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; r. (3) (c) 4.1, cr. (8) (c) and am. (3) (c) 4.b., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 20.04 see the history note for NR 20.04 as it appeared in the December, 1974 Administrative Register.

**NR 20.05 Season for crayfish and frogs.** (1) **CRAYFISH.** There is no closed season on crayfish or crabs in the inland waters except in Manitowoc county where there is a closed season from March 1 to but not including the Saturday nearest June 15.

(2) **METHOD OF TAKING.** Crayfish or crabs may be taken in the following ways; by hand, minnow seines, minnow dip nets and minnow traps where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows (see minnow regulations, section NR 20.10) and by crab traps with the entrance of the trap not to exceed 2½ inches at greatest diagonal measurement. Each such trap shall have securely attached to it a label or tag clearly bearing in the English language the name and address of the operator. All such traps shall be raised and the crayfish or crabs removed therefrom at least once in every 24 hours.

(3) **FROGS.** (a) The open season for taking, killing or capturing frogs shall be from the Saturday nearest May 1 to December 31.