

Chapter NR 25

COMMERCIAL FISHING - OUTLYING WATERS

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Note: Chapter NR 25 as it existed on September 30, 1976, was repealed and a new chapter NR 25 was created effective October 1, 1976.

NR 25.01 Purpose. (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates commercial fishing in the outlying waters.

(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.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

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:

(1) "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.

(2) "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.

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

(4) "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 20.09, Wis. Adm. Code, or minnows.

(5) "Commercial fishing gear" or "commercial gear" is that equipment identified in or regulated by this chapter, with the exception of hook and line or angling equipment, gear for the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.09, Wis. Adm. Code, or minnows.

(6) "Department" means department of natural resources.

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

(8) "Final consumption" means the last or ultimate use of a fish by eating or otherwise.

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

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

(11) "Illegal fish" means any or all fish taken at a time other than the open season, or of sizes other than prescribed in s. NR 25.05 or in excess of quotas as prescribed in s. NR 25.06, or taken by methods other than those prescribed in this chapter, or of the following species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, crappie, muskellunge, sturgeon, all species of salmon and trout except as otherwise prescribed in this chapter.

(12) "Illegal nets" mean those nets possessed or used in violation of this chapter or a statute.

(13) "License year" means that period from July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year.

(14) "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, 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; thence along the southwest shoreline to the most southwesterly point of Chambers island; thence due west to the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.

(15) "Northern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying north of the northern and southern Green Bay line.

(16) "Northern Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means that line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in township 32 or 33 north, range 29 east; thence in a northeasterly direction to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; thence along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; thence northerly to the southwesterly point of Shellswick dock, 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; thence due north to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line.

(17) "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.

(18) "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.

(19) "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 forebays 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.

(20) "Trawl" means a large conical bag of netting to which are often attached wings of netting, which is towed in the water 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.

(21) "Trawl cast" means the single placement, towing and retrieval of a trawl.

(22) "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.

NR 25.03 Commercial fishing licenses. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Not more than 21 licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Superior may be issued for each license year except that this section shall not apply to licenses for fishing only for the harvest of rough fish from outlying waters under a contract issued pursuant to s. 29.62 or 29.625, Stats.

(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. For the first year of eligibility the applicant must show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment.

2. To retain eligibility for the second year and each consecutive year period thereafter, the applicant must show proof of:

a. A \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment.

b. At least 50 days of commercial fishing, setting or operating nets on Lake Superior during the previous year.

3. Any licensee failing to meet the qualifications of par. (b) 1. and 2. shall not be eligible to reapply for such license until one year has elapsed since the end of the period in which that person was licensed.

4. Such licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified.

a. First to individuals who have been licensed on Lake Superior or worked as crew members setting and operating nets at least 100 days in total during the 2 preceding years.

b. Next to individuals who have held a license on Lake Superior or worked as a member of a crew on Lake Superior for 2 years.

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

5. When the number of qualified new applicants for such license shall exceed the number of licenses available and such applicants are not affected by the priorities established in subd. 4. the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications received.

(c) The Lake Superior commercial fishing board shall review applications for licenses and recommend approval or denial of licenses to the department no later than May 20 preceding the license year for which application is being made.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN. (a) The number of licenses authorizing commercial fishing in Lake Michigan issued for the licensing period which begins on July 1, 1981 and extends through June 30, 1982, shall be limited to no more than the number issued during the preceding license year.

(b) Following the license year of 1981-82, the number of licenses issued for any license year shall be limited to the maximum number issued for either of the immediately preceding 2 license years.

(c) 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:

1. For the first year of eligibility the applicant shall show proof of a \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment.

2. To retain eligibility for the second year and thereafter, the applicant shall show proof of:

a. A \$5,000 investment in commercial fishing equipment not to include vehicles other than those directly employed in operating nets.

b. At least 30 days lifting nets on Lake Michigan during the previous license year unless unavoidable circumstances prevented the applicant from lifting nets. These circumstances shall be reviewed by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board which shall in these cases recommend approval or denial of the license.

3. Any licensee failing to meet the qualifications of par. (b) 1. and 2. shall not be eligible to reapply for such license until one year has elapsed since the end of the period in which that person was licensed.

4. Licenses shall be issued according to the following priorities to applicants otherwise qualified.

a. First to individuals who have been licensed on Lake Michigan or worked as crew members setting and operating nets at least 60 days in total during the 2 preceding years.

b. Next to individuals who have held a license on Lake Michigan or worked as a member of a crew on Lake Michigan for 2 years.

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

5. When the number of qualified new applicants for licenses shall exceed the number of licenses available and applicants are not affected by

the priorities established in subd. 4., the licenses shall be awarded on the basis of random selection from all eligible applications in the single lowest priority category under which licenses will be awarded.

(3) **APPLICATION.** Application for licenses authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters shall be made on forms provided by the department. Applications shall be submitted to and received by the department no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made.

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.

NR 25.04 Transfer of commercial fishing licenses. (1) (a) A valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters may be transferred by a licensee complying with this section to a member of the licensee's immediate family.

(b) For purposes of this section the immediate family means the spouse, parent, sibling or children by birth or adoption who are eligible to apply for a commercial fishing license under s. NR 25.03.

(2) A valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters may be transferred by a licensee complying with this section to another person meeting the qualifications in s. NR 25.03 (1) for commercial fishing on Lake Superior or s. NR 25.03 (2) for commercial fishing on Lake Michigan.

(3) Licenses shall not be transferred under sub. (2) or (3) if the licensee is charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws. This provision shall apply during the period from the issuance of a citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.

(4) 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.

(5) Applications for transfer shall be made and submitted as designated on forms provided by the department.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79.

NR 25.05 Open seasons; size limits; possession 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 shall take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter.

Species	A	B	C
	Lake Michigan and Northern Green Bay	Southern Green Bay	Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout	No open season	No open season	Dec. 1 to Sept. 30 subject to NR 25.06 (1)
(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 25	December 1 to October 25	Dec. 1 to Sept. 30.
(d) Chubs	April 1 to December 31, subject to ss. NR 25.06 (2) (a), 25.07 (2) (a) 1. and 25.08	No open season	At all times
(a) Yellow perch	June 11 to April 9	May 20 to April 9	No open season
(f) Northern pike	No open season in Lake Michigan, May 20 to March 9 in Northern Green Bay	May 20 to March 9	No open season
(g) Alewives, bullheads, burbot, carp, catfish, gizzard shad, suckers, menominees, smelt, white bass	At all times	At all times	At all times
(h) Lake herring	No open season	No open season	At all times
(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 shall 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
	Lake Michigan and Northern Green Bay	Southern Green Bay	Lake Superior
(a) Lake trout			17 inches
(b) Siscowet			No size limit
(c) Whitefish	17 inches	17 inches	17 inches
(d) Yellow perch	8 inches	7½ inches	
(e) Walleye	18 inches	18 inches	
(f) Northern pike	20 inches	20 inches	
(g) Catfish	16 inches	16 inches	
(h) Others	No size limit	No size limit	No size limit

(3) **POSSESSION LIMITS.** Except as otherwise provided, no person may possess species of fish for which there is no open season. The possession 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 for the person possessing such fish.

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. 6-24-81; 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.

NR 25.06 Quotas and catch fees. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Lake trout. The total allowable annual harvest of lake trout by commercial methods during the open season in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior shall be determined by the natural resources board based upon recommendations from the department, the U.S. fish and wildlife service and the Great Lakes fishery commission.

1. The total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may not exceed 180,000 pounds of lake trout.

2. That quantity of lake trout to be harvested by non-Indian licensed commercial fishers from the waters of Lake Superior may not exceed 80,000 pounds annually.

3. Eligible members of the Red Cliff and Bad River bands of Lake Superior Chippewas as determined by the respective tribal councils may harvest under permits issued by their respective tribal councils 100,000 pounds of lake trout from Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior annually. Copies of the permits will be provided to the department at the time of issue.

4. All lake trout and siscowet shall be tagged in accordance with sub. (3).

(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.

(2) **LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) Chubs.** The total allowable annual commercial harvest of chubs in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and northern Green Bay 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 1,650,000 pounds, not including incidental catches allowed elsewhere in this chapter.

2. No more than 200,000 pounds of the total allowable commercial harvest for any license year may be taken in those waters of Lake Michigan north of a line extending due east from the red navigational buoy marking the entrance of Bailey's Harbor. This portion may be taken only during the period from July 1 through December 31.

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

(3) **TAGGING OF FISH.** All fish species or subspecies required to be tagged in accordance with this section shall be tagged with tags furnished or authorized by the department before being brought to any dock or shore when fishing in open water and before being transported when fishing with nets under ice. Such fish shall be individually tagged.

(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.

(f) Tags furnished or authorized by the department for tagging fish may not be modified or tampered with.

(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. 6-24-81; 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.

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NR 25.07 Individual licensee catch quotas. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) The allotment of catch quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 to individuals holding licenses authorizing commercial fishing on Lake Superior shall be upon application in accordance with sub. (3), as follows:

1. Each commercial fisher licensed under s. 29.33, Stats., shall receive an individual quota of 4,400 pounds of lake trout; except

2. Each such licensed fisher who fishes with pound or trap nets only shall receive a quota of lake trout in the amount of 3,200 pounds.

3. Whenever that quantity of lake trout allocated in subds. 1. and 2. exceeds the total allowable commercial harvest, individual allocations shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN. (a) The allotment of catch quotas as established in NR 25.06 to individuals holding licenses authorizing commercial fishing on Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board upon application in accordance with sub. (3) and the following criteria:

1. Chubs. a. Lake Michigan chub permits shall be issued to all applicants meeting the following criteria:

- 1) Presently licensed commercial fishers;
- 2) Ownership of a boat of 35 feet in overall length or longer;
- 3) The boat shall be equipped with a powered net lifter.

b. All fishers meeting the criteria in subd. a. shall be eligible for entry upon application with the following limitations;

1) In those waters commonly referred to as the southern chub fishing area, no more than 450,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during each of the 3-month periods encompassed by the months of July, August and September, the months of October, November and December, and the months of April, May and June respectively.

2) In those waters commonly referred to as the northern chub fishing area, no more than 100,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during each of the 3-month periods encompassed by the months of July, August and September, and the months of October, November and December respectively.

3) Should the remaining allowable harvest as of December 31 exceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the annual allowable harvest, the excess portion shall be allotted to all permittees who reported fishing for chubs during the license year on a pro rata basis, based on their individual reported catches during the period July 1 through December 31.

4) No more than $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total quota may be taken by any one vessel or licensee during the license year.

5) In those waters commonly referred to as the southern chub fishing area no permittee may take more than 40% of the maximum established in subpar. b. 4) during any 3-month fishing period.

6) Licensees possessing a valid chub permit issued under this section may, during the closed season for chubs, possess incidentally caught chubs. A maximum of 1% of the total daily catch by weight may be

brought to shore and sold. Such incidental catch may only be taken in gear authorized by this chapter and used for taking smelt. Such saleable incidentally caught chubs will be applied against the chub quota allotted to the permittee and will be reported as required in subpar. c. All non-saleable chubs will be accounted for and tagged according to written procedures provided by the department.

c. Each permit holder shall submit weekly reports on forms provided by the department. The weekly reports shall be mailed to the department at the address provided on the forms and shall be postmarked no later than the Monday following the weekly report period during the open season. Weekly reports shall be filed by each permit holder regardless of whether the permit holder fished or not.

d. The department shall notify all permit holders to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of the 3-month quota as established in subd. b. 1) and 2) has been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.08 (2) (a) 9., and fish therein harvested.

e. The quota for the following 3-month period shall be adjusted based on the actual reported catch of the previous 3-month period.

(3) Applications for individual license year catch quotas shall be made on forms provided by the department and filed with it as designated on those forms no later than March 15 preceding the license year for which a quota is requested.

(4) The harvest quota established by the department from which individuals may be allotted quotas shall not include that poundage reserved for assessment purposes in NR 25.06.

(5) Individual catch quotas determined and issued in accordance with this section shall be issued on a license year basis and be valid only during the open season for the species of fish subject to a harvest quota and only for so long as the applicant holds a valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the waters to which the applicant's quota applies.

(6) Individual catch quotas may not be transferred to another valid licensee authorized to engage in commercial fishing in the waters to which the applicant's quota applies without review and approval of the commercial fishing board which allotted the quota to the applicant.

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. 6-24-81; 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.

NR 25.08 Restricted areas and legal commercial fishing gear. (1) The following are legal commercial fishing gear when used in the manner provided and areas designated.

(2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. (a) Gill nets:

1. Gill nets with a mesh size of not more than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure for the taking of smelt only.

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2. Gill nets with a mesh size of $2\frac{3}{8}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " stretch measure in the water of southern Green Bay only.

3. Gill nets with a mesh size of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " to $2\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure except such nets may not be used for the taking of chubs in those waters of Lake Michigan lying between a line running due east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor and a line running due east from the red navigational buoy marking the entrance of Baileys Harbor and in northern Green Bay.

4. Gill nets of $2\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure or less shall not exceed 60 meshes in depth.

5. Gill nets with a mesh size of 4" to 4½" stretch measure in the waters of southern Green Bay for the taking of rough fish and northern pike in water less than 30 feet in depth from May 20 to March 9, except during the closed season for whitefish. Such nets shall not exceed 30 meshes in depth.

6. Gill nets of mesh size exceeding 4½" stretch measure and less than 6½" stretch measure may be used only in the waters of Green Bay and of Lake Michigan north of a line running due east from the red navigational buoy marking the entrance of Baileys Harbor. Such gill nets shall not exceed 30 meshes in depth, except ½ can be 50 meshes deep.

7. Gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 6½" stretch measure and not more than 12 meshes deep for taking rough fish except during the closed seasons for whitefish and yellow perch.

8. The maximum amount of gill nets of 4" stretch mesh or larger to be employed by any one commercial fishing licensee shall not exceed 12,000 lineal feet in the water at any one time.

9. Gill nets used in open water shall be lifted a minimum of once every 24 hours, except nets need not be lifted on Sunday. Nets fished for chubs in waters deeper than 30 fathoms shall be lifted a minimum of once every 120 hours. Gill nets fished under the ice shall be lifted a minimum of once every 48 hours.

(b) Entrapping nets:

1. Pound nets only when set, placed or operated in not more than 80 feet of water. All pound nets shall be removed from the water or shall have the fish holding or pot portion thereof rendered inoperable at the end of the open season for whitefish, said nets to remain inoperable during the closed season.

2. Trap nets only when the pot is set, placed or operated in not more than 80 feet of water except during the closed season for whitefish. Such nets shall be removed from the waters or shall have the fish holding or pot portion thereof rendered inoperable prior to the closed season for whitefish.

3. Drop and fyke nets, except during the closed season for yellow perch.

4. Seines not less than 75 feet in length with a mesh size of not less than 3 inch stretch measure.

5. Each licensed commercial fisher shall not employ more than 12 pound nets and not more than 30 drop or fyke nets, that number to be the maximum number of cribs or pots authorized.

6. Trap and pound nets shall be lifted a minimum of once every 120 hours.

7. Drop and fyke nets shall be lifted a minimum of once every 72 hours.

(c) Trawls in the waters of southern Green Bay and in Lake Michigan south of a line extending due east from the Sturgeon Bay coast guard station.

1. In southern Green Bay trawls may be used only for the taking of fish for which there is no minimum size limit. Trawls may not be used south of a line from the southernmost point of Little Tail Point to the Green Bay entrance light or in waters less than 24 feet deep.

2. In those waters of Lake Michigan, except restricted areas, wherein trawling is permitted, trawls may be used for the taking of fish for which there is no minimum size limit except those species for which an allowable harvest limit has been established. Not to exceed one percent of the catch from each trawl cast by weight may be composed of fish which are considered legal in other commercial fishing gear.

3. Trawls may be used in restricted areas to harvest rough or detrimental fish only. Trawling pursuant to this subsection shall not commence until 72 hours have elapsed following acknowledged notification of department. Operations must be halted when determined by the department to be necessary to protect recently planted fish and concentrations of illegal fish.

(3) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Gill nets:

1. Gill nets with a mesh size of not more than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure.

2. Gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " and not more than 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " stretch measure and not to exceed 35 meshes in depth in depths of water from 2 to 15 fathoms and 35 fathoms and deeper. Gill nets of this mesh size and not to exceed 60 meshes deep may be used provided the bottom maitre cord or lead line shall not be nearer than one fathom to the bottom of the lake.

3. Gill nets with a mesh size of over 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and not more than 3" stretch measure from November 15 through March 31.

4. Gill nets with a mesh size of not less than 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " stretch measure and not more than 30 meshes in depth only when set on the bottom.

a. Each licensed fisher may use not more than 10,000 feet of the nets at depths less than 55 fathoms and only from December 1 through September 30.

b. Each licensed fisher may use not more than 20,000 feet of the nets in depths of more than 55 fathoms at any time.

5. Gill nets being set and lifted through ice cover shall be lifted a minimum of once every 120 hours. Gill nets used in open water in 15 fathoms or less shall be lifted a minimum of once every 72 hours; in 16 to 34 fathoms a minimum of once every 120 hours; in 35 fathoms and deeper a minimum of once every 10 nights.

(b) Entrapping nets:

1. Entrapping nets if placed or operated in waters of not more than 80 feet.

2. Each licensed fisher may use not more than 10 such nets, that number to be the maximum number of cribs or pots authorized.

3. Entrapping nets shall be lifted a minimum of once every 7 nights.

4. Entrapping nets may be set, placed, or operated only under permit in that part of Lake Superior east of the harbor entrance at Cornucopia

extending to the mouth of the Bad river in Ashland county and including all of the Apostle Islands area.

(c) Purse seines, seines, and trawls may be used for the taking of fish for which there is no minimum size limit.

1. Not to exceed one percent of the catch from each seine haul or trawl cast by weight may be composed of fish which are considered legal in other commercial fishing gear.

(4) No nets of any kind except entrapping nets and seines used for the taking of rough or detrimental fish or entrapping gear used for the taking of whitefish or gill nets fished for rough fish under contract may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters of Lake Michigan:

(a) All waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay within one-half mile from any harbor, pier or breakwater or one-fourth mile from the mouth of any navigable stream flowing into Lake Michigan or Green Bay.

(b) All waters of Lake Michigan within one-half mile from the shoreline of Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties.

(c) All waters in the following bays or harbors in Door county: Sturgeon Bay, including Sawyer's Harbor, Little Sturgeon Bay, Riley's Bay, Egg Harbor, Fish Creek Harbor, Eagle Harbor, Bailey's Harbor, Moonlight (Mud) Bay, North Bay, Rowley's Bay, Washington Harbor, Jackson Harbor, Detroit Harbor, West Harbor and Engleson Harbor, all as described in s. 29.015, Stats.

(d) All waters of Lake Michigan or Green Bay within one-quarter mile of any shoreline in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan counties.

(e) That portion of southern Green Bay lying south or east of a line commencing at the silo west of Little Sturgeon Bay on 87°35'W in the SE ¼ SE ¼ section 33, township 28 north, range 24 east, thence northeasterly 7.75 statute miles on a 54° bearing through the bell buoy off Sherwood point and 0.37 statute miles beyond to 44°55'N, then due east on 44°55'N, 2.75 statute miles to the shoreline in section 12, township 28 north, range 25 east.

(f) That portion of southern Green Bay lying north or east of a line commencing at the end of Ogden street in the city of Marinette and running southeasterly to the most southwesterly point of Seagull Bar, thence along the shoreline of Seagull Bar to the public boat landing located in section 16, township 30 north, range 24 east, Marinette county.

(5) No nets of any kind except those under contract for the taking of rough fish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay: Fox river including all connecting sloughs, bayous, and tributaries from the DePere dam downstream to its mouth lying south of a line commencing 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 in Brown county.

(6) No nets of any kind except entrapping nets with a minimum mesh size of not less than 3" stretch measure between at least 2 hoops in the pot and seines with a minimum mesh size of not less than 3" stretch measure used for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, or entrapping

gear with a minimum mesh size of not less than 3" stretch measure used for the taking of whitefish, or gill nets fished for rough fish under contract may be used, set, placed, or operated in the following waters of Lake Michigan:

(a) That portion of southern Green Bay lying south and west of a line following the south shore of Longtail point to where the navigation channel intersects 44°35'N, thence southerly along the west shore of the navigational channel for 3.5 statute miles to the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant outlet on the west bank of the Fox river.

(b) That portion of southern Green Bay lying south of a line extending due west from the mouth of the Red river at 44°40'N, 87°45'W, from November 1 to the following May 19, except that gill nets in accordance with this chapter may be used to take whitefish in these waters and smelt pound nets may be fished after March 1.

(c) That portion of southern Green Bay lying south of a line extending from the village of Red Banks in NW¼SW¼, section 29, township 25 north, range 22 east westerly on a bearing of 277° to the point at which it intersects the Green Bay navigational channel at a bell buoy at 44°37'N, 87°56'W, thence northwesterly on a bearing of 328° to the point immediately adjoining Little Tail point at 44°40'N thence due west to the shoreline from September 1 to the following May 19, except that gill nets in accordance with this chapter may be used to take whitefish in these waters and smelt pound nets may be fished after March 1.

(6m) LAKE SUPERIOR PERMITS. (a) No nets of any kind except those under permit for the taking of rough or detrimental fish or entrapping gear also under permit used for the taking of whitefish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters of Lake Superior:

1. Allouez bay, Superior bay, St. Louis bay, the St. Louis river and Chequamegon bay beginning at the Houghton point signal light proceeding in a southerly direction following the mainland shoreline to the city of Ashland and continuing along to Chequamegon point and on across the cut, if present, thence along the south or west shore of Long Island, thence westerly to the Houghton point light, the place of beginning.

2. All waters in Lake Superior within one-quarter mile of any harbor, pier or breakwater from April 15 through November 30 or from the mouth of any stream flowing into Lake Superior.

(b) No nets of any kind except those under permit for the taking of rough or detrimental fish may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters of Lake Superior.

1. All waters bounded by a line beginning at the mouth of Graveyard creek extending north to Gull Island Shoals refuge south boundary, then east to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, then southerly along the state line to the shore at the mouth of the Montreal river, then westerly along the shore to the point of beginning.

2. All waters of Siskiwit bay bounded by the shoreline and a line extending from Quarry point to Squaw point.

3. All waters from a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster, easterly to the northernmost point of Quar-

ry Point wherein the bottom lies at a depth of less than 12 fathoms, except Bark bay which shall be open from April 1 through May 30.

4. All waters from a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river, easterly to a line extending due north from the mouth of the Cranberry river at Herbster, wherein the bottom lies at a depth of less than 15 fathoms.

5. All waters from a line extending due north from the mouth of the Iron river, westerly to the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line wherein the bottom lies at a depth of less than 35 fathoms, except that from November 15 through December 30 gill nets of 3" or less stretch measure may be used in that portion greater than 15 fathoms in depth east of a line extending due north from the mouth of the Brule river.

6. All waters from a line extending due east from the breakwall light at Port Superior, southerly along the shoreline to Houghton point, wherein the bottom lies at a depth of less than 9 fathoms, and those waters within one mile of the mouth of any stream along this shoreline except from June 1 through August 15.

7. All waters bounded by a line beginning at the Chequamegon point light on the western end of Long island extending northeasterly to the southernmost point of Madeline island, then due east to the western boundary of Gull Island Shoals refuge, then southerly along the refuge boundary to the mouth of the Bad river, then northwesterly along the shoreline to the place of beginning, except within one mile of the mainland shoreline in Ashland county.

8. All waters east of Madeline island between a line extending due east from the southernmost tip of Madeline island to the western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge and a line extending from the east end of Hagen road to the western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge from June 1 through August 31.

(c) Permits shall be issued in a manner and contain such provisions and conditions as will assure the development and protection of the fish resources in Lake Superior.

(7) The net 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.

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. 6-24-81; 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.

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