

Chapter NR 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

NR 20.01 Closed seasons. There shall be and are provided and established the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other regulations for the several varieties and species of fish, crayfish, and frogs in the waters within the state of Wisconsin. A closed season is established for each variety of fish, crayfish and frogs named in this chapter extending during all the time of the year except the open season period embraced within the specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise expressly provided no person shall take, catch or kill fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit and no person shall take, catch or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than hook or line, nor at any time other than the open season therefor, nor have in his possession or under his control any fish, crayfish, or frogs in excess of the possession limit, or below the minimum size therefor during the open season.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; renum. from WCD 20.01 to be NR 20.01, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

NR 20.015 Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

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

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

(3) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing.

(4) Fishing includes taking, capturing or killing fish or fishing for fish of any variety at any time in the waters of the state.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; renum. (1) and (2) to be (3) and (4), cr. (1) and (2), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

NR 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters. (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in the outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits, number of hooks and lines and ice fishing regulations shall be the same as those prescribed for the inland waters of the county in which such outlying waters are located, except as otherwise specifically provided in the following table:

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)	
(a) WALLEYE AND SAUGER (Bag limit means total of all)	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	3	No size limit	
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit	
(b) NORTHERN PIKE	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit	
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit	
(c) YELLOW PERCH	Green Bay	Continuous	25	No size limit	
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit	
	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit	
(d) 1. TROUT AND SALMON	Lake Michigan, Green Bay	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10	
	2. TROUT AND SALMON EXCLUDING LAKE TROUT	Lake Superior	Continuous	10 in aggregate of which only 5 may be trout	10
	3. LAKE TROUT	Lake Superior	December 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate with trout	10
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS	Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within 1/4-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plumb, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit	
	Town of Washington Island	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	No size limit	
	Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit	
(f) LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	40	

(g) Herring of any size with no bag limit may be taken by hook and line at all times in the outlying waters.

(h) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon Bay by trolling from a motor driven boat or sailboat during the open season therefor. It shall be unlawful to spear any species or variety of fish in the outlying and reserve waters at any time, except that rough fish may be speared from sunrise to sunset 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 Register, April, 1983, No. 328

(e) It shall be lawful for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or by spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow, sunrise to sunset, from the Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1, inclusive, on the inland waters or from shores of inland waters in the counties of Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn, Polk and Barron. Burbot (but no other species) may also be speared from sunset to sunrise in the Amnicon and Nemadji rivers and the Black river upstream to the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad bridge from December 15 to January 31, inclusive, in Douglas county and the Bad river, Ashland county.

(5) (a) The possession or use of a gun, bow and arrow, spear or similar device for the taking, catching or killing of fish in or on any designated trout stream is prohibited at all times except as indicated in sub. (5) (b) and (c).

(b) Suckers and carp may be speared, sunrise to sunset only, from Saturday nearest March 15 to, but not including the Saturday nearest May 1, in the following trout waters in Waushara county:

1. White river below the junction of the main and west branches in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 10, township 18 north, range 10 east, town of Dakota, downstream to the White river flowage in sec. 13 of Dakota township.

2. Willow creek between the point where the two branches of said stream unite in section 12, township 18 north, range 11 east, town of Marion and the dam in Auroraville.

3. The Pine river between the point where the said stream crosses the highway in section 3, township 19 north, range 12 east, town of Leon to the dam in Poyssippi.

(c) Turtles may be taken from trout streams the year-round by the method commonly known as "hooking".

(7) It shall be unlawful to use goldfish or alewife in any form or manner for bait or to have goldfish or alewife in possession on the inland, boundary or Lake Superior waters of the state. Alewife but not goldfish may be possessed and used for bait in Lake Michigan waters.

(8) No person shall, except as otherwise expressly provided, set, place, use, operate or have in possession or under control any snag line or snag pole, snaghook or parts thereof or cluster of fish hooks that might be attached to same designed to be placed in or drawn through the water for the purpose of catching or drawing such hooks into the body of fish or used for that purpose; except that carp, but no other species or variety fish, may be taken by means of a gaff hook through the ice, sunrise to sunset, in the outlying and reserve water of Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

(9) No person shall use or have in his possession or under his control or maintenance in any of the inland waters of this state, any live box, crib or similar device except receptacles carried by or with the fisherman to contain his catch while fishing, that might be used for the keeping of fish unless he shall have securely attached thereto in such a manner as to be readable and legible at all times a tag of permanent material bearing the name and address of the owner or user.

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(10) No person shall fish for trout in inland waters without a trout stamp of current issue with the signature of the licensee written in ink across its face and firmly affixed by its own adhesive to the back of a valid fishing or sportsman's license.

(11) No person may use live crayfish or crabs as bait on the inland waters except on the Mississippi river. (ss. 29.085, 29.174 (2), Stats.)

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (d), (4) (a), (b) (c) and (e) and (7), cr. (1) (ee) and (g), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (2), renum. (3) (a), to (e) to be (4) (a) to (e) and am. eff. 4-30-76; r. (1) (ff) and (5) (b) 1, r. and recr. (2) and (3), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (c), (4) (b) and (e), (5) (a), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; cr. (10), Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78; r. and recr. (1) (g), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (a) and (4) (b) and (c) and cr. (5) (b) 1., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; am. (1) (a), Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; renum. (2) to be (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. (11), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.07, see the history as it appeared in January, 1976, Administrative Register.

NR 20.08 Turtle traps. (a) A maximum of 5 hoop net turtle traps are allowed with a mesh of not less than 8 inch stretch measure providing such traps are so set that not less than 2 inches of the hoops extend above the surface of the water, and float and tank type turtle traps not exceeding 4 feet square or 4 feet in diameter may be used for trapping turtles. Each such trap while in use shall have attached in such manner as to be visible and legible at all times, a metal tag bearing the name and address of the operator of the trap and no other person may tend or operate the trap.

(b) A closed season is established on the taking of turtles from May 1 to June 15 inclusive on inland waters other than the boundary waters.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; renum. WCD 20.08 to be NR 20.08, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

NR 20.09 Dip nets in inland and outlying waters. (1) **GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.** Except as provided in this section and in ss. NR 20.04, 20.10 and 20.11 no person shall set, use or operate any dip net in any of the inland or outlying waters of the state for taking, catching or killing any variety of fish. No person, while operating a dip net for rough fish, shall fish for fish in any other manner at that time and no person shall fish with hook and line from any boat that has a dip net attached. Only one dip net per person is permitted for the taking of smelt and minnows. Such dip net must be attended at all times while in use and such nets shall only be raised and lowered vertically when fishing.

(a) It is unlawful to sell, barter or trade in any manner any suckers taken pursuant to this section.

(2) **USE OF DIP NETS.** (a) *Definition.* Dip nets used for taking, catching, or killing rough fish shall be defined as follows: a piece of netting suspended from a round or square frame not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square.

(b) *Marinette and Oconto counties.* Not more than one dip net per person may be used at any time for the taking, catching, or killing of rough fish in Marinette and Oconto counties in all the streams and rivers flowing into Green Bay from a point 200 feet upstream from the mouth, and extending a distance of 15 miles inland in a straight line.

Register, December, 1982, No. 324