

## Chapter NR 23

## WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS

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Note: Chapter NR 23 as it existed on March 31, 1986 was repealed and a new chapter NR 23 was created effective April 1, 1986.

**NR 23.01 Purpose.** The provisions of this chapter regulate fishing in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.02 Definitions.** The following definitions apply to terms used in this chapter:

(1) "Bag limit" or "daily bag limit" means the maximum number of a fish species which may be reduced to a person's possession in one day.

(2) "Dip net" means a piece of netting suspended from a frame designed to be raised and lowered vertically when fishing.

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

(4) "Length of fish" means the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout of the fish to the end of its tail with the tail or caudal fin fully extended.

(5) "Minnow" has the meaning given it in s. 29.01 (5), Stats.

(6) "Open season" means that period of the year established in s. NR 23.04 when a specific species of fish is allowed to be taken.

(7) "Possession limit" means the maximum number of a fish species which may be possessed by a person at any time.

(8) "Rough fish" has the meaning given it in s. 29.01 (5), Stats., and also includes amur carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*).

(9) "Sport fishing" means fishing, when authorized, with hook and line, spearing and the use of a dip net.

(10) "Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters" means the following waters that form the interstate boundary water between the states of Wisconsin and Michigan:

Name	Location
(a) BASIN LAKE.....	T45N, R43W, Sec. 34..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T44N, R7E, Sec. 30..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(b) BIG LAKE .....	T44N, R41W, Secs. 16 & 17..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8E, Secs. 13, 14, 23 & 24..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(c) BIG BAD WATER LAKE.....	Dickinson co.—Mich. Florence co.—Wisconsin
(d) BIG BATEAU LAKE.....	T44N, R40W, Secs. 26 & 27..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R10E, Sec. 30..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(e) BRULE RIVER .....	Iron co.—Michigan Florence & Forest cos.—Wisconsin
(f) CRAMPTON LAKE.....	T44N, R41W, Sec. 18..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8E, Secs. 10, 14 & 15..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(g) CRYSTAL LAKE.....	T43N, R39W, Secs. 3 & 4..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R10 & 11E, Secs. 36 & 31..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(h) CYRUS LAKE.....	T45N, R43W, Sec. 35..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T44N, R7E, Sec. 32..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(i) LAC VIEUX DESERT .....	T43N, R38 & 39W..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T42N, R11E, Secs. 4, 10, 11, 12 & 15..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(j) LITTLE PRESQUE ISLE LAKE.....	T44N, R42W, Sec. 6..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R7E, Sec. 3..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(k) MAMIE LAKE .....	T44N, R41W, Sec. 23..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R9E, Secs. 17, 10 & 21..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(l) MENOMINEE RIVER (including all impound- ments downstream to the confluence with Green Bay)	Menominee, Dickinson & Iron cos. —Michigan Florence & Marinette cos. —Wisconsin
(m) MILL LAKE.....	T44N, R40W, Sec. 36..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R10E, Sec. 33..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(n) MONTREAL RIVER (Including the East Fork up to the mouth of Layman Creek)	Gogebic co.—Mich. Iron co.—Wis.
(o) NORWOOD LAKE.....	T43N, R38W, Secs. 23 & 24..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T42N, R12E, Sec. 20..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(p) PLUM LAKE .....	T44N, R42W, Secs. 11, 12 & 13..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8E, Sec. 9..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(q) ROACH LAKE.....	T44N, R42W, Secs. 3, 4, 9 & 10..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8E, Sec. 7..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(r) SMOKY LAKE.....	T43N, R37W, Secs. 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33... Gogebic co.—Mich. T42N, R12E, Secs. 35 & 36..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(s) STATE LINE LAKE.....	T45N, R43W, Secs. 29 & 32..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T44N, R6E, Sec. 26..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(t) TENDERFOOT LAKE.....	T44N, R42W, Secs. 10 & 11..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8E, Secs. 7 & 8..... Vilas co.—Wis.
(u) WEST BAY LAKE.....	T44N, R41W, Secs. 15, 16 & 22..... Gogebic co.—Mich. T43N, R8 & 9E, Secs. 13 & 18..... Vilas co.—Wis.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.  
Register, March, 1986, No. 363

**NR 23.03 General restriction.** Except as specifically allowed by this chapter, fishing in and possession of fishing equipment on the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters is prohibited.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.04 Reciprocity.** Residents of Wisconsin and Michigan holding a resident fishing license from their respective states, or residents of other states holding a non-resident fishing license issued by Wisconsin or Michigan, may, in conformity with this chapter, fish by hook and line; spear and use dip nets to take minnows and rough fish in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.05 Hook and line fishing.** (1) No person may use more than 3 hooks, baits or lures. The line or lines shall be attended at all times.

(2) Unless immediately released, fish taken shall be included as part of the daily bag limit.

(3) No person may take fish by snagging or foul hooking unless authorized by s. NR 20.04 (3) (d) 2.f.

(4) No person may fish for fish of any variety during the closed season for trout in the Brule river upstream from the railroad bridge in section 29, township 42 north, range 34 west, Iron county, Michigan and section 25, township 41 north, range 15 east, Florence county, Wisconsin and in the Montreal river above the Saxon Falls flowage.

(5) The seasons, size limits and bag and possession limits for hook and line fishing in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters for the species listed in this subsection, except as provided in ss. NR 23.06 and 23.07 are as follows. Fishing for species not listed in this subsection is subject to ch. NR 20.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Possession and daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(a) BLUEGILLS, CRAPPIES, PERCH, ROCK BASS, AND SUNFISH in all boundary waters	No closed season	No limit	No size limit
(b) BULLHEAD, ROUGH FISH, AND MINNOWS in all boundary waters	No closed season	No limit	No size limit
(c) LAKE STURGEON in all boundary waters	First Saturday in September to November 1	2 per season	50
(d) LARGEMOUTH BASS AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS			
1. In lakes	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	No size limit
2. In rivers & impoundments	No closed season	5 in aggregate	No size limit
(e) MUSKELLUNGE			
1. In Iron, Forest, Florence and Marinette county lakes	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	30
2. In Vilas county lakes	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	30
3. In rivers & impoundments	No closed season	1	30
(f) NORTHERN PIKE			
1. In lakes	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
2. In rivers & impoundments	No closed season	5	No size limit
(g) TROUT AND SALMON			
1. All boundary waters except the Montreal river from Lake Superior upstream to the Superior Falls dam and the Menominee river upstream to the first dam	Last Saturday in April to September 30	10	6
2. Montreal and Menominee rivers - from their mouths upstream to the first dam and Smoky lake	No closed season	5	10
(h) WALLEYE			
a. In lakes	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	13
b. In rivers & impoundments	No closed season	5	13

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

NR 23.06 Spear fishing. A spear may be possessed or used to take northern pike, redhorse, sucker and carp through the ice during January and February on the Menominee and Brule rivers and their impoundments, subject to the bag and possession limits in s. NR 23.05.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

NR 23.07 Dip nets. (1) Dip nets may be used for taking suckers, redhorse, carp, smelt and lawyers or burbot from April 1 to May 14, in the Menominee river except in that portion from the upstream side of the Register, March, 1986, No. 363

Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette-Menominee upstream to the next dam and within 200 feet below dams on the river.

(2) Dip nets used for taking, catching, and killing rough fish and smelt may not exceed 9 feet square or 9 feet in diameter with a bag not more than 4 feet deep when lifted.

(3) No person may use or operate any dip net in any manner other than by raising and lowering it vertically when fishing.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.08 Minnows.** No person may sell, trade or barter minnows taken from Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.09 Motor trolling.** Fishing from a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any boat in tow of a motor-driven boat when the motor is running is authorized on all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters except Vilas county waters.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.10 Ice fishing.** Buildings, vehicles, tents, fish shanties or similar enclosures may be used on the ice for fishing in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

(1) The door of any enclosure or shelter shall be unlocked and readily opened from the outside at all times while the enclosure or shelter is occupied.

(2) All shelters shall be removed from the ice on or before March 15, or prior to that time if ordered by the department when it determines the ice has become unsafe for travel.

(3) All buildings, tents, fish shanties and similar enclosures or shelters maintained, occupied, or used for fishing on the ice of any Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters shall have the name and address of the person owning or using it printed in the English language on the outside of it so the name is readily visible at all times.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.11 Fishing near dams.** No person may fish by any means other than with hook and line within 200 feet below any dam.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.

**NR 23.12 Conflicting rules.** Where regulations of Michigan and Wisconsin differ, fishers shall comply with the regulations of the state in whose territorial waters they are fishing.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86.