

Chapter NR 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

NR 20.01 Purpose; general restriction. Seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other regulations for fishing in Wisconsin waters are established in this chapter. No person may take, catch, kill or fish for fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit, by means other than hook and line, during other than the open season or possess or control any fish in excess of the possession limit or below the minimum size limit, except as expressly provided in this chapter.

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; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1984, No. 340; r. and recr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

NR 20.0125 License waiver. (1) On the first Sunday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the inland or outlying waters.

(2) The license waiver of sub. (1) does not apply to commercial fishing license requirements.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; am. (1), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89.

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.

(2m) "Business day" has the meaning given it in s. 421.301 (6), Stats.

(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.

Emerg cr.
(d) eff 5/5/89

(4g) "Setline" means a line with one or more hooks fastened to it and designed to be set or left unattended in the water for the purpose of taking fish.

(4t) "Set or bank pole" means a pole equipped with line with one or more hooks fastened to it, designed to be used for fishing from the banks of lakes or rivers and set or left unattended.

(5) "Telemetry device" means any device attached or implanted in fish that transmits a sonic or electronic signal to aid in fishing.

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; reprinted to correct error in (2), Register, April, 1984, No. 340; cr. (5), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; cr. (4g) and (4t) Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86; cr. (2m), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87.

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)	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay except the Fox river from its mouth upstream to the dam at DePere	At all times	3	No size limit
	2. Fox river from its mouth upstream to the dam at DePere	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	No size limit
		March 2 to the day before the first Saturday in May.	1	28
	3. 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	50	No size limit
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit
(d) 1. TROUT AND SALMON	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay, except as provided in subd. 2.	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day, except as provided in subd. 2.	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout, except as provided in subd. 2.	10

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
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.			
(r) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(s) ROUGH FISH (except for threatened and endangered species. See s. NR 27.03)	Continuous	None	No size limit

(2) (a) Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit the sturgeon, with the person's 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 that purpose. Sturgeon shall be exhibited at a sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the waters where speared not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day speared. Upon approval by the officer, the officer shall attach a special tag to each sturgeon indicating that it has been inspected and recorded and the tag shall remain attached and locked to the sturgeon until the carcass is finally consumed.

(b) 1. Any person who has taken a lake sturgeon by legal methods other than spearing must immediately attach a lake sturgeon tag, furnished by the department. The tagged lake sturgeon shall be registered at a department lake sturgeon registration station no later than 6:00 p.m. the day after the fish was caught. Registration tags attached to the fish by the department shall remain attached until the carcass is finally consumed.

2. Sturgeon tags shall be available in each year prior to the open season. Persons may obtain no more than one tag unless fishing Michigan boundary waters in which case 2 tags may be obtained.

(c) 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 par. (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 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 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

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; emerg. am. (1) (f) 1. a., eff. 4-10-80; am. (1) (f) 1. a., Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (1) (intro.), (f) 1. and 3., (q) 2., cr. (1) (f) 5., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; am. (1) (a) 3., (1) (f) 1. a., d. and 2., renum. (1) (f) 1. f. to be (1) (f) 1. g., cr. (1) (f) 1. f., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (q) 2., Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; cr. (1) (a) 1. and (1) (e) 2., Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82; am. (1) (e) (intro.), (f) 1. intro. and a., (1) (f) 3., (1) (g) and (q), (3), renum. (2) (b) to be (2) (c), cr. (2) (b) and (1) (e) 3., Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; am. (1) (a) 1., (1) (e) 2., r. and recr. (1) (k), r. (1) (e) 3., Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1. and (2) (b) 1., renum. (1) (a) 4. to be (1) (a) 5., cr. (1) (a) 4., r. and recr. (1) (c), (e) and (f), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; renum. (1) (a) 4. to be (1) (a) 6., (1) (f) 4. to 6. to be 5. to 7., cr. (1) (a) 4. and 5 and (1) (f) 4., am. (1) (f) 7. intro. and a. and (1) (k), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; renum. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and (d) 4. to be (1) (a) 8., (c) 4. and (d) 5., cr. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and (d) 4., Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1) (a) 4. and (q) 2.a., cr. (1) (d) 2., (g) 1. and (5), r. and recr. (1) (f) and r. (1) (u), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (1) (g) 2., Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; renum. (1) (e) 3. and 4. to be 4. and 5., cr. (1) (e) 3., Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6-1-87; am. (1) (a) 1. c. and (q) 1. a., renum. (1) (a) 7., (c) 3. and 4. and (d) 4. and 5. to be (1) (a) 7. c., (c) 3. c., 5. (d) 4. c. and 6., cr. (1) (a) 1. d., 7. a. and b., (c) 3. a. and b., 4., (d) 4. a. and b., and 5., Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (1) (a) 6., (e) 4. and 5., r. (1) (c) 1., renum. (1) (c) 2. to 5. to be 1. to 4., r. and recr. (1) (f) 2. and 3., Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; emerg. cr. (1) (c) 3m., eff. 9-6-88; r. (1) (a) 1. a. and 2., r. and recr. (1) (a) 8. and (f) 4., cr. (1) (a) 9., Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; emerg. renum. (1) (c) 4., (d) 6., (e) 4. and 5., cr. (1) (c) 4., (d) 6., (e) 4. and 5., eff. 4-22-89; emerg. am. (1) (c) 3., renum. (1) (c) 5., cr. (1) (c) 5., eff. 5-5-89; am. (1) (a) 3. and (d) 5., renum. (1) (a) 8. and 9. to be (1) (a) 9. and 10., cr. (1) (a) 8., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (1) (c) 3., renum. (1) (c) 4. to be 5., cr. (1) (c) 4., Register, September, 1989, No. 405, eff. 10-1-89.

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