

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; renun. 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.

(2g) "Backtrolling" means to fish from a motor-driven boat while operating the boat in such a way that the boat is progressing toward the rear.

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- (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.
- (4a) "Muskellunge" means fish of the species *Esox masquinongy* and includes muskellunge - northern pike hybrids.
- (5) "Green Bay" means those waters of Lake Michigan located to the west of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (6) "Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means a line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 33, T33N, R29E; then running northeasterly to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; then running along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; then running northerly to the southwesterly point on Shellswick dock, which is located on Lobdell's point on Washington island; then running along Shellswick dock to the shoreline of Lobdell's point; then running along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light; then running north to its terminus at the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.
- (7) "Lake Michigan" means those waters of Lake Michigan located east of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line
- (8) "Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.
- (9) "Safe harvest" means a level of harvest that incorporates an appropriate margin of safety, estimates of the population and acceptable exploitation rates which will reasonably prevent harvest of more than 35% of the population of adult walleyes or 27% of the population of adult muskellunge. The margin of safety assures that the true safe harvest is not exceeded in more than 1 of 40 cases. For waters where a population estimate has not been made, a regression model based upon population estimates from other waters will be used. The margin of safety used depends upon the age of the population estimate was made and whether a regression model was used.
- (10) "Secretary" means secretary of the department of natural resources.
- (11) "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.
- (12) "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.
- (13) "Telemetry device" means any device attached or implanted in fish that transmits a sonic or electronic signal to aid in fishing.
- (14) "Unattended line" means a line where the person using the line is not actively directing attention to it. Failure to immediately respond to

a line upon indication of a bite shall be prima facia evidence that the line is unattended.

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; emerg. cr. (4d), eff. 5-5-89, cr. (4d) and (4e), Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89; cr. (2g), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; cr. (4b), Register, January, 1991, No. 421, eff. 2-1-91; cr. (6), Register, October, 1991, No. 430, eff. 11-1-91; cr. (4a), Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; renum. (6) under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1, Stats., Register, March, 1992, No. 435; renum. (4b) to (6) to be (8) to (14), cr. (6) to (7), Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

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 1	No size limit 28
	3. Lake Superior	At all times	5, of which no more than one may be a walleye over 20 inches long	No size limit for sauger; 15 for walleye
(b) NORTHERN PIKE	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
(c) YELLOW PERCH	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
	Green Bay	Continuous	25	No size limit
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit
(d) TROUT AND SALMON	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit
	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

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Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
	2. Lake Michigan, within the following area: From the end of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal on a course of 136° from true north for 17.5 statute miles, then west for 16.8 statute miles to the end of the Algoma north pier, then along the north side of that pier to the shore of Lake Michigan, then north along the shore to the base of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal, then along the south side of that pier to its end.	All year except there is no open season for lake trout.	5 in total of which none may be lake trout. No person may possess lake trout when fishing in this area of Lake Michigan.	10
	3. Lake Superior	All year except the open season for lake trout is from December 1 through September 30.	10 in total, of which no more than 5 may be salmon and no more than 5 may be trout. Of the 5 trout, no more than 2 may be brown trout longer than 20 inches; no more than 1 may be a rainbow trout; no more than 3 may be lake trout; and no more than 1 may be a lake trout longer than 25 inches.	28 for rainbow trout; 15 for other trout and salmon

	Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(e)	LARGEMOUTH AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within ¼-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
		2. Waters within ¼ mile, of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands.	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	12
		3. Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
(f)	LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	50
(fg)	RUFFE	Green Bay Lake Michigan Lake Superior	No open season	—	—
(fh)	WHITE PERCH	Lake Superior Lake Michigan	No open season Continuous	— None	— None

(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 Lake Michigan. Northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.

(2) As used in sub. (1), Green Bay shall mean Green bay, Sturgeon bay, Sawyer's harbor, the Sturgeon bay ship canal from Sturgeon bay to a line located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼, section 22, T27N, R26E, Door county, commencing at a point on the southwest shore of the Sturgeon bay ship canal directly beneath the center of the Wisconsin public service company power line and extending in a northeasterly direction directly beneath and parallel to the center of the power line to a point on the northeast shore of the ship canal, and the Fox river from its mouth up to the dam at DePere.

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, June, 1964, No. 342, 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, 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. 10-1-68; 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,

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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; am. (1) (d), Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; r. and recr. (1) (c), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; r. and recr. (1) (c), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; cr. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (c), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; emerg. am. (1) (d) 3., eff. 4-22-86; r. and recr. (1) (d) 1. and 2., Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86; renum. (1) (d) 3. to be (1) (d) 2. c. and am. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (d), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (1) (a) and (e), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; am. (1) (d) 3., cr. (1) (fg) and (fh), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (1) (f), Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; emerg. am. (1) (c) and (2), eff. 2-14-91; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; am. (1) (a) 3. and (fh), r. and recr. (1) (d) 3., Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (1) (d) 2., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

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 specified waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish and that a closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing. The closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected. Posting is deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that a closed season is in effect. The closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as the waters are covered with ice and so long as posting is continued. The department may also, following scientific investigation and study, establish bag limits and size limits on the 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. Such special regulations shall become effective only after public informational meetings are held. The department may also establish an urban fishing program by posting the open and closed seasons on specified waters. For open seasons in specified waters see s. NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish, except trout as specified in sub. (5), shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person may have in possession or under control more than the daily bag limit while on the ice or waters or while fishing in the state of Wisconsin unless the person holds a permit issued by the department under this section and s. NR 19.05 for restocking of fish caught in a fishing tournament or holds a permit or license which authorizes possession of a greater number under s. 29.135, 29.513, 29.52 or 29.535, Stats. 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)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
a. Forest lake, Fond du Lac county; Bitter-sweet, Oberlin, Prong and Smith lakes, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	0	—

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
i. b. Browns lake, Racine county and Pretty lake, Waukesha county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	16
c. Wilson lake, Iron county; Kimball lake, Mueller lake and Sawyer lake, Langlade county; Rockland lake, Racine county; and Beulah Lake, Walworth county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 16 inches is prohibited.
e. Lake Three, Day lake, East Twin lake, Mineral lake and Spillerberg lake, Ashland county; Crooked and Lund lakes, Bayfield county; Evelyn, O'Brien and One Man lakes, Iron county; Cochran and Bass lakes, Price county; and Black lake, Sawyer county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	18
f. Gates and Loon lakes, Ashland county; Bass, East Twin and West Twin lakes, Bayfield county; Gile flowage and Upson lake, Iron county; Blockhouse and Sailor lakes, Price county; South Twin lake, Taylor county; and Wabasso lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	15
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 9 and 12 inches is prohibited.
5. Spruce lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass) (see also s. NR 20.04 (4) (a) 2. and 5.	Continuous	2	12
5m. Columbia lake, Columbia county (largemouth and smallmouth bass)	Continuous	1	18
6. Little Bass lake, Oneida county (smallmouth bass) and Wildwood lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass). See also s. NR 20.04 (8) (d)	First Saturday in May to November 15	5	12
7.c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	18
8. Palette lake (sec. 3, T41N, R7E), Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	2	16
9. All other inland waters north of a line beginning with state hwy. 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, following state hwy. 70 east to its intersection with state hwy. 27, then south following state hwy. 27 to its intersection with state hwy. 64, then east following state hwy. 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette, then due east to the waters of Green Bay; and all inland waters in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties north of a line beginning with the state hwy. 29 bridge over the Fox river, following state hwy. 29 east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee, then continuing due east to the waters of Lake Michigan. Also, the Peshtigo flowage upstream to state hwy. 64 in Marinette county.	First Saturday in May to the Saturday nearest June 20 The day after the Saturday nearest June 20 to March 1	None may be kept 5 of each	— 12

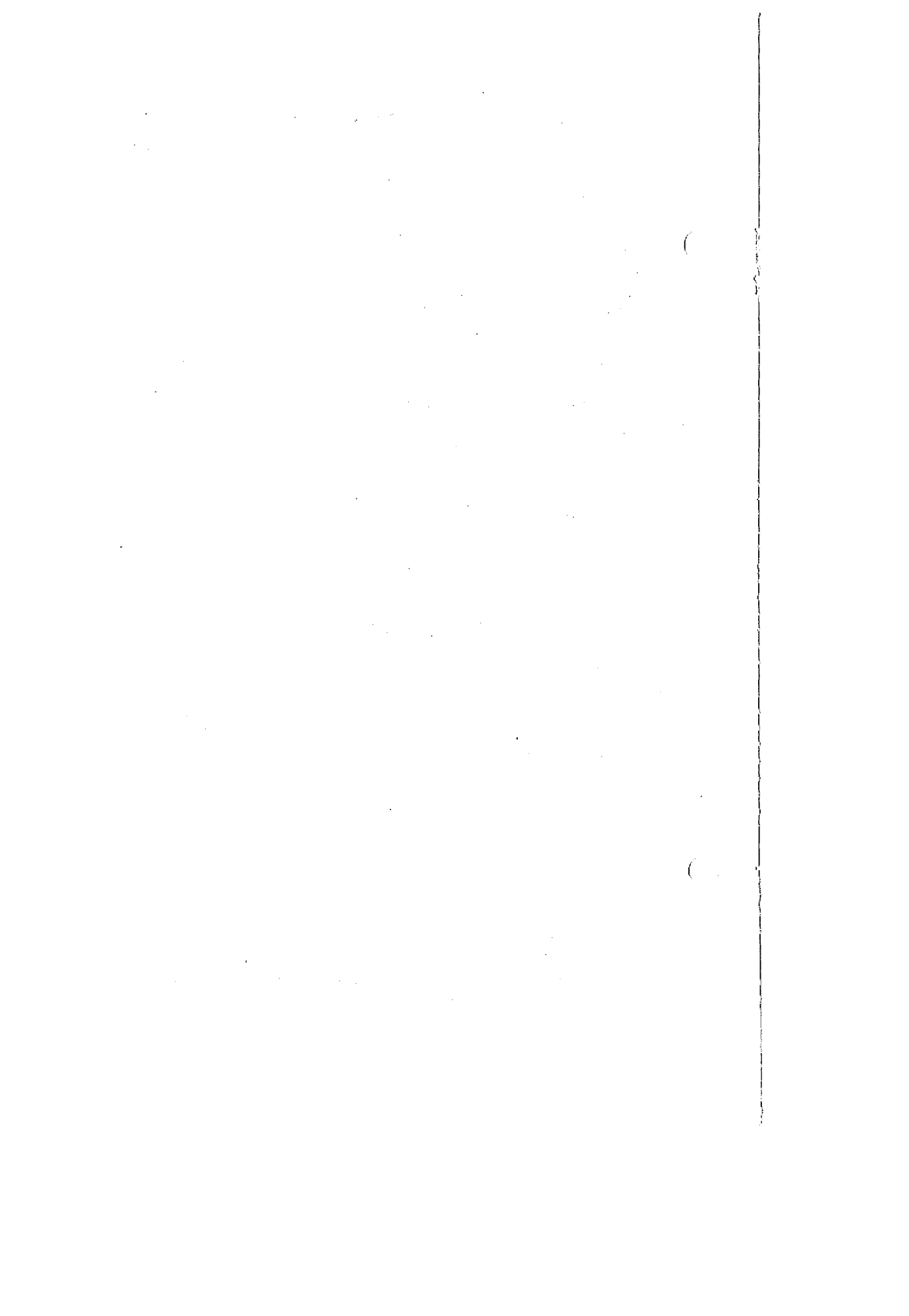
Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
a. All Green Bay tributary streams from their mouth upstream to the first dam or lake.	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
10. In all other inland waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	14
(am) HYBRID STRIPED BASS			
1. Columbia lake, Columbia county	Continuous	3	18
(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
1. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county	1st Saturday in May to March 1	1	20
2. Forest lake, Fond du Lac county	First Saturday in May to March 1	0	—
3. Trout lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15
4. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2 in aggregate with sauger	15
5. Balsam lake, Polk county	First Saturday in May to March 1.	3	16
6. Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winneconne, Lake Poygan, Lake Winnebago and waters upstream on the Fox river to the state hwy. 23 bridge at Princeton and waters upstream on the Wolf river to the dam in the city of Shawano	Continuous	5 in aggregate with sauger	No size limit for sauger; 15 for walleye
7. Lake Mendota and its following tributaries: Cherokee lake, Warner Park lagoons, Pheasant Branch creek from its mouth upstream to county hwy. M, Sixmile creek from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19 in Sec. 8, and Yahara river from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19; all in Dane county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15 until March 1, 1991 18 thereafter
8. Delavan lake and its tributaries all in Walworth county	No open season until May 2, 1992, then first Saturday in May to March 1	3	18
9. All Green Bay tributary streams from their mouth upstream of the first dam or lake	Continuous	3	No size limit
10. In all other waters (See also s. NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with sauger	15
(cm)SAUGER	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate with walleye	No size limit
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)			
1. In all waters of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	No size limit
a. Forest lake, Fond du Lac county	First Saturday in May to March 1	0	—
2. Mason lake, Adams county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	22
4.a. Beaver Dam lake, Dodge county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	26

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
5.a. Lake Mendota and its following tributaries: Cherokee lake, Warner Park lagoons, Pheasant Branch creek from its mouth upstream to county hwy. M, Sixmile creek from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19 in Sec. 8, and Yahara river from its mouth upstream to state hwy. 19; all in Dane county, Silver lake, Kenosha county and Wilson flowage, Price county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
b. Long lake, Waushara county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	32
6. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2	No size limit
7. Delavan lake and its tributaries all in Walworth county	Closed until May 2, 1992, then first Saturday in May to March 1	1	32
8. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
(f) TROUT AND SALMON (any variety except lake trout and splake in inland lakes.)			
2. All Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributary streams upstream to the first dam or lake or to the third county highway "C" bridge on the Kewaunee river. (See also s. NR 20.04 (3) (c).)	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout	10
4. Lake Superior tributary streams except Montreal river and waters upstream from the following: Ashland county Bad river-Copper falls Brunsweller river-state hwy. 13 Marengo river-state hwy. 13 Potato river-Guerney falls White river-White river dam Bayfield county Iron river-Orienta dam Little Sioux river-falls in NE ¼ of the NE ¼, sec. 13, T49N, R5W Siskowit river-falls in SW ¼ of the NW ¼, sec. 35, T51N, R5W Douglas county Amnicon river-Amnicon falls Black river-Big Manitou falls Middle river-U.S. hwy. 2 Poplar river-U.S. hwy 2	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 brown salmon 12

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
There is a special early and extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary streams. ASHLAND COUNTY: Bad river from its mouth upstream to Copper Falls; Potato river from its mouth upstream to Guerney falls; White river from its mouth upstream to White River dam; Brunsweller and Marengo rivers to hwy. 13	Saturday nearest April 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15.	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 salmon 12 rainbow trout 12
BAYFIELD COUNTY: Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); north fork Fish creek (T47N, R5W, sec. 1) from its mouth upstream to the junction with Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction with the east fork of Flag river; Iron river from its mouth upstream to Orienta dam; Sloux river from its mouth upstream to Big Rock falls (T49N, R4W, sec. 19); Siskowit river from its mouth upstream to second bridge (T51N, R6W, sec. 35).			
DOUGLAS COUNTY: Brule river from its mouth upstream to the U.S. hwy. 2 bridge crossing			
Amnicon river from its mouth upstream to Amnicon falls; Middle river from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2; Nemadji river from its mouth upstream to Great Northern Railroad Bridge (T47N, R14W, sec. 4); Black river from its mouth upstream to Big Manitou falls; Poplar river from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2 and the St. Louis river from its mouth upstream to the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line.	During the special early and extended open season, fishing in the Brule river, excluding taking smelt with gear specified in NR 20.09 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
IRON COUNTY: Graveyard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
b. There is a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate of which only 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
BAYFIELD COUNTY:			
Bono creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Boyd creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Onion river from its mouth up to Lake Superior District Power Company power line (T49N, R4W, sec. 6); Pikes creek from its mouth upstream to the Red dam; Pine creek from its mouth upstream to junction with Little Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 11) and Whittlesey creek from its mouth upstream to Town Hall road.			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE, except as provided in par. (f)	First Saturday in January to September 30	2 in aggregate	17
1. Trout lake (sec. 12, 13, 24, T41N, R6E; sec. 7, 8, 17, 19, 20, T41N, R7E, Vilas county) in the south basin commonly known as South Trout lake, north to the narrows identified as Cathedral Point.	No open season	—	—
2. Palette lake, Vilas county	No open season	—	—
(h) CATFISH			
1. In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties, the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the dam at Prairie du Sac and the Wisconsin river from the railroad bridge at Sauk City to the Burlington Northern railroad tracks.	No closed season	25	No size limit
2. The Wisconsin river from the dam at Prairie du Sac downstream to the railroad bridge at Sauk City.	First Saturday in May to November 30	25	No size limit
3. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county (flathead catfish)	No open season	—	—
4. 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) BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE, PUMPKINSEED (sunfish), YELLOW PERCH			
1. Delavan lake and its tributaries all in Walworth county	Closed until May 2, 1992, then no closed season	25 in aggregate	No size limit
1g. Green Bay tributary streams upstream to the first dam or lake.	Continuous	50 in aggregate, of which no more than 25 may be yellow perch	No size limit
1m. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county	Continuous	15 in aggregate	No size limit
2. All other waters	Continuous	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



(6) MUSKELLUNGE FISHING. (a) *Applicability.* This subsection applies to all inland and outlying waters that contain muskellunge.

(b) *Daily bag limit.* The daily bag limit is one muskellunge.

(c) *Open seasons.* 1. There is no open season for muskellunge in Nancy lake, Washburn county and Long lake (S12, T20N, R11E), Waushara county.

2. The open season for muskellunge in all other waters north of U.S. highway 10 is the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30, both dates inclusive.

3. The open season for muskellunge in all other waters south of U.S. highway 10 is the first Saturday in May to November 30, both dates inclusive.

(d) *Minimum size limits.* 1. The minimum size limit for muskellunge is 40 inches for all waters listed in Table 1.

2. The minimum size limit for muskellunge is 45 inches for all waters listed in Table 2.

3. The minimum size limit for muskellunge is 32 inches for all waters not listed in Table 1 or 2.

TABLE 1
Waters With a 40-inch Minimum Size Limit on Muskellunge

County	Waters	County	Waters
Bayfield	Namekagon Lake	Jackson	Arbutus Canal
Brown	Green Bay and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake		Black River Flowage
Chippewa	Holcombe Flowage (Chippewa River to CTH D) (Main Creek to STH 194) (Jump River to CTH G)		Potter Flowage
Clark	Mead Lake		Black River
	Rock Dam Lake	Kewaunee	East Fork Black River
	Black River		Morrison Creek
	East Fork Black River		Lake Arbutus
Dane	Wingra Lake	Lafayette	Lake Michigan and Green Bay and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake
Door	Lake Michigan and Green Bay and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	Lincoln	Yellowstone Lake
Forest	Julia Lake (T38N R11E S1)		Deer Lake
	Riley Lake		Nokomis Lake
	Roberts Lake	Manitowoc	Rice River Flowage
	Wabikon Lake		Lake Michigan and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake
Iowa	Twin Valley Lake	Marathon	Merrill hydro-dam to Wausau hydro-dam)
Iron	Turtle-Flambeau Flowage		Wisconsin River
	Moose Lake	Marinette	Green Bay and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake
	Trude Lake		Archibald Lake
	Gile Flowage	Oconto	Anderson Lake
	Pine Lake		Green Bay and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake
	Springstead (Upper and Lower) Lakes		
	Wilson Lake		
	Mercer Lake		

County	Waters	County	Waters
Oneida	Bridge Lake	Sawyer	Winter Flowage
	Katherine Lake	Shawano	Upper Red Lake
	Nokomis Lake (upstream to Prairie Rapids Road)		Lower Red Lake
	Rainbow Flowage		Wolf River Pond
	Rice River Flowage	St. Croix	Cedar Lake
	Two Sisters Lake	Vilas	Allequash Lake
Polk	Bone Lake		Big Muskellunge Lake
Rusk	Dairyland Reservoir		Big Lake (T42N R6E S4)
	Potato Lake		Crab Lake
Sauk	Redstone Lake		Kentuck Lake
			Papoose Lake
		Walworth	Delavan Lake

TABLE 2

Waters With a 45-inch Minimum Size Limit on Muskellunge

County	Waters
Oneida	Clear Lake (T39N R7E S16)
Vilas	Trout Lake

(7) **REGULAR SEASON DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR TROUT IN CERTAIN WATERS.** (a) *Zero bag limit during regular season.* Notwithstanding the bag limits for trout set out in sub. (5) (c) and Table 1, during the open season beginning May 4, 1991 through September 30, 1991, the daily bag limit for trout is zero fish in the waters of Columbia, Florence, Forest, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Richland, Sauk, Shawano and Vilas counties. All trout caught shall be immediately returned to the water. This paragraph does not apply to Wisconsin - Michigan boundary waters, to streams that flow into Lake Michigan from their mouths upstream to the first dam or lake, or to inland lakes and ponds which contain trout and which are not natural springs or spring ponds.

(b) *Gear restrictions during regular season.* Notwithstanding sub. (5) (e) and Table 1, beginning May 4, 1991 through September 30, 1991 no person may take or catch trout or fish for trout in the waters to which par. (a) applies by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" or with the use of artificial lures.

History: 1-2-56; cr. (7), Register, April, 1991, No. 424, eff. 5-1-91; emerg. cr. (1) (k) 1g. eff. 2-14-91; cr. (1) (k) 1g., Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; cr. (1) (a) 5m., (am) and (6), am. (1) (a) 9. and (c) 6., Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1.e. and f., 7.c., (f) 2. and (g) 2., cr. (1) (a) 1.a., (c) 2. and (d) 1.a., r. (1) (a) 1.d. and 4., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

Note: For a complete history of s. NR 20.03 from 1-2-56 through 10-31-73 see the history note following NR 20.03 as it was printed and released in the October, 1973 Register. For a complete history of s. NR 20.03 from 11-1-73 through 2-28-91 see the history note following NR 20.03 as it was printed and released in the February, 1991 Register.

NR 20.035 Alternate size and bag limits. (1) **PURPOSE.** Notwithstanding any provision of ch. NR 21, 22, 23 or this chapter, for all or part of any inland, boundary or outlying water, the department may apply the alternate size limits, bag limits or both under this section for fish species identified in this section in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource of the water to which the proposed alternate limit would apply.

(2) **PROCEDURE.** The department shall follow the procedures in this subsection in applying an alternate size limit or bag limit under this section.

a. Eau Galle river beginning at the Lake Eau Galle dam in Dunn county downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river, Pepin county.

5. Embarrass river beginning at the dam at Pella in Shawano county downstream to the Wolf river in Outagamie county.

6. Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac county.

7. Fox river downstream from the westerly crossing of highway #33 at Portage in Columbia county and in Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Winnebago and Outagamie counties downstream to the dam at De Pere in Brown county.

a. Puckyan river in Green Lake county.

8. Fox river in Kenosha county and upstream in Racine county to the Waterford dam.

9. Grand river from the Grand River wildlife area dam downstream to the Fox river, all in Marquette county.

10. La Crosse river including Lake Neshonoc sloughs and bayous from the Pehh lake dam at Sparta downstream to the Mississippi river.

11. Lemonweir river including all connecting flowages, bays, sloughs and bayous in Juneau and Monroe counties and the East Fork Lemonweir upstream to the highway #173 bridge and the South Fork Lemonweir upstream to the Tomah dam.

12. Little Wolf river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Manawa downstream to the Wolf river.

13. Pecatonica river in Iowa, Lafayette and Green counties.

14. Pine river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Poysippi downstream to Lake Poygan.

15. Pumpkinseed creek in Winnebago county from county trunk "D" bridge downstream to Lake Poygan.

16. Red Cedar river including all connecting sloughs and bayous in Dunn county from its confluence with the Chippewa river to the Lake Menomin Northern States Power Dam.

17. Rock river waters.

a. Rock river in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties and all waters in the Horicon marsh.

b. Crawfish river in Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

c. Beaver Dam river beginning at the dam in the city of Beaver Dam in Dodge county downstream to the Crawfish river.

d. Scuppernong river beginning at the dam at Palmyra in Jefferson county downstream to the Bark river.

e. Bark river beginning at the dam at Hebron in Jefferson county downstream to the Rock river.

g. Busseyville creek in Dane and Jefferson counties beginning at the Rockdale dam downstream to Lake Koshkonong.

h. Waterloo (Maunasha) creek beginning at the dam (Malthouse) at Waterloo in Jefferson county downstream to its confluence with the Crawfish river, Dodge county.

18. Rubicon river in Dodge county.

19. Shioe river in Outagamie county.

20. Waupaca river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Weyauwega downstream to the Wolf river.

21. White river below dam at Burlington to Fox river in Racine county.

22. Wildcat river in Dodge county.

23. Willow river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Auroraville downstream to Lake Poygan.

24. Wisconsin river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander, Oneida county, downstream to the Burlington Northern railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties and streams in Columbia county flowing into the Wisconsin river from their mouths upstream to the first highway bridge, except the Baraboo river which has the year round season for its entire length.

25. Wolf river in Winnebago, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and in Shawano county upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano.

26. Yellow river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the highway 54 dam at Dexterville, Wood county, downstream to its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county.

27. Yellowstone river from the dam downstream in Lafayette county.

(b) The department shall open the season for fishing with dip nets in any waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that the fish populations in such waters are threatened with imminent mortality because of depletion of dissolved oxygen or other adverse habitat conditions under which fish will not survive. During such open season all species of fish may be taken by means of dip nets not more than 3 feet in diameter or 3 feet square, but no person shall have more than 25 pounds and one fish of any species of game fish of any size so taken in his possession. No person shall fish with more than one such dip net. Such open season 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 open season for fishing with dip nets is in effect. Such open season shall remain in full force and effect only so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued.

(c) Except for streams posted pursuant to ch. NR 26, there is no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except lake trout, muskellunge, sturgeon, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, upstream to the first dam or lake except the Kewaunee river where this rule applies upstream to the third county highway "C" bridge.

(d) During the period of October 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May of the following May, annually, upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, except the Kewaunee river where this paragraph applies upstream to the third county hwy. "C" bridge, hook and line fishing is restricted to baits using

a hook with a maximum gape size of one-half inch from point to shank. During this period, fishing with hook and line is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise on all streams tributary to Lake Michigan and Green Bay except the Menominee river, Oconto river and its tributaries and the Fox river.

(4) EXPERIMENTAL WATERS; PERMITS; REPORTS. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in the waters of Nebish, Spruce, Mystery, Escanaba and Pallette lakes situated in sections 34 and 35, township 42 north, range 7 east, and sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, township 41 north, range 7 east, Vilas county except under the following conditions:

1. Fishing in such waters is authorized only under permit, which may be secured at the checking stations indicated by posted signs in the immediate area.

2. Fishing in such waters is restricted to hook and line or rod and reel with fishing in Spruce lake further restricted to the use of artificial lures only and except that cisco may be taken in Pallette lake by means of dip nets or seines described under s. NR 20.11 (2).

3. The provisions of this section shall apply to such waters throughout the year.

4. All permits are valid only for the date issued and shall be turned in at the checking stations at the termination of each day's fishing activities by the fisher.

5. There is a continuous open season with no daily bag limit or size limit for all species of fish contained in these waters except for the following: In Nebish lake, no person may take smallmouth bass from 9 to 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 5 for smallmouth bass; in Pallette lake, no person may take smallmouth bass less than 16 inches long, there is a daily bag limit of 2 for smallmouth bass and there is no open season through 1991 for lake trout; and in Spruce lake, no person may take largemouth bass less than 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 2 for largemouth bass.

6. All fish taken pursuant to this section shall be exhibited to the department or its agents at the checking station for examination, identification and marking.

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) 4.1, Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. cr. (7) (e), eff. 4-1-80; cr. (7) (e), Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (7) (e) and r. (8) (a) 1, a., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1981, No. 304; am. (2) (c) 4, c., Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; am. (3) (a) 14, (3) (c) 4, d., (4) (a) 2, and 5, Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3) (c) 3, and 4, intro., b., d. and f., r. and recr. (7) (e), renum. (8) to be (9), cr. (8), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; renum. (3) (c) 1, and 2, to be (3) (c) and (d) and am., renum. (3) (c) 3, and 4, to be (3) (d) 1, and 2, renum. (3) (c) 4, j, to be 2.i, Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (3) (d) 1, and 2, intro. and h., (4) (a) 5., r. (3) (d) 2.a., r. and recr. (7) and (8), renum. (9) to be (8) and am. (8) (b), cr. (8) (d), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2, e., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2, intro. (4) (a) 2, and 5., (7) (d) and (8) (b), cr. (7) (e), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; r. (3) (d) 2, i., Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 10-1-85; cr. (7) (f) and (g), am. (8) (a), (b) and (c), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; renum. (3) (am) 26, to be 27., cr. (3) (a) 11, and (3) (am) 26., r. and recr. (3) (am) 3, and 24., Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (4) (a) 5., Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; r. and recr. (3) (d), Register,

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June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; r. (3) (a) 56., am. (3) (am) 13., cr. (7) (h), Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (3) (c), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; r. and recr. (4) (a) 5., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. cr. (4m), eff. 8-4-89; r. (5) to (8), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (3) (a) 14., Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10-1-90; am. (3) (c), Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (3) (a) 69. and (3) (am) 9., r. (3) (am) 2., Register, February, 1991, No. 422, eff. 3-1-91; r. (3) (am) 17. f., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

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 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions. (1) (a) *Waters and methods.* No person shall take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout except that rough fish may be taken by hand.

(b) *Trolling.* No person may fish in the inland waters of the state 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 or from any sailboat when in motion; or by means of shutting or drawing off water for that purpose unless the person is backtrolling. Casting and immediate retrieval of a bait or lure while positioning a boat by means of an electric motor, where motors are permitted, is not trolling. The restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to the waters of Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Racine, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn and Waukesha counties, the Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages from county trunk A east of Tomahawk, Lincoln county, downstream, except Lake Mohawksin, the Chippewa river including sloughs, bayous and flowages up to the flowing portion of all tributary streams from the Holcombe flowage, Chippewa county, downstream, the Fox river from Buffalo lake downstream to the DePere dam and the following named lakes and rivers including their flowages and sloughs:

1. Adams county—Mason
2. Ashland county—Kakagon
9. Chippewa county—Chain; Long 32-8
10. Clark county—Arbutus
13. Dane county—Crystal; Kegonsa; Koshkonong; Mendota; Monona; Waubesa
14. Dodge county—Beaver Dam; Fox; Sinnissippi
15. Door county—Clarks; Kangaroo
17. Dunn county—Menomin; Tainter
18. Eau Claire county—Altoona; Eau Claire
19. Florence county—Halsey; Twin Falls flowage
21. Forest county—Butternut; Franklin; Lucerne; Metonga; Pickerel; Pine; Wabicon
24. Green Lake county—Big Green; Maria; Puckaway
27. Jackson county—Arbutus
28. Jefferson county—Koshkonong; Rock
29. Juneau county—Kilburn flowage
30. Kenosha county—Elizabeth

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32. La Crosse county—Neshonoc
34. Langlade county—Post (Lower); Post (Upper); Rolling Stone
35. Lincoln county—Spirit R. flowage
37. Marathon county—Big Eau Pleine reservoir upstream to the first state hwy. 153 bridge
38. Marinette county—Chalk Hills flowage; High Falls reservoir; Noquebay
39. Marquette county—Buffalo
43. Oconto county—Christy; Machickanee (Stiles pond); White Potato
44. Oneida county—Columbus; Rainbow flowage; Sugar Camp; Thunder; Willow flowage
50. Portage county—Little Eau Pleine flowage upstream to the first county hwy. 'O' bridge
51. Price county—Pike; Round
54. Rock county—Koshkonong
56. St. Croix county—Cedar
57. Sauk county—Redstone
58. Sawyer county—Chetac; Grindstone; Lac Court Oreilles; Nelson; Round; Whitefish; Windigo
59. Shawano county—Shawano
60. Sheboygan county—Sheboygan marsh
65. Walworth county—Beulah; Como; Delavan; Geneva; Whitewater
67. Washington county—Big Cedar; Pike
69. Waupaca county—Partridge; White
70. Waushara county—Poygan
71. Winnebago county—Butte des Morts; Little Butte des Morts; Poygan; Rush; Winnebago; Winneconne

(c) *Fishing near dams.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish by means other than hook or line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam in the inland waters at any time.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1958, No. 28, eff. 5-1-58; am. (2), Register, August, 1958, No. 32, eff. 9-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (2), Register, August, 1959, No. 44, eff. 9-1-59; am. (1) (b), r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (b) and (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (2), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b); cr. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (e), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1963, No. 88, eff. 5-1-63; am. (1) (b); r. (2), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. (1) (a) and (c); r. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; am. (1) (b), Register, June, 1970, No. 174, eff. 7-1-70; renum. WCD 20.06 to be NR 20.06, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1973, No. 214, eff. 1-1-74; am. (1) (b), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 61 and 68, Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, December,

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1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (b), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; printing error corrected, Register, July, 1979; am. (1) (b) 21., 24. and 64., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; am. (1) (b) 35., 44. and 58., Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; am. (1) (b) 37., 50. and 64., Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 42. and 64., Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (1) (b) 9. and 18., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

NR 20.07 Prohibited methods of fishing. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Wisconsin Statutes or by department order:

(a) No person may take, catch, or kill fish or fish for fish of any kind with more than 3 hooks, baits or lures.

(b) No person may:

1. Fish with an unattended line in any waters.
2. Fish by snagging, fouling or attempting to hook fish other than in the mouth.
3. Keep any fish hooked other than in the mouth.
4. Fish with the aid or use of any firearm or pellet gun in any manner or by any means other than angling or trolling.
5. Use a telemetry device attached to or implanted in fish to aid in fishing.

(c) No person shall use as bait or possess or release any minnows or other fish except trout on any waters or shores of such waters which have been chemically treated for trout management and which are so identified and designated by signs posted on the shores thereof by the department of natural resources.

(d) No person shall place minnow traps in waters which have been chemically treated to reestablish a trout fishery.

(e) No person shall use minnows as bait while fishing through the ice in Green Lake, Green Lake county except where the lake is 50 feet or less in depth.

(f) Any fish taken into actual possession, unless released immediately, shall be included as part of the daily bag limit.

(g) Landing nets 3 feet or less in diameter or a gaff may be used for the purpose of landing fish legally hooked.

(h) No person may take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in open water using a free-floating or anchored, buoyant device with attached hook and line, which is not held or otherwise controlled by the fisher, commonly known as jug fishing, except under a setline or bank pole license issued pursuant to s. 29.36, Stats.

(2) (a) No person may, except as expressly authorized, possess or control on any of the inland or outlying waters or shores of inland or outlying waters at any time any gun, bow and arrow, spear, net or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish.

(b) No person other than the licensee or licensee's designee or department agent may raise, remove, or otherwise tamper with commercial gear set in Wisconsin inland and boundary waters.

(3) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by hand at any time in all waters.

(4) (a) No person may as prescribed in sub. (2) take, catch or kill fish in the counties of Ashland (except in the Bad river as provided in par. (e)), Bayfield, Iron, Oconto (in that portion of the county west of highway #141 only), Oneida, Pierce, Price, Sawyer and Vilas counties, except that rough fish may be taken sunrise to sunset with bow and arrow from the Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1 each year in Iron and Sawyer counties.

(b) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by means of spear or spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow from April 21 to March 1, inclusive, sunrise to sunset in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of Brown, Buffalo, Calumet (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Clark, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Forest, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon (except that spearing is prohibited in the Big Eau Pleine flowage from the dam upstream to highway 97 from November 1 to April 20), Marinette, Monroe, Oconto (in that portion of the county east of highway 141 only), Outagamie (except during the sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Pepin, Portage, St. Croix, Shawano, Trempealeau, Winnebago (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), and Wood.

(c) 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 at any time of the year, sunrise to sunset, in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk (except it is illegal to spear fish while skin diving or with bow and arrow in Devil's lake), Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Waushara (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water).

(d) It is lawful to take white bass, yellow bass (striped), rock bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and bullheads with the use of spears and spearguns by skin diving and scuba diving in all waters where spearing for rough fish is permitted subject to the same seasons prescribed in sub. (4)(a), (b), (c) and (e) and subject to bag limits prescribed in s. NR 20.03.

(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 pars. (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 SE¼ NE¼, 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.

(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.

(10) No person may fish for trout in inland waters without an inland waters trout stamp or fish for trout or salmon in the outlying trout and salmon waters without a Great Lakes trout and salmon 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 the person's valid fishing or sports license.

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; r. (5) (c) and (11), Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; r. and recr. (1) (d), am. (4) (a), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; r. and recr. (1) (a), r. (1) (b) and (c), renum. (1) (d) to (g) to be (b) to (f), am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1) (a), Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (b), cr. (1) (g), Register, October, 1991, No. 430, eff. 11-1-91; cr. (1) (h), Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (10), Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.07, see the history as it appeared in January, 1975, Administrative Register.

NR 20.09 Dip nets and seines 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

61; am. intro. par., (1) and (2) (a); r. (2) (b); am. (4), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. intro. par., (1) and (2), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; r. and recr. (3) (a), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; am. (3) (a), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; cr. (2) (b), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; am. (3) (a), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; renum. WCD 20.13 to be NR 20.13, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. (4), Register, October, 1973, No. 214, eff. 1-1-74; am. (3) (a), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (a), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

NR 20.14 Department permitted to take fish. No provision in this chapter shall prohibit the department of natural resources, its agents, wardens or representatives of the fish management bureau of such department from taking any of the fish mentioned at any time wherein they deem it advisable and necessary to promote the general conservation progress.

History: 1-2-56; renum. WCD 20.14 to be NR 20.14, and am. Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

NR 20.15 Control of detrimental fish. (1) The department finds that bullheads are detrimental fish in the following counties or specified county waters.

(a) All waters in Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas and Washburn counties.

(b) Adams and Juneau — Castle Rock flowage and the Wisconsin river beginning at the Petenwell dam and extending downstream to the Castle Rock dam except for that part of the Yellow river in Castle Rock flowage locally called the Buckhorn area, upstream from the electric power transmission line across the flowage in sections 26 and 35, T17N, R4E, Juneau county.

(c) Dodge — Beaver Dam lake and the Rock river from hwy. 49 downstream to the dam in Hustisford.

(d) Florence — Bass, Frog, Halsey, Long (Forest county), Scout and West Bass lakes; Line and Pine river flowages.

(e) Forest — Little Rice lake.

(f) Marinette — Town Corner lake.

(g) Sheboygan — Sheboygan marsh.

(h) Winnebago — Little Lake Butte des Morts from the lower dam on the Fox river at Menasha to the upper dam in Appleton, Outagamie county.

(i) Wood — Petenwell flowage and the Wisconsin river beginning at the Nekoosa dam in Wood county extending downstream to the Petenwell dam in Adams and Juneau counties.

(j) All of Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters in Marinette, Oconto, Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties.

(2) The department of natural resources finds, pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that perch are detrimental fish in the following specified waters:

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(a) Landing lake, Mill lake, North Twin lake, Rice lake (Sec. 14, T40-41N, R9E), South Twin lake, High lake and Fishtrap lake in Vilas county.

(3) The department of natural resources finds, pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that catfish are detrimental fish in the following specified waters and that the department may remove catfish from the waters specified or cause them to be removed therefrom pursuant to ss. 29.62 and 29.625, Stats.

(a) Green lake in Green Lake county.

(b) Lake Michigan and Green Bay

(4) The department of natural resources finds, pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that panfish are detrimental fish in the following specified waters and that the department may remove panfish from the waters specified or cause them to be removed therefrom pursuant to ss. 29.62 and 29.625, Stats.

(a) Township of Chicog in Washburn county.

(b) Crescent lake (section 8-16-17-18-20-21, T36N, R8E) and Stella lake in Oneida county.

(5) The department of natural resources finds pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that smelt are detrimental fish in all waters of the state and that the department may remove smelt from these waters or cause them to be removed pursuant to ss. 29.62 and 29.625, Stats.

(6) The department of natural resources finds pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that channel catfish are detrimental fish in lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Little Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan and the river connecting said lakes, and the Fox river from the Princeton locks downstream to the dam in the city of De Pere and that the department may remove channel catfish from these waters or cause them to be removed pursuant to ss. 29.62 and 29.625, Stats.

(7) The department of natural resources finds that all fish species, strains or hybrids that are not indigenous to the waters of the state are detrimental fish in all waters of the state except where their presence is specifically permitted under s. 29.535, Stats. The department may remove them or cause them to be removed pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats.

(8) The department of natural resources finds pursuant to s. 29.623, Stats., that white bass are detrimental fish in all of Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters and that the department may remove white bass or cause them to be removed pursuant to ss. 29.62 and 29.625, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1958, No. 33, eff. 10-1-58; cr. (1) (h) and (2), Register, March, 1959, No. 39, eff. 4-1-59; cr. (1) (i), Register, July, 1959, No. 43, eff. 8-1-59; am. (2), Register, October, 1959, No. 46, eff. 11-1-59; cr. (3), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (i); cr. (k), (m) and (n) and (4), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; cr. (1) (o), (p), and (4) (b), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (f), (h), (n), (2) (a) and (4) (b), Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; cr. (1) (q), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; cr. (5), Register, June, 1970, No. 174, eff. 7-1-70; renum. WCD 20.15 to be NR 20.15; am. (1) intro. par., (2) intro. par., (3) intro. par., and (4) intro. par., Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (6), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; cr. (1) (j), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (b) and (c), Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; cr. (1) (r), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; r. and recr. (1), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; cr. (1) (j), (3) (b), (7) and (8), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (1) (a), Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92.

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