nished or authorized by the department before being brought to any dock or shore when fishing in open water and before being transported when fishing with nets under ice. Such fish shall be individually tagged.

- (a) Tags authorized shall be approved in writing by the secretary of the department and shall conform to the following minimum specifications:
- 1. Tags shall be individually, serially numbered in nonrepeating number series.
- 2. Tags shall be color-coded by year in a color which does not repeat in the next consecutive year.
  - 3. Tags shall include an appropriate state or tribal identification.
- 4. Tags shall only be ordered in a number sufficient to limit the harvest to a biologically determined quota.
- 5. Issuing authorities shall maintain records of tag allotments to individual fishers by tag serial numbers. Tag records shall be open to inspection by state conservation wardens during regular office hours.
  - 6. Tags are valid for use only for the license season.
  - (b) Untagged fish may not be left unattended.
  - (c) Untagged fish may not be transferred between watercraft.
- (d) Tags shall be locked and remain attached to fish until prepared for final consumption. Tags shall remain with smoked or filleted fish until sold to final consumers. Commercial fishers of the outlying waters or licensed wholesale fish dealers shall not be considered final consumers and must be in possession of tags for smoked and filleted fish.
- (e) Tags provided or authorized by the department for tagging fish may not be transferred.
- (f) No person may possess or use tags furnished or authorized by the department for tagging fish which have been modified or tampered with.
- (g) No treaty fisher may lift nets in Wisconsin waters while in possession of tags issued by a tribe or another state for fish taken in Michigan waters.
- (4) ALLOCATION. The harvest quotas established shall be allocated to individual commercial fishing licensees in accordance with s. NR 25.07.
- (5) CATCH FEES. Catch fees to be charged for commercial harvest of fish species whose populations are sustained or supplemented through stocking shall be determined and assessed as follows:
- (a) The department shall determine catch fees annually for each fish species population subject to this subsection and shall provide this information upon request by February 15 of each year.
- (b) The catch fee for a given fish species population shall be equivalent to the department's direct cost in providing those fish for commercial harvest.
  - (c) Catch fees shall be charged on a per fish harvested basis.

- (d) Catch fees shall be collected through the sale of fish tags furnished or authorized by the department in accordance with sub. (3) at offices indicated on the quota applications provided under s. NR 25.07 (3). The total number of tags that may be purchased by an individual licensee shall be equivalent to that licensee's individual catch quota as determined in accordance with s. NR 25.07.
- (e) Unused fish tags purchased in accordance with par. (d) shall be returned by the licensee to the department at the office where purchased within 15 days of the end of the open season for that fish species population. The department shall return the catch fees paid by that licensee for those unused fish tags.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. am., eff. 5-16-79; am. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (2) (a), Register, May, 1981, No. 305, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (b) to (d) and (f), r. (1) (e), Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (2) (a), eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; am. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-82; am. (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (2) (a) 1. and (3) (f), renum. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. to 3., Register, July, 1984, No. 343, eff. 8-1-84; reprinted to correct error in (2) (a) 2., Register, August, 1984, No. 344; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 1-2-86; emerg. cr. (3) (a) and (g), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 1-2-86; emerg. cr. (3) (a) and (g), eff. 4-22-86; emerg. am. (1) (a), cff. 2) (c) and (3) (a) and (g), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; emerg. am. (1) (a), 1. to 3., eff. 3-10-87; am. (1) (a), 1. to 3., Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (2) (c) 3., Register, April, 1988, No. 388, eff. 5-1-88; am. (2) (b) (intro.) and 1., (c) 1., a. (2) (b) 2. and 3., (2) (d) and (e), Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; am. (2) (b) 1., Register, January, 1990, No. 409, eff. 2-1-90; emerg. am. (1) (a), 1. 64, eff. 11-28-90; emerg. am. (2) (c) (intro.) and 1., r. (2) (c) 2. and 3., eff. 4-1-91; am. (2) (b) 11, Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; am. (1) (a), 1. to 4., Register, July, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91; am. (2) (c) (intro.) and 2., Register, March, 1992, No. 405, eff. 4-1-92.

NR 25.07 Individual licensee catch quotas. (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (1) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior shall be by the Lake Superior commercial fishing board upon application in accordance with sub. (3), and as follows:

- (a) Lake trout. 1. Each licensed commercial fisher shall receive an equal share of the annual lake trout harvest quota established under s. NR 25.06 (1) (a) 2.
- 2. Allocation of the lake trout quota to individual licensees shall be by issuance of appropriate tags by the department.
- (2) LAKE MICHIGAN AND GREEN BAY. The allotment of harvest quotas as established in s. NR 25.06 (2) to individual licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan and Green Bay shall be by the Lake Michigan commercial fishing board upon application in accordance with sub. (3), as follows:
- (a) Chubs. 1. A chub fishing permit shall be issued under this subdivision to each applicant who selects the northern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) and meets the following criteria:
  - a. Is a licensed commercial fisher;
- b. Owns a boat of 35 feet in overall length or longer which shall be used by the applicant in fishing under the applicant's chub permit;
- c. The boat is equipped with a powered net lifter; and Register, November, 1993, No. 455

- d. Held a Lake Michigan chub harvest permit for the northern chub fishing zone for the 1985-1986, 1986-1987 or 1987-1988 license year.
- 1m. A chub fishing permit and individual licensee catch quota shall be issued under this subdivision to each applicant who selects the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) and meets the following criteria:
  - a. Is a licensed commercial fisher;
- b. Owns a boat of 35 feet in overall length or longer which shall be used by the applicant in fishing under the applicant's chub permit; and
  - c. The boat is equipped with a powered net lifter;
- 2. All permittees under subd. 1. who select the northern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations:
- a. No more than 100,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of July 1 through September 30; no more than 250,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of October 1 through January 15 except that this amount shall be adjusted to include the portion of the allowable harvest for the previous period that is not reported as harvested in that period; and no more than 150,000 pounds of chubs may be harvested during the quota period of March 1 through June 30 except that this amount shall be adjusted to include the portion of the allowable harvest for the previous period that is not reported as harvested in that period.
- b. The department shall notify all permittees to cease fishing upon receipt of information that 85% of the period quotas as established in subpar. a. have been harvested except that all nets in the water shall be lifted under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 10., and the legal fish harvested.
- 3. All permittees under subd. 1m. who select the southern chub fishing zone under sub. (3) (d) shall be subject to the following limitations:
- a. In the southern chub fishing zone, 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. shall be allotted to 32 individual permittees as follows:

Fisher Rank	Percent of Allotted Quota
1-5	3.94
6-10	3.64
11-15	3.34
16-20	3.04
21-25	2.74
26-30	2.44
31-32	2.15

1) The fisher rank of each individual permittee shall be based on their individual authorized regular season chub harvest from April 1, 1981 through December 31, 1982. This harvest determination shall be based on the permittee's reported catch during that period adjusted to the legal amount under subd. 1. b. 4) and 5), Register, June, 1981, No. 306. The highest resulting number shall be assigned the fisher rank of 1, and the following numbers assigned sequential ranks until the 32 individual quota allotments are all assigned. If there are any ties for a given fisher

NR 25

rank, a public drawing will be conducted by the department and the permittee selected will receive that fisher rank. The permittee or permittees not selected will go to the next lower fisher rank. Additional drawings will be conducted as needed to resolve all ties. Any remaining permittees not receiving individual quota allotments shall fish under the provisions of subpar. b.

2) No individual quota allotted under subpar. a. may exceed 70,000 pounds, until each individual allotted quota equals 70,000 pounds. When the quota allotted to an individual permittee reaches 70,000 pounds, any additional harvest quota shall be divided equally among the remaining individual allotted quotas not equalling 70,000 pounds. When all individual allotted quotas each equal 70,000 pounds, for a total of 2,240,000 pounds, any further increases shall be divided equally among the individual quota allotments. Quota allotments shall be made in whole pound increments.

Note: If 90% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3. equaled 1,890,000 pounds, permittees in fisher rank 1-5 would have individual quotas of 74,466 pounds. The excess over 70,000 pounds for each would be totalled, being 22,300 pounds, and divided equally among the remaining 27 individual quotas, 826 pounds each.

- 3) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the number of permittees allotted an individual quota, those permittees ranking below the vacancy shall automatically advance in rank to fill the vacancy. Any vacancy at fisher rank 32 may be filled by the permittee fishing under the provisions of subpar. b. who has the highest total reported regular season chub harvest for the previous 2 license years.
- b. In the southern chub fishing zone, 10% of the harvest quota established in s. NR 25.06~(2)~(a)~3. shall be allotted to permittees who do not receive individual allotted quotas under subpar. a.
- 1) No more than 10% of this allotment may be taken by any one permittee during the license year.
- 3) Whenever the total amount of chubs allocated under subpar. b. 1) does not equal the amount provided in subpar. b., the surplus shall be divided equally among permittees under subpar. b.
- d. Any permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subpar. a. 1) and 2) may transfer up to 100% of his or her allotted chub quota to another permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subpar. a. 1) and 2). A quota transfer under this subparagraph shall be in effect only during the current license year, and shall be subject to sub. (6).
- e. Any permittee with an individual chub quota allotment under subpar. a. may temporarily transfer, for the remainder of the current license year, all or part of his or her individual chub quota allotment to a person who holds a permit under subpar. b., subject to s. NR 25.08 (intro.), (1), (4) and (5). However, a quota transfer approved under s. NR 25.08 (5) is not valid and may not be fished until either of the following occurs:
- 1) The transferee reaches his or her limit under subpar. b. 1) upon taking 10% of the "racehorse" allotment made under subpar. b. during the license year; or
- 2) The department, acting under subpar. f., has closed the southern chub zone "racehorse" fishery by notifying permittees fishing under sub-Register, November. 1993. No. 455

- b. Effective July 1, 1990, applied for and received a whitefish fishing permit for zone 3 for the license year preceding the license year for which the permit application is being made; and
- c. Reported a commercial harvest of whitefish legally taken from zone 3 between January 1, 1984 and June 30, 1989.
- 3. Each permittee shall be allowed a total annual harvest or individual licensee catch quota of whitefish assigned as a percentage of the harvest limit established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (d) 2. Each individual licensee catch quota shall be determined by dividing the total whitefish commercial harvest from zone 3 during the period from January 1, 1984 to June 30, 1989 reported under that license by the total reported commercial harvest of whitefish from zone 3 during that period, and multiplying the result by 100.
- 4. In determining individual licensee catch quotas under subd. 3., the resulting percentages shall be rounded off to hundredths of a percent. The individual licensee catch quotas shall be allocated in whole pound increments.
- (3) APPLICATION. (a) Applications for individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits under this section shall be made annually on forms available from the department and shall be returned to the department no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made.
- (b) To be timely, applications, if mailed, must be postmarked no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made and if submitted to the department other than by mail must be received and stamped with a date stamp of the department indicating receipt no later than April 30 preceding the license year for which application is being made. Late applications for individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits may not be acted upon by the department but shall be returned to the applicant.
- (c) The applications shall be reviewed by the department and approved or denied no later than June 15 preceding the license year for which application is being made, unless there are circumstances that may prevent the applicant from being a licensed commercial fisher on July 1 of the license year for which application is being made. In those cases, the applicant shall be notified of the approval or denial of the application in conjunction with the notice of approval or denial of the license authorizing commercial fishing on the outlying waters.
- (d) Applicants for Lake Michigan chub fishing permits and individual licensee catch quotas under sub. (2) (a) 1. shall select and designate on their application either the northern chub fishing zone or the southern chub fishing zone as the zone they wish to fish chubs in.
- (4) Assessment quota. Fish harvested under contract for the department for assessment purposes may not be considered part of nor deducted from an individual licensee catch quota.
- (5) Period of validity. Individual licensee catch quotas and fishing permits determined and issued in accordance with this section shall be issued on a license year basis. They shall be valid only during the open season for the species of fish subject to the harvest quota and only while

the quota holder or permittee holds a valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies.

- (6) REINSTATEMENT OF QUOTA RIGHTS. If the commercial fishing license of a quota holder is revoked under s. 29.33, Stats., the right to that quota and ranking, if any, shall be reinstated upon reinstatement of the revoked license and upon proper application.
- (7) REALLOCATION OF SURPLUS TOTAL ALLOWABLE COMMERCIAL HARVEST. If the number of eligible permittees is inadequate to utilize a total allowable commercial harvest established by s. NR 25.06 (2) (a) 3., (b), (d) or (e) and allocated under sub. (2) (a) 3. a., (b), (bg), (br), (d), (e), (f) or (g), the surplus shall be divided permanently among the remaining eligible permittees based on the percentage calculated for each permittee under sub. (2) (a) 3. a., (b), (bg), (br), (d), (e), (f) or (g), respectively.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; emerg. r. and recr. and cr. (2) (a) 1. eff. 5-16-79; r. and recr. Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; r. and recr. (2) (a) 1., Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; emerg. am. (1) (a), eff. 7-1-81; am. (1) (a), Register, Angust, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; emerg. am. (2) (a) 1.b. 6), eff. 1-2-82; am. (2) (a) (intro.) Register, April, 1982, No. 316, eff. 5-1-82; emerg. am. (2) (a) 1.b. and c., eff. 7-1-82; am. (2) (a) 1.b. and c. and (3), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; cr. (2) (a) 1.b. 6), Register, February, 1983, No. 326, eff. 3-1-83; am. (1) and (2), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; r. and recr. (2) (a) 2., (2) (b) and (3), r. (2) (a) 4. and 5., renum. (2) (a) 3. to be (2) (a) 4. and am., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, June, 1984, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (1) (b) 1., (2) (b) 2. c. and 5., cr. (2) (b) 1. c. and d., Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; am. (2) (a) 1. b. and 2. a., renum. (2) (a) 3. c. to be 3. d., cr. (2) (a) 3. c., cr. (2) (a) 3. c., renum. (2) (a) 3. d. to be 3. e., cr. (2) (a) 3. b. 2), eff. 3-15-85; am. (2) (a) 3. c., renum. (2) (a) 3. d. to be 3. e., cr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, May, 1985, No. 353, eff. 6-1-85; am. (1) (a), Register, June, 1985, No. 354, eff. 7-1-85; am. (2) (a) 3. b. 2), Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (2) (a) 2. a., Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (1) (d), Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. am. (2) (a) 3. d., eff. 5-5-86; am. (2) (a) 2. a. and b., r. (2) (a) 2. c., Register, July, 1988, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; r. and recr. (2) (a) 2. a. and b., r. (2) (a) 2. c., Register, July, 1988, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; r. and recr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (2) (c), Register, January, 1988, No. 385, eff. 2-1-88; am. (2) (a) 3. b., Register, July, 1988, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; r. and recr. (2) (a) 3. d., Register, December, 1986, No. 372, eff. 1-1-87; cr. (2) (a) 2. a., Register,

- NR 25.08 Transfer of individual licensee catch quotas. Individual licensee catch quotas allotted under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a) or (2) (a) 3.a., (b), (bg), (br), (d), (e), (f) or (g) may be transferred by the licensee receiving the quota allocation to another valid licensee authorized to engage in commercial fishing in the waters to which the quota applies, who meets all criteria for receiving such a quota other than previous fishing history, subject to the conditions stated in this section.
- (1) Application for individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be made on forms provided by the department.
- (2) All or part of an individual licensee catch quota allotted under s. NR 25.07 (1) (a) or (2) (a) 3.a., (b), (bg), (br), (d), (e), (f), (g) or (h) 3. may be permanently or temporarily transferred by the quota holder. Register, November, 1993, No. 455

- (2m) A northern chub fishing zone permit issued under s. NR 25.07 (2) (a) 1., or a forage fish trawling permit issued under s. NR 25.07 (2) (c) 2., may be permanently transferred by the permit holder only in conjunction with the transfer of the permit holder's valid license authorizing commercial fishing in the outlying waters under s. NR 25.04.
- (3) A licensee may designate on the application for their individual licensee catch quota a person to whom the licensee wishes that quota to be transferred in the event of the licensee's death or incapacity. This designation may be changed during the license year as requested in writing by the licensee. The designated person shall meet the criteria under this section for the transfer to occur.
- (a) In the absence of such a designation, or a qualified transferee, or a transferee capable of accepting the transfer under this section, members of the immediate family of the licensee who meet the eligibility requirements of this section shall be offered the quota. The offer shall be made by the department in the following order:
  - 1. Spouse;
  - 2. Children, eldest first, then in order of age;
  - 3. Parents:
  - 4. Siblings, eldest first, then in order of age.
- (b) Any transferee under this subsection who relies on commercial fishing gear of a deceased licensee to meet the eligibility criteria of this chapter, but such gear has not been distributed or assigned in accordance with appropriate probate procedures shall have 2 years from the date of acceptance of the transfer to meet those eligibility requirements. During that time, the quota shall be held in abeyance by the department.
- (c) All offers of transfer under this subsection shall be accepted within 30 days from the date of offer or be considered refused.
- (d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply to quotas granted for license year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 and subsequent license years.
- (4) Individual licensee catch quotas may not be transferred if the quota holder or the recipient are charged with a violation of outlying waters commercial fishing laws under which conviction could cause revocation or suspension of their respective commercial fishing license. This subsection shall apply from issuance of the citation or complaint until the matter is adjudicated or dismissed.
- (5) Individual licensee catch quota transfers shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the commercial fishing board of the body of water for which the quota applies. Such review and approval or denial shall occur no later than the next regular quarterly meeting of the appropriate commercial fishing board.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1985, No. 349, eff. 2-1-85; emerg. am. (intro.), eff. 7-1-89, am. (intro.), Register, October, 1989, No. 406, eff. 11-1-89; am. (intro.) and (2), cr. (2m), Register, November, 1991, No. 431, eff. 12-1-91; am. (2), Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93.

NR 25.09 Commercial fishing gear. Licensed commercial fishers conducting commercial fishing operations may only use the following gear

NR 25

subject to the conditions stated in this section and in the areas designated:

- (1) LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) Gill nets:
- 1. With a mesh size of not more than 1%" stretch measure.
- 2. With a mesh size of not less than  $2\% ^{\prime\prime}$  and not more than  $3^{\prime\prime}$  stretch measure:
- a. Not more than 35 meshes in depth in water 12 to 60 feet (2 to 10 fathoms) deep or 210 to 330 feet (35 to 55 fathoms) only from January 16 through November 9:
- b. Not more than 35 meshes in depth in water 60 to 330 feet (10 to 55 fathoms) deep only from November 10 through January 15; or
- c. Not more than 60 meshes in depth in water of any depth and during any time of the year may be used provided the bottom maitre cord or lead line is at least 6 feet (1 fathom) above the lake bottom.
  - 3. With a mesh size of not less than 47/16'' stretch measure:
- a. Not more than 36 meshes in depth and only when set on the bottom of the lake, including treaty fishers.
- b. In waters less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep only from November 28 through September 30.

bm. In water less than 330 feet (55 fathoms) deep, the total maximum feet of gill net with mesh size equal to 4%6% and greater which may be set by commercial fishers shall be determined by the department according to this subparagraph based on catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPE) in order to ensure that total allowable state and tribal annual lake trout harvest quotas and individual fishers' harvest quotas are not exceeded.

1) The lake trout open season under s. NR 25.05 is divided into 3 periods. The department shall determine catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPE) and determine the total maximum feet of gill net with mesh size equal to  $4^{7/16}$  and greater which may be set by commercial fishers during each of the following 3 periods:

period 1: November 28 through March 31 period 2: April 1 through May 31 period 3: June 1 through September 30.

- 2) Catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPE) for each period shall be determined from department-monitored state and tribal net lifts occurring during each period. Catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPE) is the ratio of dead and live lake trout caught for each period divided by the feet of monitored net in thousands of feet set during each period.
- 3) The following catch-per-unit-of-efforts (CPEs) shall be used for the lake trout open season of November 28, 1993 to September 30, 1994:

4) After September 30, 1994, 3-year average catch-per-unit-of-efforts (CPEs) shall be calculated by the department as the average of the Register, November, 1993, No. 455