

Chapter NR 21

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS

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Note: Chapter NR 21 as it existed on February 28, 1979, was repealed and a new chapter NR 21 was created effective March 1, 1979.

NR 21.01 Purpose. (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates fishing in the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters.

(2) The rules contained in this chapter are not intended to, nor do they authorize, the sale or introduction into interstate commerce for purposes of human consumption or use fish taken from the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters which fail to meet or comply with food and drug administration (FDA) standards.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

NR 21.015 License waiver. (1) On the first Saturday and consecutive Sunday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary 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; am. (1), Register, May, 1995, No. 473, eff. 6-1-95.

NR 21.02 Definitions. Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, are defined as follows:

(1) Closed season is that period of the year not included in the open season for each species of fish as provided in this chapter. (29.085)

(2) Commercial fish include species of rough and detrimental fish as defined by this chapter, shovelnose (hackleback) sturgeon 25 inches and over in length taken only on setlines, catfish 15 inches or over in length or 12 inches and over dressed and bullheads of any length when taken with commercial fishing gear and all taken while fishing under a commercial fishing license on the Mississippi river.

(3) Commercial fishing gear or commercial gear is that equipment specifically authorized for use in commercial fishing by this chapter. (29.085, 29.34, 29.343, 29.37, 29.135, 227.11, 29.30, 29.336)

(4) Commercial fishing licenses are those licenses issued pursuant to ss. 29.34, 29.343 and 29.37, Stats. (29.085, 29.135, 227.11)

(5) Dressed fish are fish with the head and viscera removed but the tail on. (29.085)

(6) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing. (29.085)

(7) Length of fish is, unless otherwise specified, that distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the outermost end of the tail with the tail or caudal fin fully extended. (29.085)

(8) Minnows are all species defined as such in s. 29.01, Stats., and bullheads not exceeding 4 inches in length. (29.01, 227.11)

(9) "Mississippi river" means all waters from the Burlington Northern railroad main tracks on the east side of the Mississippi river extending west from the railroad tracks to that part of the river following the boundary between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. "Mississippi river" includes Lake Onalaska and Lake Pepin.

(10) Possession limit is double the daily bag limit. (29.085)

(11) Rough fish are all species defined as such in s. 29.01, Stats., including amur carp which is also known as grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*). (29.01, 29.085, 227.11)

(12) Setlines are also known as trotlines. (29.085, 29.37, 227.11)

(13) Sport fishing is any fishing, including the methods commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling, which is conducted without a commercial fishing license and with other than commercial fishing gear, but does not include the taking of turtles and tortoises. (29.085)

(14) Stretch measure is the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified. Stretch measure shall mean the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh with the mesh fully stretched. (29.085, 29.30, 29.34, 29.343, 227.11)

(15) Supervisor means any department employe assigned or designated to oversee fishing activities conducted under this chapter. (29.085)

(16) Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters are those waters known as the Mississippi river lying west of the Burlington Northern railroad main tracks on the east side of the Mississippi river, Lake St. Croix, the St. Croix river from the Burlington Northern railroad bridge at Prescott, as far in a northerly direction as the St. Croix river forms and acts as boundary waters between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the St. Louis river including St. Louis bay and Superior bay from the north-south Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary line downstream to an imaginary line drawn between the northwest bank of the Nemadji river where it forms a junction with Superior bay and the northwest bank of