

Chapter WCD 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

**WCD 20.01 Closed seasons.** There shall be and are provided and established the following open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, possession limits and other regulations for the several varieties and species of fish, crayfish, and frogs in the waters within the state of Wisconsin. A closed season is established for each variety of fish, crayfish and frogs named in this chapter extending during all the time of the year except the open season period embraced within the specified dates, both inclusive, and except as otherwise expressly provided no person shall take, catch or kill fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit and no person shall take, catch or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than hook and line, nor at any time other than the open season therefor, nor have in his possession or under his control any fish, crayfish, or frogs in excess of the possession limit, or below the minimum size therefor during the open season.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58.

**WCD 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters.** (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits 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)	Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(b) NORTHERN PIKE OR PICKEREL	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(c) PERCH.....	In all outlying waters, including bounded bays and reserve waters	At all times	No bag limits or size limit; except during the closed season for commercial fishing in the waters of southern Green Bay and in the waters of Lake Michigan and northern Green Bay when there shall be a daily bag limit of 50 per day and such fish taken during the closed season shall not be sold, traded or bartered in any manner.	
(d) LAKE TROUT.....	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	Saturday nearest December 11 to September 30	No bag limit	17
	Lake Superior	Saturday nearest November 6 to September 30	No bag limit	17
(e) LARGEMOUTH BASS....	In all outlying waters	Saturday nearest June 7 to February 15	5	No size limit
(f) SMALLMOUTH BASS....	In all outlying waters	Saturday nearest June 7 to February 15	5	No size limit
(g) TROUT (any variety except splake and lake trout) (Bag limit means total of all)	Lake Superior	Saturday nearest May 1 to September 7	10 of which only 5 may be rainbow trout	6
		September 8 to, but not including, the Saturday nearest May 1	5	13

(h) Herring of any size with no bag limit may be taken by hook and line at all times in the outlying waters.

(i) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon bay by trolling from a motor-driven 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 carp 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. Lake trout and northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.

**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, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; r. and recr., Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62.

**WCD 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 conservation director shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when he finds after scientific investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice