



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5309/1  
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## 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 913

February 2, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives PRONSCHINSKE, BALLWEG, HORLACHER and MEYERS, cosponsored by Senator TIFFANY. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.314 (4) (b) 3., 29.314 (5) (b) 2m., 29.405 (1) (a), 29.405 (1)  
2           (b), 29.405 (1) (c), 29.405 (2), 29.405 (3) and 29.405 (4); and *to create* 29.405 (5)  
3           and 29.406 of the statutes; **relating to:** taking rough fish or catfish by hand or  
4           with a bow and arrow or a crossbow.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting the taking of rough fish or catfish by hand or with a bow and arrow or a crossbow.

Current rules promulgated by DNR prohibit persons from fishing by any means other than hook and line, with exceptions. Under current rules, a person may take a rough fish, as defined in statute, by hand or with a bow and arrow or a crossbow. The bill expands the current requirements applicable to taking rough fish to apply to catfish and prohibits DNR from prohibiting the taking of rough fish or catfish by hand or with a bow and arrow or a crossbow. Under the bill, DNR is not prohibited from promulgating rules establishing bag or length limits, season dates, zones, or other limitations applicable to rough fish or catfish if the rules are consistent with current laws relating to the regulation of wild animals.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

5           **SECTION 1.** 29.314 (4) (b) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           29.314 (4) (b) 3. To a person who possesses or uses a light while using a bow  
2 and arrow or crossbow for taking rough fish or catfish.

3           **SECTION 2.** 29.314 (5) (b) 2m. of the statutes is amended to read:

4           29.314 (5) (b) 2m. To a person who possesses or uses a light while using a bow  
5 and arrow or crossbow for taking rough fish or catfish.

6           **SECTION 3.** 29.405 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

7           29.405 (1) (a) Take rough fish or catfish with a bow and arrow or take rough  
8 fish or catfish with a bolt from a crossbow unless the arrow or bolt is equipped with  
9 a metal barbed tip and is attached to the bow or crossbow with a tethered line that  
10 allows for the retrieval of the arrow or bolt and the fish.

11          **SECTION 4.** 29.405 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

12          29.405 (1) (b) Release or return any rough fish or catfish taken with a bow and  
13 arrow or crossbow, whether dead or alive, to the waters of this state.

14          **SECTION 5.** 29.405 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

15          29.405 (1) (c) Leave any rough fish or catfish taken with a bow and arrow or  
16 crossbow, whether dead or alive, on the ice or banks of any waters of this state.

17          **SECTION 6.** 29.405 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

18          29.405 (2) Any person who takes rough fish or catfish with a bow and arrow  
19 or crossbow in any waters of this state shall remove the fish from those waters and  
20 use or dispose of the fish in an appropriate manner as determined by the department.

21          **SECTION 7.** 29.405 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

22          29.405 (3) If the department establishes an open season for taking rough fish  
23 or catfish with a bow and arrow or crossbow on a particular body of water, the  
24 department shall allow the taking of rough fish or catfish with a bow and arrow or  
25 crossbow on that body of water from sunset to sunrise during that open season.

