

Clearinghouse Rule 13-079

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 20, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order FH-01-12

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

Sections 29.014(1), 29.041, 29.403(1g), and 29.403(2), Stats.

Federal Authority

Not applicable

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule – Rule Effect – Reason for the Rule

This rule is being proposed to simplify and create more effective fishing tournament rules that should increase user satisfaction and address concerns about crowding, tournament associated fish mortality, and the spread of invasive species. The Tournament Rule Review Task Force, which includes DNR Fisheries Management and Law Enforcement staff and public tournament organizers from the Wisconsin Bass Federation Nation, Wisconsin Bass Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and the Midwest Walleye Series, developed the fishing tournament rule changes.

New policies will include:

- defining “culling”
- determining certain permit exceptions and participant limits
- streamlining tournament permit application procedures
- specifying boat and live well requirements
- clarifying rules on border waters
- clarifying conditions for catch-hold-release tournaments
- clarifying use of bag limit reduction during warm water periods for bass and walleye tournaments
- specifying boundaries for catch-hold-release bass and walleye tournaments on Green Bay

Proposed changes are in response to 2011 Wisconsin Act 24, which allowed culling during permitted bass fishing tournaments, and efforts to improve customer service and staff efficiencies.

All rule elements are delineated in the plain language analysis of the rule.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Three public hearings in Fitchburg, La Crosse, and Oshkosh; Natural Resources Board final adoption; Governor’s Office of Regulatory Compliance final approval; followed by legislative review

Description of any Forms - None

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