

Report to  
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse  
NR 25, Wis. Adm. Code  
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-13-14

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

Section 29.014 (1), Stats., directs the department to establish and maintain conditions governing the taking of fish that will conserve the fish supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing.

Section 29.041, Stats., provides that the department may regulate fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters and outlying waters.

Section 29.503 (5) (br), Stats. requires each wholesale fish dealer to complete and submit an annual inventory of sturgeon and Great Lakes fish to the department.

Section 29.519 (5) (b), Stats., requires each commercial fisher to maintain and submit records to the department on their daily fishing activities in the form and manner required by the department.

Federal Authority

N/A

Comparison of Adjacent States

Illinois has no active commercial fishing licenses on the Great Lakes; thus there are no Great Lakes reporting requirements at the current time.

Michigan commercial fishers are required to file a monthly report with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources documenting their daily fishing activity and data is similar to that required of Wisconsin Great Lakes commercial fishers. Michigan rules are similar to those proposed for Wisconsin. Michigan commercial fishes have the option of either electronically filing the report by completing and submitting a web-based form or reporting by means of a monthly paper report.

Similar to Wisconsin and Michigan, the Minnesota licensed Great Lakes commercial fishers file a monthly paper report documenting daily fishing activity. Minnesota does not have an electronic reporting system available for use by commercial fishers.

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

N/A

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

The proposed rule would implement commercial fishing reporting procedures for a web-based electronic fish harvest reporting system that utilizes current technology and meets recommendations requested by the commercial fishing industry in the June 2000 Commercial Fisheries Task Force.

Commercial fishers will have the option of continuing to report their daily fishing activity via a paper biweekly report or to use the new electronic fish harvest system to report daily. It also creates new directions for an updated electronic fish harvest reporting system that will allow commercial fishers to use their own electronic communication devices for accessing the system and submitting reports that are required under state statute.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Two public hearings in October 2015 in Green Bay and Bayfield; Approval by the Natural

Resources Board followed by Governor's office approval and review by legislative committees  
Final rule promulgation expected in 2016

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

Harvest report forms will now be available online. If commercial fishers do not own or have ready access to an Internet connected computer, they will be allowed to continue reporting their fish harvest data via the existing biweekly paper reporting system. The proposal will update rule language on how commercial fishing electronic harvest reports may be made. The information required to be submitted by commercial fishers is determined in state statutes (s. 29.519 (5)) and is not affected by this rule.

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