

## Chapter NR 20

## FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Wis. Stats.)

**NR 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; renum. from WCD 20.01 to be NR 20.01, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71.

**NR 20.02 Waters classified; hook and line fishing in outlying waters.** (1) For the purpose of regulating hook and line fishing in the outlying waters, the closed seasons, size limits, bag and possession limits, number of hooks and lines and ice fishing regulations 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) <b>WALLEYE AND SAUGER</b> (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) <b>NORTHERN PIKE</b> -----	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit

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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) 1. TROUT AND SALMON excluding lake trout in Lake Superior....	Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior	Continuous	5 in aggregate	10
2. LAKE TROUT in Lake Superior.....	Lake Superior	December 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate with trout and salmon	10
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS....	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
(f) LAKE STURGEON.....	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per year	40

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

(h) All species of fish of lawful size may be taken from the outlying waters including Chequamegon Bay by trolling from a motor driven boat 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 rough fish 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. 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; am. (1) (d) and (1) (i), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; am. (1) (g), Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; am. (1) (intro. par.), (b) and (g), Register, December, 1964, No. 103, eff. 1-1-65; am. intro. par., Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; r. and recr. (1) (d), (f), and (g), Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; am. (1) (d) and (g), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; r. and recr. (1) (e); r. (f); renum. (g) and (h) to be (f) and (g); renum. (i) to be (h) and am., Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; r. and recr. (1) (d) and r. (1) (f), Register, March, 1969, No. 159, eff. 4-1-69; renum. from WCD 20.02 to be NR 20.02, and am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (1) (f), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 9-23-72; am. (1) (e), Register, November, 1972, No. 203, eff. 1-1-73; emerg. r. and recr. (1) (d) eff. 11-16-72; am. (1) (d), Register, May, 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73.

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**NR 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 department shall close the season for fishing through the ice in any inland waters when it finds after scientific

- (30) Kenosha county ----- (a) Rock lake
- (31) Kewaunee county ----- (a) Little Scarboro creek  
(b) Three Mile creek  
(c) Ahnapee river  
(d) Kewaunee river
- (35) Lincoln county ----- (a) Spirit flowage
- (36) Manitowoc county ----- (a) Molash creek  
(b) East Twin river  
(c) Little Manitowoc river  
(d) Point Beach Nuclear Power plant
- (37) Marathon county ----- (a) Big Eau Pleine flowage
- (38) Marinette county ----- (a) Little river
- (39) Marquette county ----- (a) Fox river  
(b) Montello river  
(c) Grand river
- (44) Oneida county ----- (a) Wisconsin river  
(b) Tomahawk river  
(c) Willow flowage  
(d) Little Bass lake
- (50) Portage county ----- (a) Wisconsin river
- (51) Price county ----- (a) North Fork of Flambeau river  
(b) Big Elk river
- (58) Sawyer county ----- (a) Area below Chippewa flowage dam
- (59) Shawano county ----- (a) Wolf river
- (60) Sheboygan county ----- (a) Weeden's creek  
(b) Sheboygan river
- (64) Vilas county ----- (a) Nebish lake  
(b) Palette lake  
(c) Helen creek  
(d) Crystal creek  
(e) Big Arbor Vitae lake outlet  
(f) Little Arbor Vitae lake outlet  
(g) Little St. Germain inlets and outlets  
(h) Trout river
- (65) Walworth county ----- (a) Lake Geneva
- (68) Waukesha county ----- (a) Lower Genesee lake  
(b) Moose lake  
(c) Lower Nashotah lake  
(d) Bark river  
(e) Oconomowoc river  
(f) Pewaukee lake and inlets and outlets

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. Register, December, 1963, No. 96, eff. 1-1-64; cr. (20) and (39), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; cr. (1) (a), (26) (c), (29) (a), (49) (a) and (58) (a), Register, November, 1965, No. 119, eff. 1-1-66; am. Register, December, 1966, No. 132, eff. 1-1-67; emerg. cr. (39) (a), eff. 4-26-67; cr. (39) (a), Register, May, 1967, No. 137, eff. 6-1-67; cr. (15) (a) (b) and (c); (29) (b); (31) (a) and (b); (36) (a); (51) (a); and (60) (a), Register, December, 1967, No. 144, eff. 1-1-68; cr. (7) (a) and (15) (d), (e), and (f); am. (64) (e) and (f), Register, December, 1968, No. 156, eff. 1-1-69; cr. (10) (a); (15) (g) and (h); (31) (c) and (d); (36) (b) and

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(c); (38) (a); (39) (b); (51) (b); (58) (a) and (60) (b), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; renum. WCD 20.16 to be NR 20.16; am. intro. par., Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; cr. (36) (d) and (68) (f), Register, August, 1971, No. 188, eff. 1-1-72; am. (4), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72; cr. (4) (e), (15) (i) and (39) (c), Register, November, 1972, No. 203, eff. 1-1-73.

**NR 20.17 Report of licensed guides.** All Wisconsin guides licensed under the provisions of section 29.165, Wis. Stats., and operating in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior shall report to the department on blanks to be furnished by the department detailed information regarding their fishing activities which shall include the quantity, the varieties of fish taken and any other information pertaining to the fishing activities required by the department.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1973, No. 209, eff. 6-1-73.