

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. 108, 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), (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, am. (1) (d) 1 and (e), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (e), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (c), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; am. (1) (d), Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; r. and recr. (1) (e), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

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 investigation and study that continued fishing through the ice in such waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish therein and that such closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing therein and such closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected, such posting being deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that such closed season is in effect and such closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued. The department may also, following scientific investigation and study, establish bag limits and size limits on the individual inland waters when it finds that the taking of fish will aid in management of the fishery and insure the citizens of this state additional opportunities for good fishing. Such special regulations shall become effective only after public informational meetings are held. For open seasons in specified waters see s. NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person shall have in his possession or under his control more than the daily bag limit while on the ice or waters or while fishing in the state of Wisconsin. The measurement of all fish taken shall be in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the utmost end of the tail fin fully extended.

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(e) LARGE MOUTH AND SMALL MOUTH BASS			

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
1. Park lake and Silver lake, Columbia county; Forest lake, Fond du Lac county; Beckmann lake, Green county; Blue Spring lake, Jefferson county; and Little Elkhart lake, Sheboygan county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	14
Browns lake, Racine county and Pretty lake, Waukesha county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	16
Rockland lake, Racine county and Beulah Lake, Walworth county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length, except the possession of fish between 12 and 16 inches is prohibited.
2. Clear lake (sec. 16, T39N, R7E) Oneida county (smallmouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	12
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	None	10
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
(c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER			
In all waters of Barron, Burnett, Polk and Sawyer counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	13
In all other waters (See also NR 20.04)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 in aggregate	No size limit
(d) NORTHERN PIKE (See also NR 20.04)			
1. In all waters of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Walworth counties	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	No size limit
3. Shawano lake in Shawano county and all waters in Menominee county	No closed season	25	No size limit
4. In all other waters	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No size limit
(e) MUSKELLUNGE (includes hybrid muskellunge)			
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	30
2. Big lake (sec. 4, T42N, R6E), Vilas county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	34
(f) 1. Trout and Salmon (any variety except splake and lake trout) (Bag limit means total of all)			
a. Columbia, Grant, Green, Iowa, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk county waters, including lakes (ponds) except that portion of Trout creek beginning in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 5, T6N, R6E downstream to the earthen dam located on sec. lines 19 and 30, T7N, R6E, Iowa county, which shall be open to fishing subject to s. NR 20.04 (7) (e).	January 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May.	2 in aggregate	6
	First Saturday in May to September 30.	5 in aggregate	

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
b. Crawford and Vernon county streams	January 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May	2 in aggregate	6
	First Saturday in May to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
d. Dane, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock county lakes (ponds)	January 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May	2 in aggregate	6
	First Saturday in May to September 30	5 in aggregate	6
e. Lake Michigan tributary streams (upstream to the first dam or lake)	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10
f. Brule river, Douglas county, from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2.	From October 1, to but not including the first Saturday in May, fishing, excluding taking smelt with gear specified in a. NR 20.03 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	5 in aggregate	10
	First Saturday in May at 6:00 a.m. to but not including June 1.	5 in aggregate	6
	June 1 to September 30.	10 in aggregate	6
g. All other inland waters	First Saturday in May at 5 a.m. to but not including June 1	10 of which only 5 may be rainbow or brown trout in aggregate	6
	June 1 to September 30	10 in aggregate	6
2. There shall be a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following waters	Saturday nearest April 1 to, but not including the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	10

a. Ashland county:

Bad river from its mouth upstream to Copper falls; Potato river from its mouth upstream to Guerneville falls; White river from its mouth upstream to White river dam; Brunswiller and Marengo rivers upstream to highway 13.

b. Bayfield county:

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T160N, R7W, sec. 28); Fish creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 1) from its mouth upstream to the junction of Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction of the East Fork of Flag river; Iron river from its mouth upstream to Orienta dam; Sioux river from its mouth upstream to Big Rock falls (T49N, R4W, sec. 19); Siskowitt river from its mouth upstream to second bridge (T41N, R6W, sec. 35).			
c. Iron county:			
Gravayard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. highway #2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
3. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on the following waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	6
Risk creek pond in Adams county; Gilmanton pond in Buffalo county; Banach lake in Burnett county; Anderson lake in Douglas county; Sand lake (sec. 13, T39N, R18E) in Florence county; Bug, Logger and Valley lakes in Forest county; Hoffman, Trout Run Church and Oxbow ponds in Jackson county; Pence, Rogers and Townline lakes in Langlade county; Ament, Hanson, Larsen, Morgan, Moraine and Tahoe lakes in Lincoln county; Horseshoe lake in Manitowoc county; Cataract, Evans, Hans Biegel, Kickapoo Spring and Pinnacle Rock ponds in Monroe county; Bass lake (sec. 16, T39N, R7E) in Oneida county; Silverthorn lake in Sawyer county; Quarry lake in Sheboygan county; Eleva pond in Trempealeau county; Esofea and Timber Coulee ponds in Vernon county; Bluegill, Fallison, Firefly, Weber, Little John, Jr., Otto Mielke and Pauto lakes in Vilas county; Lannon Park pond in Waukesha county; and Keller lake, Waupaca county.			
4. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on all other lakes containing trout or salmon except natural spring and spring ponds	October 1 to March 1	5 in aggregate	6
5. There shall be an extended open season for trout and salmon on the following waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate	10
Bayfield county:			
Bono creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Boyd creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Onion river from its mouth up to Lake Superior District Power Company power line (T49N, R4W, sec. 6); Pikes creek from its mouth upstream to the Red dam; Pine creek from its mouth upstream to junction with Little Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 11) and Whittlesey creek from its mouth upstream to Town Hall Road.			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
Douglas county:			
Amnicon river from its mouth upstream to Amnicon Falls; Middle river from its mouth upstream to U.S. HWY 2; Nemadji river from its mouth upstream to Great Northern Railroad Bridge (T47N, R14W, sec. 4); Black river from its mouth upstream to Big Manitou Falls; Poplar river from its mouth upstream to U.S. HWY 2 and the St. Louis river from its mouth upstream to the Wisconsin-Minnesota state line.			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE	First Saturday in January to September 30	2 in aggregate	17
(h) CATFISH			
In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties and the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad tracks	No closed season	25	No size limit
In all other waters	No closed season	10	No size limit
(i) WHITE BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(j) ROCK BASS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(k) CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL, PERCH, PUMPKINSEED (Sunfish)	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit
(l) YELLOW BASS (STRIPED)	No closed season	None	No size limit
(m) BULLHEADS	No closed season	None	No size limit
(n) CISCO AND WHITEFISH	No closed season	25 pounds and one fish in aggregate	No size limit
(o) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(p) SHOVELNOSE (Sand or Hackleback) Sturgeon			
1. Chippewa river below the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. Chippewa river above the I-94 bridge, Eau Claire county	No open season	—	—
2. In all other waters south of highway #64 (except in the Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream)			
a. The Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream	No closed season	25	No size limit
	No open season	—	—
3. In all other waters north of highway #64	No open season	—	—
(q) ROCK AND LAKE STURGEON			
Hook and line season			
1. In all waters: (except Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Winnebago and connecting waters; in the Embarrass river from the Pella dam at Shawano downstream to its confluence with the Wolf river in Outagamie county; and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan; and the Fox river downstream from milepost No. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek in Green Lake county to Lake Butte des Morts)	First Saturday in September to October 15	1 per season	46
Spearing season			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
2. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters	No open season		
3. Lake Winnebago	Second Saturday in February to March 1	The bag limit on speared sturgeon is one per season regardless of the water in which speared	46
<p>4. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any spear or similar device in any building, tent, shanty or similar enclosure on the waters of Lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne in Winnebago county, Lake Poygan in Waushara and Winnebago counties; Lake Winnebago in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties and all connecting waters including the Embarrass river from the Pella dam downstream to the Wolf river and the Wolf river from the dam at Shawano downstream to Lake Poygan and the Fox river from milepost no. 63, commonly known as Johnson creek, in Green Lake county downstream to Lake Butte des Morts, except during the open season for spearing sturgeon when such open season is in effect on a specified water named above.</p>			
(r) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season	—	—
(u) SUCKER AND REDHORSE	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit

(2) (a) Each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon shall exhibit such sturgeon, with his sturgeon tag attached as required by s. 29.148, Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station established for such purpose. Such sturgeon shall be so exhibited at such sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the waters where speared not later than 6:00 p.m. on the day speared. Upon approval by the officer, said officer shall attach a special tag to each sturgeon indicating that it has been inspected and recorded and such tag shall remain attached and locked to such sturgeon until the carcass is finally consumed.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport any sturgeon in or on any motor-driven vehicle from the time such sturgeon is taken to the time it is lawfully registered pursuant to s. NR 20.03 (2) (a) unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and in such manner so that the sturgeon tag attached to the sturgeon cannot be handled or manipulated by any occupant of the vehicle.

(3) A closed season is established for the taking, catching, or killing of fish of any variety or fishing for fish from December 1 to, but not including, the first Saturday in May of the next year, on all waters commonly known as the Chippewa flowage and that part of the Chippewa river in the following described area, Sawyer county:

Township 39 north, range 6 west

Sections 1, 2 and 3

Township 39 north, range 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Township 39 north, range 8 west
Sections 1 and 12

Township 40 north, range 6 west

Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24,
25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Township 40 north, range 8 west

Sections 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36

(4) In those waters for which a permit for treatment with toxicant has been issued the department of natural resources may direct that all species of fish of any size may be taken by dip nets, minnow seines and spears with no bag or possession limit from the date of issuance of said permit until the commencement of treatment and such open season shall be put into effect by posting a notice thereof on or in the vicinity of the waters affected and by publication in one or more newspapers having wide circulation in the area affected.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par), (1) (a), (1) (f) 2. and 3., (1) (q) 1. and 4. and (3), cr. (1) (e) 1. and (1) (f) 1. a. and 2. a., Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (a), (c), (d), (f) 1. and 2. and (q) 1. Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; emerg. am. (1) (q) 2 eff. 1-12-76; am. (1) (a), (d), (e), (f) and (p), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (a) 3., (1) (f) 3 and (3), r. (1) (f) 1c, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. (1) (a) 1. and (d) 2., am. (1) (d) 1., (1) (f) 1. f. and (1) (f) 3., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (c), (f) 2. and 3. and (p) 1., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. am. (1) (f) 1. a., eff. 4-10-80; am. (1) (f) 1. a., Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (1) (intro.), (f) 1. and 3., (q) 2., cr. (1) (f) 5., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; am. (1) (a) 3., (1) (f) 1. a., d. and 2., renum. (1) (f) 1. f. to be (1) (f) 1. g., cr. (1) (f) 1. f., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (q) 2., Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; cr. (1) (a) 1. and (1) (e) 2., Register, March, 1982, No. 316, eff. 4-1-82.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.03 see the history note for NR 20.03 as it appeared in the October, 1973 Administrative Register.

NR 20.04 Open seasons in specified waters. (3) **SPECIAL WATERS-LAKES.** (a) There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described waters; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

- 8. Calumet county-Winnebago
- 13. Dane county-Koshkonong
- 14. Dodge county-Beaver Dam, Lost and Sinnissippi
- 17. Dunn county-Dunville bottoms
- 20. Fond du Lac county-Mullet and Winnebago
- 24. Green Lake county-Big Green, Maria and Puckaway
- 28. Jefferson county-Bean, Goose, Hahns, Koshkonong, Red Cedar and Mud (at Koshkonong)
- 39. Marquette county-Buffalo
- 50. Portage county-Bass and Pleasant
- 54. Rock county-Koshkonong
- 56. St. Croix county-Pine (at Baldwin)
- 60. Sheboygan county-Sheboygan marsh

69. Waupaca county-Campbell, Crystal, Cynco (Rice), Hatch, Kinney, Partridge, Partridge Crop, Silver, and White

70. Waushara county-Fish (at Wautoma), Beans, Pine (at Hancock), Poygan and Big Twin

71. Winnebago county-Butte des Morts, Little Butte des Morts, Poygan, and Winneconne, and Winnebago

(am) SPECIAL WATERS-RIVERS AND STREAMS. There shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except muskellunge, sturgeon and trout in the following described rivers, streams, and impoundments thereon; all bag limits, minimum size limits and other regulations governing fish and fishing as set forth in this chapter shall remain in full force and effect:

1. Baraboo river in Sauk and Columbia counties.
2. Black river including sloughs and bayous from the dam at Black River Falls in Jackson county downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi river.
3. Chippewa river including sloughs, bayous and flowages up to the flowing portion of all tributary streams beginning at the Holcombe flowage dam in Chippewa county downstream to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad in Buffalo and Pepin counties.
 - a. Yellow river from Lake Wissota upstream to the Suetlik dam at Cadott in Chippewa county.
4. Eau Claire river including sloughs and bayous in Eau Claire county from the Altoona dam downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river.
 - a. Eau Galle river beginning at the Lake Eau Galle dam in Dunn county downstream to its confluence with the Chippewa river, Pepin county.
5. Embarrass river beginning at the dam at Pella in Shawano county downstream to the Wolf river in Outagamie county.
6. Fond du Lac river within the city limits of Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac county.
7. Fox river downstream from the westerly crossing of highway #33 at Portage in Columbia county and in Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Winnebago and Outagamie counties downstream to the dam at De Pere in Brown county.
 - a. Puckyan river in Green Lake county.
8. Fox river in Kenosha county and upstream in Racine county to the Waterford dam.
9. Grand river from Fairwater in Fond du Lac county downstream to the Fox river in Marquette county.
10. La Crosse river including Lake Neshonoc sloughs and bayous from the Perch lake dam at Sparta downstream to the Mississippi river.
11. Lemonweir river including all connecting flowages, bays, sloughs and bayous in Juneau and Monroe counties and the East Fork Lemonweir upstream to the highway #173 bridge and the South Fork Lemonweir upstream to the Tomah dam.

12. Little Wolf river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Manawa downstream to the Wolf river.

13. Pecatonica river in Lafayette and Green counties.

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