

Chapter NR 20

FISHING; INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, 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 or 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 20.015 Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Artificial fly" means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(2) "Artificial lure" means a bait designed to attract fish which does not include any natural bait.

(3) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing.

(4) Fishing includes taking, capturing or killing fish or fishing for fish of any variety at any time in the waters of the state.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; renum. (1) and (2) to be (3) and (4), cr. (1) and (2), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83.

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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) WALLEYE AND SAUGER (Bag limit means total of all)	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	3	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(b) NORTHERN PIKE	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit
(c) YELLOW PERCH	Green Bay	Continuous	25	No size limit
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit
(d) 1. TROUT AND SALMON	Lake Michigan, Green Bay	Continuous	5 in aggregate of which only 3 may be lake trout	10
		Continuous	10 in aggregate of which only 5 may be trout	10
		December 1 to September 30	5 in aggregate with trout	10
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS	Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within ¼-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plumb, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
		July 1 to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
		Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	No size limit
(f) LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	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. 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); 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, am. (1) (d) 1 and (e), Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-76; am. (1) (e), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (e), 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) (c), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (1) (a), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11-1-82; r. and recr. (1) (c), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83.

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)
(a) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS			
1. Park lake and Silver lake, Columbia county; Forest lake, Fond du Lac county; Beckman lake and Zanders 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)	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	32
1. Twin Valley lake, Iowa county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	36
2. Long lake, Iron county; Winter lake, Sawyer county; Bone lake, Polk county; and Big lake (sec. 4, T42N, R6E), Vilas county	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	34
(f) 1. Trout, salmon and splake in tributaries to Lake Superior (any variety except splake and lake trout in other waters)			
(Bag limit means total of all)			
a. Columbia, Grant, Green, Iowa, La-Crosse, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk county waters, including lakes (ponds) except as further restricted in s. NR 20.04.	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 s. NR 20.09 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	5 in aggregate	10
	First Saturday in May at 5:00 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 (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); Fish creek (T47N, R5W, 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:			
Graveyard 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. 15, T39N, R7E) in Oneida 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 Whittlesy 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, except as provided in par. (f).	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) BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE, PUMPKINSEED (sunfish), YELLOW PERCH (in all waters except Green Bay tributary streams up to the first dam or lake)	No closed season	50 in aggregate	No size limit
YELLOW PERCH in Green Bay tributary streams up to the first dam or lake	No closed season	25	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	No open season	—	—
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)	No closed season	25	No size limit
a. The Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam upstream	No open season	—	—
3. In all other waters north of highway #64	No open season	—	—
(q) ROCK AND LAKE STURGEON			
1. Hook and line season			
a. In all waters: (except Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Winnebago and connecting waters; in the Embarrass river from the Pella dam, Shawano county 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			

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
Lake county to Lake Butte des Morts)	First Saturday in September to October 15	1 per season	45
2. Spearing season			
a. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters	No open season		
b. 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	45
c. No person may have in possession or under 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.			
(r) PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL CATFISH	No open season		
(u) SUCKER AND REBHORSE	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) 1. Any person who has taken a lake sturgeon by legal methods other than spearing must immediately attach a lake sturgeon tag, furnished by the department. The tagged lake sturgeon shall be registered at a department lake sturgeon registration station in a county adjacent to the water the lake sturgeon was taken from no later than 6:00 p.m. the day after the fish was caught. Registration tags attached to the fish by the department shall remain attached until the carcass is finally consumed.

2. Sturgeon tags shall be available in each year prior to the open season. Persons may obtain no more than one tag unless fishing Michigan boundary waters in which case 2 tags may be obtained.

(c) 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 Register, April, 1983, No. 328

time it is lawfully registered pursuant to par. (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 7 west

Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 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. i., 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. 315, eff. 4-1-82; am. (1) (e) (intro.); (f) 1. intro. and a., (1) (f) 3., (1) (g) and (q), (3), renum. (2) (b) to be (2) (c), cr. (2) (b) and (1) (e) 3., Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; am. (1) (a) 1., (1) (e) 2., r. and reer. (1) (k), r. (1) (e) 3., Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83.

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

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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.

14. Pine river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Poysippi downstream to Lake Poygan.

15. Pumpkinseed creek in Winnebago county from county trunk "D" bridge downstream to Lake Poygan.

16. Red Cedar river including all connecting sloughs and bayous in Dunn county from its confluence with the Chippewa river to the Lake Menomin Northern States Power Dam.

17. Rock river waters.

a. Rock river in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties and all waters in the Horicon marsh.

b. Crawfish river in Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

c. Beaver Dam river beginning at the dam in the city of Beaver Dam in Dodge county downstream to the Crawfish river.

d. Scuppernong river beginning at the dam at Palmyra in Jefferson county downstream to the Bark river.

e. Bark river beginning at the dam at Hebron in Jefferson county downstream to the Rock river.

f. Yahara river beginning at the dam at Fulton in Rock county downstream to the Rock river.

g. Busseyville creek in Dane and Jefferson counties beginning at the Rockdale dam downstream to Lake Koshkonong.

h. Waterloo (Mauneshia) creek beginning at the dam (Malthouse) at Waterloo in Jefferson county downstream to its confluence with the Crawfish river, Dodge county.

18. Rubicon river in Dodge county.
19. Shioc river in Outagamie county.
20. Waupaca river in Waupaca county beginning at the dam at Weyauwega downstream to the Wolf river.
21. White river below dam at Burlington to Fox river in Racine county.
22. Wildcat river in Dodge county.
23. Willow river in Waushara county beginning at the dam at Auroraville downstream to Lake Poygan.
24. Wisconsin river and flowages beginning at the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander in Oneida county downstream to the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties including all connecting sloughs and bayous. Including Columbia county tributary streams (except as specified in subd. 1.) upstream to the first highway bridge and the Yellow river and all connecting flowages, sloughs and bayous from its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county upstream to the highway no. 54 dam at Dexterville.
 - a. Mill creek in Portage county.
25. Wolf river in Winnebago, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and in Shawano county upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano.
26. Yellowstone river from the dam downstream in Lafayette county.
 - (b) The department shall open the season for fishing with dip nets in any waters when it finds after scientific investigation and study that the fish populations in such waters are threatened with imminent mortality because of depletion of dissolved oxygen or other adverse habitat conditions under which fish will not survive. During such open season all species of fish may be taken by means of dip nets not more than 3 feet in diameter or 3 feet square, but no person shall have more than 25 pounds and one fish of any species of game fish of any size so taken in his possession. No person shall fish with more than one such dip net. Such open season 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 open season for fishing with dip nets is in effect. Such open season shall remain in full force and effect only so long as such waters are covered with ice and so long as such posting is continued.
 - (c) Except for streams posted pursuant to ch. NR 26, there shall be no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except sturgeon, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, upstream to the first dam or lake except the Kewaunee river where this rule applies upstream to the third county highway "C" bridge.
 - (d) Except as provided in subds. 1. and 2., the bag limits, the minimum size limits and regulations governing trout and salmon fishing as set forth in this chapter apply to the waters of Lake Michigan, Green Bay and any stream which is tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, upstream to the first dam or lake except the Kewaunee river where this rule applies upstream to the third county highway "C" bridge.

1. During the period from October 1 to but not including the first Saturday in May of the following May, annually, upstream to the first dam or lake on any stream tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, the minimum size of trout and salmon shall be 10 inches and the daily bag limit shall be 5 fish in the aggregate, of which only 3 may be lake trout. During such period, hook and line fishing is restricted to baits using a hook with a gape size not larger than one-half inch from point to shank. During such period, fishing with hook and line is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise on all streams tributary to Lake Michigan and Green Bay except the Menominee river.

2. During the period from October 1 through January 31, it shall be lawful to take trout and salmon by hand without the use of any device and by foul hooking or snagging while fishing with hook and line, using a hook with a gape size of not larger than one-half inch from point to shank, in the following waters only. During such period fishing by hand and hook and line on the following waters is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise, except in the Menominee river. The size limit on trout and salmon shall be 10 inches and the bag limit shall be 5 fish in the aggregate.

a. Brown county — Fox river upstream to the dam at DePere.

b. Door county — Sturgeon Bay ship canal, excluding areas within 500 feet of Strawberry creek, from the Lake Michigan shoreline westerly to the Michigan street bridge.

c. Kenosha county — Pike river upstream to the first dam, and the Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore from the mouth of the Pike river northward a distance of one-half mile.

d. Kewaunee county — Kewaunee river upstream to the third county highway C bridge crossing, Ahnapee river upstream to 500 feet below the Forestville dam.

e. Manitowoc county — East Twin river from the 17th Street bridge in the city of Two Rivers upstream to the first dam, West Twin river from the Washington Street bridge in the city of Two Rivers upstream to the first dam, Manitowoc river from the 8th Street bridge in the city of Manitowoc upstream to the first dam, Little Manitowoc river and the Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore within 300 feet of the mouth of the Little Manitowoc river.

f. Marinette county — all streams tributary to Green Bay upstream to the first dam.

g. Milwaukee county — Kinnickinnic river, Menomonee river, Milwaukee river, Oak creek, all upstream to the first dam.

h. Oconto county — all named and unnamed streams tributary to Green Bay upstream to the first dam, and the waters of Green Bay.

i. Sheboygan county — Lake Michigan shoreline while fishing from shore except within 500 feet of any public utility discharge flume, and all streams tributary to Lake Michigan upstream to the first dam.

(4) EXPERIMENTAL WATERS; PERMITS; REPORTS. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in the waters of Nebish, Spruce, Mystery, Escanaba and Palette lakes situated in sections 34 and 35, township 42 north, range 7 east, and sections 1, 2, 3, 10,

11 and 12, township 41 north, range 7 east, Vilas county except under the following conditions:

1. Fishing in such waters is authorized only under permit, which may be secured at the checking stations indicated by posted signs in the immediate area.

2. Fishing in such waters shall be done only with hook and line or rod and reel except that cisco may be taken in Pallette lake by means of dip nets or seines described under s. NR 20.11 (2).

3. The provisions of this section shall apply to such waters throughout the year.

4. All permits are valid only for the date issued and shall be turned in at the checking stations at the termination of each day's fishing activities by the fisher.

5. There is a continuous open season with no daily bag limit or size limit for all species of fish contained in these waters except in Nebish lake there shall be a 10-inch minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

6. All fish taken pursuant to this section shall be exhibited to the department or its agents at the checking station for examination, identification and marking.

(5) FLY FISHING ONLY. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" in the following described waters:

1. *Peshtigo river*—In, on or along that part of the Peshtigo river lying in Marinette county, beginning at the Johnson Falls dam in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 32, township 33 north, range 19 east and extending downstream to the foot of Spring Rapids in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 15, township 32 north, range 19 east, with a daily bag limit of 5 trout and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

2. *Wolf river*—In, on or along that part of the Wolf river lying in Langlade county, beginning at the railroad trestle in section 19, township 32 north, range 14 east extending downstream to the eastwest quarter line dividing the west half of section 33, township 32 north, range 14 east marked by a road which runs along side the Diercks irrigation pond with a daily bag limit of 5 trout per day and a minimum size limit of 10 inches on trout.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair, silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this chapter shall apply to the area described herein.

(7) EXPERIMENTAL TROPHY TROUT STREAMS. (a) Castle Rock creek—In, on or along that part of Castle Rock creek, Grant county, from the Church road bridge in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/2 section 36, T7N, R2W, downstream to the county trunk Q bridge in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 31, T7N, R1W.

1. Castle Rock Springs — In, on or along the springhead and spring tributary of Castle Rock creek in the SW 1/4 NE 1/4, section 36, T7N, R2W, Grant county.

(b) Doc Smith creek — In, on or along that part of Doc Smith creek, Grant county, from and including the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 1, T6N, R2W, downstream to its mouth (Castle Rock creek).

(c) For the purpose of this section it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, or kill fish, or fish for fish by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" and with the use of artificial lures. Artificial fly means a single hook dressed with fur, feathers, hair silk, tinsel, thread or similar material to imitate the natural food of trout. An artificial lure means a bait designed to attract fish which does not include any natural bait.

1. There is a 0 bag limit for trout and the open season is from January 1 to September 30, both dates inclusive.

(d) Race-Willow creek — In, on or along that part of Race-Willow creek, St. Croix county, known as the Race in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, section 8; SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, section 17; and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 18, T29N, R19W, a trout daily bag limit of one fish is established, the minimum size limit of which shall be 13 inches. The open season is the first Saturday in May beginning at 5:00 a.m. through September 30, both dates inclusive.

1. For the purpose of this section, fishing is restricted to fly fishing and artificial lures described in par. (c).

(e) 1. Upon establishing an open season under s. NR 20.03 (1) (f) 1.a., persons may not fish with any method in Trout creek, Iowa county other than by use of an artificial fly, commonly known as "fly fishing", or with use of artificial lures.

2. Persons may not retain trout unless the trout are under 14 inches or 18 inches and over in length.

3. No more than one trout per day 18 inches or over in length may be taken and reduced to possession.

4. Bag limits are applicable as specified under s. NR 20.03 (1) (f) 1.a. during the early season and under s. NR 20.03 (1) (f) 1.a. during the general season.

5. There is no minimum size limit.

(8) (a) No person may fish for fish in the Namekagon river, Sawyer county from sec. 3, T42N, R8W, downstream through sec. 31, T42N, R8W by methods other than the use of an artificial fly, by the method commonly known as "fly fishing", or use of artificial lures.

(b) On that portion of the Namekagon river described in subd. 1., the minimum bag limit for trout is 6 inches and no person may reduce to possession trout between 10 and 15 inches in length.

(c) The seasons and bag limits established in s. NR 20.03 (1) (f) 1.g. apply.

(9) **EXPERIMENTAL TROUT LAKES (ponds).** (a) Bayfield county. 1. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on even year dates only.

b. Blaisdell

c. Mimi

d. Nymphia

2. The following Bayfield county lakes (ponds) shall be open for trout fishing on odd year dates only.

a. Balsam

b. Beaver

c. Little Star

d. Spring

(b) The open and closed seasons and other regulations established by this section shall apply to s. NR 20.03 (1) (f)l.f. and 3.

(c) In McGee lake, Langlade county, there shall be an open season for trout from the first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to and including September 30. A daily bag limit of 2 trout with a no size limit shall be in effect. The use of minnows is prohibited.

History: 1-2-56; am. (3) (a) 28-56 and 71, (3) (am) 7, cr. (3) (am) 3 a, 7 a and 24 a and r. (4) (c) 1 and 2, Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (c) 2., 3., and 4., Register, October, 1975, No. 238, eff. 11-1-75; am. (3) (am) (intro.), (c) 2., 3. and 4., r. (4) (c) Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (4), r. (5) (a) 3 and cr. (7) and (8), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (7) (a) and (b), Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; am. (3) (c) 2 to 4, Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (a) 69., (am) 3. and 24., (b), (4) (a) 5., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; r. (3) (c) 4.1, cr. (8) (c) and am. (3) (c) 4.b., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. cr. (7) (e), eff. 4-1-80; cr. (7) (e), Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (7) (e) and r. (8) (a) 1. a., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1981, No. 304; am (2) (c) 4. e., Register, August, 1981, No. 308, eff. 9-1-81; am. (3) (a) 14., (3) (c) 4. d., (4) (a) 2. and 5., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; am. (3) (c) 3. and 4. intro., b., d. and f., r. and recr. (7) (e), renum. (8) to be (9), cr. (8), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; renum. (3) (c) 1. and 2. to be (3) (c) and (d) and am., renum. (3) (c) 3. and 4. to be (3) (d) 1. and 2., renum. (3) (c) 4. j. to be 2.i, Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.04 see the history note for NR 20.04 as it appeared in the December, 1974 Administrative Register.

NR 20.05 Season for crayfish and frogs. (1) **CRAYFISH.** There is no closed season on crayfish or crabs in the inland waters.

(2) **METHOD OF TAKING.** Crayfish or crabs may be taken in the following ways; by hand, minnow seines, minnow dip nets and minnow traps where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows (see minnow regulations, s. NR 20.10) and by crab traps with the entrance of the trap not to exceed 2½ inches at greatest diagonal measurement. Each such trap shall have securely attached to it a label or tag clearly bearing in the English language the name and address of the operator. All such traps shall be raised and the crayfish or crabs removed therefrom at least once in every 24 hours.

(3) **FROGS.** (a) The open season for taking, killing or capturing frogs shall be from the Saturday nearest May 1 to December 31.