

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

294-1

NR 20

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(b) NORTHERN PIKE	Lake Michigan and Green Bay	At all times	5	No size limit
	Lake Superior	At all times	5	No size limit

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(c) YELLOW PERCH	Green Bay Lake Michigan	Continuous	50	No size limit
	Lake Superior	Continuous	50	No size limit
(d) TROUT AND SALMON	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay, except as provided in subd. 2.	All year except the open season for lake trout is from May 1 through Labor Day, except as provided in subd. 2.	5 in total of which only 2 may be lake trout, except as provided in subd. 2.	10
	2. Lake Michigan, within the following area: From the end of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal on a course of 136° for 17.5 nautical miles, then west for 16.8 nautical miles to the end of the Algoma north pier, then along the north side of that pier to the shore of Lake Michigan, then north along the shore to the base of the south pier at the entrance of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal, then along the south side of that pier to its end.	All year except there is no open season for lake trout.	5 in total of which none may be lake trout. No person may possess lake trout when fishing in this area of Lake Michigan.	10
	3. Lake Superior	All year except the open season for lake trout is from December 1 through September 30.	10 in total of which only 5 may be trout and only 3 of these 5 may be lake trout and only one of these 5 may be rainbow trout.	10 except the minimum length for lake trout is 17 and for rainbow trout is 28

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Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within ¼-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
	2. Waters within ¼ mile, of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands.	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	12
	3. Lake Superior	Second Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
(f) LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	50
(fg) RUFFE	Green Bay Lake Michigan Lake Superior	No open season	—	—
(fh) WHITE PERCH	Lake Superior	No open season	—	—

(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.

(2) As used in sub. (1), Green Bay shall mean Green bay, Sturgeon bay, Sawyer's harbor and the Fox river from its mouth up to the dam at DePere.

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, June, 1984, No. 342 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, 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. 10-1-68; 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. 12-1-75; 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) (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,

Register, December, 1990, No. 420

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April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; cr. (2), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (c), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; emerg. am. (1) (d) 3., eff. 4-22-86; r. and recr. (1) (d) 1. and 2., Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86; renum. (1) (d) 3. to be (1) (d) 2. c. and am. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (d), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (1) (a) and (e), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; am. (1) (d) 3., cr. (1) (fg) and (fh), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (1) (f), Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

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 specified waters would result in a depletion of the supply of game fish and that a closed season is necessary to conserve the fish supply and insure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing. The closed seasons shall be put into effect by posting a notice on or in the vicinity of the shore of the waters affected. Posting is deemed by the department to be the most feasible way of notifying the public that a closed season is in effect. The closed seasons shall remain in full force and effect so long as the waters are covered with ice and so long as 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. The department may also establish an urban fishing program by posting the open and closed seasons on specified waters. For open seasons in specified waters see s. NR 20.04. The possession limit for each species of fish, except trout as specified in sub. (5), shall be double the daily bag limit specified in this chapter except that no person may have in possession or under 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. b. Browns lake, Racine county and Pretty lake, Waukesha county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	16
c. Wilson lake, Iron county; Kimball lake, Mueller lake and Sawyer lake, Langlade county; 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.
d. Day lake, Ashland county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	18
e. Lake Three, Ashland county; Crooked and Lund lakes, Bayfield county; Evelyn and One Man lakes, Iron county; and Cochran Lake, Price county	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	18
f. Gile flowage, Iron county	First Saturday in May to March 1	2	15

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
3. Nebish lake (sec. 11, T41N, R7E) Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 9 and 12 inches is prohibited.
4. Loveless lake, Polk county and Wabasso lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 15 inches is prohibited.
5. Spruce lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass) (see also s. NR 20.04 (4) (a) 2. and 5.	Continuous	2	12
6. Little Bass lake, Oneida county (smallmouth bass) and Wildwood lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass). See also s. NR 20.04 (8) (d)	First Saturday in May to November 15	5	12
7.c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	None may be kept until May 1, 1992; 5 thereafter	14
8. Palette lake (sec. 3, T41N, R7E), Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	2	16
9. All other inland waters north of a line beginning with state hwy. 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, following state hwy. 70 east to its intersection with state hwy. 27, then south following state hwy. 27 to its intersection with state hwy. 64, then east following state hwy. 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette, then due east to the waters of Green Bay; and all inland waters in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties north of a line beginning with the state hwy. 29 bridge over the Fox river, following state hwy. 29 east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee, then continuing due east to the waters of Lake Michigan. Also, all Green Bay tributary streams from their mouth upstream to the first dam or lake, and the Peshtigo flowage upstream to state hwy. 64 in Marinette county.	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
10. In all other inland waters (c) WALLEYE AND SAUGER	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	14
1. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county	1st Saturday in May to March 1	1	20
3. Trout lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	3	15
4. The Nemadji river, Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Pokegama bay, and Kimballs bay, Douglas county	Saturday nearest May 15 to March 1	2 in aggregate with sauger	15
5. Balsam lake, Polk county	First Saturday in May to March 1.	3	16

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
There is a special early and extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary streams.	Saturday nearest April 1 to the day before the first Saturday in May and October 1 to November 15.	5 in aggregate of which only brown trout 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 salmon 12 rainbow trout 12
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 to hwy. 13			
BAYFIELD COUNTY:			
Cranberry river from its mouth upstream to the Lenawee road (T50N, R7W, sec. 28); north fork Fish creek (T47N, R5W, sec. 1) from its mouth upstream to the junction with Pine creek (T47N, R6W, sec. 13); Flag river from its mouth upstream to the junction with 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 (T51N, R6W, sec. 35).			
DOUGLAS COUNTY:			
Brule river from its mouth upstream to the U.S. hwy. 2 bridge crossing			
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.	During the special early and extended open season, fishing in the Brule river, excluding taking smelt with gear specified in NR 20.09 (3) (b), is prohibited one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	5 in aggregate of which only brown trout 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 of which may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12
IRON COUNTY:			
Graveyard creek from its mouth upstream to U.S. hwy. 2; Oronto creek from its mouth upstream to its source; Parker creek from its mouth upstream to its source.			
b. There is a special extended open season for trout and salmon in the following county tributary waters:	October 1 to November 15	5 in aggregate of which only brown trout 2 may be brown trout exceeding 15 inches and only 1 may be rainbow trout	brook trout 8 brown trout 10 rainbow trout 12 salmon 12

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
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.			
(g) LAKE TROUT AND SPLAKE, except as provided in par. (f)	First Saturday in January to September 30	2 in aggregate	17
1. Trout lake (sec. 12, 13, 24, T41N, R6E; sec. 7, 8, 17, 19, 20, T41N, R7E, Vilas county) in the south basin commonly known as South Trout lake, north to the narrows identified as Cathedral Point.	No open season	—	—
2. Palette lake, Vilas county	No open season through 1991	—	—
(h) CATFISH			
1. In all waters of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties, the Wisconsin river from the dam at Wisconsin Dells downstream to the dam at Prairie du Sac and the Wisconsin river from the railroad bridge at Sauk City to the Burlington Northern railroad tracks.	No closed season	25	No size limit
2. The Wisconsin river from the dam at Prairie du Sac downstream to the railroad bridge at Sauk City.	First Saturday in May to November 30	25	No size limit
3. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county (flathead catfish)	No open season	—	—
4. 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			
1. Delavan lake and its tributaries all in Walworth county	Closed until May 2, 1992, then no closed season	25 in aggregate	No size limit
1m. Lac La Belle, Waukesha county	Continuous	15 in aggregate	No size limit
2. All other waters	Continuous	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			

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
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 Nemadji river, Allouez Bay, Little Pokegama Bay, Pokegama Bay and Kimballs Bay, Douglas county; 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	50
2. Spearing season			
a. Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and connecting waters	Third Saturday in February through the following Sunday (1991 and 1996 only)	See b.	45
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			

(7) **REGULAR SEASON DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR TROUT IN CERTAIN WATERS.** (a) *Zero bag limit during regular season.* Notwithstanding the bag limits for trout set out in sub. (5) (c) and Table 1, during the open season beginning May 4, 1991 through September 30, 1991, the daily bag limit for trout is zero fish in the waters of Columbia, Florence, Forest, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Richland, Sauk, Shawano and Vilas counties. All trout caught shall be immediately returned to the water. This paragraph does not apply to Wisconsin - Michigan boundary waters, to streams that flow into Lake Michigan from their mouths upstream to the first dam or lake, or to inland lakes and ponds which contain trout and which are not natural springs or spring ponds.

(b) *Gear restrictions during regular season.* Notwithstanding sub. (5) (e) and Table 1, beginning May 4, 1991 through September 30, 1991 no person may take or catch trout or fish for trout in the waters to which par. (a) applies by any means other than the use of an artificial fly by the method commonly known as "fly fishing" or with the use of artificial lures.

History: 1-2-56; cr. (7), Register, April, 1991, No. 424, eff. 5-1-91.

Note: For a complete history of s. NR 20.03 from 1-2-56 through 10-31-73 see the history note following NR 20.03 as it was printed and released in the October, 1973 Register. For a complete history of s. NR 20.03 from 11-1-73 through 2-28-91 see the history note following NR 20.03 as it was printed and released in the February, 1991 Register.

NR 20.035 Alternate size and bag limits. (1) **PURPOSE.** Notwithstanding any provision of ch. NR 21, 22, 23 or this chapter, for all or part of any inland, boundary or outlying water, the department may apply the alternate size limits, bag limits or both under this section for fish species identified in this section in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource of the water to which the proposed alternate limit would apply.

(2) **PROCEDURE.** The department shall follow the procedures in this subsection in applying an alternate size limit or bag limit under this section.

(a) *Notice.* The department shall prepare and distribute a notice of its intent to apply an alternate limit under this section. The notice shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985, Stats., in a general circulation newspaper in the vicinity of the water and, if the proposal has statewide significance, in the official state newspaper. A copy of the notice shall be sent to individuals and organizations which the department believes may be interested in the matter. The notice shall include a description of the water affected, the fish species affected, the alternate limit which will apply, and the date the alternate limit will take effect. The notice shall invite the public to submit written comments and indicate that a public information meeting will be held on the alternate limit if requested in writing within 10 days after the notice is published.

(b) *Public information meeting.* If a public information meeting is requested under par. (a), the department shall conduct the public information meeting in the vicinity of the affected water. At the meeting the department shall describe the factual basis for its intended decision and shall receive comments from the public on the matter.

(c) *Determination.* If, based on facts and information available to it, including comments received in response to the notice and at any public

information meeting which may be held, the department concludes that a condition described in sub. (3) affects fish in a specific water, it shall apply the corresponding alternate limit. The alternate limit shall take effect upon the posting of the notice under par. (d).

(d) *Posting.* The department shall post notice at public access sites on the affected water that an alternate limit applies to a species of fish found in that water. The notice shall set out the name or description of the water or that part of the water to which the proposed alternate limit would apply, the species of fish affected, the corresponding alternate limit and the effective date of the alternate limit.

(e) *List.* The department shall maintain a current list of all waters to which an alternate limit under this section applies. The list shall be available for public inspection at the department's central office during regular office hours.

(3) **ALTERNATE LIMIT.** (a) *Size limits.* No size limit shall apply to walleye, largemouth bass or smallmouth bass if, for the particular species in a particular water, the department finds:

1. Angler exploitation of the species is less than 15% of the population of fish larger than the original size limit.

2. Total adult mortality for that species is less than 30% of the population.

3. More than 10% of the fish tested of that species in the size range from the originally applicable size limit to 3 inches larger than the originally applicable size limit, in fillets with the skin on, contain .75 parts per million or more mercury, 2 parts per million or more PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl), 5 parts per million or more DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane), 5 parts per million or more Toxaphene, 0.3 parts per million or more Chlordane, or 0.3 parts per million or more Dieldrin.

4. Walleye males do not grow to a length of at least 13 inches in 4 years or largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 12 inches in 5 years in all inland waters lying north of a line beginning at the state highway 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, then east on state highway 70 to its intersection with state highway 27, then south on highway 27 to its intersection with state highway 64, then east along highway 64 to its end, then continuing east to the waters of Green Bay or in inland waters of Brown, Kewaunee or Door counties north of a line beginning with the state highway 29 bridge over the Fox river, then east along state highway 29 to its end, then continuing east to Lake Michigan.

5. Largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 14 inches in 6 years in inland waters other than those identified in subd. 4.

(b) *Bag limits.* If the department finds under sub. (2) that one or more of the following conditions exists in a particular water, the corresponding alternate bag limit shall apply to the named species of fish in that water.

(4) **TERMINATION OF ALTERNATE LIMITS.** Any time the department has reason to believe that the condition which led to the application of an alternate limit under this section no longer affects a species of fish in a particular water, it may remove the alternate limit by following the pro-