

Chapter NR 20

FISHING: INLAND WATERS; OUTLYING WATERS

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(Sections 29.085 and 29.174, Stats.)

NR 20.01 Purpose; general restriction. Seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other regulations for fishing in Wisconsin waters are established in this chapter. No person may take, catch, kill or fish for fish of any variety in excess of the daily bag limit, by means other than hook and line, during other than the open season or possess or control any fish in excess of the possession limit or below the minimum size limit, except as expressly provided in this chapter.

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; reprinted to correct error, Register, April, 1984, No. 340; r. and recr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

NR 20.0125 License waiver. (1) On the first Sunday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the inland or outlying waters.

(2) The license waiver of sub. (1) does not apply to commercial fishing license requirements.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; am. (1), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89.

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.

(2d) "Attached", for the purpose of s. 29.148 (4), Stats., means affixed to the sturgeon carcass immediately in front of the tail.

- (2m) "Business day" has the meaning given it in s. 421.301 (6), Stats.
- (2r) "Current validated sturgeon carcass tag", for the purpose of s. 29.148 (4), Stats., means an unused tag of the current year validated according to the requirements of s. NR 20.18 (2).
- (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.
- (4a) "Muskellunge" means fish of the species *Esox masquinongy* and includes muskellunge - northern pike hybrids.
- (5) "Green Bay" means those waters of Lake Michigan located to the west of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (6) "Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means a line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 33, T33N, R29E; then running northeasterly to the range light (signal light) on Plum island; then running along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station; then running northerly to the southwesterly point on Shellswick dock, which is located on Lobdell's point on Washington island; then running along Shellswick dock to the shoreline of Lobdell's point; then running along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light; then running north to its terminus at the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line.
- (7) "Lake Michigan" means those waters of Lake Michigan located east of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan line.
- (8) "Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.
- (8m) "Position fishing" means fishing from a boat in a manner where the fishing line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by the use of a motor.
- (9) "Safe harvest" means a level of harvest that incorporates an appropriate margin of safety, estimates of the population and acceptable exploitation rates which will reasonably prevent harvest of more than 35% of the population of adult walleyes or 27% of the population of adult muskellunge. The margin of safety assures that the true safe harvest is not exceeded in more than 1 of 40 cases. For waters where a population estimate has not been made, a regression model based upon population estimates from other waters will be used. The margin of safety used depends upon the age of the population estimate was made and whether a regression model was used.
- (10) "Secretary" means secretary of the department of natural resources.
- (11) "Setline" means a line with one or more hooks fastened to it and designed to be set or left unattended in the water for the purpose of taking fish.
- (12) "Set or bank pole" means a pole equipped with line with one or more hooks fastened to it, designed to be used for fishing from the banks of lakes or rivers and set or left unattended.

Chapter NR 21

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS

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Note: Chapter NR 21 as it existed on February 28, 1979, was repealed and a new chapter NR 21 was created effective March 1, 1979.

NR 21.01 Purpose. (1) This chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulates fishing in the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters.

(2) The rules contained in this chapter are not intended to, nor do they authorize, the sale or introduction into interstate commerce for purposes of human consumption or use fish taken from the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters which fail to meet or comply with food and drug administration (FDA) standards.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79.

NR 21.015 License waiver. (1) On the first Sunday of June each year, no fishing license is required to fish the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters.

(2) The license waiver of sub. (1) does not apply to commercial fishing license requirements.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; am. (1), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89.

NR 21.02 Definitions. Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, are defined as follows:

(1) Closed season is that period of the year not included in the open season for each species of fish as provided in this chapter. (29.085)

(2) Commercial fish include species of rough and detrimental fish as defined by this chapter, shovelnose (hackleback) sturgeon 25 inches and over in length taken only on setlines, catfish 15 inches or over in length or 12 inches and over dressed and bullheads of any length when taken with commercial fishing gear and all taken while fishing under a commercial fishing license on the Mississippi river.

(3) Commercial fishing gear or commercial gear is that equipment specifically authorized for use in commercial fishing by this chapter. (29.085, 29.34, 29.343, 29.37, 29.135, 227.11, 29.30, 29.336)

(4) Commercial fishing licenses are those licenses issued pursuant to ss. 29.34, 29.343 and 29.37, Stats. (29.085, 29.135, 227.11)

(5) Dressed fish are fish with the head and viscera removed but the tail on. (29.085)

(6) Fisher means any person engaged in fishing. (29.085)

(7) Length of fish is, unless otherwise specified, that distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the outermost end of the tail with the tail or caudal fin fully extended. (29.085)

(8) Minnows are all species defined as such in s. 29.01, Stats., and bullheads not exceeding 4 inches in length. (29.01, 227.11)

(9) "Mississippi river" means all waters from the Burlington Northern railroad main tracks on the east side of the Mississippi river extending west from the railroad tracks to that part of the river following the boundary between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. "Mississippi river" includes Lake Onalaska and Lake Pepin.

(10) Possession limit is double the daily bag limit. (29.085)

(11) Rough fish are all species defined as such in s. 29.01, Stats., including amur carp which is also known as grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*). (29.01, 29.085, 227.11)

(12) Setlines are also known as trotlines. (29.085, 29.37, 227.11)

(13) Sport fishing is any fishing, including the methods commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling, which is conducted without a commercial fishing license and with other than commercial fishing gear, but does not include the taking of turtles and tortoises. (29.085)

(14) Stretch measure is the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified. Stretch measure shall mean the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh with the mesh fully stretched. (29.085, 29.30, 29.34, 29.343, 227.11)

(15) Supervisor means any department employe assigned or designated to oversee fishing activities conducted under this chapter. (29.085)

(16) Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters are those waters known as the Mississippi river lying west of the Burlington Northern railroad main tracks on the east side of the Mississippi river, Lake St. Croix, the St. Croix river from the Burlington Northern railroad bridge at Prescott, as far in a northerly direction as the St. Croix river forms and acts as boundary waters between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the St. Louis river including St. Louis bay and Superior bay from the north-south Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary line downstream to an imaginary line drawn between the northwest bank of the Nemadji river where it forms a junction with Superior bay and the northwest bank of