

Species	Area	Open season	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
(e) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS	1. Lake Michigan and Green Bay (excluding waters within 1/2-mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
	2. Waters within 1/2-mile, of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog and Rock Islands.	July 1 to March 1	5 of each	12
	3. Lake Superior and Kakagon river and connected sloughs	First Saturday in May to Friday nearest June 20 Saturday after Friday nearest June 20 to March 1	None may be kept 1	22
(f) LAKE STURGEON	Lake Superior	Continuous	1 per yr	50
(fg) RUFFE	Green Bay	No open season	—	—
	Lake Michigan			
	Lake Superior			
(fh) WHITE PERCH	Lake Superior	No open season	—	—
	Lake Michigan	Continuous	None	None

(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, the Sturgeon bay ship canal from Sturgeon bay to a line located in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, section 22, T27N, R26E, Door county, commencing at a point on the southwest shore of the Sturgeon bay ship canal directly beneath the center of the Wisconsin public service company power line and extending in a northeasterly direction directly beneath and parallel to the center of the power line to a point on the northeast shore of the ship canal, 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, 1981, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (d) and (1) (i), Register, June, 1982, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62; am. (1) (d), Register, July, 1982, 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, 1984, 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, Decem-

ber, 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; 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; emerg. am. (1) (c) and (2), eff. 2-14-91; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; am. (1) (a) 3. and (fh), r. and recr. (1) (d) 3., Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (1) (d) 2., Register, March, 1992, No. 436, eff. 4-1-92; am. (1) (e) 3., Register, December, 1992, No. 444, eff. 1-1-93; am. (1) (e) 3., Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 1-1-94; am. (1) (a) 3., (b), (d) 1., Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; am. (1) (d) 1. and 2., Register, March, 1995, No. 471, eff. 4-1-95; emerg. am. (1) (c), eff. 6-1-95; am. (1) (c), Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95; am. (1) (c), (d) 1., r. (1) (d) 2., Register, November, 1995, No. 479, eff. 4-1-96.

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. The department may, 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. (4), 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 unless the person holds a permit issued by the department under this section and s. NR 19.06 for restocking of fish caught in a fishing tournament or holds a permit or license which authorizes possession of a greater number under s. 29.135, 29.513, 29.52 or 29.535, Stats. 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. a. Forest lake, Fond du Lac county; Bittersweet, Oberlin, Prong and Smith lakes, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to March 1	0	—
b. Browns lake, Racine county (largemouth bass)	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	16
c. Wilson lake, Iron county; Sawyer lake, Langlade county	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0	
	Third Saturday in June to March 1	5	No minimum length except the possession of fish between 12 and 16 inches is prohibited
cm. 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. Lake Three, Day lake, East Twin lake, Mineral lake and Spillerberg lake, Ashland county; Crooked and Lund lakes, Bayfield county; Crane, Luna, McKinley, Pickerel, Three Johns, Trump and White Deer lakes, Forest county; Evelyn, O' Brien and One Man lakes, Iron county; Bearskin, Crescent, Oneida, Pelican and Shishebogama lakes, Oneida county; Cochran and Bass lakes (T38N, R2W, sec. 18), Price county; Black lake, Sawyer county; and East Ellerson, Gunlock, Little Bass (T40N, R8E, sec. 15), Middle Ellerson, Papoose, Plum (T41N, R42E, sec. 31 & 32), Salsich, Trout and White Sand (T42N, R7E, sec. 27) lakes, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0	—
	Third Saturday in June to March 1	1	18
e. Lazy lake, Columbia county; Fish and Mud lakes (T9N, R7E, Sec. 3,4), Dane county; Eagle Lake, Racine county.	First Saturday in May to March 1	1	18
f. Gates and Loon lakes, Ashland county; Bass (T46N, R7W, sec. 28 & 29), East Twin and West Twin lakes, Bayfield county; Gile flowage, Turtle-Flambeau flowage and Upson lake, Iron county; Blockhouse and Sailor lakes, Price county; South Twin lake, Taylor county; and Wabasso lake, Vilas county	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0	—
	Third Saturday in June to March 1	2	15
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.
5. Spruce lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass) (See also s. NR 20.04 (4) (a) 2. and 5.)	Continuous	2	12
5m. Columbia lake, Columbia county	Continuous	1	18
6. Little Bass lake (T39N, R7E, sec. 15), Oneida county (smallmouth bass) and Wildwood lake, Vilas county (largemouth bass). See also s. NR 20.07 (11)	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0	—
	Third Saturday in June to November 15	5	12
7.c. Round lake (sec. 25, T20N, R11E), Waushara county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5	18
8. Palotte lake (sec. 3, T41N, R7E), Vilas county (smallmouth bass)	Continuous	2	16
8m. Lower Clam lake (secs. 34 and 35, T39N, R6E), Burnett county	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	14
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, the Peshtigo flowage upstream to state hwy. 64 in Marinette county.	First Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	None may be kept	—
	Third Saturday in June to March 1	5 of each	12
a. All Green Bay tributary streams from their mouth upstream to the first dam or lake.	First Saturday in May to March 1	5 of each	12
10. In all urban waters of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties	Continuous	1 in aggregate with walleye, sauger, hybrids thereof and northern pike	No size limit

County	Water name	Portion	Regulation Category	Gear Restrictions, Size Limits, Daily Bag Limits, and Daily Bag and Size Limits for Category 5 Waters, and Open Season Exceptions for Other Categories (Open Seasons Include Both Dates)
	Borah creek	Downstream from Bluff road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Borah creek	Upstream from Bluff road	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Bronson creek	All	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Castle Rock creek	Upstream from Witek road except portion described	4	
	Castle Rock creek and spring	Church road downstream to first CTH Q bridge	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Crooked creek	Upstream from STH 133	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Doc Smith branch	Downstream from Everson road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Doc Smith branch	Upstream from Everson road	4	
	Grant river	CTH K upstream to Junction of Borah creek and Rogers branch	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Leggett creek	All	4	
	Little Grant river	CTH A upstream to Milner road	4	
	Little Green river	All	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Little Platte river	Waterfall road upstream to STH 80	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Little Platte river	Upstream from STH 80	4	
	Millville creek	All	4	
	Newell creek	All	4	
	Rogers branch	Downstream from Borah road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Warner creek	All	4	
23. Green	All waters not listed		3	
	Brennan creek	Upstream from Lafayette county line	4	
24. Green Lake	All waters not listed		2	
	Green lake and tributary streams upstream to first dam	All	5	Open season: lake trout - first Saturday in Jan. to Sept. 30. Daily bag limit: 2 lake trout, 3 other trout Size limit: lake trout 17", other trout 14". Open season: other trout - first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1. It is illegal to fish through the ice using minnows (dead or alive or as cut bait) in water 50 or more feet deep (measured from surface to bottom)
25. Iowa	All waters not listed		3	
	Baker creek	All	4	
	Big Rock creek	All	4	
	Big Spring creek	All	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Blue river	All	4	
	Canon creek	All	4	
	Cave Hollow creek	All	4	
	Dodge branch	Jonesdale upstream to CTH Y	4	
	Gordon creek	0.5 mile downstream from STH 39 upstream to Bruce road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Gordon creek	Upstream from Blue road	4	
	Harker creek	Upstream from Upper Mt. Hope road	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Kittleson creek	Downstream from River Fork road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Lee creek	Downstream from Berg road	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"

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County	Water name	Portion	Regulation Category	Gear Restrictions, Size Limits, Daily Bag Limits, and Daily Bag and Size Limits for Category 5 Waters, and Open Season Exceptions for Other Categories (Open Seasons Include Both Dates)
	Les creek	Upstream from Berg road	4	
	Love creek	All	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Martin branch	All	4	
	Mill creek	CTH II upstream to Mill dam	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Narveson creek	All	4	
	Otter creek	CTH II upstream to CTH Q	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Otter creek	Upstream from CTH Q	4	
	Pompey Pillar creek	Downstream from CTH I	4	
	Pompey Pillar creek	Upstream from CTH I	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: all trout caught shall be immediately released
	Smith-Conley creek	All	4	
	Smokey Hollow creek	Downstream from CTH P	4	
	Strutt creek	All	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
	Trout creek	All	5	Daily bag limit: 3 trout in total. Size limit: brown and rainbow trout shall be under 14" or over 18", brook trout shall be under 10" or over 14"
26. Iron	Yellowstone river	All	4	
	All waters not listed except those portions of Lake Superior tributary streams regulated under sub. (1) (f) 4. and the Montreal river		2	
	Plunkett (Sugar) lake	All	5	Daily bag and size limit: 5 trout, only 1 may be over 12" Size limit: brown trout 12", other trout 8". Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
	Weber lake	All	2	Open season: first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to March 1
27. Jackson	All waters not listed		2	
	Allen creek	All	4	
	Beaver creek (north fork)	All	4	
	Buffalo river (north fork)	All	4	
	Buffalo river (south fork)	All	4	
	Clear creek (south branch Robinson)	All	3	
	Curran Coulee creek	All	3	
	Douglas creek (Shake Hollow creek)	Upstream from Douglas pond	4	
	Halls creek (south fork)	All	4	
	Halls creek (Stockwell creek)	Upstream from GB&W railroad crossing (S22, T23N, R4W)	4	
	Halls creek (west fork)	All	4	
	Hoffman pond	All	2	
	Lake Lee	All	2	
	Lake Wazee	All	5	Daily bag limit: 2 trout in total. Size limit: 12"
	Levis creek	Downstream from west line of S14, T21N, R3	4	
	Oxbow ponds	All	2	
	Pigeon creek (Millston)	All	3	
	Pigeon creek (Northfield)	All	3	
	Robinson creek	Upstream from STH 27	3	
	Shake Hollow (N. branch) (Cr. 30-15)	All	4	
	Shamrock creek	All	3	
	Squaw creek	All	3	
	Stony creek	All	3	
	Tank creek	All	4	
	Trempealeau river	Davis road upstream to Lincoln road	5	Gear restrictions: only artificial lures may be used Daily bag limit: 2 trout in total, only 1 may be a brown trout. Size limit: brown trout 18", brook and rainbow trout 10"
	Trempealeau river	Trempealeau co. line upstream to confluence of west, north, and south branches	4	

3. The East river in Brown county beginning at the Hoffman Road (CTH "XX") bridge extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

4. The Little Suamico river in Oconto county beginning at the CTH "J" bridge extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

5. The Pensaukee river in Oconto county beginning at the CTH "J" bridge extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

6. The Oconto river in Oconto county from the Stiles dam extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

7. The Little river in Oconto county beginning at the highway 141 bridge extending downstream to the junction with the Oconto river.

8. The Peshtigo river in Marinette county from the Peshtigo dam extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

9. The Little river in Marinette county beginning at the Rader road bridge extending downstream to the bay of Green Bay.

(b) Tributaries of the waters listed in par. (a) 1 to 9 are included in the closed season described in par. (a).

History: 1-2-56; cr. (7), Register, April, 1991, No. 424, eff. 5-1-91; emerg. cr. (1) (k) 1g, eff. 2-14-91; cr. (1) (k) 1g, Register, June, 1991, No. 426, eff. 7-1-91; cr. (1) (a) 5m., (am) and (6), am. (1) (a) 9. and (c) 6., Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1.e. and f., 7.c., (f) 2. and (g) 2., cr. (1) (a) 1.a., (c) 2. and (d) 1.a., r. (1) (a) 1.d. and 4., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; renum. (1) (a) 10., (c) 10., (d) 8. and (k) 2. to be (1) (a) 11., (c) 11., (d) 9. and (k) 3., cr. (1) (a) 10., (c) 10., (d) 8. and (k) 2., am. (1) (f) 4., Register, December, 1992, No. 444, eff. 1-1-93; am. (1) (q) 1. a., r. (1) (q) 2. c., (2) (a) and (b), renum. (3) to (5) to be (2) to (4), (2) (c) to be NR 20.18 (3) and am., Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93; cr. (1) (a) 8m., Register, October, 1993, No. 454, eff. 1-1-94; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1. c., e., f. intro., 6. and 9., (c) 4., 6., 7. and 11., 1. a. cr. (1) (a) 1. cm., d. and (8), r. and recr. (1) (c) 5., r. (1) (cm), Register, November, 1993, No. 465, eff. 1-1-94; except (1) (intro.) and (8), eff. 12-1-93; am. (1) (a) 1.e., (k) 1m., 2., (q), 1.a., (4) (g) Table 1, (6) (d) 1. Table 1, 3., cr. (1) (a) 10m., (c) 10m., (a), r. and recr. (1) (d), Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; am. (1) (intro.), (a) 1. b., c., d., f., 5m., 6., 8., (d) 6., (f) 2., (k), (q) 1.a. (2), (4) (a) 1., (g) Table 1, (6) (c) 1., (6) (d) 1. Table 1, 2. Table 2, 3., cr. (1) (c) 10e., (6) (d) 2m. Table 3, 2s. Table 4, 2w. Table 5, r. (1) (g), (o) and (7), r. and recr. (1) (i) (L), (m), (n), Register, November, 1995, No. 479, eff. 4-1-96; except (3) (q) 1.a., (4) (g) 13., 53. and 55., eff. 1-1-96; emerg. am. (1) (g) 2. b., eff. 2-2-96; am. (1) (a) 1. c., d., f., 6., 9. and (4) (g) 27., Register, May, 1996, No. 485, eff. 6-1-96.

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 alternative 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 procedures under sub. (2) (a) to (c). Following its determination to remove an alternate limit the department shall remove or modify the posted notices of alternate limits and the original bag limit or size limit shall then apply.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90.

Reduced daily bag limits for walleye angling

Daily bag limit	current pop. est.	% of safe harvest to be speared, trapped or netted	
		pop. est. made 1-2 yrs. ago	pop. est. made 3 yrs. ago or more or regression model.
4	1-7	1-14	1-20
3	8-18	15-39	21-54
2	19-36	40-76	55-84
1	37-68	77-94	85-94
0	69 or more	95 or more	95 or more

(b) *Muskellunge.* The minimum size limit will be increased when the department is notified by the Chippewa bands that their harvest goal on an individual water is 60% or more of the safe harvest. The minimum size limits to be used with different percentages of the safe harvest are as follows:

Increased minimum size limits for muskellunge angling

% of safe harvest to be speared, trapped or netted by tribes	Minimum size limit
60-94	45 inches
95 or more	55 inches

(2) **READJUSTMENT.** If the Chippewa bands inform the department that they have completed harvesting and their goal has not been reached, the secretary may raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum size limit to the limit specified as appropriate using the percent of the safe harvest level expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1). If a new population estimate is made, the safe harvest level shall be changed accordingly and the secretary may adjust the daily bag limit or minimum size limit according to the percentage of the new safe harvest level that is expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1), where deemed necessary to remain consistent with the safety factors established under *Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wis.*, 707 F. Supp. 1034 (W. D. Wis. 1989). The readjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until March 1 of the year following the tribal harvest.

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NR 20.037 Modifications In daily bag limit and minimum size limit in response to tribal harvest. (1) ADJUSTMENT. In order to prevent a total harvest of more than 35% of the adult walleye population or 27% of the adult muskellunge population, the secretary may lower the daily bag limit on walleye and increase the minimum size limit for muskellunge in specific waters in response to the harvest goals of the Chippewa bands for their spear, net or trap fisheries. The adjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until March 1 of the year following the tribal harvest. The safe harvest levels on individual waters shall be determined by the department.

(a) *Walleyes.* The daily bag limit will be reduced when the department is notified by the Chippewa bands of their harvest goals on individual waters. The extent of the reduction depends upon the percent of the safe harvest they intend to take and the age of the population estimate used to determine the safe harvest or if a regression model was used to determine the safe harvest. The daily bag limits to be used with the different percentages and for various basis of determining the safe harvest are as follows:

(3) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.** (a) Reduced daily bag limits calculated pursuant to this section are individual lake limits and may be combined, but no person may exceed a total daily bag limit of 5 walleyes.

(b) While fishing no person may possess fish on any water in excess of the bag limit or under the size limit for that water.

(4) **NOTICE.** Adjustments and readjustments of bag limits and minimum size limits under subs. (1) and (2) shall become effective upon publication of the adjustment or readjustment in the official newspaper in the area affected.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89; am. (2) Register, July, 1994, No. 463, eff. 8-1-94.

NR 20.038 Special size and bag limits for Lac du Flambeau reservation. (1) Notwithstanding bag and size limits established by ss. NR 20.02 and 20.037, there is a bag limit of 3 walleye and a minimum size limit for muskellunge of 40", effective until March 1, 1992, on lakes wholly or partially within the following area, commonly known as the Lac du Flambeau reservation:

(a) Iron county - T41N-R4E - sections 1-4, 10-16, 21-28 and 33-36.

(b) Vilas county - T40N-R4E - sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-27 and 34-36; T40N-R5E - All except NE section 1, NW/NW section 5, NE section 6; T40N-R6E -sections 5-8, 17-20 and 29-32.

(2) The bag limit of 3 walleye and minimum size limit of 40" may be extended by the secretary beyond March 1, 1992, if future agreements are reached with the Lac du Flambeau band which limit their off-reservation harvest goals to a level allowing a state walleye bag limit of 3 when calculated pursuant to s. NR 20.037. Adjustments to the on-reservation bag and size limits shall become effective upon publication of the adjustment in the official newspapers of Vilas and Oneida counties.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1991, No. 340, eff. 11-1-91.

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
11. Columbia county-Columbia
13. Dane county-Koshkonong
14. Dodge county-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
60. Sheboygan county-Sheboygan marsh
69. Waupaca county-Campbell, Crystal, Cynco (Rice), Kinney, Partridge and Partridge Crop
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) 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.
3. Chippewa river including sloughs, bayous and flowages from the Holcombe dam in Chippewa county downstream to the Burlington Northern railroad bridge in Buffalo and Pepin counties, and streams flowing into this part of the Chippewa river from their mouths up to the first highway or railroad bridge.
 - 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 the Grand River wildlife area dam downstream to the Fox river, all in Marquette county.

10. La Crosse river including sloughs and bayous from the Lake Neshonoc dam at West Salem 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, including the East branch upstream to the state highway 39 bridge and the West branch upstream to the U.S. highway 151 bridge, in Iowa, 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.

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

h. Waterloo (Maunasha) 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 including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander, Oneida county, downstream to the Burlington Northern railroad bridge in Crawford and Grant counties and streams in Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland and Sauk counties flowing into the Wisconsin river from their mouths upstream to the first highway bridge, except the Baraboo river which has the year round season for its entire length.

25. Wolf river in Winnebago, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and in Shawano county upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano.

26. Yellow river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages from the highway 54 dam at Dexterville, Wood county, downstream to its confluence with the Castle Rock flowage in Juneau county.

27. 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 or closed pursuant to s. NR 20.03 (9), there is no closed season for hook and line fishing for any species of fish except

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lake trout, muskellunge, sturgeon, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass on the Little river from its confluence with the Oconto river upstream to the highway 141 bridge; the Kewaunee river and its tributaries except Little Scarboro creek, Scarboro creek, Roger creek and Casco creek; the Milwaukee river upstream to the Chair Factory dam in the village of Grafton; the Menomonee river from its confluence with the Milwaukee river upstream to the 45th street drop structure in the city of Milwaukee; the Pike river and its tributaries; and all other streams tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay, upstream to the first dam or lake.

(d) During the period of October 1 to but not including the first Saturday of the following May, annually, hook and line fishing is restricted to baits using a hook with a maximum gape size of one-half inch from point to shank on the Little river from its confluence with the Oconto river upstream to the highway 141 bridge; the Kewaunee river and its tributaries except Little Scarboro creek, Scarboro creek, Roger creek and Casco creek; the Milwaukee river upstream to the Chair Factory dam in the village of Grafton; the Menomonee river from its confluence with the Milwaukee river upstream to the 45th street drop structure in the city of Milwaukee; the Pike river and its tributaries; and all other streams tributary to Lake Michigan or Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake. During this period, fishing with hook and line is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise on the Kewaunee river and its tributaries except Little Scarboro creek, Scarboro creek, Roger creek and Casco creek; the Menomonee river from its confluence with the Milwaukee river upstream to the 45th street drop structure in the city of Milwaukee; the Milwaukee river upstream to the Chair Factory dam in the village of Grafton; the Pike river and its tributaries; and all other streams tributary to Lake Michigan and Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake, except the Menominee river, Oconto river and its tributaries, the Fox river, and the Peshtigo river from the downstream side of the railroad bridge at the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, section 30, township 30 north, range 23 east downstream to its mouth.

(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 is restricted to hook and line or rod and reel with fishing in Spruce lake further restricted to the use of artificial lures only and except that cisco may be taken in Palette 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 for the following: In Nebish lake, no person may take smallmouth bass from 9 to 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 5 for smallmouth bass; in Palette lake, no person may take smallmouth bass less than 16 inches long, there is a daily bag limit of 2 for smallmouth bass and there is no open season for lake trout; and in Spruce lake, no person may take largemouth bass less than 12 inches long and there is a daily bag limit of 2 for largemouth 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) Notwithstanding ss. NR 20.02 (1) (fg) and (fh) and 20.03 (1) (t) and (u), a person may kill and possess one of each of the following for immediate delivery to a department office: ruffe, white perch and goby.

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, 1976, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (3) (c) 2, 3, and 4., Register, October, 1976, No. 238, eff. 11-1-76; am. (3) (am) (intro.), (c) 2., 3. and 4., r. (4) (c) Register, November, 1976, No. 239, eff. 12-1-76; 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. 293, eff. 11-1-80; am. (7) (c) 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. j., Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83; am. (3) (d) 1. and 2. intro. and h., (4) (a) 5., r. (3) (d) 2.a., r. and recr. (7) and (8), renum. (9) to be (8) and am. (8) (b), cr. (8) (d), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2. e., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (d) 2. intro. (4) (a) 2. and 5., (7) (d) and (8) (b), cr. (7) (e), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; r. (3) (d) 2. i., Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 10-1-85; cr. (7) (f) and (g), am. (8) (a), (b) and (c), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; renum. (3) (am) 26. to be 27., cr. (3) (a) 11. and (3) (am) 26., r. and recr. (3) (am) 3. and 24., Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (4) (a) 5., Register, April, 1987, No. 376, eff. 5-1-87; r. and recr. (3) (d), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; r. (3) (a) 56., am. (3) (am) 13., cr. (7) (h), Register, December, 1987, No. 384, eff. 1-1-88; am. (3) (e), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; r. and recr. (4) (a) 5., Register, June, 1989, No. 402, eff. 7-1-89; emerg. cr. (4m), eff. 8-4-89; r. (5) to (8), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (3) (a) 14., Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10-1-90; am. (3) (c), Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (3) (a) 69. and (3) (am) 9., r. (3) (am) 2., Register, February, 1991, No. 422, eff. 3-1-91; r. (3) (am) 17. f., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; am. (3) (am) 10., Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 1-1-94; am. (3) (am) 24., (c), (d), Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; (am.) (3) (c), (d), (4) (a) 5., Register, November, 1995, No. 479, eff. 4-1-96; am. (3) (am) 13., cr. (5), Register, May, 1996, No. 485, eff. 6-1-96.

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 20.06 Prohibited fishing under particular conditions.
(1) (a) *Waters and methods.* No person shall take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish during the closed season for trout in streams and creeks containing trout except that rough fish may be taken by hand.

(b) *Trolling.* No person may fish in inland waters of the state by the method of trolling, except in the waters of Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Racine, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn and Waukesha counties, the Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages from county

trunk A east of Tomahawk, Lincoln county, downstream, except Lake Mohawksin, the Chippewa river including sloughs, bayous and flowages up to the flowing portion of all tributary streams from the Holcombe flowage, Chippewa county, downstream, the Fox river from Buffalo lake downstream to the DePere dam and the following named lakes and rivers including their flowages and sloughs:

1. Adams county — Mason
2. Ashland county — Kakagon
8. Calumet county — Lake Winnebago
9. Chippewa county — Chain; Long 32-8
10. Clark county — Arbutus
13. Dane county — Crystal; Kegonsa; Koshkonong; Mendota; Monona; Waubesa
14. Dodge county — Beaver Dam; Fox; Sinnissippi
15. Door county — Clarks; Kangaroo
17. Dunn county — Menomin; Tainter
18. Eau Claire county — Altoona; Eau Claire
19. Florence county — Halsey; Twin Falls flowage
20. Fond du Lac county — Lake Winnebago
21. Forest county — Butternut; Franklin; Lucerne; Metonga; Pickerel; Pine; Wabicon
24. Green Lake county — Big Green; Maria; Puckaway
27. Jackson county — Arbutus
28. Jefferson county — Koshkonong; Rock
29. Juneau county — Kilburn flowage
30. Kenosha county — Elizabeth
32. La Crosse county — Neshonoc
34. Langlade county — Post (Lower); Post (Upper); Rolling Stone
35. Lincoln county — Spirit R. flowage
37. Marathon county — Big Eau Pleine reservoir upstream to the first state hwy. 153 bridge
38. Marinette county — Chalk Hills flowage; High Falls reservoir; Noquebay
39. Marquette county — Buffalo
43. Oconto county — Christy; Machickanee (Stiles pond); White Potato
44. Oneida county — Columbus; Rainbow flowage; Sugar Camp; Thunder; Willow flowage
50. Portage county — Little Eau Pleine flowage upstream to the first county hwy. "O" bridge
51. Price county — Pike; Round
54. Rock county — Koshkonong
56. St. Croix county — Cedar
57. Sauk county — Redstone

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58. Sawyer county — Chetac; Grindstone; Lac Court Oreilles; Nelson; Round; Whitefish; Windigo

59. Shawano county — Shawano

60. Sheboygan county — Sheboygan marsh

65. Walworth county — Beulah; Como; Delavan; Geneva; Whitewater

67. Washington county — Big Cedar; Pike

69. Waupaca county — Partridge; White

70. Waushara county — Poygan

71. Winnebago county — Butte des Morts; Little Butte des Morts; Poygan; Rush; Winnebago; Winneconne

(c) *Fishing near dams.* It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture, or kill fish of any variety or fish for fish by means other than hook or line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam in the inland waters at any time.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, December, 1956, No. 12, eff. 1-1-57; am. (1) (c) and (2), Register, December, 1957, No. 24, eff. 1-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1958, No. 28, eff. 5-1-58; am. (2), Register, August, 1958, No. 32, eff. 9-1-58; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1958, No. 34, eff. 1-1-59; am. (2), Register, August, 1959, No. 44, eff. 9-1-59; am. (1) (b), r. and recr. (2), Register, December, 1959, No. 48, eff. 1-1-60; am. (1) (b) and (2), Register, December, 1960, No. 60, eff. 1-1-61; am. (2), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1961, No. 68, eff. 9-1-61; am. (1) (b); cr. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1961, No. 72, eff. 1-1-62; am. (1) (e), Register, July, 1962, No. 79, eff. 8-1-62; am. (1) (b), Register, April, 1963, No. 88, eff. 5-1-63; am. (1) (b); r. (2), Register, December, 1964, No. 108, eff. 1-1-65; am. (1) (a) and (c); r. (1) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1966, No. 192, eff. 1-1-67; r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, October, 1969, No. 166, eff. 1-1-70; am. (1) (b), Register, June, 1970, No. 174, eff. 7-1-70; renun. WCD 20.06 to be NR 20.06, Register, November, 1970, No. 179, eff. 1-1-71; am. (1) (b), Register, October, 1973, No. 214, eff. 1-1-74; am. (1) (b), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 61 and 68, Register, November, 1975, No. 239, eff. 12-1-75; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (b), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; printing error corrected, Register, July, 1979; am. (1) (b) 21., 24. and 64., Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; am. (1) (b) 35., 44. and 58., Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; am. (1) (b) 37., 50. and 64., Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (b) (intro.), r. (1) (b) 42. and 64., Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90; am. (1) (b) 9. and 18., Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; cr. (1) (b) 8. and 20., Register, January, 1993, No. 446, eff. 2-1-93; am. (1) (b) (intro.), Register, April, 1994, No. 460, eff. 5-1-94.

NR 20.07 Prohibited methods of fishing. (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Wisconsin Statutes or by department order:

(a) No person may take, catch, or kill fish or fish for fish of any kind with more than 3 hooks, baits or lures.

(b) No person may:

1. Fish with an unattended line in any waters.
2. Fish by snagging, fouling or attempting to hook fish other than in the mouth.
3. Keep any fish hooked other than in the mouth.
4. Fish with the aid or use of any firearm or pellet gun in any manner or by any means other than angling or trolling.
5. Use a telemetry device attached to or implanted in fish to aid in fishing.

(c) No person shall use as bait or possess or release any minnows or other fish except trout on any waters or
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shores of such waters which have been chemically treated for trout management and which are so identified and designated by signs posted on the shores thereof by the department of natural resources.

(d) No person shall place minnow traps in waters which have been chemically treated to reestablish a trout fishery.

(e) No person shall use minnows as bait while fishing through the ice in Green Lake, Green Lake county except where the lake is 50 feet or less in depth.

(f) Any fish taken and retained in possession that is not released freely into the water immediately after capture shall be considered part of the angler's daily bag limit.

(g) Landing nets 3 feet or less in diameter or a gaff may be used for the purpose of landing fish legally hooked.

(h) No person may take, catch or kill fish or fish for fish in open water using a free-floating or anchored, buoyant device with attached hook and line, which is not held or otherwise controlled by the fisher, commonly known as jug fishing, except under a setline or bank pole license issued pursuant to s. 29.36, Stats.

(2) (a) No person may, except as expressly authorized, possess or control on any of the inland or outlying waters or shores of inland or outlying waters at any time any gun, bow and arrow, spear, net or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish.

(b) No person other than the licensee or licensee's designee or department agent may raise, remove, or otherwise tamper with commercial gear set in Wisconsin inland and boundary waters.

(3) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by hand at any time in all waters.

(4) (a) No person may as prescribed in sub. (2) take, catch or kill fish in the counties of Ashland (except in the Bad river as provided in par. (e)), Bayfield, Iron, Oconto (in that portion of the county west of highway #141 only), Oneida, Pierce, Price, Sawyer and Vilas counties, except that rough fish may be taken sunrise to sunset with bow and arrow from the Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1 each year in Iron and Sawyer counties, and in Fish creek slough, from its mouth upstream to the junction of North and South Fish creeks, Bayfield county.

(b) It shall be lawful to take rough fish by means of spear or spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow from April 21 to March 1, inclusive, sunrise to sunset in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of Brown, Buffalo, Calumet (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Clark, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Forest, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon (except that spearing is prohibited in the Big Eau Pleine flowage from the dam upstream to highway 97 from November 1 to April 20), Marinette, Monroe, Oconto (in that portion of the county east of highway 141 only), Outagamie (except during the sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), Pepin, Portage, St. Croix, Shawano, Trempealeau, Winnebago (except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water), and Wood.

(c) It shall be lawful for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or by spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow at any time of the year, sunrise to sunset, in the inland waters or from shores of inland waters of the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk (except it is illegal to spear fish while skin diving or with bow and arrow in Devil's lake), Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Waushara (except during aurgeon spearing season in any specified water).

(d) It is lawful to take white bass, yellow bass (striped), rock bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and bullheads with the use of spears and spearguns by skin diving and scuba diving in all waters where spearing for rough fish is permitted subject to the same seasons prescribed in sub. (4) (a), (b), (c) and (e) and subject to bag limits prescribed in s. NR 20.03.

(e) It shall be lawful for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or by spear fishing by the method commonly known as skin diving or bow and arrow, sunrise to sunset, from the Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1, inclusive, on the inland waters or from shores of inland waters in the counties of Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn, Polk and Barron. Burbot (but no other species) may also be speared from sunset to sunrise in the Amnicon and Nemadji rivers and the Black river upstream to the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad bridge from December 15 to January 31, inclusive, in Douglas county and the Bad river, Ashland county.

(5) (a) The possession or use of a gun, bow and arrow, spear or similar device for the taking, catching or killing of fish in or on any designated trout stream is prohibited at all times except as indicated in pars. (b) and (c).

(b) Suckers and carp may be speared, sunrise to sunset only, from Saturday nearest March 15 to, but not including the Saturday nearest May 1, in the following trout waters in Waushara county:

1. White river below the junction of the main and west branches in SE¼ NE¼, sec. 10, township 18 north, range 10 east, town of Dakota, downstream to the White river flowage in sec. 13 of Dakota township.

2. Willow creek between the point where the 2 branches of said stream unite in section 12, township 18 north, range 11 east, town of Marion and the dam in Auroraville.

3. The Pine river between the point where the said stream crosses the highway in section 3, township 19 north, range 12 east, town of Leon to the dam in Poysippi.

(7) It shall be unlawful to use goldfish or alewife in any form or manner for bait or to have goldfish or alewife in possession on the inland, boundary or Lake Superior waters of the state. Alewife but not goldfish may be possessed and used for bait in Lake Michigan waters.

(8) No person shall, except as otherwise expressly provided, set, place, use, operate or have in possession or under control any snag line or snag pole, snaghook or parts thereof or cluster of fish hooks that might be attached to same designed to be placed in or drawn through

the water for the purpose of catching or drawing such hooks into the body of fish or used for that purpose; except that carp, but no other species or variety fish, may be taken by means of a gaff hook through the ice, sunrise to sunset, in the outlying and reserve water of Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

(9) No person shall use or have in possession or under his or her control or maintenance in any of the inland waters of this state, any live box, crib or similar device except receptacles carried by or with the fisher to contain a catch while fishing, that might be used for the keeping of fish unless he or she shall have securely attached thereto in such a manner as to be readable and legible at all times a tag of permanent material bearing the name and address of the owner or user.

(10) No person may fish for trout in inland waters without an inland waters trout stamp or fish for trout or salmon in the outlying trout and salmon waters without a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp of current issue with the signature of the licensee written in ink across its face and firmly affixed by its own adhesive to the back of the person's valid fishing or sports license.

(11) No person may fish for largemouth or smallmouth bass in Little Bass lake (T39N, R7E, sec. 15), Oneida county or Wildwood lake, Vilas county, except with artificial lures.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) (d), (4) (a), (b) (c) and (e) and (7), cr. (1) (ee) and (g), Register, November, 1976, No. 239, eff. 12-1-76; emerg. am. (2), renum. (3) (a), to (e) to be (4) (a) to (e) and am. eff. 4-30-76; r. (1) (ff) and (5) (b) 1, r. and recr. (2) and (3), Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (1) (c), (4) (b) and (e), (5) (a), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; cr. (10), Register, June, 1978, No. 270, eff. 7-1-78; r. and recr. (1) (g), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (a) and (4) (b) and (c) and cr. (5) (b) 1., Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; am. (1) (a), Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; renum. (2) to be (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82; cr. (11), Register, December, 1982, No. 324, eff. 1-1-83; r. (5) (c) and (11), Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-84; r. and recr. (1) (d), am. (4) (a), Register, December, 1984, No. 348, eff. 1-1-85; r. and recr. (1) (a), r. (1) (b) and (c), renum. (1) (d) to (g) to be (b) to (f), am. (2) (a), Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; am. (1) (a), Register, March, 1986, No. 363, eff. 4-1-86; r. and recr. (1) (b), cr. (1) (g), Register, October, 1991, No. 430, eff. 11-1-91; cr. (1) (h), Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92; am. (10), Register, March, 1992, No. 435, eff. 4-1-92; corrections in (9) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 5, Stats., Register, March, 1994, No. 469; am. (4) (a), Register, December, 1994, No. 468, eff. 1-1-95; cr. (11), Register, November, 1995, No. 479, eff. 4-1-96; am. (1) (f), Register, May, 1996, No. 485, eff. 6-1-96.

Note: For a complete history of NR 20.07, see the history as it appeared in January, 1976, Administrative Register.

NR 20.08 Fishing tournaments. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** (a) "Fishing tournament" means any organized fishing activity, on any water of the state at any time, where competition is the primary intent, where prizes are awarded which, in total, have a value of more than \$500, where the total number of participants is greater than 40 individuals or 20 boats, where the waters to be fished are identified by name by the sponsor, and where participants are required to fish on the same dates.

(b) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, organization and body politic and corporate.

(c) "Sponsor" means a person who advances, conducts, directs, establishes, organizes, promotes or otherwise is responsible for the operation of a fishing tournament, but does not include a person who only assists in advertising or publicizing another person's fishing tournament.

"Sponsor" also means to advance, conduct, direct, establish, organize, promote or otherwise be responsible for the operation of a fishing tournament.

(2) **PERMIT REQUIRED.** No person may sponsor a fishing tournament without first obtaining a permit from the department.

(3) **APPLICATION.** A person who wishes to sponsor a fishing tournament shall apply to the department for a permit on forms available from the department. The application shall be submitted no sooner than one calendar year before the starting date of the tournament and no later than 30 days before the starting date of the tournament.

Note: Application forms may be obtained at no charge from the department's district offices and the central office in Madison.

(4) **ACTION ON APPLICATIONS.** (a) The department shall act on fishing tournament permit applications no later than 10 business days following receipt of a complete application.

(b) Permits shall be granted unless the sponsor's privilege has been revoked pursuant to sub. (9).

(5) **COMPLIANCE.** All participants in a permitted tournament shall comply with all provisions of the permit. In the event that a participant clearly fails to comply with the permit, the violating participant shall promptly be disqualified or expelled from the tournament by the sponsor. The department may impose penalties under sub. (9) and take other appropriate enforcement action against the violating participant.

(6) **GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PERMIT CONDITIONS.** (a) No person may sponsor fishing tournaments on the same body of water with starting dates separated by less than 2 weeks.

(b) No person may sponsor a fishing tournament for a particular species of fish on the opening weekend of any fishing season for that species on any water subject to the opening.

(c) All permits for fishing tournaments shall:

1. Identify areas where competitive fishing is prohibited for the following reasons:

a. To protect critical habitat, including areas designated by local ordinance for aquatic vegetation preservation or areas where habitat enhancement activity is underway and

b. To protect public rights, interests or safety, including designated swimming areas, mooring areas, access areas, navigational channels, staging areas, beaches or other special use areas.

2. Specify the method for fish holding and release for tournaments where fish are reduced to possession, usually for purposes of recording, and live fish are then released to the water from which they came.

Note: NR 20.03 (1) provides for permits for restocking.

3. Contain provisions for other than live release of fish when the department determines that weather conditions and water temperature are not conducive to survival of fish intended for release and the release may constitute malicious waste of natural resources under the provisions of s. 23.095 (1), Stats.

4. Prohibit the use of tagged fish, except when approved by the department to enhance collection of data for management purposes as part of a scientific study, or when tagged fish are legally obtained from a licensed private

fish hatchery and are planted under a stocking or introduction permit issued by the department under s. 29.535, Stats., and s. NR 19.05.

(d) Pursuant to s. NR 20.07 (1) (f) any fish taken into actual possession by an individual and not released immediately shall be included as part of the individual's daily bag limit.

(e) The time limitations upon the length of a fishing tournament under this section do not include fishing activities by tournament participants carried out prior to the time when the tournament begins.

(f) Except for tournaments on the Great Lakes, the fishing portion of any tournament may not run for more than 10 consecutive hours each day or more than 3 consecutive days.

(g) The fishing portion of tournaments on the Great Lakes is not limited.

(8) **REPORTING.** Each sponsor shall report the results of the sponsor's tournament and other information which the department deems necessary on forms available from the department no later than 30 days following the last day of the tournament.

Note: Reporting forms will be issued with permits.

(9) **PENALTIES.** In addition to any penalties provided by law, the department shall, for a period of 2 years from the date of violation, deny any tournament fishing permit application submitted by a person it determines failed to comply with a tournament fishing permit or with a rule relating to tournament fishing.

(10) **SUNSET.** This section shall remain in effect until December 31, 1996.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94.

NR 20.09 Dip nets and seines in inland and outlying waters. (1) **GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.** Except as provided in this section and in ss. NR 20.04, 20.10 and 20.11 no person shall set, use or operate any dip net in any of the inland or outlying waters of the state for taking, catching or killing any variety of fish. No person, while operating a dip net for rough fish, shall fish for fish in any other manner at that time and no person shall fish with hook and line from any boat that has a dip net attached. Only one dip net per person is permitted for the taking of smelt and minnows. Such dip net must be attended at all times while in use and such nets shall only be raised and lowered vertically when fishing.

(a) It is unlawful to sell, barter or trade in any manner any suckers taken pursuant to this section.

(2) **USE OF DIP NETS.** (a) *Definition.* Dip nets used for taking, catching, or killing rough fish shall be defined as follows: a piece of netting suspended from a round or square frame not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square.

(b) *Marinette and Oconto counties.* Not more than one dip net per person may be used at any time for the taking, catching, or killing of rough fish in Marinette and Oconto counties in all the streams and rivers flowing into Green Bay from a point 200 feet upstream from the mouth, and extending a distance of 15 miles inland in a straight line.

(c) *Brown, Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Sheboygan counties.* One dip net per person may be used all year for the taking, catching and killing of rough fish in all the nontrout designated streams and rivers, excluding lakes, flowing into