



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 291
[2005 Senate Bill 158]

**Fishing for Rough Fish With
a Bow and Arrow**

2005 Wisconsin Act 291 specifies the following regulations and policies relating to fishing for rough fish with a bow and arrow:

- If the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes an open season for taking rough fish with a bow and arrow on a particular body of water, the DNR must allow the taking of rough fish with a bow and arrow on that body of water from sunset to sunrise during that open season.
- Any person taking rough fish with a bow and arrow must do all of the following:
 - Use an arrow that is equipped with a metal barbed tip that is attached to the bow with a tethered line that allows for the retrieval of the arrow and the fish.
 - Not release or return any taken rough fish, whether dead or alive, to the waters of the state.
 - Not leave any taken rough fish, whether dead or alive, on the ice or banks of any waters of the state.
 - Remove the fish from the waters of the state and use or dispose of the fish in an appropriate manner as determined by the DNR.
- Prior law prohibited a person from using a light to shine wild animals, including fish, while the person is in the possession of a bow and arrow, unless the person is using the bow and arrow to take rough fish on lakes that are not outlying waters. The Act expands this exemption to apply to all waters of the state rather than lakes that are not outlying waters.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- The Act creates an exemption to the prior prohibition on shining wild animals between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. from September 15 to December 31 for any person who uses a light while using a bow and arrow for taking rough fish.

Effective Date: Act 291 took effect on April 21, 2006.

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