

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 20 and 21, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-42-07

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 29.014, 29.041 and 29.192(3), Stats., interpreting ss. 23.09(2)(intro.), 29.014(1), 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

An increase in angling pressure directed at lake sturgeon, particularly from nonresident anglers, has led to a steady increase in the number of lake sturgeon harvested annually during the hook and line season. Exploitation in some lake sturgeon fisheries has been recently estimated to be between 20 and 30%. An annual exploitation rate of 5% has been a long standing management goal for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin. The overexploitation of a long-lived, slow growing species can have a severe impact on the sustainability of the population.

The proposed rule change would increase the minimum length limit of lake sturgeon from its current 50" limit to a 60" limit and reduce the season length from 6 weeks to 4 weeks on all inland waters where lake sturgeon are now harvested and the lower St. Croix River on the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters. The regulation change would significantly reduce the number of lake sturgeon harvested each year (up to 80%). The rule change would likely affect sturgeon anglers' (both resident and nonresident) opportunities to harvest a fish, but will ultimately provide protection of Wisconsin's sturgeon populations.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings, Natural Resources Board final adoption, followed by legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None

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