

Report From Agency

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

NR 20 and 21, Wis. Adm. Code
Hook and line harvest of lake sturgeon

Board Order No. FH-42-07
Clearinghouse Rule No. 08-012

Basis and Purpose of the Proposed 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 20-30%. An annual exploitation rate of 5% has been a long standing management goal for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin. The over-exploitation of a long-lived, slow growing species can have a severe impact on the sustainability of the population.

The proposed rule change increases the minimum length limit of lake sturgeon from its current 50" limit to a 60" limit and reduces 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 to Wisconsin's sturgeon populations.

Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received at any of the three public hearings, nor were any written comments received..

Modifications Made

No modifications were made as a result of the public hearings.

Appearances at the Public Hearing

No one appeared at the public hearings.

Changes to Rule Analysis and Fiscal Estimate

No changes were required.

Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

The recommendations have been incorporated.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed rule does not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. Therefore, a final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required.