

Report to  
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse  
NR 20, Wis. Adm. Code  
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-12-14

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

Sections 29.014(1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats.

Federal Authority

None

Comparison of Adjacent States

Fisheries management rules are generally similar in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Each bordering state regulates fishing by the use of seasons, bag limits, and size limits. Specific seasons and bag and size limits may differ for species among the surrounding states, but the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois all have statewide seasons and bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters.

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

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

Fishing regulations, such as length and bag limits or season dates, are used as a tool to ensure good fishing exists into the future. The department has used different types of fishing regulations in order to: control angler impacts on fish populations; maintain numbers and sizes of fish in a lake or stream; provide different types of fishing experiences, such as fishing for dinner or for a trophy fish; and make access to fishing as fair as possible.

This rule includes minor changes to administrative code that support existing policies and fisheries management goals. The rule addresses minor changes to administrative code relating to the regulation of fishing. The rule is being pursued to ensure the rule language that governs fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters is accurate and properly reflects the desired management of Wisconsin waters. The objectives are to:

- remove sections of code that are outdated or have been replaced by other statute or code changes,
- correct errors that occurred during the drafting of rules, and
- add or repeal language to clarify intent of original rules.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearing on 3/16/15; Natural Resources Board final adoption; Governor's Office of Regulatory Compliance final approval; followed by legislative review

Description of any Forms

None

Name and Telephone Number of Agency Contacts

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