

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 20 and 26, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-15-07

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting ss. 29.531, 29.533, 29.014(1), 29.039 and 29.041, Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

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

Annually, the Department of Natural Resources submits rule change proposals relating to fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The statewide Spring Fish and Wildlife hearings are the vehicle identified for citizen input. The proposed changes:

1. Eliminate restriction on maximum allowable size of landing nets. Current administrative code stipulates that landing nets may not exceed 36" diameter.
2. Implement 50" minimum size limit for muskellunge on the St. Louis River. This proposal is being made concurrently with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
3. Stipulate that spears and arrows used for fishing have barbed tips.
4. Increase the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger and their hybrids in Mineral Lake, Ashland County from 3 fish to 5 fish and replace the current 18" minimum size limit with no minimum, but only one fish larger than 14" may be kept.
5. Authorize seining and dipnetting for rainbow smelt in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County with a continuous open season and no restrictions on harvest hours. A maximum allowable size for seines is specified.
6. Create a 26" minimum size limit for trout in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County with a one fish daily bag limit, and create a 15" minimum size limit for trout in the Hay River, Barron County, with a one fish daily bag limit.
7. Create an 18" minimum size limit for walleye in the Red Cedar chain of lakes (lakes Balsam, Red Cedar and Hemlock), Barron and Washburn Counties.
8. Reduce the daily bag limit for panfish in Middle Eau Claire and Bony Lakes, Bayfield County, from 25 fish to 10 fish.
9. Extend the 45" minimum length limit for muskellunge in Lakes Monona, Waubesa and Wingra, Dane County to tributaries and connecting waters of those lakes.
10. Implement minimum size and bag limits for brown trout and lake trout, and an 18" minimum size limit and 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Keyes Lake, Florence County.
11. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Kettle Moraine and Long Lakes, Fond du Lac County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.
12. Increase the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Gile Flowage, Iron County, from 2 fish to 3 fish, aggregate, and change the 15" minimum size limit to no minimum, but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.
13. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in the Buffalo (upstream of highway 93) and Trempealeau Rivers (upstream of the dam in Blair), Jackson and

Trempealeau Counties, and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

14. Eliminate the continuous open season for game fish on the Yellowstone River, Lafayette County.

15. Eliminate special regulations for trout on a section of the Prairie River, Lincoln County.

16. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Bass and Mission Lake, Marathon County, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.

17. Eliminate special regulations for trout in Plum Creek, Pepin County, eliminate special regulations for trout in the Kinnickinnic River and Plum Creek in St. Croix County, and change trout regulations on reaches of the Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County.

18. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Pipe Lake, Polk County with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only fish larger than 18" may be kept.

19. Reduce the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 fish to 10 fish in all inland waters of St. Croix County and Cedar Lake, which is in Polk and St. Croix Counties.

20. Implement a 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Cedar Lake, Polk and St. Croix Counties, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14" and 18" may be kept and only one fish larger than 18" may be kept.

21. Implement a 5 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Butternut Lake, Price County, with no minimum size limit but only one fish larger than 14" may be kept.

22. Implement restrictive bag and size limits for panfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike in Eagle Lake, Racine County.

23. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Crystal Lake, Sheboygan County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

24. Remove the 26" minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Little Cedar Lake, Washington County and replace those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

25. Create 3 fish refuges below dams in the Sugar River, Green County and create a fish refuge on the Yahara River below the Dunkirk Dam, Dane County.

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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