

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 20, 21, 22 and 23, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-02-08

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053, 29.531 and 29.533, Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

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

Annually, the Department submits rule change proposals relating to fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters of Wisconsin. For 2009, the Department is recommending modifications to chs. NR 20, 21, 22 and 23. Specifically, these rule change proposals:

1. Reduce daily bag limits from 2 fish to 1 fish and possession limits from 10 fish to 2 fish for flathead catfish taken from Winnebago system waters and implement a 30-inch minimum size restriction for flathead catfish taken from these waters, with an additional provision prohibiting harvest of flathead catfish between 36 and 42 inches in length.
2. Clarify the difference between landing nets and dip nets and how landing nets may be used for fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters of the state.
3. Require that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for bass during a catch-and-release season for bass.
4. Establish a special catch-and-release season for muskellunge in inland waters north of US highway 10 and require that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for muskellunge during a catch-and-release season for muskellunge.
5. Extend the end of the open season for muskellunge in waters south of US highway 10 from November 30 to December 31.
6. Remove special regulations for walleye in English lake, Ashland county.
7. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Dummy and Little Dummy lakes, Barron county, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.
8. Implement a 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike, with a 26 inch minimum size restriction.
9. Establish Manger lagoon, Brown county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.

10. Remove special regulations for walleye in Boot, Long, and McDermott lakes, Iron county.
11. Increase the maximum allowable size for catfish in Yellowstone lake, Lafayette county, from 18 to 24 inches.
12. Simplify muskellunge regulations on the Black river in LaCrosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau counties by increasing the minimum length restriction to 40 inches.
13. Establish Remington lake, Langlade county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.
14. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 34 to 50 inches in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties.
15. Change walleye regulations in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties, replace a restriction that only 1 fish larger than 14 inches may be kept with a restriction that no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept but that 1 larger than 18 inches may be kept. Also reduce the daily bag limit from 5 walleye to 3 walleye in Enterprise lake.
16. Establish Mirror lake, Lincoln county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.
17. Remove the continuous open season for bass, northern pike, and walleye, sauger and their hybrids in the Wisconsin river in Lincoln and Oneida counties, downstream from the St. Regis dam in Oneida county, and place those waters under the department's standard fishing seasons for those species.
18. Increase the minimum size restriction for brook trout in the Prairie river, Lincoln county, from R & H road downstream to STH 17, from 8 to 12 inches, increases the minimum size restriction for brown trout from 12 to 18 inches, and reduces the daily bag limit from 3 trout to 1 trout, until April 1, 2011.
19. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 40 to 50 inches in Bone lake, Polk county.
20. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 45 to 50 inches in the Chippewa flowage, Sawyer county.
21. Reduce the minimum size restriction for walleye in Sand lake, Sawyer county, from 28 inches to 18 inches and increases the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish.
22. Increase the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches on Big Portage, Presque Isle, Van Vliet, Averill, and Star lakes, Vilas county, and reduce the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 1 fish.
23. Extend the sunset clause on special regulations for muskellunge and walleye in Sparkling lake, Vilas county from 2008-09 to 2013-14.
24. Remove special regulations for trout in Long lake (Town of Saxeville), Waushara county.
25. Clarify regulations on Green Bay tributaries by increasing the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger and hybrids from 3 fish to 5 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from no minimum to 15 inches.

26. Increase the daily bag limit for sauger in Lake Winnebago system waters from 0 fish to 1 fish.

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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