

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 19-21 and 26, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-14-14

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 23.09 (2) (c), 23.22 (2), 29.014 (1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats.

Federal Authority

Not applicable

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

With this rule, the department will make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters. Fishing regulations are in place to help meet management goals and objectives for waters and their fish species, such as providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes. The regulation proposals included in this rule are based on surveys and analyses conducted by fish biologists and input from local stakeholders and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

The accuracy, integrity, objectivity, and consistency of data in all rule change proposals submitted by fish biologists was insured through peer-review of proposals by Fisheries Management supervisors and the Bureau Director, species management teams, and the Bureau of Law Enforcement and Legal Services. Proposals were discussed with Wisconsin Conservation Congress members and with fisheries biologists employed by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. They will be presented at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings that occur in every county of the State in April 2015. Proposals that reduce regulation complexity or eliminate a special regulation in favor of a statewide one were given preference.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings on 4/13/15; Natural Resources Board final adoption in May; Governor's Office of Regulatory Compliance final approval; followed by legislative review

Description of any Forms

None

Name and Telephone Number of Agency Contacts

Kate Strom Hiorns, Bureau of Fisheries Management 608-266-0828
Linda Haddix, Bureau of Legal Services 608-266-1959