# ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD REPEALING, AMENDING, AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal NR 20.06(4); to amend NR 20.05(1), 20.20(2)(g)1. and 3., (3)(d) and (e), (4)(f)1., (13)(d)1., (19)(d), (26)(a)3. and 4., (35)(f), (47)(g), (48)(b), (51)(g)2., (52)(b)2. and (d)1., (60)(e)1. and (g)2., (21.04(11)(b)); and to create NR (20.03(37tm), 20.20(3)(f)4)., (19)(e)2., (20)(e)3., (27)(em), (37)(e)2., (49)(em)3., (49)(em)3 and (49)(em)3., (49)(em)3

#### FH-15-07

#### Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

**Statutes Interpreted:** In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.531, 29.533, 29.014(1), 29.039 and 29.041, Stats., which authorize fishing, have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to fishing regulations on inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

**Statutory Authority:** Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053(2), and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.

Explanation of Agency Authority to Promulgate the Proposed Rules Under the Statutory Authority: Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 29.053 (2), and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., grant rule making authority to the department to establish and maintain open and closed seasons for fish and game and any bag limits, size limits, rest days and conditions governing the taking of fish and game that will conserve the fish and game supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing, hunting and trapping; grant that the department may establish limitations relating to taking, possession, transportation, processing, and sale or offer for sale, of nongame species; and provide that the department may regulate hunting and fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters, and outlying waters. Section 227.11(2)(a), Stats., expressly confers rulemaking authority on the department to promulgate rules interpreting any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

Related Rule or Statute: None.

**Plain Language Rule Analysis:** Section by section details of this rule order are outlined:

Sections 1 and 2 clarify the types of spears which may be used for fishing and that taking rough fish by spearing is a legal method.

Section 3 removes the prohibition of use of landing nets larger than 36 inches, diameter.

Section 4 increases the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger, and their hybrids in Mineral lake, Ashland county, from 3 fish to 5 fish and replaces the current 18 inch minimum size limit with no minimum, but only one walleye larger than 14 inches may be kept.

Section 5 authorizes 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.

Section 6 creates a 26 inch minimum size limit for trout in Beaver Dam lake, Barron county, with a 1 fish daily bag limit, and creates a 15 inch minimum size limit for trout in the Hay river, Barron county, with a 1 fish daily bag limit.

Sections 7 and 32 create an 18 inch minimum size limit for walleye in the Red Cedar chain of lakes (lakes Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock), Barron and Washburn counties.

Section 8 reduces the daily bag limit for panfish in Middle Eau Claire and Bony lakes, Bayfield county, from 25 fish to 10 fish.

Section 9 extends the 45 inch minimum length limit for muskellunge in lake Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra to tributaries and connecting waters of those lakes.

Section 10 implements minimum size and bag limits for brown trout and lake trout in Keyes lake, Florence county.

Section 11 implements an 18 inch minimum size limit and 3 fish daily bag limit for walleye in Keyes lake, Florence county.

Section 12 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Kettle Moraine and Long lakes, Fond du Lac county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 13 increases the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Gile flowage, Iron county, from 2 fish to 3 fish, aggregate, and changes the 15 inch minimum size limit to no minimum, but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Sections 14 and 30 remove the 26 inch 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 replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 15 eliminates special regulations for trout on a section of the Prairie river, Lincoln county.

Section 16 implements a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big bass and Mission lakes, Marathon 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.

Section 17 eliminates special regulations for trout in Plum creek, Pepin county.

Section 18 changes trout regulations on reaches of the Kinnickinnic river in Pierce county.

Section 19 implements 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 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Sections 20 and 27 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.

Sections 21 and 29 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 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Section 22 implements 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 inches may be kept.

Sections 23, 24, and 25 implement restrictive bag limits for panfish and restrictive bag and size limits for largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike in Eagle lake, Racine county.

Section 26 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Crystal lake, Sheboygan county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 28 eliminates special regulations for trout in the Kinnickinnic river and Plum creek, St. Croix county.

Section 32 removes the 26 inch minimum size limit and 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike in Little Cedar lake, Washington county and replaces those restrictions with no minimum size limit and a 5 fish daily bag limit.

Section 33 increases the minimum length limit for muskellunge in the Wisconsin portion of the St. Louis river from 40 inches to 50 inches.

Section 34 creates three fish refuges below dams in the Sugar river, Green county.

Section 35 creates a fish refuge on the Yahara river below the Dunkirk dam, Dane county.

Summary of and Comparison with Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations: None known.

Comparison of Similar Rules in Adjacent States: Fisheries management is generally quite similar in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Each bordering state regulates fishing by the use of seasons, bag limits and size limits. Specific seasons, bag and size limits may differ for species across the surrounding states; however, the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois all have statewide seasons, bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters. Section 33, which pertains to muskellunge harvest regulation in the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters of the St. Louis River is written to match a proposal being adopted for the Minnesota portion of the same water.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used in Support of the Rule: Rule proposals were developed by fisheries and law enforcement staff to address management and enforcement concerns. Proposals were reviewed for need and adequacy, and approved by a fish team or law enforcement team supervisor and forwarded to regional director for approval. Proposals approved by the regions were forwarded to the Fisheries Management Bureau Director, who conducted a review with the Fisheries Management Board, law enforcement, legal services, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Proposals approved by the Fisheries Management Bureau Director are included.

Analysis and Documentation Used in Support of the Agency's Determination Under s. 227.114, Stats., (Small Business Impact): The proposed rules do not apply directly to businesses, but to sport anglers.

**Effect on Small Business, Including How the Rule Will Be Enforced:** The proposed rules do not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. The rules will be enforced by Conservation Wardens who have arrest powers and may use citations.

**Agency contact person:** Joseph Hennessy, FM/4 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707-7921; email: Joseph.Hennessy@wisconsin.gov; phone: 608.267.9427.

SECTION 1. NR 20.03(37w) is created to read:

NR 20.03(37w) "Spear" means a pole or shaft with an attached sharp barbed point or points designed for the purpose of impaling a fish, but does not include a snag line or snag pole, snaghook or cluster of hooks that might be used for snagging as prohibited by s. NR 20.06(8).

SECTION 2. NR 20.05(1) is amended to read:

NR 20.05(1) Fish by any means other than hook and line except as specifically authorized in subch.  $\underline{\text{III}}$  this chapter or chs. NR 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

SECTION 3. NR 20.06(4) is repealed.

SECTION 4. NR 20.20(2)(g)1. and 3. are amended to read:

(2) **ASHLAND** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. <del>Mineral lake,</del> Spider lake, Moquah lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
	3. Gordon lake, Lake Galilee, Upper Clam lake, Zielke lake, North Fork Flambeau river and its tributaries	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14	None

upstream to the first dam or lake, <u>Mineral</u> <u>lake</u>

## SECTION 5. NR 20.20(3)(d) is amended to read:

#### (3) **BARRON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
	2. Beaver Dam lake	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand at any time for smelt only	Continuous	None	None
		b. Seining at any time for smelt with seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth	<u>Continuous</u>	None	None
	2 <u>3</u> . All other waters	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None

#### SECTION 6. NR 20.20(3)(e) is amended to read:

## (3) BARRON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Trout and salmon	1. Brill river, Conners creek, Little Vance creek, South Fork Hay river, Upper Pine creek downstream from the Dallas flowage dam, Vance creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown trout 12, rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	2. Little Granite lake, Silver lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in	5 in total	7

	3. Beaver Dam lake	a. Hook and line	March First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to	1 in total	<u>26</u>
	4. Hay river	a. Hook and line	September 30 First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to	1 in total	<u>15</u>
	3 <u>5</u> . All other waters not listed	a. Hook and line	September 30 First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7
SECTION 7. NR 20	0.20(3)(f)1. is created to	read:			
(3) BARRON (for	species or waters not lis	ted, see sub. (73)	)		
(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Red Cedar lake, Hemlock lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
SECTION 8. NR 20	0.20(4)(f)1. is amended	to read:			
(4) BAYFIELD (fo	or species or waters not l	listed, see sub. (7	3))		
(f) Panfish	1. Bladder lake, Sawdust lakes, <u>Middle Eau Claire</u> <u>lake, Bony lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	10 in total	None
SECTION 9. NR 20	0.20(13)(d)1. is amende	d to read:			
(13) DANE (for spe	ecies or waters not listed	d, see sub. (73))			
(d) Muskellunge	1. Wingra lake, Monona lake, Waubesa lake, Upper Mud lake, Yahara river from Tenney locks downstream to Babcock dam, Nine Springs creek, Swan creek, Wingra creek, Starkweather creek	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	45
SECTION 10. NR 20.20(19)(d) is amended to read:					
(19) FLORENCE	(for species or waters no	ot listed, includin	g Lake Superior, se	ee sub. (73))	
(d) Trout and 1.	Brule river a. Ho	ook and line		5 in total	

-	
6.3	lmon

salmon			No early catch and release season - Last Saturday in April to September 30		Brown trout 12, brook trout 8
	2. Lamontagne creek, Pine river downstream from STH 139, Wisconsin creek, Woods creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	3. Sand lake (T39N, R18E, S13)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9
	4. Edith lake, Lost lake, South Riley lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	9
	5. Anna lake, Fisher lake, Montgomery lake, Patten lake, Pine river flowage	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	7
	6. Keyes lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total, only 1 of which may be a lake trout and only 2 of which may be brown trout	26 for lake trout, 12 for brown trout
	67. All other waters	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5	7
SECTION 11. NR 20.20(19)(e)2. is created to read:					
(19) FLOREN	CE (for species or wa	nters not listed, inclu	ding Lake Superior, s	ee sub. (73))	
(e) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Keyes lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18

SECTION 12. NR 20.20(20)(c)3. is created to read:

(20) FOND DU LAC (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike 3. Kettle Moraine a. Hook and First Saturday in 5 None

lake, Long lake May to the first line Sunday in March

SECTION 13. NR 20.20(26)(a)3. and 4. are amended to read:

(26) **IRON** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) Largemouth 3. Gile Flowage, a. Hook and First Saturday in

and smallmouth Turtle-Flambeau line. May to Friday flowage preceding third bass Saturday in June

Third Saturday in 2 in total 15

> June to the first Sunday in March

4. Gile flowage a. Hook and First Saturday in \_\_ line.

May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June

May to the first Sunday in March

None except the Third Saturday in 3 in total but June to the first only 1 may be possession of fish Sunday in March larger than 18 from 14 through

18 is prohibited

SECTION 14. NR 20.20(27)(dm) is created to read:

pike

(27) JACKSON (for species or waters not listed see sub. (73))

(dm) Northern 1. Trempealeau river, a. Hook and First Saturday in None

including all flowages line. and tributaries, Buffalo river,

including all flowages

and tributaries

SECTION 15. NR 20.20(35)(f) is amended to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout First Saturday in May at a. Hook and 1. Big Rib river and line, only 5:00 a.m. to September 0

30 salmon artificial lures

may be used

2. Prairie river downstream from R & H road a. Hook and First Saturday in May at 1 in Brown trout

	to STH-17	line, only artificial lures may be used	5:00 a.m. 30	to September	<del>total</del>	18, brook and rainbow trout 12
	32. Henson lake, Horgen lake, Larson lake, Moraine lake	a. Hook and line		rday in May at to September		None
	43. King Spring, Pays (Alta) springs (S12 T33N R7E), Prairie river-excluding R & H road downstream to STH 17, Prairie river (north branch), Spring lake (springs; S16 T32N R7E)	a. Hook and line		rday in May at to September		Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	54. Big Hay Meadow creek, New Wood river upstream from Whisky Bill road (S19 T33N R5E), New Wood river (center fork) New Wood river (east fork)			rday in May at to September		9
	65. Ament lake	a. Hook and line	5:00 a.m.	to September numbered		7
	76. Tahoe lake	a. Hook and line	5:00 a.m.	to September numbered		7
	87. All other waters not listed	a. Hook and line		rday in May at to September		7
SECTION	N 16. NR 20.20(37)(c)2. is created to read:					
(37) MAI	RATHON (for species or waters not listed, s	ee sub. (73))				
(c) Large and small bass	mouth 2. Big bass lake, Mission lake amouth	a. Hook and Con line	tinuous	3 in total but may be large 18		None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
SECTION	N 17. NR 20.20(47)(g) is amended to read:					
(47) PEP	PIN (for species or waters not listed, see sub.	(73))				

a. Hook

First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30

First Saturday in May at 5:00

<u>2 in</u>

total

3 in

12

Brown trout 12,

1. Plum creek (CTH SS downstream a. Hook to the Chippewa river) and line

21. All waters not listed

g) Trout and

salmon

SECTION 18. NR 20.20(48)(b) is amended to read:

(48) PIERCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

1. Kinnickinnic river including both flowages (b) Trout and salmon in River Falls and Rocky branch downstream from the lower pond dam in River Falls

a. Hook First Saturday in May 5 in and line at 5:00 a.m. to September 30

5 trout under 10, or 4 trout under 10 total and 1 over 14

2. Kinnickinnic river from the St. Croix county line including both flowages in River Falls downstream to the lower pond dam

a. Hook First Saturday in May 5 in and line at 5:00 a.m. to

total September 30

23. All waters not listed

a. Hook First Saturday in May 3 in and line at 5:00 a.m. to total September 30

Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook

trout 8

7

SECTION 19. NR 20.20(49)(am)3. is created to read:

(49) **POLK** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Largemouth 3. Pipe lake a. Hook First Saturday in May to 3 in total but only 1 may be and smallmouth

bass

and line.

the first Sunday in

larger than 18

10

None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited

SECTION 20. NR 20.20(49)(cm) is created to read:

(49) **POLK** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Panfish 1.Cedar a. Hook Continuous

> lake and line.

None

SECTION 21. NR 20.20(49)(f) is created to read:

(49) **POLK** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye, 1. Cedar a. Hook and First Saturday in May to 3 in total but only 1 may be

March

sauger and lake line. the first Sunday in larger than 18

hybrids March None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited

SECTION 22. NR 20.20(51)(g)2. is amended to read:

(51) **PRICE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

2. North Fork Flambeau river and South Fork (g) Walleye, a. Hook First Saturday in 5 in total but None

sauger and Flambeau river including their impoundments and and line. May to the first only 1 may be hybrids tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Sunday in March longer than 14 Butternut lake SECTION 23. NR 20.20(52)(b)2. is amended to read: (52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries, see sub. (73)) (b) Largemouth and smallmouth 2. Eagle a. Hook and First Saturday in May to the first Sunday 1 in total 1822 in March bass line. SECTION 24. NR 20.20(52)(c)2. is created to read: (52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries, see sub. (73)) (c) Northern pike 2. Eagle First Saturday in May to the first Sunday 40 a. Hook and lake in March line SECTION 25. NR 20.20(52)(d)1. is amended to read: (52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries, see sub. (73)) (d) Panfish 1. Eagle a. Hook and Continuous 1510 in None lake line. total 8 SECTION 26. NR 20.20(59)(c)2. is created to read: (59) SHEBOYGAN (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries, see sub. (73)) (c) Northern pike 2. Crystal a. Hook and First Saturday in May to the first Sunday 5 None lake line in March SECTION 27. NR 20.20(60)(e)1. is amended to read: (60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (e) Panfish 1. Dry Dam a. Hook and Continuous 10 in None lake, Squaw line total <del>lake</del> All inland waters, including Cedar lake <u>but</u>

excluding lake George (Spring Valley reservoir)

## SECTION 28. NR 20.20(60)(g) is amended to read:

#### (60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Trout and salmon	1. Apple river, north fork of the Willow river, and the main stem of the Willow river from Willow Falls in Willow River state park upstream to the confluence of the north and south forks, Kinnickinnic river and Parker creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7
	2. Glenn and Perch lakes	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9
	3. Kinnickinnic river and Parker creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	5 trout under 10 or 4 trout under 10 and 1 over 14
	4-3. All waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30		

SECTION 29. NR 20.20(60)(h) is created to read:

(60) ST. CROIX (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Wall and hybr	, ,	1. Cedar lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
					prombited

SECTION 30. NR 20.20(62)(am) is created to read:

(62) TREMPEALEAU (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Northern pike  1. Trempealea upstream of the in Blair, inclusting flowages and tributaries, Business river upstream highway 93 be including all found tributaries.	ling all ffalo of idge, owages	to the first Sunday in March		
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SECTION 31. NR 20.20(66)(g)3. is created to read:

(66) WASHBURN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger 3. Balsam lake, Red Cedar lake and hybrids

a. First Saturday 3 Hook in May to the and first Sunday in

line. March

SECTION 32. NR 20.20(67)(am)2. is created to read:

(67) WASHINGTON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

pike

(am) Northern

2. Little Cedar lake

a. Hook and line

First Saturday in 5 May to the first None

18

Sunday in March

SECTION 33. NR 21.04(11)(b) is amended to read:

(11) MUSKELLUNGE

(b) St. Louis river

Saturday

1

4050 inches

nearest Memorial Day to March 1

SECTION 34. NR 26.08(23) is created to read:

- (23) GREEN COUNTY. (a) Sugar river. That part of the Sugar river from the Albany dam downstream for a distance of 500 feet.
  - (b) Sugar river. That part of the Sugar river from the Decatur dam downstream for a distance of 500 feet.
- (c) *Sugar river*. That part of the Sugar river from the Old Brodhead power house site spillway downstream for a distance of 500 feet.

SECTION 35. NR 26.24(13)(b) is created to read:

**NR 26.24(13) DANE COUNTY.** (b) *Yahara river*. That portion of the Yahara river beginning at the Dunkirk dam in section 20, township 5 N, range 11 E downstream to highway N in section 21, township 5 N, range 11 E.

SECTION 36. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on April 1, 2008, except Sections 34 and 35, which shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Administrative Register, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 37. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on June 27, 2007.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin,	
	STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
(SEAL)	By Matthew J. Frank, Secretary