

Notice of Hearing

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on an emergency rule, FH-17-17(E), to revise Ch.'s NR 20 and 25, relating to lake trout harvest limits in Lake Superior and affecting small businesses. The hearing will be held at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: March 13, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m. until the end of the agenda
Location: Room 405 of the Natural Resources State Office Building (GEF-2), 101 South Webster St., Madison, 53707.

Rule Information

This is an emergency rule that went into effect on February 6, 2018 and a hearing is being held after it has already been promulgated pursuant to s. 227.24 (4). The purpose of this rule is to amend Lake Superior lake trout harvest limits for the 2018 open season and implement other reasonably related changes stemming from discussions related to the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement. The total allowable catch of lake trout in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior is divided among Chippewa-licensed commercial fishers, state-licensed commercial fishers, Chippewa subsistence fishers, and recreational anglers.

This rule amends the annual commercial fishing harvest limit for lake trout in the Apostle Islands region of Lake Superior and amends the bag limits and size restrictions for recreational anglers in order to manage the total population. The rule also prohibits previously allowed commercial fishing within certain refuge areas. The recreational lake trout open season runs from December 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The commercial fishing season is open November 28, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

Accessibility

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Scott Loomans with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

Appearances at the Hearing and Submittal of Written Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before March 13, 2018. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, fax, email, or through the internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. Written comments and any questions on the proposed rules should be submitted to:

Scott Loomans
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster Street,
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Or email at: scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov

Comments can also be made at: DNRAAdministrativeRuleComments@wisconsin.gov

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:

The proposed rule will not have an effect on small businesses, as defined under s. 227.114 (1). The proposed rule will have minimal impact on sport anglers and is not expected to have an economic impact. As with any change in regulations, there will be a requirement for anglers to learn the new rules. However, a majority of this rule change clarifies code to reflect existing policies for which anglers must already comply. The department works to notify the public of new regulations via press releases, the internet, and fishing regulations pamphlets.

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

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