

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Natural Resources Board Order FH-19-16, Clearinghouse Rule 17-071

The rule will allow additional harvest of lake trout and other species by state-licensed commercial fishers, Chippewa-licensed fishers, and recreational fishers but is not expected to have a significant impact. All groups that fish in Lake Superior would have a moderate increase in overall harvest limits, resulting in some additional opportunity for commercial fishers. However, impact on commercial fishing businesses may be minimal because fishers may have had ample opportunities under current rules. Even when quotas were lower, impacts were buffered by the ability to transfer individual license catch quotas – through lake trout tags designated for use in WI-1 and WI-2 – between state-licensed commercial fishers. Quota transfers are a common practice that is approved and documented by the department, as authorized by s. NR 25.08.

The rule does not impose new compliance or reporting requirements nor would any design or operational standards be contained in the rule.