

The scope statement for this rule, SS 104-18 was published in Administrative Register 753 A1 on September 4, 2018 and was adopted by the Natural Resources Board on September 26, 2018. The final rule was approved by the Governor on August 29, 2019.

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

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to amend 20.09 (2) and (3), 20.15 (1), 20.18 (1), 20.20 (18)(a) 1., 20.20 (24)(a) 1. and 2., 20.20 (39)(b) 1. and 2., 20.20 (73)(b) 4., 20.20 (73)(k), 21.04 (5), 21.06 (1)(d), 22.05 (1), 22.06 (1)(d), 23.05 (5)(intro.) and 23.085; to repeal and recreate NR 21.05 (1); and to create 20.05 (5m), 20.20 (5)(b) 1. c. and d. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (6)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (11)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (12)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (13)(b) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (17)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (22)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (23)(a) 1. c. and d. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (25)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (27)(b) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (32)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (33)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (42)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (47)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (53)(a) 1. b. and c. 20.20 (56)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c., 20.20 (62)(a) 1. b. and c., 20.20 (73)(b) 1. b. and c., 2. b. and c. and 3. b. and c., 20.20 (73)(b) 5. b. and c. and 6. b. and c., 20.20 (73)(km), 21.06 (1)(f), 21.11 (4m), 22.06 (1)(f), 22.11 (26), 23.065 and 25.05 (3)(h) relating to taking catfish and rough fish by hand or with a bow and arrow or crossbow.

**FH-16-18**

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

**1. Statutes Interpreted:**

Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041 and 29.053 (2), Wis. Stats. have been interpreted as authorizing the department to conserve the fish supply on waters of the state while continuing to provide good opportunities for fishing. Sections 29.405 and 29.406, Wis. Stats have been interpreted as authorizing the department to create rules regulating catfish harvest by bow, crossbow or by hand. Section 29.519 is interpreted as allowing the department to regulate commercial fish harvest.

**2. Statutory Authority:**

Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041, 29.053 (2), 29.405, 29.406 and 29.519, Wis. Stats. authorize the promulgation of this rule. All rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under ch. 227, Stats.

**3. Explanation of Agency Authority:**

The department is pursuing these rules in response to the passage of 2017 Act 297, which legalized the harvest of catfish by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand.

Under s. 29.014 (1), Stats., “Rule-making for this chapter,” the department is directed to establish and maintain conditions governing the taking of fish that will conserve the fish supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing.

The department is authorized to regulate fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters and outlying waters by s. 29.041, Stats., “Department to regulate hunting and fishing in interstate waters.”

Provisions of s. 29.053 (2), Stats., “Specific open and closed seasons,” provide that the department may establish conditions governing the taking of fish for the state as a whole, for counties or parts of counties, or for waterbodies or parts of waterbodies.

Section 29.405, Stats., “Fishing with bow and arrow or crossbow,” describes the conditions under which taking catfish and rough fish by bow and arrow or crossbow are allowed. This section provides that the department’s authority to promulgate rules regulating bow and crossbow seasons, bag limits, length limits, zones and other limitations for catfish and rough fish is not affected. In s. 29.406, “Fishing by hand,” the department is authorized to promulgate similar rules relating to taking catfish or rough fish by hand.

The department has the authority to regulate commercial harvest, including harvest limits, gear restrictions and fishing area restrictions under s. 29.519, Stats., “Commercial fishing in outlying waters.”

#### **4. Related Statutes or Rules:**

Ch. NR 26, Wis. Admin. Code, contains fish refuges within the state that are closed to all forms of fishing, including fishing for catfish and rough fish.

A companion emergency rule, FH-15-18(E), was promulgated in December 2018.

#### **5. Plain Language Analysis:**

Flathead and channel catfish are valued Wisconsin game fish, and closed seasons, bag limits, and size limits have been established for fishing with hook and line, setline and bank poles to ensure sustainable use. Under 2017 Act 297, taking catfish by hand, bow and arrow and crossbow is now allowed, and under emergency rule FH-15-18(E), seasons, size or bag limits for these methods of take are now in place. In certain situations, including spawning and overwintering seasons, catfish will be very vulnerable to harvest using these new methods without these harvest regulations.

The proposed rule creates bowfishing regulations for flathead and channel catfish that are similar to those currently in place for rough fish, but with specific bag and size limits. The rule also establishes a season for fishing by hand for flathead and channel catfish, subject to bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions and other regulations. Prior to Act 297, Wisconsin did not have any statewide rules allowing the harvest of game fish by bow, crossbow or by hand, but rough fish could be harvested by bow and crossbow in most of the state and by hand on some waters. Since the proposed hand fishing season overlaps with the spawning season for catfish that occurs from May to July, with most flatheads spawning in June and July, and since the bow and crossbow season is continuous on most waters, this rule creates opportunity for harvest with these methods.

This rule will apply on inland and boundary waters of the state. Where special size regulations and closed seasons or refuges exist, anglers will adhere to the regulations on those waters in addition to complying with the bag limits and equipment restrictions described in this rule.

This rule will also prohibit commercial harvest of catfish by bow, crossbow or by hand. While commercial harvest with bow or crossbow would likely be inefficient and not pursued, hand fishing for commercial purposes could quickly deplete local catfish populations during certain times of the year. This prohibition would apply to commercial fishers that sell their catch under the authority of a commercial fishing license.

This rule will also correct inconsistencies in rough fish and bullhead regulations between administrative

code and the new statutes. Bullheads are a type of catfish, and thus under Act 297, they can be harvested by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand. This rule adds these methods to administrative code with a season framework similar to the bowfishing season for rough fish and no size or bag limit on most waters.

SECTION 1 provides that no person may take catfish with any gear other than using one's hands, and no person may take catfish with the aid of any type of breathing apparatus.

SECTION 2 adds catfish and bullheads to the list of species that can be taken with a bow and arrow or crossbow.

SECTION 3 establishes hand fishing as an authorized method for harvesting catfish and bullheads, and provides exceptions for waters with closed seasons and those that are designated as fish refuges under ch. NR 26, Wis. Admin. Code.

SECTION 4 removes the total daily bag limit for flathead catfish on the Lake Winnebago system, which is duplicative because is already established in s. NR 20.20 on those specific waters.

SECTIONS 5 through 27 create seasons, bag limits and size limits for taking catfish with bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand on specific waters throughout the state.

SECTIONS 28 and 29 separate the bullhead hook and line seasons from those of certain bass species, and create seasons for bow, crossbow and hand harvest that run concurrent with the rough fish seasons in most waters.

SECTION 30 establishes seasons for taking catfish by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters.

SECTIONS 31 and 35 add bow and arrow, crossbow and hand fishing to the list of methods by which rough fish may be taken on the boundary waters and subsequently sold.

SECTIONS 32 and 36 provide that rough fish may be taken by hand on boundary waters within Wisconsin.

SECTIONS 33, 37 and 40 provide that catfish and bullheads may be taken with a bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand on boundary waters with Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa but only in territorial waters of Wisconsin.

SECTIONS 34, 38 and 41 prohibit commercial fishing for catfish with bow, crossbow or by hand.

SECTION 39 adds a cross-reference to SECTION 40, pertaining to harvesting catfish in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

## **6. Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Statutes and Regulations:**

No federal regulations apply. States possess inherent authority to manage the fishery and wildlife resources within their boundaries, except insofar as preempted by federal treaties and laws, including regulations established in the Federal Register.

## **7. Comparison with Similar Rules in Adjacent States:**

Minnesota and Iowa allow fishing for rough fish with a bow and arrow, but do not allow fishing for

catfish with a bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand. Michigan allows rough fish and catfish harvest with a bow and arrow or crossbow, but hand fishing is not legal. In Illinois, all of these methods are legal for harvesting catfish. All neighboring states establish seasons, bag limits, size limits and closed areas for regulating the harvest of game fish.

#### **8. Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used and How Any Related Findings Support the Regulatory Approach Chosen:**

Catfish spawn using cavities in the bank or sheltered areas behind large wood or other structures. During spawning, males will guard the nest, making them susceptible to hand fishing. Removal of catfish, especially flathead catfish, during spawning season and when they are nesting may result in nest failure and low recruitment. Additionally, because female flathead catfish mature at older ages and larger size classes in Wisconsin and may not spawn every year, excessive harvest could affect the stability of the population.

Catfish are also vulnerable to overharvest during the winter. They exhibit strong site fidelity with individuals returning to the same winter locations for consecutive years. Catfish will congregate in large numbers within these wintering areas and become lethargic and docile, becoming very susceptible to being taken by hand. Season limits and gear restrictions are necessary to protect wintering populations of catfish. In addition, catfish species can be vulnerable to harvest with the use of bow and arrow at night as they lie in shallow water. Through reduced bag limits, this rule will prevent overharvest of catfish with bow or crossbow or by hand.

#### **9. Analysis and Supporting Documents Used to Determine the Effect on Small Business or in Preparation of an Economic Impact Report:**

Economic impacts are expected to be minimal. The regulations proposed in this rule are not expected to present additional costs to anglers; rather, they will provide opportunities for alternative methods of harvest for catfish and rough fish while ensuring that harvest remains sustainable. While commercial fishers will not be able to utilize the new harvest methods, this rule will have no impacts on existing commercial harvest.

#### **10. Effect on Small Business (initial regulatory flexibility analysis):**

Impacts on small businesses as a result of this rule will be minimal, as the proposed regulations will continue to allow catfish and rough fish to be harvested through the new methods and will not significantly impact current hook and line fishing. These rules are mainly applicable to individual anglers and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

#### **11. Agency Contact Person: Meredith Penthorn, [Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov), 608-316-0080**

12. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Written comments may be submitted at the public hearings, by regular mail, fax or email to:

Meredith Penthorn

Department of Natural Resources

P.O Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

608-316-0080

[Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov)

Written comments may also be submitted to the Department at

Hearings were held on March 19, 20 and 27 and the deadline for submission of comments was March 27.

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**SECTION 1. NR 20.05 (5m) is created to read:**

**20.05 (5m)** Take catfish by hand with the aid of or while in possession of artificial nests or spawning boxes, ropes, gaffes, hooks, grapples or similar equipment for snagging catfish, or breathing devices including snorkeling or scuba gear.

**SECTION 2. NR 20.09 (2) and (3) are amended to read:**

**20.09 (2)** Use, possess, or control any bow, spear, or similar device from sunset to sunrise while on the waters or on the banks or shores of any waters except as authorized in s. NR 20.20, and that a bow and arrow or crossbow may be possessed and used for spearing rough fish, bullheads and catfish from sunset to sunrise during the open season for spearing rough fish.

**(3)** Spear any game fish except that:

a. ~~white~~White bass, yellow bass, rock bass, panfish and bullheads may be speared while skin diving or scuba diving during the open season for rough fish spearing on waters specified in s. NR 20.20, provided that the season for white bass, yellow bass, rock bass, panfish and bullheads is also open on the same water. Daily bag limits and size restrictions specified in s. NR 20.20 for white bass, yellow bass, rock bass, panfish and bullheads also apply.

b. Flathead and channel catfish may be taken with a bow and arrow or crossbow during the open season for taking catfish with a bow and arrow or crossbow on waters specified in s. NR 20.20.

c. Bullheads may be taken with a bow and arrow or crossbow during the open season for taking bullheads with a bow and arrow or crossbow on waters specified in s. NR 20.20.

**SECTION 3. NR 20.15 (1) is amended to read:**

**20.15 (1)** Take rough fish, bullheads and catfish by hand ~~at any time in all waters as specified in~~ s. NR 20.20, except ~~those in~~ waters established as fish refuges under ch. NR 26.

**SECTION 4. NR 20.18 (1) is amended to read:**

Species	Total Daily Bag Limit
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(1) Catfish .....	25 in total, of which only 1 may be a flathead catfish from the Lake Winnebago system
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**SECTION 5. NR 20.20 (5) (b) 1. c. and d. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(5) BROWN</b> (For species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries not specified in this subsection, see sub. (73)).					
(b) Catfish	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	c. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		d. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 6. NR 20.20 (6)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(6) BUFFALO</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Buffalo river from the state highway 37 bridge and the Chippewa river downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
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**SECTION 7. NR 20.20 (11)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(11) COLUMBIA</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam to the railroad bridge at Sauk City	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to November 30	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 8. NR 20.20 (12)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(12) CRAWFORD</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Kickapoo river from 200 feet below the Gays Mills dam downstream to the Wisconsin river, Lower Wisconsin river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. Lower Wisconsin river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
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**SECTION 9. NR 20.20 (13)(b) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(13) DANE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(b) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam downstream to the railroad bridge at Sauk City	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to November 30	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. Lower Wisconsin river downstream from the railroad bridge at Sauk City	c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 10. NR 20.20 (17) (a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(17) DUNN</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					



(a) Catfish	1. Chippewa river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 11. NR 20.20 (18)(a) 1. is amended to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(18) EAU CLAIRE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	<del>w/</del> <u>1.</u> Chippewa river downstream from the dam in Eau Claire	a. Hook and line, set or bank pole	Continuous	10	None
		<u>b. Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>None</u>
		<u>c. By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>None</u>

**SECTION 12. NR 20.20 (22)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(22) GRANT</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. Blue river from the state highway 133 bridge downstream to	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

the Wisconsin river, Grant river from Porters bridge on state highway 35 downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks, Platte river, from the state highway 81 bridge downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks.

c. By hand                      June 1 to August 31                      5 channel, 1 flathead                      None

**SECTION 13. NR 20.20 (23)(a) 1. c. and d. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

<b>COUNTY AND SPECIES</b>	<b>WATERS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED METHODS</b>	<b>OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)</b>
<b>(23) GREEN</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Pecatonica river	c. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		d. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. All other waters	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	During the open season for spearing rough fish	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 14. NR 20.20 (24)(a) 1. and 2. are amended to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(24) GREEN LAKE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. All waters	a. Hook and line	Continuous for channel catfish. First Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish	25 in total but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> <u>setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand.</u>	None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.
		b. <u>Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand.</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.</u>
		c. <u>By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.</u>

<p>2. Fox river 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive only</p>	<p>a. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam</p>	<p>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</p>	<p><u>arrow,</u> <u>crossbow or</u> <u>by hand.</u></p> <p>None but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> set- line, by <u>bow</u> <u>and arrow,</u> <u>crossbow or</u> <u>by hand</u></p>	<p>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.</p>
	<p><u>b. Bow and</u> <u>arrow,</u> <u>crossbow</u></p>	<p><u>Saturday</u> <u>nearest May</u> <u>20 to</u> <u>September 30</u></p>	<p><u>5 channel</u> <u>catfish, 1</u> <u>flathead</u> <u>catfish</u> <u>regardless of</u> <u>whether</u> <u>caught on</u> <u>hook and line,</u> <u>set or bank</u> <u>pole, setline,</u> <u>by bow and</u> <u>arrow,</u> <u>crossbow or</u> <u>by hand.</u></p>	<p><u>None except for</u> <u>flathead catfish,</u> <u>which is 30 but</u> <u>the possession</u> <u>of flathead</u> <u>catfish from 36</u> <u>to 42 is</u> <u>prohibited.</u></p>
	<p><u>c. By hand</u></p>	<p><u>June 1 to</u> <u>August 31</u></p>	<p><u>5 channel</u> <u>catfish, 1</u> <u>flathead</u> <u>catfish</u> <u>regardless of</u> <u>whether</u> <u>caught on</u> <u>hook and line,</u> <u>set or bank</u> <u>pole, setline,</u> <u>by bow and</u> <u>arrow,</u> <u>crossbow or</u> <u>by hand.</u></p>	<p><u>None except for</u> <u>flathead catfish,</u> <u>which is 30 but</u> <u>the possession</u> <u>of flathead</u> <u>catfish from 36</u> <u>to 42 is</u> <u>prohibited.</u></p>

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**SECTION 15. NR 20.20 (25)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

<b>COUNTY AND SPECIES</b>	<b>WATERS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED METHODS</b>	<b>OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)</b>
<b>(25) IOWA</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 16. NR 20.20 (27) (b) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

<b>COUNTY AND SPECIES</b>	<b>WATERS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED METHODS</b>	<b>OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)</b>
<b>(27) JACKSON</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(b) Catfish	1. Black river from the U.S. highway 12 bridge in the city of Black River Falls downstream	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 17. NR 20.20 (32)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

<b>COUNTY AND SPECIES</b>	<b>WATERS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED METHODS</b>	<b>OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)</b>
<b>(32) LA CROSSE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Black river downstream to the Burlington Northern	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

and Santa Fe railroad tracks

c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
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**SECTION 18. NR 20.20 (33)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(33) LAFAYETTE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. highway 151	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 19. NR 20.20 (39)(b) 1. and 2. are amended to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(39) MARQUETTE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(b) Catfish	1. All waters	a. Hook and line	Continuous for channel catfish. First Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish	25 in total but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> <u>setline, by bow and arrow,</u>	None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited

			<u>crossbow or by hand</u>	
	<u>b. Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited</u>
	<u>c. By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited</u>
2. Fox river 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive in Green Lake county	a. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam	<u>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</u>	<u>None but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited</u>

<u>b. Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited</u>
<u>c. By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand.</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.</u>

**SECTION 20. NR 20.20 (42)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(42) MONROE</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Black River	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 21. NR 20.20 (47)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**



COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(47) PEPIN</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Chippewa river downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 22. NR 20.20 (53)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(53) RICHLAND</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 23. NR 20.20 (56)(a) 1. b. and c. and 2. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(56) SAUK</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam downstream to the railroad	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to November 30	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

bridge at Sauk  
City

c. By hand      June 1 to      5 channel, 1      None  
August 31      flathead

2. Lower      b. Bow and      Continuous      5 channel, 1      None  
Wisconsin      arrow,           flathead  
river      crossbow  
downstream  
from railroad  
bridge at Sauk  
City

c. By hand      June 1 to      5 channel, 1      None  
August 31      flathead

**SECTION 24. NR 20.20 (62)(a) 1. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(62) TREMPEALEAU</b> (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Black river	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

**SECTION 25. NR 20.20 (73)(b) 1. b. and c., 2. b. and c., and 3. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) to (72)</b>					

(b) Catfish	1. Duck creek downstream from the first dam above the Pamperin park foot bridge in the village of Howard excluding its tributaries, Fox river downstream from DePere dam, Suamico river downstream from county highway HS, East river downstream from Hoffman road (county highway XX), Brown county	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	2. All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay in Brown county upstream to the first dam or lake, Brown county	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	3. All other tributaries, streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

upstream to  
the first dam  
or lake

c. By hand                      June 1 to  
   August 31                      5 channel, 1  
   flathead                      None

**SECTION 26. NR 20.20 (73)(b) 4. is amended to read:**

<b>COUNTY AND SPECIES</b>	<b>WATERS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED METHODS</b>	<b>OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)</b>
<b>(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) to (72)</b>					
(b) Catfish	4. Lake Winnebago system waters	a. Hook and line	Continuous for channel catfish. First Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish.	25 in total but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> <u>setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.
		b. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, <del>or</del> <u>setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.
		<u>c. Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</u>	<u>5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and</u>	<u>None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36</u>

		<u>line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand</u>	<u>to 42 is prohibited.</u>
d. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel catfish, 1 flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, setline, by bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand	None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited.

**SECTION 27. NR 20.20 (73)(b) 5. b. and c. and 6. b. and c. are created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) to (72)</b>					
(b) Catfish	5. All other waters of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
		c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
	6. All waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or this paragraph	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	During the open season for spearing rough fish	5 channel, 1 flathead	None

c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	5 channel, 1 flathead	None
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**SECTION 28. NR 20.20 (73)(k) is amended to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) to (72)</b>					
(k) Rock bass, white bass, yellow bass and bullheads	1. Major Green Bay tributaries	a. Hook and line	Continuous	None	None
	2. All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	3. All other waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or in this paragraph	a. Hook and line	Continuous	None	None

**SECTION 29. NR 20.20 (73)(km) is created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<b>(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) to (72)</b>					
(km) Bullheads	1. Major Green Bay tributaries	a. Hook and line	Continuous	None	None

	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	None	None
	c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	None	None
2. All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	None	None
3. All Lake Winnebago system waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72)	a. Bow and crossbow	April 21 to February 1	None	None
	c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	None	None
4. All other waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or in this paragraph	a. Hook and line	Continuous	None	None
	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous	None	None
	c. By hand	June 1 to August 31	None	None

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**SECTION 30. NR 21.04 (5) is amended to read:**

<b>Kind of fish and locality</b>	<b>Open season (both dates inclusive)</b>	<b>Daily bag limit</b>	<b>Minimum length (inches)</b>
(5) CATFISH			
(a) St. Louis River and St. Croix River downstream to the highway #10 bridge at Prescott			
1. <u>Hook and line</u>	Continuous	10 in aggregate	No size limit
2. <u>Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>No size limit</u>
3. <u>By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>No size limit</u>
(b) Mississippi River from Prescott downstream			
1. <u>Hook and line</u>	Continuous	25 in aggregate	No size limit
2. <u>Bow and arrow, crossbow</u>	<u>Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>No size limit</u>
3. <u>By hand</u>	<u>June 1 to August 31</u>	<u>5 channel, 1 flathead</u>	<u>No size limit</u>

**SECTION 31. NR 21.05 (1) is repealed and recreated to read:**

**21.05 (1)** Only rough fish legally taken during the open season by hook and line, spear, bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand may be sold, purchased, bartered, offered for sale, or under the control or possession of any person for the purpose of sale or barter.

**SECTION 32. NR 21.06 (1) (d) is amended to read:**

**21.06 (1) (d)** Except in Lake Superior, its bays and tributaries, may take rough fish by means of spear, bow and arrow, crossbow, by hand, or dip nets and landing nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square only from sunrise to sunset from the Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1, except that the use of dip nets and landing nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square for the taking of rough fish in the St. Croix river downstream to the St. Croix Falls dam is permitted from the Saturday nearest May 15 to June 30 each year, and bow and arrow or crossbow may be possessed and used for spearing rough fish from sunset to sunrise during the open season for spearing rough fish.

**SECTION 33. NR 21.06 (1) (f) is created to read:**



**21.06 (1) (f)** May take, catch, kill or fish for flathead or channel catfish or bullheads with a bow and arrow or crossbow during the open season for spearing rough fish, or by hand, in boundary waters within Wisconsin.

**SECTION 34. NR 21.11 (4m) is created to read:**

**21.11 (4m)** HARVEST OF CATFISH AND BULLHEADS. No person may harvest catfish or bullheads by hand or with a bow and arrow or crossbow under the authority of a commercial fishing license or for commercial purposes.

**SECTION 35. NR 22.05 (1) is amended to read:**

**22.05 (1)** Only rough fish legally taken during the open season by hook and line, spear, ~~or~~ bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand may be sold, purchased, bartered, offered for sale, or under the control or possession of any person for the purpose of sale or barter.

**SECTION 36. NR 22.06 (1) (d) is amended to read:**

**22.06 (1) (d)** Take rough fish by means of a spear, bow and arrow, crossbow, by hand or landing net or dip nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square from sunrise to sunset only, and bow and arrow or crossbow may be possessed and used for spearing rough fish from sunset to sunrise during the open season for spearing rough fish.

**SECTION 37. NR 22.06 (1) (f) is created to read:**

**22.06 (1) (f)** Take, catch, kill or fish for flathead or channel catfish or bullheads with a bow and arrow or crossbow during the open season for spearing rough fish, or by hand, in boundary waters within Wisconsin.

**SECTION 38. NR 22.11 (26) is created to read:**

**22.11 (26)** No person may harvest catfish or bullheads by hand or with a bow and arrow or crossbow under the authority of a commercial fishing license or for commercial purposes.

**SECTION 39. NR 23.05 (5) (intro.) is amended to read:**

**23.05 (5) (intro.)** The seasons, size limits and bag and possession limits for hook and line fishing in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters for the species listed in this subsection, except as provided in ~~s.~~ ss. NR 23.06 and 23.085, are as follows:

**SECTION 40. NR 23.065 is created to read:**

**23.065 Taking rough fish, catfish and bullheads by hand.** Rough fish, flathead and channel catfish, and bullheads may be taken by hand in boundary waters within Wisconsin subject to the season dates, gear restrictions, daily bag limits and size limits established in ss. NR 20.05 and 20.20.

**SECTION 41. NR 23.085 is amended to read:**

**23.085 Spearing.** Notwithstanding seasons established in s. NR 20.20, no person may fish by the method of spearing on any Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters except that rough fish, flathead and channel catfish and bullheads may be taken by bow and arrow or crossbow in boundary waters within Wisconsin subject to the season dates, daily bag limits and size limits established in ss. NR 20.05 and 20.20.

**SECTION 42. NR 25.05 (3) (h) is created to read:**

**25.05 (3) (h)** Take catfish with a bow and arrow, crossbow or by hand under the authority of a commercial fishing license.

**SECTION 43. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This rule takes effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

**SECTION 44. BOARD ADOPTION.** This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on June 26, 2019.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_.

STATE OF Wisconsin DNR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY \_\_\_\_\_

Preston D. Cole, Secretary

(SEAL)