

The scope statement for this rule, SS 002-19, was approved by the Governor on January 3, 2019, published in Register No. 757A2, on January 7, 2019, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on February 27, 2019. The final rule was approved by the Governor on November 21, 2019.

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

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to **repeal** 20.20 (11)(b), 20.20 (25)(d) 2., 20.20 (26)(h) 5., 20.20 (33)(d) 2., 20.20 (43)(c), 20.20 (49)(f) 1., 20.20 (60)(e), 20.37; to **amend** 20.03 (18), 20.05 (14), 20.08 (7)(a) and (b), 20.10 (4) and (6), 20.11 (1)(a), 20.14 (4), 20.14 (9) and (10), 20.15 (4), 20.18 (10), 20.20 (1)(b) 2., 20.20 (2)(h) 2., 20.20 (3)(d) 2. b. and (f) 1., 20.20 (4)(h) 1. a., 20.20 (9)(f) 1., 20.20 (11)(a), 20.20 (13)(b) 1. and 2., 20.20 (20)(b) 2., 20.20 (21)(b) 1., 20.20 (26)(g) 1. and (h) 2., 20.20 (33)(e) 2., 20.20 (38)(d) 3., 20.20 (44)(g) 1., 20.20 (51)(a) 1., (e) 2. and (h) 1., 20.20 (55)(g) 1., 20.20 (56)(a) 1. and 2., 20.20 (61)(d) 2., 20.20 (64)(b) 1. b., 20.20 (64)(h) 4., 20.20 (64)(i) 2., 20.20 (65)(d) 1., 20.20 (66)(f) 2., 20.20 (67)(d) 2., 20.20 (68)(e) 3., 20.20 (68)(f) 1., 20.20 (71)(c) 2., 20.20 (73)(c) 3. c., (h) 3. a. and 4. a., (km) 4., and (L) 1. b., 20.35 (3)(c), 20.40 (3m)(a), 21.04 (4g) and (4r), 25.02 (39); and to **create** 20.10 (7), 20.20 (26)(g) 1m., 20.20 (64)(a) 2., 20.20 (64)(i) 8., 20.20 (70)(a) 4., 20.20 (73)(m) 3., 20.40 (10)(h) 2. c. relating to minor revisions to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters.

FH-23-18

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

1. Statutes Interpreted: Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041, 29.053 (2), and 29.403 (1g), Stats., have been interpreted as authorizing the department to make changes to Wisconsin fishing rules.

2. Statutory Authority: Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041, 29.053 (2), and 29.403 (1g), Stats. authorize these rules.

3. Explanation of Agency Authority: Section 29.014(1), Stats., directs the department 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.

Section 29.041, Stats., provides that the department may regulate fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters and outlying waters.

Section 29.053 (2), Stats., provides 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 29.403 (1g), Stats. allows the department to authorize and create rules regulating fishing tournaments, including the overall scope of the tournament program.

4. Related Statutes or Rules: Section 29.192 (3), Stats., allows the department to limit the number of persons fishing for sturgeon by hook and line or by spear or both, and may limit the maximum harvest of sturgeon in any area.

5. Plain Language Analysis: These rules are minor in nature and mainly clarify regulations, correct outdated language and drafting errors, and address inconsistencies in administrative code language.

Specifically, these rules will amend fishing regulations found in Chs. NR 20-26, Wis. Admin. Code.

SECTION 1 amends the definition of “Lake Michigan tributaries” to include the point of reference for the boundary between the Sheboygan River tributary and Lake Michigan.

SECTIONS 2 and 53 clarify the department’s policy for authorizing fishing contest organizers to tag fish. The department authorizes this practice by permit, and typically the permits only allow fewer than five fish to be tagged and immediately released for each contest.

SECTIONS 3, 8 and 48 correct a recurring word usage error.

SECTION 4 clarifies that artificial lights may not be used specifically while sturgeon spearing. Artificial lights may be used for hook and line fishing even during the sturgeon spearing season. This section also clarifies that no person may possess a sturgeon spear in a fishing shelter before opening time of the sturgeon spearing season.

SECTION 5 clarifies that a person must possess a valid sturgeon spearing license and unused carcass tag if in possession of a spear while in a sturgeon fishing shelter. According to s. NR 20.07 (a), Wis. Admin. Code, anglers must have a license and carcass tag to fish for sturgeon, and being in possession of a spear while in a fishing shelter indicates intent to fish for sturgeon.

SECTIONS 6 and 7 allow a person to use a DNR customer identification number as an alternative to a name and address for labeling fishing shelters or minnow traps. This practice is currently acceptable for identification of hunting blinds and tree stands.

SECTION 9 corrects a typographical error in the list of counties with motor trolling regulations.

SECTION 10 clarifies that harvest of ruffe, white perch and gobies may be allowed on some waters as established in s. NR 20.20, Wis. Admin. Code.

SECTION 11 applies the same bass regulation to Amey Pond as currently applies to Mason Lake to maintain consistency on these connected waters.

SECTIONS 12, 13, 29, 31, 34, and 42 revert Gordon Lake and Zielke Lake in Ashland County, Red Cedar and Hemlock lakes in Washburn and Barron counties, Buckskin, George and Katherine lakes in Oneida County, Thompson and Whitcomb lakes in Price County, Cedar Lake in Polk and St. Croix counties, and Balsam Lake in Washburn County to the Ceded Territory walleye regulation of a 3-fish daily bag limit, 20-24-inch protected slot and one fish over 24 inches allowed for harvest. These regulations were initially implemented through the NR 20.35, Wis. Admin. Code regulation change process.

SECTIONS 13, 37 and 48 make minor clarifications to language pertaining to dip netting and seining.

SECTION 14 specifies that the trout season opens at 5 a.m. on the first Saturday in May on certain waters in Bayfield County, consistent with the rest of the state’s opening hours for trout.

SECTIONS 15 and 32 correct an error in the opening date of the musky season on the Holcombe Flowage and Lake Wissota in Chippewa and Rusk counties; the opening date should be the Saturday before Memorial Day.

SECTIONS 16, 18, and 33 update a map reference for the boundary of the Lower Wisconsin River in

Columbia, Dane and Sauk counties. The previous boundary reference, the railroad bridge at Sauk City, is no longer there so the point of reference is replaced with the Highway 12 bridge.

SECTION 17 repeals regulations for hybrid striped bass harvest in Columbia Lake, Columbia County. Hybrid striped bass no longer exist in this lake.

SECTION 19 corrects an error in the bag limit for northern pike on Mullet Lake, the Rock River and Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County. The bag limit should be 2 instead of 0.

SECTION 20 reverts Crane, Pickerel and Three Johns lakes in Forest County to the statewide bass regulation of a 14-inch minimum length limit and 5 fish allowed for harvest. This regulation was initially implemented through the NR 20.35, Wis. Admin. Code regulation change process.

SECTION 21 reverts Twin Valley Lake in Iowa County to the statewide panfish regulation of 25 fish allowed for harvest. This regulation was initially implemented through the NR 20.35, Wis. Admin. Code regulation change process.

SECTION 22 removes the special trout regulations from the section of the Montreal River that drains into Lake Superior. This section and SECTION 24 also make the regulations for Sherman Lake in Iron County consistent with surrounding waterbodies since it is no longer a research lake.

SECTION 23 makes trout regulations on the section of the Montreal River adjoining Lake Superior consistent with those of the rest of the river.

SECTIONS 25 and 26 remove the catch and release language for northern pike, gar and bowfin on Yellowstone Lake in Lafayette County. Northern pike are not present in the lake, and gar and bowfin are not a target for harvest.

SECTION 27 removes special trout regulations from the south branch of Beaver Creek in Marinette County. The special regulations were applied inadvertently to the south branch of the creek. The regulations should be the county base regulation of a 3-fish daily bag limit and 8-inch minimum length limit.

SECTION 28 reverts the pike regulations on Bear, John and Munger lakes in Oconto County to the statewide regulation of a 5-fish daily bag limit and no size limit. This regulation was initially implemented through the NR 20.35, Wis. Admin. Code regulation change process.

SECTION 31 reverts to the northern bass zone regulations of a daily bag limit of 5 and 14-inch minimum length limit for Bass Lake in Price County. This section also adds the combined waters of Soo Lake, Grassy Lake and the Elk River between the Wiemer and Jobes dams to the experimental panfish regulations of 25 panfish in total but no more than 10 of any species; this change was included in the 2017 Spring Hearings rule but mistakenly was left out of administrative code.

SECTION 35 adds the Black Creek segments in Taylor County to the regulation of a 3-trout daily bag limit and 8-inch minimum length limit. The majority of Black Creek lies in Marinette County, with only the short headwaters segments in Taylor County, so changing this regulation will make trout regulations consistent on the entire creek.

SECTION 36 makes the trolling regulations on Amik Lake (in Vilas County) consistent with the rest of the regulations for the connected Pike Chain of Lakes (in Price County).

SECTION 38 applies the same trout regulation to the Vilas County section of Brule Creek as is currently in place for the rest of the creek. This will simplify regulations for anglers.

SECTIONS 39 and 40 correct the walleye regulations on Big Crooked, Jenny, Sanford, Wolf and Bear lakes in Vilas County to have a 5-fish daily bag limit and no size limit. Those regulations were removed inadvertently when the Ceded Territory walleye regulations were applied to northern lakes as the standard regulation.

SECTIONS 41 and 44 clarify that the 10-fish bag limit for panfish applies to Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake and the segment of the Mukwonago River connecting them (in Walworth and Waukesha counties). This wording is consistent with how the bass and pike regulations are treated for these connected waters.

SECTION 43 adds the special panfish regulation of 25 fish total bag limit but no more than 10 of any species, which is in place on Big Cedar Lake in Washington County, to Gilbert Lake. These waterbodies are connected and should have consistent regulations.

SECTION 45 restores the continuous catch and release season for trout on McKeawn Springs and Paradise Springs in Waukesha County. A closed season was applied to these waters in error.

SECTION 46 removes the size limit for largemouth bass on Huron Lake in Waushara County while retaining the bag limit of 5 bass. An alternate size limit is warranted because of the slow growth rates of bass on the lake. Alternate size limits may be applied through a simplified regulation change process if fish populations meet the requirements of s. NR 20.35 (3), Wis. Admin. Code.

SECTION 47 applies pike regulations to Little Lake Butte des Morts in Winnebago County that are consistent with Lake Winnebago, a connected waterbody.

SECTION 48 clarifies that the season for taking bullheads with a bow and arrow or crossbow runs concurrent with the season for spearing rough fish. This season is continuous on most, but not all, waters.

SECTION 49 establishes a continuous season for white perch on Lake Superior. White perch are considered an invasive species in Lake Superior, and an open harvest season is consistent with white perch regulations on Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

SECTION 50 adds a provision to s. NR 20.35 (3)(c), Wis. Admin. Code, to provide flexibility for reverting to the county base regulation for trout. A streamlined process for reverting to the statewide regulation for other species is already allowed under s. NR 20.35, and adding an option for trout will provide a quicker and easier process for simplifying trout regulations in waters where a special regulation is no longer needed.

SECTION 51 eliminates a provision allowing the DNR Secretary to establish alternate size and bag limits for walleye for non-tribal anglers fishing on the Lac du Flambeau reservation. This provision is obsolete since the state transitioned to the Ceded Territory walleye regulations in 2015.

SECTION 52 clarifies the language relating to permit exemptions for fishing tournaments to maintain the existing policy that statewide or regional tournaments that identify waters by name must have a permit.

SECTIONS 54 and 55 apply a 10-fish daily bag limit for yellow bass on the Mississippi River boundary waters to match the white bass bag limit that was approved through the 2019 Spring Hearings rule process. The existing regulations of a 25-fish bag limit for rock bass will not change. This will ensure

consistency with Minnesota and reduce confusion for anglers.

SECTION 56 removes obsolete language from the definition of “license year” as it pertains to commercial fishing.

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 Registrar.

7. Comparison with Similar Rules in 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 the same. 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.

8. Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used and How Any Related Findings Support the Regulatory Approach Chosen: Fishing regulations, such as length and bag limits or season dates, are used as a tool to ensure that good fishing exists into the future. The department has used different types of fishing regulations in order to: control angler impacts on fish populations; maintain numbers and sizes of fish in a lake or stream; provide different types of fishing experiences, such as fishing for dinner or for a trophy fish; and make access to fishing as fair as possible.

This rule includes minor changes to administrative code that support existing policies and fisheries management goals. The items in this rule have been compiled by fisheries staff across the state as well as department law enforcement professionals.

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

The department conducted an economic impact analysis in June 2019 to determine if any individuals, businesses, local governments, or other entities will be affected economically.

10. Effect on Small Business (initial regulatory flexibility analysis): The department expects no economic impact directly related to these rule changes. The proposed rule does not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

11. Agency Contact Person: Meredith Penthorn, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53703, 608-316-0080, Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov

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

Written comments may also be submitted to the Department at
DNRAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov.

Hearing dates and the comment submission deadline are to be determined.

SECTION 1. NR 20.03 (18) is amended to read:

NR 20.03 (18) "Lake Michigan tributaries" means the Pike river and its tributaries, Kenosha and Racine counties; Kewaunee river and its tributaries excluding Little Scarboro, Scarboro, Roger and Casco creeks, Kewaunee county; Milwaukee river upstream to the Grafton dam in the village of Grafton and tributaries to the Milwaukee river upstream to the first dam or lake; Menomonee river upstream to the Lepper dam in the village of Menomonee Falls and tributaries to the Menomonee river upstream to the first dam or lake; Sheboygan river downstream to the coast guard station and its tributaries excluding Unnamed tributary (locally known as Willow creek), Sheboygan county; and all other tributaries to Lake Michigan upstream to the first dam or lake.

SECTION 2. NR 20.05 (14) is amended to read:

NR 20.05 (14) Capture, tag, mark or attach any object and release wild fish unless issued a permit by the department pursuant to s. NR 19.11- or by specific authorization by permit from the department to capture, tag and immediately release fish from the wild using lawful methods for the purposes of a fishing contest under s. NR 20.40 (10)(h) 2. c.

SECTION 3. NR 20.08 (7)(a) and (b) are amended to read:

NR 20.08 (7) (a) It is being possessed or used on Lake Michigan, Green Bay or any waters connected to these waters upstream to the first dam or other obstruction ~~impassible~~impassable to fish.

(b) It is being possessed or used on the same water body from which it was obtained, or on any water connected to that water body that is not separated by a dam or other obstruction ~~impassible~~impassable to fish.

SECTION 4. NR 20.10 (4) and (6) are amended to read:

NR 20.10 (4) Use or possess any artificial light while sturgeon spearing in order to illuminate any waters open to sturgeon spearing during the period beginning 48 hours before and continuing through the open season for lake sturgeon spearing.

(6) Fish for sturgeon during the open season by the method of spearing or possess or control a spear or similar device within a fishing shelter on Lake Winnebago system waters from 12 a.m. until 7 a.m. on opening day, and from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. of the following day on opening day and subsequent days.

SECTION 5. NR 20.10 (7) is created to read:

NR 20.10 (7) Possess, maintain or control a spear in a sturgeon fishing shelter unless in possession of a valid sturgeon spearing license and unused carcass tag for the waterbody on which that shelter is located.

SECTION 6. NR 20.11 (1)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.11 (1)(a) The name and residential address or department of natural resources customer identification number in the English language of the person owning or using the fishing shelter is legibly painted or otherwise affixed on the outside of the fishing shelter with block lettering a minimum of one inch square and in contrasting colors. Fishing shelters that are occupied or otherwise in use are exempt from this requirement.

SECTION 7. NR 20.14 (4) is amended to read:

NR 20.14 (4) Set, use or operate minnow traps unless a label or tag bearing the legible name and address or department of natural resources customer identification number of the operator in the English language is securely attached.

SECTION 8. NR 20.14 (9) and (10) are amended to read:

NR 20.14 (9) Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter or chs. [NR 21](#) to [23](#), use or operate any net, trap or similar device for the taking of minnows, or fish for minnows except suckers for any purpose using any gear in Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior, the Mississippi River, Lake Winnebago, the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, or any bay, slough or backwater of these waters, or any water connected to these waters, upstream to the first dam or other obstruction ~~impassible~~impassable to fish, or in any other water where the department has determined that the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

virus is present based on test results or other empirical evidence. If the department determines that the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus is present in any additional water body, it shall promptly notify the public of its determination by issuing a press release, by publication in the official state newspaper, and by such other means as the department determines are reasonably likely to inform the public.

(10) Transport away from the water or its bank or shore any live sucker taken from Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior, the Mississippi River, Lake Winnebago, the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, or any bay, slough or backwater of these waters, or any water connected to these waters, upstream to the first dam or other obstruction ~~impassible~~impassable to fish, or from any additional water where the department has determined under sub. (9) that the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus is present.

SECTION 9. NR 20.15 (4) is amended to read:

NR 20.15 (4) Fish by the method of trolling with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures on all inland waters in the following counties: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Forest, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Sauk, Shawano, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waushara, Waukesha, Winnebago, and Wood.

SECTION 10. NR 20.18 (10) is amended to read:

Species	Total Daily Bag Limit
(10) Ruffe, white perch and gobies	0 except as authorized in s. NR 20.20, but one of each may be killed and possessed for immediate delivery to a department service center or regional office

SECTION 11. NR 20.20 (1)(b) 2. 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)
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(1) ADAMS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Mason lake, <u>Amey pond</u> , Parker lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited
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SECTION 12. NR 20.20 (2)(h) 2. 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)
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(2) ASHLAND (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Butternut lake (on Price County border), Gordon lake, Zielke lake, North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price County upstream to the Turtle- Flambeau flowage in Iron County and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge, Mineral lake, Spillerberg lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only 1 may be longer than 14
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SECTION 13. NR 20.20 (3)(d) 2. b. and (f) 1. 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)
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(3) BARRON (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(d) Rough fish	2. Beaver Dam lake	b. Seining at any time for smelt, with seines <u>Seines</u> may not be more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth			
(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Red Cedar lake, Hemlock lake, Beaver Dam lake, Bear lake (on Washburn County border), Horseshoe lake (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 ac.), Lower Turtle lake, Upper Turtle lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18

SECTION 14. NR 20.20 (4)(h) 1. a. 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)
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(4) BAYFIELD (For species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)).

(h) Trout and salmon	1. Bono creek, Boyd creek, Onion river downstream from	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May <u>at 5:00 a.m.</u> to November 15	5 in total but only 2 may be brown trout longer than 15 and only 1	Brook trout 8, brown trout 10, salmon 12, rainbow trout 26
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Lake Superior
 District Power
 Company
 power line
 (T49N
 R4W S6),
 Pikes creek
 downstream
 from the Red
 dam, Pine
 creek
 downstream
 from its
 confluence
 with Little
 Pine creek

may be a
 rainbow trout

SECTION 15. NR 20.20 (9)(f) 1. as affected by CR-19-016 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)
(9) CHIPPEWA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(f) Muskellunge	1. Holcombe flowage, Lake Wissota	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May <u>Saturday</u> before <u>Memorial Day</u> to December 31 on open water	1	50

SECTION 16. NR 20.20 (11)(a) 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)
(11) COLUMBIA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to November 30	10 in total	None

dam to the
~~railroad bridge~~
at ~~Sauk City U.~~
S. highway 12
bridge

SECTION 17. NR 20.20 (11)(b) is repealed.

SECTION 18. NR 20.20 (13)(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)
(13) DANE (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(b) Catfish	1. Lower Wisconsin river from the Prairie du Sac dam to the railroad bridge at Sauk City U. <u>S. highway 12 bridge</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to November 30	10 in total	None
	2. Lower Wisconsin river downstream from the railroad bridge at Sauk City U. <u>S. highway 12 bridge</u>	a. Hook and line, set or bank pole, setline	Continuous	10 in total	None

SECTION 19. NR 20.20 (20)(b) 2. 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)
(20) FOND DU LAC (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					

(b) Northern pike	2. Mullet lake, Rock river including Horicon marsh	a. Hook and line	Continuous	02	26
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SECTION 20. NR 20.20 (21)(b) 1., as affected by CR-19-016, 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)
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(21) FOREST (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Crane lake, Luna lake, McKinley lake, Pickerel lake, Three Johns lake, White Deer, Kentuck lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass	18 for largemouth bass only
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 21. NR 20.20 (25)(d) 2. is repealed.

SECTION 22. NR 20.20 (26)(g) 1. and (h) 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)
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(26) IRON (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(g) Trout and salmon	1. Graveyard creek and its tributaries, Montreal river downstream from Superior falls , Oronto creek and its tributaries, Parker creek	a. Hook and line	Last Saturday in March to November 15	5 in total but only 2 may be brown trout longer than 15 and only 1 may be rainbow trout	Brown trout 10, salmon 12, rainbow trout 26, brook trout 8
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Gile flowage, Island lake (connected to Montreal river), Pine lake, Randall lake , North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price County upstream to the Turtle-Flambeau flowage in Iron County and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge, West Branch Montreal river, <u>Sherman lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only 1 may be longer than 14

SECTION 23. NR 20.20 (26)(g) 1m. 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)
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(26) IRON (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(g) Trout and salmon	1m. Montreal river downstream from Superior falls	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total	10
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SECTION 24. NR 20.20 (26)(h) 5., as affected by CR 19-016, is repealed.

SECTION 25. NR 20.20 (33)(d) 2. is repealed.

SECTION 26. NR 20.20 (33)(e) 2. 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)
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(33) LAFAYETTE (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(e) Rough fish	2. Yellowstone lake	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	Gar and bowfin-0, other rough fish none <u>None</u>	None
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SECTION 27. NR 20.20 (38)(d) 3., as affected by CR 19-016, 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)
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(38) MARINETTE (For species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73)).

(d) Trout and salmon	3. Beaver creek, Beaver creek (north branch), Beaver creek (south branch) , K.C.	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	12 for brown trout and rainbow trout, 8 for brook trout
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creek, Pike river between county highway K and the confluence of the north and south branches, Pike river (north branch), Walker creek

SECTION 28. NR 20.20 (43)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 29. NR 20.20 (44)(g) 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)
(44) ONEIDA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Bearskin lake, Bucks skin lake (on Vilas County border), Crescent lake (near Rhineland), Diamond lake, George lake, Hasbrook lake, Julia lake (on Forest County border), Katherine lake, Mercer lake, Oneida lake, Squaw lake (on Vilas County border), Squirrel lake,	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None, but only 1 may be longer than 14

Three lakes chain (includes Big, Big Fork, Big Stone, Deer, Dog, Fourmile, Island, Laurel, Little Fork, Long, Medicine, Moccasin, Mud, Planting Ground, Rangeline, Round, Spirit, Townline, Virgin, and Whitefish lakes and all connecting waters and Eagle river downstream to the Long Lake (Burnt Rollways) dam combined)

SECTION 30. NR 20.20 (49)(f) 1. is repealed.

SECTION 31. NR 20.20 (51)(a) 1., as affected by CR 19-016, (e) 2. and (h) 1., 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)
(51) PRICE (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Bass lake (T38N R2W S18); Sailor lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding	0 for smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass	18 for largemouth bass only

			third Saturday in June		
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None
(e) Panfish	2. Butternut lake, Phillips chain of lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes combined) <u>and the Elk river between Jobes and Musser dams combined</u> , Pike chain of lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes combined), Solberg lake including its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, <u>Soo Lake (Lac Sault Dore) and Grassy Lake and the Elk River between Wiemer and Jobes dams combined</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	25 in total but no more than 10 of a single species until March 1, 2026 when it becomes 25 in total	None
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Thompson lake, Whitecomb lake, Jump river and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 inches is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18

SECTION 32. NR 20.20 (55)(g) 1., as affected by CR-19-016, 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)
(55) RUSK (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(g) Muskellunge	1. Holcombe flowage	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in <u>May Saturday before Memorial Day</u> to December 31 on open water	1	50

SECTION 33. NR 20.20 (56)(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)
(56) SAUK (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 bridge at Sauk City <u>U. S. highway 12 bridge</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to November 30	10 in total	None
	2. Lower Wisconsin river downstream from railroad bridge at Sauk City <u>the U. S. highway 12 bridge</u>	a. Hook and line, set or bank pole, setline	Continuous	10 in total	None

SECTION 34. NR 20.20 (60)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 35. NR 20.20 (61)(d) 2. 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)
(61) TAYLOR (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(d) Trout and salmon	2. Big Rib river from county highway C downstream to state highway 64, Wood creek, <u>Black creek</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	8

SECTION 36. NR 20.20 (64)(a) 2. 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)
(64) VILAS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) All species	2. Amik lake	a. Motor trolling is permitted with up to 3 hooks, baits or lures	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)

SECTION 37. NR 20.20 (64)(b) 1. b. 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)
(64) VILAS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					

(b) Cisco (lake herring), whitefish, and their hybrids	1. Trout lake	b. Dip netting or seining at any time; seining with a sein not Seines may not be more than 75 feet in length, 6 feet in depth with mesh not to exceed 2 inch stretch measure.	Saturday nearest October 10 to February 1	10 in total	None
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SECTION 38. NR 20.20 (64)(h) 4. 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)
(64) VILAS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(h) Trout and salmon	4. Elvov creek, <u>Brule creek</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	10

SECTION 39. NR 20.20 (64)(i) 2. 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)
(64) VILAS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Alder lake, Big lake (T42N R6E S4), Big Arbor Vitae lake, Big Crooked lake (T42N R6E	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only 1 may be longer than 14

S12), Big
Muskellunge
lake, Birch
lake, Boulder
lake, Buckskin
lake (on
Oneida
County
border), Clear
lake (T42N
R5E S12),
Crab lake,
Fawn lake
(T42N R5E
S11), Harris
lake, Ike
Walton lake,
Island lake,
~~Jenny lake,~~
Laura lake,
Little Arbor
Vitae lake,
Little Star
lake,
Manitowish
lake, North
Crab lake,
North Turtle
lake, Oxbow
lake, Pike
Lake chain
(Amik lake,
Pike lake,
Round lake,
and Turner
lake combined
on the Price
County
border),
Presque Isle
chain (Averill
lake, Presque
Isle lake, and
Van Vliet lake
combined),
Rest lake,
Rock lake,
~~Sanford lake,~~
South Turtle
lake, Spider
lake, Squaw

lake (on
 Oneida
 County
 border), Star
 lake, Stone
 lake, Wild
 Rice lake

SECTION 40. NR 20.20 (64)(i) 8. 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)
(64) VILAS (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	8. Bear lake, Big Crooked lake (T42N R6E S12), Jenny lake, Sanford lake, Wolf lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

SECTION 41. NR 20.20 (65)(d) 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)
(65) WALWORTH (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(d) Panfish	1. <u>Lulu lake and Eagle Spring lake (Waukesha county) and the portion of the Mukwonago river connecting the two lakes</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None

SECTION 42. NR 20.20 (66)(f) 2. 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)
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(66) WASHBURN (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Balsam lake , Bear lake (on Washburn County border), Big McKenzie lake (on Burnett County border), Birch lake (on Sawyer County border), Red Cedar lake , Long lake (including Mud lake and Little Mud lake combined), Middle McKenzie lake (on Burnett County border), Nancy lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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SECTION 43. NR 20.20 (67)(d) 2. 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)
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(67) WASHINGTON (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).

(d) Panfish	2. Big Cedar lake and <u>Gilbert lake</u> ,	a. Hook and line	Continuous	25 in total but no more than 10 of a single species until	None
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Little Cedar
lake

March 1, 2026
when it
becomes 25 in
total

SECTION 44. NR 20.20 (68)(e) 3. 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)
(68) WAUKESHA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(e) Panfish	3. Eagle Spring lake and Lulu lake (Walworth county) and the portion of the Mukwonago river connecting the two lakes	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None

SECTION 45. NR 20.20 (68)(f) 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)
(68) WAUKESHA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(f) Trout and salmon	1. McKeawn springs from the pond outlet upstream to state highway 67, Paradise springs and creek upstream from county highway N	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15 Continuous	All trout caught shall be immediately released	--

SECTION 46. NR 20.20 (70)(a) 4. 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)
(68) WAUSHARA (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(a) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	4. Huron lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None for largemouth bass, 14 for smallmouth bass

SECTION 47. NR 20.20 (71)(c) 2., as affected by CR-19-016, 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)
(71) WINNEBAGO (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)).					
(c) Northern pike	2. Little Butte des Morts lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous <u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u>	2	None except the possession of fish from 25 to 35 is prohibited

SECTION 48. NR 20.20 (73)(c) 3. c., as affected by CR 19-016, (h) 3. a. and 4. a., (km) 4., as affected by CR-19-009, and (L) 1. b. 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)
(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)					
(c) Cisco (lake herring), whitefish and their hybrids	3. All other waters not listed	c. Seining, with a seine not <u>Seines may not be more than 75 feet in length, 6 feet in depth with mesh</u>	Saturday nearest October 10 to February 1	10 in total	None

			not to exceed 2 inch stretch measure		
(h) Minnows	3. Lake Michigan tributaries, major Green Bay tributaries	a. Hook and line, dip netting and minnow seining for suckers only. Unless authorized under s. NR 19.05 (3), no person may transport live suckers away from Lake Michigan tributaries or major Green Bay tributaries or any water connected to these waters, upstream to the first dam or other obstruction impassible <u>impassable</u> to fish.			
	4. All other Green Bay tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Dip netting and minnow seining for suckers only. Unless authorized under s. NR 19.05 (3), no person may transport live suckers away from all other Green Bay tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake or any water connected to these waters, upstream to the first dam or other obstruction impassible <u>impassable</u> to fish.			
(km) Bullheads	4. All other waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or in this paragraph	b. Bow and arrow, crossbow	Continuous <u>During the open season for spearing rough fish as specified in subs. (1) to (72) and this subsection</u>	None	None

(L) Rough fish	1. Green Bay, Lake Michigan	b. Seining at any time, with seines <u>Seines may not be more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth 1500 feet or more below the DePere dam</u>	April 1 to May 25	None	None
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SECTION 49. NR 20.20 (73)(m) 3. 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)
(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)					
(m) White perch	3. Lake Superior	a. Hook and line	Continuous	None	None

SECTION 50. NR 20.35 (3)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.35 (3)(c) Statewide size and bag limits. Upon making a determination under sub. (2), the department may establish that a general size and bag limit found in the statewide table under s. NR 20.20 (73) is in effect or, for inland trout and salmon, the county base regulation for “all waters not listed” in each county in s. NR 20.20 is in effect.

SECTION 51. NR 20.37 is repealed.

SECTION 52. NR 20.40 (3m)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.40 (3m) (a) Fishing tournaments that are statewide or regional in nature where the specific waters to be fished ~~or~~ and landings that must be used, if any, are not identified by name.

SECTION 53. NR 20.40 (10)(h) 2. c. is created to read:

NR 20.40 (10)(h) 2. c. Specific authorization is granted by the department to capture, tag and immediately release fish from the wild using lawful methods for purposes of a fishing contest.

SECTION 54. NR 21.04 (4g), as affected by CR 19-016, is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(4g) WHITE AND YELLOW BASS			
(a) Mississippi river, Pools 3 to 9	Continuous	10	No size limit
(b) All other boundary waters	Continuous	25	No size limit

SECTION 55. NR 21.04 (4r), as affected by CR 19-016, is amended to read:

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
(4r) YELLOW AND ROCK BASS			
(a) All boundary waters	Continuous	25 of each	No size limit

SECTION 56. NR 25.02 (39) is amended to read:

NR 25.02 (39) “License year” means that period from ~~July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year until June 30, 2010, after which “license year” means the period of July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011. Beginning January 1, 2012, “license year” means the period of January 1 through December 31.~~

SECTION 51. 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 52. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on September 25, 2019.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY _____

Preston D. Cole, Secretary

(SEAL)