

**SUBJECT:** FH-03-10 Request for authorization of public hearings on proposed fishing regulation changes for 2010 Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings

**FOR:** JANUARY, 2010 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:**  
Mike Staggs

**SUMMARY:**

The Bureau of Fisheries Management and Law Enforcement request authorization to hold public hearings on a number of proposed changes to rules related to recreational fishing in the inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The Department is proposing four changes of statewide significance, a broad approach to address walleye population concerns on 21 selected waters, and 9 questions of local or regional interest.

Among the changes of statewide interest are proposals to liberalize some ice fishing and panfish harvest regulations on the Chippewa Flowage (Sawyer County), to allow motor trolling county-wide in Ashland, Iron, Price, and Sawyer Counties, to make consistent rules for sturgeon angling in the St. Croix River where it forms the Wisconsin-Minnesota border and to make consistent rules for bass angling in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters. The Department also has identified twenty-one lakes in Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties as waters in which walleye are the gamefish species of primary angler and management interest, and in which restoration of natural walleye reproduction has been identified as the primary management objective. Each of these waters has had a walleye population sustained by natural reproduction within the past twenty years, but for unknown reasons that reproduction has failed in recent years and stocking is currently required to maintain a walleye population. Additionally, to address concerns that largemouth and smallmouth bass (black bass) could potentially inhibit recovery of walleye reproduction, the department further proposes to remove the minimum length restriction for angler harvest of black bass in each of these lakes. The lakes included in the proposal are: Bear, Horsehead, Lower Turtle, and Upper Turtle (Barron County), Lake Owen (Bayfield County), Big McKenzie and Little McKenzie (Burnett/ Washburn Counties), Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward (Polk County), Chain, Clear, Island, and McCann (Island Chain of Lakes, Rusk County), Chippewa Flowage, Nelson, Sissabagama, and Whitefish (Sawyer County), and Long and Nancy (Washburn County).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve public hearings for rule change proposals presented herein.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

*Michael Staggs*  
Bureau Director

12/30/2009  
Date

*[Signature]*  
Administrator

1/4/2010  
Date

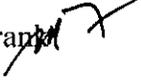
*[Signature]*  
Secretary, Matt Frank

1/4/10  
Date

- |                           |                        |                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8 | Karl Scheidegger, FM/4 | Larry Claggett, FM/4            |
| Tim Andryk, LS/8          | Kurt Thiede, AD/8      | Tim Simonson, FM/4              |
| Pete Flaherty, LS/8       | Paul Nuemann, MB/8     | GLIFWC, Tribes (13)             |
| Tom Van Haren, LE/8       | Dianne Brookbank, CS/1 | Exec. Comm., Cons. Congress (3) |
| Mike Staggs, FM/4         | Mike Talbot, FM/4      | IA, MI, MN DNR (3)              |

DATE: December 21, 2009

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matt Frank 

SUBJECT: FH-03-10 Request for authorization of public hearings on proposed fishing regulation changes for 2010 Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Department recommends that the revisions to Administrative Code proposed herein be presented at the Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings April 12, 2010. These proposals are suggested by the Bureaus of Fisheries Management and Law Enforcement to address fisheries management and law enforcement issues related to management of recreational fishing in Wisconsin's inland and boundary waters. The proposals were developed by the Bureaus of Fisheries Management and Law Enforcement with input from the Bureau of Legal Services, and considerable public input. Representatives of both the Conservation Congress Executive Committee and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission were part of discussions regarding advancement of these proposals. Many of these proposals have been discussed with committees or county delegations of the Conservation Congress.

### **SUMMARY OF THE RULE**

The attached rule order proposes the following modifications to Administrative Code:

#### Proposals of statewide and regional interest and significance

In general, the proposals considered to be of statewide or regional significance are those in which proposed changes to Administrative Code affect boundary or Great lakes waters or large waters with a high statewide public profile, or where changes represent a broad change in management policy.

1. Motor trolling: This rule would permit motor trolling county-wide in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer counties.
2. Chippewa Flowage angling regulations: This rule would allow fishing from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March for all gamefish species except muskellunge and walleye and change the panfish daily bag limit to 10 fish daily bag limit for all panfish all season while creating a year-round open season for panfish on the Chippewa Flowage. Currently, fishing for any gamefish is prohibited between November 30 and the first Saturday in May, and panfish bag limits are 25 with no more than 15 crappie from the first Saturday in May until November 30 and 15 but no crappie from December 1 to the first Sunday in March.

3. St. Croix River sturgeon: This rule would create a catch-and-release season for Lake Sturgeon on the St. Croix River from October 1 to 15. This section of the St. Croix River is Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water, and this change would make Wisconsin rules consistent with Minnesota rules.
4. Wisconsin-Michigan bass harvest: This rule would extend the open fishing season for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from November 30 to December 31. This would make Wisconsin and Michigan boundary rules for bass harvest consistent.
5. Restoration of waters primarily managed for walleyes: Twenty-one lakes in Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties are waters in which restoration of natural walleye reproduction is the primary management objective. Each had a walleye population sustained by natural reproduction within the past twenty years, but for unknown reasons reproduction significantly declined in recent years and stocking is now needed to maintain their fisheries. Naturally reproducing walleye populations generally have an adult population 3-5 times greater than stocked walleye populations. To address this walleye population decline, the department is proposing a three component experimental restoration program, two parts of which involve changes to angling regulations: the department proposes increasing the minimum length restriction for walleye to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 3 on these lakes, while eliminating the minimum length restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass (bag limits will remain at 5 fish/ day). The department will also focus on stocking large fingerling walleye in many of these lakes as a short-term bolster for the population.

The lakes included in the proposal are: Bear, Horseshoe (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 ac.), Lower Turtle, and Upper Turtle (Barron County), Owen (Bayfield County), Big McKenzie and Middle McKenzie (Burnett/ Washburn Counties), Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward (Polk County), Chain, Clear, Island, and McCann (Island Chain, Rusk County), Chippewa Flowage, Nelson, Sissabagama, and Whitefish (Sawyer County), and Long and Nancy (Washburn County).

#### Proposals of local interest and significance:

In general, the proposals considered to be of local significance are those in which minor adjustments are made to Administrative Code. These are generally adjustments to angler daily bag limits and/or rules governing what sizes of fish may be harvested, or opening and closing dates for open seasons within individual water bodies.

The Department proposes to:

6. increase the minimum size restriction for Walleye in Metonga lake (Forest County) from 15 to 18 inches and decrease the bag limit from 5 to 3;

7. increase the minimum size restriction for bass in Marion Pond (Waupaca County) from 14 inches to 18 inches and reduce the daily angler bag limit from 5 to 1 and increase the minimum size restriction for northern pike in Marion Pond from no minimum to 26 inches and reduce the daily angler bag limit from 5 to 2. This rule would expire on April 1, 2016;
8. eliminate the following fish refuges: on the Chippewa Flowage for 500 feet below Moose Lake (Sawyer County), on Spider Creek between Spider Lake and State highway 77 (Sawyer County), on Island Creek between Island and Black Dan Lakes (Sawyer County), on Malviney Creek (Sawyer County), on the unnamed tributary of Lake Chetac from Lake Chetac to 1000 feet upstream (Sawyer County), on the Brunet River from Lake Winter to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer County), on the Couderay River from the Grimh (Radisson) Dam to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer County) and on the Little Turtle River and Turtle-Flambeau Flowage 200 feet upstream of Popko's Circle Road until 200 feet downstream of Popko's Circle Road (Iron Co.);
9. prohibit night fishing from September 15 to the first Saturday in May in the section of the Oconto river from the upstream side of the US 141 Bridge to the Stiles dam (Oconto County);
10. make permanent the 45 inch minimum size restriction for muskellunge in Little St. Germain Lake (Vilas County). This regulation was scheduled to expire November 30, 2011;
11. increase the minimum size restriction for northern pike on Big Muskego Lake including Bass Bay (Waukesha County) from 26 inches to 40 inches and reduce the daily bag limit from 2 to 1 fish;
12. decrease the minimum length restriction on trout in the Waupaca River downstream of River Road to the Waupaca County line (Waupaca County) to 7 inches for all trout from 12 inches for brown trout and rainbow trout, and 8 inches for brook trout. It also increases the daily angler bag from 3 to 5 for trout;
13. and to standardize trout regulations for all of the Wolf River (Langlade County), allowing hook and line fishing only with artificial lures from the First Saturday in May at 5:00am until September 30 with a bag limit of 3 and a maximum size of 12 inches. The catch-and-release season from October 1 to November 15 will be retained.

### **POLICY IMPACTS**

The proposed rule will not result in major changes to existing policy.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The Board has not previously taken action on any of the proposed items.

### **IMPACTS ON THE PUBLIC**

The proposed rules will have minimal impact on members of the public. As with any change in regulation, there will be a requirement for anglers to learn the new rules. The FM Bureau works to notify the public of new regulations via press releases, the Internet, and fishing regulations pamphlets.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

This is a Type III action under Chapter NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, therefore no EA is required.

### **SMALL BUSINESS ANALYSIS**

The proposed rules do not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

### **INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS**

- A.1. Describe the compliance and/or reporting requirements imposed on small business.

No reporting requirements are imposed by this Order.

2. Can these compliance and/or reporting requirements be made less stringent for small business? Explain.

Not applicable.

- B.1. Describe the schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting imposed on small business.

Not applicable.

2. Can these schedules or deadlines be made less stringent for small business? Explain.

Not applicable.

- C. Can the compliance or reporting requirements for small business be consolidated or simplified? Explain.

Not applicable.

- D. Can performance standards be established for small businesses in lieu of design or operational standards? Explain.

Not applicable.

- E. Can small business be exempted from any or all requirements of the rule? Explain.

Not applicable.

- F. Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

1. Describe the type of small business that will be affected by rule.

Changes to fishing regulations have no regulatory effect on small businesses.

2. Briefly explain the reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the rule.

Not applicable.

3. Describe the type of professional skills necessary for compliance with the rule.

Not applicable.

## PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

*(If approved, these proposed rule changes would take effect on April 1, 2011, unless otherwise indicated.)*

### **QUESTIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4 – Motor Trolling in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer Counties**

Currently motor trolling is only allowed on the Kakagon River and sloughs in Ashland County, Pike Lake and Round Lake in Price County, and Chetac, Grindstone, Lac Courte Oreilles, Nelson, Round, Whitefish and Windigo Lakes in Sawyer County. Opening all waters in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer Counties would allow motor trolling in approximately 700 additional waters. Prohibitions on motor trolling are socially-driven and have been handled by the Department of Natural Resources on a county-by-county basis in line with local preference. Currently motor trolling is allowed county-wide in 18 of the state's 72 counties. Motor trolling poses no other biological threat to muskellunge, walleye, or any other species than conventional angling, and the Department of Natural Resources endorses removal of motor trolling prohibitions wherever that removal is locally supported.

- Do you favor allowing motor trolling in all waters in Ashland County?

1. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor allowing motor trolling in all waters in Iron County, excluding Etna, Grey, Lost, Minette, Oriole, Pardee and Sherman lakes, which straddle the Iron-Vilas County line?

2. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor allowing motor trolling in all waters in Price County?

3. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor allowing motor trolling in all waters in Sawyer County?

4. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTIONS 5 and 6 – Chippewa Flowage ice fishing and panfish regulations**

The Chippewa Flowage is the only inland water in Wisconsin specifically closed to ice fishing. Ice fishing for all species was initially closed in the 1950's. The primary issues at that time were associated with significant winter drawdowns of the flowage and included health and safety concerns due to open water areas in submerged river channels as well as angler competition and overharvest of fish concentrated by the lower water levels. These concerns were primarily social in nature. Overwinter drawdowns only accounted for an approximate 20% reduction in the size of the flowage at the time and currently are less significant. Snowmobiling is popular on the flowage but has not presented a safety concern with ice anglers. Growing angler interest in allowing ice fishing prompted a regulation change in 1997 which allows a daily bag limit of 15 panfish, excluding crappie which is still closed, from December 1 to the first Sunday in March and a daily bag limit of 25 panfish, of which only 15 may be crappie, from the first Saturday in May through November 30. This combined harvest has not damaged panfish populations. In addition, a Conservation Congress Advisory Question to allow some winter harvest of crappie was approved at the 2009 spring hearings. Changing the panfish daily bag limit to 10 in aggregate will provide a standard harvest limit year-round than the current regulations while extending the seasonal angling opportunity by several months.

Changing the open season for anglers targeting game fish on the Chippewa Flowage to one consistent with statewide regulations will provide additional angling opportunity. It would direct more harvest onto northern pike and largemouth bass which is a current management objective for the Chippewa Flowage fishery. However, because of current concern about declining walleye recruitment in the Chippewa Flowage, the Department recommends retaining the current December- May prohibition on walleye harvest.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you favor moving the last day of the open season for northern pike and largemouth and smallmouth bass from November 30 to the first Sunday in March on the Chippewa Flowage and all connected waters upstream of the Chippewa flowage (Winter) dam?

5. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor creating a continuous (year-round) open season for all panfish with a daily bag limit of 10 per day (aggregate) on the Chippewa Flowage and all connected waters upstream of the Chippewa flowage (Winter) dam?

6. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 7 – St. Croix River catch and release sturgeon season**

Recent modifications to the Wisconsin statewide lake sturgeon fishing season (including the lower St. Croix River boundary waters) implemented a season which starts on the first Saturday in September and continues to September 30 with a minimum length limit of 60 inches. The State of Minnesota agreed to adopt this new regulation on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but first had to seek public input on the rule change. Minnesota anglers supported the increased size limit and reduced harvest season, but insisted on a catch and release season from October 1 through October 15. The State of Minnesota subsequently approved the regulations including the catch and release season. Wisconsin does not have an October 1 through October 15 catch and release season therefore boundary water regulations are different. Wisconsin does not object to the catch and release season and wishes to maintain uniform regulations between Minnesota and Wisconsin on the boundary waters of the St. Croix River.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you favor creating a catch and release season for lake sturgeon from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> on the St. Croix River where it forms the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota?

7. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 8 – Bass harvest regulations in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters**

The current season for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters is the First Saturday in May through November 30 under Wisconsin law. Michigan recently extended its open season for bass to December 31 in all waters, including boundary waters. The current bass season closure date on Wisconsin-Michigan border waters, November 30, is not concurrent with either states' general inland bass season closure date. Wisconsin inland waters bass season closure date is the first Sunday in March. Michigan

DNR has requested that Wisconsin change the bass season closure date in Wisconsin portions of WI/MI border waters to December 31 to address enforcement concerns from the Michigan side. It would also make the closure date concurrent with at least one of the states' general inland regulations.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you favor extending the largemouth and smallmouth bass season on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from November 30 to December 31?

8. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS 9-26 – Walleye recruitment restoration in select northwest Wisconsin lakes**

**Restoration of waters primarily managed for walleyes:** Twenty-one lakes in Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties are waters in which restoration of natural walleye reproduction is the primary management objective. Each had a walleye population sustained by natural reproduction within the past twenty years, but for unknown reasons reproduction significantly declined in recent years and stocking is now needed to maintain those walleye fisheries. Naturally reproducing walleye populations generally have an adult population 3-5 times greater than stocked walleye populations. To address this walleye population decline, the Department is proposing a three-component experimental restoration program.

*The first component is a significant reduction in angler harvest of spawning-age and sub-adult walleyes in order to rebuild the spawning population. The department proposes to increase the minimum size restriction for angler harvest of walleyes to 18 inches, and reduce the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.*

During the same period, abundance of largemouth and smallmouth bass (black bass) has increased significantly in many northern Wisconsin waters, particularly in the northwest and including these twenty-one lakes. The cause of the increase is unknown, but we have seen habitat changes favoring black bass such as lower water levels due to protracted drought conditions, increased water clarity, and increased abundance of aquatic plants. Increased angler catch-and-release and more restrictive angling regulations also likely contributed to increased bass abundance. There is disagreement among fisheries scientists whether bass population increases caused the observed walleye declines, but there is evidence that high bass populations could inhibit recovery of consistent natural walleye reproduction through resource competition or predation on juvenile walleye.

Past survey information and current modeling suggest that bass were significantly less abundant under the no minimum size limit regulation in place before 1989. Growth rates of bass were somewhat faster then, but high angler harvest resulted in very few large fish. Implementation of other bass regulations such as reduced bag limits or the early catch and release season did not affect bass harvest as much as the implementation of a 14-inch minimum size restriction.

*The second component is a significant reduction in bass populations in order to minimize predation or competition with walleyes. The department proposes a no minimum length limit for bass in each of these lakes.*

Research shows that stocking in walleye lakes with good natural reproduction generally does not improve population numbers. However when natural recruitment becomes weak for an extended period, stocking of walleye fingerlings may be necessary to rebuild spawning stock numbers.

*The third component is to monitor the walleye populations and stock walleyes as necessary to ensure there is an adequate spawning stock (subject to budget and hatchery capacity).*

Restoration of strong walleye populations in waters formerly dominated by walleye is generally favored by the majority of anglers who fish these waters and is the goal of this proposed experimental restoration program. The Department strongly recommends that all three components: *walleye harvest restrictions, black bass population reductions, and necessary stockings* be used on each lake. Although this is an experimental program, The Department is not proposing a sunset provision and instead will monitor any changes and modify the approach as necessary

The lakes included in the proposal are: Bear, Horseshoe (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 ac.), Lower Turtle, and Upper Turtle (Barron County), Lake Owen (Bayfield County), Big McKenzie and Middle McKenzie (Burnett/ Washburn Counties), Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward (Polk County), Chain, Clear, Island, and McCann (Island Chain of Lakes, Rusk County), Chippewa Flowage, Nelson, Sissabagama, and Whitefish (Sawyer County), and Long and Nancy (Washburn County).

**Barron County: Bear, Horseshoe (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 acres), Lower Turtle and Upper Turtle Lakes**

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Bear Lake (Barron County)?

9. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Horseshoe Lake (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 acres, Barron County)?

10. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lower Turtle Lake (Barron County)?

11. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Upper Turtle Lake (Barron County)?

12. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Bayfield County: Lake Owen**

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lake Owen, Bayfield County?

13. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Burnett County: Big McKenzie Lake**

Note: Largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big McKenzie Lake are currently managed with no minimum length restriction and a 5-fish daily bag limit (aggregate) under a temporary rule. This proposal will codify and make permanent those bass regulations.

Also see question 25 regarding Middle McKenzie Lake (Burnett/ Washburn Counties)

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big McKenzie Lake in Burnett County?

14. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Polk County: Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward Lakes**

Note: Largemouth and smallmouth bass in Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward Lakes are currently managed with no minimum length restriction and a 5-fish daily bag limit (aggregate) under a temporary rule. This proposal will codify and make permanent those bass regulations.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Butternut Lake are currently managed with no minimum length restriction and a 5-fish daily bag limit under permanent rule.

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches in Big Butternut Lake (Polk County)?

15. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Half Moon Lake (Polk County)?

16. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Pipe Lake (Polk County)?

17. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Ward Lake (Polk County)?

18. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Rusk County: Island Chain of Lakes (Clear, Chain, Island, McCann)**

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Chain, Clear, Island and McCann Lakes (and connecting waters) in Rusk County?

19. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Sawyer County: Chippewa Flowage, Nelson, Sissabagama, and Whitefish Lakes**

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Chippewa Flowage upstream from the Chippewa Flowage (Winter) Dam in Sawyer County?

20. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Largemouth and smallmouth bass in Nelson Lake are currently managed with no minimum length restriction and a 5-fish daily bag limit under permanent rule.

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restrictions from 15 to 18 inches in Nelson Lake in Sawyer County?

21. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Sissabagama Lake in Sawyer County?

22. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Whitefish Lake in Sawyer County?

23. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Washburn County: Middle McKenzie, Long and Nancy Lakes**

Note: Largemouth and smallmouth bass in Middle McKenzie, Long, and Nancy Lakes are currently managed with no minimum length restriction and a 5-fish daily bag limit (aggregate) under a temporary rule. This proposal will codify and make permanent those bass regulations.

Also see question 14 regarding Big McKenzie lake (Burnett/ Washburn Counties)

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Middle McKenzie Lake (Washburn County)?

24. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Long Lake (Washburn County)?

25. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches, and making permanent the current no- minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Nancy Lake (Washburn County)?

26. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: FOREST COUNTY

#### Question 27 – Lake Metonga walleye regulations

Current adult walleye densities and natural recruitment are low in Lake Metonga. The current 15 inch minimum size limit and 5 fish bag limit is not adequate to protect walleye on Lake Metonga. Management goals include an adult walleye population of >3 adult fish per acre and natural recruitment of >20 YOY walleye per mile, in one out of three years. Angling regulation changes will help achieve these goals. The proposed 18 inch minimum regulation/ 3 fish daily bag limit will increase population numbers and protect male and female from angling harvest for an additional two to three years. These additional years of protection will help build up a spawning base, thus increasing natural reproduction, and eventually reducing or eliminating supplemental stocking.

Lake Metonga is a WDNR-trend lake, with comprehensive fish surveys and creel surveys planned every 3 years, which will allow the department to track the effectiveness of the regulation change.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 to 3 fish and increasing the minimum size restrictions from 15 to 18 inches in Lake Metonga in Forest County?

27. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: LANGLADE COUNTY

#### Question 28 – Wolf River trout regulations

The department desires to manage the trout fishery in the Langlade County portion of the Wolf River with two objectives: 1) as put-and-take for recently stocked trout which our studies have shown to have a low annual survival rate, and 2) for catch-and-release fishing for carry-over, quality sized trout (larger than 12 inches). This approach will allow anglers, if they so chose, to harvest small, recently stocked trout while at the same time protecting the relatively few but highly

regarded larger, quality-sized trout that have survived and carried over from previous years' stocking. This rule change would allow harvest of some stocked trout in a situation where the majority don't survive from one year to the next but still protect the larger, carry-over trout that provide for the quality fishing opportunity and experience that many anglers desire. The Antigo and Wolf River Chapters of TU support this regulation change.

Current regulations on the Wolf River are a 12-inch minimum size restriction for brown and rainbow trout and an 8-inch minimum size restriction on brook trout with a 3-fish per day aggregate bag limit, except for a catch-and-release, artificial lures only zone between the Soo Line Railroad Bridge and Dierks Irrigation Hole. This proposal will eliminate these 3 sections of varying regulations allow for a single regulation for trout on the Wolf River in Langlade County.

- Do you favor making the trout regulations during the regular season (first Saturday in May through September 30) on the Wolf River in Langlade County the following: daily bag limit of 3 trout under 12 inches, artificial lures only? The October 1- November 15 catch-and-release season will be retained for the entire length of the Wolf River in Langlade County.

28. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: IRON COUNTY

#### Question 29 – Eliminating Fish Refuge in Iron County

Anglers enjoy fishing in early spring from the convenient shore-fishing location on the Little Turtle River in Iron County from 200 feet upstream of Popko's Circle Road (West) Crossing to 200 feet downstream of Popko's Circle Road. They pursue mostly suckers and panfish. This is not a significant walleye spawning area, and there are not enough walleyes or other gamefish in this location in early spring to cause concern about incidental catch or illegal harvest. Rescinding this refuge reflects biological understanding and restores shore-fishing opportunity.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you support removing the prohibition on fishing between April 1<sup>st</sup> and the opening of the general fishing season on the Little Turtle River in Iron County from 200 feet upstream of Popko's Circle Road (West) Crossing to 200 feet downstream of Popko's Circle Road? Regular inland fishing rules would apply.

29. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: OCONTO COUNTY

#### Question 30 – Oconto River night fishing prohibition

Due to increased use by lake sturgeon and walleye during fall and spring in a stretch of the Oconto River upstream of the Highway 141 Bridge to the Oconto Dam where they are vulnerable to illegal harvest the department recommends prohibiting fishing between sunset and sunrise between September 15 and the first Saturday in May, similar to other Lake Michigan tributary

streams in the area. During the past five years there has been an increase in the number of poaching complaints and confirmed illegal harvest of two sturgeon from this stretch of river. A small number of anglers who are legally pursuing walleye or other gamefish after sunset would be impacted by the closure, but the hook-and-line ban on fishing between sunset and sunrise would not affect those who dip net for suckers for consumption from the recreational bridge area.

- Do you support prohibiting fishing from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour after sunrise on the Oconto River upstream of the Highway 141 bridge to the Oconto Dam in Oconto County, between September 15 and the first Saturday in May?

30. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: SAWYER COUNTY

#### Question 31 – Eliminating Fish Refuges in Sawyer County

Existing refuges in Sawyer County need to be simplified and revised in order to eliminate needless complexity and increase angling opportunity. The biological rationale for a number of traditional refuges no longer exists. Size and bag limits are a more reliable regulatory tool to protect vulnerable fish from over-harvest.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you support removing seasonal fishing prohibitions on:
  - the Chippewa Flowage for 500 feet below Moose Lake (Sawyer County),
  - on Spider Creek between Spider Lake and State highway 77 (Sawyer County),
  - on Island Creek between Island and Black Dan Lakes (Sawyer County),
  - on Malviney Creek (Sawyer County),
  - on the unnamed tributary of Lake Chetac from Lake Chetac to 1000 feet upstream (Sawyer County),
  - on the Brunet River from Lake Winter to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer County),
  - and on the Couderay River from the Grimh (Radisson) Dam to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer County)

31. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: VILAS COUNTY

#### Question 32 – Little St Germain Lake musky regulation

The current 45 inch minimum size limit has increased the numbers of muskellunge 40 inches or greater in length present in Little Saint Germain Lake, but that rule is scheduled to expire

November 30, 2011. This lake has the size, growth rate, and forage base to produce significant numbers of trophy muskellunge. There is also a significant segment of the angling public that would like to see greater opportunities to catch larger muskellunge. In 1999 a survey was conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of 1,400 anglers who fish muskellunge in Wisconsin (Margenau 2004). The survey found that 62% of anglers felt that a trophy muskellunge was a fish 50 inches or longer in length. Maintaining the muskellunge regulation at the 45 inch minimum will continue to provide an additional quality angling opportunity in Vilas County.

Future plans call for monitoring muskellunge recruitment each fall. A Muskellunge population estimate and creel survey should be conducted on little Saint Germain Lake every 10 to 15 years to evaluate any changes.

- Do you favor making permanent the current 45-inch minimum size restriction on muskellunge in Little St Germain Lake in Vilas County?

32. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: WAUKESHA COUNTY

#### Question 33 –Big Muskego Lake pike regulations

Big Muskego is a large shallow water body covering 2300 acres and is located 12 miles from downtown Milwaukee. Big Muskego Lake has an average depth of only 3 feet and the adjoining 100 acre Bass Bay has an average depth of 12 feet and a maximum depth of 22 feet. Big Muskego was rehabilitated in 1996 and has a sport fishery comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, northern pike and yellow perch. Recent June floods in 2008 allowed immigration of common carp into Big Muskego from downstream Wind Lake. Partial winterkills were documented in 2008 and 2009 causing further damage to the fishery. Rough fish abundance has increased in recent years including all three species of bullheads, bowfin and common carp. Angler harvest of gamefish and panfish species is extremely high as indicated by annual mortality rates as well as size structure data. In order to further protect this fragile ecosystem protection of large northern pike is necessary to facilitate bio-manipulation and maximize predation on small planktivorous fish and rough fish.

A comprehensive survey completed in 2008 indicates the northern pike size structure is inadequate in providing predation on rough fish and small planktivorous fish. The current 26" size limit and 2 daily bag limit does not adequately protect large northern pike. Due to the accelerated growth rates of common carp, large northern pike are the only native predator species able to effectively feed on young of the year carp. By increasing the abundance of large northern pike, we will expect to slow the recruitment of common carp and small planktivores providing better water clarity, diverse and abundant native aquatic macrophytes, and better fishing.

- Do you support decreasing the daily bag limit for northern pike from 2 to 1 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from 26-inches to 40-inches in Big Muskego Lake including Bass Bay in Waukesha County?

33. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES: WAUPACA COUNTY

**QUESTION 34 – Marion Pond bass and pike regulations**

During the winter of 2006-07 the Marion Pond lake association and City of Marion lowered water levels in the Marion Pond in order to manage nuisance level aquatic plants. This management action resulted in significant reductions in nuisance exotic plants. However, due to the extensive nature of the drawdown many fish emigrated downstream and intensive fish restoration efforts were needed to restore fish populations. After 3 years of fish stocking and voluntary catch and release efforts the Marion Pond fishery was close to recovery. However, an emergency drawdown due to eminent dam failure during the summer of 2009 setback recovery efforts and the pond will have to be restocked all over again. These regulations are intended to provide maximum protection of the predator gamefish species in order to maximize recovery efforts. The proposed rules will sunset 5 years after implementation, after which time pike and bass harvest regulations will revert back to the standard general inland fishing regulations.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

- Do you favor a temporary decrease in Northern Pike bag limits from 5 fish per day to 2, and the creation of a 26-inch minimum size restriction for pike, along with decreasing the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 5 fish per day to 1, and increasing the minimum size restriction for bass from 14-inches to 18-inches until April 1, 2016 in Marion Pond in Waupaca County?

34. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 35 – Waupaca River trout regulations**

In the Waupaca River downstream of Waupaca Dam, recent temperature monitoring and trout population surveys indicate this section of river supports a limited trout fishery due to the warm summer water temperatures caused by the upstream impoundment. Larger sized trout are present and indicate a small number do over summer from year to year, however, the primary fishery is still comprised of catchable size (7-11 inch) stocked trout. The department would like to manage this fishery as a put and take fishery, however the current size limit (12 inch minimum length limit) would prohibit anglers from keeping stocked trout. This regulation will provide anglers with increased opportunity to harvest stocked trout by reducing the minimum size limit. In addition, the proposed regulation change would extend up to the special regulations water at River Road in order to minimize complexity of regulations throughout the Waupaca River.

- Do you favor decreasing the minimum size restrictions on all trout to 7 inches, and increasing the daily bag limit from 5 fish from 3 fish on the Waupaca River below River Road (Waupaca County)?

35. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Fiscal Estimate — 2009 Session**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Updated	LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FH-03-10

**Subject**  
 Request for authorization of public hearings on proposed fishing regulation changes for 2010 Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings.

**Fiscal Effect**  
 State:  No State Fiscal Effect  
 Indeterminate

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriation	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriation	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriation	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	

**Local:**  No Local Government Costs  
 Indeterminate

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected: <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Villages <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____ <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

<b>Fund Sources Affected</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEG-S	<b>Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations</b> N/A
---	--

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

**Rules Summary:**

The Bureaus of Fisheries Management and Law Enforcement request authorization to hold public hearings on a number of proposed changes to rules related to recreational fishing in the inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The Department is proposing four changes of statewide significance, and approximately 15 questions of local or regional interest, which affect fishing regulations on individual waters.

The four changes of statewide interest include: proposals to liberalize some ice fishing and panfish harvest regulations on the Chippewa Flowage (Sawyer County); to allow motor trolling county-wide in Ashland, Iron, Price, and Sawyer Counties; to make consistent rules for sturgeon angling in the St. Croix River where it forms the Wisconsin-Minnesota border; and to make consistent rules for bass angling in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

For the changes of local or regional interest, the Department also has identified twenty lakes in Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties as waters in which restoration of natural walleye reproduction has been identified as the primary management objective. Each of these waters has had a walleye population sustained by natural reproduction within the past twenty years, but for unknown reasons that reproduction has failed in recent years and stocking is currently required to maintain a walleye population. Additionally, to address concerns that largemouth and smallmouth bass (black bass) could potentially inhibit recovery of walleye reproduction, the Department further proposes to remove the minimum length restriction for angler harvest of black bass in each of these lakes.

**Fiscal Estimate:**

None of the proposed changes are expected to have fiscal impacts.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

N/A

<b>Prepared By:</b> Joe Polasek	<b>Telephone No.</b> 266-2794	<b>Agency</b> Department of Natural Resources
<b>Authorized Signature</b> 	<b>Telephone No.</b> 266-2794	<b>Date (mm/dd/ccyy)</b> 12-22-09

**Fiscal Estimate Worksheet — 2009 Session**  
 Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original       Updated  
 Corrected       Supplemental

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FH-03-10

**Subject**

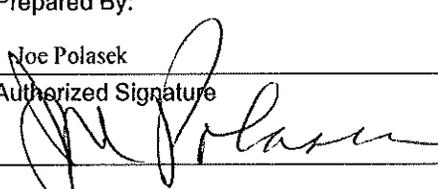
Request for authorization of public hearings on proposed fishing regulation changes for 2010 Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings

One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):

Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on State Funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>			
State Operations — Salaries and Fringes		\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)		( FTE )	( FTE )
State Operations — Other Costs			-
Local Assistance			-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			-
<b>Total State Costs by Category</b>		\$	\$ -
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR		\$	\$ -
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
State Revenues	Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	Increased Revenue	Decreased Revenue
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
<b>Total State Revenues</b>		\$	\$ -

**Net Annualized Fiscal Impact**

	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
Net Change in Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0
Net Change in Revenues	\$ 0	\$ 0

Prepared By:	Telephone No.	Agency
Joe Polasek	266-2794	Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No.	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)
	266-2794	12-22-09

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

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal and recreate NR 20.20(26), to repeal 20.20(34)(d)2., 20.20(57)(b), 26.01(57)(a) and (b), 26.05(26), 26.06(57)(b), (d) and (g), 26.09(57)(a) and (b); to amend NR 20.20(2)(a), 20.20(3)(f)1., 20.20(21)(h)1., 20.20(34)(d)1., 20.20(49)(am), 20.20(51)(a), 20.20(57)(a), (d), (f)1., and (i)4., 20.20(64)(d)1m., 20.20(66)(g)3., 20.20(69)(f)3., 20.20(73)(a)3., 21.04(7)(a) and 23.05(5)(d)1.; and to create NR 20.20(3)(am)2., 20.20(4)(c)3., 20.20(4)(i)4., 20.20(7)(c)2., 20.20(7)(h), 20.20(57)(i)5., 20.20(49)(f)2., 20.20(51)(b)2., 20.20(51)(e)3., 20.20(57)(i)5., 20.20(66)(bm), 20.20(68)(cm), 20.20(69)(c)3. and 20.20(69)(d)3., relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

FH-03-10

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

**1. Statutes Interpreted:** In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053, 29.531 and, 29.533, Stats., which authorize fishing, have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to fishing and clamming regulations on inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

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

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

**4. Related Rule or Statute:** None.

**5. Plain Language Rule Analysis:**

Sections 1, 9, 14 and 17 permit motor trolling in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer counties.

Section 2 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Bear, Horsehead, and Upper and Lower Turtle lakes (Barron county).

Section 3 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Bear, Horseshoe (T36N, R14E, S3, 115 ac.), and Upper and Lower Turtle lakes (Barron county) from 15 to 18 inches and decreases the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 4 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lake Owen (Bayfield county).

Section 5 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Lake Owen (Bayfield County) from 15 to 18 inches and decreases the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 6 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big McKenzie lake (Burnett/ Washburn counties).

Section 7 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Big McKenzie lake (Burnett/ Washburn counties) from 15 to 18 inches and decreases the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 8 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Metonga lake (Forest county) from 15 to 18 inches and decreases the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Sections 10 and 11 standardize trout regulations for all of the Wolf river (Langlade county), allowing hook and line fishing only with artificial lures from the First Saturday in May at 5:00am until September 30 with a bag limit of 3 and a maximum size of 12 inches. There is also a catch and release season from October 1 to November 15 for hook and line fishing with artificial lures.

Section 12 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward lakes (Polk county).

Section 13 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward lakes (Polk county) from 15 to 18 inches and reduces the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 15 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Chain, Clear, Island, and McCann lakes (Island chain of lakes, Rusk county).

Section 16 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Chain, Clear, Island, and McCann lakes (Island chain of lakes, Rusk county) from 15 to 18 inches and reduces the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Sections 18 and 20 extends the season on Chippewa flowage (Sawyer county) from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March for all species except muskellunge, walleye, and lake sturgeon.

Section 19 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Whitefish and Sissabagama lakes, and the Chippewa flowage (Sawyer county).

Section 19 also increases the minimum size restriction in Nelson, Sissabagama and Whitefish lakes from 15 to 18 inches and reduces the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 19 also changes the panfish daily bag limit to 10 fish daily bag limit for all panfish all season on the Chippewa flowage, and creates a continuous open season for panfish. The previous panfish bag limits were 25 with no more than 15 crappie from the first Saturday in May until November 30 but no crappie from December 1 to the first Sunday in March, with fishing for panfish prohibited between the first Sunday in March and the first Saturday in May.

Section 20 also increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in the Chippewa flowage from no minimum to 18 inches. The daily bag limit is unchanged at 3 walleye per day.

Section 21 makes permanent the 45 inch minimum size restriction for muskellunge in Little St. Germain lake (Vilas county). The current 45-inch minimum regulation is scheduled to expire November 30, 2011.

Section 22 eliminates the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Middle McKenzie, Nancy and Long lakes (Washburn county).

Section 23 increases the minimum size restriction for walleye in Middle McKenzie (Washburn/ Burnett counties), Nancy and Long lakes (Washburn county) from 15 to 18 inches and reduces the daily bag limit for walleye from 5 fish to 3 fish.

Section 24 increases the minimum size restriction for northern pike on Big Muskego lake including Bass bay (Waukesha county) from 26 inches to 40 inches and reduces the daily bag limit from 2 to 1 fish.

Section 25 increases the minimum size restriction for bass in Marion Pond (Waupaca county) from 14 inches to 18 inches and reduces the daily angler bag limit from 5 to 1. This rule will expire on April 1, 2016.

Section 26 increases the minimum size restriction for northern pike in Marion pond (Waupaca county) from no minimum to 26 inches and reduces the daily angler bag limit from 5 to 2. This rule will expire April 1, 2016.

Section 27 decreases the minimum length restriction to 7 inches for all trout in the Waupaca river downstream of River road. Current regulations are 12 inches for brown trout and rainbow trout, and 8 inches for brook trout. It also increases the daily angler bag from 3 trout to 5 trout.

Section 28 prohibits night fishing from September 15 to the first Saturday in May in the section of the Oconto river from the upstream side of the US 141 Bridge to the Stiles dam (Oconto county).

Section 29 adds a catch-and-release season for Lake Sturgeon on the St. Croix river from October 1 to 15. This section of the St. Croix river is a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water, and this section will make Wisconsin rules consistent with Minnesota rules.

Section 30 extends the largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing season on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from November 30 to December 31. This will make Wisconsin and Michigan rules consistent.

Sections 31, 32, 33, and 34 eliminate the following fish refuges: on the Chippewa flowage for 500 feet below Moose lake (Sawyer county), on Spider creek between Spider lake and State highway 77 (Sawyer county), on Island creek between Island and Black Dan lakes (Sawyer county), on Malviney creek (Sawyer county), on the unnamed tributary of Lake Chetac from Lake Chetac to 1000 feet upstream (Sawyer county), on the Brunet River from Lake Winter to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer county), on the Couderay river from the Grimh (Radisson) dam to 500 feet downstream (Sawyer county) and on the Little Turtle river and Turtle-Flambeau flowage 200 feet upstream of Popko's Circle road until 200 feet downstream of Popko's Circle road (Iron county).

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

**7. Comparison of 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, bag and size limits may differ for species across the surrounding states; however, the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois all have statewide seasons, bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters.

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

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

**10. Effect on Small Business, Including How the Rule Will Be Enforced:** The proposed rules do not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational

standards contained in the rule. The rules will be enforced by Conservation Wardens who have arrest powers and may use citations.

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

---

Section 1. NR 20.20(2)(a) is amended to read:

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

(a) All species	1. <del>Kakagon river and sloughs</del> <u>All waters</u>	a. Motor trolling is permitted	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 2. NR 20.20(3)(am)2. is created to read:

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

(am) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Bear, Horseshoe ((T36N, R14E, S3, 115 ac.), Lower Turtle and Upper Turtle lakes	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
-------------------------------------	--	-------------------	--	---	------

Section 3. NR 20.20(3)(f) is amended to read:

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

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Red Cedar lake, Hemlock <del>Bear, Horeshead,</del> <u>Lower Turtle, and Upper Turtle lakes</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
---------------------------------	--	------------------	--	------------	----

Section 4. NR 20.20(4)(c)3. is created to read:

(4) BAYFIELD (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	3. Lake Owen	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5	None

Section 5. NR 20.20(4)(i)4. is created to read:

(4) BAYFIELD (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. Lake Owen	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
---------------------------------	--------------	-------------------	--	------------	----

Section 6. NR 20.20(7)(c)2. is created to read:

(4) BURNETT (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Big McKenzie lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
------------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------	--	------------	------

Section 7. NR 20.20(7)(h) is created to read:

(4) BURNETT (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger, and hybrids	1. Big McKenzie lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
----------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------	--	------------	----

Section 8. NR 20.20(21)(h)1. is amended to read:

(21) FOREST (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Crane, Lucerne, <u>Metonga</u> and Pickerel lakes	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
---------------------------------	--	-------------------	--	------------	----

Section 9. NR 20.20(26) is repealed and recreated to read:

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

(a) All species	1. All waters excluding Etna, Grey, Lost (Iron county-Vilas county line), Minette, Oriole, Pardee and Sherman lakes	a. Motor trolling is permitted	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)
(b) Lake sturgeon	1. North Fork Flambeau river downstream from the Turtle Flambeau flowage dam	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in September to September 30	1 per season	60
(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Evelyn lake, O'Brien lake, One Man lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	-

			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	2. Wilson lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	-
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	No minimum length but the possession of fish from 12 through 16 inches is prohibited
	3. Turtle-Flambeau flowage	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	-
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	2 in total	15
	4. Gile flowage	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	-
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18 inches	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited
(d) Muskellunge	1. Catherine lake, Cedar lake, Fisher lake, Gile flowage, Long lake, Lower Springstead lake, Mercer lake, Moose lake, Pine lake, Turtle-Flambeau flowage including Trude lake, Upper Springstead lake, Wilson lake	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	40

	2. Owl lake	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1 in total	28
(e) Northern pike	1. Lake Six, all tributaries and connected sloughs to Lake Superior upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2	26
(f) Panfish	1. Turtle-Flambeau flowage including Trude lake	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	10 in total	Crappie 10, other species none
	2. Pine lake, Bearskull lake, Island lake, Spider lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None
(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
		c. Dip netting at any time for smelt only on tributaries to Lake Superior from the mouth upstream for one-half mile.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
	2. All other tributaries to Lake Superior	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Dip netting at any time for smelt only from the mouth upstream for one-half mile.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing with bow and arrow only.	Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1	None	None

(h) Trout and salmon	1. Montreal river downstream from Superior falls	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total	10
	2. Montreal river upstream from Superior falls	a. Hook and line	April 26 to September 30	5 in total	7
	3. Graveyard creek downstream from U.S. hwy. 2	a. Hook and line	Last Saturday in March to November 15	5 in total but only 2 may be brown trout longer than 15 inches and only 1 may be a rainbow trout, and none may be brook trout until November 15, 2011	Brown trout 10, salmon 12, rainbow trout 26, brook trout 8 on or after November 15, 2011
	4. Oronto creek, Parker creek	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest April 1 to November 15	5 in total but only 2 may be brown trout longer than 15 inches and only 1 may be a rainbow trout	Brook trout 8, brown trout 10, salmon 12, rainbow trout 26
	5. All other tributaries and portions of tributaries to Lake Superior not listed in subds. 1. to 4.	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total but only 2 may be brown trout longer than 15 inches and only 1 may be a rainbow trout	Brook trout 8, brown trout 10, salmon 12, rainbow trout 26
	6. Boomer creek, Fourche creek, Flood creek	b. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9

	7. Plunkett (Sugar) and Weber lakes	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	7
	8. All other waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Grand Portage lake, Mercer lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
	2. Bearskull lake, Catherine lake, Cedar lake, Echo lake, Fisher lake, Gile flowage, Island lake, Little Oxbow lake, Lower Springstead lake, Owl lake, Oxbow lake, Pine lake, Randall lake, Sandy Beach lake, Sherman lake, Spider lake, Upper Springstead lake, North Fork Flambeau river and its tributaries, West Branch Montreal river, Turtle river upstream from Echo 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 14 inches	None
	3. Tributaries to Lake Superior and their connected sloughs	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14 inches	15
	4. Wilson lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

Section 10. NR 20.20(34)(d)1. is amended to read:

(34) LANGLADE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Trout and salmon	1. Wolf river from the See Line railroad bridge downstream to Dierks irrigation hole	b. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to <del>November 15</del> <u>September 30</u>	<del>0</del> <u>3</u>	<del>-</del> <u>under 12</u>
----------------------	--	---	--	-----------------------	------------------------------

			<u>October 1 to November 15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>=</u>
<del>2. All other portions of the Wolf river-</del>	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May at 5:00am to September 30	3 in total		Brow and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	b. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used-	October 1 to November 15	0	-	

Section 11. NR 20.20(34)(d)2. is repealed.

Section 12. NR 20.20(49)(am) is amended to read:

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

(am) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Big Round lake, Balsam lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be less than 14 until March 1, 2012	None until March 1, 2012, when it becomes 14
	2. Big Butternut, <u>Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward lakes</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
	3. <del>Pike lake-</del>	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March-	3 in total but only 1 may be larger than 18-	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited-

Section 13. NR 20.20(49)(f)2. is created to read:

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

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Big Butternut, Half Moon, Pipe, and Ward lakes	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18
------------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---	----

Section 14. NR 20.20(51)(a) is amended to read:

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

(a) All species	1. <del>Pike lake, Round lake</del> <u>All waters</u>	a. Motor trolling is	As specified in this subsection or sub.	As specified in this	As specified
-----------------	---	----------------------	--	-------------------------	-----------------

permitted	(73)	subsection or sub. (73)	in this subsection or sub. (73)
-----------	------	----------------------------	--

Section 15. NR 20.20(51)(b)2. is created to read:

(55) RUSK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Chain, Clear, Island, McCann lakes (Island chain of lakes), and connecting waters	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None
------------------------------------	--	-------------------	--	---	------

Section 16. NR 20.20(51)(e)3. is created to read:

(55) RUSK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) walleye, sauger, and hybrids	3. Chain, Clear, Island, McCann lakes (Island chain of lakes), and connecting waters	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18
----------------------------------	--	-------------------	--	---	----

Section 17. NR 20.20(57)(a) is amended to read:

(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. <del>Chetae lake, Grindstone lake, Lac Courte Oreilles lake, Nelson lake, Round lake, Whitefish lake, Windigo lake</del> <u>All waters</u>	a. Motor trolling is permitted	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 18. NR 20.20(57)(b) is repealed.

Section 19. NR 20.20(57)(d), (f)1., and (i)4. are amended to read:

(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Black lake, Christner lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in	1 in total	18

March

	2. <u>Nelson, Whitefish lakes, and Chippewa flowage and all connected waters within T39N R6, T39N R7, T39N R8, T40N R6, T40N R7 and T40N R8 except the Chippewa river downstream from the Chippewa flowage (Winter) dam</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
	3. <u>Big Chetac, Sissabagama, lakes</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
(f) Panfish	1. <u>Chippewa flowage and all connected waters within T39N R6, T39N R7, T39N R8, T40N R6, T40N R7 and T40N R8 except the Chippewa river downstream from the Chippewa flowage (Winter) dam</u>	a. Hook and line.	Year round December 1 to the first Sunday in March	2510 in total but no more than 15 may be crappie	None None
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. <u>Sand lake, including Sissabagama creek upstream to Sand lake road, Nelson, Sissabagama, and Whitefish lakes</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
Section 20. 20.20(57)(i)5. is created to read:					
(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(i) Walleye, sauger, and hybrids	5. <u>Chippewa flowage and all connected waters within T39N R6, T39N R7, T39N R8, T40N R6, T40N R7 and T40N R8 except the Chippewa river downstream from the Chippewa flowage</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to November 30	3 in total	18

(Winter) dam

Section 21. NR 20.20(64)(d)1m. is amended to read:

(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1m. Little St. Germain lake	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	45 until November 30, 2011 when it becomes 34
-----------------	-----------------------------	-------------------	--	---	---

Section 22. NR 20.20(66)(bm) is created to read:

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

(bm) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Nancy lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
	2. Long and Middle McKenzie lakes	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

Section 23. NR 20.20(66)(g)3. is amended to read:

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

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	3. <u>Balsam lake, Red Cedar, Long, Middle McKenzie and Nancy lakes</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18
---------------------------------	---	-------------------	--	---	----

Section 24. NR 20.20(68)(cm) is created to read:

(68) WAUKESHA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Northern Pike	1. Big Muskego lake including Bass bay	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to first Sunday in March	1	40
--------------------	--	-------------------	--	---	----

Section 25. NR 20.20(69)(c)3. is created to read:

(69) WAUPACA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	3. Marion pond	a. Hook and line. Continuous	1 until April 1, 2016 when it becomes 5	18 until April 1, 2016 when it becomes 14
------------------------------------	----------------	------------------------------	---	---

Section 26. NR 20.20(69)(d)3. is created to read:

(69) WAUPACA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Northern pike	3. Marion pond	a. Hook and line. Continuous	2 until April 1, 2016 when it becomes 5	26 until April 1, 2016 when it becomes None
-------------------	----------------	------------------------------	---	---

Section 27. NR 20.20(69)(f)3. is amended to read:

(69) WAUPACA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout and salmon	3. Comet creek, Little Wolf river (north branch) except portion described above; <del>Waupaca river except portion described above</del>	a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
----------------------	--	--	------------	---

Section 28. NR 20.20(73)(a)3. is amended to read:

(73)

(a) All species	3. Lake Michigan tributaries; Peshtigo river upstream from the first railroad bridge to the first dam, Marinette county; Little river downstream from highway 141, Oconto county; <u>Oconto river upstream from the upstream side of the highway 141 bridge to the first dam, Oconto county;</u> and all other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam	a. In addition to the restrictions under pars. (b) to (o), all of the following restrictions apply: Motor trolling is permitted in Lake Michigan tributaries of Racine county. From September 15 to the first Saturday in May only hooks with a one-half inch gap or less may be used and hook and line fishing is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour	As specified in this subsection	As specified in this subsection	As specified in this subsection
-----------------	---	--	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

or lake

before sunrise. From September 15 to December 31, fishing by any method is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

Section 29. NR 21.04(7)(a) is amended to read:

NR 21.04 Sport fishing; seasons and limits. All regulations applicable to sport fishing are as follows unless expressly provided elsewhere in this chapter or the law. (23.11, 29.041)

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Daily bag limit	Minimum length (inches)
<b>7) LAKE STURGEON</b>			
(a) St. Croix river	First Saturday in September to September 30	1 per season	60 inches
	<u>October 1 to October 15</u>	<u>0 (Catch-and-release only)</u>	--

Section 30. NR 23.05(5)(d)1. is amended to read:

NR 23.05(5)

(5) 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. NR 23.06, are as follows:

Kind of fish and locality	Open season (both dates inclusive)	Possession and daily bag limit	Minimum length (in.)
<b>(d) Largemouth bass and Smallmouth bass</b>			
1. All boundary waters	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	0, beginning the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	--
		5 in total for the third Saturday in June to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	14

Section 31. NR 26.01(57)(a) and (57)(b) are repealed.

Section 32. NR 26.05(26) is repealed.

Section 33. NR 26.06(57)(b),(57)(d) and (57)(g) are repealed.

Section 34. NR 26.09(57)(a) and (57)(b) are repealed.

SECTION 35. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect April 1, 2011 except Sections 8, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, which shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Administrative Register, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 36. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew J. Frank, Secretary**

(SEAL)