

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT:

Request that the Board adopt Board Order FH-18-12, proposed rules affecting chs. NR 20, 21, 22, and 23 related to the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing changes to recreational fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters.

FOR: May 2013 Board meeting

PRESENTER'S NAME AND TITLE: Mike Staggs, Fisheries Management Bureau Director

SUMMARY:

The proposed rule would make modifications to administrative code pertaining to sport fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The proposed changes would help protect and enhance the State's fish resources. All rule changes were proposed at the April 8, 2013, Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings.

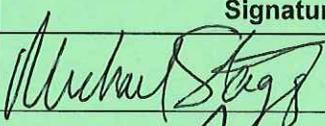
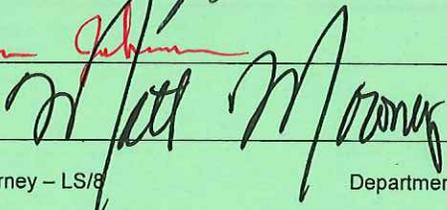
Based partially on requests by the Governor's Office and the NRB to simplify fishing regulations, the Department's proposals include:

- Allowing trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures;
- Removing the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allowing their harvest under existing size and bag limits. This change would mean that smallmouth bass must be immediately released during the early catch and release season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June, but largemouth bass may be harvested beginning the first Saturday in May so long as the length and bag limits are followed;
- Restricting the use of lead tackle that is less than 1-inch in diameter or less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County;
- Allowing rough fish to be taken by hand year round or by hand spear where spearing is allowed from June 1 to August 31 within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam;
- Opening inland waters in all but 9 northern counties to rough fish spearing year-round;
- Allowing explicit, temporary bag or size limit changes for rehabilitation projects or to control detrimental fish species using public notice and information meetings rather than the lengthy administrative rule change process; and
- Creating several species-specific regulation changes on individual waterbodies throughout the state.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt Board Order FH-18-12.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> background memo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments to background memo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of scope | <input type="checkbox"/> Governor approval of statement of scope |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal estimate and economic impact analysis (EIA) form | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental assessment or impact statement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board order/rule |

Approved by	Signature	Date
Mike Staggs, Bureau Director		5/7/2013
Ken Johnson, Administrator		5/9/2013
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		5/15/13

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Program attorney - LS/8

Department rule coordinator - LS/8

DATE: May 7, 2013

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: Background memo on Board Order FH-18-12, relating to sport fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters.

1. Subject of Proposed Rule:

The proposed rule would make modifications to portions of chs. NR 20, 21, 22, and 23 pertaining to sport fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. These changes are proposed to protect and enhance the State's fish resources.

2. Background:

Fishing regulations in this rule, such as length and bag limits or season dates, are used as a tool to ensure 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, and make access to fishing as fair as possible.

All rule change proposals were submitted by fish biologists and peer-reviewed for justification and enforceability by Fisheries Management supervisors and the Bureau Director, species management teams, and the Bureaus of Law Enforcement and Legal Services. Proposals were discussed with Wisconsin Conservation Congress members and were presented at the 2013 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. Proposals that simplify regulations or eliminate a special regulation in favor of a statewide one were given preference.

3. Why is the rule being proposed?

The proposed rule addresses changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations. Fishing regulations are in place to help meet management goals and objectives for waters and their fish species, such as providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes. New regulations are proposed when management goals have changed or the Department must address a critical need, such as a major fish population decline. They are based on input solicited from stakeholders when the proposals were developed as well as plans for evaluating the regulations after they are in place.

4. Summary of the rule.

A summary of the rule elements can be found in the Plain Language Analysis section of the attached Board Order. Important additional information is included in this memo's attachments, including information on trolling rules statewide.

5. How does this proposal affect existing policy?

The rule does not change existing policy behind regulating angler harvest. Fishing regulations are intended to provide diverse fishing opportunities throughout the State and that policy will be continued and enhanced by these rule changes.

6. Has the Board dealt with these issues before?

A package of fishing regulation changes have typically been brought before the Board annually to make improvements for the following general fishing season. The previous package was approved by the Board in May 2011 and rules went into effect for the 2012-13 fishing season. If approved by the Board, these proposals will go into effect prior to the 2014-15 fishing season.

More specifically, the Natural Resources Board has addressed the regulation of motor trolling several times in the past. The predecessor Wisconsin Conservation Commission first restricted motor trolling in most inland waters in 1945. In 1957, the Legislature enacted a statute that allowed motor trolling in various experimental waters primarily in northwest Wisconsin. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s various waters and counties were moved either on or off the "allowable" trolling list. In response to requests from walleye fishermen, the Board approved a rule that allowed "backtrolling" with motors in all Wisconsin counties starting in 1990. This hybrid trolling regulation created sufficient confusion that in 1993 the Natural Resources Board requested a report on the biological consequences of trolling (*An Evaluation of the Effects of Motor Trolling in Wisconsin Waters, A Report to the Natural Resources Board*. Doug Beard, WDNR Bureau of Fisheries Management, April 1993, Attachment B). The report was based on extensive creel survey information from 1980-90 and showed that trolling was not a more effective fishing method than still fishing. The report also quantified concerns from Law Enforcement that the "backtrolling" regulations were confusing and difficult to enforce. The Board eliminated "backtrolling" in 1995, and replaced it with "position fishing" which is a form of very slow motor trolling (ch. NR 20.03(30), ch. NR 20.03(40), and ch. NR 20.06(1)). There have been subsequent Conservation Congress advisory questions on the issue which have been reported to the Board. The most recent was a question about allowing trolling with three lures statewide which passed 1,928 to 1,576 at the 2012 Spring Hearings. More detail on this specific proposal is provided below.

7. Who will be impacted by the proposed rule? How?

The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. As with any change in regulations, there will be a requirement for anglers to learn the new rules. The Fisheries Management Bureau works to notify the public of new regulations via press releases, the internet, and fishing regulations pamphlets.

8. Soliciting public input on economic impact synopsis

No comments were received during the economic impact analysis open comment period held November 23 to December 7, 2012. The Fiscal Estimate/Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

9. Environmental Analysis

This is a Type III action under Chapter NR 150, Wis. Admin. Code. No environmental assessment is required.

10. Small Business Analysis

The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. It is not expected that there will be any 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.

Response Summary – Public Hearing Synopsis

A public hearing was held in each county of the State on April 8, 2013. Public input was collected through electronic ballots distributed at each meeting and also through written comments received by the Fisheries Management Bureau before April 9, 2013.

The Fisheries rule proposals were presented as questions 1-32 in the Spring Hearings questionnaire distributed to the 6,096 hearing attendees statewide. All but one of the Fisheries proposals received a statewide majority of supportive (yes) votes. The Department is recommending no changes to the regulations as proposed at the hearings, but would like to obtain the Board's final decision on options for applying trolling regulations statewide and restricting the use of lead tackle on three lakes in Vilas County.

Questions 1 through 10 presented regional or statewide fishing regulation changes and questions 11 through 32 presented fishing regulation changes that would affect individual waters. Descriptions of each proposal can be found in the Plain Language Analysis section of the attached Board Order, and background on the statewide proposals can be found in Attachment C. Attachment D summarizes all of the voting results.

The bullet points below summarize all comments the Department received by mail or email related to Fisheries rule proposals. Attachment E lists the complete comments. Any "votes" and comments submitted by mail or email were not tallied along with the responses received at the Spring Hearings.

Q1. Allow rough fish harvest within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam

- One "vote" in support

Q4. Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season for smallmouth bass only

- Three "votes" in support
- Four comments in support
- One comment opposed

Q6. Allow trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures

- One "vote" in support (no address)
- Five comments in support (Couderay, WI; 2-Chippewa Flowage; and 2-Dane County)
- Two "votes" opposed (no address)
- Twenty-five comments opposed (15 from Vilas or Oneida counties, 5 from unknown location, 2 from Chippewa Flowage area, 2 from Dane County, 1 from Washburn County)

Q7. Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions

- One comment in support

Q9. Length limit for muskellunge in Lake Michigan waters

- One comment in support

Q10. Ceded territory length limit adjustments

- One comment in support (Vilas County)

Q28. Length and bag limits for bass and walleye on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County

- One comment in support and to also apply the same regulations on Birch Lake, which is connected to Big Chetac. These two lakes already share a special panfish regulation.

All of the proposals for individual waters received a majority of supportive votes statewide as well as a majority of supportive votes in the counties where the waters are located. One proposal (question 13) - to change length and bag limits for walleye, bass, and northern pike on Park Lake and the Fox River in Columbia County – had a tie vote in Columbia County, but the Department recommends moving forward with the proposal because it is expected to help reduce the number of detrimental fish in the waterbodies and meet objectives in the 2009 Park Lake Comprehensive Management Plan.

All but one of the statewide proposals received a majority of supportive votes at the Spring Hearings. However, there are three proposals that should be explained more in order for Board members to make a well-informed decision on how to proceed with the rule order:

Q4. Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season for smallmouth bass only

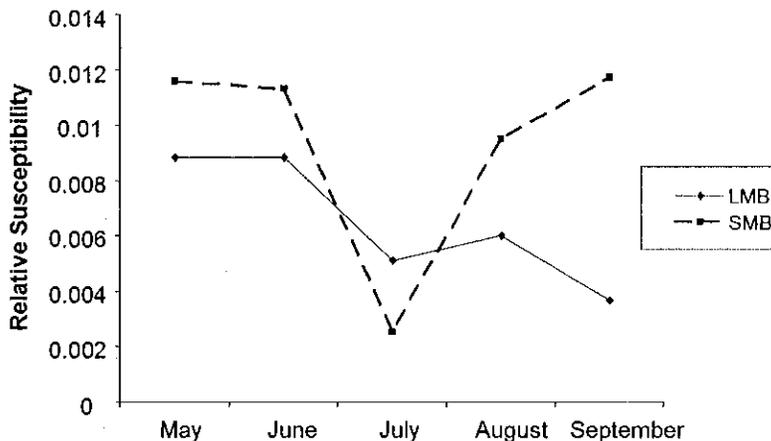
This proposal would remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow harvest under existing size and bag limits. Currently both largemouth and smallmouth bass must be released if caught in the Northern Bass Zone from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June. This change would mean that smallmouth bass must continue to be immediately released during the early catch and release season but largemouth bass may be harvested beginning the first Saturday in May so long as the length and bag limits are followed. (also see Attachment C)

In 2010 and 2011, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings supported questions related to separately managing largemouth and smallmouth bass with different regulations as needed. In 2012, hearing attendees voted in favor of a Conservation Congress advisory question to eliminate the early catch and release bass season in northwest Wisconsin for largemouth bass. Analyses of available data conducted in 2001, 2010, and 2012 indicate that elimination of the Northern Bass Zone, and with it the current early catch and release season, would not alter overall season harvest of largemouth and smallmouth bass. The studies revealed that bass that are saved during the early season are generally just caught later in the summer. As such, harvest of bass during this May and June period would likely not have a negative impact on the vast majority of bass populations. However, the studies also indicate that smallmouth bass populations in the early catch and release zone have shown greater improvements in size structures compared to populations in lakes with similar regulations that do not have the early catch and release season. The same effect has not been seen for largemouth bass.

- An analysis of smallmouth bass catch per mile of fish greater than 18 inches (CPE18) showed a positive change in smallmouth bass CPE18 in the Northern Bass Zone and no change in the Southern Bass Zone, suggesting a positive response in CPE18 associated with the early catch and release season.
- Angling simulations conducted on an 18-inch minimum length limit Vilas County lake showed that smallmouth bass, during the early catch and release season, are highly vulnerable. Minimal effort could quickly result in at least 20% exploitation of fish greater than 18 inches if anglers chose to keep legal size fish. The modeling exercise was used to project the impact of such an exploitation rate on the number of large smallmouth bass and suggests that over time 20% exploitation can lead to a 52% reduction in fish >18 inches relative to an unexploited population.

- Creel interviews from 1990-2008 indicated that smallmouth bass are more vulnerable to harvest than largemouth bass during May and June and compared to other times of the summer.

Vulnerability of bass >18 inches in the Southern Bass Zone. Relative susceptibility is defined as the number of fish harvested per creel interview from 1990-2008:



There is indication that the early catch and release season in the Northern Bass Zone protects large fish, particularly smallmouth bass. This claim is supported by the relatively high vulnerability in the spring based on creel data and harvest simulations as well as the disproportionate increase in the abundance of large smallmouth bass in the Northern Bass Zone compared to the Southern Bass Zone.

The Department suggests advancing the proposal based on:

- 1) Conservation Congress advisory question spring hearing results in 2012 to eliminate the early catch and release bass season in northwest Wisconsin for largemouth bass;
- 2) studies conducted by the Department showing that this proposal will not adversely affect bass populations; and
- 3) the 2013 Spring Hearing votes in favor of the proposal (2877 (63%) of statewide votes in support, 1672 (37%) opposed).

Q8. Lead tackle restriction on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County

In 2010 the Air, Waste, and Water committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress included a question in the annual questionnaire regarding support of restrictions on lead tackle. The question was: "Would you support efforts by the state to phase out use of the lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters?" It passed 1,980 yes to 1,818 no. 33 counties approved, 37 rejected, and 2 counties tied.

At the February 2011 NRB meeting, an information session was held on the impacts of lead on wildlife from both fishing tackle and firearm ammunition. After the session the NRB members discussed steps the Department might take in addressing the issue. As a result, NRB members suggested that lead tackle restrictions be implemented as a pilot on a small number of lakes to advance public education of the lead tackle issue.

The proposed pilot project regulations in FH-18-12 would require anglers fishing Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes in the Northern Highlands Fishing Research Area in Vilas County to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jig-heads if they weigh less than one ounce or are smaller than one inch in any dimension. The purpose of the project is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest smaller sizes of tackle and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds. Evaluation of angler experience with lead-free tackle would likely be accomplished as follows:

1. Science Services staff will develop a short survey to measure years of fishing experience, tackle typically used, fish typically pursued, type of lead-free tackle used on day of survey administration, overall assessment (satisfaction) of lead-free tackle used, willingness/likelihood of purchasing similar lead-free tackle.

2. Science Services staff would administer a volunteer survey to anglers at Northern Highlands Fishery Research Area (NHFRA). All anglers at NHFRA must check in prior to fishing and check out prior to leaving. The survey will be printed on colored paper to reduce the risk of someone copying the survey and submitting multiple responses in an attempt to bias the results.

4. Survey administration will run for 12 months, thereby capturing input during both open water and ice fishing seasons.

5. Periodic reports of preliminary results will be produced. Final results will be used to inform any future policy changes regarding the use of lead tackle.

Total 2013 votes supported going forward with the proposal (2560/55% yes – 2100/45% no), but the opposite was true with the number of counties (34 yes, 37 no, 1 tie).

The Department suggests advancing this proposal, which originated with the NRB, with the goal of improving public education about the wildlife health concerns posed by the loss of lead-containing tackle to Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and streams. This proposal will provide treatment lakes that could be studied to examine angler response to lead-free tackle regulations.

Q6. Allow trolling statewide with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures per angler

Trolling means trailing a lure or bait from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting or rowing. It is generally prohibited, except where specifically authorized by rule. Trolling is currently allowed for certain disabled anglers by special permit. It is allowed on all waters in 18 counties; on one or more waters in 45 counties (105 total waters); and on all boundary waters with IA, MN, and MI, except in Vilas County boundary waters with MI. Under current rules, motorboats trailing a sucker or other minnow behind the moving boat while occupants are casting and retrieving another lure is not allowed on waters closed to trolling. However, "position fishing" is fishing in a manner where the line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by the use of a motor and is not considered trolling. This method is allowed on all waters statewide.

Motor trolling is already allowed on many Wisconsin waters, as well as in all surrounding states and provinces, with no known adverse effects. Allowing trolling statewide would:

- 1) simplify regulations by eliminating confusion about where trolling is or is not allowed;
- 2) allow moving boats to trail behind suckers or other minnows while occupants are casting on all waters;
- 3) eliminate the need to define "position fishing;"
- 4) eliminate the need for disabled anglers to have to apply for trolling permits; and
- 5) provide additional fishing opportunities for anglers who may have difficulty fishing by other methods.

The voting results at the Spring Hearings were 2391 (46%) in support, 2775 (54%) against allowing trolling on all inland waters statewide. Among counties, though, 44 (61%) were in support, and 27 (38%) were against allowing trolling. However, Department staff observed incorrect information shared by hearing attendees in some counties that may have affected voting choices, and the most comments in opposition to the proposal came from Vilas and Oneida counties.

The following is a summary of the major concerns expressed concerning the trolling proposal and the Department’s response:

--Will trolling lead to higher harvests and harm fish populations? In a 1993 study, the Department compared catch rates and sizes of fish caught from creel surveys conducted from 1980-90 and found no significant differences for walleyes, northern pike, or muskellunge. The same study also found that these species were no more vulnerable to trolling than still fishing in small lakes (<500 acres) versus larger lakes (Beard 1993, Attachment B). More recently, the Department compared catch and harvest statistics for muskellunge in 189 creel surveys conducted from 1998-2011 and found no significant differences in lakes where trolling was allowed and where it was prohibited (Table 1). Additional analyses of the Muskies Inc., “trophy muskellunge” database showed no differences in the number of 45” and larger muskellunge registered from lakes with and without trolling (see “Trolling Fact Sheet” Attachment A).

	Trolling (NW WI)	No Trolling (NE WI)	Test	Probability
Number of surveys	45	144		
Mean Catch Rate (muskies/hour)	0.0327	0.0393	WRS	P=0.0983
Number of fish measured	23	58		
Mean Length Harvested Muskies	38.1”	39.1”	GLM	P=0.5295

Table 1. Comparison of average catch rate (muskellunge caught per hour), number of fish measured, and average length of muskellunge harvested (inches) in 189 creel surveys conducted by Wisconsin DNR on classified muskellunge fisheries between 1998 and 2011.

Many of the spring hearing comments came from muskellunge anglers who fear impacts on this less abundant fish. The Department also compared muskellunge size structure seen in 252 netting surveys of muskellunge waters where trolling was and was not allowed and found no significant differences (Figure 1).

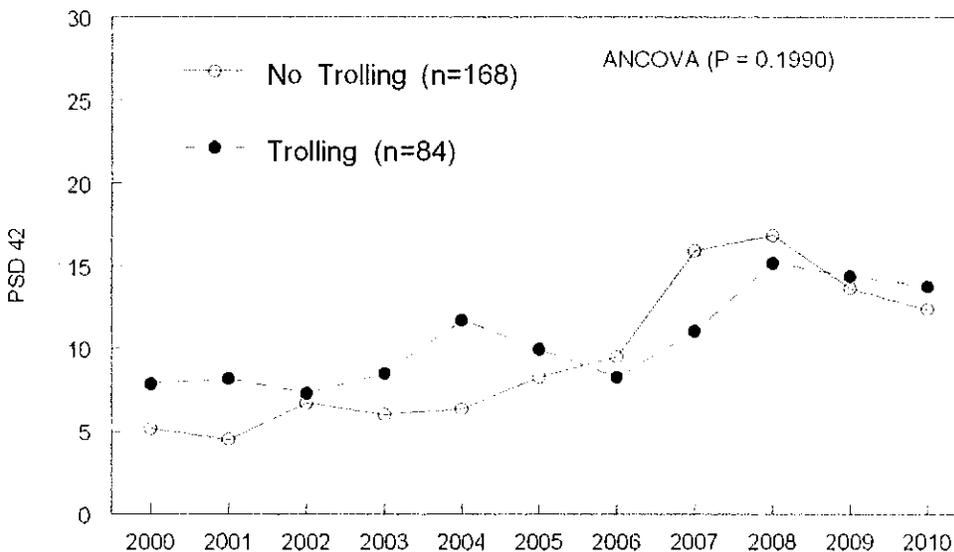


Figure 1. The size structure of muskellunge populations as measured by Proportional Stock Density 42” (basically the proportion of fish in the population over 42”) in 252 spring fyke netting surveys conducted by the Wisconsin DNR from 2000-2010.

Adequate protective seasons, bag limits, and size limits – including a recently enacted statewide 40” minimum for muskellunge – are already in place to protect and sustain muskellunge and other species making a restriction on trolling unnecessary. Trolling has been allowed in Michigan (3-lines), Minnesota (1-line) and Ontario (1-line) for decades, and these are all considered top destinations for muskellunge fishing. The 1993 study examined the angling regulations of 44 other states and found that none had regulations prohibiting trolling.

In summary, regarding the potential for biological harm, the Department has analyzed all of the available biological information and found no evidence of biological impacts caused by trolling. There is no evidence to suggest that motor trolling would be detrimental to muskellunge size structure and there is no reason to believe that allowing trolling in certain waters where it is currently prohibited would result in any change in fish population abundance or size structure.

--Will trolling spread Eurasian Water Milfoil (an invasive aquatic plant species)? While transient boating in general has been shown to be associated with the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), there is no evidence that Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is more common in lakes currently open to trolling versus those closed to trolling. In the 18 counties where trolling is allowed on all waters, the percentage of lakes having EWM ranges from 0% to 84% with an average of 16% of lakes infested. In the 8 counties where no trolling is allowed, the percentage of lakes having EWM ranges from 0% to 84% and averages 16% - identical to the counties where trolling is allowed.

--Will trolling with three lines lead to increased user conflicts on smaller waters? Trolling is currently allowed on some or all waters in 63 counties, including a large number of muskellunge waters that are smaller than 300 acres, without any significant user conflicts being reported (Figure 2).

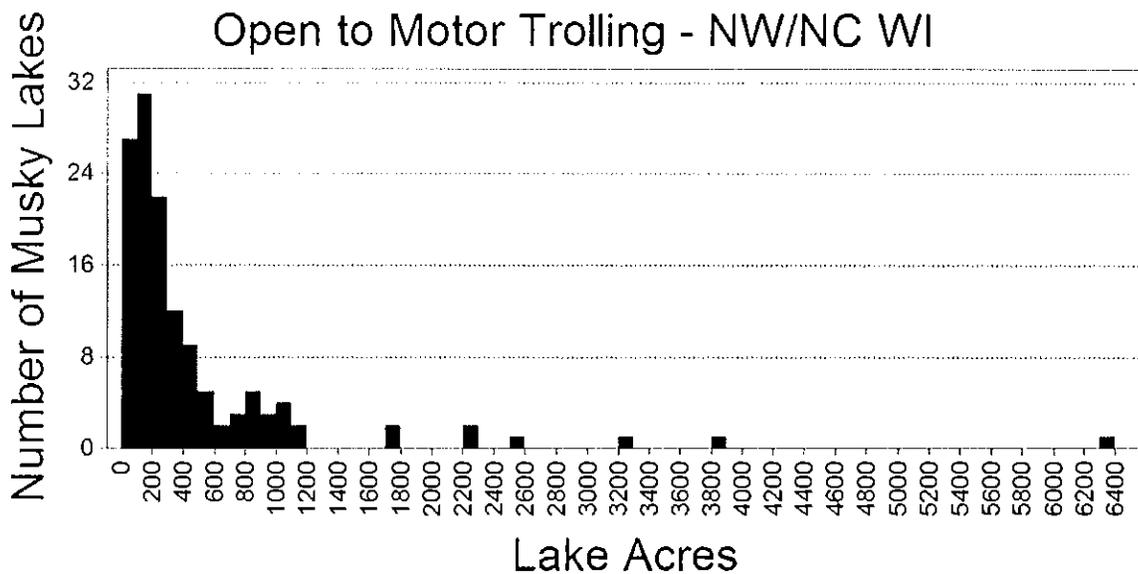


Figure 2. Distribution of the size (acres) of muskellunge lakes currently open to trolling.

Surveys suggest that conflicts with other water users are more significant than with other anglers who are trolling. A 2010-11 statewide mail survey of musky anglers found that conflicts with speed boats, jet

skis, and other non-angling users, was the 4th highest ranking problem in musky fishing, compared to conflicts with other anglers which ranked only 16th out of 18 identified problems.

Finally, some commenters suggested that allowing trolling will result in an increase in the number of anglers on the same water. It is more likely that anglers will simply switch angling methods so the overall number of anglers on a water body will generally be the same.

--Aren't there already plenty of waters open to trolling for people who want to fish that way? For many anglers it is likely inconvenient or impractical to routinely travel to waters where trolling is allowed, which conflicts with a goal of making angling easy, fun, and accessible. If it is important to limit angling methods, then perhaps some lakes should be designated as trolling only to minimize conflicts with anglers casting or live bait fishing and blocking trolling access to the best fishing spots. In the absence of any potential biological impacts, anglers should be free to choose the fishing method that they most enjoy or are able to do on the water that they want to fish.

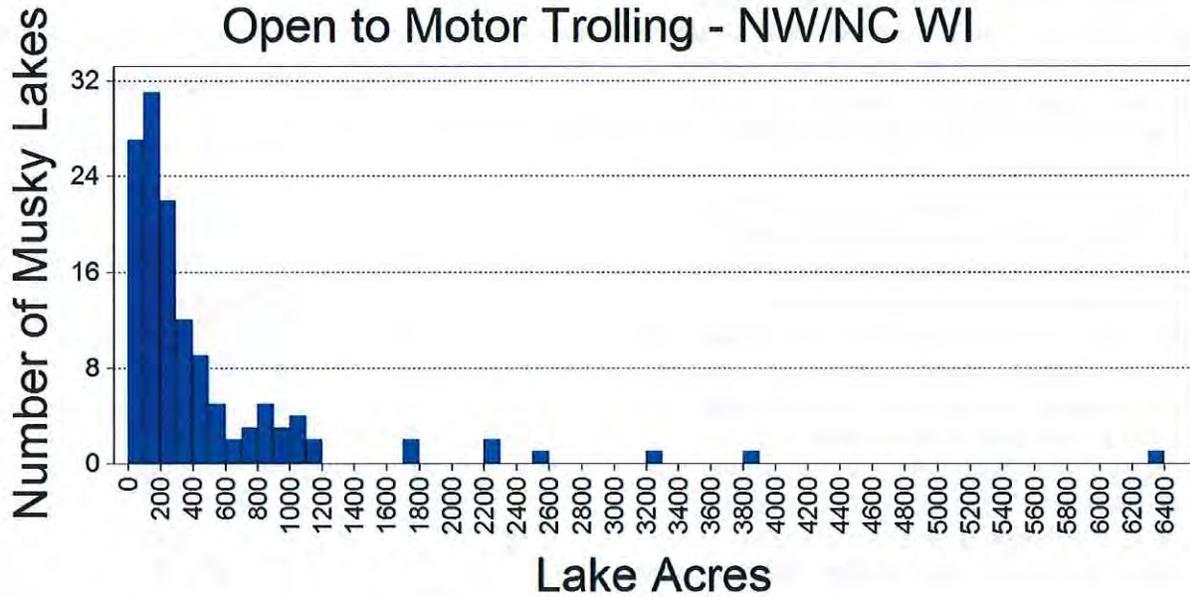
--Why not just create a rule that allows muskellunge anglers to trail a live bait while using an electric motor to position the boat? This is a popular muskellunge fishing method that meets the legal definition of trolling and therefore is currently not allowed on waters where trolling is prohibited. Many muskellunge anglers would like to see an exception to the trolling prohibition made for this particular activity as was done with "position fishing" for walleye anglers. One of the major reasons for proposing trolling statewide relates back to the continued confusion that exists between what constitutes "trolling" versus "position fishing," as noted earlier. Rather than create yet another potentially confusing and difficult to enforce exception for a particular fishing group, the Department suggests that allowing trolling is a much simpler approach. The current rule proposal will allow the simultaneous trailing of live bait on one line while casting with another, which has been requested by the Conservation Congress at previous Spring Hearings, and would prevent anglers from receiving unnecessary citations for trolling or position fishing violations.

--To minimize future user conflicts, why not allow trolling statewide with only one lure instead of the proposed three lures? This may be a reasonable compromise, however the Governor's Office requested in June 2011 that the Conservation Congress and Department work towards simplifying fishing regulations. Allowing trolling on all inland waters statewide with the same number of lures will greatly simplify fishing regulations and remove almost all of the more than 100 notations of "trolling" in the regulation book. The option to reduce the number of lures allowed where trolling with three lures is currently allowed was not in the scope of the hearing notice and is thus not an option in this rulemaking cycle. However, the Board could consider allowing trolling with one hook, bait, or lure in waters where trolling is currently not allowed.

The Department suggests advancing the proposal to allow trolling statewide with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures per angler to simplify regulations statewide and provide additional angling options for all residents and visitors. However, the Department will discuss options that may be favorable to the Conservation Congress at its Annual Convention May 9-11, 2013, and will discuss those with the Board as needed.

The following *Trolling Fact Sheet* which was produced by the Department's Muskellunge Management Team (September 2012) provides additional explanation of the problems with the current trolling rules and the justification for simplifying trolling regulations statewide. The Department's 1993 evaluation of the effects of motor trolling report to the Natural Resources Board is also attached.

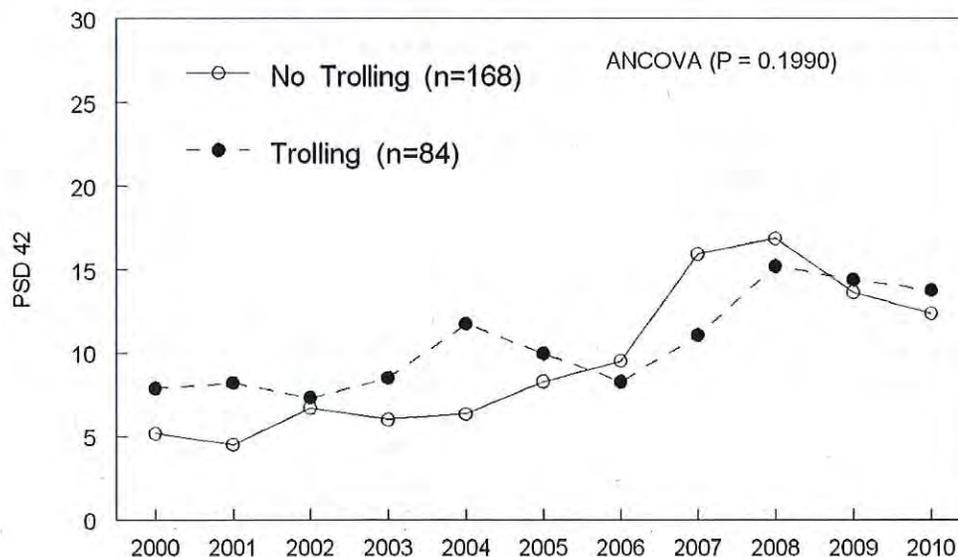
Size Distribution of Musky Lakes Open to Motor Trolling - NW/NC WI



In order to examine concerns regarding the potential impact of motor trolling on muskellunge size-structure, we compared the proportion of 42" and larger fish (PSD42) in lakes with and without motor trolling from 2000 to 2010. We calculated the average PSD42 each year for lakes with and without trolling, transformed the data using [arcsine (square root (PSD42))], and conducted an Analysis of Covariance, using general linear models techniques, with year and lake area (acres) as covariates. We found there was no significant difference in size-structure between lakes with and without trolling, after accounting for lake size and yearly changes in PSD42 (P=0.1990). Our results indicated that size-structure has improved to the same degree in lakes with and without trolling since 2000.

Muskellunge size-structure is very similar among waters, with or without motor trolling:

Muskellunge Size-Structure (PSD42) in Wisconsin Waters, Spring Fyke Netting, 2000-2010 (n=252 samples)



Trolling Fact Sheet – September 2012

We also examined 189 angler creel surveys on classified musky fisheries from 1998 to 2011 to evaluate potential differences in angler catch rates of muskellunge and average lengths of harvested fish. We conducted a Wilcoxon Rank Sum (WRS) procedure to compare angler catch rates between lakes with and without motor trolling. We also conducted a general linear models (GLM) procedure to compare the average lengths of harvested muskellunge between lakes with and without trolling. This data set indicated the catch rates and average lengths have not changed substantially over time.

We found no significant differences in angler catch rates or the average length of kept muskies in lakes with and without trolling:

	Trolling (NW WI)	No Trolling (NE WI)	Test	Probability
Number of surveys	45	144		
Mean Catch Rate (muskies/hour)	0.0327	0.0393	WRS	P=0.0983
Number of fish measured	23	58		
Mean Length Harvested Muskies	38.1"	39.1"	GLM	P=0.5295

To further examine potential impacts of motor trolling on muskellunge in Wisconsin, we queried the Muskies, Inc., database for "trophy" muskellunge (48" and larger) registered from 1998 to 2010 in WI waters. The top 28 waters (5 or more fish reported) accounted for 73% of the trophy fish registered over the period. Of these 28 waters, trolling has been allowed on 14 and prohibited on 14. We ranked the top 28 waters by the total number of trophy fish registered. There was no significant difference in the number of trophy fish registered between these two groups of waters with and without trolling (Wilcoxon Rank Sum; P=0.9262). The mean rank of waters with trolling was 13.3, versus 13.7 for waters with no trolling. There were 215 trophy fish caught in the top 14 waters with trolling; 202 fish were caught in the top 14 waters where trolling was prohibited. Lake size was not a factor in this analysis (see table, below).

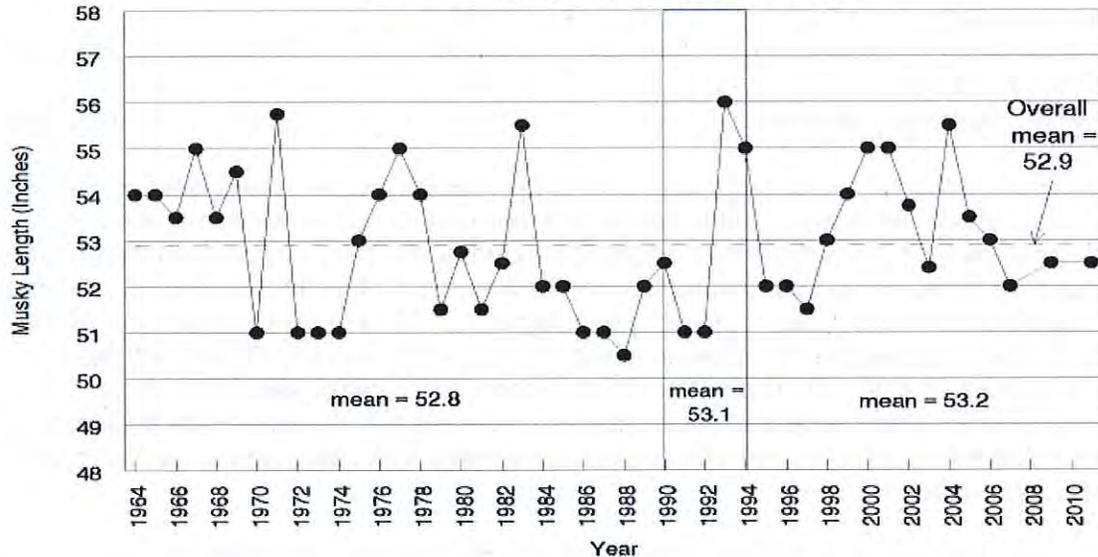
The Top 28 waters (5 or more trophy fish registered by Muskies Inc., members from Wisconsin waters over the period 1998-2010), showing: Numerical Rank – Water Body Name (Total Number of Fish Registered).

Top Waters with Trolling	Acres	Top Waters without Trolling	Acres
2 – Madison Chain (36)	5,354	1 - WI River – Vilas and Oneida (47)	--
3 – WI River - Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams (33)	--	4 – North Twin Chain (32)	3,430
4 – Pewaukee (32)	2,493	6 – Chippewa Flowage (30)	15,300
7 – Holcombe Flowage (29)	3,670	9 – Kentuck (17)	957
8 – Lake Wissota (19)	6,300	11 – Clear (12)	846
10 – Namekagon (15)	3,227	12 – Bolger (11)	119
14 – Lac Courte Oreilles (10)	5,039	12 – Lac Vieux Desert (11)	2,853
15 – Chippewa River – Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties (8)	--	15 – Manitowish Chain (8)	4,106
18 – Apple River Flowage (6)	639	17 – Flambeau Chain (7)	9,339
18 – Cornell Flowage (6)	836	18 – Eagle River Chain (6)	3,564
18 Eau Claire River (6)	--	18 – Three Lakes Chain (6)	7,082
23 – Bone Lake (5)	1,781	23 – Big St. Germain (5)	1,617
23 – Dairyland Flowage (5)	1,745	23 – Minocqua (5)	1,360
23 – Okauchee (5)	1,187	23 – Trout (5)	3,816
Mean Rank = 13.3		Mean Rank = 13.7	
Total trophy fish registered = 215		Total trophy fish registered = 202	
Average size (acres)	2,934	Average size (acres)	3,466

Common Questions and Answers:

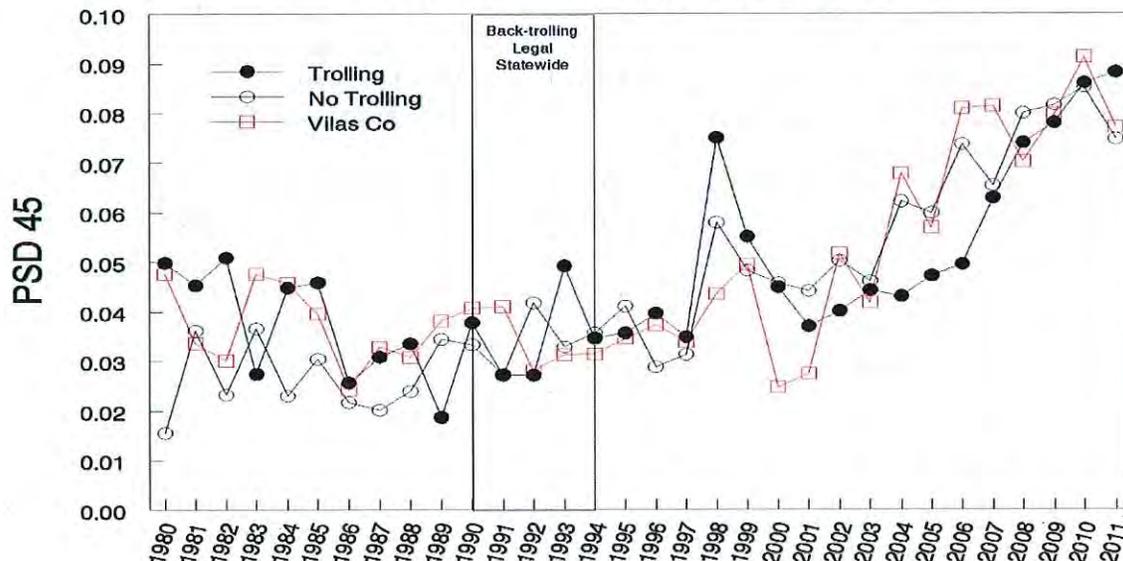
Didn't backtrolling in the 1990s impact musky size-structure in Vilas County? Back-trolling was allowed from 1990-1994. Some people believe that this caused irreparable harm to musky populations in Vilas County. However, the average length of the largest fish registered in the Vilas County musky marathon was larger after back-trolling versus before.

Longest Muskellunge Registered Vilas County Musky Marathon



Also, the number and percent of 45" and larger muskies (registered by Muskies, Inc. members) have continued to increase. The years immediately following back-trolling (1995-1999) showed no impact, either statewide or in Vilas County.

Musky Size-Structure in Wisconsin Waters Muskies Inc., Database

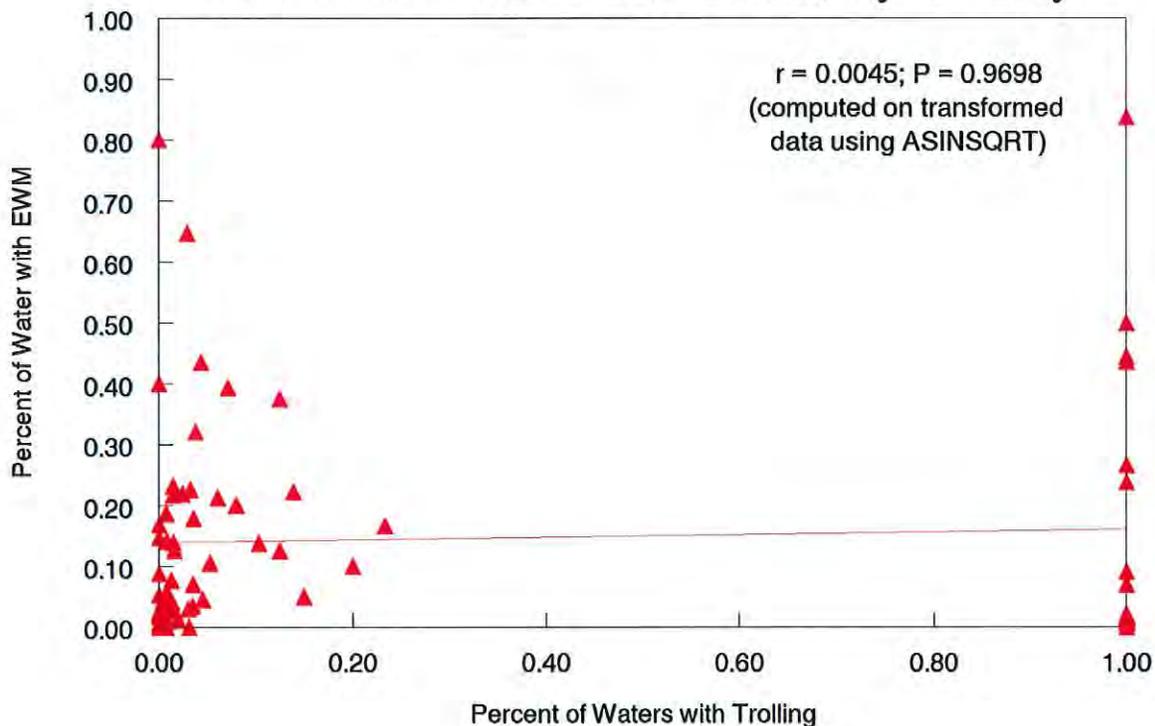


Trolling Fact Sheet – September 2012

Won't opening more waters to trolling accelerate the spread of undesirable aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian water-milfoil? There is no evidence to support the notion that trolling results in more rapid expansion of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) among the waters of Wisconsin. While boating, in general, surely does aid in the transport and spread of aquatic plants, trolling alone does not explain the patterns in the EWM distribution we see across the state. Fortunately, we already have considerable experience with trolling on all sizes of lakes in many parts of the state.

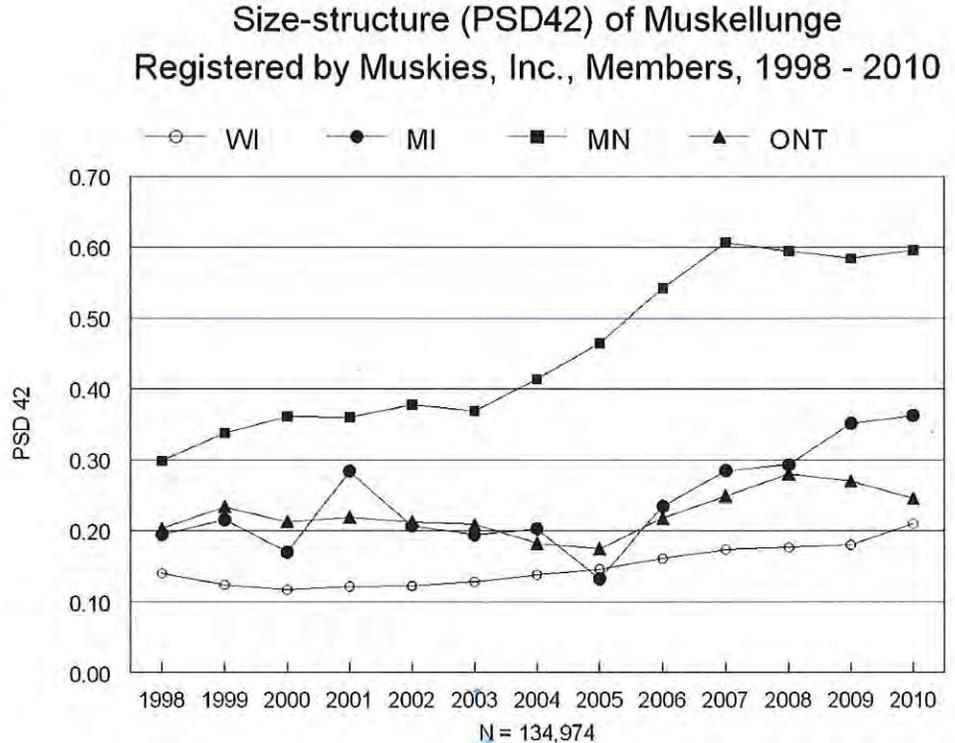
In a recent study, we found no biological or statistical relationship between the number of waters open to trolling within a county and the number of waters that are infested with EWM. Among all 72 counties, the proportion of waters infested with EWM ranges from 0 to 84%. We have 19 counties in Wisconsin where all waters are open to trolling, however, the proportion of waters infested with EWM in those 19 counties ranged from 0 to 84%. Even though all waters were open to trolling, on average, only 16% of waters were infested. Likewise, in 8 counties with no waters open to trolling, the proportion of waters infested with EWM ranged from 0 to 80%; even though no waters were open to trolling, on average, 16% of waters were infested. In 44 counties with some (but not all) waters open to trolling (0.4% to 23%), the proportion of waters infested with EWM ranged from 0 to 65%; on average, 14% of waters were infested. In this study, we found no biologically or statistically significant relationship between the proportion of waters open to trolling and the proportion of waters infested with EWM among Wisconsin counties. The correlation coefficient, "r", was 0.005, which is extremely weak (the strongest correlation would have an "r" value of "+1.000" or "-1.000", with "0" indicating no correlation). The "P" value (P=0.9698) indicates the probability that "r" differs significantly from "0". In this study, it was quite clear that "r" does not differ from "0" (no correlation).

Relationship between % of waters with trolling and % of waters with EWM, by County



Trolling Fact Sheet – September 2012

What do other surrounding states allow? Beyond Wisconsin, motor trolling has been allowed for decades in Michigan (3-lines), Minnesota (1-line) and Ontario (1-line), all considered top destinations for muskellunge fishing. Some musky anglers believe these locations may have better musky size-structure than Wisconsin populations, even though they allow motor trolling. We compared an index of size-structure (PSD42) for all muskies registered by Muskies, Inc., members in MN, MI, WI and ONT from 1998 to 2010 (134,974 muskies; See Figure, right). There is no evidence to suggest that motor trolling has suppressed muskellunge size-structure in other states/provinces where this method is allowed.



Summary

The inconsistent regulation of "motor trolling" across the state has had no apparent benefit on Wisconsin muskellunge fisheries, in terms of population size-structure, angler catch rates, or the average size of fish kept. Musky fisheries are no different in waters with or without trolling. Allowing more consistent angling methods on all waters statewide will simplify regulations, will clarify uncertainties surrounding "position fishing", will have no impact on muskellunge fishing, and is unlikely to influence the level of user conflicts, given our experience with many other waters currently open to motor trolling. Restrictive seasons, size-limits and bag limits are in place to protect and sustain muskellunge resources in Wisconsin. There is no evidence to suggest that motor trolling has been detrimental to muskellunge size-structure or abundance in Wisconsin and there is no reason to believe that allowing trolling on waters where it is currently prohibited would result in any change in abundance or size-structure of those populations.

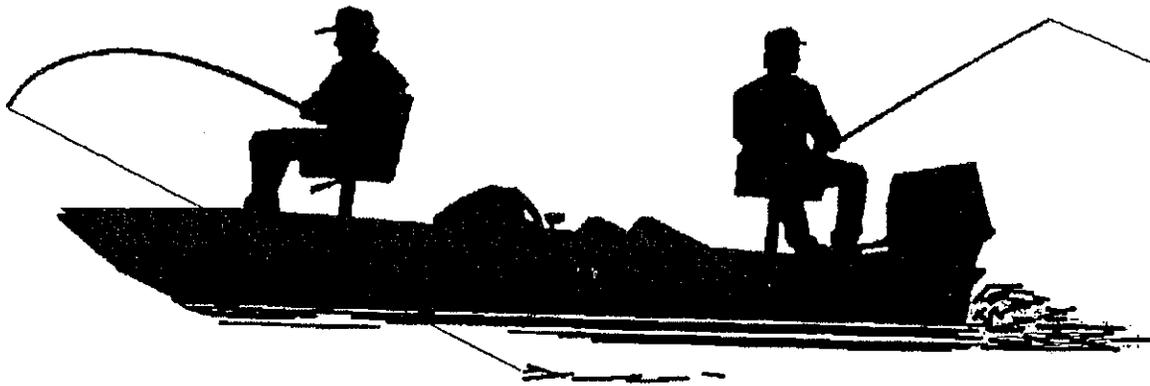
Muskellunge Management Team
Bureau of Fisheries Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

September 2012

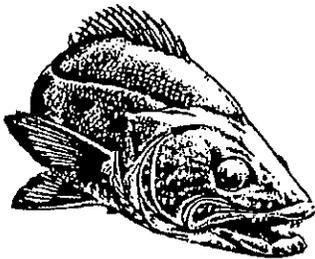
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An Evaluation of the Effects of Motor Trolling in Wisconsin Waters

A Report to the Natural Resources Board



*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management
April 1993*



An Evaluation of the Effects of Motor Trolling in Wisconsin Waters

Compiled by
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Introduction

Motor trolling has always been a hotly debated topic in Wisconsin. Many anglers believe that trolling can do irreparable harm to musky populations. Most of the controversy surrounding the trolling issue originated in some of the state's best musky waters in north central Wisconsin.

Prior to 1958, all motor trolling was outlawed in Wisconsin. In 1957, the Wisconsin State Legislature voted to allow trolling various experimental waters primarily in northwest Wisconsin. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's various waters and counties were moved either on or off the "allowable" trolling list. A motion to allow **back trolling** in all Wisconsin waters was adopted by the Natural Resource Board in 1989.

Currently trolling regulations, as outlined in the *Fishing Regulations* pamphlet, are perhaps the most confusing issue in the pamphlet (Figure 1). Language describing the legality of trolling adds significantly to the wording and size of the regulation pamphlet. Because 10 counties currently allow trolling on all waters, and some of the best fishing waters in other counties allow trolling, it is confusing to understand and difficult to enforce trolling regulations. Many people believe that a decision needs to be made to either allow all forms of trolling or ban trolling completely.

Because of the confusion about the legality of trolling and the renewed interest in

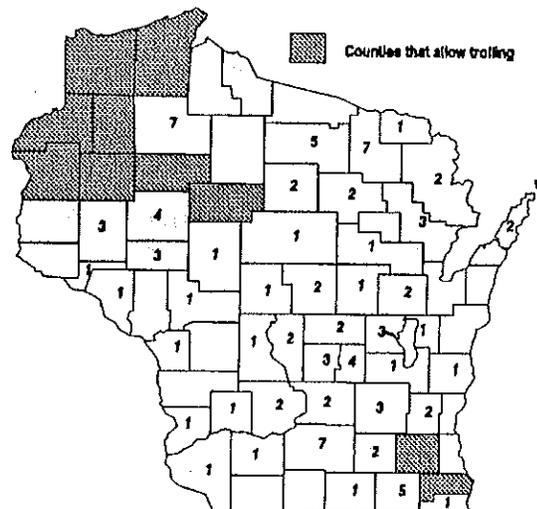


Figure 1. Present locations of legalized trolling in Wisconsin. Numbers represent the number of lakes in a county that are open to trolling.

trolling as an angling method, the Natural Resources Board asked the Bureau of Fisheries Management to produce a report on the biological consequences of trolling. Because of the short time allowed for a report, it was not possible to examine all effects of trolling on fish populations, but the analyses that follow provide an initial glimpse of the effectiveness of trolling as an angling method.

Methods

The Bureau of Fisheries Management used data available from creel surveys from 1980 to 1990 to look at differences in catch and harvest rates between anglers employing trolling methods versus those anglers who were still-fishing (i.e., fishing without moving). The data also allowed Fisheries Management to look at the total numbers of anglers trolling. Catch and harvest rates are a measure of angler success and are defined as either the number of fish caught per angler hour or the number of fish harvested per angler hour. We looked at open water creel survey data for muskellunge, northern pike and walleye, species most commonly associated with trolling. With available data, we were able to pose the following questions:

1. Are there any significant differences between still-fishing and trolling catch and harvest rates for any the species sampled?
2. Can the size of lake influence the success rate of either still-fishing or trolling catch and harvest rates?

3. What percent of anglers still-fish as compared to those trolling when both options are legal? Has this relationship changed over time?

A second part of the examination of trolling was to ask law enforcement personnel how they perceived numbers of anglers trolling has changed. We surveyed all law enforcement personnel in the state.

Finally, we reviewed regulations pamphlets for 44 states to assess how other states regulate trolling. We assumed that any regulation pertaining to trolling would be found in the respective state regulation pamphlet.

Results

We first examined catch and harvest rates for each individual angler for each species (Table 1, All Angler results). Only northern pike trolling catch rates were significantly higher than still-fishing catch rates (Table 1). This analysis is biased towards waters in which there were higher number of interviews. These tend to be the larger, more popular angling lakes.

Table 1. Differences in catch and harvest rates¹ from still-fishing vs. trolling interviews.

Muskellunge			
<u>All Anglers</u>	<u># Anglers Interviewed</u>	<u>Mean # of fish/hour</u>	<u>Significant</u>
Still-Fishing catch rate	6,883	0.047	No
Trolling catch rate	247	0.068	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	6,882	0.013	No
Trolling harvest rate	247	0.023	
<u>By Lakes</u>	<u># Lakes</u>		
Still-Fishing catch rate	42	0.061	No
Trolling catch rate	16	0.186	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	42	0.021	No
Trolling harvest rate	16	0.015	

MOTOR TROLLING

Table 1. (continued)

Northern Pike			
	<u># Anglers Interviewed</u>	<u>Mean # of fish/hour</u>	<u>Significant</u>
<u>All Anglers</u>			
Still-Fishing catch rate	6,967	0.262	Yes
Trolling catch rate	372	0.332	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	6,966	0.112	No
Trolling harvest rate	372	0.116	
<u>By Lake</u>			
	<u># Lakes</u>		
Still-Fishing catch rate	100	0.281	No
Trolling catch rate	39	0.239	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	100	0.109	No
Trolling harvest rate	39	0.096	
Walleye			
	<u># Anglers Interviewed</u>	<u>Mean # of fish/hour</u>	<u>Significant</u>
<u>All Anglers</u>			
Still-Fishing catch rate	14,645	0.272	No
Trolling catch rate	1,561	0.252	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	14,641	0.121	No
Trolling harvest rate	1,558	0.142	
<u>By Lake</u>			
	<u># Lakes</u>		
Still-Fishing catch rate	98	0.211	No
Trolling catch rate	57	0.235	
Still-Fishing harvest rate	98	0.100	No
Trolling harvest rate	57	0.113	

¹Catch rate: Number of fish caught per hour; Harvest rate: Number of fish harvest per hour

A second analysis of these data was conducted to eliminate the lake bias. A mean of catch and harvest rate for each lake was calculated and then all lake means were averaged. This analysis gives equal weighting to all lakes. This analysis suggested that there were no statistically significant differences between still-fishing and trolling catch and harvest rates for any species (Table 1, By Lake results).

We also examined catch and harvest rate data for lakes in which trolling was allowed versus waters in which no trolling was allowed (Table 2). This analysis indicated that only walleye catch rates were significantly higher in waters where trolling was illegal than in waters

were trolling was legal (Table 2). This analysis has an assumption that waters where trolling was illegal are of the same nature of waters where trolling was legal. This assumption is tenuous at best, because most of the major angling waters in Wisconsin allow trolling. The analysis does, however, provide one more piece of evidence that trolling is no more effective than fishing with other common gear types.

Although we can not detect any catch and harvest rate differences among all waters in the state, perhaps the size of lake fished could influence gear effectiveness. One theory holds that trolling is more effective on smaller lakes, because more area is covered and chances of

Table 2. An analysis of catch and harvest rates of trolling versus still-fishing anglers. Data were summarized by county and waters that allowed trolling versus those that did not.

	<u>Number Sampled</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Significant</u>
Muskellunge			
No Trolling waters catch rate	61	0.066	No
Trolling waters catch rate	19	0.095	
No Trolling waters harvest rate	60	0.011	No
Trolling waters harvest rate	19	0.030	
Northern Pike			
No Trolling waters catch rate	97	0.307	No
Trolling waters catch rate	73	0.235	
No Trolling waters harvest rate	97	0.201	No
Trolling waters harvest rate	73	0.128	
Walleye			
No Trolling waters catch rate	101	0.175	Yes
Trolling waters catch rate	64	0.125	
No Trolling waters harvest rate	107	0.086	No
Trolling waters harvest rate	65	0.079	

catching or harvesting fish could be greater. We looked at lakes in which both still-fishing and trolling occurred. We examined the difference between still-fishing and trolling catch and harvest rates versus the area of the lake. If trolling is effective in smaller lakes, there should be a positive relationship between catch and harvest rates and lake size. In other words, on small lakes trolling rates would be higher and the difference (still-fishing value minus trolling value) would be negative. In larger lakes this would not be true. The analysis indicated there was no significant relationship between the differences and lake size, suggesting that trolling is no more effective in small lakes than in large lakes.

One other way to examine lake size effect is to divide the lakes into large and small categories. Small lakes were defined as those lakes with under 500 surface acres and large lakes were those lakes with more than 500

surface acres. We then calculated, for each species, mean catch and harvest rate by lake for each method. Again we used only waters in which both still-fishing and trolling occurred. This analysis indicated the only significant difference was that musky still-fishing catch and harvest rates were higher in large lakes than in small lakes (Table 3.) This again suggests that is unlikely that trolling is more effective in small lakes than in large lakes.

Finally, we examined the same dataset to determine average percent of anglers interviewed that trolled. For all three species, approximately 10% of the anglers interviewed indicated that they had trolled during their trip (Table 4). Musky anglers have the highest percent of trollers and northern pike had the lowest percent of trollers. Additionally, there did not appear to be any change in the percent of anglers from 1980 to 1990. It appears that anglers that troll are a fairly small segment of

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Table 3. The difference in catch and harvest rates for various species based on lake size differences. Large lakes are greater than 500 acres.

Muskellunge			
<u>Still-Fishing</u>	<u>Number Sampled</u>	<u>Mean Catch Rate</u>	<u>Mean Harvest Rate</u>
Large Lakes	35	0.047	0.010*
Small Lakes	7	0.040	0.001*
<u>Trolling</u>			
Large Lakes	Not enough data for analysis		
Small Lakes			
Northern Pike			
<u>Still-Fishing</u>			
Large Lakes	94	0.248	0.110
Small Lakes	7	0.325	0.110
<u>Trolling</u>			
Large Lakes	27	0.176	0.040
Small Lakes	8	0.473	0.325
Walleye			
<u>Still-Fishing</u>			
Large Lakes	59	0.181	0.090
Small Lakes	32	0.224	0.098
<u>Trolling</u>			
Large Lakes	40	0.194	0.080
Small Lakes	11	0.344	0.203

* Indicates a significant difference at the 5% level.

the population and have not increased through time.

Perceptions from Law Enforcement

As part of the effort to assess the effects of motor trolling, a questionnaire was developed to gauge law enforcements view of trolling. All wardens in the state responded to this questionnaire.

In principle, our trolling laws are enforceable, however the vast majority expressed a deep concern with their credibility

within the court system. It is difficult for the public to understand and harder to articulate to a court the difference between high-tech back trolling (planer boards, downriggers, etc.) and slow forward trolling/positioning to verticle jig.

In the past several years, wardens have perceived that in musky waters, trollers have averaged 30-40% of all anglers with trolling increasing in the fall. More guides are trolling in the fall to cover large areas quickly in search of active fish. Wardens believe overall trolling trends are on the increase. An increase in

Table 4. Percent of angler interviews by species using either still-fishing or trolling methods, 1980-1990.

Species	Still-Fishing	Trolling
Muskellunge	88.1%	11.9%
Northern Pike	90.7%	9.3%
Walleye	88.5%	11.5%

trolling was reported in almost every district. Many wardens reported some form of user conflict.

Wardens are evenly split on whether to legalize trolling or totally ban it. It was, however, very uniform that wardens wanted to see it go one way or the other. Among the proposals or suggestions advanced by law enforcement personnel were:

- to make trolling illegal except for the Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Lake Winnebago and named larger lakes and flowages ranging from 1000 acres and up.
- to allow trolling statewide, but with only one line.
- to ban the use of internal combustion engines for all trolling and positioning.
- to allow electric motors for trolling methods.
- If trolling provides more fishing opportunities to more people (e.g., elderly, disabled), and does not impact the resource, it should be encouraged.
- If trolling does harm fish populations in a lake, it should be discontinued.
- Make all forms of trolling legal or illegal, not "sort of legal."

Information from other States

We examined information from 44 state regulation pamphlets on file in the Bureau of Fisheries Management (We are missing pamphlets from Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Utah). No other state has banned trolling. The following are the only references to trolling among all pamphlets:

1. Alabama - No trolling from boat, skiff, floating devices with motor during legal duck season on certain bodies of water.
2. Illinois - Permissible provided angler has no more than 3 poles and lines with no more than 2 hooks or lures on each.
3. Maine - Can't troll a fly in waters restricted to fly fishing.

It is evident that even states with large musky populations have not perceived trolling to be a sufficient threat to their populations. Additionally, very little research has been done on the effects of trolling.

If there is more concern about the effects of trolling on other aspects of fish populations that can be inferred from available data, it will be necessary to design a specific study to examine these aspects. A study could consist of a directed, experimental approach that would control both the numbers of trollers and still fishers. This approach would also include sampling of fish populations through a variety of different sampling methods.

Conclusions

1. Based on the available data, trolling does not appear to be a more effective method of angling than still fishing.
2. According to our available creel surveys, the percent of anglers that troll did not change significantly from 1980-1990.

MOTOR TROLLING

3. Law Enforcement personnel believe that trolling regulations should be changed to make them more enforceable.

and provided the written summary for the "Perceptions from Law Enforcement." Information on the history of motor trolling in Wisconsin was taken from a report by Ron Poff and John Klingbiel. Leah Perkins summarized the trolling information from other states.

Acknowledgments

Gary Homuth, Bureau of Law Enforcement, compiled comments for the entire warden staff

Summary of April 5, 1993 Natural Resources Board (NRB) Advisory Question on Trolling:

13. TROLLING ON ALL WATERS - Recently, fishing regulations were changed to allow back trolling on all waters. Enclosed motor trolling is still illegal except in some waters specifically listed in the fishing regulations pamphlet.

Presently, the use of an electric motor to position your boat in a forward motion while casting and immediately retrieving a bait or lure is not considered trolling and is legal. However, the practice of "floating" or "soaking" a sucker, minnow, leech, etc. while positioning your boat in a forward motion has been deemed illegal forward trolling.

DO YOU FAVOR ALLOWING ANGLERS TO FLOAT OR SOAK LIVE BAIT (SUCKER, MINNOW, LEECH, NIGHTCRAWLER, ETC.) WHILE CASTING AND IMMEDIATELY RETRIEVING ANOTHER BAIT OR LURE WHILE MOVING IN A FORWARD DIRECTION?

YES _____ NO _____

The above proposed rule passed by a popular vote of 2,456 to 1,141. The rule was approved in 68 (82%) counties while being rejected in 12 (15%) counties. There were, however, areas that were definitely opposed to the rule proposal. Vilas County rejected the proposal 143-

2013 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing Questionnaire – Statewide Proposals Background Information

1) Rough Fish Harvest within 200 feet of a Fishway, Lock, or Dam

This proposal would allow a person to take rough fish by hand year round and hand held spear from June 1 through August 31 within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam on inland waters. Hand spearing in those areas may only occur where there is an open season for spearing of rough fish unless the location is posted closed to spearing by department sign. Anglers may currently only use hook and line to take fish, including rough fish, within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam. A hand held spear means a spear consisting of one or more barbed tips attached to a shaft designed to be held and thrown only by hand.

The management goal is to reduce the number of carp and other rough fish and provide additional opportunities to fish. In 2012, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings voted in favor of a Conservation Congress advisory question to allow the use of hand held spears within 200 feet of a dam for the purpose of taking rough fish. The Department supports this change because during the months of June, July, and August most game fish spawning is not occurring and rough fish tend to congregate in these areas. The Department is also recommending expanding the authority to take rough fish by hand year round in the areas within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam.

Do you favor allowing a person to take rough fish by hand year round and by hand held spear from June 1 through August 31, where spearing is allowed, within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam on inland waters?

BACKGROUND: Law Enforcement staff developed this proposal in order to expand opportunities to harvest carp and other rough fish from WI waters. Most of the background information can be found in the above question. The proposal is limited to harvest only by hand and hand spear because of concerns for additional bowfishing overnight using lights and generators.

2) Sturgeon Spearing Hours on the Winnebago System

This proposal would shift the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM and change it to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and shift the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The season would not change, which begins the second Saturday in February and continues for up to 16 days. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

This regulation will improve travel safety on these waters by allowing spearkers time to travel during lighted hours to their shanties in the morning. During the 2011 sturgeon spearing season, over 20 vehicles went through the ice partially because of bad visibility. The Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee voted to support this proposal at its annual meeting in October 2011. The overall management goal is to provide an annual sturgeon spear fishery on the Winnebago System lakes that maximizes spearing opportunities and maintains annual harvest at or below 5% of the harvestable stock of lake sturgeon in the Winnebago System.

Do you favor changing the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and change the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM?

BACKGROUND: The current spear fishing day of 6 hours from 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM was adopted in 2004 to cut down on the daily harvest and make the spearing season last longer. Following the

implementation of the harvest cap system in 1999, a "race-horse" fishery developed; and, given spearers could spear from midnight to 6 PM on any given spearing day at the time, daily harvest rates were high due to concentrated and sustained effort each day. The new hours implemented in 2004 significantly reduced daily spearing effort and subsequently harvest, thus shifting the spearing seasons lasting 2-4 days to seasons lasting an average of 10 days or more.

The current problem that has evolved is that at the current start of the spearing day it is still relatively dark at 6:30 AM during the 1st week of the spearing season, and spearers are concerned about the safety of driving to their shanties to be set up in time to start fishing at 6:30 AM. This was especially a problem during the 2011 season when warm weather the first week of the season caused ice conditions to deteriorate and over 20 vehicles went through the ice on the second Saturday of the season. The Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee voted to support a rule change to move the start and finish of the spearing day back 1/2 hour to allow spearers time to travel during lighted hours to their shanties in the morning and create a safer travel situation. The new hours being proposed would allow spearing between 7 AM and 1 PM each day the spearing season is open (instead of the current 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM), and that spearers would be required to be at a DNR registration station with their fish by 2 PM (instead of the current 1:30 PM) the same day.

3) Rough Fish Spearing Seasons

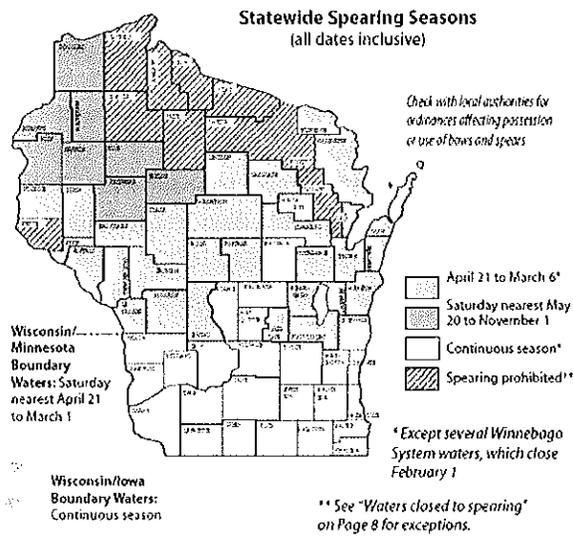
This proposal would simplify rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide by opening all but 9 northern counties to rough fish spearing year-round. The following areas would be opened to rough fish spearing year-round:

- 61 counties that currently have any open season for rough fish spearing,
- Pierce County that is currently closed to spearing, and
- all tributaries to Lake Michigan.

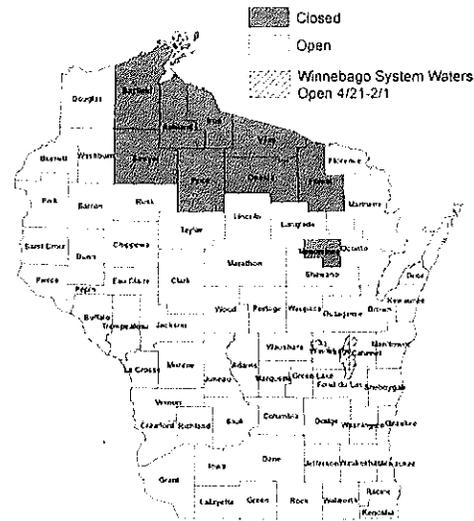
All Lake Winnebago System waters will have an April 21 to February 1 open season. Most of the System waters already have these open season dates, but some new waters will be included to ensure the entire system has the same open season. (see map below)

Special nighttime spearing seasons for burbot, but no other species, will remain in Douglas and Ashland counties on four rivers [the Amnicon, Nemadji, and Black rivers in Douglas County and Bad River in Ashland County], and a bow and arrow or crossbow only season from May 20 to July 1 in Fish Creek Slough in Bayfield County will also remain.

The May 20 to July 1 bow and arrow seasons in Iron and Sawyer counties as well as the March 15 to the Saturday before May 1 season on trout streams in Waushara County will be closed with this proposal. Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, and Vilas counties will remain closed to rough fish spearing year-round. All trout streams statewide and Devils Lake in Sauk County will also remain closed.



Current Spearing Season Dates



Proposed Inland Waters Spearing Season Dates

Lake Winnebago System (LWS) waters include Lakes Buttes des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan, Winnebago and all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the Fox river from Lake Winnebago upstream to the dam above Princeton and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam and the Wolf river from its mouth upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including Cincoe lake, Partridge Crop lake and Partridge lake in Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

The goal of this proposal is to provide additional rough fish spearing opportunities for anglers statewide. Rather than four different spearing seasons on inland waters, the proposal will create more uniform, simplified spearing seasons statewide.

Do you favor simplifying rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide? (specific changes listed above)

BACKGROUND: We received emails from bowfishing organization members requesting expansion of open spearing seasons for rough fish. They wondered why the Department would restrict the harvest of undesirable species.

LE did a review, we responded with making even simpler. This is partially in response to call for simplification.

*Please note: In the current season map above, Menominee County incorrectly shows that the season is open year-round. It is actually closed year-round in administrative code and local biologist Al Niebur agreed to keep it closed in the new proposal.

*Also, the Amnicon, Nemadji, and Black rivers in Douglas County and Bad River in Ashland County would be open to rough fish spearing year-round, but night spearing on those waters from Dec. 15 to Jan. 31 would be for burbot only. Typically spearing is allowed sunrise to sunset only, except bow and arrow and crossbow anytime.

4) Apply the Northern Bass Management Zone Catch and Release Season to Smallmouth Bass Only

This proposal would remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow harvest under existing size and bag limits. Currently both largemouth and smallmouth bass must be released if caught in the Northern Bass Zone from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June. This change would mean that smallmouth bass must continue to be immediately released during the early catch and release season but largemouth bass may be harvested beginning the first Saturday in May so long as the length and bag limits are followed. This proposal affects all waters that currently have an early catch and release season for bass in the Zone, including Lake Superior and its connected sloughs and the Kakagon River, tributaries to Lake Michigan north of STH 29 in Door and Kewaunee counties, and Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

The Northern Bass Zone includes waters north of State Trunk Highway (STH) 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix River east to STH 27, south on STH 27 to STH 64, east on STH 64 to where it ends in the City of Marinette and continuing due east to the shore of Green Bay and all waters north of STH 29 from its bridge over the Fox River east to where it ends in the City of Kewaunee.



You must consult the current fishing regulations for any exceptions.

In 2010 and 2011, attendees of the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings supported questions related to separately managing largemouth and smallmouth bass with different regulations as needed. In 2012, hearing attendees voted in favor of a Conservation Congress advisory question to eliminate the early catch and release bass season in northwest Wisconsin for largemouth bass. Analyses of available data conducted in 2001, 2010, and 2012 indicate that elimination of the Northern Bass Zone, and with it the current early catch and release season, would not alter overall season harvest of largemouth and smallmouth bass. The studies revealed that bass that are saved during the early season are generally just caught later in the summer. As such, harvest of bass during this May and June period would likely not have a negative impact on the vast majority of bass populations. However, the studies also indicate that smallmouth bass populations in the early catch and release zone have shown greater improvements in size structures compared to populations in lakes with similar regulations that do not have the early catch and release season. The same effect has not been seen for largemouth bass. The Department proposes removing the Northern Bass Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass to provide additional harvest opportunities in May and June. The Department proposes to retain the Northern Bass Zone early catch and release season for smallmouth bass to avoid having negative impacts on smallmouth bass size structure.

Do you favor applying the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June to smallmouth bass only, and allowing largemouth bass to be caught and kept during that time?

BACKGROUND: In 1989 Northern (NBZ) and Southern Zones (SBZ) were established, delineated by State Highways 70, 27, 64, 29. The statewide harvest season opened the first Saturday in May and the NBZ had a 12" minimum length limit while the SBZ had a 14" minimum length limit. In 1992 an early catch and release (ECR) only season was established for NBZ which meant from the first Saturday in May until the third Saturday in June all bass caught must be immediately released. In 1998 a statewide 14" minimum length limit was established based on analysis of growth data. After substantial dissatisfaction with the ECR is voiced in the some counties in the northwest the NBZ dividing line is moved north from State Highway 70 to State Highway 77. According to the Black Bass Management Plan (Simonson 2001, Admin. Report 54), the ECR most likely delays early season harvest to the summer. They also found that length limits were more important in increasing abundance and improving size structure. ECR continues to be very popular in the northeast and is suggested to account for recent improvements in Smallmouth Bass (SMB) size structure. Between 2001 and 2008 public angler reports and DNR surveys were documenting increases in many bass populations and concurrent decreases in many walleye populations, particularly in the northwest. The correlative relationship and resultant perceived interaction between the two species resulted in increasing calls from anglers and fisheries biologists for the liberalization of bass regulations, including the removal of the ECR. The plethora of confounding factors and mixed reports from the northwest and northeast part of the state led the program to take an experimental approach by implementing a suite of regulations on 21 lakes intended to decrease bass densities and increase walleye densities. Meanwhile, the Bass Team (BT) completed an analysis in 2001 and again in 2010 that suggested that the ECR did not have any effect on harvest rates comparing the two zones, thus corroborating early findings that harvest is delayed until the summer months. However, their analysis also suggested that large bass, particularly SMB, are more vulnerable during the closed season and are saved from delayed harvest, indicating the ECR could account for recent improvements in size structure. Thus the BT suggested retaining the ECR as an option. The calls for liberalized bass regulations from stakeholders in the northwest have continued and have focused on the removal of the ECR.

Most recent analyses in 2012 show, similar to the findings of Simonson et al. (2001) and BT (2010), SMB and LMB CPE14 in both zones increased over time in a similar manner suggesting broad scale increases in bass abundance (LMB: p -value=0.02; SMB: p -value=0.002) in the selected SMB waters. LMB CPE18 also increased in both zones over time in a similar manner (p -value=0.02). For SMB CPE18, the interaction term of zone by time was not significant (p -value=0.13) suggesting there was no difference in response over time between the zones. However, further analysis, including model diagnostics and separate regressions for each zone over time, show a significant positive change in SMB CPE18 in the NBZ and no change in the SBZ.

The three analyses conducted thus far (2001, 2010, 2012) have agreed that black bass populations within the SBZ and the NBZ have generally increased in abundance and that the ECRS does not likely change the total number of fish that are harvested each year. Given these findings, the interest in the northwest to liberalize LMB harvest, and programmatic interest in removing ineffective regulations, it follows that some modifications to the NBZ and the ECRS are justified for the vast majority of bass fisheries in the current NBZ.

However, there is certainly indication that the ECRS protects large fish, particularly SMB. This claim is supported by the relatively high vulnerability in the spring based on creel data and harvest simulations as well as the disproportionate increase in the abundance of large SMB in the NBZ compared to the SBZ. Moreover, there is substantial local support of the ECRS from the stakeholders in the eastern portion of

the NBZ, characterized well by one biologist indicating that the ECRS is the only regulation he hears overwhelmingly positive responses to. Given the widespread catch and release ethic for bass in the state, one cannot say unequivocally that removing the ECRS would cause substantial harm to these high quality SMB fisheries yet there is sufficient evidence and support to warrant some form of additional protection for these high profile "trophy" fisheries.

*Please note: Waters with a special year-round open season regulation, such as the WI River, will continue to have a year-round open season for bass.

5) Length and Bag Limits for Walleye on the Wisconsin River

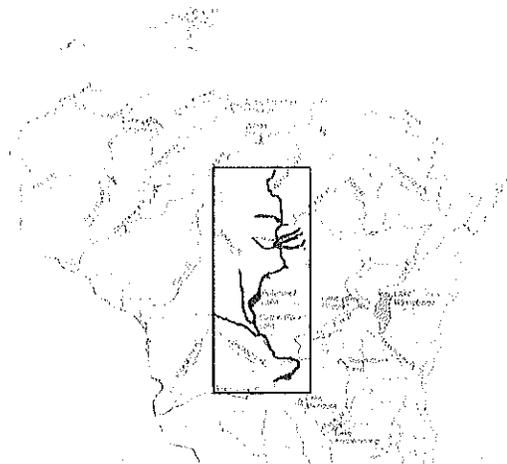
This proposal would make permanent a protected slot limit regulation on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only one fish over 28 inches is allowed. This regulation would apply with a *year-round open season* on:

- the Wisconsin River north of the Prairie du Sac Dam in Columbia County up to the Grandfather Dam in Lincoln County, including its sloughs, bayous, and flowages; and
- certain waters connected to the WI River: the Eau Claire River upstream to the Schofield Dam in Marathon County; the Yellow River to Lake Dexter Dam in Wood County; Buena Vista Creek to the Nepco Dam in Wood County; and the Lemonweir River in Juneau and Monroe counties.

The regulation has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in 2014.

The walleye protected slot limit regulation would also be applied to additional waters connected to the Wisconsin River under this proposal, but the season would only be *open from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March* for:

- the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and
- the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County.



The management goal is to produce a walleye and sauger fishery that meets varied interests. It would allow harvest of 15- to 20-inch fish, a catch and release fishery for 20- to 28-inch fish, and harvest of trophy fish greater than 28 inches. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because fisheries survey data have shown that the slot has not caused any decline in harvestable size fish, but a greater abundance of fish are now available for catch and release and there is greater opportunity for anglers to catch trophy walleye. Anglers have shown support for the regulation by

extending its expiration date at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings in 2006. In addition, biologists have talked with numerous angler groups and fishing clubs since the regulation was enacted over 10 years ago and the response has been overwhelmingly positive to continue the rule.

Do you favor making permanent a protected slot limit regulation with a year-round open season on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only one fish over 28 inches is allowed on the Wisconsin River and connected waters; and applying the same protected slot limit with an open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March on the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County? (please see the background for additional boundary details)

BACKGROUND: The current regulation has been in effect since 2002 when the regulation replaced the statewide 15 inch minimum size limit. The rule had an original sunset date of 2007. In 2006 the rule was voted on at the Spring Hearings and was extended to a 2014 sunset date.

The walleye fishery for the river segment under this regulation is popular, but has a high rate of exploitation. The Wisconsin River currently under the slot regulation has a continuous open season for walleye. When the original regulation proposal was undertaken it was clear that Wisconsin River anglers were requesting a fishery with larger walleye but one that would allow harvest as well. It was hypothesized that the walleye fishery could better meet the proposed standards for PSD, RSD20, and RSD 28 from the literature. Population modeling suggested that the fishery could be improved and larger fish could be added to the fishery both in the catch and release slot (closed slot, 20-28") and above the slot (trophy fish >28"). GIFSIM modeling conducted prior to the establishment of the rule in 2002 indicated that an increase in the number of walleye 28" or greater and Sauger 20" or greater was possible. This modeling was undertaken prior to the initial change and again in 2005 for the extension of the regulation. The modeling is documented in the Regulation Justification section of the proposal form.

We predicted through modeling that the objectives of the slot limit could be met, and have determined through data analysis that the objectives of the slot are being met. Stock densities have improved and are within the ranges stated in the objectives and are likely not influenced by recruitment or effects cannot be detected. Although CPE has declined for fish 10-15" the slot has not caused any decline in harvestable size fish (15-20"), but a greater abundance of fish are now available for catch and release (20-28"). The slot has also enhanced the opportunity for anglers to catch trophy walleye (>=28") (RSD28 improved from 0.2 to 0.8%). Growth rates have been slightly lowered but do not appear to have negatively affected recruitment into the harvest slot. And overall anglers are happy with the regulation as determined by the positive vote for the regulation at two Spring Hearings in the last ten years. The data presented here suggest the slot has no negative impact on the Wisconsin River walleye fishery and we propose the slot as a permanent rule.

6) Allow Trolling Statewide

This proposal would allow trolling statewide with up to 3 hooks, baits or lures per angler. "Trolling" means trailing a lure or bait from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting or rowing. Trolling is generally prohibited, except where specifically authorized by rule. Trolling is currently allowed for certain disabled anglers by special permit and on all waters in 19 counties; on one or more waters in 45 counties (105 total waters); and on all boundary waters with IA, MN, and MI, except in Vilas County boundary waters with MI. Under current rules, motorboats trailing a sucker or other minnow behind the moving boat while occupants are casting and retrieving another lure is not allowed on waters closed to trolling. However, "position fishing" is fishing in a manner where the line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by the use of a motor and is not considered trolling. This method is allowed on all waters statewide.

Motor trolling on the inland waters of Wisconsin. Trolling is allowed on one or more waters in 84 counties (the number of waters open to trolling is shown; "A" means "All Waters").



Motor trolling is already allowed on many Wisconsin waters, as well as in all surrounding states and provinces, with no known adverse effects. Allowing trolling statewide would 1) simplify regulations by eliminating confusion about where trolling is or is not allowed (all the same fishing methods would be allowed on every water); 2) allow moving boats to trail behind suckers or other minnows while occupants are casting on all waters; 3) eliminate the need to define "position fishing"; 4) eliminate the need for disabled anglers to have to apply for trolling permits; and 5) provide additional fishing opportunities for anglers who may have difficulty fishing by other methods.

Do you favor allowing trolling statewide with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures per angler?

BACKGROUND: Click on the trolling link at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/rules/springhearings.html>
 From the regulation proposal form: In order to specifically address concerns regarding the potential impact of motor trolling on muskellunge size-structure, we compared the PSD42 of muskellunge populations in lakes with and without trolling throughout Wisconsin from 2000 to 2010. We calculated the average PSD42 each year in lakes with and without trolling, transformed the data using [arcsine (square root (PSD42))], and conducted an Analysis of Covariance, using general linear models techniques, with year and lake area (acres) as covariates. There was no significant difference in size-structure between lakes with and without trolling, after accounting for lake size and yearly changes in PSD42 (P=0.1990). There was a significant year effect (P=0.000), indicating that size-structure improved to the same degree in lakes with and without trolling since 2000.

Tim also examined 191 creel surveys on classified musky waters from 1998 to 2011 to determine if catch rates or average length of harvested muskellunge differed between lakes with and without trolling. He conducted a Wilcoxon Rank Sum (WRS) procedure to compare catch rates because transformations did not satisfy the assumption of normality. He also conducted a general linear models (GLM) procedure to compare the lengths of harvested muskellunge. With this data set, there were no year-effects, indicating the catch rate and average length has not changed substantially over this time period. He

found no significant difference in the angler catch rates or the average length of kept muskies in lakes with or without trolling.

To further evaluate the impacts of motor trolling on muskellunge size-structure in Wisconsin, we queried the Muskies, Inc., database for all “trophy” muskellunge (48” and larger) registered from 1998 to 2010 in WI waters. The top 28 waters (5 or more fish reported) accounted for 73% of the fish registered over the period; the rest accounted for 4 or fewer trophy fish. In those top 28 waters, trolling has been allowed on 14 of them and prohibited on 14 of them. We ranked these top waters by the total number of trophy fish registered. There was no significant difference in the number of trophy fish registered between these two groups of lakes with and without trolling (Wilcoxon Rank Sum; P=0.9262). The mean rank of waters with trolling was 13.2, versus 13.7 for waters with no trolling. There were 215 trophy fish caught in the top 14 waters with trolling; 202 fish were caught in waters where trolling was prohibited. Lake size did not appear to be a factor in this analysis.

Since 1998, two regional proposals have passed to open entire counties to trolling, including several counties in south central and northwest Wisconsin. In 2012, hearing attendees voted in favor of Conservation Congress advisory question #75 to allow motor trolling statewide, with 1,928 people voting yes and 1,576 people voting no.

*Please note: One important point to make regarding the trolling proposal is that a “NO” vote is also a vote against dragging a sucker while casting and retrieving another lure. Also, this is not an all or nothing proposal – that is why we have hearings to gather comments and then take another look at the proposal.

In addition, the rule change would not affect local restrictions on motor use. If motors (or certain kinds of motors) are not allowed on a lake, trolling with the use of a motor is not allowed.

7) Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions

This proposal would allow the Department to make explicit, temporary changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change on public access sites of the water. The Department currently may change length limits using this process, rather than through an administrative rule change, for walleye, largemouth bass, or smallmouth bass if data show that there is slow growth or high contamination levels. This proposal would expand the Department’s ability to make length or bag limit changes under the following conditions and for the following species:

a. A lake restoration project is in place to reduce detrimental fish species that includes bio-manipulation of a waterbody through increasing the abundance and biomass of predator game fish. The department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

b. Fish have been removed or destroyed as a result of a rehabilitation program to reestablish a good supply of game fish. The department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

c. An inland water has been documented to contain detrimental species, species nonindigenous to the waters of the state, or rough fish. In order to control the population of detrimental, nonindigenous, or rough fish species and protect the native fish populations, the department may apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

d. The department finds that an evaluation of a size limit could not be completed before a sunset date. The department may extend the size limit and the limit shall remain the same and in full

force and effect for 7 years from the date specified or until a permanent rule change is in place, whichever occurs first. The determination to extend a size limit sunset date shall be made within two years prior to the sunset date.

This proposal would give the Department more flexibility to provide a quicker response to these conditions using temporary regulations. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

Do you favor allowing the Department to more quickly make changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions (listed above) using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change on public access sites of the water?

BACKGROUND: As a result of Act 21 in 2011, it takes about one year longer to go through the process of making changes to sport fishing regulations in administrative code. Rather than making changes every year, sport fishing regulations will only be changed every-other year. We currently have the ability to close a fishery outside of the typical administrative code change process when there is a water level reduction, fish are concentrated under the ice, for fishery rehabilitation, and when there is a presence of nonindigenous species (NR 20.33). We also may apply no minimum size limit on bass or walleye if there is a slow-growing population or high contaminant levels using the procedures described in the hearing question (NR 20.35). This proposal would allow us to make regulation changes more quickly through the public notice and posting process for lake restoration and rehab projects and when nonindigenous species are documented. It adds to the NR 20.35 section of code.

**Note that there is no defined sunset of the temporary regulations, all would end on a case by case basis. What is currently in code language, which will remain, is that "any time the department has reason to believe that the condition which led to the application of an alternate limit under this section no longer affects a species of fish in a particular water, it may remove the alternate limit by following the procedures ... and the original bag limit or size limit shall then apply." If you're interested, here is the current NR 20.35: http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/20/IV/35

8) Lead tackle restriction on Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes, Vilas County

The Natural Resources Board asked the Department in March 2011 to move forward with a pilot project to evaluate angler acceptance of non-toxic fishing tackle. Voting results for an advisory question to put lead restrictions on Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes at the 2012 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings were 1,646 people in support and 1,703 people opposed. However, the Natural Resources Board requested that the proposal be advanced as a rule.

The proposed pilot project would require anglers fishing Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes in the Northern Highlands Fishing Research Area in Vilas County to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jig-heads if they weigh less than 1 ounce or are smaller than 1 inch in any dimension. The purpose of the project is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest smaller sizes of tackle and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds.

Do you favor requiring anglers to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jig-heads if they are less than 1-inch length in any dimension or less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes in Vilas County?

BACKGROUND: This is a joint Wildlife and Fisheries proposal. The goal is to improve public education about the wildlife health concerns posed by the loss of lead-containing tackle to Wisconsin's lakes, rivers and streams and is not expected to change the fishery. For wildlife, the goal is to reduce the amount of lead tackle deposited into Wisconsin waters. This proposal will also provide treatment lakes that could be studied to examine angler response and the exposure of loons to lead from the ingestion of lead-containing tackle.

*Please note: The one-inch measurement is limited to the jig-head only, not the full size of the lure.

Science Services and Fisheries Management screened and identify lakes meeting the following criteria: shorelines entirely state owned and in the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest, lakes with recent nesting loons or loon use, and lakes with at least average angling pressure preferably with walleye as a primary species. Using these criteria a small number of lakes were identified and included Escanaba in Vilas County. Given the small number of lakes meeting the criteria, the criteria were expanded to include lakes with a bass/panfish fishery and included Nebish lake in Vilas County. In addition, a proposal was made to implement the pilot on the Experimental Lakes which would be less costly to implement and therefore Palette was added. Escanaba (293 acres), Nebish (98 acres), and Palette (176 acres) lakes are managed as experimental research waters. Drive-in boat access is available only on Escanaba and Nebish lakes. Access to Palette is limited to carry-in or portage. Angler use and harvest on these lakes has been continuously monitored through a compulsory creel check since the area was established in 1946.

There are no specific fisheries management objectives associated with this proposal. However, this proposal will create treatment lakes that could be studied to examine several specific metrics to evaluate angler acceptance of lead-tackle restrictions and exposure of loons to lead. These possible studies are not specifically proposed but would need to be further detailed to determine if they are feasible.

This proposal will help to reduce the amount of lead tackle deposited into Wisconsin waters. Lead tackle has been identified as a significant mortality factor for common loons and other waterbirds in Wisconsin. In 2006 the DNR implemented a Wildlife Health Program that included performing necropsies on every dead loon that was recovered in the state. Lead was identified as a major mortality factor for common loons and lead sinkers were routinely seen on x-ray images of lead poisoned loons.

In 2010 the Air, Waste, and Water committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress included a question in the annual questionnaire regarding support of restrictions on lead tackle. The question was: "Would you support efforts by the state to phase out use of the lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters?" It passed 1,980 yes to 1,818 no. 33 counties approved, 37 rejected, and 2 counties tied.

At the February 2011 Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting, an information session was held on the impacts of lead on wildlife from both fishing tackle and firearm ammunition. After the session the NRB members discussed steps the Department might take in addressing the issue. As a result, NRB members suggested that lead tackle restrictions could be implemented as a pilot to advance public education of the lead tackle issue on a small number of lakes.

9) Length Limit for Muskellunge in Lake Michigan waters

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc) and the

Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam. The current regulation is a 1-fish daily bag limit and 50-inch minimum length limit.

Department staff worked with interested anglers over the course of several meetings to develop a Green Bay Great Lakes Muskellunge Management Plan. During these meetings it was clear anglers desired to maximize the trophy potential of the Green Bay musky fishery by instituting a large minimum size limit. This 54" regulation is also used by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to manage muskellunge populations with trophy growth potential. This desire was supported at previous Conservation Congress hearings; in 2008 as a local resolution and in 2009 as a Conservation Congress advisory question. The advisory question was supported statewide (2480 YES (52%) and 2260 NO (48%)) and locally (3 Counties-yes, 2 Counties-no).

Survey and creel data show that the current 50" minimum length limit is likely effective in protecting the vast majority of muskellunge in Green Bay. The proposal for a 54" minimum length limit is driven by musky anglers who believe that harvest is impacting the population. Some believe this harvest may be one reason for the poor reproduction noted in Green Bay.

The proposed 54" minimum length limit will support the management goal of a trophy muskellunge fishery.

Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc) and the Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam?

BACKGROUND: The DNR, in cooperation with several local musky clubs and the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, initiated a Great Lakes strain muskellunge reintroduction program in 1989 in the Green Bay waters of Lake Michigan. Muskellunge in southern Green Bay were decimated during the early to mid-1900s by habitat destruction, pollution, and over-exploitation. The need to re-establish a native inshore predator fish species has been identified in several planning efforts including the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and the Lower Green Bay Remedial Action Plan.

The current problem is lack of natural reproduction despite 22 years of stocking. Increasing the size limit may increase the number of spawning fish although it is likely that the system is habitat limited. The fishery emerged in 2005 and fishing pressure tripled from 2005 to 2007, as estimated by the Lake Michigan Creel Survey. In 2007 the directed fishing effort for muskellunge during the open water season was just under 40,000 hours. This number is an underestimation because the creel survey is not conducted in November when a significant portion of the effort for muskellunge is fished. In 2010, the Lake Michigan creel survey estimated a total of 35,342 hours of directed effort for muskellunge on Green Bay and the lower Fox River from March 15 through October 31st. Although the 2010 total effort estimate increased over the 2009 total, catch per effort continued to decline. The creel estimated catch rate has decreased since 2006 reaching its lowest level of 0.015 fish/hour in 2010). In comparison, statewide directed muskellunge catch rates average 0.039 fish/hour (25.6 hours/fish) for naturally reproduced populations, and 0.020 fish/hour (50 hours/fish) for populations maintained by stocking. In 2010, the creel survey estimated that anglers caught 541 musky but harvest was estimated at zero. Survey and creel data show that the current regulation of 50" is likely effective in protecting the vast majority of muskellunge in Green Bay. The proposal for 54" is driven by musky sport anglers who believe substantial harvest is occurring that is not recorded by the creel survey. They believe this harvest is the

cause for the lack of reproduction noted in Green Bay. This regulation (54") is used by Ontario to manage muskellunge in populations with trophy growth potential.

The proposed 54" minimum length limit will support the management goal of a trophy muskellunge fishery. In addition to the desire to establish a trophy fishery, recent creel data indicating declining catch and CPE and questions regarding the accuracy of harvest estimates based on a creel survey ending in October, before the end of the muskellunge fishing season may indicate that a minimum size limit larger than 50" is needed to adequately protect these fish.

WCC Executive Council supported a resolution and included it at the 2009 spring hearing as an advisory question. The proposed 54" minimum length limit was supported statewide with 2480 YES (52%) and 2260 NO (48%) votes. In the counties adjacent to Green Bay, 3 supported: Brown (116Yes-60 No), Door (63 Yes – 62 No), and Oconto (41 Yes- 33 No), while 2 were opposed Kewaunee (17 Yes – 38 No), and Marinette (29 Yes – 56 No). At their annual meeting the WCC decided to support the public opinion vote and forwarded the proposed 54" minimum length limit advisory question to the Department. Additionally during meetings held to develop the Green Bay Musky, a public comments indicated that many anglers supported most of the document but they strongly opposed the continuation of the 50" size limit. Of those that opposed the 50" size limit, most suggested either a 54" minimum size (43.9%) or catch and release only with a ten year sunset (51.2%). Although more anglers supported the catch and release restriction in public comments, it is likely many of the anglers only supported this option because they believed that the 54" size limit was off the table.

10) Ceded Territory Walleye Bag and Length Limit Adjustments

This proposal would allow the Department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the ceded territory as early as possible in response to actual tribal harvests, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May. This proposal would take effect following publication of the final rule, before April 1, 2014.

The ceded territory encompasses 22,400 square miles of northern Wisconsin that was ceded to the U.S. by the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribes in 1837 and 1842. Some special fisheries regulations occur in the ceded territory as a result of Chippewa off-reservation treaty rights as mandated by Federal Court rulings. Some waters may have more restrictive bag or length limits as a result of tribal harvest, which typically occurs in spring each year. When ice out occurs earlier in the year, tribal harvest may also occur earlier.

In response to actual tribal harvest numbers, this proposal will allow the Department to make bag and length limit adjustments for lakes in the ceded territory and get that information to the public as early as possible. Under current law, the Department must wait until after the third Monday in May to raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum length limit based on expected safe harvest levels for specific waters.

Do you favor allowing the Department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the ceded territory as early as possible in response to actual tribal harvest, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May?

BACKGROUND: The tribes submit harvest goals to the Department by March 15 and spear from ice out until walleye move off shore and the water is less clear. "Unofficial" harvest numbers are reported to the Department daily, and official numbers are reported by July 15. Current law requires us to wait until

after the third Monday in May to adjust limits based on tribal harvests. The early ice out in spring 2012 made it possible for the tribes to harvest fish earlier in the year than normal and we had enough data earlier on to make limit adjustments prior to the start of the fishing season – before the third Monday in May. We got dinged for it, even though it was good to get the information out as early as possible. This change will allow us to make the limit adjustments as early as possible.

For additional background on the trolling proposal and all the individual lake proposals, visit:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/rules/springhearings.html>

*Please Note: for Q28 regarding length and bag limits for bass and walleye on Big Chetac Lake in Sawyer County, we received comments that the connecting Birch Lake in Sawyer and Washburn counties should also have the same regulations.

Question Number	Question Description	Statewide Votes Yes	Percentage of Total	Statewide Votes No	Percentage of Total	Statewide Result	Result By County (Yes/No/Tie)	Local County Votes (Yes/No)	Local County Result	FM Board Recommendation
Statewide Fisheries Rule Changes										
1	Rough fish harvest within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam	3900	80.3%	959	19.7%	Yes	72/0/0			Advance
2	Sturgeon spearing hours on the Winnebago System	3544	80.8%	843	19.2%	Yes	72/0/0			Advance
3	Rough fish spearing seasons	3881	84.4%	716	15.6%	Yes	72/0/0			Advance
4	Apply Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season to smallmouth bass only	2877	63.2%	1672	36.8%	Yes	66/6/0			Advance
5	Length and bag limits for walleye on the Wisconsin River	3305	77.9%	938	22.1%	Yes	70/2/0			Advance
6	Allow trolling statewide	2391	46.3%	2775	53.7%	No	44/27/1			Advance with options for NRB discussion
7	Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions	3208	68.8%	1452	31.2%	Yes	68/2/2			Advance
8	Lead tackle restriction on Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette lakes, Vilas County	2560	54.9%	2100	45.1%	Yes	34/37/1	Vilas 78/104		Advance
9	Length limit for muskellunge in Lake Michigan waters	2992	68.6%	1367	31.4%	Yes	66/5/1			Advance
10	Ceded territory walleye or muskellunge bag and length limit adjustments	3849	82.5%	819	17.5%	Yes	72/0/0			Advance

2013 SPRING HEARING RESULTS - FISHERIES

Local Fisheries Rule Changes												
11	Length and bag limits for walleye on Silver Lake, Barron County	2166	68.5%	998	31.5%	Yes	65/4/3	43-19	Yes		Advance	
12	Length and bag limits for northern pike in Diamond Lake, Bayfield County	2133	72.4%	813	27.6%	Yes	67/2/3	30-5	Yes		Advance	
13	Predator fish in Park Lake and the Fox River, Columbia County	2106	72.3%	808	27.7%	Yes	66/4/2	33-33	Tie		Advance	
14	Urban fishing program designation in Dane County	2163	74.0%	760	26.0%	Yes	69/2/1	275-160	Yes		Advance	
15	Length and bag limits for walleye on Beaver Dam Lake and Mill Creek, Dodge County	2207	77.4%	643	22.6%	Yes	70/2/0	81-20	Yes		Advance	
16	Length and bag limits for walleye on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County	2095	76.5%	644	23.5%	Yes	68/2/2	29-7	Yes		Advance	
17	Length limits for walleye on Minong Flowage and Cranberry Lake, Douglas and Washburn counties	1947	70.9%	799	29.1%	Yes	70/1/1	Douglas 20-17, Washburn 32-10	Yes		Advance	
18	Bass protected slot size limit on Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire County	1978	74.8%	666	25.2%	Yes	66/3/3	55-3	Yes		Advance	
19	Length and bag limits for walleye on Patten Lake, Florence County	2141	82.5%	454	17.5%	Yes	70/0/2	26-2	Yes		Advance	
20	Bass protected slot size limit on Trump Lake, Forest County	1828	72.5%	694	27.5%	Yes	66/3/3	23-5	Yes		Advance	
21	Length and bag limits for walleye on Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County	2050	82.5%	434	17.5%	Yes	72/0/0	13-0	Yes		Advance	
22	Length and bag limits for northern pike on Lake Six, Iron County	1875	76.4%	579	23.6%	Yes	71/0/1	13-0	Yes		Advance	

2013 SPRING HEARING RESULTS - FISHERIES

23	Length and bag limits for catfish in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County	2086	80.6%	501	19.4%	Yes	7/1/1/0	36-2	Yes	Advance
24	Lake Tomah rehabilitation and predator protection, Monroe County	1853	74.9%	620	25.1%	Yes	65/5/2	43-4	Yes	Advance
25	Bag limit for panfish in Thompson Lake, Pepin County	1962	76.9%	589	23.1%	Yes	70/2/0	13-8	Yes	Advance
26	No minimum length limit for bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County	1963	74.9%	659	25.1%	Yes	70/1/1	96-13	Yes	Advance
27	Urban fishing program designation in Rock County	1962	77.8%	561	22.2%	Yes	7/1/1/0	56-19	Yes	Advance
28	Length and bag limits for bass and walleye in Birch and Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer and Washburn county	1964	76.1%	617	23.9%	Yes	69/2/1	Sawyer 57-11, Washburn 29-9	Yes	Advance
29	Bass protected slot size limit on Bass Lake, St. Croix County	1825	74.7%	618	25.3%	Yes	64/5/3	39-8	Yes	Advance
30	Control of exotic species in Sparkling Lake, Vilas County	2185	79.3%	571	20.7%	Yes	68/3/1	133-30	Yes	Advance
31	Urban fishing program designation in Waukesha County	1951	76.4%	604	23.6%	Yes	71/1/0	102-26	Yes	Advance
32	Bag limit for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County	1845	71.6%	732	28.4%	Yes	66/5/1	23-7	Yes	Advance

FH-18-12 Summary of Public Comments by mail or email

Q1. Allow rough fish harvest within 200' of a fishway, lock, or dam

- One "vote" in support

Q4. Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season for smallmouth bass only

- Three "votes" in support
- Four comments in support
- One comment opposed

Q6. Allow trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures

- One "vote" in support (no address)
- Five comments in support (Couderay, WI; 2-Chippewa Flowage; and 2-Dane County)
- Two "votes" opposed (no address)
- Twenty-five comments opposed (15 from Vilas or Oneida counties, 5 from unknown location, 2 from Chippewa Flowage area, 2 from Dane County, 1 from Washburn County)

Q7. Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions

- One comment in support

Q9. Length limit for muskellunge in Lake Michigan waters

- One comment in support

Q10. Ceded territory length limit adjustments

- One comment in support (Vilas County)

Q28. Length and bag limits for bass and walleye on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County

- One comment in support and to also apply the same regulations on Birch Lake, which is connected to Big Chetac. They already share a special panfish regulation

Full Comments:

Danny Simcakowski [address unknown, Q6 opposed]

Regarding motor trolling. I have taken the time to look at the background information. I understand your reasoning. I mean, I'd love to troll Trout lake in villas county for lakers. But I would rather forfeit the right to troll on lakes than allow it for simplifying the regulations. Have you ever been on Peawaukee lake when the deep water trolling bite is on? It's a mad house. Take a smaller 300 acre lake, one half of the lake is an 8 ft weed flat the other half is deep basin. Mid summer comes along, surface temps go up, then way up - they hit 78. Fishing gets tough. Big fish retreat to deep, cold water. Fishing the deep water basin is needle in a haystack "ish". Allowing a guy to troll 3 lines at 3 depths covering water faster than you could normally crank that double cowgirl greatly increases the chance of catching a fish and exposing it to surface temps that might cook the fish. I saw the data that was used to say trolling doesn't increase the frequency of catching a musky. I would suggest to try sampling in mid-July to early August When surface temps are high.

5 or 6 boats casting on a 150 acre lake can be tight, a lot of hopping around each other, but it can be done. Trolling is different, the lake now needs traffic lights. Everyone needs to troll in the same direction and the same speed or it gets stressful.

If the data suggests trolling doesn't increase catching fish, why not lean the other way and ban it everywhere for simplification?

If you must allow trolling could we at least follow Minnesota's or Canada's lead and limit it to one line per angler?

Ken Reid, Guide License # 125 788 273 [address unknown, Q6 opposed for Vilas County]

I am very much opposed to motor trolling in Vilas Co. For the same reasons that I was opposed to back trolling during the brief time that it was allowed. I realize that the DNR is trying to streamline operations. To that, I would say that each landing is presently posted with min. size limits, catch limits, evasive species warnings, etc. One line saying "No Motor Trolling Allowed" is not too burdensome especially when considering the varying slot, size and possession limits for each of the lakes in Vilas County.

It is stated that the rule changes would make it easier for the handicapped to fish and provide additional fishing opportunities for persons having difficulty fishing by other methods. I became permanently disabled in 2004 - it is a matter of filling out an easy to follow DNR provided form. No different then applying for a turkey permit, bear tag, or any other required form. It takes minimal effort on the part of the affected individual to obtain this privilege. The proposal also stated that studies showed that motor trolling is no more effective than casting. I have personally witnessed boats with three people trolling nine lines catching three muskies over 30 lbs. in one day on Lake Thomahawk when backtrolling was permitted. Other observations include multiple boats using the same method on lakes that were less than 300 acres with great success. "Pro-Trollers" refer to Minnesota and Canadian laws which allow motor trolling. The total acreage of ALL class "A" muskie waters in Vilas County is less than the total acreage of Leech Lake in Minnesota alone. I don't believe that this is a valid comparison. Last, but certainly not least, motor trolling will add to the noise, water and air pollution in our County.

I was very active in having backtrolling rule resinded. Our lakes just don't need the pressure. This type of fishing requires alot of space to run the planner boards, etc. (usually will take a 100 'to 120' wide path). Motor trolling becomes a problem as well as a safety issue for people water skiing (it's hard to see planner boards at 30mph) and other fishermen.

Mortality rate IS higher because the boat does not stop when a fish is hooked due to the spread on the lines.

I fish by row trolling as well as conventional methods and I do motor when fishing in MN. My comments are based on experience and observations, not surveys or studies. I'm am in my mid 60's and have been fishing since I was nine.

Tom Gelb [Q6 opposed for Oneida and Vilas counties]

This is a very big issue for us and very important. At the past spring hearings, the anglers of our counties have voted again and again against motor trolling; what part of no doesn't the DNR understand?

Simply put, we do not want motor trolling in Oneida and Vilas counties as we believe it will be harmful to the musky resource.

Mr. Gelb wrote to the Governor, Secretary, and NRB:

I am writing to make you aware of a proposed rule change to be presented by the DNR at the fish and wildlife hearings held in each county on April 8. This proposal is to allow motor trolling on inland lakes throughout the state. This is a very big issue and would significantly damage the water resources in the northern part of the state. Throughout history a plurality of voters in Vilas and Oneida counties have consistently voted against motor trolling.

Voters in these counties are against motor trolling for a number of reasons. Most of our lakes are just too small. Trolling spreads with multiple lines may cause conflicts with other recreational users such as water skiers, tubers, and jet skis in bottle neck areas of these lakes during the tourist season. In addition, increase in the number of anglers and Native American spearing pressure in both the spring and thru the ice has resulted in a strain on both walleye and musky populations.

Motor trolling state wide would not simplify regulation complexity would only increase the strain on these valuable resources.

We experienced motor "back trolling" for a few years in the 90's due to a "poorly written rule" in the regulation booklet. Most musky anglers and a large number of professional guides did not then and do not now support motor trolling of any kind in these two counties.

We are asking you, Mr. Governor, to intercede with the Natural Resource Board and the DNR on our behalf. This is a very big issue for us. Simply put, we do not want motor trolling in Oneida and Vilas Counties as we believe it will be harmful to the musky resource.

George Langley [address unknown, Q6 opposed for Oneida and Vilas counties]

I have been following the DNR proposal for universal trolling and your correspondence with Tom Gelb.

With all due respect I don't feel that anyone "down there" in Madison realistically understands how deeply we in the two affected counties resent the approach that forcing trolling in the interest of "simplifying rules" is acceptable.

Our objection to trolling on these small lakes, and our worries about conflict with heavy usage during the summer tourist season are legitimate. The long history of non trolling up here is undeniable. We truly do not understand why this bad idea surfaces every 5 years or so and just won't go away.

You have stated that there is no evidence that the late and unlamented back trolling experiment did any harm up here. Did the DNR do any studies? I can tell you that it took 5/7 years for North Twin to return to productivity after that poor law was ended.

A large plurality of people up here do not want trolling. Does this mean nothing? You will find that there is more resentment to this proposal as it gets near to the Spring hearings. It is my sincere hope that the DNR will listen to these objections.

Greg Bohn [Q6 against, address unknown]

I (Steve Avalléant, Northern District Fisheries Supervisor) had a phone conversation with Greg Bohn today regarding his letter about the trolling question for the spring hearings.

Greg wanted to provide some observations and insights rather than expressing an absolute opinion about trolling as he has been on both sides of the opinion scale and still is a bit on the fence regarding the merits. Greg has had a lot of contact from anglers over this, in part because he has been in the limelight on trolling over the years, and he wanted to make sure to pass

along information that might be germane. We covered a lot of bases but here are the bottom lines that Greg expressed.

- 1) We should hold off on a decision on trolling regardless of the vote at the hearings and take more time to gather specific information about the question using a different process than the spring hearings. No one method is necessarily the best but we could do an ad hoc advisory committee, hire an outside observer, do a targeted on-line or mail survey of a random cross section of fishing license buyers or whatever but find a way to get opinions of more people including non-residents who either fish or own land on our lakes. This could apply to any of our rule proposals, not just this one.
- 2) The question about full out motor trolling itself is really an all or nothing. Tweaking up the definition of trolling or regulating by lake size or by number of lines or combinations of the two or other options does nothing to simplify the trolling regulations. If we still have to check whether and how it is allowed on individual waters we haven't solved much.
- 3) Dragging a sucker with an electric motor running while casting another rod he believes is one of the major drivers of the question. If we found a way to permit that activity within the existing rule framework like a modification to the position fishing or an outright allowance of the method as a separate question it would take away at least half of the interest in allowing trolling as a method. We should consider doing this rather than allowing open trolling right now.
- 4) He believes that harvest, especially of big fish will increase by adding trolling to the methods allowed. While he does think that there might be some increase in mortality on released fish he doesn't think it would be unacceptably high from a population preservation standpoint for any species. Rather, the largest impact to the fishery might be on size structure via harvest of big fish. He is of the opinion however that setting size and bag limits to account for it could correct that issue.
- 5) Perhaps the biggest issues with trolling are sociological. Many of our lakes are pretty small compared to those on which full motor trolling (maximum number of lines) is practiced elsewhere in our state or in other states. User conflicts on many smallish lakes will be significant. The social aspects need to be considered before we decide to enact it.
- 6) Not specifically related to trolling but an overarching issue for walleye fishing in the north is the bag limit. A 2 bag limit is unacceptably low but a 3 bag limit is fine. He would favor a 3 bag even if we took the occasional over harvest hit because of it. A statewide 3 bag limit for walleye would also be good.

I should relay a few other points as well. I did tell Greg that my personal professional opinion on the trolling issue is that it is another method in the anglers toolbox and if we properly regulate the number and sizes of fish that are harvested we can move a fishery to its desired state regardless of whether we troll or not. I also feel that the biggest issue for walleyes is primarily that Ma Nature is not putting many back in rather than a concern over a method by which we may take them out. Greg does think that there is some genetic superiority to truly big fish and big fish lakes and full trolling might impact that. I think it is more how much and what kind of food as well as living long enough to get big that are the main issues. Just wanted to acknowledge that bit of a difference of opinion.

Charles P. (Chuck) Borst [Q6 against, focus on Vilas, address in Indiana]

I have been vacationing more years than not in Boulder Junction since I was five; and I am now over sixty. I have evolved into a serious musky fisherman, but moreover; I have become completely enamored with the area.

Wisconsin's Northern Highland is a unique natural wonder. Through foresight and aggressive legislation, it has survived the last hundred years since being devastated from clear-cut logging. Conservation has been the key; starting with the reforestation program, and the establishment of the Northern Highland State Forest. By 1922 the state had twelve hatcheries planting nearly one hundred million fish each year, and in 1923 motor trolling was disallowed on inland waters.

This investment has been partially protected by increasing size limits, and decreasing bag limits. Environmental controls would seem to be the next logical step; with perhaps limiting the maximum size of motors on some waters, and prohibiting their use altogether on others.

Allowing motor trolling state wide seems counterproductive to these efforts; and the motives of those initiating the motion should be seriously examined. I have not been able to find any studies that indicate increased motor traffic would improve the ecology of the waters of Wisconsin's Northern Highland. In addition; motor trolling boat traffic definitely does not add to the safety, pleasure, and tranquility of others on the water.

Tom Brickley [Q6 opposed, focus on Oneida County, no address]

I cannot make it to the local mtg in Rhinelander, but would like to voice an opinion.

I would say no to trolling. Not only is it easier to catch fish in a lazy manner, but consider the safety issue. A person will no doubt be paying attention to his lines while trolling and not paying attention to whats in front of him/her. More accidents will happen.

--I agree with the largemouth bass change and stronly urge you to drop the panfish limit to ten.

One thing that is not on the agenda that I would like to comment on. Please stop stocking musky in Lake George in Oneida county. We have way too many and other fish species are sufferring because of it.

James E. Sprester, Member of Board of Directors, Van Vliet Lake Association [Q6 opposed]

I am writing to you on behalf of the Van Vliet Lake Association in opposition to the recently proposed change in regulatory rules allowing the legalization of statewide motor trolling.

The part of the state where Van Vliet Lake is located is reportedly home to the fourth largest concentration of freshwater lakes in the world. It is a resource that we all cherish, respect, and highly value as individuals and as an organization. Van Vliet Lake is a relatively small lake at 220 acres. Since it is also quite shallow and weedy, a conservative estimate would be that only about 150 acres would be considered prime fishing areas, or areas conducive to other recreational activities. That being the case, we as an association and as property owners on the lake worry about the impact of motor trolling on the fishery, on those other recreational pursuits, and on the overall long term health of the lake.

We have a wonderful boat landing on the lake, but the general consensus of residents around the lake is that since its inception, the landing has dramatically increased the amount of boat traffic. While lakes are to be used and enjoyed by everyone, we are concerned that the legalization of motor trolling could significantly increase that traffic and potentially impede the lake's current recreational usage.

We have two major concerns. First, motor trolling is generally considered to be a very efficient means of catching muskies. With a relatively small lake, even though it has a good fishery, that efficiency could substantially impact and potentially decimate that fishery. Second, and even more potentially harmful, musky fishermen while motor trolling frequently fish two or three lakes over the span of a day. Van Vliet Lake does not currently have any aquatic invasive species, and we are concerned and dedicated to prevent that from occurring. However, it appears logical that with more boats fishing more lakes, some of which contain invasives, and with the potentially increased boat traffic, sooner or later aquatic invasives could be an inevitability. We must do all that we can to prevent that from happening to as many lakes as possible.

For these reasons, we as a lake association are strongly voicing our opposition to any change in regulatory rules allowing the legalization of motor trolling throughout Wisconsin.

Tom Olson [Q6 opposed, Vilas County, no address]

I am deeply opposed to the new regulation to allow for motor trolling statewide. I am a lakeshore owner on a small lake in Vilas County (220 acres) that probably has only 150 acres available for general boating use due to a heavy infestation of natural aquatic plants – at least right now there are no invasives. The lake has an excellent landing maintained by the DNR.

The reasons for my opposition are these:

1. The argument that motor trolling is no more efficient in catching fish than cast and retrieve fishing is patently absurd. The 20 year old study cited by DNR staff needs updating (like any information that old would need before relying on it). However, on its face, if I fish for 8 hours with 3 lures trailing behind my boat, I will have 24 "lure-hours" in the lake. If I cast and retrieve, I can only do 1 lure at a time, and it will only be in the water while I am retrieving it. Further, my boat does not get at all fatigued while pulling lures whereas I do get fatigued casting and retrieving. So in 8 hours of fishing, the amount of time I can expose fish to my lures while trolling would certainly exceed 3 times the amount of time casting. It is absurd to think that I won't catch more fish trolling. By accident, I will catch more fish.
2. Last summer, I watched a DNR staffer do a census (both net and creel) on our lake. We do have muskies, but they aren't overabundant. Based on the overall success and pressure already on the lake, an increase in catches would harm the fish – even if they are released. As a long time participant in muskie tournaments, I know that not all muskie caught and released survive. An increase in success rates will cause, inevitably,

an increase in muskie mortality. I have already argued why an expansion of motor trolling will increase the catches and, thereby, the unsuccessful releases.

3. Motor trolling will increase the usage of outboard motors on lakes and thereby increase pollution and floating weeds from outboard motors.
4. Motor trolling will allow for more efficient lake coverage and likely result in more moving from lake to lake by motor trollers. This movement will inevitably lead to more transfer of aquatic invasive species. Our lake, as I said before, has avoided AIS to this point. Our lake association has done lake monitoring and boat landing monitoring for many years. It is difficult to find volunteers to remind boaters to clean their boats. This action by DNR would seem to encourage the spread of AIS – inevitably. Maybe DNR has given up on this issue and doesn't care anymore.
5. On our small lake, kayaking, still fishing, drift fishing, general boating, jet skiing and waterskiing all occur. Most is confined to an area that is rather small (less than 150 acres). Additional movement by motor trollers increases the risk of hazard to all on the lake – particularly a small lake. I have not seen the additional boating hazard risk addressed in the proposal. Presumably, DNR will provide more monitoring to avoid the additional hazards.
6. At least with waterskiing and jet-skis, there are limitations on the hours of noisy outboard activities on the lake. With motor trolling, there is no such limitation proposed (at least to my knowledge). This additional imposition on the solitude of the northwoods lakes is unacceptable and contrary to the image that Presque Isle wishes to maintain as Wisconsin's "last wilderness". It is contrary to the concerted effort of the Chamber of Commerce in our area promoting a rational intermingling of boating with "silent sports".

Thank you for your consideration of my position. Unfortunately, I will be out of state when the proposal will be heard and cannot attend a hearing but certainly want my thoughts to be recorded.

Dave Leifheit [Q6 opposed, Vilas County]

I am opposed to item 6 on the April 8, 2013, Conservation Congress questionnaire permitting motor trolling on all Wisconsin Lakes. Our family has had a cabin on Big Portage Lake in Vilas County since 1965. We have vacationed up there ever since. I fear that motor trolling on our lake would put more pressure on the limited fish population already under stress by Native American spearing. The pristine nature of our lake could be threatened by more guide use and other fishermen exposing the lake to more invasive species with motor trolling activity.

I also serve on the board of Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association and I will encourage our board to also oppose this regulation. I would recommend a county by county option of motor trolling as it would better meet each county's needs and create fewer problems for the DNR in monitoring such a regulation.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend or participate in the April 8 hearing.

Thank you for considering my input.

Ron Rickman, President of World Musky Hunt [Q6 opposed, no address]

I understand there is a proposed rule change to allow motor trolling on all state inland waters. The World Musky Hunt feels if this law passes it would be a huge strain on our Musky population. The average cast for a Musky is around 30 yards. Trolling you can pick up a fish 150

to 200 yards away. Fighting and landing a fish at those distances will surely kill more released fish. This is especially true in the summer months with the water temperature nearing 80 plus degrees. We ask you to please consider voting against this trolling rule change.

Clifford Stetter [Q6 support, Q4 support, Chippewa Flowage, Couderay, WI]

I am responding to two proposals to change current fishing rules that apply either state-wide or to the Chippewa Flowage.

As a homeowner on the Chippewa Flowage, I am in support of the proposal to open the largemouth bass season at the same time as the "walleye opener", and to permit motor trolling anywhere in Wisconsin.

These actions will help to restore the walley population on the Chippewa Flowage, which has been largely destroyed by poor DNR management practices which also includes stocking of largemouth bass.

As a senior citizen, I find casting to be very fatiguing and painful. Most of us seniors have various degrees of arthritis, and to require casting is imposing a prejudicial action on persons with handicaps.

In regard to both actions, anything that can reduce the workload of DNR officers is a good thing. So more consistent and fewer unique rules across the state is a good thing.

Thankyou for taking my suggestions into your considerations.

Michael Pearson [no address]

Yes vote for Q1., rough fish harvest within 200' of a fishway, lock, or dam

Yes vote for Q6., trolling statewide

Thomas Tellier [Q6 oppose, no address]

The thought of opening inland lakes to motor trolling would be a disaster. The pressure put on lake fish populations due to the Native-American spearing has already reduced limits. Motor trolling would devastate fishing on smaller lakes. Why would Wisconsinites want this? It is a foolish idea!

Art Boelke [Q6 oppose, Q4 support, Chippewa Flowage]

I am a property owner on the Chippewa Flowage and have been for many years. I am 63 years old and have been enjoying the Northwoods for many years. I have seen changes in the fishing over those years some of which is good and some of which was not so good. I am understanding that there are two rule proposals that could affect more changes to a very delicate balance in the fishing in the flowage waters. First you should be aware of the DNR study done a few years ago that noted a change in species found on the flowage. It reported that there has been a major decline in the number of walleyes found in the Chippewa flowage. Theory is that the large mouth bass have been eating all the fry and reducing the number of walleyes. ***Therefore I do urge my vote of yes on question 4 on the proposal. However, question #6 is a different story. There are only two fish that anglers will use trolling. Walleyes and muskie. With the major spending to increase the walleye fish in these water, I believe it would be counter productive to allow trolling for walleye. As far as the Muskies go, the accidental introduction of the Northern Pike ,many years ago has done a lot in reducing the

numbers and the size of the muskies. This is due to the fact that Northerns spawn 2 to 4 weeks earlier than Muskies and the little Muskies are eaten by the Northerns that inhabit the same areas. It is good in the fact that Northerns are very prolific and much easier to catch, and makes good fish for angling fun and fare. Allowing trolling for muskies however only puts more pressure on the Muskies. ***Please honor my vote of No on question 6. Finally on question 6. Opening trolling on the Chippewa flowage will add to the constant erosion of the shore lines created by the number of boats and the high speed wakes. Slow wake zones are mostly ignored and the State does not have enough folks to enforce the rules. Please help us keep the fishery in the Chippewa Flowage balanced with no increased pressure put on the walleyes and the muskies. Also help us maintain a natural and stable shoreline for all to enjoy. Thanks for your consideration

Karen Dixon, President of Manitowish Waters Lakes Association[Q6 oppose]

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association (MWLA) strongly opposes any change in the rules that would allow motor trolling on inland lakes statewide. We urge the NRB to facilitate a change in the way the rule is presented by the DNR to allow specific counties to exempt themselves from this rule change. We make this request because we believe that motor trolling will be detrimental to the health of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes in regard to the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Motor trolling is often done over weed beds and will inevitably result in the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) throughout the Chain and possibly to other bodies of water. The risk to the quality of our waters is just too great.

The quality of all the lakes in the Township of Manitowish Waters, including the Manitowish Chain, is crucial to our local economy by providing year-round recreational activities for both residents and tourists. Therefore, during the past 6 years the MWLA has been working with the DNR, the Town of Manitowish Waters, the Town of Boulder Junction, the North Lakeland Discovery Center, and Vilas County to obtain DNR grants to combat AIS in our chain of ten lakes.

We are currently dealing with an infestation of curly leaf pondweed that could result in dire consequences for our chain. We have been awarded several grants to help us in our efforts to control and, hopefully, eradicate it. Allowing motor trolling on our chain could result in even more infestations and/or spread of AIS which would be counterproductive to the investment of effort, time and money already put forth to prevent and control AIS.

In summary, unless the motor trolling proponents carry the burden of proof, and provide extensive, scientifically sound data that will hold up under independent, expert methodological and statistical review, showing the absence of even a weak, positive correlation between motor trolling and AIS infestations, there should be no change in the current policy. We strongly oppose any change that would allow for more extensive motor trolling on our chain and on all small lakes statewide.

Robert Huffman [Hayward, WI]

Yes vote for Q4., NBZ catch and release season for smallmouth bass only

No vote for Q6., trolling statewide

Tim Simonson [Q6 support, Madison, WI]

I am writing to express my support for motor trolling statewide in WI. I live in Dane County, but I have been fishing in Vilas County for 30 years. I also fish all over the state, as well as outside of WI, and I have never seen any substantiated problem with trolling.

The main reason I support this proposal relates to a personal experience I recently had: One weekend, I went over to Rock Lake (Lake Mills, WI) for the first time. I got there and was fishing for a couple of hours and decided maybe I would do some trolling to get a better feel for the lake and some of the weed beds and drop offs. I then realized that I had no idea whether trolling was allowed on Rock Lake. I was pretty sure that trolling is allowed in all Dane County Lakes, but I was pretty sure that Rock Lake was just over the county line in Jefferson County (but I was not positive), and I did not know if trolling was allowed there county-wide (or specifically on Rock Lake - I know there are some counties that, for some reason, allow trolling on some waters but not others, too). I did not have a copy of the regulations with me. I also don't own a "smart phone". So, rather than risk getting a ticket, I just kept casting. I also never caught a fish. Thanks for your time.

Danny Daggett [Q4 support, Q6 oppose; Hayward, WI – Chippewa Flowage]

I've been a land and resort owner on the Chippewa Flowage since 1956. I have seen our lakes walleye population dwindle down to nothing while the largemouth bass have taken over. They are EVERYWHERE and something needs to be done to balance out the species. By starting to allow people to take bass at the opening of the season, this may eliminate the over population. Most people don't want them anyway, but this would be a great start of possibly thinning out the amount of bass in the Chippewa Flowage. I would suggest allowing people to take home 10 per day also to get started on the thinning out of bass. I would not want to get rid of largemouth at all, just to thin them out and get an even amount along with other fish species.

I also do NOT approve of motor trolling in the "Big Chip". This lake is FAMOUS for it's musky fishing, and WAS for the walleye many years ago. I would not want to harm the balance of musky fishing by allowing trolling to take effect in the future.

Maybe if we try to slow down the bass population, things will start to balance out again. If we don't try, we'll never know.

I cannot be at the hearings in Wisconsin on this date, but I would like to put in my vote any way. I would be voting "YES" on Fisheries Question #4 (May season-opener for keeping largemouth bass) and a "NO" vote on Fisheries Question #6 (allowing motor-trolling on all waters "state-wide").

Thank you for taking my email and I hope this proposals go through.

Anonymous [Q6 support; Chippewa Flowage]

I live on the Chippewa Flowage and would love to motor troll. I fish mostly for crappie and walleye. Motor trolling with my electric trolling motor is a relaxing way to fish for crappies in the summer when they are suspended over deep water. It is also nice for lindy rigging. I think some people on the flowage are just scared to change a rule that they have had for a long time. I see many people row trolling in the fall not much difference. Some people just don't want to see old ways die. I have fished all over the midwest and trolling has not ruined there musky fishing . Some lakes are much smaller than the Chip and with stand trolling just fine. Trolling for most will be a pain in shallow water, because of all the structure and weeds. The muskies will get wise to

trolling anyway. As for fishing disputes , such as trolling right next to a still fisherman , or playing chicken with an oncoming troller, those things are going to happen , some people are just rude. I have been fishing out in the middle of nowhere and have other fisherman roar in and anchor right next to me [probably from MN]. Anyway sorry for the rant but I am for trolling in sawyer county.

Thomas Janovsky [Q4 opposed, 6 opposed, 7 support, 10 support; Vilas County]

I have owned a cabin on Forest Lake in Land O'Lakes, Vilas County, Wisconsin since 1977. My grandfather built the cabin in 1949 (the year I was born!) and I vacationed at the lake often with my family prior to owning it. Forest lake is a relatively small lake encompassing 460 acres (significantly less today given the drought over the past decade) with a limited number of "productive" fishing spots. I am very familiar with the fishery in the lake, having fished it extensively over the past 40+ years. I currently reside in Fairfax, Virginia and am unable to attend the Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearing. However, I would like to offer comments on questions 4, 6, 7 & 10 in the questionnaire. It is my understanding that my comments will be summarized along with others for the Natural Resources Board but will not be tallied with the responses received at the county meetings. Be that as it may, I feel very strongly about these questions and appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments. Below are my comments and a suggestion:

Question 4. Apply Northern Bass Management Zone catch and release season to smallmouth bass only.

Comment: In my opinion, moving the largemouth bass season up to early May would be a mistake for Forest Lake as well as other lakes in the Northern Bass Management Zone and I would argue against such a move by the DNR. I can tell you from my personal experience that prior to setting the bass season to Mid-June, approximately 20 years ago, I couldn't catch a large mouth bass in Forest Lake and only an occasional smallmouth bass. Since the DNR moved the largemouth bass season to mid-June and increased the size limit, the largemouth population has come back nicely (as has the smallmouth bass population). As further proof, back in 1959, when I spent a full summer on Forest lake as a nine year old kid, I recall the opening day for bass was June 15th and the lake was full of small and largemouth bass. To be fair, the introduction of northern pike and walleye (in the 1960's) into the lake each had a negative effect on the bass population but it wasn't until the DNR moved the bass fishing season up to early May that the largemouth bass essentially disappeared. In my opinion, the current bass fishery in Forest Lake is as good as it has been in years and the DNR should leave the largemouth bass season alone.

Question 6. Allow trolling statewide.

Comment: Allowing trolling in Vilas County would be a mistake. Given the small size of Forest Lake and the limited number of fishing spots, allowing motor trolling on Forest Lake or any similarly sized lake in Vilas and the surrounding counties would be detrimental to the lakes. The efficiency of motor trolling will further deplete the legal size fishing stock in the lakes and will no doubt result in more confrontations among fishermen and between fisherman and recreational users of the lake. Given the limited number of "productive" fishing spots on smaller lakes, there would likely also be confrontations between land owners and trolling fishermen, especially in the small bays and along "productive" shorelines. Trolling will impact the lakes aesthetically and environmentally as well, with increased noise (day and night), and air and water pollution. The negatives far outweigh any positives, especially on small lakes, and trolling should continue to not be allowed on lakes in Vilas County.

Question 7. Alternate length and bag limits under certain conditions.

Comment: Given the DNR has outlined conditions under which it will impose the alternate length and bag limits, I am in favor of the proposed rule. However, I would recommend that a specific number not be placed on the bag limit for panfish or the rule be amended to state "...a minimum of a 10-bag limit for panfish." While a 10-bag limit may be appropriate for some situations, a higher limit may be more appropriate in others. I would also suggest that the DNR may want to implement different panfish bag limits for summer fishing and ice fishing. On Forest Lake for example, large numbers of perch are taken through the ice each year consequently affecting the size and numbers of that species caught in the summer.

Question 10. Ceded territory walleye or muskellunge bag and length limit adjustments.

Comment: I agree with this proposed rule. The DNR should adjust the bag and length limits as soon as possible!

Thomas E. Ferguson [Q6 opposed, Vilas County]

I am unable to attend the Spring Hearing For Proposed Rules Changes as a result of personal business in Minneapolis and as a result I am sending this note of concern regarding the Proposed Motor Trolling Rule Change.

I am President of the Forest Lake Association in Land O Lakes, WI (Vilas County). Forest Lake is a 460 acre seepage, walleye and bass lake with approximately 90 homeowners. Upon hearing of the proposed Rule Change concerning allowing MOTOR TROLLING I polled our board members for feedback. **It is the unanimous feeling of the Forest Lake Board of Directors that motor trolling SHOULD NOT be allowed on Forest Lake.** With 90 homeowners Forest Lake is relatively busy during the summer months and while officially listed at 460 acres, Forest comprises a main body of approximately 300 acres and has 3 large bays that average 4 feet deep (and would not be conducive to trolling) and average approximately 50 acres each. It is the feeling of the board and polled property owners that motor trolling would pose a danger to the present still fishing, power boating, water skiing and jet skiing activity that already takes place on the main body of Forest Lake. The potential threat of trolling fishing boats with as many as three lines each trolling the main body of the lake is untenable.

It would seem that motor trolling is an activity that should be relegated to large lakes, i.e. lakes in excess of 1,500 - 2,000 acres. Small and medium size lakes with moderate to heavy development cannot/should not be pressured with trolling activity.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Carol & Gene Thiermann [no address; counted as two votes for each question]

We would like to vote a "YES" to Fisheries Question #4 and a "NO" to Fisheries Question #6. Again, thank you.

Larry Damman [Washburn County; Q6 opposed]

I'm probably only one in Washburn county that voted against trolling. I have no problem with trolling but the 3 lines on inland is not a good idea. (suggesting 1-line (rather than 3-line) trolling)

Wes [Oneida County; Q6 opposed]

I just saw the morning news on TV 12 and heard your comments about the trolling issue. You said it is not a harvest issue, that the data does not show a significant increase in harvest rates. I disagree completely with the assessment that it will not increase harvest. Even if the trolling catch rate is substantially less than other methods, (the last data I saw suggested otherwise), there will be more fish caught because a different, and additional technique is being allowed. Apparently you are assuming the total number of angling hours are going to remain the same and if catch rates are similar then the number of fish caught will not increase. I'm assuming the effort is going to increase. In fact, I will guarantee that not only will effort increase for musky, but so will mortality, including fish caught and released that eventually die. Our musky populations, specifically fish over 40 inches, can least afford any additional harvest.

My second and most critical point is that it really doesn't matter if the catch rate per hour of trolling is greater than other methods or not because an additional harvest technique is being allowed. If we can agree that during specific times of the year and/or specific segments of a given population are more vulnerable to trolling than traditional techniques then it will result in increased mortality. During the back trolling time period I saw a guide I knew at the Big St. Germain boat landing. He said he was hammering the muskies and just yesterday he caught four muskies over 40 inches. He went on to tell me how effective the backtrolling technique was. Why do you think the row-trollers make the additional investment in gear and spend hour after hour rowing by hand when they could use a motor boat and fish other conventional techniques? If they didn't feel it was productive they wouldn't be wasting their time, effort, and money.

The third argument against trolling is the negative social interactions between trollers and other fishermen and recreational boaters. This was proven during the time when back trolling was allowed and was part of the reason the law was eventually changed.

When you get letters or calls from the public, or if you read the letters to the editor in Wisconsin Outdoor News from sportsmen complaining about a particular hunting or fishing issue, what is the common theme? Almost always it's what I, the writer of any particular complaint wants, to make things better for himself. Very rarely are they concerned about what's best for the resource. It doesn't matter if it's crossbows, baiting, trolling, size limits, bag limits, or whatever. They are concerned only about the issue from their particular interest. This is what sets professional managers apart. Biologists have to decide what is best for the resource, not what a particular interest group wants. The best example I can think of is the baiting issue. WDNR wildlife biologists knew from the start that baiting was not good for the resource and even advised other state agencies against implementing it but succumbed to public opinion and allowed it in Wisconsin anyway.

Does the agency really have enough data to conclude that trolling will not increase the total mortality rate of any given species, or more specifically that of larger musky, thus adversely affecting the population? Is there specific data available for anglers using conventional techniques targeting open water fish versus trolling in open water? Just like it's not efficient to troll an inside corner of a weed edge along shore, it's also not efficient to cast over open water. How many boats do you see casting in the open water of lake Michigan? Sometimes we just need to use common sense and professional judgment. If you don't have the data to form a sound conclusion, then why not error on the side of the resource?

You don't need to respond to this letter. These are rhetorical questions as I am trying to convince Fish Management that legalizing trolling is a bad idea for most of our inland waters.

Christopher, Nate and Eric Borgerding [Verona, WI; Q6 opposed]

We are writing to convey our strong opposition to the proposal to allow motor trolling on all Wisconsin waters. Should this be allowed we believe great harm will be done to our state's revered musky population and beautiful waterways.

While this proposed rule may simplify regulation and reduce enforcement issues, it also poses a threat for not only for our State Fish, the Musky, but also for anglers. Every water mass is different, and a one-size-fits-all trolling rule makes no sense. Some lakes are not meant for trolling, simply because they are too small and will become dangerously congested. We happen to fish one of these smaller lakes (<400 acres), which is essentially a widening of a river. **Simply put, trolling would be a disaster on this snaking body of water and many like it across Wisconsin - lakes that are frankly more conducive to kayaking than motor trolling.**

While we are devoted musky chasers, we are equally committed stewards of the lake and the fishery, as proud to release a musky alive as to catch it. While no one wants to do the latter more than we, as two generations of musky fisherman we also know that preserving the resource for ourselves and future generations trumps all.

We enjoy the beauty and serenity that surrounds us when musky fishing, so much so that when we catch nothing, it is still an enjoyable outing. We regulate fishing to preserve the resource, not to simply maximize the catch. The benefit of catching more muskies via trolling does not outweigh the harmful effects it would have on our treasured musky population and the overall "habitability" of our water ways.

This is especially true on those smaller, narrower lakes that simply are not well suited for the multiple rod setups, towed lures, downriggers, planer boards, all the other apparatus that accompanies a style of fishing (motor trolling) more typically found on our Great Lakes.

Further, the boating laws are already widely ignored on the little lake that we regularly fish. The regulations are not posted at the boat landing and they are never enforced. We understand that wardens cannot be everywhere, and appreciate the difficult job they have, but we long ago gave up trying to politely remind people about the speed limits and wake restrictions on this small lake – we are simply ignored, or worse. **Unfortunately, we believe adding trolling to the mix on these small, remote lakes will only make things worse.**

One size does not fit all, yet that is what is being proffered in this proposed trolling rule. **For this reason and those stated above, our family wishes to convey in the strongest terms our complete opposition to expanding trolling throughout all of Wisconsin.** Thank you for considering these comments.

Attached letters in opposition to Q6., trolling statewide:

Jeff Konkel, Vice President of Oxbow Lake Association, Vilas County

Yukon Jack, President of Eagle River Guides Association, Vilas County

James A. Olson, Madison, WI

John Alt, President of Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association, Inc., Vilas County

Attached letter in support of Q4 Northern Bass Zone and Q6 trolling

Connie Peterson, Hayward, WI

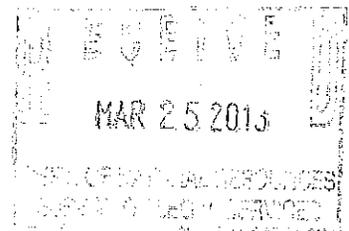
Attached letter in support of Q6 trolling and Q9 Musky limit on Lake MI waters

Lee Bertolini, Dane County

Kate S.H. - FH/4



OXBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION



March 21, 2013

Dear DNR and Conservation Congress:

On behalf of the Oxbow Lake Association we oppose the proposed change in regulatory rules allowing statewide motor trolling.

The northern part of the state, where Oxbow Lake is located, is home to the third largest concentration of freshwater lakes in the world. It is a resource that we all cherish, respect, and highly value as individuals and as an organization. Allowing motor trolling here and in similar parts of the state is a mistake. There is already excessive pressure on the fisheries and motor trolling will only exacerbate that. Muskie and walleye especially do not need anything to increase their harvest rates.

Safety is a major concern. Our lake, like many, is irregularly shaped with many bays, points, islands and reefs. Motor trolling will increase the likelihood of unsafe encounters between lake users through the narrow areas of the lake of which there are many. And that is worse on the numerous smaller lakes.

Aquatic invasives are already a problem. Motor trolling attracts a different, more mobile kind of angler, one more likely to visit multiple lakes in one day or over a weekend. This will worsen the spread of invasive species. We must do all that we can to prevent that from happening to as many lakes as possible.

No one knows who initiated this proposal. There is no call to add motor trolling coming from Vilas County. So why? It has its place on the very largest of southern lakes, like Winnebago, Castle Rock, Petenwell, etc. where lake usage and the fisheries are completely different. But for the smaller, more sensitive lakes around the rest of Wisconsin the results will be devastating to the future of fishing. PLEASE do not allow motor trolling statewide!

Sincerely,

Jeff Kenkel
Vice President, Oxbow Lake Association
Vilas County, Wisconsin

YUKON JACK OUTFITTERS



GUIDE SERVICE
1857 Scattering Rice Lk. Rd.
Eagle River, WI 54521



March 6, 2013
Timothy Simonson
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

*Copy
add to
my file
comments
on
trout
Timothy
Simonson*

Dear Tim:

I am sending you on behalf of the eighteen members of the Eagle River Guides Association concerning motor trolling. The area lakes are small and with the tourist season and the pleasure boaters, Jet skiers and water skiers trolling would be an accident waiting to happen. I live on Scattering Rice lake which is two hundred seventy acres of which thirty five acres are not navigable. During the summer months there are up to fifteen boats and jet skiers running around the lake.

With the current technology, depth finders, fish locators etc. the fish populations are presently stressed. While I do not believe that the Native American spearing hurts the walleye population I believe that it does hurt the musky population.

In the past motor trolling has been voted down in Vilas and Oneida Counties and we would like to see it stay that way. In addition if motor trolling becomes law the guide business will drop by at least fifty per cent. With the present economy guiding has dropped of greatly since 2009.

Please help us in this matter as many of our incomes from guiding are important to us for financial survival.

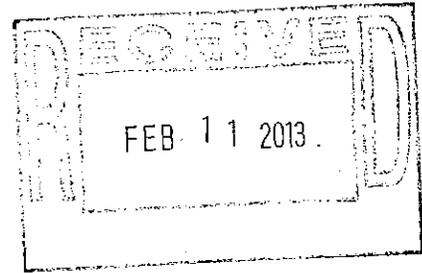
I would also like to talk to you face to face on some other resource concerns.

Keep a tight line,

Yukon Jack
Yukon Jack
President, Eagle River Guides Association

February 8, 2013

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management, FH/4
PO Box 7921
101 South Webster Street
Madison WI 53707



Attention: Mike Staggs
Tim Simonson

Re: Statewide Motor Trolling

Dear Mike and Tim,

Thank you for providing me with the data supporting your argument that statewide motor trolling will not increase the risk of the spread of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). I greatly appreciate the willingness of WDNR to provide me with the data. Also, I would be remiss in not mentioning that I believe that WDNR has done a marvelous job in managing the muskie fishery. The development of the muskie fishery in my backyard (Dane County) has been truly remarkable. Also, the relationship between WDNR personnel, (Scot Stewart, Scott Harpold, and Kurt Welke) and CCMI (our local muskie organization) has been above and beyond anything that could be expected. I consider myself a good friend of WDNR. I simply disagree on this proposal.

I remain convinced that the proposal to permit statewide motor trolling is a bad idea. This conclusion is based upon the available data and the fact that motor-trolling for muskies will inevitably encounter EWM on lakes that are infested with EWM and increase the risk of EWM spreading to other lakes.

I. The Available Data Shows A Strong Correlation Between The Presence Of EWM and Motor Trolling For Muskies.

The most recent data WDNR provided indicates that 16% of the 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin have EWM. Using the 16% figure as a base line the first relevant comparison is to compare that figure to muskie lakes with and without EWM. That data indicates that muskie

lakes that allow motor trolling have almost twice the infestation of EWM when compared to the statewide base line and to muskie lakes that prohibit motor trolling.

Lakes	# of lakes	% with EWM
All Wisconsin Lakes	15,000	16
Muskie Lakes—Prohibit Motor Trolling	462	16.3
Muskie Lakes--Allow Motor Trolling	206	29

Another telling comparison is between muskie lakes in northern counties that prohibit motor trolling and muskie lakes in southern counties that allow motor trolling.

Lakes	# of lakes	% with EWM
All Wisconsin Lakes	15,000	16
Vilas/Oneida County Muskie Lakes	120	23.3
Waukesha/Dane County Muskie Lakes	14	78.5

The overwhelming data shows a very positive correlation to the presence of EWM in muskie lakes where motor trolling is permitted. The argument made in your letter of November 26, 2012 that all lakes in Wisconsin should be considered in evaluating the risk of EWM and motor trolling is flawed because it lumps all lakes together when only 4% of Wisconsin lakes are muskie lakes. Combining all lakes you fail to focus on what is happening in muskie lakes. By using 15,000 lakes as the unit of analysis your approach lacks the sensitivity necessary to evaluate the risk of motor trolling to the spread of EWM.

The Nature of Motor Trolling For Muskies Explains The Correlation Between Motor Trolling For Muskies And The Presence of EWM.

I have been fishing for muskies for 63 years. I am extremely familiar with and enjoy all types of muskie fishing, including motor trolling. In fact, my most productive muskie fishing day on the water (numbers wise) was motor trolling. Consequently, I know that motor trolling for muskies is different than motor trolling for other fish and that this difference is probably directly related to the spread of EWM.

It is undisputed that moving a boat from a lake with EWM to one that does not have EWM creates a risk of the spread of EWM. Motor trolling for muskies magnifies this risk for two reasons.

First, motor trolling is frequently done along weedlines and over weedbeds. This causes the angler to be in direct contact with EWM if EWM is present. In addition, muskie motor trollers typically have their rods at a 90 degree angle to the water, upside down, with the 2-3 feet

of the rod in the water to catch weeds and prevent fouling of lures. Thus, a musky motor troller will be churning up the water and weeds and EWM, if present, and causing the boat, motor, and fishing equipment to be in frequent contact with EWM.

In addition, motor trolling is frequently done at speeds of 4-6 mph. This means that most Northern Wisconsin musky lakes can be easily trolled in a few hours and as a result the boat will frequently be trailered to another lake on the same day or following days. If the first lake has EWM and the second does not there is a risk that EWM will be spread to the second lake.

For example, years ago, I hired a musky guide in Vilas County. He recommended that we backtroll North Twin Lake as back trolling was legal. We trolled all morning and caught one small musky. We then trailered the boat to White Sand Lake and back trolled that afternoon. Today such a day's fishing would risk the spread of EWM as North Twin has EWM and White Sand does not.

Motor Trolling Will Inevitably Increase Motor Boat Traffic On Northern Wisconsin Lakes.

A further issue is that a prime time for musky fishing is the hour before sunset and the hour after sunset. The northern Wisconsin lakes are small. They should be permitted to quiet down towards evening so that they can be enjoyed by canoeist, kayakers, and lakeshore property owners.

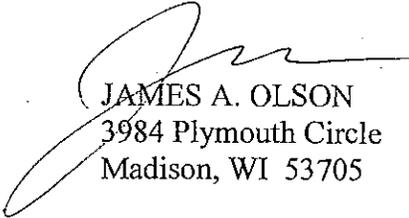
When backtrolling was allowed there was an increase in motorboat traffic on Northern Wisconsin lakes. If motor trolling is allowed, statewide, a dramatic increase in motor boat traffic will take place in Northern Wisconsin lakes from early morning until well into the evening.

The Conservation Congress

Finally, I am aware that the way a question is phrased will often dictate the answer to the question. The last Conservation Congress question regarding motor trolling invited a favorable response as it indicated that motor trolling presented no problems. If the Muskellunge Management Team is persistent in seeking to have a question on statewide motor trolling on the ballot I request that the prefatory statement indicates that there is opposition to statewide motor trolling because motor trolling in Northern Wisconsin waters increases the risk of the spread of Eurasian water milfoil and will increase motor boat traffic in Northern Wisconsin Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,



JAMES A. OLSON
3984 Plymouth Circle
Madison, WI 53705

C Scot Stewart
WDNR Fitchburg Office
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

BPLROA Big Portage Lake RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSOC. INC.

Kate Strom Hiorns
Department of Fisheries Management
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

March 19, 2013

Subject: Against Motor Trolling

The Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association is against the proposed change in fishing regulations that would result in motor trolling being allowed on Big Portage Lake.

Big Portage Lake is a relatively small 600 acre lake located in the extreme north of Vilas County and within the ceded territory. It is primarily a walleye fishery. There are no musky. It has slow growth rates due to low nutrient levels in its clear water and the extended winter season this far north. In 2012 a professional Lake Management Planning study was completed which confirmed the low nutrient levels and concluded that these levels limit our fishery.

The DNR has maintained a 14-18" slot limit, bag limit of 3 with one over 18 inches since 1997 in an effort to promote walleye development. Even so, we find few fish over 18 inches (5% of adult walleye in a 2006 DNR survey). A creel survey conducted by DNR in 2006-07 showed a significant walleye harvest pressuring our fishery.

We understand the motivation for allowing motor trolling statewide is to simplify the rules for the benefit of fishermen and for ease of enforcement. However, we are worried that a "one size fits all" approach could damage our lake. We are concerned that the DNR justification statement is based entirely on musky data. There is no data presented on walleyes or any other species and that raises our concern for unintended consequences on our fishery which, again, has no musky.

We are worried that the efficiency of harvesting walleye by motor trolling could have a quick and devastating impact on the fishery by removing the few harvestable fish we do have and undo the efforts of many years to build up the fishery. The quality of the fishing experience would then decline once the fish outside the slot limit are depleted. We are also concerned about a possible initial surge of interest in fishing BPL bringing in more boats affecting quality of life and increasing the chance of an invasive infection despite our monitoring efforts.

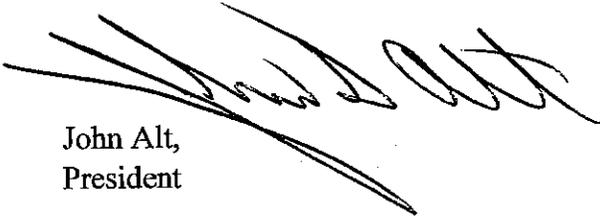
In summary, we are concerned that motor trolling would have a negative impact on our fragile fishery, as well as potentially affecting water quality and resulting quality of life on

P.O. BOX 629
LAND O' LAKES, WI 54540

MEMBER: WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

our lake. We see no data to the contrary and to us it isn't worth the risk.

For these reasons, unless exemptions can be made for lakes like BPL, we urge the motor trolling proposal be rejected.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Alt", written over a horizontal line.

John Alt,
President

612-239-8179

Connie Pe

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Proposed Fishing Regulations

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Gil Nolt Dean

Health Medical

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Peterson Connie (conniepetersonclp@msn.com)

To: ryn.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov

I own property on the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County. I am unable to attend meetings and vote on April 8. Please consider my comments on the proposed regulations to allow the May season-opener for fishing large-mouth bass and the regulation to allow motor-trolling on all state waters.

I spend most of three seasons fishing the Chippewa Flowage.

I support allowing the May season-opener for large-mouth bass.

I support allowing motor-trolling on all state waters. Allowing motor-trolling on some lakes but not others is an arbitrary decision. Besides, people often motor-troll the Chippewa Flowage despite the ban.

Connie Peterson
9560N Summers Point Lane
Hayward, WI 54843

720-987-3102 (mobile)

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DNR Spring Hearing Comments, April 8, 2013
Question #6: Statewide Motor Trolling

My name is Lee Bartolini. I am an avid muskie angler who sometimes motor trolls.

I am also the president of the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Our chapter includes members who hold views on both sides of the statewide motor trolling issue. Consequently, it was decided that the club would not take a position on Question #6. My comments, therefore, represent my own views, not the clubs, and are mine and mine alone.

I am in support of Question #6 and am in favor of allowing statewide trolling with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures per angler. As you know, this is currently allowed in Dane County and seems to be working very well.

First, statewide trolling is allowed by all of Wisconsin's neighboring states. I am not aware of any negative effects, in Wisconsin or in those states, on the muskie fishery as a result of allowing statewide trolling.

Secondly, as noted in the questionnaire prepared for this hearing, allowing statewide trolling resolves the issue of whether one is illegally trolling by hanging a live sucker over the side of the boat while positioning the boat using an electric trolling motor while casting.

Third, as an elderly angler, motor trolling provides an opportunity for me to fish for muskies that I would not otherwise have. I am not able to stand and cast all day like I used to when I was younger. One third of the muskies I caught last year were caught by motor trolling. This would not have happened were I not allowed to troll. Motor trolling, also provides an opportunity for very young anglers who are not large enough or strong enough to cast to fish for muskie with their parents, grandparents, or friends.

The two major objections I have heard to statewide motor trolling are that it would result in more muskies being killed when fish are caught in warm water conditions and that it would infringe upon the peace and quiet of lakeside homeowners. Serious muskie anglers are aware of the dangers of increased mortality of muskies when caught in very warm water. As a group, we stop fishing for muskies under these conditions. We don't cast or troll for them. This argument does not make sense if anglers are not fishing for muskies under such conditions.

Regarding the potential noise pollution, I would argue that an angler motor trolling at a slow speed is going to affect the peace and quiet far less than jet skis and speedboats pulling skiers. If jet skis and speedboats are permitted on a lake, this is a moot argument.

Thank you for consideration. I recommend a "yes" vote on question #6.

DNR Spring Hearing Comments, April 8, 2013
Questions #9 and #97: Increasing the Minimum Sized Limit for Muskies on
Green Bay from 50" to 54" and on Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages
from 45" to 50"

My name is Lee Bartolini. I am the president of the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. As an affiliate of Muskies, Inc., we practice and advocate for "Catch and Release." We feel that muskies are too valuable a resource to be kept and eaten or otherwise killed. For that reason, our club supports increased size limits for keeping muskies. We support increasing the size limit from 50" to 54" on Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries. We recommend a "yes" vote on Question #9.

Likewise, although it is only an advisory question this year, we support Question #97, increasing the size limit for muskies from 45" to 50" on Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages. We recommend a "yes" vote on Question #97.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis

Original Updated Corrected

2. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number

Sections of chs. NR 20, 21, 22, and 23 related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters

3. Subject

The rule will make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters

4. Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

5. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected

6. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule

No Fiscal Effect Increase Existing Revenues Increase Costs
 Indeterminate Decrease Existing Revenues Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget
 Decrease Cost

7. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)

State's Economy Specific Businesses/Sectors
 Local Government Units Public Utility Rate Payers
 Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)

8. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Be Greater Than \$20 million?

Yes No

9. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule

Rule changes are proposed to protect and enhance the State's fish resources.

10. Summary of the businesses, business sectors, associations representing business, local governmental units, and individuals that may be affected by the proposed rule that were contacted for comments.

The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. The Department contacted organizations with an interest in fishing, such as the WI Conservation Congress, the WI Association of Lakes, the WI Council of Sport Fishing Organizations, Walleyes for Tomorrow, and many others for comments on the rule's economic impact. In addition, the WI Towns Association, League of WI Municipalities, and WI Counties Association were contacted for comments. No comments were received by the Department.

11. Identify the local governmental units that participated in the development of this EIA.

The economic impact open comment period was conducted from November 23 to December 7, 2012. No local governments commented on the rule and therefore no LGUs participated in the development of the EIA.

12. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

It is not expected that there will be any economic impact directly related to these rule changes. The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. Regulations are already in place and this rule is intended to continue protection and enhancement of the State's fish resources. One intention of the rule is to help maintain or improve the general economic impact of fishing throughout Wisconsin.

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. The rule does not allow for the potential to establish a reduced fine for small businesses, nor does it establish "alternative enforcement mechanisms" for "minor violations" of administrative rules made by small businesses.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

13. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

Fishing regulations are in place to help meet management goals and objectives for waters and their fish species, such as providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes. New regulations are proposed when management goals have changed or the Department must address a critical need, such as a major fish population decline. They are based on input solicited from stakeholders when the proposals were developed as well as plans for evaluating the regulations after they are in place. Alternatives, such as not making the regulation changes that are included in rule, have been discussed by Fisheries Management Bureau policy staff but are not recommended in order to meet fisheries management goals. As stated in s. NR 1.01(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department's goal is "to provide opportunities for the optimum use and enjoyment of Wisconsin's aquatic resources, both sport and commercial. A healthy and diverse environment is essential to meet this goal and shall be promoted through management programs."

14. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The existing policy behind fishing regulations is to provide diverse fishing opportunities throughout the State and that policy will be continued and enhanced by these rule changes. Based on the management goals for individual waters and species, the Fisheries Management Program strives to provide:

- consumptive opportunities where anglers can fish for a meal from a self-sustained fish population;
- quality and memorable opportunities where anglers can catch large fish and the density of adult fish in the populations are sustained or increased; and
- trophy opportunities where anglers can catch large trophy-size fish and the survival of older and larger fish is increased.

15. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

Authority to promulgate fishing regulations is granted to states. None of the proposed changes violate or conflict with federal regulations.

16. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

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 similar. 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. The Department meets with the Michigan and Minnesota departments of natural resources each year to discuss management and regulation changes.

<h4>17. Contact Name</h4> <p>Kate Strom Hiorns</p>	<h4>18. Contact Phone Number</h4> <p>608-266-0828</p>
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**ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
REPEALING, AMENDING, AND CREATING RULES**

The statement of scope for this rule, SS 057-12, was approved by the Governor on July 25, 2012, published in Register No. 680 on August 14, 2012, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on September 26, 2012. This permanent rule was approved by the Governor on _____.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal NR 20.03(30), 20.06(1), 20.20(1)(a), (2)(a), (3)(a), (6)(a), (7)(a), (7)(f), (9)(a), (9)(d), (10)(a), (10)(c), (11)(a), (12)(a), (13)(a), (14)(a), (15)(a), (17)(a), (18)(a), (19)(a), (21)(a), (22)(a), (24)(a), (25)(a), (27)(a), (28)(a), (29)(a), (29)(e), (32)(a), (33)(a), (34)(c), (35)(e), (36)(c), (37)(a), (37)(f), (38)(a), (39)(a), (43)(a), (44)(a), (47)(a), (47)(dm), (48)(a), (49)(a), (49)(d), (50)(a), (50)(e), (51)(a), (53)(a), (55)(a), (55)(c), (56)(a), (57)(a), (58)(a), (60)(a), (60)(f), (61)(a), (61)(b), (66)(a), (66)(e), (69)(a), (71)(a), (72)(a), and (72)(e); to amend NR 20.03(40), 20.05(3), 20.09(1) and (2), 20.10(10) and (10m), 20.15(1), 20.20(1)(h)1., (2)(b), (3)(d), (4)(a), (4)(c), (4)(e), (5)(f), (6)(e), (7)(c), (8)(b), (11)(k)1., (14)(f)2., (15)(b)2., (16)(a), (16)(c), (16)(f), (16)(h)3., (17)(e), (18)(e), (19)(c), (19)(e), (20)(d), (21)(c), (24)(f), (26)(a), (26)(c)1., (26)(e)3., (26)(g)3., (27)(f), (29)(h)1., (30)(a), (31)(a), (32)(e), (33)(am), (33)(b), (33)(g)2., (34)(a), (34)(b), (35)(a), (35)(b)1., (35)(g)1m., (37)(i), (38)(b), (38)(d), (42)(d), (42)(f)1., (43)(d), (44)(b), (45)(a), (45)(e), (47)(e), (49)(am)2., (49)(f)2., (50)(h), (51)(b), (52)(a), (54)(a), (55)(b), (56)(j)2., (57)(d), (57)(g), (57)(i)4., (58)(e), (59)(a), (60)(b)2., (62)(b), (64)(c), (64)(h)9., (65)(a), (66)(bm), (66)(g), (67)(a), (68)(a), (69)(e), (70)(dm), (70)(e), (71)(e), (72)(h)1., (73)(a), (73)(f), (73)(g)1., and (73)(L)6., 20.35(3), 20.36(2), 23.05(5)(d) and (e), 23.055(2), and 23.08; and to create NR 20.15(1m), 20.15(4), 20.20(3)(f)2., (11)(e)3., (11)(g)3., (13)(a)2., (16)(h)4., (18)(c)2., (39)(e), (42)(b)2., and 20.20(42)(c)2., and 20.41(4) relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

FH-18-12

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

- 1. Statutes interpreted.** Sections 29.014(1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats., have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.
- 2. Statutory authority.** ss. 29.014(1), 29.041, and 29.053(2), Stats.
- 3. Explanation of agency authority to promulgate the proposed rules under the statutory 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. It also allows the department to establish a fishing season on specified bodies of water in certain urban areas to allow fishing only by persons who are under 16 years old or who are disabled, as specified in s. 29.193(3)(a), (b), or (c), Stats.
- 4. Related statutes or rules.** Section 29.039, Stats., Nongame species
- 5. Plain language analysis of the proposed rule.**
The proposed rule would make modifications to portions of chs. NR 20, 21, 22, and 23 pertaining to sport fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. These changes are proposed to

protect and enhance the State's fish resources. Please note, some elements of ch. NR 20 in this Board Order will be amended prior to this rule by Natural Resources Board Order FH-19-12.

The existing policy behind fishing regulations is to provide diverse fishing opportunities throughout the State and that policy will be continued and enhanced by these rule changes. Based on the management goals for individual waters and species, the Fisheries Management Program strives to provide:

- consumptive opportunities where anglers can fish for a meal from a self-sustained fish population;
- quality and memorable opportunities where anglers can catch large fish and the density of adult fish in the populations are sustained or increased; and
- trophy opportunities where anglers can catch large trophy-size fish and the survival of older and larger fish is increased.

Sections 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 38, 40, 42, 44, 49, 51, 54, 58, 60, 61, 63, 68, 70, 71, 74, 76, 78, 82, 85, 90, 93, 96, 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 119, 121, 122, 123, 124, 127, 129, 133, 135, 136, 139, 144, 145, 149, 150, 151, 155, 157, 160 and 170 allow fishing by the method of trolling on all inland waters with up to three hooks, baits, or lures. Trolling means trailing a lure or bait from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting, pedaling, paddling, or rowing. Trolling is currently allowed for certain disabled anglers by special permit and on all waters in 19 counties; on one or more waters in 45 counties (105 total waters); and on all boundary waters with IA, MN, and MI except in Vilas County boundary waters with MI. In addition to Wisconsin waters, trolling is already allowed in all surrounding states and provinces with no known adverse effects. Allowing trolling statewide would simplify regulations by eliminating confusion about where trolling is allowed, allow moving boats to trail behind suckers or minnows while occupants are casting (a form of trolling) on all waters, eliminate the need to define position fishing (fishing in a manner where the line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by the use of a motor), eliminate the need for disabled anglers to have to apply for trolling permits, and provide additional fishing opportunities for anglers who may have difficulty fishing by other methods.

Sections 3, 5, 9, and 10 allow rough fish to be taken by hand year round or by handheld spear from June 1 to August 31, where spearing is allowed, on inland waters within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam. This would expand fishing opportunities for rough fish that are considered undesirable in Wisconsin waters. Anglers may currently only use hook and line to take fish, including rough fish, within 200 feet of a fishway, lock, or dam.

Sections 7 and 8 alter the hours to legally spear sturgeon on lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan from 6:30 AM - 12:30 PM to 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and change the daily deadline for sturgeon spearkers to register their fish from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The season would not change, which begins the second Saturday in February and continues for up to 16 days. This change addresses sunlight and visibility safety concerns while anglers are traveling on the frozen lakes.

Sections 13, 36, 73, 88, 92, 101, 118, 128, and 159 make permanent a protected slot limit regulation on walleye, sauger, and hybrids where there is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and the minimum length is 15 inches, but fish from 20 to 28 inches may not be kept and only 1 fish over 28 inches is allowed. The season is open year round. The regulation would apply to the Wisconsin River north of the Prairie du Sac Dam in Columbia County up to the Grandfather Dam in Lincoln County. The regulation also applies to the river's sloughs, bayous, and flowages and certain connected waters: the Eau Claire River upstream to the Schofield Dam in Marathon County; the Yellow River to Lake Dexter Dam and Buena Vista Creek to the Nepco Dam in Wood County, and the Lemonweir River in Juneau and Monroe counties. The regulation has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in 2014. The walleye protected slot limit regulation would also be applied to additional waters connected to the Wisconsin River under this proposal, but the season would only be open from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March. Those waters are the Big Rib River downstream from Highway 29, Peplin Creek, Johnson Creek, Little Eau Claire River, and Little Eau Pleine River in Marathon County; and the Little Eau Claire River and the Little Eau Pleine River in Portage County. The regulation provides harvest, catch-and-release, and trophy fishing opportunities.

Sections 15, 20, 26, 45, 59, 64, 83, 86, 94, 105, 120, 126, 130, 142, 146, 161, and 167 would remove the Northern Bass Management Zone early catch and release season for largemouth bass and allow their harvest under existing size and bag limits. Currently both largemouth and smallmouth bass must be released if caught in the Northern Bass Zone from the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June. This change would mean that smallmouth bass must be immediately released during the early catch and release season but largemouth bass may be harvested beginning the first Saturday in May so long as the length and bag limits are followed. This proposal affects all waters that currently have an early catch and release season for bass in the Zone, including Lake Superior and its connected sloughs and the Kakagon River, tributaries to Lake Michigan north of STH 29 in Door and Kewaunee counties, and Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters. The Northern Bass Zone includes waters north of State Trunk Highway (STH) 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix River east to STH 27, south on STH 27 to STH 64, east on STH 64 to where it ends in the City of Marinette and continuing due east to the shore of Green Bay and all waters north of STH 29 from its bridge over the Fox River east to where it ends in the City of Kewaunee.

Sections 6, 17, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 43, 46, 50, 53, 55, 57, 62, 66, 69, 72, 75, 77, 84, 87, 89, 91, 95, 97, 100, 103, 107, 110, 111, 114, 117, 125, 131, 134, 138, 140, 141, 147, 152, 154, 156, 158, and 163 simplify rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters statewide by opening waters in all but 9 northern counties to rough fish spearing year-round. The following areas will now be open to rough fish spearing year-round:

- 61 counties that currently have any open season for rough fish spearing,
- Pierce County that is currently closed to spearing, and
- all tributaries to Lake Michigan.

All Lake Winnebago System waters will have an April 21 to February 1 open season. Most of the System waters already have these open season dates, but some new waters will be included to ensure the entire system has the same open season. Lake Winnebago System waters include Lakes Buttes des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan, Winnebago and all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the Fox river from Lake Winnebago upstream to the dam above Princeton and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam and the Wolf river from its mouth upstream to the dam in the City of Shawano and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including Cincoe lake, Partridge Crop lake and Partridge lake in Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago counties.

Special nighttime spearing seasons for burbot, but no other species, will remain in Douglas and Ashland counties on four rivers, and a bow and arrow or crossbow only season from May 20 to July 1 in Fish Creek Slough in Bayfield County will also remain.

With this rule change, Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, and Vilas counties will remain closed to rough fish spearing year-round. All trout streams statewide and Devils Lake in Sauk County will also remain closed. The May 20 to July 1 bow and arrow seasons in Iron and Sawyer counties as well as the March 15 to the Saturday before May 1 season on trout streams in Waushara County will be closed.

No changes will be made on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior which are already open year-round, and no changes will be made to Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters which are open April 21 to March 1. All Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters will be closed to rough fish spearing through Natural Resources Board Order FH-19-12.

Section 18 applies a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 28-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Silver Lake, Barron County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

Section 21 applies a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. The current regulation is a 1-fish daily bag limit and 32-inch minimum length limit.

Sections 34, 35, and 36 apply a 3-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger and hybrids; a 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; and a 1-fish daily bag limit and a 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike on Park Lake and the Fox River upstream to the Highway 33 bridge. The management goal is to maintain low numbers of detrimental species, specifically common carp and gizzard shad, with the desired outcome of improving water clarity.

Section 39 designates Token Creek Ponds and Syene Ponds in Dane County as urban fishing waters with the following regulations:

- year round season only for youth 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers,
- no length limits, and
- daily bag limits of 3 trout; 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrid, or northern pike; and 10 panfish.

Sections 123 and 150 designate Lions Park Pond in Rock County and Lapham Peak Pond in Waukesha County as urban fishing waters with the following regulations:

- year round season – but a special season mid-March to mid-April only for youth 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers,
- no length limits, and
- daily bag limits of 3 trout; 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrid, or northern pike; and 10 panfish.

Section 135 corrects the regulations applied to urban ponds in Sheboygan County. Under this change, all designated urban ponds in Sheboygan County will have the same regulations, which provide a year-round open season and a special season for only youth and disabled anglers in March and April. This was the original intent of designating these waters and biologists and law enforcement staff encourage the change.

Section 41 would make permanent a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Beaver Dam Lake and its tributaries, including Mill Creek from the mouth upstream to the Fox Lake dam and all portions of Beaver Creek in Dodge County. The regulation has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in 2014.

Sections 47 and 148 apply a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed, to walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Minong Flowage, Douglas and Washburn counties. The regulation would apply upstream to the confluence of the Totogatic River with Bergen creek in Washburn County and to the connected Cranberry Lake in Douglas County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

Section 48 applies a daily bag limit of 3 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit.

Section 52 applies a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, in Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire County. The current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish.

Section 56 applies a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Patten Lake, Florence County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide walleye rules. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit, but only one fish over 14 inches is allowed.

Section 59 applies a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed in Trump Lake, Forest County. The current regulation is 18-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 1 fish.

Section 65 applies a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike on Lake Six in Iron County, simplifying regulations to match current northern zone pike rules. The current regulation is a 2-fish daily bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit.

Section 67 applies a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Sandy Beach Lake, Iron County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide walleye rules. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit but only 1 fish over 14 inches may be kept.

Sections 79, 80, and 81 apply a daily bag limit of 10 fish and no minimum length limit on catfish and open the catfish season year round in Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County. This simplifies regulations to match general statewide rules. The current regulation is a 2-fish daily bag limit in combination with walleye or bass and only catfish between 15 and 24 inches may be kept. A combined walleye and bass bag limit regulation will remain.

Sections 98 and 99 apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as a 1-fish daily bag limit and 32-inch minimum length limit on northern pike in Lake Tomah. Currently, the regulations are a daily bag limit of 5 and a 14-inch length limit for bass and a daily bag limit of 2 and a 26-inch length limit for pike. The management goal is to protect large predator fish from harvest in order to maximize predation on smaller fishes and complete a chemical treatment plan.

Section 109 applies a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish on Thompson Lake, Pepin County, simplifying regulations to match general statewide rules. The current regulation is a 10-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit.

Section 113 applies a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Balsam Lake, Polk County. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 14-inch minimum length limit. Section 115 makes administrative code language consistent with Section 113 and with current management practices.

Sections 130, 132, 146, and 148 apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass and a daily bag limit of 3 fish and 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Big Chetac Lake, Sawyer County, and connected Birch Lake, Sawyer and Washburn counties. The current regulation is a 5-fish daily bag limit and 14-inch minimum length limit for bass and 5-fish daily bag limit and 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye.

Section 137 applies a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed on Bass Lake, St. Croix County. The current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish.

Sections 142 and 143 makes permanent the current 1-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass and changes the daily bag limit to 3 fish and the minimum length limit to 18 inches for walleye, sauger, and hybrids on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County. The current limits on walleye are a 1-fish daily bag limit and 28-inch minimum length limit which both sunset in March 2014.

Section 153 applies a daily bag limit of 10 fish for panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County. The current daily bag limit is 25 panfish.

Sections 162 and 168 apply a daily bag limit of 1 fish and a 54-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and its tributaries north of Waldo Boulevard (in Manitowoc)

and the Menominee River upstream to the Hattie Street Dam. The current regulation is a 1-fish daily bag limit and 50-inch minimum length limit.

Section 164 allows the department to make explicit, temporary changes to length or bag limits under certain conditions using a legally defined public notice process, a public information meeting if requested, and posting notice of the regulation change on public access sites of the water. The department currently may change length and bag limits using this process, rather than through an administrative rule change, if data show that there is slow growth or high contamination levels. This proposal would expand the DNR's ability to make length or daily bag limit changes to respond to the following conditions and for the following species:

a. A lake restoration project is in place to reduce detrimental fish species that includes bio-manipulation of a waterbody through increasing the abundance and biomass of predator game fish. The department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

b. Fish have been removed or destroyed as a result of a rehabilitation program to reestablish a good supply of game fish. The department may apply the following limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

c. An inland water has been documented to contain detrimental species, species nonindigenous to the waters of the state, or rough fish. In order to control the population of detrimental, nonindigenous, or rough fish species and protect the native fish populations, the department may apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch, 3-bag walleye; 18-inch, 1-bag largemouth or smallmouth bass; 32-inch, 1-bag northern pike; or 10-bag for panfish.

d. The department finds that an evaluation of a size limit could not be completed before a sunset date. The department may extend the size limit and the limit shall remain the same and in full force and effect for 7 years from the date specified or until a permanent rule change is in place, whichever occurs first. The determination to extend a size limit sunset date shall be made within two years prior to the sunset date.

Sections 165 and 169 allow the department to adjust bag and length limits for walleye or muskellunge in the Ceded Territory in response to actual tribal harvest, rather than currently waiting until after the third Monday in May. Under current law, the department must wait until after the third Monday in May to raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum length limit based on expected safe harvest levels for specific waters. However, if ice out occurs earlier in the year, tribal harvest may also occur earlier. With this rule change, the department will be able to adjust bag limits and get that information to the public as early as possible.

Section 166 prohibits the use of lead tackle that is less than 1-inch in diameter or less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County. The Natural Resources Board requested that the department carry out a pilot project to evaluate angler acceptance of non-toxic fishing tackle. The purpose of the project is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest smaller sizes of tackle and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds.

6. Summary of and comparison with existing or proposed federal statutes and regulations.

Authority to promulgate fishing regulations is granted to states. None of the proposed changes violate or conflict with federal regulations.

7. Comparison with 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 similar. 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. Fishing regulations in this rule, such as length and bag limits or season dates, are used as a tool to ensure 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, and make access to fishing as fair as possible.

All rule change proposals were submitted by fish biologists and peer-reviewed for justification and enforceability by Fisheries Management supervisors and the Bureau Director, species management teams, and the Bureaus of Law Enforcement and Legal Services. Proposals were discussed with Wisconsin Conservation Congress members and were presented at the 2013 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. Proposals that reduce regulation complexity or eliminate a special regulation in favor of a statewide one were given preference.

9. Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of an economic impact analysis. The proposed rule does not apply directly to businesses, but to sport anglers. It is not expected that there will be any economic impact directly related to these rule changes. The department conducted an economic impact analysis to determine if any individuals, businesses, local governments, or other entities expect to be adversely affected economically. No comments were received.

10. Effects on small business. The rule is not expected to have an effect on small businesses. 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. The rules will be enforced by Conservation Wardens who have arrest powers and may use citations.

11. Rules proposed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. No information

12. Agency contact person.

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13. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission. Comments on this proposed rule were submitted to the agency contact person listed above. The deadline for written comments was April 9, 2013.

SECTION 1. NR 20.03(30) is repealed.

SECTION 2. NR 20.03(40) is amended to read:

NR 20.03(40) "Troll" or "trolling" means fishing by trailing any lure, bait or similar device that may be used to attract or catch fish from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting, pedaling, paddling, or rowing. ~~Casting and immediate retrieval of a bait, lure or similar device while the motor is running or position fishing is not trolling.~~

SECTION 3. NR 20.05(3) is amended to read:

NR 20.05(3) Fish within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam by any means other than by hook and

line in the inland waters, except as authorized under s. NR 20.15(1) and (1m).

SECTION 4. NR 20.06(1) is repealed.

SECTION 5. NR 20.09(1) is amended to read:

NR 20.09(1) Possess or control any bow, spear or similar device while on any water or on the banks or shores of any water that might be used for the purpose of fishing except as specifically authorized in ~~s.~~ ss. NR 20.15(1m), NR 20.20 or chs. NR 21, NR 22, or NR 23.

SECTION 6. NR 20.09(2) is amended to read:

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

SECTION 7. NR 20.10(10) is amended to read:

NR 20.10(10) Possess a sturgeon unless each person who has speared a sturgeon during the open season for spearing sturgeon exhibits the sturgeon, with the person's sturgeon carcass tag attached as required by s. 29.237, Stats., to a warden or other authorized department personnel at an official sturgeon registration station. Sturgeon shall be intact and registered at a station on Lake Winnebago if speared in Lake Winnebago. Sturgeon shall be intact and registered at a station on Lake Butte des Morts, Winneconne or Poygan if speared in Lake Butte des Morts, Winneconne or Poygan. Sturgeon shall be exhibited at a sturgeon registration station not later than ~~1:30~~ 2:00 p.m. on the day speared. The registration tag shall remain attached and locked to the sturgeon until the carcass is prepared for final consumption.

SECTION 8. NR 20.10(10m) is amended to read:

NR 20.10(10m) 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 ~~12:30~~ 1:00 p.m. until ~~6:30~~ 7:00 a.m. of the following day.

SECTION 9. NR 20.15(1) is amended to read:

NR 20.15(1) Take rough fish by hand at any time in all waters except ~~within 200 feet of a lock or dam~~ those waters established as fish refuges under ch. NR 26.

SECTION 10. NR 20.15(1m) is created to read:

NR 20.15(1m) Except as prohibited under ss. NR 21.065, NR 22.065, and NR 23.10, take rough fish

by means of spearing with a hand held spear within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam from June 1 through August 31 where there is an open season for spearing of rough fish unless posted closed to spearing by department sign.

SECTION 11. NR 20.15(4) is created to read:

NR 20.15(4) Fish by the method of trolling in all inland and outlying waters.

SECTION 12. NR 20.20(1)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 13. NR 20.20(1)(h)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (1) ADAMS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge	a. Hook and line-	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be -> 28I-	<u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>
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SECTION 14. NR 20.20(2)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 15. NR 20.20(2)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (2) ASHLAND (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Day lake, East Twin lake, Lake Three, Little Clam lake, Mineral lake, Spillerburg lake	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u> 1 in total	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u> 18
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SECTION 16. NR 20.20(3)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 17. NR 20.20(3)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (3) BARRON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Beaver Dam lake	a. Hook and line, dip netting, spearing , by hand at any time for smelt only	Continuous	None	None
		b. Seining at any time for smelt with seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth	Continuous	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand, spearing	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None

SECTION 18. NR 20.20(3)(f)2. is created to read:

NR 20.20 (3) BARRON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Silver lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	28
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SECTION 19. NR 20.20(4)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (4) BAYFIELD (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. All waters	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)
	2. <u>1</u> Inch lake	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73).	0	--

SECTION 20. NR 20.20(4)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20 (4) BAYFIELD (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Cable and Wiley lakes, Crooked lake, Lund lake	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	<u>0 for smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	2. Pigeon lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	<u>0 for smallmouth bass, 3 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 14 through 18 is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18"	None except the possession of fish from 14" through 18" is prohibited <u>None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited, and only 1 fish may be longer than 18</u>

3. Lake Owen	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 5 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	<u>None</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 <u>in total</u>	None

SECTION 21. NR 20.20(4)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(4) BAYFIELD (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(e) Northern pike	1. <u>Diamond lake,</u> Muskellunge lake, Sand Bar lake, Tomahawk lake, 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
	2. Diamond lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1	32

SECTION 22. NR 20.20(5)(f) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(5) BROWN (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries not specified in this subsection, see sub. (73)).

(f) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

	c. Set or bank pole and setline.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
3. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing--	April 21 to the first Sunday in March--	None--	None--

SECTION 23. NR 20.20(6)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 24. NR 20.20(6)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(6) BUFFALO (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Buffalo river from the state highway 37 bridge and the Chippewa river downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks	a. Set or bank pole	Continuous	None	None
		b. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		c. Spearing--	April 21 to the first Sunday in March--	None--	None--
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing--	April 21 to the first Sunday in March--	None--	None--

SECTION 25. NR 20.20(7)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 26. NR 20.20(7)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(7) BURNETT (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. All waters not listed in this paragraph that are north of a line following STH 77, including all lakes and flowages north of that line	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	None for <u>largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
	2. Webb lake and all other waters not listed in this paragraph that are south of a line following STH 77, including all lakes and flowages south of that line	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
	3. Namekagon river, St. Croix river, Totagatic river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	14 for <u>largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	14

SECTION 27. NR 20.20(7)(f) is repealed.

SECTION 28. NR 20.20(8)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(8) CALUMET (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None

2. Winnebago lake	a. Hook and line, by hand.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing	April 21 to February 1	None	None
	c. Dip netting at any time within 500 feet of shore.	April 25 to May 31	None	None
	d. Set or bank pole and setline	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
3. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago System waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 29. NR 20.20(9)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 30. NR 20.20(9)(d) is repealed.

SECTION 31. NR 20.20(10)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 32. NR 20.20(10)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 33. NR 20.20(11)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 34. NR 20.20(11)(e)3. is created to read:

NR 20.20(11) COLUMBIA (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e)	3. Fox river	a. Hook and line	First	1 in total	18
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	upstream from Park lake to the easterly crossing of highway 33, Park lake		Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March		

SECTION 35. NR 20.20(11)(g)3. is created to read:

NR 20.20(11) COLUMBIA (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Northern pike	3. Fox river upstream from Park lake to the easterly crossing of highway 33, Park lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1	32
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SECTION 36. NR 20.20(11)(k)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(11) COLUMBIA (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(k) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. <u>Fox river upstream from Park lake to the easterly crossing of highway 33, Park lake, Silver lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
	2. Columbia lake, Baraboo river, Fox river downstream from the westerly crossing of highway #33 at Portage, Crawfish river	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total	15
	3. Lower Wisconsin river upstream from the Prairie du Sac dam	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be 28¹	<u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>
	4. Lower Wisconsin river downstream from the Prairie du Sac dam	a. Hook and line	Continuous	3 in total	Sauger and hybrids 15, walleye 18

SECTION 37. NR 20.20(12)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 38. NR 20.20(13)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 39. NR 20.20(13)(a)2. is created to read:

NR 20.20(13) DANE (For species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	2. The following posted urban waters: Token Creek ponds, Syene ponds	a. Hook and line	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None
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SECTION 40. NR 20.20(14)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 41. NR 20.20(14)(f)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(14) DODGE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Fox lake, Beaver Dam lake and its tributaries until March 31, 2014, and Beaver creek, Mill creek until March 31, 2014	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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SECTION 42. NR 20.20(15)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 43. NR 20.20(15)(b)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(15) DOOR (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay, Lake Michigan and their tributaries, see sub. (73))

(b) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. All other waters except Green Bay, Lake Michigan and their tributaries	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None

b. Spearing-	April 21 to the first Sunday in March-	None-	None-
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SECTION 44. NR 20.20(16)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(a) All species	1. All waters-	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)-
	2. <u>1.</u> Brule river downstream from U.S. hwy. 2	a. Hook and line fishing is only allowed from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset during the period from the last Saturday in March to November 15	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 45. NR 20.20(16)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Nemadji river	a. Hook and line-	Saturday preceding Memorial day to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	12
	2. All lakes and flowages partially within Burnett and Washburn counties	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only</u>

Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March

5 in total

None

SECTION 46. NR 20.20(16)(f) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(f) 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. Amnicon river, Nemadji river	a. Hook and line, by hand, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Dip netting at any time for smelt only.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
		c. Spearing.	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None
		d. c. Spearing sunset to sunrise only for burbot.	December 15 to January 31	None	None
	3. All other tributaries to Lake Superior	a. Hook and line, by hand, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Dip netting at any time for smelt only.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
c. Spearing.		Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None	

4. Black river from its mouth on the Nemadji river upstream to the first railroad bridge (Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie)	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing.	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None
	e. b. Spearing sunset to sunrise only for burbot.	December 15 to January 31	None	None
6. All other waters or portions of waters not listed except Lake Superior	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing.	Saturday nearest May 20 to November 1	None	None

SECTION 47. NR 20.20(16)(h)3. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	3. Beauregard lake, <u>Minong flowage including Cranberry lake and upstream to the confluence of Totagatic river and Bergen creek in Washburn county</u>	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, <u>but only 1 may be longer than 14</u>
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SECTION 48. NR 20.20(16)(h)4. is created to read:

NR 20.20(16) DOUGLAS (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73)). Note: Allouez bay, Little Pokegama bay, Kimballs bay and Pokegama bay are considered part of the St. Louis river, a Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water. See chapter NR 21. The Nemadji river is an inland water that is contiguous with these Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters but is regulated under this subsection.

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. Lake Nebagamon	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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SECTION 49. NR 20.20(17)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 50. NR 20.20(17)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(17) DUNN (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Chippewa river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, set or bank pole, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing-	April 21 to the first Sunday in March-	None-	None-
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing-	April 21 to the first Sunday in March-	None-	None-

SECTION 51. NR 20.20(18)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 52. NR 20.20(18)(c)2. is created to read:

NR 20.20(18) EAU CLAIRE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Half Moon 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 is prohibited, and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
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SECTION 53. NR 20.20(18)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(18) EAU CLAIRE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Chippewa river downstream from the dam in Eau Claire	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, set or bank pole, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 54. NR 20.20(19)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 55. NR 20.20(19)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. All waters not listed	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTIONS 56. NR 20.20(19)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Patten 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"	None
	2. <u>1.</u> Keyes lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18

SECTION 57. NR 20.20(20)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(20) FOND DU LAC (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Winnebago lake	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to February 1	None	None
		c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
	3. Fond du Lac river from its mouth upstream for 3 miles	a. Hook and line, by hand.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing sunrise to sunset.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March <u>April 21 to February 1</u>	None	None
		c. Dip netting.	May 1 to March 15	Suckers 0, other rough fish none	None
4. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None	
	b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None	

SECTION 58. NR 20.20(21)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 59. NR 20.20(21)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(21) FOREST (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Crane lake, Luna lake, McKinley lake, Pickerel lake, Three Johns lake, Trump lake, White Deer lake, Windfall lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	2. <u>Trump lake</u>	a. <u>Hook and line</u>	<u>First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June</u>	<u>0 for smallmouth bass, 3 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 14 through 18 is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18</u>
			<u>Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March</u>	<u>3 in total</u>	<u>None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited, and only 1 fish may be longer than 18</u>

SECTION 60. NR 20.20(22)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 61. NR 20.20(24)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 62. NR 20.20(24)(f) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(24) GREEN LAKE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Fox river downstream from first dam upstream from Princeton	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to <u>February 1</u> the first Sunday in March	None	None
		c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
	3. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, spearing , dip netting sunrise to sunset.	Continuous	None	None
b. Spearing sunrise to sunset.		April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None	

SECTION 63. NR 20.20(25)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 64. NR 20.20(26)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) 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 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>

		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 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 12 through 16 is prohibited</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	No minimum length but <u>None except the possession of fish from 12 through 16 inches is prohibited</u>
3. Turtle-Flambeau flowage	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 2 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>15 for largemouth bass only</u>
		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 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 3 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 14 through 18 is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18</u>

Third Saturday in June 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 <u>and</u> <u>only one may</u> <u>be longer than</u> <u>18</u>
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SECTION 65. NR 20.20(26)(c)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike	1. Lake Six , all tributaries <u>Tributaries and</u> 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
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SECTION 66. NR 20.20(26)(e)3. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing with bow and arrow only.	Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1	None	None

SECTION 67. NR 20.20(26)(g)3. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	3. Catherine lake, Cedar lake, Echo lake, Gile flowage, Island lake, Little Oxbow lake, Oxbow lake, Pine lake, Randall lake, Sandy Beach lake , Sherman lake, Spider 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, <u>but only</u> <u>1 may be</u> <u>longer</u> <u>than 14</u>
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SECTION 68. NR 20.20(27)(a) is repealed.

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

NR 20.20(27) JACKSON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Black river from the U.S. highway 12 bridge in the city of Black River Falls downstream	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing. Set or bank pole and setline but no whole or live bait fish may be used	Continuous	None	None
		e. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None	
	b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None	

SECTION 70. NR 20.20(28)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 71. NR 20.20(29)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 72. NR 20.20(29)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 73. NR 20.20(29)(h)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(29) JUNEAU (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Yellow river and its sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, Lemonweir river and its sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20 ² to 28 ² and only 1 may be >	15 <u>minimum</u> , but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28
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first dam or highway bridge, Wisconsin river and its sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except the western boundary of the Wisconsin River on Lake Petenwell is County Highway G, and the western boundary of the Wisconsin river on Castle Rock lake north of county highway G is the confluence of the Yellow river and Castle Rock lake, and county highway G between 41st Street and county highway HH does not establish a boundary for Castle Rock lake

SECTION 74. NR 20.20(30)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(30) KENOSHA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Elizabeth lake-	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)-
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<p>2. 1. The following posted urban waters: Anderson park pond, Bong recreation area children's pond, Poerio park pond</p>	<p>a. Hook and line-</p>	<p>Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April</p>	<p>1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; None for rough fish</p>	<p>None</p>
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SECTION 75. NR 20.20(31)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(31) KEWAUNEE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan, Green Bay and their tributaries, see sub. (73))

<p>(a) Rough fish</p>	<p>1. Trout streams</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>During the open season for trout</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
		<p>b. By hand.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>2. All other waters except Lake Michigan, Green Bay and their tributaries</p>	<p>a. Hook and line, by hand, spearing, dip netting sunrise to sunset</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	
		<p>b. Spearing sunrise to sunset.</p>	<p>April 21 to the first Sunday in March</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

SECTION 76. NR 20.20(32)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 77. NR 20.20(32)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(32) LA CROSSE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

<p>(e) Rough fish</p>	<p>1. Trout streams</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>During open season for trout</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
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	b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
2. Black river downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing. Set or bank pole and setline but no whole or live bait fish may be used.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing-	April 21 to the first Sunday in March-	None-	None-
3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing-	April 21 to the first Sunday in March-	None-	None-

SECTION 78. NR 20.20(33)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 79. NR 20.20(33)(am) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(33) LAFAYETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Catfish	1. Yellowstone lake-	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March-	2 in total with largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger and hybrids-	Minimum length limit 15"; maximum length limit 24"
	2. <u>1.</u> East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. hwy. 151	a. Hook and line, set or bank pole, setline.	Continuous	10 in total	None

SECTION 80. NR 20.20(33)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(33) LAFAYETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. East Branch Pecatonica river, Pecatonica river (west branch) downstream from U.S. hwy. 151, Yellowstone river downstream from Yellowstone lake dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total	14
	2. Yellowstone lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2 in total with catfish, walleye, sauger and hybrids	Minimum length limit 12" ; maximum length limit 15"
	3. Yellowstone river upstream from county highway F	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	0 until March 1, 2007, when it becomes 5 in total	14 after March 1, 2007

SECTION 81. NR 20.20(33)(g)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(33) LAFAYETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Yellowstone lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2 in total with catfish, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass	Minimum length limit 15" ; maximum length limit 18"
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SECTION 82. NR 20.20(34)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(34) LANGLADE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Lower Post lake, Rolling Stone lake, Upper Post lake	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)
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2. <u>1.</u> The following posted urban waters: Remington lake	a. Hook and line.	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; None for rough fish	None
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SECTION 83. NR 20.20(34)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(34) LANGLADE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Sawyer lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to day <u>Friday</u> preceding the third Saturday in June	0 <u>for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass</u>	None for <u>largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 12 through 16 is prohibited</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None <u>but except the possession of fish from 12 through 16 inches is prohibited</u>
	2. McGee lake	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	None

3. Greater Bass lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to day Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 1 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18

SECTION 84. NR 20.20(34)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 85. NR 20.20(35)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Spirit River flowage, Wisconsin river downstream from CTH A including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except Lake Mohawksin-	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)-
	2. 1. The following posted urban waters: Mirror lake	a. Hook and line-	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None

SECTION 86. NR 20.20(35)(b)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Muskellunge lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1	18

SECTION 87. NR 20.20(35)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 88. NR 20.20(35)(g)1m. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1m. Wisconsin river downstream from Grandfather dam including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20 ² to 28 ² and only 1 may be -> 281-	<u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>
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SECTION 89. NR 20.20(36)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 90. NR 20.20(37)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 91. NR 20.20(37)(f) is repealed.

SECTION 92. NR 20.20(37)(i) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(37) MARATHON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except the eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and Peplin and Johnson Creeks and the Little Eau Claire River, at Lake DuBay, is the south-bound lane of Interstate 39, Eau Claire river downstream from the Schofield dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be 28¹	<u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>
	2. Big Rib river downstream from Highway 29, Johnson creek, Little Eau Claire river, Little Eau Pleine river, Peplin creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	<u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>

SECTION 93. NR 20.20(38)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 94. NR 20.20(38)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(38) MARINETTE (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Peshtigo flowage	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>14 for largemouth bass only</u>
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Third 5 in total 14
 Saturday
 in June to
 the first
 Sunday
 in March

SECTION 95. NR 20.20(38)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(38) MARINETTE (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		<u>b. By hand</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
	2. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March.	None	None

SECTION 96. NR 20.20(39)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 97. NR 20.20(39)(e) is created to read:

NR 20.20(39) MARQUETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. All other waters except Lake Winnebago system waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None

SECTION 98. NR 20.20(42)(b)2. is created to read:

NR 20.20(42) MONROE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Lake Tomah	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
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SECTION 99. NR 20.20(42)(c)2. is created to read:

NR 20.20(42) MONROE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Northern pike	2. Lake Tomah	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1	32
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SECTION 100. NR 20.20(42)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(42) MONROE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Black river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, set or bank pole, setline, spearing	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 101. NR 20.20(42)(f)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(42) MONROE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Lemonweir river including all connecting flowages, bays, sloughs and bayous upstream to the first dam or bridge or water control structure, east fork Lemonweir river upstream to highway 173 bridge, south fork Lemonweir river upstream to Tomah dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be > 28¹	15 <u>minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u>
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SECTION 102. NR 20.20(43)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 103. NR 20.20(43)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(43) OCONTO (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))

(d) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing on waters east of highway 141 only.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 104. NR 20.20(44)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 105. NR 20.20(44)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(44) ONEIDA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Bearskin lake, Crescent lake, Pelican lake, Stella lake, Burrows lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
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		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
2. Little Bass lake	a. Hook and line. Only artificial lures may be used.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>14 for largemouth bass only</u>
		Third Saturday in June to November 15	5 in total	14
3. Oneida lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 3 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only except the possession of largemouth bass from 14 through 18 is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18	<u>None except the possession of fish from 14th through 18th is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18</u>
4. Minocqua chain (includes Kawaguesaga, Little Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua, Mud, and Tomahawk lakes and connecting waters)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only</u>

Third
Saturday
in June to
the first
Sunday in
March

5 in total

None

SECTION 106. NR 20.20(45)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(45) OUTAGAMIE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Fox river	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)
	2. 1. The following posted urban waters: Appleton Memorial Park pond	a. Hook and line	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None

SECTION 107. NR 20.20(45)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(45) OUTAGAMIE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Embarrass river, Shioc river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting sunrise to sunset.	Continuous	None	None

	b. Spearing sunrise to sunset.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March April 21 to February 1	None	None
	c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
3. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, <u>spearing</u> , dip netting sunrise to sunset.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing sunrise to sunset.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 108. NR 20.20(47)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 109. NR 20.20(47)(dm) is repealed.

SECTION 110. NR 20.20(47)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(47) PEPIN (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Chippewa river downstream to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, set or bank pole, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 111. NR 20.20(48)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 112. NR 20.20(49)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 113. NR 20.20(49)(am)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(49) POLK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am)	1. Balsam lake,	a. Hook and line	First	5 in total	None
Largemouth	Big Butternut		Saturday		
and	<u>lake, Half Moon</u>		in May to		
smallmouth	<u>lake, Pipe and</u>		the first		
bass	<u>North Pipe lakes</u>		Sunday		
	<u>combined, and</u>		in March		
	<u>Ward lakes lake,</u>				
	<u>and-all lakes and</u>				
	<u>flowages partially</u>				
	<u>within Burnett</u>				
	<u>county</u>				

SECTION 114. NR 20.20(49)(d) is repealed.

SECTION 115. NR 20.20(49)(f)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(49) POLK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Walleye,	2. Big Round	a. Hook and line	First	3	18
sauger and	<u>lake, Big</u>		Saturday		
hybrids	<u>Butternut lake,</u>		in May to		
	<u>Half Moon lake,</u>		the first		
	<u>Pipe and North</u>		Sunday		
	<u>Pipe lakes</u>		in March		
	<u>combined, and</u>				
	<u>Ward lakes lake</u>				

SECTION 116. NR 20.20(50)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 117. NR 20.20(50)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 118. NR 20.20(50)(h) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(50) PORTAGE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye,	1. Bass lake,	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in	15
sauger and	Pleasant lake			total	
hybrids					

<p>2. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge except that the eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and the Little Eau Claire River, at Lake DuBay, will be defined by the south-bound lane of Interstate 39</p>	<p>a. Hook and line-</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be > 28L</p>	<p>15 <u>minimum</u>, but the <u>possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u></p>
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<p><u>3. Little Eau Claire river, Little Eau Pleine river</u></p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p><u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u></p>	<p><u>5 in total</u></p>	<p><u>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</u></p>
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SECTION 119. NR 20.20(51)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 120. NR 20.20(51)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(51) PRICE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

<p>(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass</p>	<p>1. Bass lake (T38N R2W S18), Cochram lake, Sailor lake</p>	<p>a. Hook and line-</p>	<p>First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June</p>	<p><u>0 for smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u></p>	<p><u>18 for largemouth bass only</u></p>
			<p>Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March</p>	<p>1 in total</p>	<p>18</p>

SECTION 121. NR 20.20(52)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(52) RACINE (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries,

see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. All waters-	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)-
	2. <u>1.</u> The following posted urban waters: Gorney park pond, Johnson park pond, Lockwood park pond, Pritchard park pond, Quarry lake, Reservoir park pond	a. Hook and line.	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None

SECTION 122. NR 20.20(53)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 123. NR 20.20(54)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(54) ROCK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Koshkonong lake <u>The following posted urban waters: Lions Park pond</u>	a. Motor-trolling is allowed. <u>Hook and line</u>	<u>As specified in this subsection or sub. (73) Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April</u>	<u>As specified in this subsection or sub. (73) 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish</u>	<u>As specified in this subsection or sub. (73) None</u>
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SECTION 124. NR 20.20(55)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 125. NR 20.20(55)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 126. NR 20.20(55)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(55) RUSK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Murphy flowage	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass, 1 for largemouth bass</u>	<u>18 for largemouth bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18

SECTION 127. NR 20.20(56)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 128. NR 20.20(56)(j)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(56) SAUK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(j) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Lower Wisconsin river upstream from the Prairie du Sac dam	a. Hook and line-	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20 ² to 28 ² and only 1 may be > 281-	15 <u>minimum,</u> <u>but the</u> <u>possession of</u> <u>fish from 20</u> <u>to 28 is</u> <u>prohibited</u> <u>and only 1</u> <u>fish may be</u> <u>longer than</u> <u>28</u>
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SECTION 129. NR 20.20(57)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 130. NR 20.20(57)(d) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(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 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 1 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	18 for <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	2. Nelson <u>lake,</u> and Whitefish <u>lakes lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 5 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	<u>None for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

3. <u>Big Chetac lake, Birch lake, Sissabagama lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
4. All lakes and flowages that are partially within Washburn county and are north of a line following STH 77 east to STH 27 and south on STH 27	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u> , 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u>	<u>None for largemouth bass only</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
5. All lakes and flowages that are partially within Washburn county and that are south of a line following STH 77 east to STH 27 and south on STH 27, <u>excluding Birch lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

SECTION 131. NR 20.20(57)(g) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing with bow and arrow only.	Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1.	None	None

SECTION 132. NR 20.20(57)(i)4. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. <u>Big Chetac lake, Birch lake, Black Dan lake, Island lake (T39N R5W S2), Sand lake, including Sissabagama creek upstream to Sand lake road, Nelson lake, Sissabagama lake, and Whitefish lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
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SECTION 133. NR 20.20(58)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 134. NR 20.20(58)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(58) SHAWANO (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Embarrass river downstream from Pella dam, Wolf river downstream <u>from</u> Shawano dam	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March to <u>February 1</u>	None	None
		c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
	3. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, <u>spearing</u> , dip netting sunrise to sunset.	Continuous	None	None
b. Spearing.		April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None	

SECTION 135. NR 20.20(59)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(59) SHEBOYGAN (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Michigan and its tributaries, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Sheboygan marsh-	a. Motor trolling is allowed.-	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)-	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)-	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)-
	2. <u>1.</u> The following posted urban waters: Kohler-Andrae State Park pond Memorial park pond, <u>River Park lagoon</u> , Sheboygan quarry	a. Hook and line	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None
	3. The following posted urban waters: River Park lagoon-	a. Hook and line.-	Continuous-	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish-	None-

SECTION 136. NR 20.20(60)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 137. NR 20.20(60)(b)2. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(60) ST. CROIX (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. <u>Bass lake,</u> Glen lake, Squaw lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	No minimum length, but the possession of fish from 14 to 18 inches is prohibited, and only 1 fish may be longer than 18 inches
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SECTION 138. NR 20.20(60)(f) is repealed.

SECTION 139. NR 20.20(61)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 140. NR 20.20(61)(b) is repealed.

SECTION 141. NR 20.20(62)(b) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(62) TREMPLEALEAU (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Black river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u> . Set or bank pole and setline but no whole or live bait fish may be used.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March.	None	None
	3. All other waters	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, <u>spearing</u>	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March.	None	None

SECTION 142. NR 20.20(64)(c) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Big lake (T42N R6E S4), Bittersweet lake, Oberlin lake, Prong lake, Smith lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	0	--
	2. Averill lake, Big Portage lake, Big Muskellunge lake, East Ellerson lake, Forest lake, Gunlock lake, Little Bass lake (T40N, R8E, S15), Kentuck lake, Middle Ellerson lake, Papoose lake, Plum lake, Presque Isle lake, Salsich lake, <u>Sparkling lake</u> , Star lake, Trout lake, Van Vliet lake, Wabasso lake, West Plum lake, White Sand lake (T42N, R7E, S27), Whitney lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 1 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	<u>18 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
	3. Nebish lake	a. Hook and line. Daily permit required (see s. NR 20.41).	Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	4. Spruce lake	a. Hook and line. Only artificial lures may be used. Daily permit required (see s. NR 20.41).	Continuous	5 in total	No minimum length except the possession of fish from 9 to 12 inches is prohibited
			Continuous	2 in total	12

5. Palette lake	a. Hook and line. Daily permit required (see s. NR 20.41)	Continuous	1	22
6. Wildwood lake	a. Hook and line. Only artificial lures may be used.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 5 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	14 for <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
		Third Saturday in June to November 15	5 in total	14
7. Sparkling lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0-	—
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 until March 3, 2014 when it becomes 5 in total	18 until March 3, 2014 when it becomes 14

SECTION 143. NR 20.20(64)(h)9. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	9. Sparkling lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 until March 3, 2014 when it becomes 5 in total	28 until March 3, 2014 when it becomes 15 18
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SECTION 144. NR 20.20(65)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(65) WALWORTH (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. All waters-	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)-
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<p>2. 1. The following posted urban waters: Ceylon lagoon, Congdon park pond, Millpond park pond</p>	<p>a. Hook and line-</p>	<p>Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April</p>	<p>1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish</p>	<p>None</p>
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SECTION 145. NR 20.20(66)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 146. NR 20.20(66)(bm) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(66) WASHBURN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

<p>(bm) Largemouth and smallmouth bass</p>	<p>1. All waters not listed in this paragraph that are north of a line following STH 77, including all lakes and flowages north of that line</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June</p>	<p>0 for <u>smallmouth bass</u>, 5 for <u>largemouth bass</u></p>	<p><u>None for largemouth bass only</u></p>
			<p>Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March</p>	<p>5 in total</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>2. All waters not listed in this paragraph that are south of a line following STH 77, including all lakes and flowages south of that line</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</p>	<p>5 in total</p>	<p>None</p>

3. Balsam lake, Birch lake, Namekagon river south of STH 77, Red Cedar lake, Shell lake, Trego flowage	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	14
4. Namekagon river north of STH 77, Totagatic river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 5 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u>	<u>14 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
		Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	14

SECTION 147. NR 20.20(66)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 148. NR 20.20(66)(g) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(66) WASHBURN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Bass (Patterson) lake, <u>Minong flowage</u> <u>upstream to the</u> <u>confluence of</u> <u>Totagatic river</u> <u>and Bergen creek</u>	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, <u>but only</u> <u>1 may be</u> <u>longer</u> <u>than 14</u>
	2. Shell lake	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
	3. Balsam <u>lake,</u> <u>Birch lake,</u> Red Cedar <u>lake,</u> Long <u>lake,</u> Middle McKenzie <u>lake,</u> <u>Nancy lake</u> and Naney lakes	a. Hook and line-	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18

SECTION 149. NR 20.20(67)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(67) WASHINGTON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Big Cedar lake, Pike lake	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)
	2. <u>1.</u> The following posted urban waters: Boot lake, Hartford millpond from the dam upstream to Marine drive, Homestead Hollow park pond, Kewaskum millpond from the dam upstream to STH 28, Sandy Knoll park pond, Wells lake from the dam upstream to the first dam on Silver creek, Regner pond	a. Hook and line.	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None

SECTION 150. NR 20.20(68)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(68) WAUKESHA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. All waters	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)
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<p>2. <u>1.</u> The following posted urban waters: Calhoun park pond, Delafield Rearing pond, Foxbrook pond, Heyer park pond north, Heyer park pond south, <u>Lapham Peak pond</u>, Lepper Dam millpond from the dam upstream to Roosevelt drive, Lions-Overland park pond, Menomonee park pond, Minooka park pond, Muskego park pond, Nixon park pond, Regal park pond, Woodfield park pond north, Woodfield park pond south</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April</p>	<p>1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish</p>	<p>None</p>
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SECTION 151. NR 20.20(69)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 152. NR 20.20(69)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(69) WAUPACA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

<p>(e) Rough fish</p>	<p><u>1. Trout streams</u></p>	<p><u>a. Hook and line.</u></p>	<p><u>During open season for trout</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>
		<p><u>b. By hand.</u></p>	<p><u>Continuous</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>
	<p>2. Embarrass river, Waupaca river downstream from Weyauwega dam, Wolf river</p>	<p>a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
		<p>b. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam</p>	<p>Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
		<p><u>c. Spearing</u></p>	<p><u>April 21 to February 1</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>	<p><u>None</u></p>

<u>3. All other waters except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	<u>a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
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SECTION 153. NR 20.20(70)(dm) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(dm) Panfish	1. Hartford lake, <u>Little Hills lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	10 in total	None
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SECTION 154. NR 20.20(70)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. White river from White River flowage upstream to the west branch, Willow creek upstream from Auroraville dam to the Bruce creek, Pine river from the Poysippi dam upstream to the first highway bridge Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. Spearing for suckers and carp only.	Saturday nearest March 15 to the day preceding the Saturday nearest May 1.	None.	None.
		e. <u>b. By hand</u>	Continuous	None	None
	3. 2. Poygan lake, Fox river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to February 1	None	None
		c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam. Whole or live bait fish may not be used on Poygan lake.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
	<u>3. All other waters except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	<u>a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing</u>	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>

SECTION 155. NR 20.20(71)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 156. NR 20.20(71)(e) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(71) WINNEBAGO (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand	Continuous	None	None
	2. Butte des Morts lake, Little Butte des Morts lake, Poygan lake, Winnebago lake, Winneconne lake, Fox river downstream from Butte des Morts lake, Fox river upstream from Eureka dam, Wolf river	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting sunrise to sunset.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to February 1	None	None
		c. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
	3. All other waters <u>except Lake Winnebago system waters</u>	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None

SECTION 157. NR 20.20(72)(a) is repealed.

SECTION 158. NR 20.20(72)(e) is repealed.

SECTION 159. NR 20.20(72)(h)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(72) WOOD (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	<p>1. <u>Buena Vista creek upstream to the Nepco dam, Yellow river downstream from the highway 54 dam at Dexterville including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge from the highway 54 dam at Dexterville downstream, Wisconsin river including all sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge</u></p>	a. Hook and line-	Continuous	<p>5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20² to 28² and only 1 may be > 281-</p>	<p>15 minimum, but the possession of fish from 20 to 28 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 28</p>
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SECTION 160. NR 20.20(73)(a) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)

(a) All species	<p>1. Green Bay, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior</p>	<p>a. Motor trolling is permitted.</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>
	<p>2. <u>1. Peshtigo river upstream to the first railroad bridge, Marinette county; Oconto river and tributaries except the Little river downstream from highway 141, Oconto county</u></p>	<p>a. From September 15 to the first Saturday in May only hooks with a one-half inch gap or less may be used while hook and line fishing.</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>

<p>3-2. 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; Oconto river upstream from the upstream side of the highway 141 bridge to the first dam, Oconto county; and all other tributary streams, rivers and ditches - excluding the Menominee river- to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake</p>	<p>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 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.</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection</p>
<p>4. Lake Winnebago system waters-</p>	<p>a. Motor trolling is permitted except on the Wolf river from its mouth at Lake Poygan upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano, and all its tributaries upstream to the first dam, including Cincoe and Partridge lakes in Winnebago, Waupaca, Outagamie and Shawano counties.</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>	<p>As specified in this subsection-</p>

SECTION 161. NR 20.20(73)(f) is amended to read:

NR 20.20(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)

(f) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Lake Superior and connected sloughs, Kakagon river	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> bass, 1 for <u>largemouth</u> bass	<u>22 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	22
	2. Outlying waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan within 1/4 mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog or Rock islands	a. Hook and line.	July 1 to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	12
	3. Lake Winnebago system waters	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total	14
	4. All waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or this paragraph north of a line following STH 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix river east to STH 27, south on STH 27 to STH 64, east on STH 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette and continuing due east to the shore of Green Bay and all waters north of STH 29 from its bridge over the Fox river east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee and continuing due east to the shore of Lake Michigan	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for <u>smallmouth</u> bass, 5 for <u>largemouth</u> bass	<u>14 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>

Third 5 in total 14
 Saturday in
 June to the
 first Sunday
 in March

5. All other a. Hook and line. First 5 in total 14
 waters not listed Saturday in
 in subs. (1) to May to the
 (72) or this first Sunday
 paragraph in March

SECTION 162. NR 20.20(73)(g)1. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)

(g) Muskellunge	1. Green Bay, Lake Michigan and Lake Michigan tributaries north of a line running due east from the eastern terminus of Waldo boulevard in the city of Manitowoc, all tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	50 <u>54</u>
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SECTION 163. NR 20.20(73)(L)6. is amended to read:

NR 20.20(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)

(L) Rough fish	1. Green Bay, Lake Michigan	a. Hook and line, by hand, spearing, dip netting at any time.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Seining at any time with seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth 1500 feet or more below the DePere dam	April 1 to May 25	None	None

2. Major Green Bay tributaries, Lake Michigan tributaries	a. Hook and line, by hand, spearing , dip netting at any time 500 feet or more below the first upstream dam or up to 5 miles straight inland from the mouth, whichever is less, except from September 15 through December 31 when fishing by any method is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing	Continuous for Lake Michigan tributaries in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Sheboygan counties; April 21 to the first Sunday in March for all other tributaries but the Oconto river west of hwy. 141, Oconto county, has no open season on spearing	None	None
3. All other tributary streams and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	None	None

	b. Spearing	April 21 to the first Sunday in March but portions of tributaries west of hwy. 141, Oconto county, and the Menominee river have no open season <u>Continuous except no open season on the Menominee river</u>	None	None
	c. Dip netting at any time 500 feet or more below the first upstream dam or up to 5 miles straight inland from the mouth, whichever is less, except from September 15 through December 31 when fishing by any method is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.	Continuous	None	None
	d. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
5. Lake Superior	a. Hook and line, by hand, spearing.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Dip netting at any time for smelt only.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
	c. Seining at any time for smelt only with seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth.	April 1 to May 25	None	None
6. All Lake Winnebago system waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72)	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None
	b. Spearing.	April 21 to February 1	None	None
7. All trout streams not listed in subs. (1) to (72)	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
	b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None

8. All other waters not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or this paragraph	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting, spearing.	Continuous	None	None
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SECTION 164. NR 20.35(3) is amended to read:

NR 20.35(3) ALTERNATE LIMIT.

(a) Size limits. If the department finds under sub. (2) that one or more of the following conditions exists in a particular water, the corresponding alternate size limit shall apply to the named species of fish in that water.

1. No size limit shall apply to walleye, largemouth bass or smallmouth bass if, for the particular species in a particular water, the department finds that at least one of the following conditions exist:

1. a. Angler exploitation of the species is less than 15% of the population of fish larger than the original size limit.

2. b. Total adult mortality for that species is less than 30% of the population.

3. c. More than 10% of the fish tested of that species in the size range from the originally applicable size limit to 3 inches larger than the originally applicable size limit, in fillets with the skin on, contain .75 parts per million or more mercury, 2 parts per million or more PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl), 5 parts per million or more DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane), 5 parts per million or more Toxaphene, 0.3 parts per million or more Chlordane, or 0.3 parts per million or more Dieldrin.

4. d. Walleye males do not grow to a length of at least 13 inches in 4 years or largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 12 inches in 5 years in all inland waters lying north of a line ~~beginning at the state highway 70 bridge over the St. Croix river, following state highway 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix river then east on state highway 70-77 to its intersection with state highway 27, then south on highway 27 to its intersection with state highway 64, then east along highway 64 to its end, then continuing east to the waters of Green Bay or in inland waters of Brown, Kewaunee or Door counties north of a line beginning with the state highway 29 bridge over the Fox river, then east along state highway 29 to its end, then continuing east to Lake Michigan.~~

5. e. Largemouth bass or smallmouth bass do not grow to a length of at least 14 inches in 6 years in inland waters other than those identified in ~~subd. 4.~~ subd. 1. d.

2. Alternate size limits may apply to walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, or panfish if, for the particular species in a particular water, the department finds that at least one of the following conditions exist:

a. A lake restoration project is in place to reduce detrimental fish species that includes bio-manipulation of a waterbody through increasing the abundance and biomass of predator game fish. The department shall apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch walleye, 18-inch largemouth or smallmouth bass, or 32-inch northern pike.

b. Fish have been removed or destroyed as a result of a rehabilitation program to reestablish a good supply of game fish. The department shall apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch walleye, 18-inch largemouth or smallmouth bass, or 32-inch northern pike.

c. An inland water has been documented to contain detrimental species, species nonindigenous to the waters of the state, or rough fish. In order to control the population of detrimental, nonindigenous, or rough fish species and protect the native fish populations, the department shall apply the following minimum size limits to particular species: 18-inch walleye, 18-inch largemouth or smallmouth bass, or 32-inch northern pike.

d. The department finds that an evaluation of a size limit could not be completed before a sunset date listed in s. NR 20.20. The department may extend the size limit under sub. (2) and the limit shall remain the same and in full force and effect for 7 years from the date specified in s. NR 20.20 or until a permanent rule change is in place, whichever occurs first. The determination to extend a size limit sunset date under sub. (2) shall be made within two years prior to the sunset date listed in s. NR 20.20.

(b) *Bag limits.* If the department finds under sub. (2) that one or more of the following conditions exists in a particular water, the corresponding alternate bag limit shall apply to the named species of fish in that water.

1. Alternate daily bag limits may apply to walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, or panfish if, for the particular species in a particular water, the department finds that at least one of the following conditions exist:

a. A lake restoration project is in place to reduce detrimental fish species that includes bio-manipulation of a waterbody through increasing the abundance and biomass of predator gamefish. The department shall apply the following daily bag limits to particular species: 3 walleye, 1 largemouth or smallmouth bass, 1 northern pike, or 10 panfish.

b. Fish have been removed or destroyed as a result of a rehabilitation program to reestablish a good supply of game fish. The following daily bag limits shall apply to particular species: 3 walleye, 1 largemouth or smallmouth bass, 1 northern pike, or 10 panfish.

c. An inland water has been documented to contain detrimental species, species nonindigenous to the waters of the state, or rough fish. In order to control the population of detrimental, nonindigenous, or rough fish species and protect the native fish populations, the department shall apply the following daily bag limits to particular species: 3 walleye, 1 largemouth or smallmouth bass, 1 northern pike, or 10 panfish.

d. The department finds that an evaluation of a daily bag limit could not be completed before a sunset date listed in s. NR 20.20. The department may extend the daily bag limit under sub. (2) and the limit shall remain the same and in full force and effect for 7 years from the date specified in s. NR 20.20 or until a permanent rule change is in place, whichever occurs first. The determination to extend a daily bag limit sunset date under sub. (2) shall be made within two years prior to the sunset date listed in s. NR 20.20.

SECTION 165. NR 20.36(2) is amended to read:

NR 20.36(2) READJUSTMENT. ~~After the third Monday in May,~~ In response to actual tribal harvest, the secretary may raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum size limit to the limit specified as appropriate using the percent of the safe harvest level expected to be harvested through the first Sunday in March of the next year as indicated in sub. (1). If actual harvest subsequently exceeds the expected harvest level, the daily bag limit for walleye may be reduced or the minimum size limit for muskellunge may be increased the following year to reflect actual harvest for that year and harvest goals of the Chippewa bands for the next year. If a new population estimate is made, the safe harvest level shall be changed accordingly and the secretary may adjust the daily bag limit or minimum size limit according to the percentage of the new safe harvest level that is expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1), where deemed necessary to remain consistent with the safety factors established under *Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wis.*, 707 F. Supp. 1034 (W. D. Wis. 1989). The readjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until ~~March 1~~ the first Sunday in March of the year following the tribal harvest.

SECTION 166. NR 20.41(4) is created to read:

NR 20.41(4) AUTHORIZED METHODS. No person may fish in Escanaba, Nebish, or Pallette lakes while possessing fishing line with attached lead-containing jig-heads, sinkers, and weights that weigh less than 1 ounce or that measure less than 1 inch in any dimension.

SECTION 167. NR 23.05(5)(d) is amended to read:

NR 23.05 **Hook and line fishing.** (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:

(d) LARGEMOUTH BASS AND SMALLMOUTH BASS	1. All boundary waters	First Saturday in May to December 31	0, 0 for <u>smallmouth</u> <u>bass, 5 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass</u> beginning the first Saturday in May to the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	<u>14 for</u> <u>largemouth</u> <u>bass only</u>
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5 in total 14
 for the
 third
 Saturday in
 June to
 December
 31

SECTION 168. NR 23.05(5)(e) is amended to read:

NR 23.05 **Hook and line fishing.** (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:

(e)	1. Menominee river from the Hattie Street dam in the city of Marinette downstream to the eastern end of the breakwalls in Green Bay	May 15 to November 30	1	50 <u>54</u>
MUSKELLUNGE				

SECTION 169. NR 23.055(2) is amended to read:

NR 23.055(2) **READJUSTMENT.** ~~After the third Monday in May,~~ In response to actual tribal harvest, the secretary may raise the daily bag limit or reduce the minimum size limit to the limit specified as appropriate using the percent of the safe harvest level expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1). If a new population estimate is made, the safe harvest level shall be changed accordingly and the daily bag limit or minimum size limit shall be adjusted according to the percentage of the new safe harvest level that is expected to be harvested as indicated in sub. (1). The readjusted daily bag and size limits shall be in effect until the first Sunday in March of the year following the tribal harvest.

SECTION 170. NR 23.08 is amended to read:

NR 23.08 **Motor trolling.** Fishing from a motor-driven boat when the motor is running or from any boat in tow of a motor-driven boat when the motor is running is authorized on all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters ~~except Vilas county waters.~~

SECTION 171. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This rule shall take effect April 1, 2014, except Sections 7, 8, 164, 165, and 169 that shall take 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 172. **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 _____
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

(SEAL)