



**Notice Date:** November 23, 2012

**Subject:** Request for economic impact of proposed changes in Natural Resources Board Order FH-18-12 relating to sport fishing regulations in inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

**Comment Period:** November 23 through December 7, 2012

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting an economic impact analysis of its rule proposal, FH-18-12. With this rule, the Department intends to make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters. Fishing regulations are in place to help meet management goals and objectives for waters and their fish species. New regulations are proposed when management goals have changed or the Department must address a critical need, such as a major fish population decline, and are based on input solicited from stakeholders.

Notice is hereby given that the Department will accept written comments on the EIA until December 7, 2012. The Department is gathering information to determine if there is an economic effect of the proposed rule on specific businesses, business sectors, public utility ratepayers, local governmental units, and the state economy as a whole. Information and advice is requested from businesses, business associations, local governmental units, and individuals that may be affected by the proposed rule.

Would you, your business, your association, or your local unit of government be affected economically if this rule implemented the following:

- 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;
- Simplifying rough fish spearing season dates on inland waters by opening 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.

*For a complete description of all changes in the rule, please refer to section 5 of the attached rule document.*

If you expect to be affected economically by this rule proposal please provide as much information as possible to the Department regarding:

- any implementation or compliance costs you would expect to incur,
- quantifiable benefits of the proposed rule, or
- how the proposed rule would negatively affect your overall economic competitiveness, productivity, or jobs.

If requested, the Department will coordinate with local governments in the preparation of the EIA.

**Please indicate whether you are responding as a business, small business, business association, local governmental unit, or individual.** A small business is defined as an independently owned and operated business that is not dominant in its field and which employs 25 or fewer full-time employees or which has gross annual sales of less than \$5,000,000.

The proposed rule may be viewed at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/rules/> or <https://health.wisconsin.gov/admrules/public/Home>

To request this material in an alternative format, please call Kate Strom Hiorns at (608) 266-0828 with specific information on your request by November 30, 2012.

Comments are due and shall be postmarked no later than December 7, 2012. Please provide your email address or phone number in order for the Department to contact you if additional information is needed. Written comments on economic effects of the proposal may be submitted via U.S. mail or email to:

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