



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

DOCUMENT ID

WW-19-0049-C

DOCUMENT TITLE

FISH HABITAT – HALF LOG STRUCTURE EXEMPTION CHECKLIST

PROGRAM/BUREAU

WATERWAYS PROGRAM

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

CH. 30, WIS. STATS.

DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

11/25/19

DATE FINALIZED

12/23/19

DNR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

12/16/19

Signature

Date

Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes. Using this checklist, you can determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed half-log structure is eligible for an exemption if your project will meet all the following conditions:

- The half-log structure may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) – see the Designated Waters Search on DNR’s website to determine if your waterway is an ASNRI or has another special designation.
- The half-log structure may be placed and maintained only by a riparian, and shall be placed entirely within the riparian’s zone of interest.
- The half-log structure must be placed solely for the purpose of improving fish habitat.
- The riparian shall report the placement of the structure to the local department fisheries biologist within 30 days after placement. The report shall contain a description of the project and its purpose, the name of the waterway and a map showing where the structure was placed.
- A deposit of sand, gravel or stone may be associated with the placement of a half-log structure provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.
- Dredging is not allowed for the placement of a half-log.
- To protect fish habitat during spawning seasons, the half-log may not be placed during the following time periods:
 - (a) For trout streams and perennial tributaries to trout streams, September 15 through May 15.
 - (b) For all waters not identified in (a) and south of State Highway 29, March 15 through May 15.
 - (c) For all waters not identified in (a) and north of State Highway 29, April 1 through June 1. Half-logs shall be constructed from green logs with a minimum diameter of 10 inches and spacers may not exceed 12 inches in height.
- Half-logs shall be placed where the bottom substrate consists of sand and/or gravel.
- Half-logs may not be placed in water deeper than 5 feet.
- Half-logs placed in lakes or flowages may not be located greater than 100 feet from shore, or within 100 feet of a swim raft.
- Proper erosion control measures shall be used during installation (to prevent soils from eroding into the waterway), removed after work is complete, and any disturbed areas restored.
- Endangered Resources Review: The applicant is not required, but is encouraged to request an endangered resources (ER) review letter before applying for the permit. Information on how to obtain a review can be found by visiting the website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Review.html>. The applicant can also visit the NHI Public Portal, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html>, to determine if a full ER Review is required. Read the ‘What is an ER Preliminary Assessment and what do the results mean?’ section to determine follow-up steps.

If your proposed project meets all of these conditions, the project is exempt from permitting. Keep a copy of this checklist for future reference. If your proposed project does not meet all of these conditions, submit a permit application to the Department. To obtain permit information search for it on our website at www.dnr.wi.gov under the topic “Waterway and Wetland Permits.”