

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT:

Request that the Board adopt Board Order FH-09-20, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters (the 2021 Fisheries Management Spring Hearing rule)

FOR: June 2021 Board meeting

PRESENTER'S NAME AND TITLE: Meredith Penthorn, Fisheries Management policy specialist

SUMMARY:

In odd years, the department proposes a variety of fishing regulation changes that may affect inland, outlying and boundary waters, some of which originate as citizen resolutions and Conservation Congress advisory questions during previous years' Spring Hearings. The Spring Hearing process is the traditional means of gaining broad public input on these proposals. The 2021 Fisheries Management Spring Hearing rule proposals include size and bag limit changes for different game fish species on specific inland waters, establishing an early trout catch-and-release season on certain trout streams in central and northern Wisconsin, removing the late season on some trout streams that already have an early trout season to reduce confusion about the season structure, creating an urban fishing pond in a park in Vilas County, applying consistent regulations to two connected waters to ensure better data collection, aid enforcement and reduce complexity, and allowing licensed sturgeon spears with an unfilled carcass tag to incidentally harvest carp during the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt Board Order FH-09-20.

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

- Background Memo
Fiscal estimate and economic impact analysis (EIA) form
Response summary
Attachments to background memo
Board order/rule
(insert document name)

Table with 3 columns: Approved by, Signature, Date. Rows include Justine Hasz, Keith Warnke, and Preston D. Cole.

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8 Program attorney - LS/8 by Todd Ambs Department rule officer - LS/8

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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 28, 2021

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Background memo on Board Order FH-09-20, relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters – the 2021 Fisheries Management spring hearings rule

1. Subject of Proposed Rule:

The proposed rule addresses fish size and bag limits, seasons, gear standards and other fishing regulations. The proposed regulations were included in the 2021 Spring Hearings questionnaire for public input.

2. Background:

In odd-numbered years, the department submits rule change proposals for consideration relating to fishing and management of state fisheries. The statewide April Spring Fish and Wildlife hearings are the traditional means for obtaining citizen input on these proposed fisheries rule changes. These rule change proposals originate primarily from department staff specialists and Conservation Congress advisory questions that appeared as spring hearings questions and citizen resolutions in previous years. Initiating the process to promulgate rules recommended by the Conservation Congress fulfills a role of the Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress established in s. 15.348, Stats. Department staff reviewed all of these proposals prior to inclusion in this rule order. For details on each of the proposed rule changes, please refer to the attached spring hearing questionnaire (Appendix 1).

3. Why is the rule being proposed?

Fishing regulations are implemented to help meet management goals and objectives for Wisconsin waters, such as providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes harvest of smaller fishes. The department proposes new fishing regulations on specific waterbodies when a fish population or management goal changes.

The regulation proposals included in this rule are based on surveys and analyses conducted by fish biologists, along with input from local stakeholders and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. All proposals are reviewed for justification, enforceability, and completeness by department Bureaus of Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement, and Legal Services.

4. Summary of the rule.

This proposal updates fishing regulations in response to management goals, biologist recommendations, and public input. This rule includes two regulation changes of statewide significance and more than 60 changes to regulations on waters primarily of local interest. A summary of these regulation changes is outlined beginning on p. 2 of the attached board order. If approved, the changes contained in board order FH-09-20 will go into effect prior to the 2022-23 fishing season.

Public Input:

The 2021 Spring Hearing format was entirely online, with total participation similar to previous years. All of the department's 23 rule proposals were supported by the statewide online vote. One of these questions (Question 18) was supported statewide but not by residents of Forest County (18 in support, 20 against), though Forest County recreators supported the proposal (305 in support, 170 against). The statewide results for each rule proposal question are detailed in Appendix 2.

In addition to the online input, 4 people submitted comments on fisheries-related 2021 Spring Hearings questions during the public comment period ending on April 15. Those comments are summarized in the table below. Additionally, 12 people provided spoken or written comments on topics not included in this year's Spring Hearings rule.

Local Department Rule Proposals		Public Comments	Number of Comments Submitted
Q. 1	Walleye ceded territory regulation – multiple waters	To reduce fishing pressure on walleyes in the Ceded Territory, DNR should be opening public access and creating boat landings on lakes that do not have public access.	1
Q. 7	Northern pike 40-inch minimum length limit – Lake Tomah	In favor of this question, but disappointed that it wasn't implemented earlier due to extremely high fishing pressure since 2017. Local ice fishing has also impacted the pike population, and the majority of the fish over 32 inches caught during the ice fishing season are taken home. The size limit of 32 inches was not enough to stabilize the lake and allow successful reproduction and replacement of harvested females.	1
Q. 13	Panfish protection on multiple waters	A reduced bag limit (15 or 10) should be considered for additional lakes or statewide, potentially while keeping the possession limit close to the current limit.	2

Modifications after Hearings

The department included language to allow incidental harvest of carp during the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season. This proposal originated through public comments and discussions with the department's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection, and received public input during the 2021 Spring Hearings. This question received public support statewide and in the counties surrounding the Winnebago system. This rule would require spearers to be engaged in legal sturgeon spearing activities and possess a valid, unused sturgeon carcass tag and general fishing license to be able to legally, incidentally harvest a carp.

Discussion:

The broadest statewide-level DNR question included in this year's Spring Hearings questionnaire (Question 1) would apply the Ceded Territory walleye regulation (15-inch minimum length limit, 20-24-inch protected slot, only 1 over 24 inches may be kept, daily bag limit of 3) to waters across six counties of northern Wisconsin. This regulation is more appropriate for these waters to increase walleye population density and protect young walleye until they reach reproductive maturity. These population goals follow fishery management plans that the department has developed for these areas in conjunction with stakeholders.

The other statewide question (Question 2) would apply the Ceded Territory regulation as well as an annual harvest quota and special season (second Saturday in June until the first Sunday in March) on Escanaba Lake in Vilas County. Escanaba Lake is a research lake, and likely the only lake on which the walleye population response to the Ceded Territory regulation and overexploitation could be tested due to the mandatory creel survey. Department scientists will calculate an annual quota (in pounds of walleye) each spring before the season opens. Once that harvest quota is met, the bag limit will revert to 0 (catch-and-release only) until the end of the season. The department will announce the shift to catch-and-release fishing through news releases in the vicinity of the lake, online announcements, signs by the lake, and other communication in advance of the change.

Two questions on the 2021 Spring Hearings questionnaire (Questions 18 and 19) pertained to applying or removing catch-and-release seasons for trout on streams in northern and central Wisconsin (the Popple River, main stem of the Plover River, and a segment of the Waupaca/Tomorrow River). Question 18 was not supported by residents of Forest County, but those who recreate in Forest County did support it, and the department is advancing it as part of this rule package. The intent of these questions is to increase trout fishing opportunities while reducing regulatory complexity for anglers. The early catch-and-release season for trout, opening in January and restricted to the use of artificial lures only, is a familiar fishing opportunity offered in streams across the state. The late trout catch-and-release season opens after the October 15 harvest season closure and runs into November. This late season can create confusion that the trout season is open year-round, without the same level of public participation as seen during the early catch-and-release season, so removing it from the streams listed in the question will keep the season structure on those streams consistent with each other and angler expectations.

5. How does this proposal affect existing policy?

Consistent with previous Spring Hearings rules, this rule establishes fishing regulations to help achieve management goals for public waters within Wisconsin while continuing to provide opportunities for good fishing. The annual Spring Hearings, open to each county in the state through the online public input questionnaire, serve as the traditional route for gaining public input on department rule proposals, as well as Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Natural Resources Board advisory questions that may become rule proposals in the future.

To help reduce regulatory complexity, the department aims to apply a standard set of regulations to waters across the state. When a management goal changes for a game fish on a particular waterbody, the department may consider using one of the other standard regulations instead. Each regulation is designed to provide one of four general opportunities to anglers, including:

- Consumptive opportunities to allow higher harvest of fish, which in turn reduces competition or predation within the fish community;
- Quality opportunities to allow harvest of quality-sized fish and also maintain the existing fish population;
- Memorable opportunities to increase the number of larger fish available to anglers while improving fish reproduction; or
- Trophy opportunities to allow opportunities to harvest trophy fish while increasing the survival and density of larger, older fish or maximizing predation on smaller, overabundant fish.

6. Has Board dealt with these issues before?

The statement of scope for this rule, SS 117-20, was approved by the Governor on August 13, 2020, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on October 28, 2020. The board authorized hearings on the proposed rules at its February 24, 2021 meeting.

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

These rules are mainly applicable to individual anglers by revising size limits, bag limits, season dates, gear standards and other regulations. These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule-making authority, do not have a significant economic impact on the private sector or small businesses. These rules impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

8. Soliciting public input on economic impact synopsis

The department has determined that these rules will have no economic impact locally or statewide. The department posted a notice soliciting comments on this analysis on its website from February 3 - 17. No comments were received. A copy of the economic and fiscal impact analysis is attached as part of this agenda item.

9. Small Business Analysis

These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses. These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

Drafter: Meredith Penthorn

APPENDIX 1

2021 Fisheries Management Spring Hearings Questions

STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

1. Walleye Ceded Territory Regulation – Multiple waters in Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Vilas counties

This regulation proposal would apply the Ceded Territory standard walleye regulation (minimum length limit of 15 inches but walleyes from 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one walleye over 24 inches may be kept, and a daily bag limit of 3) to multiple waters in Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Vilas counties. The current regulation allowing anglers to keep 3 walleyes of any size with one larger than 14 inches is no longer appropriate amid declining trends in natural recruitment. We seek to increase adult walleye population density toward the objective ranges outlined in the fishery management plans that stakeholders helped us develop for these waters. The proposed regulation should promote our goal by protecting young walleye until they mature and allowing some adults to grow larger.

This proposal would apply to the following waters between Turtle-Flambeau Dam and Thornapple Dam:

- Big Falls Flowage (Rusk County)
• Crowley Flowage (Price County)
• Dairyland Reservoir (Rusk County)
• Elk River (entire) (Price County)
• Flambeau River, including waters of the North Fork Flambeau River, between Turtle-Flambeau Dam and Thornapple Flowage Dam (Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, and Sawyer counties)
• Grassy Lake (Price County)
• Lac Sault Dore (Price County)
• Ladysmith Flowage (Rusk County)
• Lower Park Falls Flowage (Price County)
• Phillips Chain (Duroy, Elk, Long, Wilson lakes and connecting waters combined) (Price County)
• Pike Lake Chain (Amik, Pike, Round, Turner lakes and connecting waters combined) (Price and Vilas counties)
• Pixley Flowage (Price County)
• Solberg Lake (Price County)
• South Fork Flambeau River (entire) (Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties)
• Upper Park Falls Flowage (Price County)
• Thornapple Flowage (Rusk County)

1. Do you favor consistently applying the Ceded Territory walleye regulation (minimum length limit of 15 inches but walleye from 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one walleye over 24 inches may be kept, daily bag limit of 3 walleye) to all waters listed above, including the Flambeau River and its eight impoundments between Turtle-Flambeau Dam and Thornapple Dam, Solberg Lake, the entire Elk River, including the Phillips Chain of Lakes, Lac Sault Dore, and Grassy Lake, the Pike Lake Chain of Lakes, and the entire South Fork Flambeau River in Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, and Vilas counties?

1. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

2. Walleye experimental regulation – Escanaba Lake, Vilas County

The proposed regulation would establish the Ceded Territory standard walleye regulation (minimum length limit of 15 inches but walleyes from 20-24 inches may not be kept, and only one walleye over 24 inches may be kept, and a daily bag limit of 3) on Escanaba Lake during a season running from the second Saturday in June until an annual quota (pounds of walleye) is met; then catch-and-release only until the first Sunday in March. The department would notify the public a week in advance of the transition to catch-and-release fishing through such methods as local news releases and website notifications as well as posting signs near the lake. A closed season would be in place from the Monday following the first Sunday in March until the Friday before the second Saturday in June. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 28 inches and daily bag limit of one walleye with no closed season.

Escanaba Lake is an experimental fisheries research lake used to address high-priority research needs and assess the impact of fishing regulations. The proposed regulation would allow researchers to assess adult walleye abundance and recruitment of walleye into the fishery in response to ten years of experimental overharvest under the current Ceded Territory of Wisconsin default regulation for walleye. Angler harvest will be an important component of the experiment.

<p>2. Do you support applying the Ceded Territory regulation of a 15-inch minimum length limit and 20-24 inches protected slot, with only 1 fish greater than 24 inches allowed to be kept, and daily bag limit of 3 walleye on Escanaba Lake in Vilas County, with a harvest season beginning on the second Saturday in June until an annual harvest quota (pounds) is reached, and then catch-and-release walleye fishing only until the first Sunday in March?</p>	<p>2. YES _____ NO _____ NO OPINION _____</p>
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PROPOSED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT LOCAL RULE CHANGES

3. Walleye – Clear and Katherine lakes, Oneida County; Anvil and Laura lakes, Vilas County

The proposed regulation would establish an 18-inch minimum length limit but fish from 22 to 28 inches may not be kept, and a daily bag limit of 1 for walleyes in Clear Lake and Katherine Lake in Oneida County and Anvil Lake and Laura Lake in Vilas County. The current regulation is the Ceded Territory standard walleye regulation (15-inch minimum length limit but walleye from 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one over 24 inches may be kept, and a daily bag limit of 3) for Clear Lake, Katherine Lake and Anvil Lake, and no minimum length limit but only one fish over 14 inches allowed for harvest for Laura Lake.

The management goals for these lakes are to increase adult walleye densities and re-establish naturally-reproducing, self-sustaining, walleye fisheries.

This change to a more protective slot regulation and a more conservative daily bag limit is based off biological survey data collected by the DNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Recent adult walleye population estimates, along with annual juvenile walleye population surveys, indicate that these walleye populations will continue to decline in the near-term. These walleye populations all had naturally-reproducing, self-sustaining walleye populations in recent times, which provided strong fisheries.

However, levels of natural walleye reproduction have drastically dropped to levels that will not sustain these populations. Therefore, stocking efforts have been initiated on all lakes, and other efforts aimed at rehabilitating these walleye populations are in the works. The change to a more restrictive regulation will protect more adult walleyes from harvest which will benefit the chances of successful natural walleye reproduction to resume in these lakes.

3. Do you favor applying an 18-inch minimum length limit but fish from 22 to 28 inches may not be kept and daily bag limit of one for walleyes in Clear, Katherine, Anvil and Laura lakes in Oneida and Vilas counties?	3. YES _____
	NO _____
	NO OPINION _____

4. Bass protected slot limit – Butternut and Franklin lakes, Forest County; North Nokomis Lake, Oneida County; Nugget Lake, Pierce County; White Mound Lake, Sauk County; and the Tiger Cat Chain of Lakes, Sawyer County

The proposed regulation for largemouth and smallmouth bass is no minimum length limit, except bass between 14-18 inches may not be kept and only one over 18 inches may be kept, with a daily bag limit of 5 bass in total. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 14 inches and daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass in total. The proposed regulation would apply to the following waters:

- Butternut and Franklin lakes, Forest County
- North Nokomis Lake, Oneida County
- Nugget Lake, Pierce County
- White Mound Lake, Sauk County
- Tiger Cat Chain of Lakes (Upper Twin, Lower Twin, McClain, Burns, Placid lakes and Tigercat Flowage), Sawyer County

Butternut and Franklin lakes: The proposed regulation will allow anglers to reduce the abundance of smallmouth bass, which will allow increased growth rates and body condition for the population as a whole. This regulation will also reduce bass abundance by focusing the harvest on smaller fish (rather than larger fish), which will increase the size structure of the population. Reduced abundance of smallmouth bass would not only improve the smallmouth bass fishery in Franklin Lake, but it may have an impact on panfish and non-game fish populations, which would have a positive impact on the fishery as a whole.

North Nokomis Lake: The management goal for North Nokomis Lake is to reduce the abundance and increase the size structure of largemouth bass while increasing the size structure and maintaining a low adult density of smallmouth bass to provide a bass fishery with an opportunity for both harvest and memorable size fish. There is an abundance of largemouth bass under 14 inches and largemouth bass over memorable size (18 inches) are present. The adult smallmouth bass population shows to be low density with relatively good size structure. Implementing a 14-18-inch protected slot with 1>18 inches length regulation will aid in lowering the abundance of largemouth bass <14 inches and improving the overall size structure of both largemouth and smallmouth bass while maintaining a low density of smallmouth bass.

Nugget Lake: The management goal is to provide a healthier largemouth bass population with increased growth rates and fish of harvestable size. The proposed regulation will help to reduce densities of small largemouth bass which will increase growth rates and provide harvest opportunities for quality length largemouth and provide more opportunity for trophy potential. Currently only 5 percent of the bass population is larger than 14 inches; therefore, this proposed regulation will aid in increasing the number of fish available for harvest which will in turn help to improve the size structure of the population. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because this would help to reduce largemouth bass densities, which should improve the size structure of the population and increase growth rates to provide a quality fishery.

Tiger Cat Chain: The Tiger Cat Chain in Sawyer County is being managed as a quality bass fishing opportunity. Harvest of small bass (<14 inches) may be beneficial to the overall quality of the bass fishery, while release of larger bass can enhance quality catch-and-release fishing opportunities.

White Mound Lake: The management goal of the proposed slot limit is to improve bass growth and size structure by increasing harvest of smaller bass, and ultimately providing a bass fishery with a more desirable mix of ages and sizes. This will provide a bass fishery with both more harvest opportunity and more large fish available to anglers. The management goal is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14-inch) bass. Objectives to decrease overall bass abundance. The second objective is to decrease the amount of time it takes a bass to grow to 14 inches. The third objective is to increase the percentage of the bass population that is larger than 14 inches. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small bass is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition, preserve a range of sizes by protecting 14 to 18-inch bass, and provide an additional harvest opportunity.

<p>4. Do you support a bass regulation of no minimum length limit and a 14-18-inch protected slot with one bass over 18 inches allowed for harvest, and a daily bag limit of 5 bass in total, for Butternut and Franklin lakes in Forest County, North Nokomis Lake in Oneida County, Nugget Lake in Pierce County, White Mound Lake in Sauk County, and the Tiger Cat Chain of Lakes in Sawyer County?</p>	<p>4. YES _____</p> <p>NO _____</p> <p>NO OPINION _____</p>
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5. Bass size limit removal – Katherine Lake, Oneida County, and Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes, Vilas County

This proposal would remove the size limit (no minimum length limit) for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Katherine Lake in Oneida County and Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes in Vilas County, and retain the daily bag limit of 5 bass in total. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 bass in total.

Katherine Lake: The management goal for Katherine Lake is to reduce the overabundant largemouth (5.6 adults per acre) and smallmouth (7.3 adults per acre) bass populations, especially those under 14 inches. Removal of the 14-inch minimum length limit will aid in reducing adult bass densities to the goal of 3 adults per acre or less for each individual species. The population density goal for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 3 adults per acre or less for each species. Additionally, another management goal is to re-establish a naturally reproducing walleye fishery maintained at an adult density of 3-6 per acre. Natural

recruitment of walleye is at historic lows in Katherine Lake, and reducing adult bass densities is expected to reduce potential predation on young walleyes and also reduce competition for resources.

Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes: This proposal would remove the 14-inch length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes and allow for bass of any size to be harvested. The management goals are to provide a harvest-oriented bass fishery and reduce bass abundance. This regulation proposal will help meet that management goal by allowing more harvest of bass.

5. Do you support a regulation of no minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 bass in total for Katherine Lake in Oneida County and Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes in Vilas County?	5.	YES _____	
		NO _____	
		NO OPINION _____	

6. Largemouth bass size limit removal – White Potato Lake, Oconto County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 bass in total and no minimum length limit on largemouth bass in White Potato Lake, Oconto County. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 bass in total, which would remain for smallmouth bass.

The management goal is to reduce largemouth bass abundance through increased harvest. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of largemouth bass is expected to reduce their abundance over time.

6. Do you support applying no minimum length limit for largemouth bass and a daily bag limit of 5 bass in total for White Potato Lake, Oconto County?	6.	YES _____	
		NO _____	
		NO OPINION _____	

7. Northern Pike 40-inch minimum length limit – Lake Tomah, Monroe County

The proposed regulation is a 40-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one fish. The current regulation is a 32-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one fish.

Although the current northern pike fishing regulation on Lake Tomah has been effective in maintaining a northern pike population with quality size structure (recent surveys indicate that 15% of adult pike exceed 32 inches), additional protection of large pike from fishing mortality may provide more trophy pike fishing opportunities. Local anglers have expressed their desire for more trophy opportunities and, in 2017, a local WCC resolution passed (29 to 4, in favor) supporting a 40-inch minimum length limit for northern pike on Lake Tomah. At that time, the department was still in the process of evaluating whether raising the minimum size limit would have the potential to improve the trophy opportunities for pike. This evaluation has been completed and DNR surveys indicate that growth rates in the lake are good (for

example, 47% of females reached 32 inches or larger after only 7 years of growth) and that increasing the minimum size limit has the potential to reduce mortality of large pike (≥ 32) and increase the number of trophy pike in the lake.

7. Do you favor a minimum length limit of 40 inches for northern pike on Lake Tomah in Monroe County?

7. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

8. Northern Pike protected slot limit – Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay, Waukesha County; Long, Wilson and Irogami lakes, Waushara County

This regulation proposal would apply no minimum length limit but a protected slot of 25-35 inches (fish from 25-35 inches may not be kept) and a daily bag limit of 2 for Big Muskego Lake upstream to Little Muskego Dam and downstream to Big Muskego Dam and Bass Bay in Waukesha County, and Long, Wilson and Irogami lakes in Waushara County. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 40 inches and daily bag limit of 1 for the Waukesha County waters and a 26-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 2 for the Waushara County waters.

Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay: The management goal for Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay is to provide anglers with more diversified northern pike harvest opportunities while maintaining quality size structure, and to maintain current northern pike population levels and natural reproduction. The proposed regulation will allow for harvest of smaller pike while maintaining good recruitment and female size structure.

Long, Wilson and Irogami lakes: The management goal for Long, Wilson and Irogami lakes is to produce a self-sustaining northern pike population that provides anglers with both consumptive and trophy fishing opportunities, while also protecting adult females from overharvest. The proposal will help meet the management goal by allowing anglers to harvest some small pike, helping keep pike densities in check while protecting primarily female pike, which have the potential to grow to trophy size in these waters.

8. Do you support applying a regulation of no minimum length limit, a protected 25-35-inch slot limit, and daily bag of two for pike on Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay in Waukesha County and Long, Wilson and Irogami lakes in Waushara County?

8. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

9. Northern Pike size limit removal – Tuttle Lake, Marquette County; Big Hills, Morris, and Pine lakes, Waushara County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike in Tuttle Lake in Marquette County, and Morris, Big Hills and Pine lakes in Waushara County. The current

regulation is a minimum length limit of 26 inches and daily bag limit of two. Most of the lakes in Marquette and Waushara Counties are highly developed, lack suitable habitat and do not have the forage base to support fast-growing northern pike populations. Over the years, many lakes have experienced high-density, slow-growing northern pike populations. This allows for virtually no harvest because very few fish reach 26 inches.

The management goal is to encourage the harvest of smaller, slow-growing pike, to increase northern pike harvest opportunities in Marquette and Waushara counties, simplify regulations and potentially reduce density and promote better growth and size structure of the population.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it will allow anglers to harvest small pike, thereby reducing density and improving growth rates and size structure of the northern pike population.

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| 9. Do you favor applying a no minimum size limit and daily bag limit of 5 for northern pike in Tuttle Lake, Marquette County and Big Hills, Morris and Pine lakes, Waushara County? | 9. YES _____ |
| | NO _____ |
| | NO OPINION _____ |
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10. Northern Pike protected slot limit – Parker Lake, Adams County

The proposed regulation for Parker Lake in Adams County is no minimum length limit, a 25-35-inch protected slot (pike from 25-35 inches may not be kept), and a daily bag limit of 5. The current regulation is a 26-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 2.

The goal of this proposed regulation is to provide a quality northern pike fishery with consumptive harvest opportunities. The no minimum length limit with protected slot limit will allow anglers to harvest overabundant, slow-growing small pike while improving size structure and protecting larger pike.

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| 10. Do you support changing the northern pike regulation from a 26-inch minimum length limit, daily bag of 2 to a 25-35-inch protected slot with a daily bag limit of 5 for Parker Lake in Adams County? | 10. YES _____ |
| | NO _____ |
| | NO OPINION _____ |
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11. – 12. Northern pike standard regulations – Portage County waters

The proposed regulations would apply to all waters of Portage County except the Wisconsin River system (including flowages) and Jacqueline Lake, which would remain at a minimum length limit of 32 inches and daily bag limit of 1, and Jordan Pond, and Collins Lake, which would remain at a minimum length limit of 26 inches and daily bag limit of 2. The proposal for waters north of Highway 10 is the northern zone standard regulation of no minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5. The proposal for waters south

of Highway 10 is the southern zone standard regulation of a minimum length limit of 26 inches and daily bag limit of 2. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 26 inches and daily bag limit of 2 countywide. Reverting to the statewide standard pike regulations that are based on pike management zone rather than county will help to better manage northern pike populations exhibiting small size structure and diversify northern pike angling and harvest opportunities.

11. Do you favor applying the standard northern pike zone regulation of no minimum length limit and daily bag of 5 on Portage County waters north of Highway 10, excluding the Wisconsin River system and flowages, Jordan Pond, Jacqueline Lake, and Collins Lake? 11. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

12. Do you favor applying the standard southern pike zone regulation of a 26-inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 2 on Portage County waters south of Highway 10, excluding the Wisconsin River system and flowages, Jordan Pond, Jacqueline Lake, and Collins Lake? 12. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

13. Panfish protection – Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Marathon County; Big Round Lake, Polk County; Cranberry Lake, Price County; Lake Chippewa, Sawyer County; Huron Lake, Waushara County

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 10 panfish in aggregate. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 25 panfish in aggregate.

This regulation would apply to each of the following waters:

- Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Marathon County
- Big Round Lake, Polk County
- Cranberry Lake, Price County
- Lake Chippewa (upstream to the Moose Lake dam on the west fork of the Chippewa River and County Highway B on the east fork of the Chippewa River and downstream to Winter Dam), Sawyer County
- Huron Lake, Waushara County

Big Eau Pleine Reservoir: Growing angler concerns have increased regarding the quality and duration of the panfish fishery on Big Eau Pleine Reservoir and recent survey data indicate signs of an exploited black crappie and yellow perch population. Recent research has shown that reducing black crappie and yellow perch daily bag limits to ≤10 fish may noticeably reduce harvest mortality that may improve black crappie and yellow perch population structure, and it may also enhance the quality of fishery by allowing more anglers a greater chance of filling a bag limit and potentially prolonging duration of time anglers can utilize available year classes.

Our goal is to have moderate to high density population of black crappie and yellow perch characterized by multiple strong year classes in the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, able to sustain quality harvest

opportunities throughout the year and provide equitable harvest opportunities amongst anglers. A reduction in panfish daily bag limit from 25 fish to 10 fish (in aggregate) will help to achieve this goal.

Big Round Lake: The management goal is to sustain a bluegill population with high size structure that provides a more consistent angling opportunity for quality bluegill. Although Big Round Lake currently has quality panfish populations, this regulation may also improve panfish size structure, especially for bluegills. The current regulation allows for high panfish harvest, so their populations tend to have more year-to-year variability, especially for larger panfish. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it should reduce the number of panfish harvested from Big Round Lake and could increase panfish size structure.

Cranberry Lake: Citizens have long voiced their concerns that high fishing pressure and harvest could jeopardize the high-quality angling opportunity that Cranberry Lake offers for black crappies, bluegills, and yellow perch. Cranberry Lake’s habitat, water quality, and fish community are well aligned to produce large panfish that anglers prefer. Reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 panfish in total could help to protect the size structure of Cranberry Lake’s panfish populations and distribute the harvest more evenly among anglers.

Lake Chippewa: The Chippewa Flowage is a dynamic system with a fishery that responds to water level manipulations. Recently, planned drawdowns have been used to control invasive species and boost walleye recruitment. The resulting changes in the fishery (more abundant walleye, less abundant panfish) lead to conditions where regulation changes may create better size structure of panfish while distributing harvest more equitably.

Huron Lake: Huron Lake is a small pothole lake, similar to many lakes in the area, that has little near shore habitat and is vulnerable to overharvest of panfish. Bluegill abundance has decreased 60% since the last survey in 2010, most likely due to harvest and predation by an overabundant largemouth bass population. Panfish size structure has also declined. The 14” minimum size limit for largemouth bass was removed in 2019 and a bag limit reduction for bluegill to 10 will help to further protect the bluegill population.

<p>13. Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 in aggregate to 10 in aggregate for each of the following waters: Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Marathon County, Big Round Lake, Polk County, Cranberry Lake, Price County, Lake Chippewa, Sawyer County and Huron Lake, Waushara County?</p>	<p>13. YES _____</p> <p> NO _____</p> <p> NO OPINION _____</p>
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14. Muskellunge trophy management – Namekagon River, Washburn and Burnett counties; Presque Isle Chain of Lakes, Vilas County

The proposed regulation is a 50-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one fish. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 40 inches and daily bag limit of one. The proposed regulation would apply to the following waters:

- Namekagon River from the Trego Dam to the confluence with the St. Croix River, Washburn and Burnett counties,

- Presque Isle Chain of Lakes (Presque Isle, Van Vliet, and Averill lakes), Vilas County (daily bag limit of one musky from all waters in the chain).

Namekagon River: The main goal of this regulation proposal is to preserve and promote a trophy musky fishery. This regulation would also simplify regulations for anglers with the connecting St. Croix River, which already has a 50-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one.

Presque Isle Chain: This proposal would apply a minimum length limit of 50 inches and daily bag limit of one from the entire chain. The management goal is to provide a trophy musky angling opportunity. This regulation proposal will help meet that management goal by protecting large muskellunge from harvest.

14. Do you favor a 50-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one for muskellunge in the Namekagon River between the Trego Dam and confluence with the St. Croix River, Burnett and Washburn counties, and the Presque Isle Chain of Lakes, Vilas County?

14. YES _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

15. Muskellunge size limit—Butternut Lake, Ashland and Price counties

This proposal would apply the statewide 40-inch minimum length limit to muskellunge in Butternut Lake, replacing the 28-inch size limit currently in effect. The bag limit would remain one. High musky density and intense food competition were blamed as the suspected causes for the declining musky size structure noticed in the mid-1990s. Twenty years after the department suspended musky stocking, adult population density is once again within the desired range of 0.2–0.3 adults per acre. Now back at moderate abundance, all measures of musky size structure have rebounded, and the population has attained our goal that 25–50% should be 38 inches or longer. The special 28-inch minimum length limit is no longer necessary to achieve our objectives, and there is no longer reason to promote selective harvest of medium-size fish as a strategy to decrease musky abundance. The proposed 40-inch minimum length limit will help to maintain Butternut Lake’s musky population at the desired density and possibly further improve its size structure.

15. Do you favor applying a 40-inch minimum length limit to musky in Butternut Lake, Ashland and Price counties?

15. YES _____
 NO _____
 NO OPINION _____

16. Trout length and bag limit change—Mill Creek and Willow Creek, Richland County

On Mill Creek, this proposal would apply a maximum length limit of 12 inches and a daily bag limit of 5 fish from USH 14 upstream to Quarry Hill Road. On Willow Creek, this proposal would apply a maximum length limit of 12 inches and a daily bag limit of 5 fish from Lost Hollow Road, upstream to STH 58 bridge 0.25

miles north of Loyd. The current regulation on both streams is catch and release: artificial lures only and all trout shall be immediately released.

The management goal is to provide harvest opportunity while increasing quality and larger-sized fish. Current high densities of brown trout reduce growth potential and limit quality size fish potential. Allowing harvest of fish less than 12 inches along these stream reaches can reduce densities of young adults and increase growth potential, thereby increasing size structure.

<p>16. Do you favor applying a maximum length limit of 12 inches and daily bag limit of 5 trout, no gear/bait restrictions, on Mill Creek from USH 14 upstream to Quarry Hill Road and on Willow Creek from Lost Hollow road upstream to STH 58 bridge 0.25 miles north of Loyd in Richland County?</p>	<p>16. YES _____</p> <p> NO _____</p> <p> NO OPINION _____</p>
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17. Brook Trout Management – Little Wolf River and connected creeks, Marathon, Portage, Shawano and Waupaca counties

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total and a minimum length limit of 8 inches for all trout species in the Little Wolf River from its headwaters to the downstream end of the classified section (44.61577° N; -89.05220° W), Comet Creek, Jones Creek, Jackson Creek, Flume Creek, Rainy Creek, and Bradley Creek (from their headwaters to the confluence with the Little Wolf River). The current regulation for all of these streams is a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total with a 12-inch minimum length limit for rainbow trout and brown trout and an 8-inch minimum length limit for brook trout. The management goal of all of these streams is to maintain the high-quality brook trout fisheries that can be found in all of them while at the same time limiting the displacement of brook trout by brown trout.

<p>17. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total with a minimum length limit of 8 inches for all trout species in the Little Wolf River from its headwaters to the downstream end of the classified section (44.61577° N; -89.05220° W), Comet Creek, Jones Creek, Jackson Creek, Flume Creek, Rainy Creek, and Bradley Creek in Marathon, Portage, Shawano and Waupaca counties?</p>	<p>17. YES _____</p> <p> NO _____</p> <p> NO OPINION _____</p>
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18. Trout early catch-and-release season--Popple River, Forest and Florence counties; Plover River, Marathon and Langlade counties; and Waupaca/Tomorrow River, Portage and Waupaca counties

This proposal would add the following waters to the list of counties with an early catch-and-release only, artificial lure-only trout fishing season. This season runs from the first Saturday in January at 5 a.m. to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May. These waters are currently closed to the early catch-and-release trout season.

- Popple River in its entirety, Forest and Florence counties
- Main stem Plover River upstream of Highway 153, Marathon and Langlade counties

- Waupaca/Tomorrow River between Durant Rd and Frost Valley Rd, Portage and Waupaca counties

Popple River: Currently the Popple River is not open for the early catch and release season, even though biologically the Popple River is very similar to the other three main rivers in the area that allow early catch and release fishing. By adding the Popple River to the streams open for the early season, the regulations will be consistent among the rivers in the area and anglers will be able to fish the Popple River during the early season.

Plover River: This proposal will open the Plover River upstream of Hwy 153 (main stem only; not including tributaries or off-channel springs) to early season catch-and-release trout fishing. Currently, few opportunities for early season catch-and-release trout fishing exist in Central Wisconsin and many local trout anglers seek these unique angling opportunities. Opening the Plover River to early season trout season is anticipated to have no significant negative impacts on the trout populations, based on the results from trout streams across 50 counties in Wisconsin which have been implementing early season catch and release trout fishing since 2014.

Waupaca/Tomorrow River: This proposal would open the stretch of the Waupaca/Tomorrow River between Durant Road and Frost Valley Road to early season catch and release fishing. The rest of the Waupaca/Tomorrow River from Amherst Dam in Portage County to STH 54 in Waupaca County is open to fishing during the early catch and release season. No significant negative impacts on trout recruitment have been observed in other streams throughout Wisconsin that are open during the early catch and release season. Because of this, the department does not anticipate any negative impacts on brown trout recruitment if this segment of stream is opened to fishing during the early catch and release season.

<p>18. Do you favor applying an early trout catch-and-release season, where only artificial lures are allowed, to the Popple River in Forest and Florence counties, Plover River in Marathon and Langlade counties and Waupaca/Tomorrow River between Durant Rd and Frost Valley Rd in Portage and Waupaca counties?</p>	<p>18. YES _____</p> <p>NO _____</p> <p>NO OPINION _____</p>
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19. Trout – Removal of late catch-and-release season on the Popple, Peshtigo and Rat rivers in Florence, Forest and Marinette counties

This proposal would remove the late catch-and-release-only season from the Popple, Peshtigo and Rat rivers in Florence, Forest and Marinette counties. The late catch-and-release season runs from Oct. 16 to Nov. 15, and only artificial lures may be used. Removing the late season will make regulations simpler and more consistent on the Popple, Peshtigo, and Rat River and neighboring Pine River. The current late catch-and-release trout season is underutilized, and a late catch-and-release season may impact spawning migrations of brook trout. The Peshtigo and Rat Rivers already have an early catch-and-release trout season, and that season is proposed for the Popple River in a separate question to maintain catch-and-release opportunities for anglers.

Affected waters would be:

- Popple River from the Forest/Florence county line (state highway 139) downstream

- Peshtigo River from Highway 8 to County Rd C
- Rat River (in its entirety)

19. Do you favor removing the late catch-and-release season on the Popple River, Peshtigo River and Rat River in Florence, Forest and Marinette counties?

19. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

20. Trout bag limit increase and size limit removal – North Branch Pemebonwon River, Wausaukee River, South Branch Pike River in Florence and Marinette counties

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on trout in the North Branch Pemebonwon River in its entirety (Florence and Marinette counties), Wausaukee (downstream of the dam in Wausaukee to the confluence with the Menominee River, Marinette County), and the South Branch Pike River (from Brock Pond downstream to the confluence with the North Branch Pike River, Marinette County). The current regulation is an 8-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 3 fish.

The management goal is to allow anglers increased harvest opportunities of yearling trout stocked by the DNR and its cooperators. This regulation option is widely accepted as a county base regulation across northern Wisconsin.

20. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on trout in the North Branch Pemebonwon River in Marinette and Florence counties and Wausaukee River (downstream of dam in Wausaukee) and South Branch Pike River in Marinette County?

20. YES _____
NO _____
NO OPINION _____

21. Apply consistent regulations to Schoolhouse and Durphee lakes, Sawyer County

Schoolhouse Lake (54 acres) is connected to Durphee Lake (198 acres) through a navigable channel. Durphee Lake has several special fishing regulations that are also proposed for Schoolhouse Lake, so that both lakes are managed as a single unit, including:

- Panfish: daily bag limit of 15 with no more than 5 of any one species harvested per day from both lakes combined
- Walleye: daily bag limit of 3 with a minimum length limit of 18 inches from both lakes combined
- Bass: daily bag limit of 5 for largemouth and smallmouth bass combined with no minimum length limit from both lakes combined

Schoolhouse Lake currently has the statewide regulations of a daily bag limit of 25 panfish in total, a daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass in total with a 14-inch minimum length limit, and a daily bag of 3 walleye with an 18-inch minimum length limit.

It would be beneficial to conservation law enforcement agents to have regulation consistency between these connected waters that function as a chain. There may also be benefits to evaluating the experimental regulations in Durphee by applying them consistently within the chain.

21. Do you favor applying the same regulations to Schoolhouse Lake that are in place on Durphee Lake, Sawyer County, so that both lakes are managed consistently as a chain?	21.	YES _____ NO _____ NO OPINION _____
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22. Urban Fishing Pond – Pipke Park pond, Vilas County

This proposal would add Unnamed Lake (T44 R6E S34), locally known as South Pond in Pipke Park in the Town of Presque Isle, as a community fishing pond. This would include regulations as follows:

- Special season from the second Saturday in March to the Friday before the last Saturday in April for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers, and an open season for all anglers at all other times of year.
- Daily bag limit of 3 trout, 1 gamefish, and 10 panfish with no minimum length limits on any fish would apply year-round.

This regulation would create a unique Northwoods fishing opportunity, for locals and tourists alike, in a beautiful municipal park.

22. Do you favor designating Pipke Park in Vilas County as an urban fishing pond with a daily bag limit of 3 trout, 1 game fish and 10 panfish (no size limits)?	22.	YES _____ NO _____ NO OPINION _____
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23. Allowing the incidental harvest of carp on the Winnebago system by people who possess sturgeon tags and are otherwise legally participating in the sturgeon spearing season.

Currently, the carp spearing season is closed on the Winnebago system during the period when the sturgeon spearing season is open. A result of this closure is that the only legal spearing activity is for sturgeon. All people who are spearing must follow the same regulations such as spearing hours, spear size, and hole size. Sturgeon spearing regulations are easily followed and can be effectively enforced.

A disadvantage of closing the carp season during the season for spearing sturgeon is that the incidental harvest of a carp is illegal. Protecting carp is not necessary for fisheries management purposes.

It is possible to maintain the closed spearing season for carp but allow their incidental harvest by people who possess the proper permit and are legally participating in the sturgeon spearing season. This would

maintain regulations that protect sturgeon which are easily followed and effectively enforced. It would also allow the incidental harvest, removal, and utilization of carp.

This proposal originates from a Conservation Congress advisory question that was asked in 2020 and was supported in voting.

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| 23. The carp spearing season is closed on the Winnebago system when the sturgeon spearing season is open. Do you support maintaining the closed carp season but allowing the incidental harvest of carp species by people who possess the proper permits and are legally participating in the sturgeon spearing season? | 23. | YES _____ |
| | | NO _____ |
| | | NO OPINION _____ |
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTION

24. Lake Michigan Lake Trout Regulation Extension

The proposed regulation would maintain a daily bag limit of 5 in total for trout and salmon, including lake trout, on waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay and their tributaries, including Green Bay rivers and streams up to the first dam or lake. The proposal would also maintain a continuous open season for lake trout on Lake Michigan, Green Bay and major tributaries. The minimum length limit of 10 inches would remain the same. This regulation has been in place since 2017, but in 2021 reverted to a daily bag limit of no more than 2 lake trout, with a lake trout season running from March 1 to October 31 each year. Creel data indicate that lake trout harvest has been comfortably below harvest limits each year since the continuous season and daily bag limit of 5 were implemented. Allowing a daily bag limit of 5 lake trout provides an additional harvest opportunity for anglers without threatening the ongoing cooperative, multi-state rehabilitation of lake trout in the waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. In addition, the department will continue to analyze the annual harvest of lake trout to ensure we are utilizing the appropriate bag limit and open season to continue our rehabilitation efforts on lake trout.

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| 24. Do you support maintaining a daily bag limit of 5 and continuous open season for lake trout in Lake Michigan, Green Bay and tributaries? | 24. | YES _____ |
| | | NO _____ |
| | | NO OPINION _____ |
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APPENDIX 2

2021 DNR Spring Hearings - WCC County Meetings
Summary of Results - Overall Input by Question

4/19/2021

No.	Question Description	All Participants			Wisconsin Residents			
		Yes	No	No Opinion	Yes	No	No Opinion	Counties Tie
2021 OVERALL PARTICIPATION		12641			12272			
1 (FH)	Walleye ceded territory regulation-multiple waters	7109	877	2639	6921	863	2536	0
2	Walleye experimental regulation, Escanaba Lake	5723	1127	3624	5567	1106	3500	0
3	Walleyes-Clear, Katherine, Anvil, and Laura lakes	5136	1544	3707	5000	1519	3573	1
4	Bass 14-18" protected slot limit-multiple waters	5443	1308	3475	5307	1346	3354	0
5	Bass size limit removal, Katherine Lake and Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes	5160	1338	3733	5046	1295	3602	0
6	Largemouth bass size limit removal, White Potato Lake	4935	1270	3990	4829	1232	3847	1
7	Northern Pike 40-inch minimum length, Lake Tomah	4496	1974	3699	4375	1936	3573	0
8	Northern Pike 25-35" protected slot limit-multiple waters	4544	1343	4232	4440	1313	4082	0
9	Northern Pike size limit removal-multiple waters	4824	1081	4164	4714	1045	4027	0
10	Northern Pike 25-35" protected slot limit-Parker Lake	4215	1296	4521	4118	1259	4373	1
11	Northern Pike northern zone regulations north of Hwy 10	4436	1044	4489	4344	1015	4333	0
12	Northern Pike southern zone regulations south of Hwy 10	4256	1204	4509	4162	1182	4348	0
13	Panfish protection-multiple waters	6241	1401	2276	6057	1384	2200	0
14	Muskellunge trophy management, Namekagon River and Presque Isle Chain of Lakes	5388	1685	2821	5243	1663	2711	0
15	Muskellunge 40" size limit, Butternut Lake	6034	1054	2792	5879	1040	2684	0
16	Trout length and bag limit, Mill and Willow creeks	4102	1042	4715	4015	1020	4550	0
17	Brook trout management, Little Wolf River and creeks	4915	753	4169	4808	743	4014	0
18	Trout early catch-and-release season-multiple waters	4052	1933	3825	3962	1901	3675	1
19	Trout-removal of late catch-and-release season-multiple waters	4296	1365	4128	4216	1327	3974	2
20	Trout bag limit increase and size limit removal-multiple waters	3510	1494	4769	3434	1463	4605	0
21	Applying consistent regulations to Schoolhouse and Durphee lakes	5463	391	3903	5329	385	3772	0
22	Urban Fishing Pond-Pipke Park pond, Vilas County	4738	736	4261	4633	710	4121	1
23	Allowing the incidental harvest of carp during sturgeon season by legal spearers with valid tags	6628	1051	2037	6491	1023	1931	0
24	Lake Michigan Lake Trout regulation extension	5900	899	2899	5780	876	2771	0

Rev. 3-27-2019

The statement of scope for this rule, SS 117-20 was approved by the Governor on August 13, 2020, published in Register No. 776A4 on August 24, 2020, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on October 28, 2020. This rule was approved by the Governor on insert date.

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

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to **amend** NR 20.09 (1), 20.16 (1) (a) 3., 4., 5., 7., 12., and 15, and NR 20.20 (2) (h) 2., (19) (g) 4., (21) (g) 4., (26) (h) 2., (37) (f) 2., (38) (d) 2., (39) (d) 2., (42) (c) 2., (44) (b) 2. and 3., (49) (d) 1., (50) (f) 1., (51) (c) 1., (e) 1. and (h) 2., (53) (e) 3., 5., and 6., (55) (f) 2., (57) (c) 2., (57) (f) 1. and 4. and (i) 2. and 4., (58) (e) 3. and 4., (64) (d) 1. and (i) 2., 5., and 7., (68) (d) 1., (69) (e) 4., (70) (b) 2., and (70) (c) 1.; and to **create** NR 20.03 (6g), 20.10 (9), 20.20 (1) (d) 3., (2) (h) 4., (7) (bm), (19) (g) 5m., (21) (b) 5., (26) (h) 5., (37) (e) 4., (38) (d) 4., (43) (a) 3., (44) (g) 6., (48) (a) 1., (50) (d) 5g. and 5r., (51) (h) 4., (56) (c) 3., (57) (c) 8. and (i) 5., (64) (a) 3., (c) 8. and (i) 9., (66) (bm), and (70) (b) 3. relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters (the 2021 Fisheries Management spring hearing rule).

FH-09-20

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

1. Statutes Interpreted: Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041 and 29.053 (2), Stats. have been interpreted as authorizing the department to conserve and regulate the fish supply on waters of the state while continuing to provide opportunities for good fishing.

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

3. Explanation of Agency Authority:

The department is directed under s. Section 29.014 (1), Stats., to establish and maintain any bag limits and conditions governing the taking of fish that will conserve the fish supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing.

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: No related statutes or rules apply.

5. Plain Language Analysis:

This rule will apply fishing regulations to waters of the state to accomplish management goals. Such management goals include improving size structure of game fish, increasing the density or abundance of certain fish species or increasing the survival of mature adults, establishing statewide regulations that provide harvest opportunity while protecting fish populations, and aligning regulations with public desires for certain waterbodies. Specifically, these rules would accomplish the following:

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DOA-2049 (R09/2016)

DIVISION OF EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE
101 EAST WILSON STREET, 10TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 7864
MADISON, WI 53707-7864
FAX: (608) 267-0372

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	2. Date 05/24/2021
3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable) Ch. NR 20 (Fishing: Inland Waters; Outlying Waters)	
4. Subject Board Order FH-09-20 relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters - the 2021 Fisheries Management Spring Hearing rule	
5. Fund Sources Affected <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEG-S	6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected
7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget	
8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply) <input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Units <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Rate Payers <input type="checkbox"/> Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)	
9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1). \$0 No implementation or compliance costs to anglers or businesses are expected as a result of this rule. Anglers and businesses will not be required to purchase any special gear or pay any new fees to comply with this rule change.	
10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule This rule will serve several purposes, including applying fishing regulations to waters to accomplish management goals, such as improving size structure of game fish, increasing the density or abundance of certain fish species or increasing the survival of mature adults; establishing statewide regulations that provide harvest opportunity while protecting fish populations; and aligning regulations with public desires for certain waterbodies. Changing these regulations will help sustain quality fish populations and fishing opportunities around the state.	
12. 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 department held a comment period in February 2021 to gain input on the anticipated economic effects. Fiscal impacts on the department are also summarized in this analysis. The primary entities who will be affected by the proposed rules are recreational anglers and fishing-associated businesses. We do not anticipate any fiscal impacts on the department or statewide economic impacts.	
13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA. We do not anticipate any impacts on local governmental units as a result of implementing this rule. The department held a comment period in February 2021 on economic impacts and received no comments.	
14. 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)	

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

These rules will modify fishing regulations with a management objective to provide excellent fishing opportunities statewide. The impact of these rules is expected to be minimal (less than \$50,000), as any economic impacts generated by angler spending is generally beneficial to the state.

The department anticipates no fiscal impact resulting from these rules. The department currently conducts a variety of activities related to managing fisheries, selling licenses, providing law enforcement services, and and related research. The department will continue to conduct the same activities under the regulations proposed in this rule and does not anticipate any new or reduced expenditures.

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

These rules will result in continuing to provide excellent fishing opportunities for a variety of species on waterbodies across the state while maintaining healthy fish populations. The economic impacts that result from spending by anglers will continue to benefit retail businesses and service providers in every corner of the state. Continually evaluating the condition of our waters and responding with regulations that maximize the productivity of those waters is necessary to maintain and improve fishing opportunities. These rule changes are expected to be cost-neutral; any negative economic impacts due to variation in angler activities or fishing effort as a result of these changes are likely to be offset by the beneficial economic impact of strong local fisheries and sustainable fishing populations.

Wisconsin is consistently among the top ten states in the number of anglers and in the amount of angler expenditures. According to the most recent American Sportfishing Association report, 2,068,469 anglers contributed total direct expenditures of \$1,472,127,261 in the state in 2013. Retail sales had a total multiplier or ripple effect of \$1,867,284,677. More than 13,000 jobs are supported by the retail expenditures of anglers and result in \$539,521,969 in salaries and wages. Federal tax revenues generated in Wisconsin are estimated to total \$128,450,559 and state revenue is estimated to be \$103,880,991.

REPORT CITATION

Southwick Associates. Economic Contributions of Recreational Fishing within U.S. States and Congressional Districts. Produced for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), 2019.

16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

Managing for balanced fisheries that provide excellent opportunities and meet the interests of many types of anglers will maintain broad participation as anglers take advantage of these opportunities. The economic activity that results from Wisconsin's popular sport fisheries will also endure well into the future.

17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

No federal regulations apply. None of the rule proposals violate or conflict with federal regulations. Individual state or provincial agencies are responsible for managing fisheries within their state boundaries and each jurisdiction has their own decision making process.

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

All of Wisconsin's surrounding states utilize comparable harvest regulations as tools to distribute angler harvest and manage for high quality fisheries. They utilize general regulations that apply to many bodies of water and, when appropriate, apply specialized regulations on specific waterbodies or in regional areas.

19. Contact Name

Meredith Penthorn

20. Contact Phone Number

608-316-0080

This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DOA-2049 (R09/2016)

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ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

ATTACHMENT A

1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements
- Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting
- Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements
- Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards
- Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements
- Other, describe:

4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

- Yes No
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SECTION 1 defines the species of carp which could be incidentally harvested during the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season under the rules described in SECTION 3.

SECTION 2 adds a cross-reference to sturgeon spearing provisions in s. NR 20.10.

SECTION 3 allows licensed sturgeon spearkers to incidentally take carp during the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season. The rough fish season is currently closed during the sturgeon spearing season to prevent incidental harvest of sturgeon by rough fish spearkers. However, because the rough fish season is closed, harvest of carp is illegal, even though protection of carp is not biologically necessary and they are considered detrimental in many waters. This section would require sturgeon spearkers to possess a license and valid, unfilled sturgeon carcass tag to be able to incidentally take a carp while following all the regulations of the sturgeon spearing season, and requires that the carp must be removed from the water, bank or shore to reduce wanton waste of the harvested carp. The spearker would also be required to possess a regular fishing license, unless exempt, to avoid violating the rule that requires rough fish spearkers to possess a fishing license.

SECTION 4 adds the Popple River, main stem of the Plover River upstream of Highway 153, and the Waupaca (Tomorrow) River between Durant Rd and Frost Valley Rd to the list of waters with an early catch-and-release season for trout using artificial lures only to provide additional angling opportunity.

SECTION 5 applies a protected slot of 25-35 inches and daily bag limit of 5 for northern pike in Parker Lake, Adams County to allow harvest of smaller pike while preserving larger pike for a quality fishery.

SECTIONS 6, 7, 13, 14, 28, 31, and 36 revert waters in Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Vilas counties to the Ceded Territory walleye regulation of a 15-inch minimum length limit, walleye between 20 and 24 inches may not be kept, and only one walleye greater than 24 inches may be kept, with a bag limit of 3 in total. The regulation currently in place is no longer appropriate for the goal of increasing adult walleye population densities on these waters.

SECTIONS 8 and 42 create a trophy harvest regulation of a 50-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 1 for the Namekagon River from the Trego Dam to the confluence with the St. Croix River.

SECTIONS 9, 12 and 17 remove the late catch-and-release trout season (from October 16 to November 15) from the Popple River, Peshtigo River and Rat River. This will simplify regulations for anglers and reduce fishing pressure on spawning migrations of brook trout. Also, a late season is not needed since these rivers already allow an early catch-and-release fishing opportunity (with the Popple River gaining the early season in SECTION 4).

SECTIONS 10 and 18 establish a bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit for trout on the North Branch Pemebonwon River, Wausaukee River and South Branch Pike River to allow anglers to make use of trout stocked on these waters by the department and cooperators.

SECTIONS 11, 22, 24, 32, and 34 establish a protected slot of 14 to 18 inches for largemouth and smallmouth bass with only one bass greater than 18 inches allowed for harvest on Butternut and Franklin lakes in Forest County, North Nokomis Lake in Oneida County, Nugget Lake in Pierce County, White Mound Lake in Sauk County, and the Tiger Cat Chain of Lakes in Sawyer County. This regulation is expected to result in more harvest of smaller bass, improving growth rates and the size structure of the bass population in these lakes.

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SECTIONS 15, 25, 28, 35 and 47 reduce the daily bag limit for panfish on the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Marathon County, Big Round Lake, Polk County, Cranberry Lake, Price County, Lake Chippewa, Sawyer County, and Huron Lake, Waushara County to 10 in total to provide additional protection and maintain the quality of the panfish population.

SECTIONS 16, 27, 37, and 44 modify the trout regulation on the Little Wolf River, Comet Creek, Bradley Creek, Flume Creek, Rainy Creek, Jackson Creek and Jones Creek to 3 trout in total with a minimum length limit of 8 inches. This regulation is expected to preserve a high-quality brook trout fishery on these waters.

SECTIONS 19 and 45 establish a daily bag limit of 5 and no minimum length limit for northern pike in Tuttle Lake, Marquette County and in Morris, Big Hills and Pine lakes, Waushara County. Removing the size limit will encourage the harvest of smaller, slow-growing pike to reduce density and improve growth rates and size structure.

SECTION 20 revises the regulation for northern pike on Lake Tomah in Monroe County to a minimum length limit of 40 inches and daily bag limit of 1 to cultivate trophy pike fishing opportunities in the lake.

SECTION 21 removes the minimum length limit for largemouth bass on White Potato Lake in Oconto County while retaining the 14-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and a daily bag limit of 5 in total. This regulation would promote additional harvest of largemouth bass to decrease their abundance.

SECTIONS 22 and 39 establish a daily bag limit of 5 in total and no minimum length limit for bass in Katherine Lake, Oneida County, and Upper and Lower Buckatabon lakes, Vilas County to encourage bass harvest and potentially improve quality potential for bass.

SECTIONS 23 and 41 apply a protected slot limit for walleye of a minimum length limit of 18 inches and fish from 22 to 28 inches may not be kept on Clear and Katherine lakes in Oneida County and Anvil and Laura lakes in Vilas County. This regulation aims to increase adult walleye densities and re-establish self-sustaining walleye populations.

SECTION 26 establishes that, for northern pike, waters in Portage County north of Highway 10 shall have a daily bag limit of 5 and no minimum length limit while waters south of Highway 10 shall have a daily bag limit of 2 and minimum length limit of 26 inches. This section also makes exceptions for Jordan Pond and Collins Lake, which will remain at a daily bag limit of 2 and minimum length limit of 26 inches, and does not make any changes to the existing regulations for the Wisconsin River system and Jacqueline Lake.

SECTION 28 removes the special musky size limit regulation on Butternut Lake in Ashland and Price County to replace it with the statewide regulation of a minimum length limit of 40 inches. The special size limit is no longer needed to decrease musky abundance in the lake.

SECTION 29 maintains the walleye regulations for Butternut and Long (Boyd's) lakes in Price County at a daily bag limit of 3 and no minimum length limit but only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed for harvest. These walleye regulations were previously grouped with Flambeau River system regulations that are reverting to the Ceded Territory walleye regulations.

SECTION 30 adds Mill Creek from Highway 14 upstream to Quarry Hill Rd and Willow Creek from Lost Hollow Rd upstream to the Highway 58 bridge 0.25 miles north of Loyd to the trout regulation of 5

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in total and a maximum length limit of 12 inches. This regulation would allow harvest of trout and reduce brown trout overabundance to improve growth potential.

SECTIONS 33 and 35 apply the same regulations on Schoolhouse Lake as already in place on the connected Durphee Lake, Sawyer County. Durphee Lake is under experimental regulations, so applying consistent regulations to Schoolhouse Lake will simplify the regulations on this chain and improve the data collected to evaluate the experimental regulations.

SECTION 38 establishes Pipke Park pond in Vilas County as an urban fishing pond, with a continuous season except during the period from the second Saturday in March to the Friday before the last Saturday in April which is only open to youth anglers under 16 years old and certain disabled anglers. The daily bag limits shall be 1 game fish (largemouth or smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike), 3 trout or salmon in total, and 10 panfish in total, with no size limits.

SECTION 40 establishes a minimum length limit of 50 inches and daily bag limit of 1 for musky on the Presque Isle Chain of Lakes (all waters combined). This section also modifies the walleye regulation on Escanaba Lake, an experimental research lake, to the Ceded Territory length limit of 15-inch minimum length limit except walleye between 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one over 24 inches may be kept. The daily bag limit will remain 3 until an annual harvest quota (in pounds of walleye) specified by the department is reached, then will go to 0, catch and release only for the remainder of the season. The season on Escanaba Lake will run from the second Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March.

SECTIONS 43 and 46 revise the northern pike regulation on Big Muskego Lake, including Bass Bay, Waukesha County, and Irogami, Long and Wilson lakes, Waushara County, to be no minimum length limit and a protected slot of 25-35 inches, with a daily bag limit of 2. Applying this regulation will provide anglers with more diversified fishing opportunities while protecting larger female pike and maintaining northern pike size structure and recruitment.

6. Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Statutes and Regulations:

No federal regulations apply. States retain management authority over the fish and wildlife resources within state boundaries provided that state regulations do not conflict with regulations established in the Federal Register. None of these rule changes violate or conflict with the provisions established in the Federal Code of Regulations.

7. Comparison with Similar Rules in Adjacent States:

Individual state or provincial agencies are responsible for managing fisheries within their state boundaries and each jurisdiction has its own decision-making process. Wisconsin's approach to fisheries management and regulations are comparable to that of surrounding states. Additionally, Wisconsin works with the natural resources agencies of neighboring states when proposing rules relating to fishing in shared boundary waters.

8. Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used and How Any Related Findings Support the Regulatory Approach Chosen:

With this rule, the department will make changes to certain 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 fish populations in waters of the state. Examples include providing a trophy walleye fishery or a bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes. New

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regulations are proposed when management goals have changed or the department must address a critical need, such as a fish population decline.

The regulation proposals included in this rule are based on biological surveys and analyses conducted by fisheries biologists and input from local stakeholders and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. All proposals are peer-reviewed for justification, enforceability, and completeness by department Bureaus of Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement, and Legal Services.

Based on the management goals for individual waters and species, the department strives to provide:

- consumptive opportunities where anglers can fish for a meal from a self-sustained, slow-growing 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.

Most recreational fishing regulation changes are updated in Administrative Code every two years. Forestalling the proposed rule changes would result in less than optimal management of fish populations in waters of the state and reduced fishing opportunities for resident and visiting anglers. However, existing regulations would remain in place to provide some level of continued protection of fish resources.

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

The department does not expect any economic impact or change directly related to these rule changes (level 3 economic impact analysis of less than \$50,000, minimal to no economic impact). The proposed rule will primarily affect recreational anglers. Fishing regulations are already in place for waters of the state, and this rule is intended to continue protection and enhancement of the state's fish resources by adjusting regulations on select waters where there is a management need. One purpose of the rule is to help maintain the general, beneficial economic impact of fishing throughout Wisconsin.

The department prepared an economic impact analysis, which was posted for public comment in February 2021 to determine if any individuals, businesses, local governments, or other entities expect to be adversely affected economically by the rule. No comments were received on the economic impact analysis.

10. Effect on Small Business (initial regulatory flexibility analysis):

The proposed rule would not impose any reporting requirements on small businesses, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. The rule would not allow for the potential to establish a reduced fine for small businesses, nor would it establish "alternative enforcement mechanisms" for "minor violations" of administrative rules made by small businesses.

11. Agency Contact Person: Meredith Penthorn, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707; 608-316-0080; Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov

12. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Written comments may be submitted at the public hearings, by regular mail, fax or email to:

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Meredith Penthorn
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov

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

A public hearing was held on April 12, 2021. The deadline for submittal of comments was April 15, 2021.

RULE TEXT

SECTION 1. NR 20.03 (6g) is created to read:

NR 20.03 (6g) “Carp” means common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon Idella*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)

SECTION 2. 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 20.10, ~~NR~~ 20.15 (1m) or 20.20₂ or ch. NR 21, 22, or 23.

SECTION 3. NR 20.10 (9) is created to read:

NR 20.10 (9) Spear any fish other than a lake sturgeon, except that during the open sturgeon spearing season when the season for spearing rough fish is closed, a licensed sturgeon spearer may retain or dispose of in compliance with s. 287.81 (2), Stats., any carp taken incidentally while sturgeon spearing under subs. (1) to (8) in the portion of the state open to sturgeon spearing, subject to all of the following requirements:

- (a) The person spearing the carp shall be in possession of an unused sturgeon carcass tag for the water and season during which the carp is incidentally harvested.
- (b) The person spearing the carp shall be in possession of a valid fishing license, in addition to the sturgeon spearing license, unless exempt from the requirement to possess a fishing license under s. 29.219, Stats.

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(c) Any carp speared shall be removed from the water, bank or shore.

SECTION 4. NR 20.16 (1) (a) 3., 4., 5., 7., 12., and 15. are amended to read:

NR 20.16 (1) (a) 3. 'Florence county.' Pine river, Popple river in its entirety.

4. 'Forest county.' Peshtigo river downstream from U.S. highway 8, Pine river downstream from STH 55, Popple river in its entirety, and Rat river downstream from Scattered Rice lake.

5. 'Langlade county.' Wolf river, main stem of the Plover river upstream of STH 153, excluding tributaries and off-channel springs.

7. 'Marathon county.' Black creek (mouth at T27N R7E S4), Black creek (T30N,R3E), Grass creek, McGinnes creek, Fourmile creek, Noisy creek, and ~~Plover river from STH 29 downstream to STH 153,~~ main stem of the Plover river upstream of STH 153, excluding tributaries and off-channel springs.

12. 'Portage county.' Ditches 1 through 6 downstream from Townline road ~~and,~~ Tomorrow river from Amherst downstream to Durant road, and Waupaca (Tomorrow) river from Durant road downstream.

15. 'Waupaca county.' North branch Little Wolf river from CTH P to CTH J, south branch Little Wolf river, ~~and~~ Waupaca river from Frost Valley road to STH 54, and Waupaca (Tomorrow) river from Frost Valley road upstream.

SECTION 5. NR 20.20 (1) (d) 3. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES		AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS					
(1) ADAMS	(for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(d) Northern pike	3. Parker lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None except the possession of fish from 25 to 35 is prohibited

SECTION 6. NR 20.20 (2) (h) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES		AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS					

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(2) ASHLAND (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))					
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Butternut lake (on Price County border), North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price County upstream to the Turtle Flambeau flowage in Iron County and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge, Mineral lake, Spillerberg lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only 1 may be longer than 14

SECTION 7. NR 20.20 (2) (h) 4. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(2) ASHLAND (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))					
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	4. North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price County upstream to the Turtle-Flambeau flowage in Iron County and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	15 except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24

SECTION 8. NR 20.20 (7) (bm) is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(7) BURNETT (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(bm) Muskellunge	1. Namekagon river from the Trego dam to the confluence with the St. Croix river	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to December 31 on open water	1 per season	50

SECTION 9. NR 20.20 (19) (g) 4. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(g) Trout and salmon	4. Popple river downstream from state highway 139	a. Hook and line a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15 October 16 to November 15	3 in total All trout caught shall be immediately released	8 —

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SECTION 10. NR 20.20 (19) (g) 5m. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(19) FLORENCE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(g) Trout and salmon	5m. North branch Pemebonwon river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	5 in total None

SECTION 11. NR 20.20 (21) (b) 5. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(21) FOREST (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	5. Butternut lake, Franklin lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass None for largemouth bass only except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0 None

SECTION 12. NR 20.20 (21) (g) 4. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(21) FOREST (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(g) Trout and salmon	4. Peshtigo river, Rat river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total 8
		b. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	October 16 to November 15	All trout caught shall be immediately released —

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SECTION 13. NR 20.20 (26) (h) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Gile flowage, Island lake (connected to Montreal river), Pine lake, North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price county upstream to the Turtle Flambeau flowage in Iron county and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge, West Branch Montreal river, Sherman lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total None but only 1 may be longer than 14

SECTION 14. NR 20.20 (26) (h) 5. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(26) IRON (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	5. North Fork Flambeau river from Upper Park Falls Flowage dam in Price county upstream to the Turtle-Flambeau flowage in Iron county and its tributaries upstream to the first lake, dam, or fish refuge	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total 15 except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24

SECTION 15. NR 20.20 (37) (e) 4. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(37) MARATHON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(e) Panfish	4. Big Eau Pleine Reservoir	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total None

SECTION 16. NR 20.20 (37) (f) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(37) MARATHON (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(f) Trout and salmon	2. Comet creek, Embarrass river (south branch), Little Wolf river, Plover river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total 12 for brown trout and rainbow trout, 8 for brook trout

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SECTION 17. NR 20.20 (38) (d) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(38)	MARINETTE (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))				
(d) Trout and salmon	2. Peshtigo river downstream from state highway 8 (in Forest county) to county highway C in Marinette county, Rat river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	8
		b. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	October 16 to November 15	All trout caught shall be immediately released	—

SECTION 18. NR 20.20 (38) (d) 4. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(38)	MARINETTE (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))				
(d) Trout and salmon	4. North branch Pemebonwon river, Wausaukee river from the dam in Wausaukee downstream to the confluence with the Menominee river, south branch Pike river from Brock pond downstream to the confluence with the north branch Pike river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	5 in total	None

SECTION 19. NR 20.20 (39) (d) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(39)	MARQUETTE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(d) Northern pike	2. Sharon lake, Tuttle Lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None

SECTION 20. NR 20.20 (42) (c) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(42)	MONROE (for species or 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	3240

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SECTION 21. NR 20.20 (43) (a) 3. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES		AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS					
(43)	OCONTO (for species or waters not listed, including Green Bay and its tributaries, see sub. (73))				
(a) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	3. White Potato lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	14 for smallmouth bass, none for largemouth bass
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 22. NR 20.20 (44) (b) 2. and 3. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES		AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS					
(44)	ONEIDA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Oneida lake, <u>North Nokomis lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only except the possession of bass fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None
	3. Minocqua chain (includes Jerome lake, Kawaguesaga lake, Little Tomahawk lake, Mid lake, Minocqua lake, Mud lake, Tomahawk lake, Minocqua thoroughfare, Tomahawk thoroughfare, and connecting waters combined), Squash lake, Julia lake (T36N R08E S12 near Rhineland), <u>Katherine lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None

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Monday following
the first Sunday in
March to Friday
preceding the first
Saturday in May

0

None

SECTION 23. NR 20.20 (44) (g) 6. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(44) ONEIDA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	6. Clear lake, Katherine lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total
				18 except the possession of fish from 22 to 28 is prohibited

SECTION 24. NR 20.20 (48) (a) 1. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(48) PIERCE (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(a) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Nugget lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to the Friday before the first Saturday in May	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 may be longer than 18
				None

SECTION 25. NR 20.20 (49) (d) 1. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(49) POLK (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(d) Panfish	1. Cedar lake, <u>Big Round lake</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 <u>in total</u>
				None

SECTION 26. NR 20.20 (50) (d) 5g. and 5r. are created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(50) PORTAGE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				

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(d) Northern pike	5g. Jordan pond, Collins lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2	26
	5r. All other waters of Portage county north of U.S. highway 10	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None

SECTION 27. NR 20.20 (50) (f) 1. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(50) PORTAGE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(f) Trout and salmon	1. Bradley creek, Flume creek, Little Wolf River, Rainy creek, Tomorrow (Waupaca) river (upper) upstream from Clementson road	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	12 for brown trout and rainbow trout, 8 for brook trout

SECTION 28. NR 20.20 (51) (c) 1., (e) 1. and (h) 2. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(51) PRICE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(c) Muskellunge	1. Butternut lake, Solberg lake including its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to December 31 on open water	1	28
(e) Panfish	1. Newman lake, Cranberry lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. Butternut lake (on Ashland County border), Long (Boyd's) lake, Pike chain of lakes (Amik lake, Pike lake, Round lake, Turner lake, and connecting waters combined), Solberg lake (including its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake); The daily bag limit and length restrictions apply separately to each of the following sections of the Elk river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake: Elk river upstream from the Lac Sault Dore dam (including Lac Sault Dore and Grassy lake) to Jobes dam, Elk river upstream from Jobes dam to Musser Flowage dam (including Phillips chain of lakes: Duroy, Elk, Long, Wilson lakes, and connecting waters and Squaw creek upstream to Solberg dam);	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only 1 may be longer than 14.5 except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24

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The daily bag limit and length restrictions apply separately to each of the following sections of the North Fork Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam, lake, or fish refuge:
 Upper Park Falls Flowage dam upstream to the Turtle-Flambeau flowage in Iron County, Lower Park Falls Flowage dam upstream to Upper Park Falls Flowage dam, Pixley Flowage dam upstream to Lower Park Falls Flowage dam, Crowley Flowage dam upstream to Pixley Flowage dam, Big Falls Flowage dam in Rusk county (Flambeau river) upstream to Crowley Flowage dam (North Flambeau river); South Fork Flambeau river upstream from its confluence with the Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake including Elk river upstream from its confluence with the South Fork Flambeau river to Lac Sault Dore dam

SECTION 29. NR 20.20 (51) (h) 4. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(51) PRICE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (h) Walleye, sauger, and hybrids	4. Butternut lake (on Ashland County border), Long (Boyd's) lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total None but only 1 may be longer than 14

SECTION 30. NR 20.20 (53) (e) 3., 5. and 6. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(53) RICHLAND (for species and waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (e) Trout and salmon	3. Camp creek, Elk creek, Knapp creek upstream from state highway 171, <u>Mill creek from U.S. highway 14 upstream to Quarry Hill road, Willow creek from Lost Hollow road upstream to state highway 58 bridge 0.25 miles north of Loyd</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	5 in total Maximum length limit 12

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<p>5. Gault Hollow creek downstream from county highway H, Mill creek from state highway 14 upstream to Quarry Hill road, West Branch Pine river from Old County Farm drive upstream to Spangler Ridge road</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15</p>	<p>All trout caught shall be immediately released</p>	<p>--</p>
<p>6. Smith Hollow creek downstream of Robin Hollow road, Willow creek from Lost Hollow road upstream to state highway 58 bridge 0.25 miles north of Loyd</p>	<p>a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used</p>	<p>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15</p>	<p>All trout caught shall be immediately released</p>	<p>--</p>

SECTION 31. NR 20.20 (55) (f) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<p>(55) RUSK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (f) Walleye, sauger and hybrids</p>	<p>2. The daily bag limit and length restrictions apply separately to each of the following sections of the Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake: Big Falls Flowage dam (Flambeau river) upstream to Crowley Flowage dam (North Flambeau river) in Price county, Dairyland Reservoir dam upstream to Big Falls Flowage dam, Ladysmith Flowage dam upstream to Dairyland Reservoir dam, Thornapple Flowage dam upstream to Ladysmith Flowage dam;</p> <p>South Fork Flambeau river upstream from its confluence with the Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake including Elk river upstream from its confluence with the South Fork Flambeau river to Lac Sault Dore dam</p>	<p>a. Hook and line</p>	<p>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</p>	<p>3 in total</p>	<p>None but only 1 may be longer than 14 1/2 <u>except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24</u></p>

SECTION 32. NR 20.20 (56) (c) 3. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
<p>(56) SAUK (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))</p>					

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(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	3. White Mound lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 33. NR 20.20 (57) (c) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	2. Blueberry lake, Durphee lake <u>and Schoolhouse lake combined</u> , Nelson lake, Osprey lake, Smith lake, Spider lake chain (Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes combined), Whitefish lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 34. NR 20.20 (57) (c) 8. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	8. Tiger Cat chain, including Upper Twin lake, Lower Twin lake, McClaine lake, Burns lake, Tigercat flowage, and Placid lake all downstream to the Tiger Cat flowage dam combined	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18

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Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None except the possession of fish from 14 to 18 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 18
Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 35. NR 20.20 (57) (f) 1. and 4. and (i) 2. and 4. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(f) Panfish	1. Christner lake, Moose lake, Nelson lake, Sand lake, Sissabagama lake, Smith lake, <u>Lake Chippewa from the Winter dam upstream to the Moose lake dam on the west fork of the Chippewa river and county highway B on the east fork of the Chippewa river</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total	None
	4. Black Dan lake, Durphee lake <u>and Schoolhouse lake combined</u> , Lower Holly lake, Windigo lake	a. Hook and line	Continuous	15 in total but no more than 5 of a single species until March 1, 2026 when it becomes 25 in total	None
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	2. West Fork Chippewa river from Moose Lake dam upstream to FR 176, Moose lake, Sand lake including Sissabagama creek upstream to Sand lake road, Windigo lake, Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake from Big Falls Flowage dam (Flambeau river) in Rusk county upstream to Crowley Flowage dam (North Flambeau river) in Price county, South Fork Flambeau river upstream from its confluence with the Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None except only 1 may be longer than 14
	4. Big Chetac lake, Birch lake (on Washburn county border), Black Dan lake, Durphee lake <u>and Schoolhouse lake combined</u> , Island lake (T39N R5W S2), Osprey lake, Nelson lake,	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18

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Sissabagama lake, and Whitefish
lake**SECTION 36. NR 20.20 (57) (i) 5. is created to read:**

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(57) SAWYER (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	5. Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake from Big Falls Flowage dam (Flambeau river) in Rusk county upstream to Crowley Flowage dam (North Flambeau river) in Price county, South Fork Flambeau river upstream from its confluence with the Flambeau river and its impoundments, sloughs, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	15 except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24

SECTION 37. NR 20.20 (58) (e) 3. and 4. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(58) SHAWANO (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))					
(e) Trout and salmon	3. Comet creek , Embarrass river (Middle branch) from county highway Z downstream to Homme Pond dam, Embarrass river (South branch) upstream from Tigerton dam, Jackson creek , Mill creek	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	12 for brown trout and rainbow trout, 8 for brook trout
	4. Oconto river, <u>Comet creek</u> , <u>Jackson creek</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	8

SECTION 38. NR 20.20 (64) (a) 3. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				

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(a) All species	3. The following urban waters: Pipke park pond (T44 R6E S34)	a. Hook and line	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled under s. 29.163 (3) (a), (b), or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to the Friday before the last Saturday in April	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger, or hybrid in total; 10 panfish in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; none for rough fish	None
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SECTION 39. NR 20.20 (64) (c) 8. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(64)	VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	8. Upper Buckatabon lake and Lower Buckatabon lake combined	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0 for smallmouth bass, 5 for largemouth bass	None for largemouth bass only
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	5 in total	None
			Monday following the first Sunday in March to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May	0	None

SECTION 40. NR 20.20 (64) (d) 1. and (i) 2., 5. and 7. are amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	WATERS	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
(64)	VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(d) Muskellunge	1. Big Sand lake, Little St. Germain lake, Long lake, North Twin lake, South Twin lake, Trout lake, White Sand lake, <u>Presque Isle chain (Presque Isle lake, Van Vliet lake, and Averill lake combined)</u>	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to December 31 on open water	1	50

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(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	<p>2. Alder lake, Big lake (T42N R6E S4), Big Arbor Vitae lake, Big Muskellunge lake, Birch lake, Boulder lake, Clear lake (T42N R5E S12), Crab lake, Fawn lake (T42N R5E S11), Harris lake, Ike Walton lake, Island lake, Laura lake, Little Arbor Vitae lake, Little Star lake, Manitowish lake, North Crab lake, North Turtle lake, Oxbow lake, Pike Lake chain (Amik lake, Pike lake, Round lake, and Turner lake combined on the Price county border), Presque Isle chain (Averill lake, Presque Isle lake, and Van Vliet lake combined), Rest lake, Rock lake, South Turtle lake, Spider lake, Squaw lake (on Oneida county border), Star lake, Stone lake, Wild Rice lake</p>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	None but only one may be longer than 14
	5. Escanaba lake	a. Hook and line. Daily permit required. (see s. NR 20.41)	Continuous <u>Second Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March</u>	43 in total <u>until annual quota (in pounds) is met, then 0, catch and release only, until the first Sunday in March. The annual quota shall be calculated by adding the pounds of total annual walleye production and pounds of 25% of annual surplus production. The bag limit of 0 shall become effective as specified in a public notice published in a local newspaper in the vicinity of the water.</u>	2815 <u>except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24</u>
	7. North and South Twin lakes combined, <u>Pike Lake chain (Amik lake, Pike lake, Round lake, and Turner lake combined on the Price county border)</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	15 except the possession of fish from 20 to 24 is prohibited and only 1 fish may be longer than 24

SECTION 41. NR 20.20 (64) (i) 9. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(44)	VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))			

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(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	9. Anvil lake, Lake Laura	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18 except the possession of fish from 22 to 28 is prohibited
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SECTION 42. NR 20.20 (66) (bm) is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(66) WASHBURN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (bm) Muskellunge	1. Namekagon river from Trego dam to the confluence with the St. Croix river	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to December 31 on open water	1	50

SECTION 43. NR 20.20 (68) (d) 1. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(68) WAUKESHA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (d) Northern pike	1. Big Muskego lake including Bass bay <u>and waters from Little Muskego dam downstream to Big Muskego dam</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to first Sunday in March	1 until April 1, 2021, when it becomes 2	40 until April 1, 2021, when it becomes 26 <u>None except the possession of fish from 25 to 35 is prohibited</u>

SECTION 44. NR 20.20 (69) (e) 4. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(69) WAUPACA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (e) Trout and salmon	4. Comet creek, Flume creek, Jackson creek, Jones creek, Little Wolf river	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15	3 in total	12 for brown trout and rainbow trout, 8 for brook trout <u>8</u>

SECTION 45. NR 20.20 (70) (b) 2. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)	
WATERS					
(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73)) (b) Northern pike	2. Alpine lake, <u>Morris lake, Big Hills lake, Pine lake</u>	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5	None

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SECTION 46. NR 20.20 (70) (b) 3. is created to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(b) Northern pike	3. Irogami lake, Long lake, Wilson lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2
				None except the possession of fish from 25 to 35 is prohibited

SECTION 47. NR 20.20 (70) (c) 1. is amended to read:

COUNTY AND SPECIES	AUTHORIZED METHODS	OPEN SEASON (both dates inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH OR OTHER SIZE RESTRICTIONS (INCHES)
WATERS				
(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))				
(c) Panfish	1. Hartford lake, Little Hills lake, <u>Huron lake</u>	a. Hook and line	Continuous	10 in total
				None

SECTION 48. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on April 1, 2022.**SECTION 49. BOARD ADOPTION.** This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on [DATE].

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY _____

Preston D. Cole, Secretary

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(SEAL)