

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT:

Request that the Board adopt Board Order FH-30-20, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to lake trout harvest and season in Lake Michigan

FOR: October 2021 Board meeting

PRESENTER'S NAME AND TITLE: Bradley Eggold, Great Lakes District fisheries supervisor

SUMMARY:

This rule would continue the Lake Michigan recreational lake trout regulations that have been in place since 2017, including a daily bag limit of 5 lake trout and continuous harvest season in most waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay (except the Mid Lake Reef Complex in which no lake trout may be harvested). The daily bag limit of 5 would also be restored in certain Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributary waters. These regulations expired in January 2021 and were re-implemented in July 2021 through an emergency rule. Data collected during parts of 2017-18 and 2020 and the entire 2019 fishing year indicate that lake trout harvest remains comfortably under recreational harvest limits. Allowing anglers to continue harvesting up to 5 lake trout at any time of the year would not threaten lake trout recovery goals and would provide additional opportunity for anglers, guides and charter businesses.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt Board Order FH-30-20.

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 with their respective signatures and dates.

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

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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 2021

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Background memo on Board Order FH-30-20, relating to lake trout harvest and season in Lake Michigan

1. Subject of Proposed Rule:

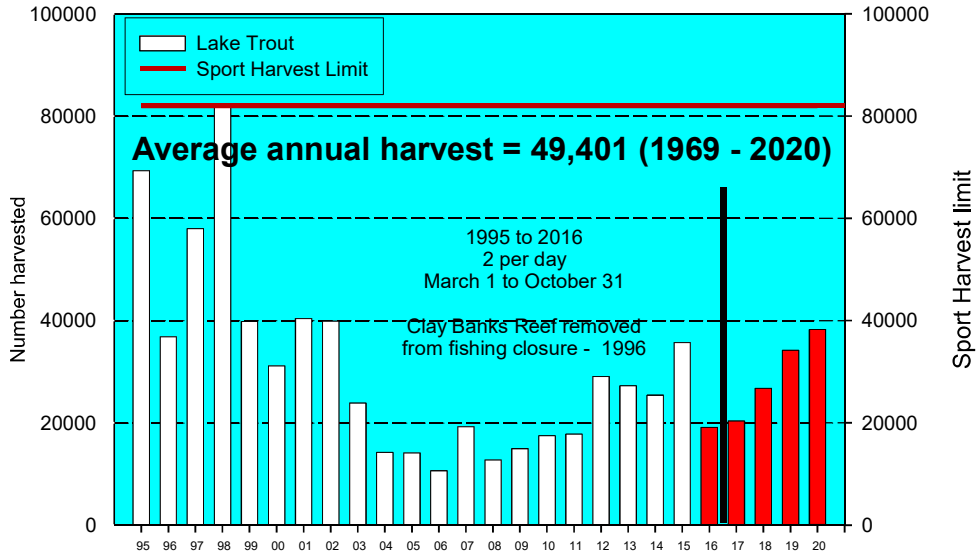
The proposed rule addresses recreational lake trout harvest regulations in Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

2. Background:

The lake trout population in Lake Michigan has been the subject of a rehabilitation effort since the 1960s. Wisconsin and other Lake Michigan natural resources agencies work together to monitor and restore this native species. In 2016 and 2017, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources convened a series of public meetings to gauge public preferences for salmon and trout stocking and management to improve the fantastic Lake Michigan fishery. As part of this stakeholder engagement process, anglers expressed a desire for increased sport fishing opportunities for lake trout. In 2017 and 2018, a combination of emergency and permanent rules raised the Lake Michigan and Green Bay lake trout daily bag limit to 5 (in aggregate with other salmon and trout) and established a continuous season for lake trout. Due to Natural Resources Board concerns about potential overharvest jeopardizing the lake trout rehabilitation effort in Lake Michigan, the Board amended the permanent rule to include a 2021 sunset to ensure that department harvest data supported the new regulations. The sunset took effect in January 2021, reverting the regulations to a daily bag limit of 2 lake trout and season running from March 1 to October 31.

The department has annually assessed angler catch rates from 2017 to 2020, which has showed that sport angler harvest of lake trout has increased steadily over the past several years, though it remains comfortably below the recreational safe harvest limit of 82,000 lake trout per year.

Lake Michigan Lake trout harvest from 1995 to 2020



This level of harvest has not deleteriously impacted the Lake Michigan lake trout rehabilitation effort. Through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the state and provincial agencies involved in Lake Michigan fisheries management allowed for the flexibility for state agencies to establish limited harvest regulations, even while lake trout rehabilitation continues. The lake trout population in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan is of a sufficient size to allow for some harvest, based on these lake trout assessment metrics:

Lake trout metrics	Southern Lake MI
Natural Reproduction	Trending upward
Spring survey	Below target in most locations but above on the Mid-Lake Refuge
Fall survey	Above target
% females in fall survey	At target in some years
10 age groups over age 7	Above target
Lamprey annual mortality	At target
Egg thiamine levels	At or near target

The department utilized a 2021 Spring Hearing advisory question to gain public input on extending the continuous lake trout season and daily bag limit of 5 in Lake Michigan and Green Bay. That question received public support (over 5,900 in favor and about 890 opposed), and those that commented during the preliminary public hearing and comment period for the scope statement for this rule also supported restoring these regulations as expeditiously as possible.

3. Why is the rule being proposed?

Recreational lake trout harvest from part of 2017 through 2020 has remained comfortably below safe harvest limits, indicating that limited recreational harvest has not been detrimental to the lake trout population and rehabilitation efforts in Lake Michigan. This rule, along with emergency rule FH-29-

20 (E), therefore restores additional lake trout fishing opportunities for recreational anglers, charter businesses, and other fishing-related businesses. The secondary purpose of the rule is to help keep lake trout and salmon in balance with the alewife forage base. Both lake trout and the highly desirable Chinook salmon share this forage base, and because Chinook stocking levels were recently increased in line with angler and business desires, some harvest of lake trout is warranted to manage pressure on the alewife population.

4. Summary of the rule.

This rule will restore a daily bag limit of 5 trout and salmon in total, where all may be lake trout, in the outlying waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay (except the Mid-Lake Reef Complex, which is closed to lake trout fishing). This rule will also reestablish the continuous harvest season for lake trout in Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Tributaries of Lake Michigan and Green Bay will also have the daily bag limit of 5, but retain a May to March season.

5. How does this proposal affect existing policy?

The proposed rule does not represent a substantial departure from existing policy. The daily bag limit of 5 and continuous season for lake trout have been in place through a combination of emergency and permanent rules from 2017 (fully implemented in 2018) to 2020, and are currently in effect through emergency rule FH-29-20 (E).

6. Has Board dealt with these issues before?

The Board authorized a preliminary public hearing on this rule at the April 2021 meeting, and approved the statement of scope for this rule at the May 2021 meeting. Then, the Board adopted companion emergency rule FH-29-20 (E) at the June 2021 meeting. Previously, the Board adopted these regulations and the 2021 sunset through emergency rule FH-20-16 (E) and permanent rule FH-21-16. The Board's extensive discussion at the time of permanent rule adoption included establishing benchmarks for which the department would set a revised harvest limit for lake trout in the following season. Those benchmarks included:

- If 75% of the quota is reached (61,500 lake trout), a 3-fish daily bag limit will be assessed for the following season.
- If 90% of the quota is reached (73,800 lake trout), a 2-fish daily bag limit will be assessed for the following season.

The lake trout recreational harvest has not approached these benchmarks to date.

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

This rule will mainly impact anglers, charter captains, and fishing-related businesses. Economic impacts are expected to be minimal but positive, as this rule will offer more opportunities to catch lake trout, as was the case under the previous rules. Anglers and businesses have taken advantage of the ability to harvest up to 5 lake trout per day when they encounter pockets of lake trout or when fishing is slow for other species.

Public Hearing

Of the two people that provided comments at the public hearing for this rule, both supported the rule. Comments included that lake trout bag limit increases provide more opportunities for sport fishers while reducing some of the pressure on bait species, that a 5-fish bag limit is easy to enforce, and that despite the allowance for additional recreational harvest, lake trout still haven't reached population

goals and any discussion of a future commercial fishery for lake trout should be made publicly transparent. Please see the major comments and department responses in the Appendix for additional details.

8. Soliciting public input on economic impact synopsis

The department held a public comment period on the economic impacts of this rule in July 2021 and received no comments on anticipated economic impacts.

9. Small Business Analysis

Because of the higher bag limit and longer season, the rule is expected to have a positive economic impact on recreational angling businesses, including fishing guides and charter fishing businesses. The department did not receive any comments during the economic comment period for this rule, but did receive a comment from a small business owner during the public hearing stage in support of this rule.

The rule is necessary in order to ensure a sustainable lake trout fishery over the long-term that provides an economic and natural resource benefit for all affected. The rule does not impose any compliance or reporting requirements nor would any design or operational standards be contained in the rule.

Appendix: Public Comments Response Summary

Three people attended the public hearing on this rule, with two registering in support and one attending for information only. A summary of the public comments and department responses is below.

Sport fishers requested to take a daily bag limit of five lake trout since reductions in stocking of salmon and rainbow trout were proposed. However, lake trout are not overabundant and have not yet reached federal population goals.

A comprehensive stakeholder engagement effort occurred prior to the initial implementation of the 5-fish daily bag limit for trout, which demonstrated angler desire for lake trout harvest opportunity. Data showed that limited angler harvest was unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the ongoing lake trout rehabilitation effort. However, because lake trout still had not reached rehabilitation goals when the daily bag limit of 5 was first proposed, the Natural Resources Board directed the department to closely monitor harvest levels and make changes to the bag limit if lake trout harvest reached 75% or 90% of the safe harvest limit. While lake trout harvest has not reached those thresholds, the department continues to work with other agencies to ensure that progress toward achieving the population assessment metrics continues.

There's concern that the system cannot sustain a commercial and sport fishery for lake trout. We do not have a commercial lake trout fishery because of various issues decades ago. The public should be informed of any discussions on a lake trout commercial fishery.

The Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board has expressed interest in discussing the possibility of a commercial lake trout fishery. However, the department has not initiated a process to establish a commercial lake trout fishery. The multidisciplinary team working on assessing the lake trout population in Lake Michigan is conducting additional data analysis on the status of the population, and this process is not yet complete. Any future conversations on this topic would be fully accessible to the public.

Drafter: Meredith Penthorn, Brad Eggold and Todd Kalish

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

<p>1. Type of Estimate and Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected</p>	<p>2. Date 09/10/2021</p>
<p>3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable) NR 20 (Fishing: Inland Waters, Outlying Waters)</p>	
<p>4. Subject Board Order FH-29-20 (E) and FH-30-20, relating to lake trout harvest and season in Lake Michigan</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected</p>
<p>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</p>	
<p>8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply) <input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy <input checked="" 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)</p>	
<p>9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1). \$0</p> <p>This rule will not impose any implementation and compliance costs. This rule continues a harvest regulation that first went into effect in 2017, and will have a slight economic benefit for anglers and associated businesses.</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule This permanent rule and a companion emergency rule are necessary in order to ensure a sustainable fishery over the long-term that provides economic and natural resource benefits for all affected. This rule would restore a daily bag limit of 5 in total (of which all may be lake trout) and a continuous harvest season for lake trout. On January 1, 2021, these regulations reverted to a daily bag limit of 5 but only two may be lake trout and a harvest season running from March 1 to October 31. Allowing for a greater daily bag limit of lake trout and year-round fishing opportunities help provide diverse fishing for Lake Michigan and Green Bay anglers.</p>	
<p>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 main entities that will be affected by the proposed rule are anglers, charter captains, and fishing-related businesses. They had an opportunity to comment on this rule during the economic impact analysis comment period from June - July 2021.</p>	
<p>13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA. None; local governments had an opportunity to provide comments during development of the EIA.</p>	
<p>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) The proposed rule will have a positive, minimal (less than \$50,000) economic impact on anglers, fishing-associated businesses, and local economies. This rule will restore lake trout fishing opportunities that were in place until the end of 2020, which will allow greater angler utilization of the lake trout resource and may help attract anglers to the area.</p>	

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

Each year, Wisconsin’s Great Lakes fishing opportunities draw at least 178,000 anglers (as measured by the sale of the Great Lakes Salmon and Trout stamp) who spend more than 1.2 million days fishing. According to the American Sport Fishing Association, these anglers contribute \$114.3 million to the economy through direct retail expenditures and generate more than \$12.5 million in state and local tax revenue.

The department anticipates no fiscal effects of this rule. The department routinely manages Great Lakes fisheries under agency budgets, and the regulations in this rule are not a departure from previous policy.

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

Additional recreational fishing opportunity is the primary benefit, but the level of harvest resulting from this rule will also help maintain balance between lake trout and salmon populations, both of which feed on the same forage base (alewife). Anglers and charter businesses frequently want to target salmon, and so larger salmon populations available for them to harvest depend on alewife availability to a great extent.

Alternatives to implementing the rule include no action, which would maintain a daily bag limit of 2 for lake trout and March to October harvest season. However, the angling public has demonstrated strong support for larger bag limits and a continuous season, and has also expressed concern that a return to the more restrictive limits will limit charter business offerings to clients and reduce the value of fishing licenses and Great Lakes trout and salmon stamps. Furthermore, the reduced bag limits and specific open season do not help the department achieve the goal of a balanced trout/salmon fishery. Recreational lake trout harvest helps offset the impacts of increased Chinook salmon stocking on the alewife prey base.

16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long-range implications are similar to the short-term implications. This rule will allow anglers to harvest more lake trout in Lake Michigan and Green Bay, year-round, which will provide good fishing opportunities while still allowing the lake trout population to work toward rehabilitation goals in Lake Michigan.

17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

No federal statutes or regulations apply. States possess inherent authority to manage the fishery and wildlife resources located within their boundaries, except insofar as preempted by federal treaties and laws, including regulations established in the Federal Register.

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

Individual state or provincial agencies are responsible for managing fisheries within their state boundaries, and each jurisdiction has their own decision-making process. However, all states and provinces that border a Great Lake are signatory to the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries and have collaboratively developed Fish Community Objectives for each of the Great Lakes through their individual Lake Committees.

State agencies work together through the Lake Committee process to ensure that Great Lakes management actions are communicated and discussed among the state and provincial jurisdictions. The Lake Michigan Committee has the following members on it: one representative from each state (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana) and one representative from the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority.

Lake trout harvest, seasons, and refuges were established by each agency to maximize the chances that the lakewide rehabilitation objectives set for lake trout were achievable.

19. Contact Name Meredith Penthorn	20. Contact Phone Number 608-316-0080
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This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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The statement of scope for this rule, SS 023-21, was approved by the Governor on February 19, 2021, published in Register No. 783A1 on March 1, 2021, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on May 26, 2021. This rule was approved by the Governor on insert date.

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
AMENDING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to **amend** NR 20.20 (73) (n) 2. and 3. relating to lake trout harvest and season in Lake Michigan.

FH-30-20

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

1. Statutes Interpreted: The department has interpreted sections 29.014 (1), 29.041, and 29.053 (2), Stats., as authorizing this rule.

2. Statutory Authority:

Sections 29.014 (1), 29.041, and 29.053 (2), Stats., grant the department the authority to set size and bag limits and other regulations to conserve fish populations and maintain opportunities for good fishing, on inland, outlying and boundary waters in whole or in part.

3. Explanation of Agency Authority:

Section 29.014 (1), Stats., directs the department 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., authorizes the department to regulate fishing in the state as a whole, in counties or parts of counties, and in lakes and streams or parts of lakes and streams.

4. Related Statutes or Rules:

A companion emergency rule, FH-29-20 (E) / EmR 2119, was promulgated prior to this permanent rule.

5. Plain Language Analysis:

SECTION 1 would restore the continuous open season for lake trout on outlying waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay, as well as remove the 2021 sunset on the daily bag limit of five for lake trout so that a daily bag limit of five in total for trout and salmon (where all five may be lake trout) will be in place long term. No changes will be made to the lake trout regulations in the Mid-Lake Reef Complex, which has a closed season for lake trout.

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

No federal statutes or regulations apply. States possess inherent authority to manage the fishery and

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wildlife resources located within their boundaries, except insofar as preempted by federal treaties and laws, including regulations established in the Federal Register.

7. If Held, Summary of Comments Received During Preliminary Comment Period and at Public Hearing on the Statement of Scope:

During the preliminary public hearing and comment period, the department received five spoken or written comments. All comments indicated support for maintaining a continuous season and daily bag limit of five for lake trout. Some commenters expressed consternation that the rules were not extended prior to the 2021 sunset, given that recreational lake trout harvest has not adversely affected the fishery, and having the regulations revert to a daily bag limit of two and March to October season for lake trout causes confusion for anglers, businesses, and law enforcement. Other comments related to the benefit the more liberal regulations provide for sport anglers by adding value to the fishing license and Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp through additional fishing opportunity. This fishing opportunity also translates to benefits for the local tourist industry.

8. 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. However, all states and provinces that border a Great Lake are signatory to the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries and have collaboratively developed Fish Community Objectives for each of the Great Lakes through their individual Lake Committees.

State agencies work together through the Lake Committee process to ensure that Great Lakes management actions are communicated and discussed among the state and provincial jurisdictions. The Lake Michigan Committee has the following membership: one representative from each state (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana) and one representative from the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority.

Lake trout harvest, seasons, and refuges were established by each agency to maximize the chances that the lakewide rehabilitation objectives set for lake trout were achievable.

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

This rule provides good harvest opportunities for lake trout that will benefit recreational anglers while helping to keep lake trout and salmon populations in balance with the alewife prey base. While recreational lake trout harvest remains below safe harvest limits, a continuous season and daily bag limit of five allows anglers to keep more lake trout when they encounter areas with high densities of lake trout, or when salmon fishing is slow.

Lake trout assessment metrics have been set by Great Lakes agencies (A Guide for the Rehabilitation of Lake Trout in Lake Michigan, Great Lakes Fishery Commission Miscellaneous Publication 2008-01, 2008). Based on these metrics, the lake trout population is moving toward rehabilitation in Wisconsin waters of southern Lake Michigan (see Table 1). Most lake trout fishing occurs in southern Lake Michigan because the habitat of Green Bay is not as suitable for lake trout.

Table 1: Lake Michigan lake trout assessment metrics

Lake Trout Metrics	Significance	Southern Lake Michigan
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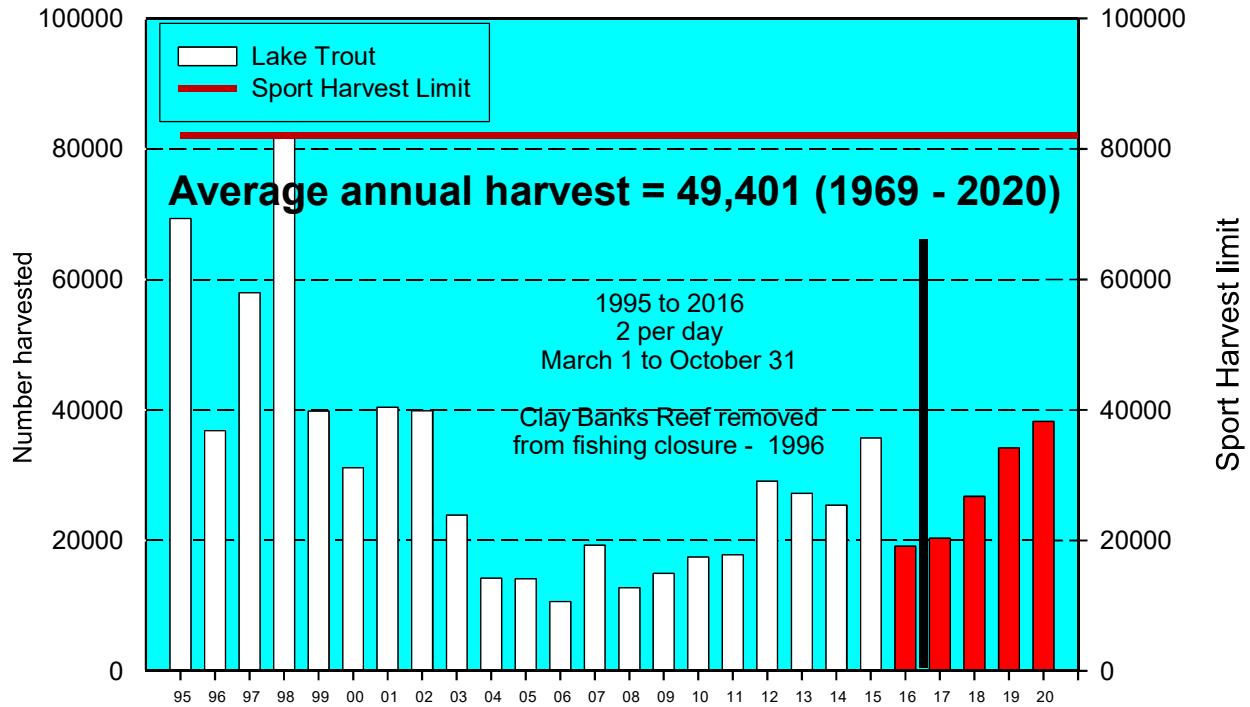
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Natural Reproduction	Important for wild lake trout populations to be self-sustaining	Trending upward
Spring Survey Catch Numbers	Important for assessing lake trout population density	Below target in most locations but above target on the Mid-Lake Refuge
Fall Survey Catch Numbers	Indicates levels of juvenile recruitment into the population and densities of spawning adult lake trout	Above target
% Females in Fall Survey	Indicates the proportion of females able to contribute to the breeding population	At target in some years
10 Age Groups over Age 7	Indicates how many age classes are reaching reproductive maturity	Above target
Lamprey Annual Mortality	Important for determining the impacts of invasive sea lamprey predation on the growth of the lake trout population	At target
Egg Thiamine Levels	Indicates egg and embryo viability and impacts fry survival	At or near target

Data have shown that Wisconsin anglers could harvest around 82,000 lake trout and not jeopardize the chances for lake trout rehabilitation in Lake Michigan, and harvest levels from 2017 to 2020 are comfortably below that level. Over the last 20 years, Wisconsin anglers have consistently harvested very low numbers of lake trout, averaging only 23,722 fish per year. In the last four years, lake trout harvest has been trending upward, but still remains very sustainable.

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Lake Michigan Lake trout harvest from 1995 to 2020

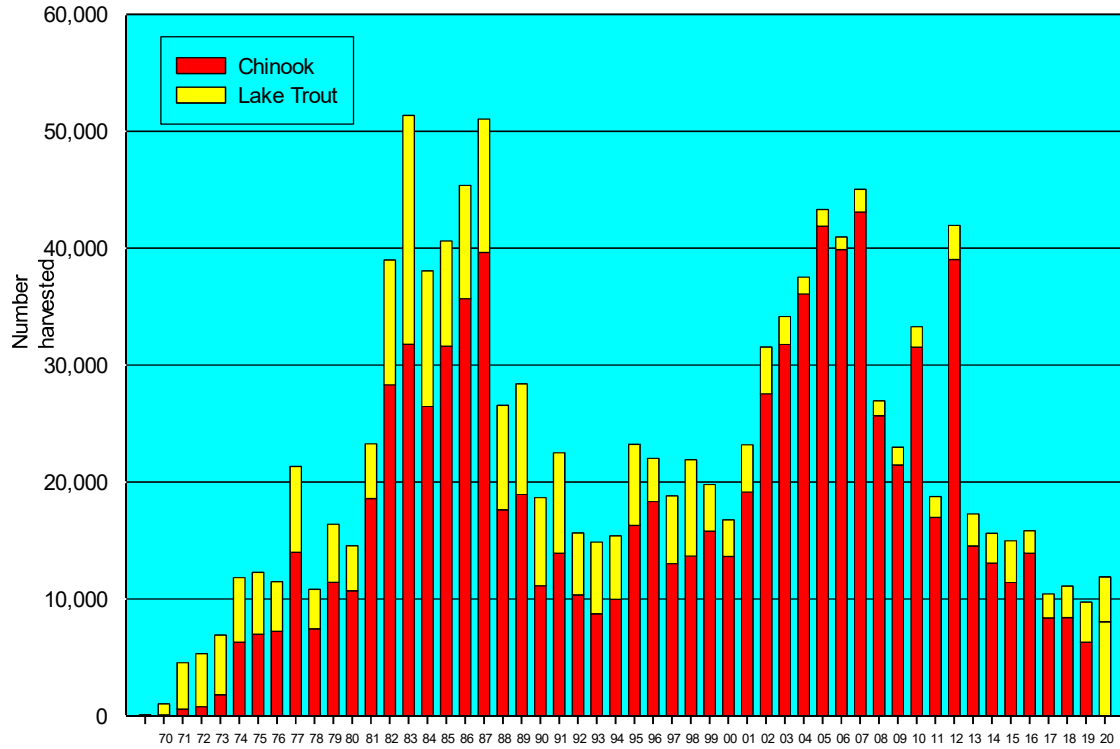


The department collects information on chartered fishing trips through reporting, and in 2020, 21,456 lake trout were harvested across 11,353 chartered trips. Only 332 of these trips resulted in angler harvest of more than two lake trout per person, representing 2.92% of the total trips. The average number of lake trout harvested per person across all trips is 0.40, and 0.74 when at least one lake trout was harvested. Almost half of the 2020 chartered fishing trips—46.6% or 5,292 trips—resulted in no lake trout harvest at all.

While recreational lake trout harvest is not detrimental to the lake trout population and benefits anglers, it also impacts populations of highly desirable salmon. The department recently increased the number of chinook salmon stocked into Lake Michigan at the request of anglers and charter businesses. The increased number of chinook salmon present in this put-grow-take fishery will further pressure the alewife prey base shared between lake trout and non-native salmonids. This rule focuses on lake trout in order to balance management options among species that prey on alewives.

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Wisconsin Lake Michigan Chinook Salmon and Lake Trout harvest from 1969 to 2020



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

Because of the increased bag limit and longer season, the rule is expected to have a positive economic impact on recreational angling businesses, including fishing guides and charter fishing businesses. This impact is expected to be minimal because prior to January 2021, these regulations were already in effect—therefore, restoring them will maintain excellent fishing opportunities for lake trout and angler spending at Lake Michigan businesses.

Lake trout are one component of the diverse Lake Michigan sport fishery, and providing additional opportunities to harvest them has benefitted anglers, charter businesses, and associated businesses, including those that may also be targeting other species. A higher bag limit for lake trout allows anglers to take home fish if they have limited success in their efforts to catch other species.

Each year, Wisconsin’s Great Lakes fishing opportunities draw at least 178,000 anglers (as measured by the sale of the Great Lakes Salmon and Trout stamp) who spend more than 1.2 million days fishing. According to the American Sport Fishing Association, these anglers contribute \$114.3 million to the economy through direct retail expenditures and generate more than \$12.5 million in state and local tax revenue.

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

Because of the higher bag limit and longer season, the rule is expected to have a positive economic impact on recreational angling businesses, including fishing guides and charter fishing businesses.

The rule is necessary in order to ensure a sustainable lake trout fishery over the long-term that provides an economic and natural resource benefit for all affected. The rule does not impose any compliance or reporting requirements nor would any design or operational standards be contained in the rule.

12. Agency Contact Person: Bradley Eggold, Great Lakes District Supervisor;
Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov, 414-303-0138

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

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

Meredith Penthorn

Department of Natural Resources

101 S. Webster St.

Madison, WI 53704

Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov, 608-316-0080

Comments may be submitted to the department contact person listed above or to DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov until the deadline given in the upcoming notice of public hearing. The notice of public hearing and deadline for submitting comments will be published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register and on the department's website, at <https://dnr.wi.gov/calendar/hearings/>. Comments may also be submitted through the Wisconsin Administrative Rules Website at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/chr/active>.

RULE TEXT
SECTION 1. NR 20.20 (73) (n) 2. and 3. 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)
(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)					
(n) Trout and salmon	2. Green Bay, major Green Bay tributaries, all other waters of Lake Michigan, Lake Michigan tributaries	a. Hook and line	Continuous except that beginning in 2021 the open season for lake trout is March 1 to October 31	5 in total except that beginning in 2021 only 2 may be lake trout	10
	3. All other tributary streams, rivers	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to the	5 in total except that beginning in	10

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and ditches to
Green Bay
upstream to the
first dam or lake

first Sunday
in March

~~2021 only 2~~
~~may be lake~~
trout

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule takes effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

SECTION 3. 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 _____

For Preston D. Cole, Secretary