

GUIDE TO WISCONSIN HOOK AND LINE FISHING REGULATIONS 2026-2027

Effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027

**Fins And Grins
For 2026**

**(See Details
On Back)**



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



Wisconsin Fishing...

It's Fun And Easy!

To use this pamphlet, follow these five easy steps:

- 1 Restrictions:** Become familiar with new regulations, license requirements and [Statewide Fishing Restrictions](#).
- 2 Trout fishing:** If you plan to fish for trout, please see the separate inland trout regulations booklet, [Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027](#), available online, from your license distributor or any DNR Service Center.
- 3 Special regulations:** Check for special regulations on the water you will be fishing in the section entitled [Special Regulations-Listed by County](#) beginning on page 30.
- 4 Great Lakes, Winnebago System Waters and Boundary Waters:** If you plan to fish on the Great Lakes, their tributaries, Winnebago System waters or waters bordering other states, check the appropriate tables on pages 74-95.
- 5 Statewide rules:** If the water you will be fishing is not found in the [Special Regulations-Listed by County](#) and is not a Great Lake, Winnebago system or boundary water, statewide rules apply. See the regulation table for [General Inland Waters](#) for seasons, length and bag limits, listed by species.

*** This pamphlet is an interpretive summary of Wisconsin's fishing laws and regulations. For complete fishing laws and regulations, including those that are implemented after the publication of this pamphlet, consult the Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources. Consult the legislative website - <http://docs.legis.wi.gov> - for more information. For the most up-to-date version of this pamphlet, go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/regulations>.*

Free Fishing Weekends— June 6-7, 2026 and Jan. 16-17, 2027

Every year, the full weekend before the third Monday in January and the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in June are designated as [Free Fishing Weekends](#) throughout the state of Wisconsin. Residents and nonresidents of all ages can fish without a fishing license (and trout stamps) over these two days. However, all other fishing regulations (length limits, bag limits, seasons, etc.) apply.

Purchase your license online at GoWild.wi.gov or at any one of over 1,000 license agents.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (608) 267-7498.



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WHAT'S NEW!

Major Regulation Changes For The 2026-2027 Fishing Season

- **Muskellunge Inland Season** - The statewide inland muskellunge season now opens the first Saturday in May (May 2, 2026) and runs through Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only)
- **Sturgeon Catch and Release** - There are now designated waters for catching and releasing sturgeon. See pages 72-73.
- **Smallmouth Bass Harvest** - Smallmouth bass harvest has now changed in Lake Michigan and tributaries to Green Bay and Lake Michigan. See pages 85 and 89.

Share The Fishing Legacy

Give back what you've been given – the gift of fishing.

The water is open to everyone. Take someone you know on Wisconsin's waters – a child, friend, neighbor, parents ... anyone!

Make some memories, one fish at a time.



Violation Hotline - Support ethical, responsible fishing

TEXT or CALL

1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

(Please note: This is not an information number)

Fishing Licenses, Stamps And Tags

Wisconsin residents who are 16 years old or older need a fishing license to fish in any waters of the state. A driver's license or social security number is required to purchase a license. **Please note:** A social security number is required to establish an account and purchase your first license. Residents need a fishing license to take rough fish by hand, hook and line or to spear fish where allowed. Residents do not need a fishing license to take smelt, rough fish, or minnows with nets and seines of legal size. See the [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for additional regulations.

Nonresidents who are 16 years old or older need a nonresident fishing license to fish in Wisconsin waters with hook and line. Nonresidents need a fishing license to take rough fish by hand, hook and line, or to spear fish where allowed. Nonresidents of any age need a fishing license to take smelt, spear fish, or to take rough fish and minnows with nets and seines of legal size. Nonresidents may not sell minnows or smelt. See the [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for additional regulations.

Fishing licenses are sold online at GoWild.wi.gov and at over 1,000 license agents. Participants in fishing excursions led by nonprofits for groups of people with disabilities may not need fishing licenses. Well in advance of your event, the sponsoring organization should submit Form 9400-562A Disabled Group Fishing Event License Waiver request to the DNR. The form can be found online at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/forms/9400-562.pdf>. To receive an application by mail, call the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

All 2026 annual licenses are valid from date of purchase through March 31, 2027.

LICENSE	FEE
Resident Individual (Annual) Fishing License	\$20.00
Resident First-Time Buyer License — A reduced-price license for residents who have not purchased a license before or last purchased a license 10 or more years ago.	\$5.00
Resident One-Day Fishing License — If an angler purchases a resident individual (annual) fishing license later in the same license year, the cost of the one-day license will apply towards the purchase of that license. Please note: License does not include trout and salmon stamp privileges.	\$8.00
Resident Combination (Spousal) License — Issued to a legally married couple who meet residency requirements.	\$31.00
Resident Sports License — This license allows for fishing and hunting of small game and gun deer. (Nonresident fee \$275)	\$60.00
Resident Junior Sports License — 12 to 17 years (Nonresident fee \$36.00)	\$35.00
Resident Reduced-Rate Fishing License — Required of anglers 16 and 17 years of age and anglers 65 years of age and older. Residents born before 1927 do not need a fishing license. Simply carry proof of age when fishing. Nonresident senior citizens must purchase a regular nonresident license.	\$7.00

Resident Conservation Patron License — This license serves as a substitute for separate licenses and stamp privileges for annual fishing, inland trout fishing, Great Lakes trout and salmon fishing, hook and line lake sturgeon harvest, hunting small game, turkey, pheasant, deer, waterfowl, archer hunting and trapping (trapping for residents and qualified nonresidents only). You also receive an admission sticker for state parks, state forests and state trails and a one-year subscription to Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine . (Nonresident fee \$600)	\$165.00
Resident Junior Conservation Patron License — 10–17 years (Nonresident fee \$77.00)	\$75.00
Resident Annual Fishing Licenses For The Disabled — Anglers must annually provide one of the following as proof: Social Security Disability Award Notice for the current year, Letter from Social Security Administration advising the customer is currently (within the past year) receiving disability benefits, Letter or Notice of Railroad Retirement Disability or signed statement from a licensed physician or optometrist indicating that the customer's sight is impaired to the degree that he/she cannot read ordinary newspaper print with or without corrective glasses. Discount applies to resident fishing license only. Disabled nonresidents need to buy a regular nonresident license.	\$7.00
Resident Annual Disabled Veteran's Fishing License — Veterans must provide one of the following as proof: Veteran's Disability Award Letter showing benefits are being paid for a disability of 70% or more, Letter from Veterans Administration that indicates customer is receiving benefits for a service-related disability of 70% or more, DNR-issued Wisconsin Resident Disabled Veteran or a Former POW Park Admission Card. Nonresident disabled veterans must purchase a regular nonresident license.	\$3.00
Free Annual Resident Armed Forces Fishing License — For members of the U.S. armed forces who exhibit proof that they are in active service with the armed forces and that they are a resident on furlough or leave (includes the inland trout and Great Lakes salmon stamps).	No charge
Nonresident Individual (Annual) Fishing License	\$55.00
Nonresident First-Time Buyer License — A reduced-price license for nonresidents who have not purchased a license before or last purchased a license 10 or more years ago.	\$28.75
Nonresident One-Day Fishing License — If an angler purchases a nonresident individual (annual) fishing license later in the same license year, the cost of the one-day license will apply towards the purchase of that license. Please note: License does not include trout and salmon stamp privileges.	\$15.00
Nonresident 4-Day Individual License	\$29.00
Nonresident 15-Day Individual License	\$33.00

Nonresident 15-Day Family License — Includes children 16 & 17 years old (Please Note: Family licenses do not include grandchildren ages 16 & 17 years old).	\$45.00
Nonresident Annual Family License — Includes children 16 & 17 years old (Please Note: Family licenses do not include grandchildren ages 16 & 17 years old).	\$70.00
Annual Inland Trout Stamp Privilege (residents and nonresidents) — See The Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027 for license restrictions. Required in addition to your fishing license to fish trout on tributaries to Lake Superior and all inland waters, except Green Bay and Lake Michigan tributaries up to the first dam or lake.	\$10.00
Annual Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Privilege (residents and nonresidents) — Required in addition to your fishing license to fish trout or salmon on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay and the tributaries of Lake Michigan and Green Bay up to the first dam or lake.	\$10.00
Two-Day Sports Fishing License For Residents And Nonresidents — This license entitles a resident or nonresident to fish the outlying waters of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay, as well as Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. License includes the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp privilege.	\$14.00
Two-Day Inland Lake trout (<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>) Fishing License (residents only) — This license authorizes fishing for lake trout only on inland lakes. A general fishing license or trout stamp is not required to purchase this license.	\$14.00
Hook And Line Lake Sturgeon Harvest Tag — Anglers who intend to harvest a lake sturgeon must purchase this tag first, regardless of age or need for a fishing license. Two harvest tags are available: 1) inland waters, St. Croix River and Lake Superior and 2) WI/MI boundary waters. A fishing license is required to fish for sturgeon (unless you are exempt), but a harvest tag is not required for catch and release sturgeon fishing. (Nonresident fee \$50)	\$20.00

Inland Trout/Great Lakes Trout And Salmon Stamp Privileges

You must have an Inland Trout Stamp Privilege if you need a fishing license and intend to fish for trout or salmon in inland waters, including streams flowing into Lake Superior (except a trout stamp is not needed for fishing lake trout in inland lakes under the authority of the two-day lake trout, *Salvelinus namaycush*, fishing license). You need a Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Privilege to fish for trout and salmon in Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay and streams that flow into Green Bay and Lake Michigan from their mouths up to the first dam or lake including the Milwaukee River upstream to the Grafton Dam in the village of Grafton and tributaries of the Milwaukee River upstream to the first dam or lake, and the Menomonee River upstream to the Lepper Dam in the village of Menomonee Falls and tributaries of the Menomonee River upstream to the first dam or lake. Anyone who is exempt from the require-

ments to have a fishing license or who is not required to pay a fee for a fishing license also does not need to purchase an Inland Trout or Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Privilege to fish for trout in those waters. **NOTE: One trout or salmon stamp covers all people on a nonresident family license.** (Visit dnr.wi.gov/GoWild/conservationcard for more information). Please consult the [Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for further trout and salmon information. For online information on Lake Michigan and its tributaries visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan.

Fishing And Sport Trolling Guide Licenses

Only licensed fishing guides and sport trollers may guide anglers for any compensation. The guide license fee is \$40 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident, and is needed to guide on any Wisconsin water. Sport trolling licenses are required for guiding any person sport trolling for trout or salmon on any outlying water of lakes Superior and Michigan and Green Bay. Sport trolling license fee is \$100 for a Wisconsin resident and \$400 for a nonresident. Interested persons must submit the fee with the Guide License Application form 9400-019, available online at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/permits>. To receive an application by mail, call the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

Hook And Line Lake Sturgeon Harvest Tag, Tagging And Registration

Anglers who intend to harvest a lake sturgeon, regardless of age or need for a fishing license, must first purchase an inland tag (good for sturgeon harvest in inland waters, the St. Croix River and Lake Superior) and/or a WI/MI boundary water tag (good for sturgeon harvest on the Menominee River) online or from your local DNR Service Center or License Sales Agent. **You do not need a harvest tag to catch and release sturgeon on waters open to sturgeon fishing during the open hook and line season.** After you catch a lake sturgeon of legal length that you wish to keep, you must immediately validate your tag. If you don't plan to keep the fish, it must be immediately released. It is illegal to tether, keep, or possess a sturgeon without validating the tag. A harvested fish must be registered at a designated registration station no later than 6 p.m. the day after you caught the fish.

Go Wild

Find your adventure hunting, fishing and more in Wisconsin. Visit GoWild.wi.gov or stop at any one of over 1,000 license agents to buy your licenses today.

The Go Wild system secures your license and registration information online – no more worries about losing your one and only copy. An optional conservation card provides access to your license and hunter safety certificates. GoWild.wi.gov also acts as a portal to help you plan your adventure and make the most of Wisconsin's great outdoors. *Note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license/stamps when fishing the Great Lakes and boundary waters.*



Statewide Fishing Restrictions

IT IS ILLEGAL —

LICENSES

It is illegal:

- to fish in any waters of this state without a Wisconsin fishing license and stamp privilege as required. You must be able to present your fishing license to a warden on request. Even waters with no public access (including most private ponds) are considered waters of the state and the appropriate license, tag or stamp is still generally required. *Note: An angler fishing in a man-made artificial pond that is not connected to any other waters of the state located entirely on private lands of one owner does not need a fishing license if the owner has given the angler permission to fish in that pond. All other rules apply.*
- to possess, loan, or borrow another person's license, stamp or tag.

ANGLING METHODS AND LURES

It is illegal:

- to move live fish away from a water, except minnows that were purchased from a bait dealer may be moved under the conditions of the [Minnows and Bait Fish Regulations](#) on page 22.
- to fish with more than three hooks, baits or lures.
- to take fish by any means other than hook and line unless otherwise allowed.
- to leave any fish line unattended, except when using licensed setlines or bank poles. When fishing open water (water not covered by ice), anglers must remain within 100 yards of their line(s). Failure to immediately respond to any line (located in open water or on the ice) upon indication of a bite will be sufficient evidence that the line is unattended.
- to fish with an unmanned aircraft system, such as a drone, or to fish using the technique known as "jug" fishing in all waters of the state. Jug fishing is the use of any free floating, remote-controlled or anchored bouyant device with attached hook and line that is not held or otherwise controlled by the angler with the use of a line.
- to possess or use spears, snag hooks, gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets or fish traps (except where authorized) or to use or possess on the water unlicensed setlines, bank poles and trotlines. See the [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for more information.
- to fish with a minnow 8" or longer unless using a "quick-strike rig" or a "non-offset circle hook." When using a quick-strike rig and a minnow 8" or longer for bait, you must immediately attempt to set the hook upon indication of a bite. A "quick-strike rig" is a bait rig that has one or more treble hooks attached to the body of a minnow, behind the head. This rig may also include a jig or other hook in the snout of a minnow. A "non-offset circle hook" means a hook that is curved in a circular or oval shape so the tip of the point is turned and perpendicular to the shank and is designed so that the tip end of the hook is not offset or angled sideways and is in alignment with the shank – see diagram on top of page 10.



- to fish by snagging, foul-hooking or attempting to hook fish other than in the mouth.
- to keep foul-hooked, snagged or any fish not hooked in the mouth.
- to take fish other than rough fish, catfish and bullheads by hand.
- to take fish using a firearm, air gun or similar device.
- to fish with a hook and line while operating a dip net from a boat or while in possession of a dip net. Note: A landing net is not a dip net.
- to possess or use a sinker release device while fishing.
- to tag or mark and release fish without first obtaining authorization from the DNR.

BAIT

It is illegal:

- to release unused bait into Wisconsin's lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.
- to possess live crayfish while fishing or while possessing angling equipment on any water. Note: For Mississippi River and outlying waters exceptions, see pages 77, 83, 88 and 91.
- to use goldfish, gobies or alewife in any form for bait in state waters, except that alewife may be used on Lake Michigan, Green Bay and their tributary streams up to the first dam or lake.
- to remove insect larvae from a trout stream, except that a licensed angler may take insect larvae or nymphs from trout streams by hand (no seines or nets) during the open trout season for their immediate personal use as bait in the stream from which they were taken. All unused larvae and nymphs must be returned to the stream prior to leaving the stream from which taken.
- to remove fish eggs for bait from under-sized fish, fish caught during the closed season for that species or fish caught by illegal methods (i.e., snagged, foul hooked). Fish eggs may be removed from legal-sized fish and the fish returned to the water, but the fish would count toward the angler's daily bag limit. Live fish eggs cannot be transported away from the water.
- to use gamefish as bait unless they meet any length restriction for the water body you are fishing and are included in your daily bag limit for that species.
- to possess any bait on waters where only the use of artificial lures is authorized.

SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, LENGTH LIMITS AND POSSESSION LIMITS

It is illegal:

- to fish for a species of fish during the closed season for that species (includes catch and release fishing).
- to possess a fish that is above a maximum length limit or below the minimum length limit established for the waters being fished.
- to take, catch, kill or fish for any variety of fish in excess of the [daily bag limit](#) or [total daily bag limit](#).
- to group bag. For example, if an angler catches a limit of 25 panfish and gives them to another person, the person catching the fish has attained their daily

bag limit and can no longer keep panfish that day. Any fish received are considered part of the recipient's possession limit, but not part of their daily bag limit unless they are possessed while on the water, bank or shore of the water, ice or while fishing.

- to possess or fish for more than the daily bag limit of fish while you're fishing or while you're on the water, shore of the water, or on the ice, regardless of number of days fished.
- to possess more than the possession limit (twice the total daily bag limit) at any time and any location, except from the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters (defined on page 74) where only one total daily bag limit can be possessed. The possession limit for the Great Lakes and their tributaries having anadromous trout is twice the total daily bag limit. The possession limit on trout in inland waters is 10.
- to transport fish subject to a length limit, unless the fillets meet the minimum length requirement or you provide physical or digital photo evidence that identifies the fish species and confirms the fish met the legal length requirement. The photo must show the fish before the head or tail (or both) were removed, alongside a measuring device, with date and timestamp.
- to sort or cull fish, except as authorized under certain bass fishing tournament permits. Any fish you take into possession which you do not release immediately is part of your daily bag limit even if it is released later. "Culling" is the release of a fish after it was held in an angler's possession to be replaced with another fish.
- to fish in trout streams for any species of fish when the trout season is closed, except that rough fish may be taken by hand.

RESTRICTED FISHING AREAS

It is illegal:

- to sponsor a fishing tournament (that needs a permit) without a permit from the DNR. [See page 26 for tournament details and exemptions.](#)
- to fish in fish refuges. Refuges are posted "No Fishing" with DNR or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signs. [See additional refuge information on page 25.](#)
- to fish within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam, except that fish may be taken by hook and line if the area is not posted otherwise. Note: Rough fish may be taken by hand year-round or by hand-held spear June 1 to Aug. 31 where spearing is allowed within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam. It is not legal to take rough fish by hand or by spearing within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam located on the Wisconsin boundary waters with Iowa, Michigan or Minnesota.
- to fish within 500 feet of any DNR net or weir when the area is posted by the DNR.

OTHER

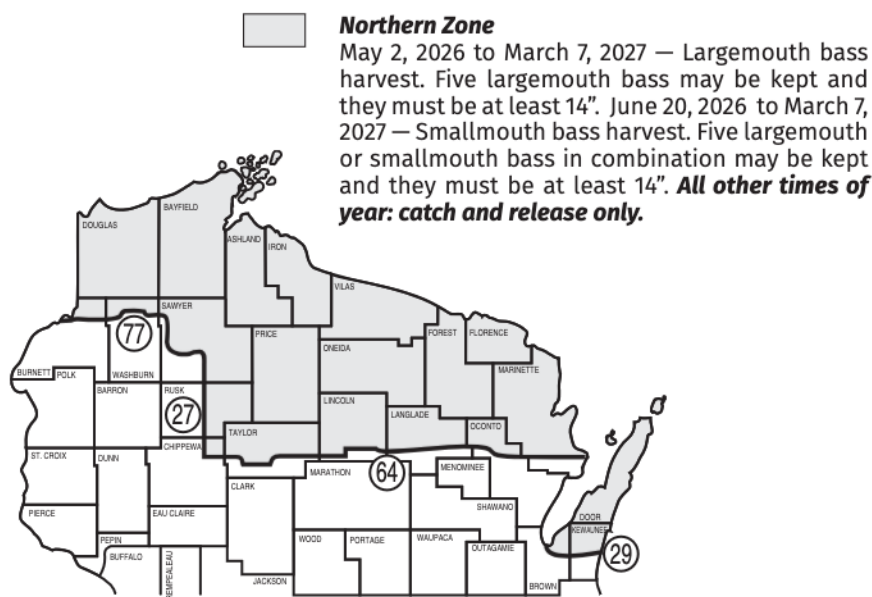
It is illegal:

- to stock fish into Wisconsin waters (including private ponds) without first obtaining a stocking permit.
- to deposit fish carcasses or parts, including entrails or other waste, into Wisconsin waters or on the bank or shore of any water.
- to use or possess a box or container in which to hold live fish in any water of the state unless a legible tag bearing the owner or user's name and address or DNR customer ID number is attached to the container. Containers and live boxes used by anglers while fishing are exempt from this requirement.

- to buy, sell or trade any game fish. It is legal to sell rough fish [see the definition of rough fish on page 25](#). Selling rough fish to anyone other than the final consumer requires a wholesale fish dealers license unless you hold a commercial fishing license.
- to buy, sell or trade minnows, frogs or crayfish for use as bait without a bait dealer license (except residents under 16 years of age - [see page 22 for details](#))
- to transport live rough fish (excluding suckers purchased for bait) or invasive species into or within the state without a permit from the DNR. Note: Rough fish or invasive fish that can be revived are considered live fish. Therefore, to ensure that rough fish, including Invasive carp and other invasive fish are dead and no longer capable of being revived, they must be eviscerated (entrails removed) or other similar action be taken to assure the fish are dead before transporting them.
- to withhold catch and fishing effort information when interviewed by authorized DNR creel clerks.

Bass Management Zones

The following map identifies the boundary and regulation differences between the Northern and Southern Bass Management Zones. Check the [Special Regulations—Listed by County](#) (page 30) for exceptions to the following statewide regulations. See tables on pages 70-74 for specific application of Northern and Southern Bass Management Zone rules for Lake Michigan, Green Bay and their tributaries.



Ceded Territory

The Ceded Territory encompasses 22,400 square miles of northern Wisconsin that was ceded to the United States by the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribes in 1837 and 1842. Some special fisheries regulations occur in the ceded territory as a result of Chippewa off-reservation treaty rights as mandated by Federal Court rulings. Some waters may have more restrictive bag or length limits. Check for public notices at access points.



Ceded Territory Walleye Regulations

Inland lakes and rivers within the Ceded Territory have a daily bag limit of **three** walleye and most have a standard length regulation where walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Length and bag limit exceptions to the standard regulation can be found in the [Special Regulations — Listed by County](#) section beginning on page 30.

Northern Pike Management

US Highway 10 divides the state into a northern and southern management zone for northern pike:

Northern Zone (inland waters north of Highway 10 Waldo Blvd)

Northern pike season & limits: May 2, 2026 to March 7, 2027. Five northern pike of any length may be kept.

Southern Zone (inland waters south of Highway 10/Waldo Blvd)

Northern pike season & limits: May 2, 2026 to March 7, 2027. Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".



Muskellunge Management

Statewide inland muskellunge season & limits: May 2, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only). One muskellunge may be kept and it must be at least 40"

Check the [Special Regulations — Listed by County](#) and [Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan](#) (page 86) for exceptions to the above northern pike and muskellunge rules.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Anglers' Club

The *Hooked on Wisconsin Anglers' Club* is a program that acknowledges resident and nonresident anglers for their outstanding sport fishing catches. Anglers may apply for membership in the Live Release, Kept Fish or Mixed Bag categories. For complete details, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/anglersclub.

Artificial Lures

Some regulations restrict anglers to the use of only artificial lures. Artificial lure means a spoon, spinner, plug or other fish bait made of hair, feathers, cork, wood, rubber, metal, plastic, or other synthetic materials, or combinations of these materials. An artificial lure may not include natural or organic food stuffs like corn, marshmallows, dough, cheese, meat, living or dead organisms or parts thereof, except hair, feathers, cork, wood and rubber. Liquid scents sprayed on an artificial lure are legal to use when fishing waters where only artificial lures may be used.

Boating Information

A wearable personal flotation device (life jacket) of the correct size for the intended wearer must be available for each person in a boat. Additional boating information is contained in Wisconsin Boating Regulations available online at <https://widnr.widen.net/s/0vw8hwrae3> or by calling 608-266-2141. Information on boat registration, including online registration and the Boat Registration Application form 9400-193, can be obtained online at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/registrations/boat>. To receive an application by mail, call the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

Camping And State Lands/Removal Of Wood

Camping on state-owned lands is strictly prohibited, except within designated camping areas or areas otherwise allowed by law. Check with the local DNR office for specific camping regulations. **Please don't move firewood.** Keeping firewood local helps protect Wisconsin's natural resources from emerald ash borer and other pests and diseases that move around on firewood. Removal of drift wood from a lakebed or state-owned properties is illegal without a DNR permit. Waterfront property owners must check with DNR water regulation staff to determine if a permit would be required to remove wood from a lakebed.

Catch And Release Responsibly

Fish you wish to release or fish not meeting the legal length limit, should be played as little as possible and handled carefully with wet hands. The fish should not be held out of the water longer than necessary to remove hooks, take a photograph or measure the fish. If live release is intended, a quick-strike rig should be used, where the hook is set immediately when a fish strikes to prevent deeply hooked fish. Deep-hooked fish, if meeting the legal limit, should be kept. If the fish does not meet the legal length limit it must be let go after cutting the line or leader as close to the hook as possible. For more information on responsible release, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/responsiblerelease.html

Catfish Harvest By Alternate Methods

Channel and flathead catfish may be harvested by bowfishing or by hand. See the [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for current harvest regulations.

Clamming

There is no open season for taking live clams (mussels) from any inland water of the state. Mussels may be taken from boundary and outlying waters. It is illegal to possess live mussels or take dead mussel shells from the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers. It is illegal to possess or transport live zebra or quagga mussels without an invasive species permit. For complete mussel information, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulation/musselregs.

Crayfish

- A fishing or small game license is required to take crayfish, unless under age 16.
- No person may use or possess live crayfish and angling equipment simultaneously on any inland water, except the Mississippi River (see pages 77 and 81 for more details).
- Rusty crayfish are a restricted invasive species and may be transported for control or disposal if no individuals or eggs are allowed to escape.
- Red swamp crayfish are a prohibited species and cannot be transported, possessed, transferred or introduced without a permit.
- Crayfish traps placed in trout streams shall conform to the dimensions of minnow traps. See [Minnow and other Bait Fish Regulations](#).

There are no bag or size limits on crayfish and no closed season, except on the [Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary waters](#) where the open season is from May 1 to the following March 1, both dates inclusive.

Crayfish scoops may be used in [Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary waters](#) provided the scoops do not exceed 4' in length, 3' in width and 18" in depth attached to a handle not to exceed 4 feet in length.

Crayfish may be taken in all waters by the following means only: By hand, by use of minnow seines and minnow dip nets, where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows and by crayfish traps (other than in trout streams) with any entrance to the trap not to exceed 2-1/2" at the greatest diagonal measurement. Crayfish may not be taken by hook and line. Traps must bear the name and address or DNR Customer ID of the owner and must be raised and emptied at least once each day following the day set.

Parts of fish, fish by-products including fish meal or prepared parts of such fish may not be used for bait unless: the fish were caught from the water being trapped, were obtained from a bait dealer or were used with written authorization from the DNR. Other meats (e.g., chicken and beef livers) may be used for bait for crayfish.

Floats or markers used to locate traps 1) may not exceed 5" in size, 2) may not extend more than 4" above the water surface, 3) must clearly display the name and address (in the English language) of owner or operator and 4) must not be orange or any other fluorescent color.

Daily Bag, Total Daily Bag And Possession Limits

The **daily bag limit** is the maximum number of fish that an angler may possess or reduce to his/her possession from a specified waterbody in one day. The **total daily bag limit** is the maximum number of fish that an angler may reduce to his/her possession in one day from all waters fished for that day. An angler may combine the catch of a particular species from multiple waters until the total daily bag limit is reached as long as the daily bag limit for each body of water is never exceeded. Be aware that while on the water you may not possess more than the daily limit for that body of water. For example, an angler catches a daily limit of walleye from a three-bag limit lake. The angler can not then fish another lake with a two walleye limit while still possessing the three walleye from the previous lake. The **possession limit** is the maximum number of fish that a person may possess at any one time or location. It is generally twice the total daily bag limit. For example, if a person possessed 10 walleye in a cooler from multiple fishing trips or in their freezer at home, they would have to reduce the number of walleye in their possession below 10 to be able to keep more walleye



Total Daily Bag Limit (Catfish) - As an example, the daily bag limit on catfish for most waters is 10 in total (page 71). However, the total daily bag limit is 25. That means you can combine your catch from multiple waters in a single day to get your total daily bag limit (25) as long as the daily bag limit for each body of water is never exceeded (e.g., 10 from one water, 10 from another water and 5 from a third water).

TOTAL DAILY BAG/POSSESSION LIMITS FOR WISCONSIN FISH SPECIES*

Species	Total Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Catfish	25 in total; only one may be a flathead catfish if fishing Winnebago system waters (see page 91).	50 in total
Cisco (lake herring), whitefish and hybrids		
Inland waters	10 in total	20 in total
Outlying waters	10 in total	
Lake sturgeon	1 per season	2 in total
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	5 in total	10 in total
Muskellunge	1	2 in total
Northern pike		10 in total
All waters north of U.S. Hwy 10	5 in total	
All waters south of U.S. Hwy 10	2 in total	
Panfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, white and black crappie)	25 in total	50 in total
Rock bass, white and yellow bass, bullheads, and rough fish	None	None

Round gobies from Winnebago System waters	None, but each must be gutted or the head or gills removed	None
Ruffe and other gobies (except round gobies from Winnebago System waters)	One of each may be killed and possessed for immediate delivery to a DNR Service Center or regional office.	1 in total
Shovelnose sturgeon	3	6 in total
Walleye, sauger, and hybrids (saugeye)	5 in total	10 in total

* *The total daily bag limit may be exceeded only on specific waters authorized or posted by the DNR. See the [Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for trout total daily bag limits.*

Endangered And Threatened (E/T) Species

Without a permit, it is illegal to take, possess, transport or sell any species that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List. Endangered fish species include: skipjack herring, crystal darter, gravel chub, bluntnose darter, starhead topminnow, goldeye, striped shiner, black redhorse, pallid shiner and slender madtom. Threatened fish species include: blue sucker, black buffalo, longear sunfish, redbfin shiner, river redhorse, pugnose shiner, Ozark minnow, gilt darter and paddlefish. Visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangered_resources to find additional listed species information.

Frogs

These regulations apply to native Wisconsin frog species, regardless of their origin.

- The open frog season runs from the Saturday nearest May 1 through Dec. 31.
- Up to five frogs may be taken and possessed without a license.
- Nonresidents are prohibited from harvesting or possessing frogs, except for use as fishing bait.
- More than five frogs may be collected for use as fishing bait, but no more than five of any species may be possessed for more than 24 hours.
- Licensed bait dealers and registered fish farmers may possess more than five specimens of any unprotected amphibian species which are collected or possessed as part of a bait collection or shipment. Licensed bait dealers may sell frogs for use as fishing bait.
- It is illegal to take frogs by firearms or airguns.

Turtles

These regulations apply to all turtle species, regardless of their origin.

All residents and nonresidents who collect, attempt to collect or possess native Wisconsin aquatic turtles must possess one of the following resident or nonresident licenses: Fishing, Small Game, Sports, Conservation Patron, Setline* or Set or Bank Pole*. (* These licenses are available only to residents). Existing Senior

Citizen Recreational Cards also qualify. In addition to the licenses listed above, residents holding a Commercial Fishing License may harvest turtles on Mississippi River Boundary Waters. Note: Residents under the age of 16 do not need a license to take turtles but must comply with all other regulations. Some species are protected and may not be harvested.

Season

The open turtle season runs from July 15 through Nov. 30. Turtles or turtle eggs may not be taken during the closed season.

Possession Limits

The possession limit for snapping turtles and softshell turtles is three statewide, except on the Mississippi River, where the possession limit is 10 for snapping turtles and five for soft-shell turtles. The possession limit for all other turtle species (not endangered or threatened) is five in total. There is no open season on Blanding's turtles.

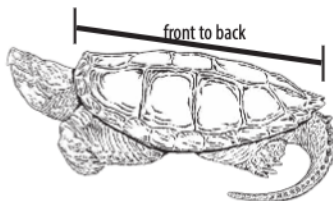
It is illegal to sell native amphibians and reptiles, except persons with a Class A Captive Wild Animal Farm license may sell:

- 1) Eastern tiger salamanders, mudpuppies and northern leopard frogs.
- 2) Native amphibians and reptiles not considered endangered and threatened, and collected outside the state, to out of state sources or to education or research institutions in-state.

In addition, it is legal to sell legally harvested dead turtles and their parts during the open season in Wisconsin.

Size Limits

- Snapping turtle size limits are a 12" minimum and a 16" maximum carapace (top shell straight front to back) length.
- There are no size limits for other turtles.



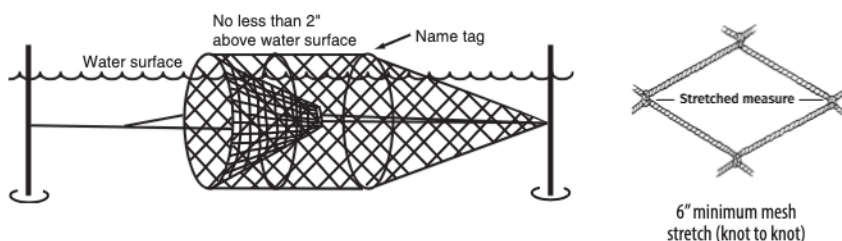
Harvesting Methods

- Turtles may be taken by hand, dip net, hook and line, set line, set or bank poles, hooking or hoop net trap (see allowed design on page 19). No other trap types are allowed.
- Setlines and set or bank poles must be licensed, tagged and used in compliance with rules on these lines for fishing. See [Guide to Wisconsin Setline, Set and Bank Pole Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for details.
- Turtles may not be taken by hook and line from trout streams during the closed trout season.
- Parts of fish, fish by-products including fish meal or prepared parts of such fish may not be used for bait unless: the fish were caught from the water being trapped, were obtained from a bait dealer or were used with written authorization from the DNR. Other meats (e.g., chicken and beef livers) may be used for bait for turtles.
- The number of hoop traps that can be operated are 10 in Iowa-Wisconsin or Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters and three in all other waters of the state.

Hoop Net Trap Specifications

Traps must be made of stretchable fabric (e.g., nylon) and must have a minimum mesh stretch of 6".

No wire mesh is allowed. Each trap must have a metal tag stamped or engraved with the name and address of the operator attached, and must be visible above the water's surface. The operator identified on the trap tag is the only person authorized to tend these traps. Traps must be set with the hoops exposed a minimum of 2" above the water's surface. Turtle traps must be checked and the entrapped contents removed at least once each day after the day they are set in all waters.



Game Fish, Rough Fish And Minnows; Definitions

Game fish are defined as all varieties of fish (including those commonly referred to as panfish), except rough fish and minnows. **Rough fish** include: suckers, common carp, invasive carp (silver, bighead, black and grass), goldfish, redhorse, freshwater drum, burbot, bowfin, gar, buffalo, lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, smelt, mooneye and carpsuckers. **Minnows** include: suckers, mud minnow, madtom, stonecat, killifish, topminnow, silverside, sticklebacks, trout perch, darters, sculpins and all species in the minnow family (except goldfish and carp).

Health Advisory For Eating Fish

Although fish are delicious and nutritious, some fish contain contaminants at levels that can pose health risks to people who eat fish frequently. To reduce your exposure to these contaminants, the state issues advice to help you plan what fish to keep as well as how often and how much fish to eat. Please read the information below and consult the complete fish consumption advisory as a guide to eating fish low in contaminants. Fish consumption advice is provided for fish that may contain mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and other compounds.

Statewide mercury advisory: Mercury is found in almost all waters throughout the state. Wisconsin's statewide advice for most of Wisconsin's inland waters recommends that:

Women of childbearing years, nursing mothers and all children under 15 may eat:

- One meal per week of bluegill, sunfish, crappies, yellow perch, bull heads, inland trout;
and
- One meal per month of walleye, northern pike, bass, catfish and all other species
- Do not eat muskies.

Men and women beyond their childbearing years may eat:

- Unrestricted amounts of bluegill, sunfish, crappies, yellow perch, bull heads, inland trout;
and
- One meal per week of walleye, northern pike, bass, catfish and all other species.
- One meal per month of musky.

Studies suggest that regularly including modest amounts of fish and shellfish (one or two servings per week) in your diet can benefit your health. Little additional benefit is obtained from consuming more than that amount. And, for some waters, fewer meals should be eaten. On certain waters, where data indicates higher mercury levels, more restrictive advice is needed. In addition, fish purchased from stores or restaurants may contain mercury. Consult the fish consumption advisory booklet https://widnr.widen.net/s/s6mkc96tmr/pub_fh_824_choosewisely for the list of waters with exceptions to the above advice.

PCB advisory: PCBs are most often associated with industrialized river systems and the Great Lakes. Check the fish consumption advisory booklet for specific recommendations on how many meals you can safely eat of fish species caught from waters contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), such as Lakes Michigan and Superior, some large rivers and other surface waters. PCBs tend to build up in fatty tissues, so you can reduce PCB levels in fish you eat by trimming away the fatty areas and properly cooking your fish. The advisory booklet contains more information on cooking and cleaning your fish.

PFOS: PFOS are one of many per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their way into the environment in a variety of ways, including spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams.

Ice Fishing

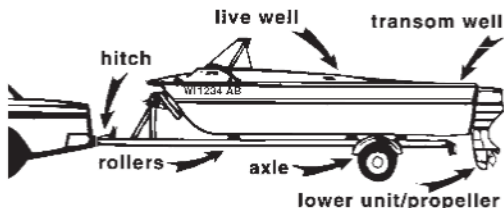
Statewide fishing restrictions apply (see page 9). Fishing holes cut through the ice cannot measure more than 12" across. The doors of enclosed fishing shelters must be readily opened from the outside while occupied; they may be locked only while not occupied and not in use. The shelter owner's name and address (in English) or DNR Customer ID number must be legibly painted or otherwise affixed on the outside of the fishing shelter with block lettering a minimum of one inch square

and in contrasting colors. Fishing shelters that are occupied or otherwise in use are exempt from this requirement. After the date for removing shelters from the ice, you may continue to use a portable shelter, but you must remove it daily when it is not occupied or in use. Shelters must be removed daily on the Fox River in Brown County from the DePere Dam downstream. All ice fishing shelters must be removed from the ice daily and when not in use:

- Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior, and inland waters north of Highway 64 after the First Sunday following March 12.
- Inland waters south of Highway 64 after the First Sunday following March 1.
- Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters by March 15.
- Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters by March 1.
- Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters by Feb. 20.

Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species can crowd out native plants and animals and threaten the quality of boating and fishing in the waters we love. To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and diseases **Wisconsin law requires that you:**



INSPECT your boat, trailer and equipment.

REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway).

DRAIN all water from boats, motors and equipment (livewell, coolers, buckets, etc.).

NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody. Fish out of water are not considered live. Transport on ice is legal and recommended.

BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer and **USE** leftover minnows only under certain conditions.*

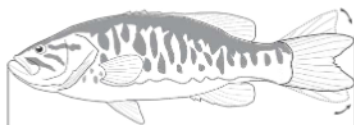
*You may take leftover minnows purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container.

It is illegal to possess, introduce, transport or transfer a live specimen of any nonnative fish species without a permit issued by the DNR. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/Permits_9400234LiveTransport.pdf

It is illegal to possess, introduce, transport or transfer a live nonnative crayfish without a permit issued by the DNR, except rusty crayfish when being used as bait on the Mississippi River.

Measuring Fish

Fish must be measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the end of the compressed tail.



Minnows and Other Bait Fish Regulations

You may take live minnows purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer (which includes Wisconsin registered fish farms) away from a waterbody if any of the following three conditions are met:

- Anglers can take purchased minnows away from a lake or river and use them again on that same waterbody.
- Anglers can also take purchased minnows away from a waterbody and use them elsewhere if no lake or river water or other fish were added to the bait container.
- Anglers can also take purchased minnows away from a waterbody for use elsewhere if they intend to preserve them as dead bait using approved methods.

In each of these cases, minnows may be transported in the amount of water needed to keep the minnows alive, up to 2 gallons. No other fish may be held in the minnow container.

It is illegal for anyone to possess more than 600 minnows, except licensed bait dealers and residents younger than 16 years who are selling the minnows for fishing bait. It is also illegal for nonresidents to sell minnows, crayfish or frogs as bait. Residents 16 years or older must have a bait dealer's license to sell minnows, crayfish or frogs for bait. Residents under 16 years can possess no more than 5,000 of each species and can sell less than \$500 worth annually without a bait dealer's license. Bait dealers and residents older than 16 years are required to possess an approved wild bait harvest permit to harvest bait minnows from any approved location. Only licensed bait dealers with a wild bait harvest permit and a nonstandard gear permit from the DNR may use minnow seines or minnow dip nets of any type or description in inland trout streams or tributary spring ponds. During the open trout season, people who do not possess a bait dealer's license can't use more than three minnow traps to harvest minnows from trout streams and these minnows may not be transported away from the stream alive. Minnow traps are not allowed in trout streams during the closed season for trout.

BAIT-MINNOW HARVEST IS CLOSED TO ALL PERSONS ON ALL VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA (VHS) KNOWN AND SUSPECT WATERS. Minnow harvest gear is prohibited on these waters. Waters include Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, the Winnebago system, the Mississippi River, the Wisconsin River up to the Prairie du Sac Dam and all waters connected to these waters up to the first barrier impassable to fish. On all other waters, bait fish may be collected, possessed and used on the water they were caught on, or a connected water without a wild bait harvest permit if they are never transported away from the water, bank, or shore. Suckers may be harvested with dip nets from VHS waters (except Lake Superior), but cannot be taken away from the water alive. Dead bait (minnows or eggs) can be used unpreserved on the same water from where it was gathered, or on Lake Michigan or Green Bay, but otherwise must be preserved by a method that does not require refrigeration or freezing.

Bait minnows may be taken, where allowed, by the following methods only:

- Hook and line.
- With seines no more than 35 feet long with a mesh no larger than 1/2-inch stretch measure in inland waters. Fifty-foot lengths of seine may be used in Minnesota and Iowa boundary waters.
- With dip nets no more than eight feet in diameter or square.

- With traps no more than 24" long and 16" in diameter or square with a throat measuring 1-1/2" or less. All traps must bear their owner's name and address and be emptied at least once every 48 hours (once every 24 hours on trout streams). **Note: Except for bait dealers with the proper permits, the transporting of live, harvested minnows or suckers away from the water where they were caught is not allowed.**

Motor Trolling

Motor trolling is trailing a lure, bait or similar device used to attract or catch fish from a boat while being propelled (forwards or backwards) by a motor or a sail or while being towed by a boat being propelled by a motor or sail.

Motor trolling is legal on all inland waters with either:

- One hook, bait or lure/person: maximum of three lines trolled per boat or
- Three hooks, baits or lures/person with no maximum number of lines per boat.

The county-specific trolling regulations are listed in the [Special Regulations—Listed by County section](#) beginning on page 30. An angler who holds a Trolling Disability Permit and any other persons in the boat may troll using an electric trolling motor with up to three hooks, baits or lures per person on any water.

Native American Reservations

Native American reservations in Wisconsin are governed by a unique blend of federal, state and tribal law. You should find out about current tribal policies for natural resources use at each tribal headquarters before entering a reservation to hunt or fish. Failure to do so may place you in conflict with the law and subject you to enforcement action.

Panfish

The term "panfish" is defined as any of the following species: bluegill, pumpkinseed, black and white crappie, yellow perch, green sunfish, warmouth and orangespotted sunfish.

Position Fishing

Position fishing is fishing from a boat where the fishing line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered (forwards or backwards) by a motor used to position or maintain the position of the boat over underwater structure. Position fishing is allowed statewide in all waters.

Record Fish

If you think you caught a fish that may be a state record, here's what to do:

- don't clean or freeze the fish.
- keep the fish cool—preferably on ice.
- get the fish weighed as soon as possible on a certified scale (found in grocery, hardware stores, etc.) and witnessed by an observer.
- contact the nearest DNR office to get the fish species positively identified and to find out whether the fish is a state record.

[See page 24 for a partial list of current state record fish.](#) For a complete list of Wisconsin's record fish, see <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/tiny/81>, contact any DNR Service Center or write to: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries Management, Record Fish Program - FH/4, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Wisconsin's Hook and Line Record Fish

(For a complete list contact any DNR office)

Species	Weight	Date caught	Location caught
Bass, Largemouth	11 lbs. 3 oz.	10/12/1940	Lake Ripley, Jefferson Co.
Bass, Smallmouth	9 lbs. 1 oz.	06/21/1950	Indian Lake, Oneida Co.
Bass, Rock	2 lbs. 15 oz.	06/02/1990	Shadow Lake, Waupaca Co.
Bass, Hybrid Striped	13 lbs. 14.2 oz.	03/16/2002	Lake Columbia, Columbia Co.
Bass (White)	5 lbs. 3.8 oz.	05/05/2019	Mississippi River, Vernon Co.
Bluegill	2 lbs. 9.8 oz.	08/02/1995	Green Bay, Brown Co.
Buffalo, Bigmouth	76 lbs. 8 oz.	06/21/2013	Petenwell Flowage, Adams Co.
Bullhead, Black	5 lbs. 8 oz.	09/02/1989	Big Falls Flowage, Rusk Co.
Bullhead, Brown	4 lbs. 2 oz.	07/07/2006	Little Green Lake, Green Lake Co.
Bullhead, Yellow	4 lbs. 5 oz.	08/06/2021	White Mound Lake, Sauk Co.
Carp, Common	57 lbs. 2 oz.	08/28/1966	Lake Wisconsin, Columbia Co.
Catfish, Channel	44 lbs. 0 oz.	1962	Wisconsin River, Columbia Co.
Catfish, Flathead	74 lbs. 5 oz.	03/30/2001	Mississippi River, Vernon Co.
Crappie, Black	4 lbs. 8 oz.	08/12/1967	Gile Flowage, Iron Co.
Crappie, White	3 lbs. 13.1 oz.	05/04/2003	Cranberry Marsh, Monroe Co.
Drum (Sheepshead)	35 lbs. 4 oz.	08/29/1992	Mississippi River, Crawford Co.
Muskellunge	69 lbs. 11 oz.	10/20/1949	Chippewa Flowage, Sawyer Co.
Muskellunge, Tiger	51 lbs. 3 oz.	07/16/1919	Lake Vieux Desert, Vilas Co.
Northern Pike	38 lbs. 0 oz.	08/06/1952	Lake Puckaway, Green Lake Co.
Perch, Yellow	3 lbs. 4 oz.	1954	Lake Winnebago, Winnebago Co.
Pumpkinseed	1 lb. 3.4 oz.	05/31/2020	Silver Lake, Washington Co.
Salmon, Coho	26 lbs. 1.9 oz.	08/21/1999	Lake Michigan, Milwaukee Co.
Salmon, Chinook	44 lbs. 15 oz.	07/19/1994	Lake Michigan, Door Co.
Sauger	6 lbs. 6.7 oz.	03/19/2009	Mississippi River, Pierce Co.
Sturgeon, Lake	170 lbs. 10 oz.	09/22/1979	Yellow Lake, Burnett Co.
Sturgeon, Shovelnose	7 lbs. 13.1 oz.	05/28/2017	Mississippi River, Vernon Co.
Trout, Brook (inland)	9 lbs. 15 oz.	09/02/1944	Prairie River, Lincoln Co.
Trout, Brook (outlying)	10 lbs. 1 oz.	06/08/1999	Lake Michigan, Ozaukee Co.
Trout, Brown (inland)	18 lbs. 6 oz.	05/07/1984	Geneva Lake, Walworth Co.
Trout, Brown (outlying)	41 lbs. 8 oz.	07/16/2010	Lake Michigan, Racine Co.
Trout, Lake (inland)	35 lbs. 4 oz.	06/01/1957	Green Lake, Green Lake Co.
Trout, Lake (outlying)	47 lbs. 0 oz.	09/09/1946	Lake Superior, Bayfield Co.
Trout, Rainbow (inland)	12 lbs. 3 oz.	06/15/2006	Elbow Lake, Marinette Co.
Trout, Rainbow (outlying)	27 lbs. 2 oz.	07/26/1997	Lake Michigan, Kewaunee Co.
Walleye	18 lbs. 0 oz.	09/16/1933	High Lake, Vilas Co.

Refuges, Fish

Occasionally, fish need additional protection during critical times of their lives. Fish refuges are one of the tools the DNR uses to provide this protection. Refuges are generally created to protect spawning fish or the nursery areas of developing fish. All refuges are posted with No Fishing signs from the DNR or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is illegal to enter or disturb, take, catch, capture, kill or fish for fish in any manner in a posted refuge. Some refuges are operated year round, while others restrict angler access seasonally. Anglers should contact their local fisheries biologist for more detailed information on refuges in their immediate area.

Residency, Establishing

You are eligible to obtain a resident license or a nonresident license at the resident fee if:

- immediately before applying for a license, you have maintained your permanent residence and have lived in Wisconsin for a period of 30 days. Ownership of property and payment of property tax do not alone establish residency. The location where the person votes, pays personal income taxes or obtains a driver's license are also factors that influence residency.
- you are 16-17 years old and have a parent that is a Wisconsin resident.
- you are a nonresident in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Maritime Service) and are either stationed in Wisconsin or were a Wisconsin resident when you joined the service.
- you are a full-time nonresident/ student in residence at any Wisconsin public or private college or university offering a degree.
- you are a citizen of a foreign country temporarily residing in the state while attending a Wisconsin high school or agricultural short course in the UW system.

Rough Fish

Rough fish may be taken by hand and hook and line. They may also be taken by spear and bow and arrow/crossbow in some counties (See separate [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#)). Rough fish includes suckers, (unless listed as threatened or endangered, page 17), common carp, invasive carp, goldfish, freshwater drum, burbot, bowfin, gar, sea lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, rainbow smelt and mooneye. It is illegal to fish by hook and line in a trout stream during the closed trout season. (See [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#)). Note: Unless posted otherwise, fish may be taken by hook and line and rough fish may be taken by hand year-round or by hand-held spear June 1 to Aug. 31 where spearing is allowed within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam. You may return rough fish taken by hand or hook and line to the water. Rough fish taken by spear or bow and arrow may not be returned to the water. Dispose of them properly; do not leave them on shore or on the ice. Invasive carp (e.g., bighead carp, black carp, silver carp and grass carp) can survive long periods out of the water, especially if placed on ice. Transportation restrictions on rough fish include:

- It is illegal to transport a live invasive carp unless in possession of a state permit from the DNR and a federal permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- A fish, even one held out of water that can be revived is considered a live fish (if put back into water, it will return to life) for the purposes of the rough and invasive fish transportation restrictions.

- To ensure that rough fish, including invasive carp and other invasive fish are dead and no longer capable of being revived, the fish must be eviscerated (entrails removed), the gills cut or some other similar action be taken to assure fish are dead before transporting them.

Tagged Fish And Tagging Fish

DNR fisheries biologists attach tags to fish for research purposes. If you catch a tagged fish, please notify the nearest DNR office with the tag number, when and where the fish was caught, its length and its weight. If you keep the fish, send in the tag. If you release it, leave the tag on the fish but be sure to record the tag number. By including your contact information, the biologist will be able to send back to you information about the tagged fish. It is illegal for anyone to catch, tag, mark or attach any object and release a fish without first obtaining authorization from the department. Go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/questions/taggedfish.html> for more information.

Tournament Permits

A permit is required from the DNR to hold a fishing tournament where the waters to be fished are identified by name, where participants compete for prizes and where any of the following apply:

- the tournament either involves 20 or more boats or 100 or more participants.
- the tournament includes any trout species on classified trout streams.
- the tournament is a catch-hold-release tournament with either the state-wide bass regulation of five fish per day and 14" minimum length limit or an off-site weigh-in.
- the tournament allows participants to cull largemouth and smallmouth bass.
- the total prize value is \$10,000 or greater.

Application fees must accompany applications and vary depending on the type of tournament and the amount of prizes being awarded. Details regarding application fees and other information on rules governing fishing tournaments can be found online at: dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/fishingtournaments/. Applications for holding a fishing tournament can also be submitted online. Results of the tournament must be reported on forms provided with the permit and returned to: DNR Fishing Tournaments, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Tournament Registration - All tournaments that do not require a permit are required to self-register to collect information on the number and types of small tournaments and participants across Wisconsin waters. More Information and a form are available on the DNR's fishing tournaments webpage.

Urban And Community Fishing

Urban fishing waters are small lakes and ponds under 25 acres that are intensively and cooperatively managed with a municipality. They are posted with signs, have special regulations and their shoreline is accessible to the public.

- The following urban waters have a continuous, year-round open season for all anglers, except for a special season from (March 14 - April 24, 2026; March 13 - April 23, 2027) during which only persons 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish. Regardless of season, the ponds have no length limits and have a daily bag limit of three trout, one gamefish (largemouth bass,

smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike) and 10 panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead).

Posted waters: **Brown County:** Village of Suamico - Unnamed Fishing Pond (44.61710 N, 88.06849 W) **Kenosha County:** Anderson Park, Bong Children's Pond, **Marinette County:** Unnamed Lake (T30N, R23E, S21). **Milwaukee County:** Brown Deer Park, Dineen Park, Estabrook Park, Franklin High School, Greenfield Park, Holler Park, Humboldt Park, Jackson Park, Juneau Park, Kosciuszko Park, McCarty Park, McGovern Park, Miller Park, Mitchell Park, Oak Creek Parkway, Saveland Park, Schoetz Park, Scout Lake, Sheridan Park, Washington Park, Wilson Park; **Outagamie County:** Appleton Memorial Pond; **Ozaukee County:** Harrington Beach Quarry, Mequon Rotary Park East and West, Pucketts Pond, Schowalter Park, Willow Brooke Park; **Racine County:** Gorney Park, Johnson Park, Lockwood Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake, Reservoir Park; **Rock County:** Lions Park Pond **Sheboygan County:** Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond, Sheboygan Quarry, Memorial Park, River Park Lagoon; **Vilas County:** Pipke Park Pond (T44 R6E S34); **Walworth County:** Ceylon Lagoon, Congdon Park, Millpond Park Pond; **Washington County:** Boot Lake, Hartford Millpond, Homestead Hollow Park, Kewaskum Millpond, Regner Pond, Sandy Knoll Park, Wells Lake, Wiedenbach Park Pond; **Waukesha County:** Calhoun Park, Delafield Rearing Pond, Foxbrook Pond, Heyer Park North and South, Lapham Peak Pond, Lepper Dam Millpond, Lions Park-Overland, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Muskego Park, Nixon Park, Regal Park and Woodfield North.

Current fish stocking and regulation information for southeastern waters is available from Feb. 15 - Nov. 15 on the 24-hour Urban Waters Fishing Hotline at 414/263-8494 or toll free at 1-888-FISH-LNE (1-888-347-4563).

• The following urban waters have a year-round season and no length limits. *Note: Only persons 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish these waters.* These waters have a daily bag limit of three trout, one gamefish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike) and 10 panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch and bullhead).

Posted waters: **Brown County:** Manger Lagoon - city of Green Bay; **Dane County:** Token Creek ponds, Syene ponds; **Langlade County:** Remington Lake; **Lincoln County:** Mirror Lake;

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, or VHS, is a serious fish disease that was found in Wisconsin in 2007. VHS is not a threat to human health, but it can affect a variety of Wisconsin fishes and cause large fish kills. To find out more about VHS and the current rules to minimize the spread of this deadly fish disease, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/vhs.

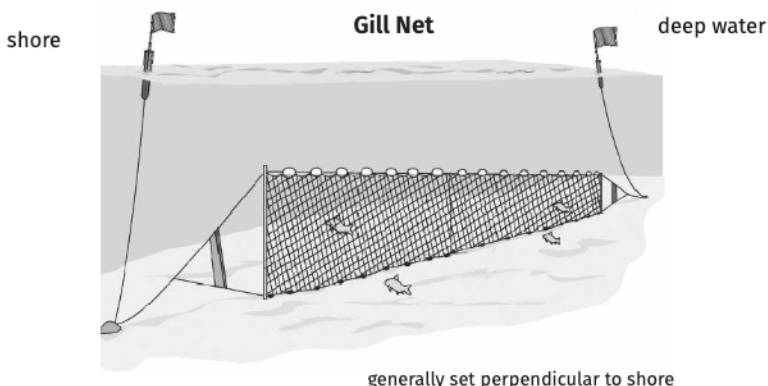
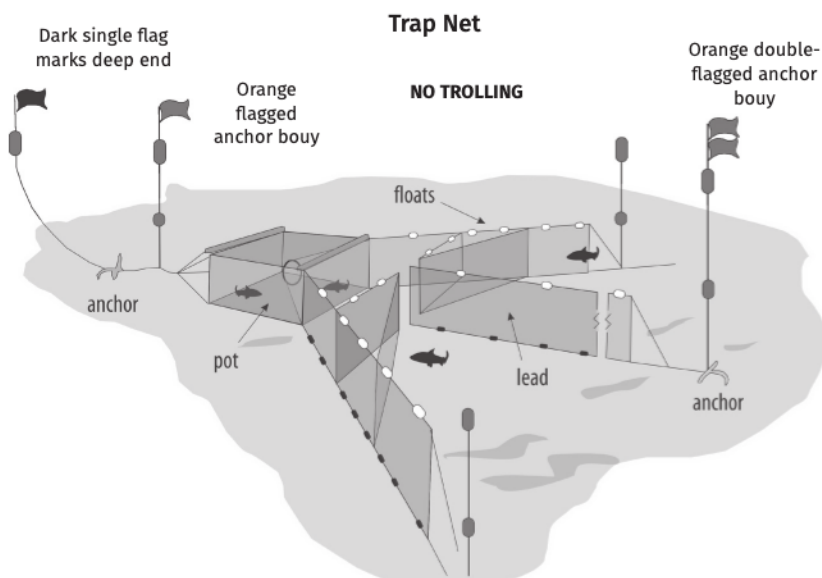
Warden Authority

Conservation wardens performing their duties may enter private land at any time. Wardens may also seize as evidence all fish taken or possessed in violation of the law, and any equipment used in connection with a violation. Wardens do not have the authority to enforce trespass laws.

Great Lakes And Mississippi River Commercial Fishing Nets

Anglers and boaters on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River may encounter commercial trap nets and gill nets. All state-licensed commercial gear are required to be marked with floats or staff/flag combinations. Anglers and boaters should give wide berth to any markers, since anchor lines may extend several hundred feet in any direction from the floats or flags and along the length of the gear. The diagrams below can assist sport anglers and boaters in avoiding entanglement of fishing gear or boat propellers.

Tampering with commercial fishing gear is illegal. Removal or destruction of marker buoys and flags or other disturbance of gear often results in the waste of a valuable resource, since the nets continue to catch fish. They also can create safety problems for others on the water.



Fish And Fishing Information

Online resources that will keep you up-to-date on Wisconsin fishing information.

Catch us online at:

www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing

Sign up for management updates:

www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing

Find fish on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WIDNR

Follow us on Instagram:

www.instagram.com/wi_dnr

Watch us on Youtube:

www.youtube.com/user/WIDNRTV

Identify your fish at:

www.seagrant.wisc.edu/fishid

Find places to fish at:

www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishingfinder

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

Special Regulations—Listed By County

Remember: These regulations apply in addition to the statewide general regulations. Trout regulations are covered in the annual *Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations*.

★ identifies a quality fishing opportunity.

Great Lakes, Tributaries, Winnebago System Waters and Boundary Waters—see pages 74–95.

ADAMS

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Amey Pond:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- **Arrowhead Lake:** The bag limit on panfish is 10 in total. Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- **Camelot Lake:** The bag limit on panfish is 10 in total. Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- **Crooked Lake:** The bag limit on panfish is 10 in total. Two northern pike may be kept, except pike between 25–35" may not be kept.
- **Jordan Lake:** Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- **Mason Lake:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- **Parker Lake:** Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18". Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill. Five northern pike may be kept, except pike between 25–35" may not be kept.
- **Peppermill Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Sherwood Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, except all bass between 14–18" must be released and only one may be longer than 18".
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages and sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Only walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28". Muskellunge must be at least 50".

ASHLAND

Ashland County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone](#) rules apply (see the base regulations on page 12).

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Tributaries to Lake Superior:** Three walleye may be kept. Other tributary regulations for walleye and northern pike can be found in the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- **Beaver Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Butternut Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Day Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **East Twin Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **English Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Flambeau River, North Fork (from Upper Park Falls Flowage Dam in Price County upstream to the fish refuge below the Turtle-Flambeau Dam in Iron County):** Walleye 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ★ **Kakagon River and Slough:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 22".
- ★ **Lake Galilee:** The bag limit on panfish is 10 in total.
- **Lake Superior:** See the Lake Superior regulations on page 91.
- ★ **Lake Three:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Little Clam Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Mineral Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Potter Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Spider/Moquah Chain (combined):** Walleye must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Spillerberg Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Upper Park Falls Flowage:** Walleye 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".

BARRON

Barron County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Bear Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Beaver Dam Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Chetek Chain of Lakes (Prairie, Chetek, Pokegama, Mud and Ten Mile Lakes):** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Dummy Lake, Big:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Dummy Lake, Little:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Horseshoe Lake (T34N R14W):** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".

- **Horseshoe Lake (T36N R14E):** Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Rice Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Staples Lake:** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- ★ **Stump Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Turtle Lake, Lower:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Turtle Lake, Upper:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".

BAYFIELD

Bayfield County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone](#) rules apply (see base regulation on page 12).

- **Tributaries to Lake Superior:** Tributary regulations for walleye and northern pike can be found in the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- ★ **Atkins Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Bladder Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Bony Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, except fish from 14" to 18" may not be kept and only one fish over 18" may be kept.
- ★ **Cable Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Combined management with Wiley Lake: only one bass in total from both lakes.
- ★ **Diamond Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- ★ **Eau Claire Lake, Lower:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Eau Claire Lake, Middle:** Walleye of any length may be kept, except fish from 14" to 18" may not be kept and only one fish over 18" may be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Eau Claire Lake, Upper:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Inch Lake:** Artificial lures only. Fish may not be harvested (catch and release only).
- **Lake Owen:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Namekagon Lake (including Jackson and Garden lakes):** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Pigeon Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".

🐟 Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ★ **Pike Lake Chain (includes Buskey Bay, Millicent, Hart, Twin Bear, Eagle, Flynn and McCarry lakes combined):** Only one walleye may be kept and it must be at least 18", except fish from 22" to 28" may not be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. One smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Sawdust Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Superior:** See the Lake Superior regulations on page 91.
- ★ **Wiley Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Combined management with Cable Lake: only one bass in total from both lakes.

BROWN

The daily bag limit on catfish is 25, countywide. A portion of Brown County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Fox River:** Upstream to the De Pere Dam is considered part of Lake Michigan. [See the Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88. From the dam at De Pere upstream is considered inland water. ➤ Muskellunge must be at least 50". From the De Pere Dam upstream, walleye, sauger and their hybrids of any length may be kept and there is a continuous open season. Below the DePere Dam, a fish refuge season is in effect from March 1 until May 31.
- **Green Bay:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Lilly Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Manger Lagoon:** Is an [urban fishing water](#). See regulation details on pages 26-27.
- **Tributary Streams to Green Bay:** See the tributary streams regulations on page 83.

BUFFALO

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Chippewa River upstream from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Bridge** (includes tributaries of the river from their mouths up to the first road or railroad bridge) ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Mississippi River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#): See page 77 for those regulations.

BURNETT

Burnett County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). A portion of Burnett County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

Countywide: With the exceptions below, there is no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Burnett County (including all lakes and flowages that are border waters between Burnett and Polk counties).

- **Big McKenzie Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Dunham Lake:** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Middle McKenzie Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Namekagon River:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- ★ **Namekagon River from the Trego Dam to the confluence with the St. Croix River:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".

- **St. Croix River (including flowages):** Where the St. Croix River forms the boundary between [Wisconsin and Minnesota](#), [boundary water regulations](#) apply. See those regulations on page 77. Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- **Totagatic River:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- **Webb Lake:** Is included in the [Southern Bass Management Zone](#) (see page 12).

CALUMET

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Lake Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Winnebago:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.

CHIPPEWA

Chippewa County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). A portion of Chippewa County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

★ **Chippewa River** (each of the following river segments or flowage is treated as a separate water and the regulations extend upstream on tributaries to the first dam or lake):

- ✓ **Dells Pond in Eau Claire County upstream to Chippewa Falls Flowage Dam:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ✓ **Chippewa Falls Flowage Dam upstream to Lake Wissota Dam:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ✓ **Lake Wissota upstream to Old Abe Flowage Dam in Jim Falls, including the Yellow River upstream to Svetlik Dam at Cadott:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ✓ **Old Abe Flowage upstream to Cornell Flowage Dam:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ✓ **Cornell Flowage upstream to Lake Holcombe Dam:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ✓ **Lake Holcombe upstream to the Arpin dam in Sawyer County, including the Flambeau river upstream to the Thornapple flowage dam in Rusk County:** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ✓ **Lake Holcombe including the Chippewa River upstream to the confluence with the Flambeau River, to the mouth of Main Creek, and to the mouth of the Jump River:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Cornell Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Hodge Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

🐟 Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Island Chain of Lakes (Chain, Clear, Island and McCann combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be over 18".
- **Jump River (includes tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam or lake):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- ★ **Long Lake (T32N, R8W) including Dark and Herde lakes:** Walleye must be over 18". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Pike Lake:** Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **Round Lake:** Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **Sand Lake:** Walleye must be over 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.

CLARK

Clark County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Lake Arbutus (including Black River up to STH 95; East Fork of Black River to E Fork Road and Arnold Creek upstream to Bachelors Ave.):** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Sherwood Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

COLUMBIA

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Baraboo River:** ➤
- **Columbia Lake:** ➤ The daily bag limit on catfish is 10. Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Crawfish River (including impoundments and sloughs):** ➤
- **Fox River (downstream from the west highway crossing of Highway 33 at Portage):** ➤
- **Lazy Lake:** ➤ Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Long Lake:** ➤
- **Park Lake (including the Fox River upstream to Highway 33):** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including Lake WI and sloughs, bayous (Okee Bay, Whalen's Grade), flowages and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Muskellunge must be at least 50". The daily bag limit on catfish is 10. The season for catfish is open all year except from the Prairie du Sac Dam downstream to the Highway 12 bridge, where the open season is May 2 through Nov. 30. From the Wisconsin Dells Dam upstream, only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Upstream from the Prairie du Sac Dam, walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" and only one over 28" may be kept. Below the Prairie du Sac Dam, walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15".

CRAWFORD

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Mississippi River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters](#). See regulations on page 81.
- **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, flowages, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ The open season includes tributaries upstream to the first highway bridge. Only 10 catfish may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15" and the daily bag limit is three in total.

DANE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Bellevue:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Busseyville (Koshkonong) Creek downstream from County Highway B:** ➤ Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Fish Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Indian Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Kegonsa (including Yahara River from Fish Camp up to Babcock Locks and Lower Mud Lake):** See the statewide regulations beginning on page 71.
- **Lake Koshkonong:** ➤ Walleye or sauger must be at least 18".
- ★ **Lake Mendota including Sixmile Creek (downstream from Highway 19 in Section 8), Pheasant Branch Creek (downstream from Highway M), Yahara River (downstream from Highway 19), Cherokee Lake, and Warner Park Lagoons:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 40". Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18".
- ★ **Lake Monona (including Yahara River up to Tenney Locks and down to Hwy 12/18 bridge, Starkweather and Wingra creeks):** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Mud Lake (NW corner of Dane County, west of Fish Lake; S3&4,T9N,R7E):** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Lake Waubesa (including Yahara River from Hwy 12/18 bridge down to Babcock Locks, Nine Springs Creek, Swan Creek and Upper Mud Lake):** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Lake Wingra:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, flowages, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Upstream of the Highway 12 bridge, muskellunge must be at least 50". The open season includes tributaries upstream to the first highway bridge. The season for catfish is open all year except from the Prairie du Sac Dam downstream to the Highway 12 bridge, where the open season for catfish is May 3 through Nov. 30. Walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15".

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

DODGE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Beaver Dam Lake (including Beaver Creek, Mill Creek and all tributaries):** Walleye must be over 18".
- **Beaver Dam River (downstream from the dam in the city of Beaver Dam):** ➡
- **Crawfish River:** ➡
- ★ **Fox Lake and its tributaries and connected open waters:** Walleye must be at least 18". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- **Lake Emily:** Only two northern pike may be kept and pike from 25-35" must be released. Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Sinissippi:** ➡
- **Lost Lake:** ➡
- **Rock River (designated shore fishing locations only within the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge):** ➡ Note: The refuge does not allow sinkers or lures containing lead.
- **Rubicon River:** ➡
- **Wildcat Creek:** ➡

DOOR

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). Door County inland waters are in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

- **Clark Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Kangaroo Lake:** Walleye must be over 18".
- **Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Mink River:** Fish refuge (season closure) downstream to the mouth at Rowley Bay from the First Sunday in March through June 15.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan and Green Bay:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.

DOUGLAS

Douglas County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). For lakes and flowages also partially in Burnett and Washburn counties, largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Douglas County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

- **Tributaries to Lake Superior:** Three walleye may be kept. Other tributary regulations for walleye and northern pike can be found in the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- ★ **Amnicon Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Allouez Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- ★ **Bond Lake:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Eau Claire Lake, Lower:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".

- ★ **Kimballs Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- ★ **Lake Nebagamon:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Lake Superior (excluding Allouez Bay, Little Pokegama Bay, Pokegama Bay, and Kimballs Bay):** See the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- ★ **Little Pokegama Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Minong Flowage (upstream to and including Cranberry Lake):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Nemadji River:** The muskellunge season is open from May 23 through Dec. 31 (on open water only). Muskellunge must be at least 50". The northern pike season is from May 9 through March 1, and there is a daily bag limit of 2. Walleye and sauger season is open May 9 through March 1 with a minimum length of 15" and a daily bag limit of 2. The bass season is open from May 23 through March 7. Five bass may be kept and they must be at least 12". Lake sturgeon may be caught and released from June 16 to April 14.
- ★ **Pokegama Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- ★ **Red Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **St. Louis Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **St. Louis River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Superior Bay:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- ★ **Upper St. Croix Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Whitefish Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".

DUNN

Dunn County is partially in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Chippewa River (includes tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first road or railroad bridge):** ➡
- **Colfax Gravel Pond:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Dunnville Bottoms:** ➡
- **Eau Galle River (downstream from Lake Eau Galle):** ➡
- **Lake Menomin (including the Red Cedar River upstream from the Lake Menomin Dam to the Cedar Falls Dam:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Red Cedar River (from the Chippewa River to Lake Menomin):** ➡
- **Tainter Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

➡ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

EAU CLAIRE

Eau Claire County is partially in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Altoona Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Chippewa River upstream from the Dells Pond Dam, including Dells Pond upstream to the Chippewa Falls Flowage Dam (includes tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam or lake):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released and only one may be over 24".
- **Chippewa River downstream of the Dells Pond Dam (includes all tributaries of the river from their mouths upstream to the first road or railroad bridge):** ➤ Walleye must be at least 15".
- **Eau Claire, Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Eau Claire River** (each of the following river segments or flowage is treated as a separate water):
 - ✓ **Eau Claire River (from the Altoona Lake Dam downstream):** ➤ Walleye must be at least 15".
 - ✓ **Altoona Lake upstream to the Lake Eau Claire Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
 - ✓ **Lake Eau Claire Dam upstream:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Half Moon Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".

FLORENCE

Florence County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Florence County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see the base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (one hook, bait or lure per person; three lines maximum per boat).

- **Brule River (and its flowages):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on either page 74 or consult the [Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027](#).
- **Cosgrove and Little Cosgrove lakes:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- ★ **Ellwood, Lake:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 40".
- **Halsey Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- ★ **Keyes Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **Menominee River (and its flowages):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **Sea Lion Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".

FOND DU LAC

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on Lake Winnebago system waters (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Fond du Lac River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Forest Lake:** Catch and release only for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike.
- **Kettle Moraine Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Long Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Mullet Lake:** ➤ Walleye of any length may be kept.
- **Rock River:** ➤ Walleye of any length may be kept.
- **Tittle Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Winnebago, Lake:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Wolf Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.

FOREST

Forest County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone](#) rules apply (see page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Brule River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on either page 74 or consult the [Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026–2027](#).
- **Butternut Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Crane Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Franklin Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- ★ **Hilbert Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Julia Lake (S12, T38N, R11E):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish may be over 14". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Jungle Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Kentuck Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five may be perch. Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Lake Lucerne:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Luna Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **McKinley Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Pickereel Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Roberts Lake:** Five bass of any length may be kept.
- **Stevens Lake:** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ★ **Trump Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Wabikon/Riley Lakes:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **White Deer Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".

GRANT

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Mississippi River:** For [Wisconsin-Iowa boundary water regulations](#), see page 81.
- **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, flowages and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ The open season includes tributaries upstream to the first highway bridge. Walleye must be at least 18" and sauger and hybrids must be at least 15".

GREEN

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Pecatonica River:** ➤

GREEN LAKE

Countywide catfish regulations follow those of the [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Fox River (below the first dam upstream from Princeton):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Fox River (above the first dam upstream from Princeton):** ➤ Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except fish from 25" to 35" may not be kept
- **Green Lake, Big:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Green Lake, Little:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Maria:** ➤ Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- ★ **Lake Puckaway:** ➤ Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except fish from 25" to 35" may not be kept.
- **Puckyan River:** See Winnebago system waters regulations on page 94.

IOWA

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Blackhawk Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Cox Hollow Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Twin Valley Lake:** Walleye, sauger or hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Pecatonica River (East Branch-downstream from the bridge at STH 39—1/2 mile east of Hollandale):** ➤
- **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, flowages, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ The open season includes tributaries upstream to the first highway bridge. Walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15".

IRON

Iron County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (one hook, bait or lure per person; three lines maximum per boat). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone](#) rules apply (see page 12).

- **Tributaries to Lake Superior:** Three walleye may be kept. Other tributary regulations for walleye and northern pike can be found in the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- **Bear River:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept.
- **Bearskull Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Evelyn Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Flambeau River (above Turtle Flambeau Flowage):** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept.
- **Flambeau River, North Fork (from Upper Park Falls Flowage Dam in Price County upstream to the fish refuge below the Turtle-Flambeau Dam in Iron County):** Walleye 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ★ **Gile Flowage:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept and crappies must be at least 10". Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Grand Portage:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Island Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Superior:** See the [Lake Superior regulations](#) on page 91.
- **Manitowish River upstream of the Flambeau River to the Rest Lake Dam (including Benson, Sturgeon and Vance lakes):** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept.
- **McDermott Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Mercer Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Montreal River (upstream from Superior Falls along the Michigan boundary):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Montreal River (West Branch):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **O'Brien Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **One Man Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Owl Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Pine Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Sherman Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Spider Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Trude Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept. Crappie must be at least 10". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ★ **Turtle/Flambeau Flowage:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept. Crappie must be at least 10". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **Turtle River, Little:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept.
- ★ **Wilson Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 12" and greater than 16" may be kept.

JACKSON

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Lake Arbutus (including Black River up to STH 95; East Fork of Black River to E Fork Road and Arnold Creek upstream to Bachelors Ave.):** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Black River (downstream of the dam in Black River Falls including tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam):** ➤
- **Buffalo River (including tributaries):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Trempealeau River (including tributaries):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Lake Wazee:** Only two bass and two walleye may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept.

JEFFERSON

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Bark River (from the mouth upstream to the former Hebron Dam at Highway 106):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Bark River (all other areas):** ➤
- **Bean Lake:** ➤
- **Busseyville (Koshkonong) Creek (from the mouth upstream to County Highway B):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Crawfish River (from the mouth upstream to and including the Highway 19 bridge):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Crawfish River (all other areas):** ➤
- **Golden Lake:** Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Goose Lake:** ➤
- **Hahns Lake:** ➤
- **Lake Koshkonong (and connected tributaries upstream to the first dam unless otherwise listed):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Mud Lake (at Koshkonong):** ➤
- **Red Cedar Lake:** ➤
- **Rock River (from the Indianford Dam upstream to the lower Watertown Dam) and connected tributaries (upstream to the first dam unless otherwise listed):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Rock River (all other areas):** ➤
- **Scuppernong River (downstream from the dam at Palmyra):** ➤
- **Waterloo Creek (Mauneshia River) downstream from the former Malthouse Dam):** ➤

JUNEAU

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lemonweir River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge, except the western boundary of the Wisconsin River on Lake Petenwell is County Highway G):** ➤ Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Only walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- **Yellow River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".

KENOSHA

Certain waters in Kenosha County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".

★ **Fox River:** ➤

- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.
- **Silver Lake:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Vern Wolf Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

KEWAUNEE

A portion of Kewaunee County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Green Bay and Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.

LA CROSSE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Black River (including tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam):** ➤.
- **La Crosse River (downstream from the Lake Neshonoc Dam including sloughs and bayous upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤
- **Mississippi River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

LAFAYETTE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Pecatonica River (entire East Branch and the West Branch from the US Highway 151 bridge downstream, and from the junction of the East and West branches downstream):** ➤
- **Yellowstone River (downstream from the Yellowstone Lake Dam):** ➤
- ★ **Yellowstone Lake (including the Yellowstone River from the lake upstream to County Highway F):** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye, sauger, and their hybrids between 15" and 18" and largemouth and smallmouth bass between 12" and 15" may be kept with a daily combined bag limit of two fish in total.

LANGLADE

Langlade County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). A portion of Langlade County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Big Twin Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Crooked Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Crystal Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **Dynamite Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Greater Bass Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Horseshoe Lake (T33N R10E S17):** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Jessie Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Krause Springs:** The season on largemouth and smallmouth bass is from May 2 to Oct. 15, bass of any length may be kept and the daily bag limit is five in total.
- **Little Partridge Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Long Lake (T33N R10E S35):** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **McGee Lake:** There is an artificial lure only season on largemouth and smallmouth bass from May 2 to Oct. 15, bass of any length may be kept and the daily bag limit is five in total. Bass season is closed during the closed trout season.
- **Mary Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **Meyer Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **Moose Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept..
- **Mueller Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Partridge Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Pence Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Pickerel Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Post Lake (Lower and Upper):** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Rabe Lake:** The season on largemouth and smallmouth bass is from May 3 to Oct. 15, bass of any length may be kept and the daily bag limit is five in total.
- **Remington Lake:** Is an [urban fishing water](#). See regulation details on pages 26-27.
- **Rogers Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Rolling Stone Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Rose Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Saddlebag Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Saul Springs:** The season on largemouth and smallmouth bass is from May 3 to Oct. 15, bass of any length may be kept and the daily bag limit is five in total.

- **Sawyer Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 12" and greater than 16" may be kept.
- **Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6):** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **White Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill

LINCOLN

Lincoln County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). A portion of Lincoln County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Ament Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Bass Lake (Bass and Long Lake Chain):** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Crystal Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill
- **Deer Lake (including Bridge Lake, Lake Nokomis and Rice River Flowage combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Echo Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill
- **Henson Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Hilderbrand Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill
- **Hilts Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill
- **Lake Nokomis/Rice Reservoir Chain (including Bridge Lake, Deer Lake, Lake Nokomis and Rice River Flowage combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Larson Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Long Lake (Bass and Long Lake Chain):** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Mirror Lake:** Is an urban fishing water. See regulation details on pages 26-27.
- **Moraine Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Muskellunge Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Pesobic Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill.
- **Tahoe Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Wisconsin River - waters in order from north to south in county** - (each of the following river segment, flowage, impoundment or chain is treated as a separate water and within each segment the Wisconsin River includes sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream to the first dam, highway bridge or railroad bridge):
 - ✓ **Lake Alice from Kings Dam upstream to Hat Rapids Dam:** The open season for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger and their hybrids is from May 2, 2026 through March 7, 2027. [Northern Bass Zone rules](#) apply (see page 12).
 - ✓ **Lake Mohawksin from Pride Dam upstream to Kings Dam:** ➤ *Please note: The boundary of the Wisconsin and Somo rivers is the Tomahawk Railway Railroad Bridge on the west side of Lake Mohawksin. The boundary of the Wisconsin and Tomahawk rivers is the Canadian National Railroad Bridge nearest Baymill Road.*

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ✓ **Grandmother Flowage from Grandmother Dam upstream to Pride Dam:** ➤ *Please note: The boundary of the Wisconsin and Spirit rivers is the confluence of the Spirit River 1.25 miles downstream from the Spirit River Flowage Dam.*
- ✓ **Grandfather Flowage from Grandfather Dam upstream to Grandmother Dam:** ➤
- ✓ **Lake Alexander from Alexander Dam upstream to Grandfather Dam:** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ✓ **Merrill Flowage from Merrill Dam upstream to Alexander Dam:** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ✓ **Wisconsin River from Wausau Dam in Marathon County upstream to the Merrill Dam:** ➤ Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".

MANITOWOC

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Bullhead Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Cedar Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill. Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except that pike from 25" to 35" must be released.
- **English Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be bluegill
- **Harpt Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five may be perch.
- **Long Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but no more than five may be bluegill.
- **Pigeon Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Manitowoc River:** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Silver Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.
- **Wilke Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18". Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except that pike from 25" to 35" must be released.

MARATHON

Marathon County is partially in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Big Bass Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Big Eau Pleine Reservoir:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
 - ✓ **Big Eau Pleine Reservoir (upstream to the East Highway 153 bridge):** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
 - ✓ **Big Eau Pleine Reservoir (upstream from Dam Road):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ★ **Big Rib River (upstream of I-39 northbound lane):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Eau Claire River (downstream from the Schofield Dam):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Johnson Creek (upstream of I-39 southbound lane):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".

- **Lake DuBay (from the Lake DuBay Dam upstream to the Mosinee Dam including all sloughs, bayous, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** Only 10 panfish may be kept
- ★ **Little Eau Claire River (upstream of I-39 southbound lane):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Little Eau Pleine River (upstream from State Highway 34):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- **Mission Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Mud Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Norrie Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Peplin Creek (upstream of I-39 southbound lane):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- **Wadley Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Wisconsin River (downstream of the hydro dam in Merrill including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages up to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28". *Please note: The eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and Peplin and Johnson creeks and the Little Eau Claire River at Lake DuBay is the southbound lane of I-39.*
- ★ **Wisconsin River (from the Lake DuBay Dam upstream to the hydro dam in Merrill including Lake DuBay, Mosinee Flowage, Half Moon Lake, Lake Wausau, Wausau Dam Lake, and all sloughs, bayous, flowages and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Muskellunge must be at least 50".

MARINETTE

A portion of Marinette County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). and in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12) Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Caldron Falls:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but no more than 10 of any one species.
- **Eagle Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Green Bay:** Is part of [Lake Michigan](#)—See the regulations on page 88.
- ★ **High Falls:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Hilbert Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Newton Lake, Big:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Newton Lake, Little:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Tributaries to Green Bay:** See the tributary regulations on page 83.
- **Menominee River (and its flowages):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Oneonta Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Peshtigo Flowage (Peshtigo Dam to the Potato Rapids Dam):** [Northern Bass Zone regulations](#) apply (see page 12).
- **Thunder Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Unnamed Lake (T30N, R23E, S21):** Is an urban fishing water. See those regulations on page 27.

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

MARQUETTE

Countywide catfish regulations follow those of the [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Buffalo Lake:** ➡
- **Fox River:** ➡
- **Grand River (from the Grand River wildlife area dam downstream to the Fox River):** ➡ Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except pike from 25"-35" must be released.
- **Mason Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- **Puckaway Lake (including the Fox River from the Princeton Dam to the Fox River Dam and Montello River Dam in Montello):** Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except pike from 25"-35" must be released.
- **Sharon Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Tuttle Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **White Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Wood Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike of any length may be kept, except pike from 25"-35" must be released. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **White River System (from Neshkoro Millpond upstream including Neshkoro Millpond, Lower White River Flowage, West Branch Millpond, and Wautoma Pond):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.

MENOMINEE

Menominee County is a Native American reservation. Find out about tribal policies at tribal headquarters. State laws apply to non-Native Americans fishing on the Menominee Reservation. All waters are closed to hook and line sturgeon fishing. Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

MILWAUKEE

Certain waters in Milwaukee County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.

MONROE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Black River (including tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam):** ➡
- **East Fork Lemonweir River (upstream to the Highway 173 bridge):** ➡ Only walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".

- **Fort McCoy US Army Installation:** A Fort McCoy fishing permit approval is required with a Wisconsin fishing license and trout stamp when fishing for trout. For more information regarding Fort McCoy fishing and Fort McCoy fishing policy and regulations please contact the Directorate of Public Works; IMMC-PWE-N/Permit Sales; 2171 South 8th Avenue; Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5136, (phone 608-388-3337), or visit the website at <https://mccoy.sportsman.net/fishing.aspx>
- ★ **Lake Tomah:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 40".
- **Lemonweir River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first water control structure, dam, or highway bridge):** Only walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- **South Fork Lemonweir River (upstream to the Tomah Dam):** ➡ Only walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".

OCONTO

A portion of Oconto County is in the [ceded territory](#) and the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see page 12 for additional information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Anderson Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Archibald Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Bass Lake (T32N, R15E, S9):** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Bear Lake (including Bear and Munger lakes combined):** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Boot Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Caldron Falls:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but no more than 10 of any one species.
- **Chain Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Crooked Lake (Bass and Gilkey lakes combined):** Walleye must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Green Bay:** Is part of [Lake Michigan](#). See the regulations on page 88.
- **John Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Kelly Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Tributaries to Green Bay:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.
- **Maiden Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Munger Lake (including Munger and Bear lakes combined):** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Paya Lake:** Five smallmouth and largemouth bass may be kept. Smallmouth bass must be at least 14". Largemouth bass between 14-18" may not be kept and only one over 18" may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Reservoir Pond (including Horn, Explosion and Little Horn lakes combined):** Walleye must be at least 18". Three walleye may be kept per day from these lakes combined.
- **Rost Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Surprise Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Townsend Flowage:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Waubee Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Wescott Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Wheeler Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18". Five largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.

➡ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **White Potato Lake:** Five largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept (largemouth of any length, smallmouth must be at least 14").

ONEIDA

Oneida County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone](#) rules apply (see page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (one hook, bait or lure per person; three lines maximum per boat).

- **Amber Lake (formerly Squaw Lake):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Bearskin Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Bird Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Booth Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Burrows Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Clear Lake (S16, T39N, R7E):** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one walleye may be kept, and it must be at least 18" but walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept.
- **Cranberry Lake (Eagle Chain - see Vilas Co):** Only walleye and sauger less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- ★ **Crescent Lake (near Rhinelander):** Only one walleye may be kept, and it must be at least 18" but walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Diamond Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **George Lake:** Only one walleye may be kept, and it must be at least 18" but walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept.
- **Hasbrook Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Katherine Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one walleye may be kept, and it must be at least 18" but walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept.
- **Julia Lake (Three Lakes Area; S6, T38N, R12E):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Julia Lake (near Rhinelander, S12, T36N R08E):** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Lake Nokomis/Rice Reservoir Chain (including Bridge Lake, Deer Lake, Lake Nokomis and Rice River Flowage combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Maple Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Mercer Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Minocqua Chain (and connecting waters, including Jerome, Kawaguesaga, Little Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua, Mud and Tomahawk lakes):** Only one walleye may be kept, and it must be at least 18" but walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **North Nokomis Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- ★ **Oneida Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".

- ★ **Pelican Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Rainbow Flowage:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Shishebogama Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Twenty-five panfish of any length may be kept, except five or fewer can be bluegill and pumpkinseed over 7". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **Squash Lake (T36N, R7E, S24):** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Squirrel Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Stella Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Three Lakes Chain (including Big, Big Fork, Big Stone, Mud, (Crystal), Deer, Dog, Fourmile, Island, Laurel, Little Fork, Long, Medicine, Moccasin, Planting Ground, Rangeline, Round, Spirit, Townline, Virgin and Whitefish lakes and connecting waters combined):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Thunder Lake (T38N, R10E):** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Two Sisters Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Willow Flowage:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Wisconsin River** (each of the following river segment, flowage, impoundment, or chain is treated as a separate water and within each segment the Wisconsin River includes sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam, highway bridge, or railroad bridge):
 - ✓ **Otter Rapids Dam (in Vilas county) downstream to Rainbow Flowage:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Rainbow Flowage (south of Wilderness Trail in Vilas County downstream to Rainbow Dam):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Rainbow Dam downstream to Rhinelander Flowage:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Boom-Rhinelander Chain (includes Rhinelander Flowage from Bridge Road downstream to St Regis Dam, Boom Lake, Bass Lake, Thunder lake and Lake Creek upstream to Forest Lane, combined):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
 - ✓ **Rhinelander Dam downstream to Hat Rapids Flowage:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Hat Rapids Flowage (from upstream bank of Pelican River mouth) downstream to Hat Rapids Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Hat Rapids Dam downstream to Kings Dam in Lincoln County (including Lake Alice):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

OUTAGAMIE

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Embarrass River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Fox River (from Appleton Lock 1 downstream to De Pere Dam):** ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye, sauger, and their hybrids of any length may be kept.
- **Fox River (from Appleton Lock 1 upstream to Neenah-Menasha dams (Winnebago County), including Little Lake Butte des Morts, its tributaries, backwaters and sloughs, Mud Creek and Neenah Slough)** ➤ There is a continuous open season on largemouth and smallmouth bass. The open season on northern pike is May 2, 2026 through March 7, 2027. Only two northern pike may be kept, and pike between 25-35" must be released. Walleye, sauger and their hybrids of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Shiow River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Wolf River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.

OZAUKEE

Certain waters in Ozaukee County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.

PEPIN

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Chippewa River upstream of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad bridge (includes tributaries upstream to the first road or railroad bridge):** ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Eau Galle River:** ➤
- **Lake Pepin:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Mississippi River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.

PIERCE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake George:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept.
- **Mississippi River (including Lake Pepin):** From its confluence with the St. Croix River downstream, is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Nugget Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass under 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **St. Croix River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.

POLK

Polk County is in the ceded territory (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). *Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept in all waters that are border waters between Burnett and Polk counties.*

- **Balsam Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Bear Trap Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Big Butternut Lake:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Big Round Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Bone Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Cedar Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Deer Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Half Moon Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Horseshoe Lake (T34N R15W):** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- ★ **Largon Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Long Lake (T34N R17W S6, S7):** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Loveless Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Pipe and North Pipe lakes:** Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept, but only one may be a smallmouth bass and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **St. Croix River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Wapogasset Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Ward Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".

PORTAGE

With the exceptions below, northern pike regulations follow the northern pike management zones (see page 13). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Bass Lake:** ➡
- **Collins Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Emily Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Jacqueline (Glisezinski) Lake:** One largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and they must be at least 18". One northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- **Jordan Pond:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".

➡ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Lake DuBay (from the Lake DuBay Dam upstream to the Mosinee Dam including all sloughs, bayous, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Helen:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lime Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Little Eau Claire River:** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Little Eau Pleine Flowage and River (upstream of State Highway 34):** Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28". Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **McDill Pond:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Mill Creek:** ➡
- **Pleasant Lake:** ➡
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➡ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28". Five northern pike of any length may be kept on Lake DuBay. Downstream from the Lake DuBay Dam, only one northern pike at least 32" may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50". From the Stevens Point Flowage Dam to the AlTech Park spillway, only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". *Please note: The eastern boundary of the Wisconsin River and the Little Eau Claire River at Lake DuBay is the southbound lane of I-39.*

PRICE

Price County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). With the exceptions below, [Northern Bass Zone rules](#) apply (see page 12).

- **Bass Lake (T40N, R2W, S15—West of Park Falls):** Walleye of any length may be kept.
- **Butternut Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Cochran Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Cranberry Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Elk River and its impoundments, sloughs and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake** (each of the following river segments is treated as a separate water):
 - ✓ **Elk river upstream from the Lac Sault Dore Dam (including Lac Sault Dore (Soo Lake) and Grassy Lake) to Jobs Dam:** Walleye 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Elk river upstream from Jobs Dam to Musser Flowage Dam (including Phillips Chain of lakes: Duroy, Elk, Long, Wilson lakes, and connecting waters):** Walleye 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Elk River upstream from Musser Flowage Dam (including Musser Flowage):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Flambeau River and its impoundments, sloughs and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake** (each of the following river segments or flowage is treated as a separate water):
 - ✓ **Upper Park Falls Flowage Dam upstream to the fish refuge below the Turtle-Flambeau Dam in Iron County:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Lower Park Falls Flowage Dam upstream to the fish refuge below the Upper Park Falls Flowage Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".

- ✓ **Pixley Flowage Dam upstream to Lower Park Falls Flowage Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ✓ **Crowley Flowage Dam upstream to Pixley Flowage Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ✓ **Big Falls Flowage Dam in Rusk County (Flambeau river) upstream to Crowley Flowage Dam (North Fork Flambeau river):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Flambeau River, South Fork 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):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Jump River (and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released, and only one may be over 24".
- **Newman Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Pike Lake Chain (includes Pike, Round, Turner, Amik lakes and connecting waters combined):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Motor trolling is allowed with three hooks, baits or lures per person in Pike, Round, Turner and Amik lakes.
- **Riley Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Sailor Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Solberg Lake (including tributaries up to the first dam or lake):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- **Twin Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Wilson Flowage (in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest east of Phillips):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept, except pike from 25"-35" must be released.

RACINE

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). Certain waters in Racine County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27).

Countywide: Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".

- **Browns Lake:** Five northern pike of any size may be kept. Largemouth bass must be at least 16".
- ★ **Eagle Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 22". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 40".
- ★ **Fox River (downstream from the dam at Waterford):** ➤
- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.
- **Rockland Lake:** Largemouth bass less than 12" and greater than 16" may be kept.
- **White River (downstream from the Burlington Dam):** ➤

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

RICHLAND

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lee Lake:** Walleye, sauger, or their hybrids must be at least 18"
- **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, flowages, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ The open season includes tributaries upstream to the first highway bridge. Walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15".

ROCK

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Lake Koshkonong (and connected tributaries upstream to the first dam unless otherwise listed):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids may be kept and they must be at least 18".
- ★ **Lake Leota:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Rock River (from the Indianford Dam upstream to the lower Watertown Dam) and connected tributaries (upstream to the first dam unless otherwise listed):** ➤ Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".
- **Rock River (all other areas):** ➤

RUSK

Rusk County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). A portion of Rusk County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

- **Chippewa River downstream of Arpin Dam to the Lake Holcombe Dam and tributaries to the first dam or lake (including the Flambeau River upstream to Thornapple Flowage Dam):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released, and only one may be over 24".
- **Flambeau River and its impoundments, sloughs and tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake (each of the following river segments is treated as a separate water):**
 - ✓ **Big Falls Flowage Dam (Flambeau river) upstream to Crowley Flowage Dam (North Fork Flambeau river) in Price County:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Dairyland Reservoir Dam upstream to Big Falls Flowage Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Ladysmith Flowage Dam upstream to Dairyland Reservoir Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
 - ✓ **Thornapple Flowage Dam upstream to Ladysmith Flowage Dam:** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Flambeau River, South Fork and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake (including Elk River upstream to Lac Sault Dore Dam):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ★ **Holcombe Flowage:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Island Chain of Lakes (Chain, Clear, Island and McCann lakes combined):** Large-mouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.

- **Jump River (and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released, and only one may be over 24".
- ★ **Murphy Flowage:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Pulaski Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Sand Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.

SAUK

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Baraboo River:** ➡
- ★ **Devil's Lake:** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Possession and use of spears, bows/crossbows and similar devices is prohibited.
- **Dutch Hollow Lake:** Five northern pike may be kept, except pike between 25-35" must be released.
- ★ **Lake Redstone:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Mirror Lake:** Five northern pike may be kept, except pike between 25-35" must be released.
- **Virginia Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including Lake WI and all sloughs (Gallus Slough), bayous, flowages, and tributaries upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➡ Upstream from the Highway 12 bridge, muskellunge must be at least 50". The season for catfish is open all year, except from the Prairie du Sac Dam downstream to the Highway 12 bridge, where the open season is May 2 through Nov. 30. From the Wisconsin Dells Dam upstream: only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Upstream from the Prairie du Sac Dam, walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" and only one fish over 28" may be kept. Below the Prairie du Sac Dam: walleye must be at least 18" and sauger or hybrids must be at least 15".
- **White Mound Lake:** Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".

SAWYER

Sawyer County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). For all lakes and flowages that are also partially within Washburn County, largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. A portion of Sawyer County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Birch Lake:** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only ten bluegill. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Black Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 28".

➡ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Black Dan Lake:** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only five black crappie. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Chetac Lake, Big:** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only ten bluegill. Largemouth or smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Chippewa Flowage (includes Lake Chippewa, West Fork of Chippewa River upstream to the Moose Lake Dam, James Slough and Scott, Tyner, Crane, James, Crystal and Moonshine lakes):** Ten northern pike of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50". The open season on walleye is May 2 to Nov. 30 for the Chippewa Flowage. Only three walleye may be kept per day from the Chippewa Flowage and the Chippewa River downstream to the Arpin Dam combined. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept, but smallmouth bass must be at least 14". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- ★ **Chippewa River (downstream from Winter Dam including all tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake):** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **West Fork Chippewa River (from Moose Lake Dam upstream to FR 176):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Chippewa River downstream of Arpin Dam to the Lake Holcombe Dam and tributaries to the first dam or lake (including the Flambeau River upstream to Thornapple Flowage Dam):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released, and only one may be over 24".
- ★ **Christner Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Durphee Lake (in combination with Schoolhouse Lake):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Flambeau River and its impoundments, sloughs and tributaries (from Big Falls Flowage Dam in Rusk County upstream to Crowley Flowage Dam on the North Fork Flambeau River in Price County):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- **Flambeau River, South Fork and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake (including Elk River upstream to Lac Sault Dore Dam):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24".
- ★ **Grindstone Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only walleye less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- ★ **Island Lake (T39N, R5W, S2):** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only five black crappie.
- ★ **Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles Lake, Little Lac Courte Oreilles Lake and Billy Boy Flowage):** Ten northern pike of any length may be kept chainwide. Muskellunge must be at least 50". Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Moose Lake:** Only five panfish may be kept and only one may be over 12". Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Nelson Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Five northern pike of any length may be kept except fish from 25" to 35" must be released. Walleye must be at least 18".



Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.



identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Osprey Lake:** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only five black crappie. Walleye must be at least 18". Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Quiet Lakes Chain (including Lost Land and Teal lakes and Teal River Flowage):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Radisson Flowage:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Round Lake Chain (Round and Little Round lakes):** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only five black crappie. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Sand Lake (includes Sissabagama Creek 1/2 mile upstream to Sand Lake Road):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Sissabagama Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Smith Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn and North lakes):** Ten northern pike of any length may be kept chainwide. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Tiger Cat Chain of Lakes (Burns, Lower Twin, McClaine, and Placid lakes, Tigercat Flowage and Upper Twin lake all downstream to the Tiger Cat Flowage Dam combined):** Ten northern pike of any length may be kept chainwide. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18"
- ★ **Whitefish Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Windigo Lake:** Twenty five panfish may be kept, but only five black crappie. Walleye of any length may be kept but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Winter Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

SHAWANO

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: All waters except [Lake Winnebago System waters](#) (see page 94): Walleye or sauger must be at least 18".

- **Caroline Pond:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes:** Twenty-five panfish of any length may be kept, except five or fewer can be bluegill and pumpkinseed over 7".
- **Embarrass River (downstream from the Pella Dam):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Pella Pond:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Shawano Lake and connected waters combined (including Washington Lake, Loon Lake, Shawano Lake outlet channel, Wolf River Pond, and Wolf River from the Shawano Lake outlet channel upstream to the Balsam Row Dam):** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **White Clay Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.

🐟 Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Wolf River (downstream from the Shawano Paper Mill Dam):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.

SHEBOYGAN

Certain waters in Sheboygan County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".

★ **Big Elkhart Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".

- **Crystal Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Lake Michigan:** See the [Lake Michigan regulations](#) on page 88.
- **Tributaries to Lake Michigan:** See the [tributary regulations](#) on page 83.
- **Sheboygan Marsh (waters above the dam including Sheboygan Lake and its tributaries upstream to the first road crossing):** ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept.

ST. CROIX

St. Croix County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). The countywide daily bag limit on panfish in all inland waters is 10 in total. Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Apple Lake (formerly Squaw):** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Bass Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Dry Dam Lake:** One largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- **Glen Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Lake George:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept.
- **St. Croix River (including Lake St. Croix):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.

TAYLOR

Taylor County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). A portion of Taylor County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

- **Jump River (and tributaries to the first dam or lake):** Walleye of at least 13" may be kept, except walleye from 16" to 24" must be released, and only one may be over 24".
- **Kathryn Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Rib Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Spruce Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Twin lakes, North and South:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.

TREMPEALEAU

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Black River (including tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam):** ➡
- **Buffalo River (upstream of Highway 93 bridge, including tributaries):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Mississippi River:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 77.
- **Osseo Club Pond:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Trempealeau River (upstream of the dam in Blair, including tributaries):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.

VERNON

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Jersey Valley Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Mississippi River:** Contains both [Wisconsin-Minnesota](#) (page 77) and [Wisconsin-Iowa](#) (page 81) boundary waters. The Minnesota-Iowa state line is approximately 1.3 miles north of Victory. Please see the proper regulations for those waters.

VILAS

Vilas County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (one hook, bait or lure per person; three lines maximum per boat), [Northern Bass Zone rules](#) apply (see page 12).

- **Amber Lake (formerly Squaw Lake):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Annabelle Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Anvil Lake:** Only one walleye of at least 18" may be kept, except walleye from 22"-28" may not be kept.
- **Arbor Vitae, Little:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Basin Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Bear River:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one over 15" may be kept.
- **Big Lake (S13, T43N, R8E):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **Big Lake (S4, T42N, R6E):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Largemouth and smallmouth bass may not be kept (catch and release only).
- **Big Bateau Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.

➡ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ★ **Big Muskellunge Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Big Portage Lake:** Only walleye less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- ★ **Big Sand Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Twenty-five panfish of any length may be kept, except five or fewer can be bluegill and pumpkinseed over 7".
- **Birch Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Bittersweet Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass may not be kept.
- **Boulder Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Buckatabon lakes, Upper and Lower combined:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Crab Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Crampton Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Crystal Lake (S1, T42N, R10E):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Cyrus Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **Dead Pike Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Deerskin Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Eagle Chain (and connecting waters including Catfish, Cranberry, Duck, Eagle, Lynx, Otter, Scattering Rice, Voyageur, Watersmeet and Yellow Birch lakes combined):** Only walleye less than 14" may be kept, except, one fish may be over 18".
- ★ **Ellerson lakes, East and Middle:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Escanaba Lake:** There is a continuous open season on all species except walleye. Walleye fishing season is open from the second Saturday in June through the first Sunday in March (June 13, 2026 through March 7, 2027). Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept and only one fish may be over 24" until department notification that the annual quota has been reached, and thereafter only catch-and-release fishing for walleye is allowed. Lead tackle less than 1" in diameter or 1 oz. in weight is prohibited.
- **Fishtrap Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- ★ **Forest Lake:** Only walleye less than 14" may be kept, except, one fish may be over 18". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Found Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Gresham Lake, Upper:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 28".
- ★ **Gunlock Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Twenty-five panfish of any length may be kept, except five or fewer can be bluegill and pumpkinseed over 7". Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- **High Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Ike Walton Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Kentuck Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five perch. Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".

- ★ **Lac Vieux Desert:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74. Three walleye may be kept and they must be at least 18".
- **Laura Lake:** Only one walleye of at least 18" may be kept, except walleye from 22-28" may not be kept.
- ★ **Little Bass Lake (S15, T40N R8E):** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Little Presque Isle Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **Little St. Germain:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Little Trout Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- ★ **Long Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Lost Canoe Lake:** Only walleye less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Mamie Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Manitowish Chain of Lakes (Alder, Clear (T42N R5E S12), Fawn (T42N R5E S11), Island, Manitowish, Little Star, Rest, Spider, Stone and Wild Rice lakes and connecting waters combined):** Three walleye per day chainwide from 15" but less than 20" may be kept and only one fish may be over 24".
- **Manitowish River (including Benson, Sturgeon and Vance lakes) downstream from the Rest Lake Dam:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye must be at least 12", and only one can be over 15".
- **Mill Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Mystery Lake:** There is a continuous open season on all species.
- **Nebish Lake:** There is a continuous open season on all species. Only bass 14" or less can be kept. Lead tackle less than 1" in diameter or 1 oz. in weight is prohibited.
- **North Crab Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Norwood Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **Oberlin Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass may not be kept (catch and release only).
- **Oxbow Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- ★ **Palette Lake:** There is a continuous open season on all species. Only one smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 22". The lake trout season is closed. Lead tackle less than 1" in diameter or 1 oz. in weight is prohibited. Walleye of any length may be kept.
- ★ **Papoose Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Partridge Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Pike Lake Chain (Amik, Pike, Round and Turner lakes combined):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Motor trolling is allowed with three hooks, baits or lures per person in Amik, Pike, Round and Turner lakes.
- **Pipke Park Pond (T44 R6E S34):** Is an urban water. See those regulations on page 27.
- **Plum Lake (S9, T43N, R8E):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- ★ **Plum Lake (S36, T41N R7E):** Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24". Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Presque Isle Chain (Including Presque Isle, Averill, Van Vliet lakes combined):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Prong Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass may not be kept (catch and release only).
- ★ **Razorback Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Roach Lake (S7, T43N, R8E):** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Rock Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Rush Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- ★ **Salsich Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Sherman Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Shishebogama Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18". Twenty-five panfish of any length may be kept, except five or fewer can be bluegill and pumpkinseed over 7". Largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept.
- ★ **Smith Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass may not be kept (catch and release only).
- **Smoky Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74. Largemouth or smallmouth bass between 14-18" must be released, and only one bass over 18" may be kept.
- ★ **Sparkling Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Spruce Lake:** There is a continuous open season on all species. Only artificial flies and lures may be used. Largemouth bass season is open all year; only two may be kept and they must be at least 12".
- **Star Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Stateline Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Tenderfoot Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- **Trilby Lake:** There is no open season.
- ★ **Trout Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Turtle lakes, North and South:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Twin lakes, North and South, combined:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish can be over 24".
- ★ **Wabasso Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **West Bay Lake:** Is part of the [Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters](#). See those regulations on page 74.
- ★ **West Plum Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".

- ★ **White Sand Lake—Highway K (T42N, R7E, S27):** Walleye must be at least 18". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Whitney Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".

WALWORTH

Certain waters in Walworth County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".

- **Beulah Lake:** Only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 12" and over 16" may be kept.
- ★ **Delavan Lake:** Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18".
- **Eagle Spring and Lulu lakes (and the portion of the Mukwonago River connecting the two lakes):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- ★ **Geneva Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Lauderdale Lakes (Green, Middle and Mill):** Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Pleasant Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Turtle Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept.

WASHBURN

Washburn County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). A portion of Washburn County is in the [Northern Bass Zone](#) (see base regulations on page 12).

Countywide: With the exceptions below, there is no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Washburn County.

- **Balsam Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- **Bass (Patterson) Lake (S17, T40N, R10W):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Bear Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Big McKenzie Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Birch Lake:** The daily bag limit of panfish is 25, of which only 10 can be bluegill. Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Long Lake (including Mud and Little Mud lakes combined):** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Middle McKenzie Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Minong Flowage (including Cranberry Lake; upstream to the confluence of Totagatic River and Bergen Creek):** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".

🐟 Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

- **Namekagon River:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- ★ **Namekagon River from the Trego Dam to the confluence with the St. Croix River** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Nancy Lake:** Walleye must be at least 18".
- **Red Cedar Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- **Shell Lake:** Walleye of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14".
- **Slim Lake:** Only two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Totagatic River:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".
- **Trego Flowage:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass must be at least 14".

WASHINGTON

Certain waters in Washington County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: Walleye, sauger or their hybrids must be at least 18".

- **Cedar Lake, Big (and Gilbert Lake combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept, but pike between 25-35" must be released.
- **Cedar Lake, Little:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Erler Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Gilbert Lake (and Big Cedar Lake combined):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept, but pike between 25-35" must be released.
- **Green Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Twelve:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Silver Lake:** Ten panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Wallace Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept, but pike between 25-35" must be released.

WAUKESHA

Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person). Certain waters in Waukesha County are designated as [urban \(or special\) waters](#) and have different regulations (see pages 26-27).

Countywide: Walleye and sauger and their hybrids must be at least 18" (see Lac LaBelle exception).

- ★ **Big Muskego (including Bass Bay):** One largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 15 panfish may be kept and they must be at least 8". Only two northern pike may be kept, except pike from 25-35" may not be kept.
- **Eagle Spring and Lulu lakes (and the portion of the Mukwonago River connecting the two lakes):** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".
- **Fowler Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Lac LaBelle:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one walleye may be kept and it must be at least 28". There is a closed season on flathead catfish. Only 15 panfish may be kept. Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".

- **Oconomowoc Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Oconomowoc Lake, Upper:** Two northern pike may be kept, but pike between 25-35" must be released. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Oconomowoc River (from Lac LaBelle upstream to the outlet of North Lake, including connecting portions with Fowler Lake, Lac LaBelle, Oconomowoc Lake, Okauchee Lake, and Upper Oconomowoc Lake):** Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Okauchee Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Two northern pike may be kept, but pike between 25-35" must be released.
- ★ **Pewaukee Lake:** Muskellunge must be at least 50". Only one northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32".

WAUPACA

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

Countywide: All waters except [Lake Winnebago System waters](#) (see page 94): Walleye or sauger must be at least 18".

- **Brekke Lake:** Largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18".
- **Campbell Lake:** ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Cincoe Lake:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Crystal Lake:** ➤ Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Embarrass River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Graham Lake:** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Hartman Creek State Park lakes (Allen, Hartman and Mid):** Twenty-five panfish may be kept, but only five bluegill.
- **Hatch Lake:** One largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it has to be at least 18".
- **Iola Millpond:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Kinney Lake:** ➤ Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Little Wolf River (downstream from the dam at Manawa):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Marion Pond:** Two northern pike may be kept and they must be at least 26".
- **Partridge Crop Lake:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Partridge Lake:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **School Section Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Shadow Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Stratton Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Waupaca River (downstream from the dam at Weyauwega):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **White Lake:** Five northern pike may be kept, but fish between 25-35" must be released. Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Wolf River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.

➤ Hook and line fishing is open all year for all fish species, except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish.

☆ identifies quality fishing opportunity

WAUSHARA

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Alpine Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Bean's Lake:** ➡
- **Big Hills Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Deer Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Fox River:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- ★ **Hartford Lake:** Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Huron Lake:** Five largemouth and smallmouth bass in total may be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept, but smallmouth bass must be 14". Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Iroqami Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept, but pike from 25-35" may not be kept.
- **Johns Lake:** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Kusel Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Lake Poygan:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Little Hills Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept. Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Long Lake (T20N, R9E, S17 - Oasis Township):** Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Long Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept, except pike from 25-35" may not be kept.
- **Morris Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Pearl Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept. Five largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Pine Lake:** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Pine River (downstream from the dam at Poysippi):** See the Winnebago System Waters regulations on page 94.
- **Pleasant Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth bass of any length may be kept.
- **Porters Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept.
- **Pumpkinseed Creek:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- ★ **Round Lake (S35, T20N, R11E):** Three largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish may be over 18"
- **Silver Lake, Big:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Two northern pike may be kept, but pike from 25-35" must be released.
- **White River System (from Neshkoro Millpond upstream including Neshkoro Millpond, Lower White River Flowage, West Branch Millpond, and Wautoma Pond):** Five northern pike of any length may be kept.
- **Willow Creek (downstream from the dam at Auroraville):** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.
- **Wilson Lake:** Two northern pike may be kept, except pike from 25-35" must be released.
- **Witters Lake:** Only 10 panfish may be kept. Largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept.

WINNEBAGO

The countywide daily bag limit on catfish is 25, except on [Winnebago system waters](#) (see page 94). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- **Little Lake Butte des Morts (including Mud Creek, Neenah Slough and tributaries, backwaters and sloughs, and the Fox River from Neenah-Menasha dams downstream to Appleton Lock 1 - Outagamie County)** ➤ There is a continuous open season on largemouth and smallmouth bass. The open season on northern pike is May 2, 2026 through March 7, 2027. Only two northern pike may be kept, and pike between 25-35" must be released. Walleye, sauger and their hybrids of any length may be kept. Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- **Winnebago system waters from the Neenah-Menasha Dams upstream, including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers, Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan and other connected waters:** See the [Winnebago System Waters regulations](#) on page 94.

WOOD

Wood County is in the [ceded territory](#) (see page 13 for additional ceded territory information). Motor trolling is permitted countywide (three hooks, baits or lures per person).

- ★ **Buena Vista Creek (upstream to the Nepco Dam):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".
- ★ **Nepco Lake:** Walleye, sauger and their hybrids must be at least 18".
- ★ **Wazeecha Lake:** Walleye, sauger and their hybrids must be at least 18".
- ★ **Wisconsin River (including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ One northern pike may be kept and it must be at least 32". Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28". Muskellunge must be at least 50".
- ★ **Yellow River (downstream from the Highway 54 dam at Dexterville including all sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge):** ➤ Walleye and sauger from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 28".



Citizen Input In Conservation

Get Involved — Attend the Spring Hearings

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc>

OPEN SEASONS, LENGTH LIMITS AND BAG LIMITS

GENERAL INLAND WATERS

*Remember: Also check the [Special Regulations—Listed by County](#) section, the Great Lakes, the Winnebago System Waters, the Boundary Waters tables and the Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan table.

FISH SPECIES	NOTE: Species not listed have no open season (e.g., American eel, grass pickerel)	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH BASS (LMB) HARVEST		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5	14 inches
SMALLMOUTH BASS (SMB) HARVEST	Northern Zone (see map on page 12)	June 20, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Other inland waters		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS	Statewide - all inland waters	All other times of the year.	0 (catch and release only)	
ROCK, YELLOW (STRIPED) and WHITE BASS		Open all year	None	None
PANFISH: BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, CRAPPIE and YELLOW PERCH		Open all year	25 in total	None
BULLHEADS and ROUGH FISH (see definition on page 25)		Open all year	None	None
CATFISH (CHANNEL, FLATHEAD)		Open all year	10 in total	None
CISCO and WHITEFISH		Open all year	10 in total	None

GENERAL INLAND WATERS (CONT.)

MUSKELLUNGE (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)			
Inland waters	May 2, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (open water only)	1	40 inches
NORTHERN PIKE			
Northern Zone: Inland waters north of US Hwy 10 (excluding Wis-Mich. boundary waters)	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5	None
Southern Zone: Inland waters south of US Hwy 10	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	2	26 inches
PADDLEFISH (SPOONBILL CATFISH)			
	No open season — no fishing for paddlefish.		
RUFFE, WHITE PERCH, GOBIES and other nonnative detrimental fish species	Closed all year – one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office. (Note: See round goby exception for Winnebago System waters page 95)		
LAKE STURGEON			
Chippewa River: West Fork downstream from Moose Lake Dam (Sawyer County) and East Fork (Ashland County) downstream to Mississippi River (Pepin County) including sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to first highway or railroad bridge. Flambeau River: North Fork from Turtle-Flambeau Dam (Iron County) and South Fork (Price County) downstream to the Chippewa River (Rusk County) including sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge. Butternut Lake (Price County) Jump River from the North and South Forks to the Chippewa River (Rusk County); Yellow, Little Yellow, and Danbury Flowage chain of lakes (Burnett County); Wisconsin River below the Wisconsin Dells Dam (Columbia County) to the Mississippi River (Grant/Crawford Co.)	Sept. 5, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026 (All Lake sturgeon taken with hook and line must be tagged and registered. See page 8 for more information).	1 per season	60 inches
Namekagon River from the Hayward Dam (Sawyer Co.) to the St. Croix River (Burnett Co.); St. Croix River including Upper St. Croix Lake upstream from the St. Croix Dam at Gordon Flowage (Douglas Co.); Bear River from the Lac du Flambeau Dam (Vilas Co.); Manitowish River from the Rest Lake Dam (Vilas Co.); Little Turtle River from the Lake of the Falls Dam (Iron Co.); Flambeau River from the confluence of the Manitowish and Bear rivers including Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (Iron Co.) and South Fork Flambeau River from the Round Lake Dam (Price Co.) downstream to the Chippewa River (Rusk Co.) Butternut Lake (Price Co.); East Fork Chippewa River (Ashland Co.) and	June 6, 2026 – March 7, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	

West Fork Chippewa River from Moose Lake Dam (Sawyer Co.) including Chippewa Flowage (Sawyer Co.); Chippewa River from the Chippewa Flowage Dam (Sawyer Co.) to the Mississippi River (Buffalo/Pepin Co.); Jump River from its North/South Forks (Price Co.) to the Chippewa River (Chippewa Co.); Eau Claire River from Lake Altoona Dam (Eau Claire Co.) to the Chippewa River (Eau Claire Co.); Red Cedar River from the Lake Menomin Dam (Dunn Co.) to the Chippewa River (Dunn Co.); Black River from the Black River Falls Dam (Jackson Co.) to the Mississippi River (La Crosse Co.); Wisconsin River from the Merrill Flowage Dam (Lincoln Co.) to the Mississippi River (Grant/Crawford Co.)	June 6, 2026 – March 7, 2027	0 (catch and release only)
	Closed all year — no fishing for lake sturgeon	
Other inland waters		
SHOVELNOSE STURGEON		
Lower Wisconsin River from the Prairie du Sac Dam downstream	July 4, 2026 – March 7, 2027	3
All other inland waters	Closed all year — no fishing for shovelnose sturgeon	
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)		
Most waters in the Ceded Territory (see page 13 for map and further information)	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	3 in total
	15 inches but less than 20 inches may be kept; with one over 24 inches	
Most other inland waters.	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	3 in total
15 inches		

TROUT and SALMON—see Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027 or the Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Tributary Streams tables on pages 83-91.

WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS

Includes the Brule, Menominee and Montreal rivers and their sloughs and flowages; that portion of Green Bay at the mouth of the Menominee River between the "government pier" or break wall on the south and the "lighthouse pier" or breakwall on the north and a line connecting the eastern-most points of those breakwaters on the east; and Basin, Big, Big Bad Water, Big Bateau, Crampton, Crystal, Cyrus, Lac Vieux Desert, Little Presque Isle, Mamie, Mill, Norwood, Plum, Roach, Smoky, State Line, Tenderfoot and West Bay lakes.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS ON WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS

- *Please note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license while fishing the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters*
 - **Each angler may fish with not more than a total of three baits, lures or hooks.**
 - You may not take more than the daily bag limit of fish in a single day. The possession limit or maximum number of fish you may have in your possession at any time is the same as the daily bag limit.
 - **Goldfish, alewife and live crayfish may not be possessed or used for bait** on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.
 - Ice fishing: Angler name and address must be prominently displayed on ice fishing shelters (portable or otherwise) when not occupied or otherwise in use.
 - It is illegal to fish using any method other than hook and line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam.
 - Motor trolling is permitted on Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary Waters with three hooks, baits, or lures per person, except Vilas and Iron County boundary waters, where trolling is allowed with one hook, bait or lure per person and three lines maximum per boat.
 - Wisconsin residents need a Wisconsin fishing license and a Michigan resident needs a Michigan fishing license to fish these waters. Residents of other states need a nonresident license from Wisconsin or Michigan. Regulations on these waters differ between the two states. You must obey the regulation of the state in which you are fishing. Wisconsin license holders must have a valid Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp privilege (except with a two-day Sports Fishing License) to fish trout or salmon in the Menominee River from the Hattie Street Dam downstream to the eastern end of the breakwalls in Green Bay.
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WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS HARVEST All boundary waters	June 20, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	5 in total	14 inches
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS All boundary waters	All other times of the year	0 (catch and release only)	
MUSKELLUNGE (INCLUDES HYBRIDS) Some waters may have larger minimum length limits; look for signs and inquire locally.	June 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only)	1	50 inches
Menominee River—From the Hattie Street Dam in the city of Marinette downstream to the eastern end of the breakwalls in Green Bay	June 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only)	1	54 inches
NORTHERN PIKE	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5	None
YELLOW PERCH, WHITE BASS, YELLOW (STRIPED) BASS, CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL and PUMPKINSEED (SUNFISH)	Open all year	25 in total	None
TROUT and SALMON			
Smoky Lake, Montreal River and Menominee River from its mouth upstream to the first dam	Open all year	5 in total	10 inches
Brule River upstream from Hwy 2	April 25, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	5 in total	Brook trout 8 inches; brown trout 12 inches

WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WATERS (CONT.)

Brule River downstream from Hwy 2 and other Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary Waters	April 25, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	5 in total	7 inches
LAKE STURGEON (Lake sturgeon taken with hook and line must be tagged and registered. See page 8 for more information.)			
Upstream from the Grand Rapids Dam on the Menominee River	June 6, 2026 – March 1, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	
Upstream from the Grand Rapids Dam on the Menominee River	Sept. 5, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	1 per season	60 inches
Downstream from the Grands Rapids Dam on the Menominee River	Sept. 5, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	0 (catch and release only)	
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)			
In lakes	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027	5 in total	15 inches
In rivers and their flowages	March 1, 2026 – May 1, 2026	1	15 inches
	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027	5 in total	15 inches
CISCO and WHITEFISH	Open all year	10 in total	None
RUFFE	Closed all year – one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office.		
CATFISH	Open all year	10	None
ALL OTHER SPECIES	Open all year	None	None

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS

Applies to the stretch of the Mississippi River shared by Wisconsin and Minnesota lying between the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks on the Wisconsin side of the river and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific railroad tracks on the Minnesota side of the river, including Lake Pepin and Lake St. Croix; the St. Croix River from the Burlington Northern railroad bridge at Prescott north to the point where the river is no longer a boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota; and the St. Louis River, including St. Louis Bay, Superior Bay, Allouez Bay, Kimballs Bay, Little Pokegama Bay, and Pokegama Bay.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS ON WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS

- *Please note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license while fishing the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters*
- **Goldfish and alewife may not be possessed or used for bait. Live rusty crayfish and native species of crayfish may be used for bait on the Mississippi River ONLY**—not on other Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters. Other non-native crayfish may not be possessed live. Live crayfish may not be used as bait within the federal zone of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
- It is illegal to fish using any method other than hook and line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam on the Mississippi River and within 200 feet of these structures on any other water.
- Motor trolling is permitted on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters with three hooks, baits or lures per person and no maximum number of lines per boat.
- Wisconsin residents need a Wisconsin fishing license and Minnesota residents need a Minnesota license to fish in these boundary waters. Residents of other states need a nonresident license from Wisconsin or Minnesota. **Regulations on these waters may differ between states. You must obey the regulations of the state in which you are fishing.**
- Fishing is prohibited within 300 feet below the Red Wing Dam and Alma Dam from March 1 through April 29 and within 300 feet below the Onalaska Dam from March 15 through April 25.
- Ice fishing: Angler name and address must be prominently displayed on ice fishing shelters (portable or otherwise) when the shelter is not occupied or otherwise in use.

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Species not listed are governed by inland regulations (pages 71-73)			
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS			
St. Louis River and the St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	May 23, 2026 – March 1, 2027	5 in total	14 inches
St. Croix River upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	May 23, 2026 – Sept. 13, 2026	5 in total	14 inches
	Sept. 14, 2026 – March 1, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	
Mississippi River	Open all year	5 in total	14 inches

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS (CONT.)

CATFISH (CHANNEL and FLATHEAD)					
St. Louis River and St. Croix River upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	Open all year		10 in total		None
St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	Open all year		5 channel catfish 2 flathead catfish		None, but only one channel and one flathead catfish over 24" may be kept
Mississippi River (Pools 3-9)	Open all year		10 in total		None, but only one over 30" may be kept
MUSKELLUNGE (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)					
Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers	May 23, 2026 – Nov. 30, 2026		1		50 inches
NORTHERN PIKE					
St. Croix River upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027		5		None
St. Croix R. downstream from the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027		3		None, but only one over 30" may be kept
Mississippi River (Pools 3-9)	Open all year		3		None, but only one over 30" may be kept
St. Louis River	May 9, 2026 – March 1, 2027		2		None
ROCK BASS					
BLUEGILL AND PUMPKINSEED (SUNFISH)					
Mississippi River (Pools 3-9)	Open all year		25 of each		None
	Open all year		15 in total		None

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS (CONT.)

St. Louis and St. Croix river upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	Open all year	25 in total	None
St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	Open all year	15 in total	None
CRAPPIE AND YELLOW PERCH			
Mississippi River (Pools 3-9)	Open all year	15 of each	None
St. Louis and St. Croix river upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	Open all year	25 of each	None
St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	Open all year	15 of each	None
WHITE BASS and YELLOW BASS			
Mississippi River (Pools 3-9)	Open all year	10 in total	None
St. Louis and St. Croix river upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	Open all year	25 in total	None
St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	Open all year	10 in total	None
LAKE STURGEON (Lake sturgeon tagging and registering information on page 7)			
Mississippi R. upstream of the Red Wing Dam; St. Croix R. upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam to the dam at Gordan Flowage	June 16, 2026 – March 1, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	
St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream of the Red Wing Dam	June 16, 2026 – April 14, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	
St. Croix River downstream from the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	June 16, 2026 – Sept. 4, 2026	0 (catch and release only)	
	Sept. 5, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	1	60 inches
	Oct. 1, 2026 – March 1, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	
SHOVELNOSE STURGEON			
All Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters above the Red Wing Dam on the Mississippi River, St. Louis River, and St. Croix River	June 16, 2026 – March 1, 2027	0 (catch and release only)	

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS (CONT.)

All Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters below the Red Wing Dam on the Mississippi River	Open all year	3	None
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)			
St. Croix river upstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027	6 in total	None for sauger; 15" for walleye
St. Croix River downstream from the St. Croix Falls Dam to Prescott	May 2, 2026 – March 1, 2027	4 in total	None for sauger; 15" for walleye; only one walleye or sauger over 20" may be kept
St. Louis River	May 9, 2026 – March 1, 2027	2 in total	None for sauger; 15" for walleye
Mississippi River (Pools 3 – 8)	Open all year	4 in total	None for sauger; 15" for walleye; only one walleye or sauger over 20" may be kept
Mississippi River (Pool 9)	Open all year	6 in total	None for sauger; 15" for walleye; walleye 20-27" must be released only one over 27" may be kept
RUFFE, WHITE PERCH, GOBIES and other nonnative detrimental fish species	No open season — one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office		
TROUT and SALMON —see Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations, 2026-2027			

WISCONSIN-IOWA BOUNDARY WATERS (MISSISSIPPI RIVER)

Applies to the stretch of the Mississippi River shared by Wisconsin and Iowa lying between the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific railroad tracks on the Iowa side of the river and the Burlington Northern and Sante Fe railroad tracks lying on the Wisconsin side of the river including all sloughs, bays, and backwaters.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS ON WISCONSIN-IOWA BOUNDARY WATERS

- *Please note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license while fishing the Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters.*
- Goldfish and alewife may not be possessed or used for bait in the Mississippi River. Live rusty crayfish and native crayfish species are legal to use. **All other non-native crayfish may not be possessed live.**
- It is illegal to fish using any method other than hook and line within 200 feet of any fishway, lock or dam on the Mississippi River.
- Motor trolling is permitted on Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters with three hooks, baits or lures per person and no maximum number of lines per boat.
- Ice fishing: Angler name and address must be prominently displayed on ice fishing shelters (portable or otherwise) when not occupied or otherwise in use.
- Wisconsin residents need a Wisconsin fishing license and Iowa residents need an Iowa fishing license to fish in these boundary waters. Residents of other states need a nonresident license from Wisconsin or Iowa. **Regulations on these waters may differ between states. You must obey the regulations of the state in which you are fishing.**

FISH SPECIES Species not listed governed by inland regulations (pages 71-73)	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS	Open all year	5 in total	14 inches
CATFISH (CHANNEL and FLATHEAD)	Open all year	None	None

WISCONSIN-IOWA BOUNDARY WATERS (CONT.)

NORTHERN PIKE	Open all year	5	None
YELLOW PERCH, ROCK BASS, CRAPPIE	Open all year	25 of each	None
BLUEGILL and PUMPKINSEED (SUNFISH)	Open all year	25 in total	None
WHITE BASS and YELLOW BASS	Open all year	25 in total	None
LAKE STURGEON	Closed all year — there is no fishing for lake sturgeon		
SHOVELNOSE STURGEON	Open all year	None	None
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS) Pools 9-12	Open all year	6 in total	None for sauger, 15" for walleye; walleye 20 – 27" must be released, only one over 27"



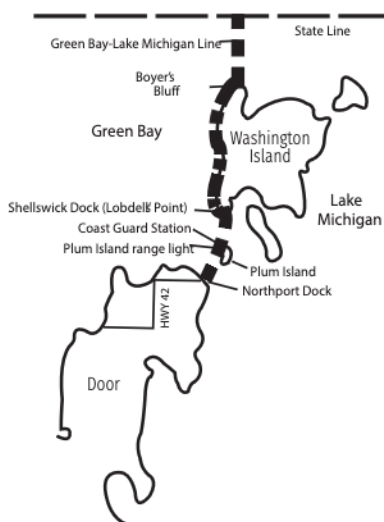
**PLEASE DON'T LITTER
LET'S KEEP WISCONSIN CLEAN**

MAJOR GREEN BAY TRIBUTARIES and TRIBUTARIES TO LAKE MICHIGAN

MAJOR GREEN BAY TRIBUTARIES - Brown County: Duck Creek upstream to the first dam located on the Oneida Golf and Riding Club property excluding its tributaries; Suamico River upstream to County Highway HS; East River upstream to Hoffman Rd (County Highway XX) excluding its tributaries. **Marinette County:** Peshtigo River upstream to the Peshtigo Dam; Little River upstream to Radar Rd. **Oconto County:** Little Suamico River upstream to County Highway J excluding tributaries; Pensaukee River upstream to County Highway J excluding tributaries; Oconto River upstream to Stiles Dam excluding tributaries (except Little River); Little River upstream to Hwy 141 excluding tributaries.

TRIBUTARIES TO LAKE MICHIGAN - Kenosha & Racine counties: Pike and Root rivers and their tributaries. **Kewaunee County:** Kewaunee river and its tributaries excluding Little Scarboro, Scarboro, Roger and Casco creeks. **Manitowoc County:** Manitowoc River and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. **Milwaukee & Ozaukee counties:** Milwaukee River upstream to the Grafton Dam in the Village of Grafton and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. **Ozaukee County:** Sauk Creek and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. **Milwaukee & Waukesha counties:** Menomonee River upstream to the Lepper Dam in the Village of Menomonee Falls and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake. **Sheboygan County:** Sheboygan river downstream to the coast guard station and its tributaries excluding Willow creek. **All bordering counties:** All other tributaries to Lake Michigan upstream to the first dam or lake.

Please note: The Menominee River, [Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters](#), see page 74, and the Fox River upstream to the DePere Dam, [Lake Michigan](#), see page 88, are not considered tributary streams.



GREEN BAY includes Lake Michigan waters located to the west of the Green Bay-Lake Michigan Line (Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Sawyer Harbor, and the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal located north and west of the center of the WPS power lines and the Fox River from its mouth up to the dam at DePere). That line runs from Northport Dock northeasterly to Plum Island range light to the Plum Is. Coast Guard Station to Shellswick Dock (Lobdell's Point.) on Washington Is. along the west shore of Washington Is. to Boyer's Bluff light then north to the State line.

TRIBUTARY STREAMS TO GREEN BAY AND LAKE MICHIGAN

- [Major tributaries to Green Bay and tributaries to Lake Michigan](#) are defined on page 83.
 - Alewife may be used as bait in tributaries, rivers, and ditches upstream to the first dam or lake. Live crayfish may not be possessed while fishing on the tributaries.
 - Motor trolling rules can be found in the [Special Regulations - Listed by County](#) section.
 - You must have a fishing license and a valid Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp privilege or a two-day Sports Fishing License to fish for trout and salmon in the tributaries (up to the first dam or lake).
 - All other [statewide general fishing restrictions](#) apply (see pages 9-12).
 - Smelt and suckers: See the [Wisconsin Spearing and Netting Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for regulations on dipnetting smelt and suckers in the tributaries.
 - From Sept. 15 to the first Saturday of the following May, you may not use hooks that have a gap size larger than one-half inch from point to shank.
- The following special regulations apply to the following waters:
- The section of the Peshtigo River upstream from the railroad bridge at the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 section 30, township 30 north, range 23 east (Peshtigo City Garage) to the first dam
 - The section of the Oconto River from the upstream side of Hwy 141 upstream to the first dam and the section of the Little River upstream from the Oconto River to Hwy 141;
 - All Lake Michigan tributaries and all other Green Bay tributary streams, rivers, and ditches upstream to their first dam or lake, except this DOES NOT apply to the Menominee River (Marinette County). See page 74 for [WI/MI boundary water regulations](#).
 - From Sept. 15 to Dec. 31, **fishing by any method** is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
 - Jan. 1 to the first Saturday in May, **hook and line fishing** is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
ROUGH FISH (including suckers), ROCK BASS, WHITE BASS, YELLOW BASS and BULLHEADS			
Tributaries to Lake Michigan and major Green Bay tributaries	Open all year	None; except 600 suckers	None
All other tributaries to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	None; except 600 suckers	None

TRIBUTARY STREAMS TO GREEN BAY AND LAKE MICHIGAN (CONT.)

LARGEMOUTH BASS (LMB) HARVEST				
All tributaries to Green Bay (major and other) and tributaries to Lake Michigan		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with SMB during SMB harvest seasons below	14 inches
SMALLMOUTH BASS (SMB) HARVEST				
Major Green Bay tributaries		July 1, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Other Green Bay tributaries		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Tributaries to Lake Michigan north of Hwy 29 (Door and Kewaunee counties)		June 20, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Tributaries to Lake Michigan south of Hwy 29		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS All tributaries to Green Bay (major and other) and tributaries to Lake Michigan		At all other times of year	0 (catch and release only)	
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)				
Major Green Bay tributaries and tributaries to Lake Michigan north of Waldo Blvd, Manitowoc		March 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026	1	15 inches
Major Green Bay tributaries and tributaries to Lake Michigan north of Waldo Blvd, Manitowoc		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total	15 inches
All other tributaries and ditches to Green Bay upstream to first dam/lake		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total	15 inches
Tributaries to Lake Michigan south of Waldo Blvd, Manitowoc		Open all year	5 in total	15 inches

TRIBUTARY STREAMS TO GREEN BAY AND LAKE MICHIGAN (CONT.)

MUSKELLUNGE (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)				
Lake Michigan tributaries north of Hwy 10 (located in the counties of Marinette, Oconto, Brown, Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc). All Green Bay tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	May 23, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only)	1	54 inches	
Lake Michigan tributaries south of Hwy 10 (located in the counties of Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha)	May 2, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	1	40 inches	
BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH and CRAPPIE				
Tributaries to Lake Michigan	Open all year, except yellow perch is closed May 1, 2026–June 15, 2026	25 in total but only 5 may be yellow perch	None	
Major Green Bay tributaries	Open all year, except yellow perch which is open May 20, 2026 – March 15, 2027	25 in total but only 15 may be yellow perch	None	
All other tributaries to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027, except yellow perch which is open May 20, 2026 – March 15, 2027	25 in total but only 15 may be yellow perch	None	
NORTHERN PIKE				
Tributaries to Green Bay, (except major tributaries), tributaries to Lake Michigan North of US Hwy 10 (except Kewaunee, East and West Twin, and Ahnapee rivers) up to the first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5	None	
Major Green Bay tribs, Kewaunee, East/West Twin, and Ahnapee rivers up to the first dam /lake	Open all year	5	None	

TRIBUTARY STREAMS TO GREEN BAY AND LAKE MICHIGAN (CONT.)

Lake Michigan tributaries south of US Hwy. 10 (including the Manitowoc River)	Open all year	2	26 inches
LAKE STURGEON	No open season		
RUFFE and GOBIES	Closed all year – one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office.		
CISCO AND WHITEFISH			
Major Green Bay and Lake Michigan tributaries	Open all year	10 in total	None
All other tributaries and ditches to Green Bay upstream to first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	10 in total	None
WHITE PERCH			
Tributaries to Lake Michigan and major Green Bay tributaries	Open all year	None	None
All other tributaries and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	None	None
CATFISH (CHANNEL and FLATHEAD)			
Tributaries to Lake Michigan	Open all year	10	None
Duck Creek upstream to the first dam located on the Oneida Golf and Riding Club property excluding its tributaries, Suamico River upstream to County Highway HS, and the East River from the Fox River upstream to Hoffman Rd (County Highway XX), Brown County	Open all year	25	None
All other tributaries to Green Bay in Brown County	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	25	None
All other tributaries to Green Bay	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	10	None
TROUT and SALMON			
Tributaries to Lake Michigan and major Green Bay tributaries	Open all year	5 (lake trout, other trout and salmon in total)	10 inches
All other tributaries and ditches to Green Bay upstream to first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027		

LAKE MICHIGAN

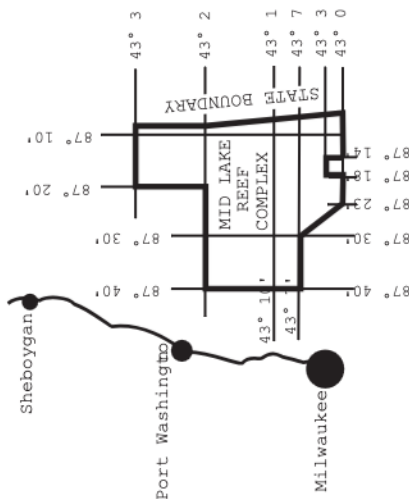
Includes the Bay of Green Bay, the Fox River upstream to the DePere dam, Sturgeon Bay, other bays to Lake Michigan and Green Bay. See pages 83-87 for regulations for the tributary streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Fishing Restrictions on Lake Michigan Waters

- Lake trout may not be possessed while fishing within the area indicated on the map:
- All other statewide fishing restrictions apply (see pages 9-12).
- Goldfish may not be possessed or used for bait. Alewife and live native crayfish may be used for bait on Lake Michigan.
- Non-native crayfish may only be possessed and used if dead.
- All ice fishing shelters must be removed daily and when not in use after the first Sunday following March 12 on Green Bay and Lake Michigan.
- Motor trolling is permitted on Lake Michigan with three hooks, baits or lures per person.

- You must have a fishing license and a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp privilege or a valid two-day Sports Fishing License to fish for trout and salmon in Lake Michigan.
- **Smelt and suckers:** See the [Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027](#) for regulations on taking smelt and suckers with nets and spears.
- All other [statewide fishing restrictions](#) apply (see pages 9-12).
- Please note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license/stamps while fishing on Lake Michigan.

See map on page 83 for Green Bay-Lake Michigan Line



FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH BASS AND SMALLMOUTH BASS HARVEST	July 1, 2026 – March 7, 2027 (There is no catch and release fishing prior to July 1 opener)	5 in total	12 inches
Within one-fourth mile of all islands in the Town of Washington Island			

LAKE MICHIGAN (CONT.)

LARGEMOUTH BASS AND SMALLMOUTH BASS				
Other Lake Michigan waters		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total	14 inches
		At all other times of year	0 (catch and release only)	
SMALLMOUTH BASS HARVEST				
Green Bay and waters within 5 miles of the Door County shoreline in Lake Michigan		July 1, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total	14 inches
		At all other times of year	0 (catch and release only)	
MUSKELLUNGE (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)				
North of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		May 23, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (on open water only)	1	54 inches
South of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		May 2, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	1	40 inches
NORTHERN PIKE				
North of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		Open all year	5	None
South of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		Open all year	2	26 inches
BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH, and CRAPPIE		Open all year for bluegill, sunfish and crappie	25 in total; includes yellow perch limit	None
YELLOW PERCH in Green Bay and the Fox River		Open: May 20, 2026 – March 15, 2027	15	None
YELLOW PERCH in Lake Michigan		Closed: May 1, 2026-June 15, 2026	5	None
LAKE STURGEON		Closed all year		

LAKE MICHIGAN (CONT.)

WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)				
Fox River from its mouth upstream to the dam at DePere		March 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026	1 in total	28 inches
		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	3 in total	None
		March 8, 2027 – April 30, 2027	1 in total	28 inches
Lake Michigan Waters North of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		March 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026	1 in total	15 inches
		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total	15 inches
		March 8, 2027 – April 30, 2027	1 in total	15 inches
Lake Michigan Waters South of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc		Open all year	5 in total	15 inches
RUFFE and GOBIES		Closed all year – one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office.		
WHITE PERCH		Open all year	None	None
CISCO and WHITEFISH		Open all year	10 in total	None
LAKE TROUT				
	Mid Lake Reef Complex (see page 88)	No open season		
Other Lake Michigan Waters		Open all year	5 in total with other trout and salmon	10 inches
OTHER TROUT and SALMON		Open all year	5 in total with lake trout	10 inches

LAKE SUPERIOR

Includes bays and harbors (except Allouez Bay, Superior Bay, St. Louis Bay Little P Kegama Bay, P Kegama Bay, and Kimballs Bay) that are considered boundary waters and are regulated by Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water regulations). See the trout regulation pamphlet for regulations that apply to trout (including steelhead) and salmon caught from streams flowing into Lake Superior. Fish species not listed here are governed by general inland fishing regulations (pages 71-73), except for the St. Louis River, which is governed by Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water regulations (pages 77-80).

Fishing Restrictions on Lake Superior Waters

- **Please note: Anglers must carry a paper copy of their license/stamps while fishing on Lake Superior.**
- No fishing is allowed in the refuge indicated on the map.
- **Goldfish and alewife may not be possessed or used for bait** in Lake Superior. **Live native crayfish** may be used for bait on Lake Superior, but not on streams that flow into the lake. Non-native crayfish may only be possessed and used if dead.
- All ice fishing shelters must be removed from Lake Superior waters by the first Sunday after March 12.
- Motor trolling is permitted on Lake Superior with three hooks, baits or lures per person.
- If you fish in Lake Superior waters that are under the jurisdiction of other states or Canada, make sure you have the appropriate fishing license first, and obey the fishing regulations issued by those states or provinces.
- **You must have a fishing license and a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp privilege or a two-day Great Lakes (Sports) Fishing License to fish for trout and salmon in Lake Superior. You need an inland trout stamp privilege to fish for trout and salmon, including steelhead, in streams that flow into Lake Superior.**
- Smelt and other fish: See the [***Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations, 2026-2027***](#) for regulations on taking smelt and other fish with nets and spears.

LAKE SUPERIOR (CONT.)

FISH SPECIES Species not listed governed by inland fishing regulations (pages 71-73)	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH BASS (LMB) HARVEST (includes Kakagon River and Slough)	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	1	22 inches
SMALLMOUTH BASS (SMB) HARVEST (includes Kakagon River and Slough)	June 20, 2026 – March 7, 2027	1 in total with LMB	22 inches
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS (includes Kakagon River and Slough)	At all other times of year	0 (catch and release only)	
MUSKELLUNGE	May 23, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 (open water only)	1	40 inches
NORTHERN PIKE (may also be speared through the ice on Lake Superior)			
Lake Superior	Open all year	2	26 inches
Tributaries and connected sloughs upstream to first dam or lake	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	2	26 inches
PANFISH: BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH, and CRAPPIE	Open all year	25	None
ROCK BASS	Open all year	none	None
LAKE STURGEON (Lake sturgeon taken with hook and line must be tagged and registered. See page 8 for more information.)	Open all year	1 per year	60 inches

LAKE SUPERIOR (CONT.)

WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)	Open all year	5 in total	15 inches, only 1 over 20 inches
	May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	5 in total (Bayfield County), 3 in total (Douglas, Ashland and Iron counties)	15 inches, only 1 over 20 inches
Tributaries and connected sloughs			
RUFFE and GOBIES	Closed all year – one may be killed and possessed for transport to a DNR Service Center or Regional Office.		
WHITE PERCH	Open all year	None	None
CISCO and WHITEFISH (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)	Open all year	10 in total	None
TROUT (RAINBOW, BROWN, BROOK, and SPLAKE)	Open all year	5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout and 1 may be brook trout	Rainbow trout –26" brook trout –20"; brown trout and splake –15"
	Dec. 1, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2027	2 in total; when harvest east of Bark Point reaches 11,250 fish, the season may be closed (no fishing for lake trout) 3 in total west of Bark Point	15" but only one may be longer than 25"
LAKE TROUT only			
SALMON (COHO, CHINOOK, PINK, and ATLANTIC)	Open all year	5	None

WINNEBAGO SYSTEM WATERS

Includes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts, and Winnebago and all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the Fox river from Lake Winnebago upstream to the dam above Princeton and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam; the Wolf river from its mouth upstream to the dam in the city of Shawano and all its tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including Cincoe lake, Partridge Crop lake and Partridge lake in Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Please note: Little Lake Butte des Morts is not part of the Winnebago System (see Winnebago County on page 70)

Fishing Restrictions on Winnebago System Waters

- Motor trolling is allowed on all Winnebago System waters with three hooks, baits or lures per person and no maximum number per boat.
- Minnows may not be harvested for personal use from Winnebago System waters. Suckers may be harvested, but can not be taken away alive.



Attention anglers: Round gobies have been found in the Winnebago System (in limited locations). If you think you've caught a goby from the Winnebago system, report it to the DNR by calling (920) 424-3050 or by scanning the Reporting Tool QR code



dnr.wi.gov/tiny/132



FISH SPECIES (for species not listed, see General Inland Waters table on pages 71-73)	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS	Open all year	5 in total	14"
ROCK, YELLOW (STRIPED) and WHITE BASS	Open all year	None	None
PANFISH: BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, CRAPPIE, and YELLOW PERCH	Open all year	25 in total	None

WINNEBAGO SYSTEM WATERS (cont.)

BULLHEADS (Brown, Black, and Yellow)		Open all year	None	None
ROUGH FISH (Hook and line only - see definition on page 25) - For methods other than conventional hook and line, please see the Setline, Set and Bank Pole Regulations or the Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations pamphlets		Open all year	None	None
CHANNEL CATFISH - For methods other than conventional hook and line, please see the Setline, Set and Bank Pole Regulations or the Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations pamphlets		Open all year	25 in total, but only 24 if one flathead catfish is possessed	None
FLATHEAD CATFISH - For methods other than conventional hook and line, please see the Setline, Set and Bank Pole Regulations or the Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations pamphlets		May 2, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2026	1	30" and flathead catfish from 36" to 42" may not be possessed
MUSKELLUNGE		May 2, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	1	50"
NORTHERN PIKE		May 2, 2026 – March 7, 2027	2	26"
LAKE STURGEON (see the Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearing regulations for spearing season and spearing license purchasing information)		Hook and line fishing closed all year	-	-
WALLEYE and SAUGER (INCLUDES HYBRIDS)		Open all year	3 in total; only 1 may be a sauger or hybrid	None
ROUND GOBY		Closed all year	None, but each must be gutted or the head or gills removed	None

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