

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

<p>1. Type of Estimate and Analysis</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Original   <input type="checkbox"/>Updated   <input type="checkbox"/>Corrected</p>	<p>2. Date 06/24/26</p>
<p>3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable)</p> <p>NR 20: Fishing: Inland Waters; Outlying Waters, NR 21: Wisconsin-Minnesota Boundary Waters, NR 22: Wisconsin-Iowa Boundary Waters, NR 23: Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary Waters</p>	
<p>4. Subject</p> <p>FH-10-25; Fish possession limits</p>	
<p>5. Fund Sources Affected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>GPR   <input type="checkbox"/>FED   <input type="checkbox"/>PRO   <input type="checkbox"/>PRS   <input type="checkbox"/>SEG   <input type="checkbox"/>SEG-S</p>	<p>6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected</p>
<p>7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>No Fiscal Effect   <input type="checkbox"/>Increase Existing Revenues   <input type="checkbox"/>Increase Costs   <input type="checkbox"/>Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/>Indeterminate   <input type="checkbox"/>Decrease Existing Revenues   <input type="checkbox"/>Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget</p>	
<p>8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>State's Economy   <input type="checkbox"/>Specific Businesses/Sectors <input type="checkbox"/>Local Government Units   <input type="checkbox"/>Public Utility Rate Payers <input type="checkbox"/>Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)</p>	
<p>9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1).</p> <p>\$0</p> <p>No implementation or compliance costs to anglers or businesses are expected as a result of this rule. Anglers and businesses will not be required to purchase any special gear or pay any new fees to comply with this rule.</p>	
<p>10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Yes   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>No</p>	
<p>11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule</p> <p>There are currently inconsistencies in the interpretation of possession limits between the boundary waters between Wisconsin and neighboring states and the inland and outlying waters. The current rules are ambiguous as to whether boundary water possession limits and inland water possession limits can be reached simultaneously allowing anglers to possess fish in excess of each respective limit based on where the fish were harvested. Current rules are also unclear about whether boundary water possession limits apply to each waterbody or to the boundary waters overall. Additionally, some bag limits on boundary waters are in excess of the possession limits making interpretation and enforcement difficult. This rule will provide clarity regarding the possession limits for fish species on all of Wisconsin's waters and eliminate inconsistencies in interpretation.</p>	
<p>12. Summary of the Businesses, Business Sectors, Associations Representing Business, Local Governmental Units, and Individuals that may be Affected by the Proposed Rule that were Contacted for Comments.</p> <p>The department will hold a comment period in July 2026 to gain input on the rule anticipated economic effects.</p>	
<p>13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA.</p> <p>We do not anticipate any impacts on local governmental units as a result of implementing this rule.</p>	
<p>14. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)</p> <p>The proposed rule is not expected to incur additional implementation and compliance cost. The rule is expected to generate additional benefit to the state from the angler spending. The department anticipates no fiscal impact resulting from the rule. The department currently conducts a variety of activities related to managing fisheries, selling licenses, providing law enforcement services, and related research. The department will continue to conduct the same activities under the regulations proposed in this rule and does not anticipate any new or reduced</p>	

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expenditures for those activities. The majority of these rule changes clarify discrepancies in administrative code to accurately reflect the intent of policies for which anglers must already comply.

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

This rule will correct inconsistencies in possession limits and will result in clearer interpretation and enforcement of administrative code language that governs fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters. The changes will more accurately and properly reflect the desired management of Wisconsin fisheries.

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16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

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

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17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

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

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

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

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19. Contact Name

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20. Contact Phone Number

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