

Notice of Hearing

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on an emergency rule to revise ch. NR 20 and 25, relating to the Lake Superior cisco and lake trout regulations, at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: November 27, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 608-571-2209,673959666#](tel:+16085712209673959666) United States, Madison

Phone conference ID: 673 959 666#

Rule Information: Emergency Board Order FH-16-24(E) updated the cisco allocation and lake trout quotas and associated regulations for Lake Superior. This rule also established that the lake trout quota will be created using specific quantitative data. This change allows lake trout quota updates to be more responsive to changes in fish populations in Lake Superior. This rule also implements gear and permit changes in line with state-tribal discussions that have occurred as part of the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement.

This emergency rule will be followed up by a permanent rule that will come before the NRB in December 2024. This emergency rule will allow consistency in harvest regulations and quotas for commercial fishers until the permanent rule takes effect in the Spring of 2025.

Accessibility

For the hearing or visually impaired, non-English speakers, or those with other personal circumstances which might make communication at the meeting/hearing difficult, DNR will, to the maximum extent possible and with reasonable advance notice, provide aids including an interpreter, or a non-English, large-print, or recorded version of hearing documents. To access these resources, please contact the email address or phone number listed below as soon as possible.

Appearances at the Hearing and Submittal of Written Comments

The public has the opportunity to testify at the hearing. Registration will take place at the hearing by completing a Hearing Appearance form, which is available here [Hearing Appearance form](#). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged if you plan to provide spoken comments during the hearing. To pre-register, please download and complete the fillable [Hearing Appearance form](#) and send it to Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov.

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before November 27, 2024. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, E-mail, or through the internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing.

Written comments and any questions on the proposed rules should be submitted to:

Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Kari Lee-Zimmermann (FH/4)
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster Street,
Madison, WI 53707-7921

The rule may be viewed at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedEmergency.html>

Comments can be made at: DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov

The rule may be reviewed, and comments made at:
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/emergency_rules/hearings

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis: This rule is likely to have a minimal (less than \$50,000) total economic impact, if any, on commercial fishing businesses and sport fishing businesses. Both the lake trout quota allocation for the commercial fishery and the lake trout harvest closure trigger for angling will increase over the next three years in this rule, allowing for additional lake trout commercial harvest and more opportunities for anglers to harvest lake trout with a lower risk of an early season closure. This will benefit local businesses.

In future cycles, the quotas may increase further or could decrease. Whether established by rule or through use of the mechanisms which are established by rule, harvest quotas have always fluctuated due to relative abundance of the species.

The rule will require that commercial fishers tag all gill nets with an information and identification tag on the net's buoy staff on the portion that is above the water. Currently, only gill nets greater than 4 7/16-inch stretch measure and set shallower than 330 feet require these tags. These tags are supplied by the department at no cost to the commercial fisher and require little effort or expense to attach.

The rule does not allow for the potential to establish a reduced fine for small businesses, nor does it establish "alternative enforcement mechanisms" for "minor violations" of administrative rules made by small businesses. Public utility rate payers and local governmental units will not be affected by the rule.

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

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