

Notice of Hearing

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on a permanent rule to revise chs. NR 12, 16, 19, 21, 22, 27, 40 and 45 relating to amphibian and reptile regulations, at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Location Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Rule Information: Current rules establish provisions for a variety of activities involving Wisconsin's native amphibians and reptiles, including harvest, live take, possession, propagation, purchase, sale, trade, exhibition, rehabilitation, stocking and release. However, the majority of these rules have not been updated since the 1990s. Additionally, the department has heard feedback that these rules are difficult to interpret and enforce. These rules will be updated to provide better clarity to the public while better protecting the amphibians and reptiles. Poaching, harassment, increased collection pressure and wildlife trafficking are negatively impacting amphibian and reptile populations throughout North America and around the world. In addition, many emerging diseases are also causing increased pressure on amphibian and reptile populations

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 scottr.karel@wisconsin.gov.

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before January 13, 2026. 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: Scott Karel
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster Street,
Madison, WI 53707-7921

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

Comments may be emailed to: DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov

The rule may be reviewed, and comments made at:
<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/chr/hearings>.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis: These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, and no design standards are contained in the rule.

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

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