

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Request adoption of Board Order FH-13-08, revisions to NR 25 related to Great Lakes Commercial Fishing and Wholesale Fish Dealing

FOR: OCTOBER 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Thomas R. Hansen, Administrative Warden

SUMMARY:

After a series of successful law enforcement investigations in the 1990's, a citizen Task Force was convened to examine existing Great Lakes commercial fishing laws and develop a course of action to improve compliance with Wisconsin's commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealing laws. The integrated citizen Task Force concluded its work in 2000 with 12 key recommendations to address related law enforcement concerns. Statutory revisions were implemented with the enactment of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 on April 21, 2006.

The proposed rules complete the implementation of the statutory requirements of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 and recommendations of the Task Force. These rules extensively revise ch. NR 25, Wis. Adm. Code. They create definitions, allow an individual to hold more than one commercial fishing license, eliminate some criteria for transfer of a commercial fishing license, create a permit to allow open water fishing of nets on Lake Superior during the winter months, prohibit anyone from lifting or disturbing legal commercial gear without the permission of the owner, prohibit licensees from allowing licensed boats and nets to be used by unlicensed persons, create a notification requirement for lost and recovered commercial fishing nets, implement an electronic fish harvest reporting system, create a fleet reporting system, eliminate inspection and tagging of foreign (imported) lake trout, implement annual inventory reporting requirements by commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers for Great Lakes fish and sturgeon, create a repeat offender monitoring system, designate primary and secondary ports for the landing of commercial fish, and implement vehicle identification requirement for wholesale fish dealers and Great Lakes commercial fishers along with some housekeeping provisions to update language, clarify some gear use issues, and clarify descriptions of locations and various boundaries using latitude and longitude coordinates, all relating to commercial fishing on the Great Lakes.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Board Order FH-13-08

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

/s/	9/25/08
_____	_____
Bureau Director,	Date
/s/	10/03/08
_____	_____
Administrator,	Date
/s/	10/07/08
_____	_____
Secretary, Matt Frank	Date

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8 | Bill Horns - FH/4 |
| Randy Stark - LE/8 | Tom Van Haren - LE/8 |
| Peter Flaherty - LS/8 | |
| Carol Turner - LS/8 | |
| Mike Staggs - FH/4 | |

DATE: September 22, 2008

FILE REF: 3600

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew Frank

SUBJECT: Request for Adoption of Natural Resources Board Order FH-13-08 relating to wholesale fish dealing and commercial fishing in outlying waters

BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR RULE PROPOSAL

During the early 1990's, two major law enforcement investigations of illegal harvest and sale of yellow perch by commercial fishers on the Great Lakes were initiated based on complaints. The "CAN-AM Investigation" started in 1991, and concluded in 1996 with multiple convictions in federal court for the illegal harvest and sale of Zone 3 yellow perch (Wisconsin waters of southern Lake Michigan). The "Marinette Perch Investigation" started in 1993 and also concluded in 1996 with multiple convictions for taking fish over the quota, inaccurate catch & catch disposition reports, operating without a wholesale fish dealer license and inaccurate wholesale fish purchase reports. Additional smaller investigations during and since that time period have concluded with convictions for a variety of commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer violations.

During the mid-1990's the commercial fishing season for yellow perch in Zone 3 was closed due to declining perch populations and remains closed today. The annual commercial harvest limit for yellow perch in Zone 1 (southern Green Bay) was reduced in steps from 400,000 lbs. in 1994 to 20,000 lbs. in 2001. Since then, the Zone 1 population has recovered and the annual harvest limit has been increased to 60,000 lbs. and then increased again to 100,000 lbs. on May 20, 2008. While many factors may have contributed to the overall decline of these fish stocks, the over-harvest of yellow perch and non-compliance with commercial fishing laws had a significant impact on these fish populations. Furthermore, compliance with annual harvest quotas and reporting requirements are critical components of the management strategies for the recovery and maintenance of any fish population.

As a result of concerns with the recovery of yellow perch populations and the investigations into Great Lakes commercial fishing during the 1990's, Department staff identified several concerns that limited the effectiveness of Conservation Wardens in ensuring compliance with the commercial fishing laws intended to prevent overexploitation of Great Lakes fish stocks. These concerns included reporting, record-keeping, licensing, monitoring the harvest, transportation and storage of fish, wholesale fish dealers, penalties, assessments and restitution, and funding. As a result, it was determined that a comprehensive rewrite of the commercial fishing laws was in order. It was recognized that such a rewrite would succeed only if there was broad support from both the commercial fishing industry and the sport fishers who share the Great Lakes fishery resources.

A Task Force composed of representatives for the key stakeholders in the Great Lakes fisheries resources (commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers, sport fishers, and representatives from the public) was convened to advise the Department on a course of action. This diverse group worked diligently together over a year to develop recommendations to address the law enforcement concerns. An excerpt from the opening paragraph

of the Task Force recommendations shows the positive attitude and spirit of cooperation that the Task Force members brought to the table: *“While there are diverse perspectives among the various users of the Great Lakes fishery, we have a common commitment to the protection of that resource and the effective enforcement of laws designed to protect it.”*

While the primary focus of the Task Force was to improve the enforceability of the commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer laws, all parties agreed that this was also an opportunity to streamline business processes and eliminate burdensome paperwork, which would benefit both the Department and these small businesses.

After numerous meetings, the Task Force concluded their work in June of 2000 with 12 key recommendations. The recommendations focused on addressing the needs of law enforcement to ensure compliance with the commercial fishing laws, while also recognizing the business needs of the industry by streamlining reporting and related business processes. Necessary statutory revisions were implemented with the enactment of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 (effective April 21, 2006).

This proposed Order addresses the law enforcement concerns, completes implementation of the Task Force’s recommendations and fulfills the statutory mandates of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288. The rule will aid the Department in monitoring the harvest of Great Lakes commercial fish and ensuring compliance with rules intended to protect these fish stocks from over harvest and excessive exploitation. In addition, provisions of the rule will increase efficiencies, generate savings in labor and effort and allow the streamlining of reporting procedures for commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers and Department staff. The Task Force recommendations and resulting legislation and these proposed rules have broad support within the commercial fishing industry and among sport fishers.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE

The following provisions, changes and requirements are implemented through the proposed rules:

- 1) **Electronic Fish Harvest Reporting System:** The cornerstone of the Task Force recommendations was the creation of an electronic fish harvest reporting system (EFHRS) allowing daily reporting of commercial fishing activity via the Internet, and thereby eliminating the requirement for commercial fishers to complete and mail separate paper reports to the Department every two weeks. This rule creates the EFHRS and related procedures to replace the current biweekly “paper” reporting system for recording and reporting all elements of the Great Lakes commercial catch. To facilitate the change over to the EFHRS, the Department will provide electronic reporting units (laptop computers) to each licensed commercial fisher. Under the rule, the commercial fisher must exercise reasonable care to prevent loss, destruction or damage to the portable electronic reporting unit and is responsible for replacement cost if it suffers preventable damage. The rule creates procedures for a commercial fisher to challenge a Department claim for reimbursement of the cost of the electronic reporting unit. To allow a smooth transition to the EFHRS under this rule, Great Lakes commercial fishers may continue reporting with the current biweekly “paper” system until July 1, 2010.
- 2) **Fleet Reporting System:** A number of commercial fishing businesses are family owned small

businesses with different family members holding individual commercial fishing licenses. The industry requested a system allowing the consolidation of licenses and quotas for reporting purposes to reduce the amount of paperwork while retaining the individuality of licenses and quotas for businesses purposes. The rule will allow an individual to hold multiple commercial fishing licenses in his or her own name, and creates a fleet reporting program whereby a person holding multiple commercial fishing licenses on Lake Superior or Lake Michigan can consolidate the quotas under these licenses and permits for reporting purposes. It establishes the individual species harvest limits for a commercial fisher with multiple licenses engaged in fleet reporting as being the sum total of that person's quotas held under the individual licenses. The rule requires the licensee to mark all buoys required on commercial fishing nets with a common "fleet reporting number" in place of the individual license numbers, and authorizes the licensee's crew members to operate all the commercial fishing gear and vessels included under the fleet reporting number without obtaining additional crew cards for each license included under the licensee's fleet reporting number. The rule clarifies the number of nets allowed and specifies that all nets in the water bearing a license number or fleet reporting number shall count toward the maximum number of nets allowed whether or not the net is actively fishing. Also, the Order creates a procedure for a commercial fisher to withdraw from the fleet reporting program at the end of a license year.

- 3) **Records and reporting:** The rule implements the revised statutory reporting and record keeping requirements for Great Lakes commercial fishers required under ss. 29.503 (5), 29.519(5), Stats., as revised by 2005 Wisconsin Act 288. Commercial fishers will no longer be required to complete and submit biweekly catch and disposition (sales) records to the Department. The rule implements an annual inventory report for both commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers. It creates a float plan requirement for fishing "high value" species (whitefish for commercial fishers holding quotas less than 13,656 pounds and yellow perch). This rule creates float plan and enhanced reporting requirements for individuals previously convicted of specific commercial fishing violations. The rule makes it illegal to possess, control, transport or cause to be transported any fish for which a record has not been created or submitted as required.
- 4) **Elimination of tagging of foreign (imported) lake trout:** 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 eliminated the labor intensive requirement for Conservation Wardens to inspect and tag foreign lake trout received by wholesale fish dealers, and specified that foreign lake trout shall be identified as required by the Department. This rule repeals the provisions associated with the foreign lake trout tagging program while continuing to require commercial fishers to tag domestic lake trout. The new procedures will increase efficiency for both the Department and the industry by allowing Conservations Wardens to monitor foreign lake trout shipments through access to mandatory reports created and maintained by wholesale fish dealers for other species. This allows wholesale fish dealers to expedite the flow of lake trout through their business with minimum paperwork and without the delays of mandatory inspections and tagging.
- 5) **Roe harvest:** To reduce potential killing of fish solely for their roe and to allow the Department to monitor and regulate the harvest of fish for roe, the rule requires commercial fishers to land and report all fish from which eggs are harvested, and limits the quantity of roe landed to a weight percentage of the fish landed.

- 6) **License transfers:** The Order eliminates certain license transfers criteria for transfers to immediate family members and persons holding non-temporary crew cards. This will provide commercial fishers with greater flexibility and opportunities to transfer Great Lakes commercial fishing licenses and make it easier for individuals to enter and leave the industry.
- 7) **Commercial fishing nets on Lake Superior; Other net and boat use restrictions:** It has been a common practice for the Department to allow the placement of open water nets on Lake Superior during the winter months with unseasonably warm temperatures. However, there was no formal process for this practice. The rule creates a permit authorization by which the Department can allow the legal placement of open water nets during the winter months on Lake Superior.

The rule also creates a requirement for all Great Lakes commercial fishers to notify a Conservation Warden of any lost or recovered commercial fishing net. The rule requires a commercial fisher to tag all fish requiring tagging upon completing each net lift and before starting to transport the fish by any means. The rule prohibits anyone from lifting, tampering or disturbing commercial fishing gear without the permission of the owner. Also, state commercial fishing licensees and their crew members are prohibited from operating a boat used by the licensee in commercial fishing under ch. NR 25 if there are any lake trout tags on board that were not issued by the Department to a state licensed commercial fisher. Finally, the rule prohibits a state licensed commercial fisher from allowing his or her licensed boats to be used to tend nets that were not set by a state licensed commercial fisher, and from allowing his or her licensed nets to be used by a person who is not a state licensed commercial fisher or crew member.

- 8) **Ports of landing:** The rule designates primary and secondary ports of landing for commercial fishers on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay. To facilitate monitoring efforts and increase the efficiency of Conservation Wardens, the rule requires commercial fishers to call in a daily float plan to the Department if they intend to land their catch at a secondary port.
- 9) **Vehicle identification:** To facilitate monitoring of harvested commercial fish and implement the provisions of s. 29.503(4)(e), Wis. Stats., the rule creates vehicle identification requirements for transportation of fish in vehicles belonging to commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers.
- 10) **Housekeeping provisions:** The rule includes several housekeeping provisions updating language and terms, clarifying provisions on the use of gear, and identifying the specific locations of particular lines and boundaries.

HOW DO THE RULES AFFECT EXISTING POLICY?

No fundamental fisheries management or law enforcement policies are affected by this rule. While there may be some objections to specific rule provisions by individual commercial fishers, the Task Force recommendations and resulting legislation (2005 Wisconsin Act 288) and the proposed rules have broad support within the commercial fishing industry and among sport fishers.

PAST BOARD ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RULE PROPOSAL

In February 1998, the NRB directed the Department to proceed with a “rewrite” of the commercial fishing laws to address enforcement problems identified during CAN-AM and Marinette Perch Investigations through the formation of a Commercial Fish Rewrite Task Force to ensure public involvement in the rewrite process. In June 2000, the Task Force issued its report and recommendations to the NRB, which directed the Department to proceed with rule making. In May 2008, the NRB authorized the Department to take the proposed rule to public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING SYNOPSIS

Six public hearings were held around the state to provide reasonable accessibility to a hearing location with hearings held along Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and on the western side of the State as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| July 16, 2008 in Ashland, WI – | Four people attended, with 3 testifying |
| July 17, 2008 in La Crosse, WI – | No public appearances except for a reporter doing a story on the proposed rule change |
| July 30, 2008 in Milwaukee, WI - | One person attended and testified |
| July 30, 2008 in Cleveland, WI – | Ten people attended, with 9 filing appearance slips and 5 testifying |
| July 31, 2008 in Peshtigo, WI – | One person attended for informational purposes only – no testimony. |
| July 31, 2008 in Green Bay, WI – | Eight people attended, with 6 appearance slips and 2 testifying. |
| July 31, 2008 in Sturgeon Bay, WI – | No one attended the hearing. |

Summary of hearing comments: Overall, there was strong support expressed during the public appearances for Order FH-13-08. The Department was complimented for following through and attempting to implement many of the Task Force recommendations. In addition to the oral testimony, written support for the Order was received from the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs (/s/ Charles C. Weier, President) and the Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen (/s/ Thom Gulash, Secretary). Two additional written comments were received by the Department. One questioned the enhanced reporting provisions of the Order for individuals convicted of a certain number of violations. The other written comment supported the Order as being beneficial, but suggested a number of additional changes in the management of the Great Lakes commercial fishery which were beyond the Scope of FH-13-08.

Significant comments made during the public testimony and the Department’s responses are:

- **COMMENT:** Recommendation that the fish tagging provisions of SECTION 6 be changed to require tagging of fish upon completing each net lift and before transporting the fish, rather than upon completion of the last lift. This would increase the enforceability of fish tagging requirements.
RESPONSE: Change made to FH-13-08 as requested.

- **COMMENT:** That Lake Superior commercial fishers in the fleet reporting program be allowed to continue with the marking of the floats and leads on their gill nets with their commercial fishing license number rather than being required to remark all of the gear with the fleet reporting number.
RESPONSE: Change made to FH-13-08 to require only that the net buoys must display the fleet reporting number (thus allowing the continued use of the currently marked floats and leads)

- **COMMENT:** Concerns with the amount of money from sportsmen spent by DNR on management and enforcement of commercial fishing regulations. Recommendation that the state go to a contract fishery, that yellow perch and smelt should no longer be commercial species, implement shorter commercial fish seasons, redirect expenditure of restitution money and create additional rules to reduce incidental catch.
RESPONSE: Several of these issues were discussed by the Commercial Fish Task Force and subsequently not included in their recommendations. The suggestions go beyond the scope of FH-13-08 which is primarily completing implementation of the Task Force recommendations and provisions of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288.

- **COMMENT:** Objection to the daily the float plan requirement for fishing high value species (yellow perch and whitefish where the individual quota is less than 13,656 lbs.) as it puts the commercial fisher of high value species in the same category as a repeat offender. Testimony that the requirement should either be eliminated or be applicable to all commercial fishers regardless of the species fished.
RESPONSE: The float plan requirement was strongly supported by the Commercial Fish Task Force and was included in their recommendations to the Department. Filing of the float plan increases the ability of Conservation Wardens to efficiently monitor the industry for compliance with quota and reporting requirements.

- **COMMENT:** That sons-in-law and daughters-in-law should be included in the definition of “immediate family”.
RESPONSE: With the amendment of NR 25.04 (7) in SECTION 4 of the Order, eliminating the existing licensing criterion, the recommended change is no longer needed to address the desire of some commercial fishers to be able to transfer a license to their son-in-law or daughter-in-law.

- **COMMENT:** That the terms “reasonable care” and “unreasonable damage” relating to the portable electronic fish reporting units found in SECTION 21 of the Order were vague, and that there was no procedure for a commercial fisher to challenge a Department decision that the fisher had to reimburse the Department for a damaged or lost computer.
RESPONSE: Examples of unreasonable damage were added to the rule. Also procedures were added for a commercial fisher to challenge a Department claim for reimbursement of the cost of a lost or damaged electronic reporting unit.

- **COMMENT:** That GPS or latitude and longitude coordinates be added in the description of locations on Lake Michigan and Green Bay to allow commercial fishers to enter points, boundaries and locations into chart plotters and GPS units on board their vessels.

RESPONSE: The corresponding latitude and longitude were added to the rule for specific locations on Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

RULES CLEARINGHOUSE COMMENTS

All Clearinghouse comments that have not become moot have been accepted and the rule has been revised accordingly, with the following exception:

COMMENT:

2. Form, Style and Placement in Administrative Code

c. Several of the phrases defined in SECTION 1 are not used in ch. NR 25, as revised by the proposed rule. For example, the following phrases do not appear to be used in ch. NR 25: (1) the annual allowable commercial harvest [s. NR 25.02 (32)]; (2) illegal nets [s. NR 25.02 (35)]; (3) Riley’s Bay [s. NR 25.02 (55)]; (4) Southern Green Bay-Lake Michigan line [s. NR 25.02 (60)]; (5) standard fish box [s. NR 25.02 (62)]; and (6) trawl cast [s. NR 25.02 (68)]. The agency should either use all of the phrases defined in SECTION 1 or remove the phrases that are not used. [See s. 1.01 (7), Manual.]

RESPONSE:

The unused definitions have been removed from the Order. “Riley’s Bay” will be retained because it is used in s. NR 25.10 (2) (a) 1. The definition of “Southern Green Bay” has been amended to use the term “Southern Green Bay – Lake Michigan line”, so the latter term will be retained. “Standard fish box” will also be retained even though it is not used in ch. NR 25, because its definition by rule is called for by s. 29.519 (6) (c), Stats., in order to implement that law.

SMALL BUSINESS ANALYSIS AND FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS

The proposed rule will not have a significant adverse economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses.

a. Describe the type of small business that will be affected by the rule. Licensed commercial fishers operating on Wisconsin’s outlying waters (Lake Superior and Lake Michigan).

b. Briefly explain the reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the rule. The current biweekly “paper” reporting system for daily fishing activity is replaced with an Electronic Fish Harvest Reporting System whereby commercial fishers submit electronic reports and data relating to fishing activity and reports on a daily basis via the Internet. The Department will provide the

portable electronic reporting unit to the commercial fishers. A fleet reporting system is created to allow commercial fishing businesses involving more than one license to consolidate quota allocations, fish harvest weights and daily fishing activity information for reporting purposes, thereby significantly reducing record keeping requirements relating to individual licenses. The completion and submittal of a biweekly catch and disposition report to the Department is eliminated for commercial fishers. Commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers will be required to submit a new annual inventory report documenting fish in possession, storage or under control on an annual date of their choosing to allow them to use the same inventory data as required for tax reporting or other business purposes. The required inspection and tagging of foreign lake trout imported by wholesale fish dealers is eliminated.

c. Describe the type of professional skills necessary for compliance with the rule. No new professional skills are required.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This is a Type III action under Chapter NR 150, Wis. Admin. Code, therefore no EA is required.

Fiscal Estimate — 2007 Session

- Original Updated
 Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FH-13-08 NR25 Wis. Adm. Code

Subject
 Regulation of wholesale fish dealing and commercial fishing

Fiscal Effect

- State: No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
 Create New Appropriation

- Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.
 Yes No
 Decrease Costs

- Local: No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
 2. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
 4. Decrease Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
 Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others _____
 School Districts WTCS Districts

- Fund Sources Affected**
 GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations
 ss. 20.370 (4) (kr), 20.370 (3) (mi), 20.370 (3) (mu)

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This rule streamlines Great Lakes commercial fish reporting processes by implementing a fleet reporting system and a Department-managed electronic fish harvest reporting system (EFHRS). Both of these new systems for managing required data and reports will increase the efficiencies of Department staff (Fisheries and Law Enforcement) by eliminating the need to enter commercial fishing data and the related handling and filing of the current biweekly commercial fishing daily activity reports. Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff will be able to directly access daily fishing activity data electronically through EFHRS, thereby allowing timely and efficient analysis of data for ensuring compliance and protection to the Great Lakes fishery resource. It is very difficult to quantify the labor cost savings/significance of these two new systems, as the increased efficiencies will allow affected Department staff to redirect their activities to other required tasks and pressing issues.

Complete implementation of EFHRS in 2010 will eliminate the need for the Department to print and distribute the paper biweekly daily fishing activity report to individual commercial fishers, which will reduce Department printing and mailing costs by approximately \$500 per year. It is estimated that EFHRS will cost approximately \$15,000 to establish and \$2,700 annually to maintain.

Fleet reporting benefits both the Department and the commercial fishing industry by allowing commercial fishing businesses to consolidate separate licenses' individual fish harvest quotas into a single reporting entity. This significantly reduces paper work for the commercial fishers and the number of reports and associated data for Department Fisheries staff to manage.

See page 2 for more details.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Prepared By: Joe Polasek	Telephone No. (608) 266-2794	Agency Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No. (608) 266-2794	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)

Fiscal Estimate — 2007 Session

Page 2 Assumptions Narrative Continued

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FH – 13 – 08

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate – Continued

NOTE: This rule will complete implementation of the recommendations of a citizen Commercial Fish Task Force convened to address a number of law enforcement concerns. It was agreed to by Department staff and the Task Force members that needed statutory amendments and the rewrite of ch. NR 25, Wis. Adm. Code, had to proceed as a package to ensure that all of the inter-related issues were adequately addressed. The statutory requirements (amendments) for commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers were implemented with the enactment of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 on April 21, 2006. Please see the fiscal estimate for this Act (LRB Number 05-0707/1; AB 581). Specifically, under the provisions of the Act, the Department will no longer have to print and distribute daily commercial fishing activity report forms (allows implementation of EFHRS), commercial fish disposition report forms and wholesale fish purchase report forms. The Act eliminated the need for the Department to provide foreign lake trout tags and eliminated the labor intensive requirement for a warden to inspect and tag the fish in each shipment of imported lake trout. In turn, this rule streamlines reporting processes by implementing an electronic fish harvest reporting system and a fleet reporting system. It is expected that the combined savings of the Act and this rule will help offset the eventual new costs for maintaining and managing the electronic reporting system and its hardware and software. Estimated cost savings generated by 2005 Wisconsin Act 288 included:

- Elimination of the need for the Department to print and distribute the monthly wholesale fish purchase report has reduced department costs approximately \$225 per year.
- Elimination of the need for the Department to print and distribute the biweekly catch disposition report has reduced costs by an approximately \$500 per year.
- Elimination of the need for Department to provide foreign lake trout tags reduced Department costs about \$2,200 annually. (e.g. Approximately \$1,000 to print the special records forms annually, \$400 in postage to mail out all the reports and about \$800 to purchase special lake trout tags).

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet — 2007 Session
 Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original Updated
 Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FH-13-08 NR25 Wis. Adm. Code

Subject
 Regulation of wholesale fish dealing and ommercial fishing

One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):
 One-time costs to create the electronic fish harvest reporting system: approximately \$15,000

Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on State Funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations — Salaries and Fringes		\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)		(FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations — Other Costs		2,700	- 500
Local Assistance			-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			-
Total State Costs by Category		\$	\$ -
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR		\$	\$ -
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S		2,700	- 500
State Revenues	Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	Increased Revenue	Decreased Revenue
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
Total State Revenues		\$	\$ -

Net Annualized Fiscal Impact

	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
Net Change in Costs	\$ 2,200	\$ 0
Net Change in Revenues	\$ 0	\$ 0

Prepared By: Joe Polasek	Telephone No. (608) 266-2794	Agency Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No. (608) 266-2794	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)

**ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
REPEALING, RENUMBERING AND AMENDING, AMENDING,
REPEALING AND RECREATING AND CREATING RULES**

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes to repeal s. NR 25.16 (1) (c), (d) and (e) and (2) (b) to (e); to renumber and amend NR 25.16 (1) (f); to amend ss. NR 25.02, 25.04 (6) and (7), 25.05 (3), 25.06 (3) (intro.), 25.09 (1) (am) 5. and 6. and (as) and (2) (a) 9. and (b) 1. b. and 2. b. and f., 25.10 (1) (b) 3. and 8., (c) and (2) (a) 6. to 8. and (b), (c) and (f), 25.13 (2) and (3) (intro.), (a) and (b), 25.16 (title) and (1) (title) and (a), (2) (title) and (a) and (3) (b), 25.17 (1) and 25.18; to repeal and recreate ss. NR 25.16 (1) (b) and 25.17 (2); and to create ss. NR 25.03 (1) (a) 3. and (2) (am), 25.09 (2) (b) 2. g., (3) (c), (d) and (e) and (6), 25.13 (1) (title) and (4) to (11), 25.135, 25.14 (3) and (4) and 25.19, relating to wholesale fish dealing and commercial fishing in outlying waters and affecting small business.

FH-13-08

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

1. Statutes interpreted. Sections 23.09, 29.011 (1) and (2), 29.014 (1), 29.041, 29.503, 29.516, 29.519 and 29.973, Stats.

2. Statutory authority. Sections 23.11 (1), 29.014 (1), 29.041, 29.503 (4) (b) and (e), 29.519 (1m) (b) and (c), (2) (d) and (5), 29.973 and 227.11 (2) (a), Stats.

3. Explanation of agency authority to promulgate the proposed rules under the statutory authority. Section 23.11 (1), Stats., grants the department such powers as may be necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise the functions and perform the duties required of it by ch. 23, Stats., and by other provisions of law.

Commercial fishing harvest limits (and sport fishing bag limits) are authorized under s. 29.014 (1), Stats., which directs the department to establish and maintain any bag limits and conditions governing the taking of fish that will conserve the fish supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing, while s. 29.041, Stats., provides that the department may regulate fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters, and outlying waters.

Section 29.503 (4) (b) and (e), Stats., require wholesale fish dealers and producers of fish who sell, buy, barter, trade, possess, control, transport, or cause to be transported any lake trout to identify the lake trout in the form and manner required by the department, and to mark any vehicle used to transport any fish in a manner prescribed by the department that identifies the vehicle's ownership and that confirms that the vehicle contains fish.

Section 29.519 (1m) (b), Stats., authorizes the department to limit the number of Great Lakes commercial fishing licenses and to designate the areas in the outlying waters under the jurisdiction of this state where commercial fishing operations are restricted. It also grants discretion to the department to establish commercial fish species harvest limits after giving due consideration to the recommendations made by the commercial fishing boards, and it specifies that the limitations on harvests must be based on the available harvestable population of fish and in the wise use and conservation of the fish, so as to prevent over-exploitation. Section 29.519 (1m) (b), Stats., also authorizes the department to promulgate rules to establish formulas for the allocation of the species harvest limits among commercial fishing licensees or for the allotment of individual licensee catch quotas. The department may designate the kind, size and amount of gear to be used in the harvest. The limitations on licenses, restricted fishing areas, harvests and

gear must be based on the available harvestable population of fish and in the wise use and conservation of the fish so as to prevent overexploitation.

Under s. 29.519 (1m) (c), Stats., the department may promulgate rules defining the qualifications of licensees in the reasonable exercise of this authority, giving due consideration to residency, past record including compliance with the records requirements, fishing and navigation ability and quantity and quality of equipment possessed.

Under s. 29.519 (2) (d), Stats., the department must promulgate rules governing the transfer of commercial fishing licenses between individuals equally qualified to hold the licenses and to members of a licensee's immediate family provided the rules assure the wise use and conservation of the fish resources being harvested under the license. These rules shall relate only to those waters in which the number of licenses is limited.

Under s. 29.519 (5), Stats., the department may require commercial fishers to keep records and make reports in the form and manner prescribed by the department

Section 29.973, Stats., requires the department to establish and maintain a commercial fish reporting system under which the department shall establish specific reporting or recordkeeping requirements that apply to any person who has committed a certain number of violations of subch. VI of ch. 29, Stats., as determined by the department; any person who holds a license issued under s. 29.519 (1m), and who is convicted of harvesting more than 1,000 pounds of fish above their annual quota, failing to report over 2,000 pounds of catch during a 12-month period, fishing during the closed season, or possessing 200 or more pounds of fish in violation of ch. 29, Stats.

Finally, s. 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., expressly confers rulemaking authority on the department to promulgate rules interpreting any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

4. Related statutes.

- 23.09 Conservation.
- 29.539 Sale of game or fish.
- 29.563 Fee schedule.
- 29.924 Investigations; searches.
- 29.931 Seizures.
- 29.971 General penalty provisions.
- 29.973 Commercial fish reporting system.
- 29.984 Commercial fish protection surcharge.
- 29.99 Wildlife violator compact surcharge
- 29.9905 Great Lakes resource surcharge.
- 29.991 Fishing net removal surcharge.

5. Plain language analysis of the proposed rule. SECTION 1 of the Order amends definitions and creates several new definitions relating to wholesale fish dealing and Great Lakes commercial fishing. Specific locations were clarified wherever possible with the addition of latitude and longitude coordinates

SECTIONS 2 and 3 allow an individual to hold multiple commercial fishing licenses on Lake Superior or on Lake Michigan.

SECTION 4 eliminates licensing criteria limiting Lake Michigan license transfers to immediate family members and persons holding non-temporary crew cards. Also, this SECTION includes some housekeeping provisions updating and clarifying current rule language.

SECTION 5 requires commercial fishers to land and report all fish from which eggs are harvested and limits the quantity of roe landed to a weight percentage of the fish landed. It also establishes the individual species harvest limit for a commercial fisher with multiple licenses engaged in fleet reporting as being the sum total of that person's quotas held under the individual licenses. This SECTION also makes housekeeping changes.

SECTION 6 requires commercial fishers to attach any required tags to harvested fish upon completing each net lift and before beginning transport of the fish, instead of at the dock or shore.

SECTIONS 7 and 13 allow by permit the placement of nets during the winter months in open water on Lake Superior.

SECTIONS 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 are housekeeping provisions to correct language, clarify use of gear and clarify the specific locations of particular lines and boundaries with latitude and longitude coordinates, require the fleet reporting number to be attached to gear, and eliminate requirements for commercial fishers to submit bi-weekly sales reports to the department.

SECTION 11 creates a requirement for commercial fishers to notify a Conservation Warden of any lost or recovered commercial fishing nets and requires that nets used in a fleet reporting program be tagged accordingly.

SECTION 12 states that all nets in the water bearing a license number or fleet reporting number shall count toward the maximum number of nets allowed whether or not the net is actively fishing.

SECTION 20 requires state regulated commercial fishers on Wisconsin waters of the Great Lakes to change from a "paper" bi-weekly reporting system to a daily Electronic Fish Harvest Reporting System (EFHRS) by July 1, 2010. To allow a smooth transition to EFHRS, this SECTION allows commercial fishers to report daily fishing activity to the department by either the current biweekly reporting system or by means of the EFHRS until June 30, 2010.

SECTION 22 implements the statutory fish harvest report requirements of s. 29.519 (5) (a) and (b), Stats., for commercial fishers and creates the related procedures for EFHRS, replacing the current biweekly "paper" reporting system by July 1, 2010 for recording and reporting all elements of the Great Lakes commercial fish harvest. Included are procedures for issuance of department-owned computers to commercial fishers, specification of the commercial fishers' responsibilities for care of the computers and reimbursement obligations for unreasonable loss of or damage to a computer, a procedure for a person to challenge a department claim for reimbursement of the cost of an electronic reporting unit, special procedures for the reporting of estimated catch on Lake Michigan, and procedures for the special electronic reporting requirements for trawl catch.

SECTION 23 clarifies that the weight of all fish used or intended for use for human consumption shall be reported as part of the harvest limits or quotas of the commercial fisher.

SECTION 24 implements the statutory record keeping requirements of s. 29.519 (5) (a) and (c), Stats., for commercial fishers relating to disposition of harvested fish.

SECTION 25 makes it illegal to possess, control, transport or cause the transportation of any fish for which a record or report has not been created or been submitted to the department as required.

SECTION 26 implements the statutory requirements of s. 29.519 (5m), Stats., for outlying waters commercial fishers to submit an annual fish inventory report to the department.

SECTION 27 requires commercial fishers harvesting high value species (whitefish by fishers with quota of less than 13,656 lbs. and yellow perch) to call in a daily float plan to the department prior to the start of daily fishing activity.

SECTION 28 implements requirements of s. 29.973, Stats., regarding enhanced reporting by persons convicted of specific commercial fishing violations. This SECTION also requires any person convicted of specific commercial fishing violations to call in a daily float plan to the department prior to the start of daily fishing activity for a period of 24 months following conviction.

SECTION 29 creates a fleet reporting program whereby a person holding multiple commercial fishing licenses on Lake Superior or Lake Michigan can consolidate the quotas and fish harvested under these licenses and permits for reporting purposes. This SECTION authorizes crew members to operate all the commercial fishing gear and vessels included under the fleet reporting number without obtaining additional crew cards for each license; requires the licensee to mark all commercial fishing nets with a common "fleet reporting number" in place of the individual license numbers; and requires the licensee to specify the allocation of the fleet reported catch between licenses for the purposes of meeting minimum production relicensing criteria and contributing to the catch history of each license.

SECTION 30 prohibits unauthorized persons from lifting or tampering with commercial fishing gear. Also, state commercial fishing licensees and their crew members are prohibited from operating a boat used by the licensee in commercial fishing under ch. NR 25 if there are any lake trout tags on board that were not issued by the department to a state licensed commercial fisher. In addition, the rule prohibits a state licensed commercial fisher from allowing his or her licensed boats to be used to tend nets that were not set by a state licensed commercial fisher, and from allowing his or her licensed nets to be used by a person who is not a state licensed commercial fisher or crew member.

SECTIONS 31, 32, 33 and 34 eliminate the mandatory inspection and tagging of foreign (imported) lake trout by Conservation Wardens upon entry of the fish into Wisconsin and prohibit the use of a boat authorized for commercial fishing operations on the Great Lakes to import foreign lake trout by water. SECTION 31 also continues the requirement for commercial fishers to tag domestic lake trout upon harvest.

SECTIONS 35, 36, 37 and 38 allow the removal of the locked tag from lawfully possessed lake trout immediately prior to preparation of the fish for smoking, portioning or filleting; and eliminates the tagging of processed lake trout with adhesive lake trout tags.

SECTION 39 implements the requirements of s. 29.503 (5) (br), Stats., that wholesale fish dealers conduct an annual inventory and submit an annual fish inventory report to the department.

SECTION 40 designates primary and secondary ports of landing for commercial fishers on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay. To facilitate monitoring efforts, this SECTION requires commercial fishers landing their catch at a secondary ports to call in a daily float plan to the department prior to starting the day's

fishing activities, and it requires the department to revoke a written landing authorization for failure to comply with the conditions of the authorization.

SECTION 41 creates the vehicle identification requirements for transportation of fish in vehicles belonging to commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers as required under s. 29.503 (4) (e), Wis. Stats.

6. Summary of and preliminary comparison with any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule. The department is not aware of any existing or proposed federal regulation that would govern wholesale fish dealing in Wisconsin or commercial fishing in Wisconsin's waters of Lake Michigan or Lake Superior.

7. Comparison of similar rules in adjacent states (Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Michigan).

Illinois – Commercial fishing: In Illinois, there are 5 commercial fishing licenses, but none are currently active. Illinois allows only the targeted harvest of yellow perch and bloater chub. Incidentally caught rainbow smelt and alewife may be retained by commercial fishers. Illinois manages the two commercial fish stocks by means of quotas and gear restrictions, with a current quota of “0” lbs for yellow perch and 125,000 lbs for chubs. Commercial harvest methods are limited to gill nets with licensing criteria requiring a 12+ ton vessel and a minimum investment in 6,000 ft. of gill net. Commercial fishers must submit a report monthly documenting daily fishing activity. In addition each commercial fisher must submit a yearly operational plan identifying the port from which they will operate and the exact location for landing the catch. Penalties for violations include forfeitures and suspension of licenses.

Illinois – Wholesale fish dealers: Illinois law requires persons engaged in the wholesale purchase and sale of fish to have a wholesale fish dealers license. Wholesale fish dealers are also required to maintain records of fish purchases. Illinois does not require tagging or special reporting for imported lake trout.

Iowa – Iowa has no Great Lakes waters and therefore no commercial fishing regulations applicable to such waters. Iowa has no wholesale fish dealer (buyers) license, but is working on legislation to create such a license with record keeping and reporting requirements.

Michigan – Commercial fishing: In Michigan there are 12 active licensed commercial fishers on Lake Michigan and 6 active licenses on Lake Superior. Michigan law allows the targeted harvest of whitefish and bloater chubs on Lake Superior with incidental harvest of herring and menominee. Whitefish are the primary commercial species on Lake Michigan with chubs under quota and a trawl fishery for smelt on the northern waters of Green Bay. Commercial fish are managed by seasons, quotas and gear restrictions for individual commercial fish species. On Lake Superior, whitefish can only be legally harvested by trap nets. Whitefish on Lake Michigan are harvested by trap nets and a trawl fishery. Chubs are harvested by gill net. Gear restrictions included limitations on the number of nets, net mesh size and locations and depths for placement or use of such gear. Nets must be mark so the owner can be identified. Commercial fishers must file “paper” reports monthly with Michigan DNR on daily fishing activity. Michigan is working on replacing the current paper reporting for commercial fishers with an electronic fish harvest reporting system.

Michigan – Wholesale fish dealer: In Michigan a wholesale fish dealer license is required to conduct business in the wholesale purchase and sale of fish. Each wholesale fish dealer is required to maintain records and file a monthly report of all fish purchased with the Michigan DNR. For approximately the past 2 years, wholesale fish dealers have been filing their purchase reports electronically with the DNR.

Michigan does not require tagging or special reporting for imported lake trout.

Minnesota – Commercial fishing: Minnesota has 24 licensed commercial fishers on Lake Superior, most of whom are part time. Minnesota allows the targeted harvest of herring with an incidental harvest of menominee, lake trout (< 300 lbs.), bloater chub (50,000 lbs.) and rainbow smelt. Commercial fish are managed by seasons, quotas and gear restrictions with an annual harvest quota of less than 400,000 lbs. for herring. Each commercial fisher has limitations on the feet of gill net he or she can use. There are also permits issued allowing the use of 5 trap nets on Lake Superior

Minnesota – Wholesale fish dealers: Minnesota has a very low number of licensed wholesale fish dealers (buyers) and is in the process of attempting to repeal the buyer's license requirement. Minnesota does not require tagging or special reporting for imported lake trout.

8. Summary of the factual data and analytical methodologies that the agency used in support of the proposed rule and how any related findings support the regulatory approach chosen for the proposed rule. During the early 1990's, two major law enforcement investigations of illegal harvest and sale of yellow perch by commercial fishers were initiated by the department based on complaints. The "CAN-AM Investigation" started in 1991, and concluded in 1996 with multiple convictions in federal court for the illegal harvest and sale of Zone 3 yellow perch (Wisconsin waters of southern Lake Michigan). The "Marinette Perch Investigation" started in 1993 and also concluded in 1996 with multiple convictions for taking fish over the quota, inaccurate catch and catch disposition reports, operating without a wholesale fish dealer license and inaccurate wholesale fish purchase reports. Additional smaller investigations were concluded during this same time period with convictions for a variety of commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer violations.

During the mid-1990's the commercial fishing season for yellow perch in Zone 3 was closed due to declining perch populations and remains closed today. The annual commercial harvest quota for yellow perch in Zone 1 (southern Green Bay) was reduced from 400,000 lbs. to 300,000 lbs. on July 1, 1994, from 300,000 lbs. to 200,000 lbs. on July, 1 1997 and finally to 20,000 lbs. on July 1, 2001. Since then, the yellow perch population has recovered and the annual Zone 1 yellow perch harvest limit was increased to 60,000 lb on May 20, 2006 and will increase to 100,000 lb. on May 20, 2008. While it is believed that many factors may have contributed to the overall decline and fluctuations of these fish stocks, the over-harvest of yellow perch and non-compliance with commercial fishing laws had a significant impact on these fish populations. Furthermore, compliance with these annual harvest quotas and the reporting requirements to the department are critical components of the management strategies for the recovery of any fish population.

While the aforementioned investigations concluded with the successful prosecution and conviction of the responsible parties, it was clear that the existing laws and procedures did not serve as an adequate deterrent to illegal behavior. A Commercial Fisheries Task Force of commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers, sport fishers and other public interests was convened. The Task Force was guided by the following problem definition:

"The long term stability of Great Lakes fish stocks are in jeopardy. Under current laws and limited Department resources, we cannot determine or control the number of fish being harvested. Current laws fail to deter false reporting, unlawful harvest, and unlawful sale of commercial fish species. As a result, consumers, sport fishers, commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers, and others suffer from reduced bag limits, reduced quotas, and lost business opportunities."

After numerous meetings, the Task Force concluded their work in the year 2000 with 12 key recommendations. The recommendations focused on addressing the needs of law enforcement to ensure compliance with the commercial fishing laws, while also recognizing the business needs of the industry by streamlining reporting and related business processes. Statutory revisions were implemented with the enactment of 2005 Wisconsin Act 288, effective April 21, 2006. This Natural Resources Board Order addresses the aforementioned law enforcement concerns and completes implementation of the new statutory requirements and the recommendations of the integrated Task Force. It has broad support within the commercial fishing industry and among sport fishers.

9. Analysis and supporting documentation that the agency used in support of the agency's determination of the rule's effect on small businesses under s. 227.114, Stats., or that was used when the agency prepared an economic impact report. We know that small businesses relating to commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealing may be affected by the rule. However, we currently have no basis for quantifying the economic impacts of the rule. The rule changes relating to creating an electronic fish reporting system, allowing fleet reporting and eliminating tagging of foreign lake trout had the endorsement of individual wholesale fish dealers and commercial fishers during the Task Force proceedings. These small business owners explained that implementation of these changes would streamline their business processes and reduce associated labor costs.

10. Effects on small business, including how the rule will be enforced. As noted under item 8. above, this Order is part of a comprehensive rewrite of Wisconsin's laws regulating wholesale fish dealers and Great Lakes commercial fishing which involved extensive public input through a citizen Task Force. While the primary focus of the Task Force was to improve the enforceability of the commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer laws, all parties agreed that this was also an opportunity to streamline business processes and eliminate burdensome paperwork, which would benefit both the department and these small businesses. This Order implements those recommendations of the Task Force and subsequent statutory mandates created under 2005 Wisconsin Act 288. The following revisions should result in increased efficiencies, significant savings in labor and effort, and the streamlining of record keeping and reporting procedures for commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers:

- The cornerstone of the Task Force recommendations was creation of an Electronic Fish Harvest Reporting System (EFHRS) allowing daily reporting of commercial fishing activity via the internet and thereby eliminate the requirement for separate "paper" reports to be completed and mailed to the department. This Order implements the EFHRS along with a "Fleet Reporting" system allowing consolidation of individual harvest quotas held by the same individual, thereby significantly reducing the number of required reports to the department.
- This Order eliminates the tagging of individual foreign lake trout by Conservation Wardens. This expedites the flow of the fish through wholesale fish dealer businesses without having to wait for a personal inspection by the local warden.
- The single annual inventory report from wholesale fish dealers and commercial fishers will allow Conservation Wardens to efficiently conduct meaningful audits of these businesses to ensure compliance with harvest limits (quotas). The Order allows commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers to complete the annual inventory at a time of their own choosing, such as at the same time that they complete a similar inventory for tax purposes or to meet other business needs. Therefore, the

proposed recordkeeping requirement compliments current business procedures rather than resulting in a new procedure.

- Eliminating the licensing requirement for a transferee to be a licensed crew member or family member expands opportunities for commercial fishers to sell their businesses.

The rule will be enforced by Conservation Wardens under the authorities of chapters 23 and 29, Stats., through routine patrols, record audits of wholesale fish dealers and commercial fishers and follow up investigations of citizen complaints.

11. Agency contact person (including e-mail and telephone number).

Thomas R. Hansen, Administrative Warden, Bureau of Law Enforcement
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SECTION 1. NR 25.02 is amended to read:

NR 25.02 Definitions. Except as otherwise specifically defined in the statutes, the following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, are defined as follows:

(1) "Allouez Bay" means that body of water in Douglas county lying south of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 29, township 49 north, range 13 west, and running due east in a straight line to the water's edge on north line of section 28, same township and range.

(2) "Baileys Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most southerly point in section 21, township 30 north, range 28 east at N45°03.303', W87°05.526', and running in a straight line westerly to the south line of section 20, same township and range at N45°03.294', W87°07.505'.

(3) "Chunked" means fish from which the viscera, head and tail have been removed.

~~(4)~~ (4) "Closed area" means any area designated as a refuge by rule or statute, or any area where fishing is restricted in any manner by rule.

~~(5)~~ (5) "Closed season" means that period of the year not embraced within the open season for each species of fish therefor as provided in s. NR 25.05 (1) during which the taking of the fish species enumerated is prohibited.

~~(6)~~ (6) "Commercial fish" is any species of game or rough fish for which an open season has been provided in s. NR 25.05.

(7) "Commercial fisher" means a person required to obtain a license under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats.

~~(4)~~ **(8)** "Commercial fishing" means fishing for fish regulated by this chapter with commercial gear or methods other than those commonly known as hook and line fishing or angling, the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.09, or minnows.

~~(5)~~ **(9)** "Commercial fishing gear" or "commercial gear" is that equipment identified in or regulated by this chapter, with the exception of hook and line or angling equipment, gear for the taking of smelt pursuant to s. NR 20.09, or minnows.

~~(6)~~ **(10)** "Commercial ice fishing" means the setting and operating of commercial fishing gear through and from the surface of the ice.

(11) "Condition of the fish" means the form that fish are in, and includes but is not limited to fresh round, fresh dressed, frozen dressed, fresh fillet, frozen fillet, fresh chunked, frozen chunked, smoked dressed, smoked fillet, smoked chunked, fresh snipped or frozen snipped.

~~(7)~~ **(12)** "Department" means the Wisconsin department of natural resources.

(13) "Detroit Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most southerly point in section 14, township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°20.016', W86°56.451', and running in a straight line to the most southerly point in section 18, township 33 north, range 30 east at N45°20.054', W86°54.139'.

~~(7g)~~ **(14)** "Diverter" means a type of commercial fishing gear inside a trawl net before the cod end, used to sort fish by size, through which all fish caught must pass and which diverts larger fish out of the net.

(15) "Domestic lake trout" means a lake trout taken from the waters of the state, but not from a fish farm registered with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.

~~(7h)~~ **(16)** "Dressed fish" means fish from which only the viscera have been removed.

(17) "Eagle Harbor" means that body of water in Door county south and east of a line drawn from the most northeast point in section 9, township 31 north, range 27 east at N45°10.496', W87°13.340', easterly to the water's edge on the north line of section 12, same township and range at N45°11.140', W87°09.679'.

(18) "Egg Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 26, township 30 north, range 26 east at N45°03.245', W87° 18.005', and running in a straight line east to the north line of section 25, same township and range at N45°03.265', W87°16.938'.

(19) "Electronic fish reporting system" means a system established or authorized by the department for reporting daily commercial fishing activity and other required information to the

department by electronic means.

~~(8)~~ **(20)** "Encircling nets" means purse seines as defined in ~~sub. (24)~~ sub. (52), and seines as described in s. 29.522 (3), Stats.

(21) "End of the day" means 11:59 p.m. of the day the fish are landed.

~~(9)~~ **(22)** "Entrapping nets" means trap nets as defined in ~~sub. (29)~~ sub. (65), and entrapping nets as described in s. 29.522 (1), Stats.

(23) "Fillet" means the slab side of fish from which the viscera, head, tail and bones have been removed, except for the pin bones, which may or may not have been removed.

~~(10)~~ **(24)** "Final consumer" means the last or ultimate person who obtains a fish for its final use for eating or otherwise.

~~(11)~~ **(25)** "Final consumption" means the last or ultimate use of a fish by eating or otherwise.

(26) "Fish" means any processed or unprocessed fish of those species which are found in the waters of the state as defined in s. 281.01 (18), Stats., including parts of fish, fish eggs or fish products.

(27) "Fish Creek" means that body of water in Door county lying south and east of a line commencing at the most northerly point in the southwest quarter of section 29, township 31 north, range 27 east at N45°07.925', W87°14.926', and running northeasterly in a straight line to the water's edge on the north line of that section, township and range at N45°08.480', W87°14.505'.

~~(12)~~ **(28)** "Fisher" means any person engaged in fishing.

(29) "Fleet reporting program" means a program of catch assignment and reporting under s. NR 25.135.

(30) "Float plan" means a description of the day's proposed commercial fishing activity that includes the commercial fisher's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, date and intended time of leaving the pier or shore for commercial fishing activity, targeted species, port of departure, intended port of return, intended time of return, and the type of commercial fishing gear involved.

~~(12)~~ **(31)** "Foreign lake trout tag" means a ~~tag authorized by the department for attachment to~~ lake trout harvested outside of Wisconsin and imported into the state.

~~(13)~~ **(32)** "Harvest limit", "harvest quota", "total allowable annual commercial harvest", or "the total allowable commercial harvest" or ~~"the annual allowable commercial harvest"~~ means the total number of pounds of fish as established in this chapter which may be ~~taken~~ landed in a license year from the outlying waters or any portion thereof, except as otherwise prescribed in this chapter.

(33) "High value species" means whitefish when a commercial fisher's whitefish individual

catch quota is less than 13,656 pounds and yellow perch.

~~(14)~~ **(34)** "Illegal fish" means any fish taken ~~at a time other than the open season, or of sizes other than prescribed in s. NR 25.05 or in excess of quotas as prescribed in s. NR 25.06, or taken by methods other than those prescribed in this chapter, or of the following species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, sturgeon, all species of salmon and trout except as otherwise prescribed in this chapter,~~ possessed or controlled in violation of this chapter or a statute, including fish that have not been reported or for which a record has not been created as required.

~~(15)~~ "Illegal nets" mean ~~those nets possessed or used in violation of this chapter or a statute.~~

~~(16)~~ "Incapacity" means ~~the inability to communicate in any manner or an adjudication of incompetency under s. 54.10 (3), Stats.~~

~~(16m)~~ "Import" includes ~~the transport of fish by a common carrier or out of state fish dealer or producer into the state, or at the request of a licensed wholesale fish dealer, but does not include fish being transported through the state to a destination in another state.~~

~~(17)~~ **(35)** "Immediate family" means the spouse, children by birth or adoption, parents or siblings.

(36) "Import" includes the transport of fish by a common carrier or out-of-state fish dealer or producer into the state, or at the request of a licensed wholesale fish dealer, but does not include fish being transported through the state to a destination in another state.

(37) "Incapacity" means the inability to communicate in any manner, hospitalization with a terminal illness or terminal injuries as certified by a licensed physician, or an adjudication of incompetency as defined in s. 54.10 (3), Stats.

(38) "Jackson Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying south and west of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 27, township 34 north, range 30 east at N45°24.061', W86°50.876', and running in a straight line northwesterly to the most easterly point in the northeast quarter of section 28, same township and range at N45°24.226', W86°51.141'.

~~(18)~~ **(39)** "License year" means that period from July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year.

~~(19)~~ **(40)** "Licensed commercial fisher" means a person currently licensed under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats.

(41) "Little Sturgeon Bay" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 35, township 28 north, range 24 east at N44°51.098', W87°33.022', and running in a northeasterly direction to the most northerly point in section 36, same township and range at N44°51.486', W87°31.900'.

(42) “Lost net” means a commercial fishing net that cannot be located by the commercial fisher within 24 hours after the net was required to be lifted or a commercial fishing net that is missing or was stolen, regardless of the net’s last known location.

(43) “Moonlight Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying north and west of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 15, township 30 north, range 28 east at N45°04.403’, W87°04.823’, and running in a straight line northeasterly to the most southerly point in section 14, same township and range at N45°04.706’, W87°03.909’.

(44) “Non-work days” for a commercial fisher licensed under s. 29.519(1), Stats., means Sundays, January 1 (New Year’s Day), third Monday in January (Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday), Good Friday, last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4th (Independence Day), first Monday in September (Labor Day), fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), December 24th (Christmas Eve), December 25th (Christmas Day) and December 31st (New Year’s Eve).

(45) “North Bay” means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the most northeast point in section 35, township 31 north, range 28 east at N45°07.492’, W87°03.455’, and running in a straight line to the west line of section 25, same township and range at N45°08.200’, W87°03.017’.

~~(20)~~ (46) "Northern and southern Green Bay line" means that line described as a line in Green Bay drawn from the most northerly point of Friedmann's point at Fish creek at N45°07.925’, W87°14.926’, located in the southwest quarter of section 29, township 31 north, range 27 east, Door county; thence northwesterly to the most southeasterly point of Chambers island at N45°09.505’, W87°19.714’; thence along the southwest shoreline to the most southwesterly point of Chambers island at N45°10.680’, W87°27.610’; thence due west to the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary line at N45°10.680’, W87°24.750’.

~~(21)~~ (47) "Northern chub fishing zone" means those waters of Lake Michigan lying north of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, and east of a line from the point where the line extending on a 135° bearing from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor intersects the 35 fathom contour, to the easternmost point of Rock Island at N45°24.454’, W86°48.313’, then following the northeast shore of Rock Island to the northernmost point of Rock Island at N45°25.709’, W86°49.691’, then proceeding north to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line at N45°26.648’, W86°49.691’.

~~(22)~~ (48) "Northern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying north of the northern and southern Green Bay line.

~~(23)~~ **(49)** "Northern Green Bay-Lake Michigan line" means that line commencing at the northwest side of the Northport dock where it joins the shoreline in section 29, township 32-~~or~~ 33 north, range 29 east at N45°17.443', W86°58.647'; thence in a northeasterly direction to the range light (signal light) on Plum island at N45°18.225', W86°57.298'; thence along the north and west shore of Plum island to the U.S. coast guard station at N45°18.782', W86°56.877'; thence northerly to the southwesterly point of Shellswick dock at N45°20.016', W86°56.451', which is located on Lodbell's point on Washington island; thence along this dock to the shoreline of Lodbell's point; thence along the west shore of Washington island to Boyer's Bluff light at N45°25.211', W86°56.189'; thence due north to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line at N45°26.648', W86°56.362'.

(50) "Portable electronic reporting unit" means a department-approved, portable electronic device programmed by the department to enter, receive and transmit electronic commercial fishing data.

~~(23g)~~ **(51)** "Pounds" means the avoirdupois weight in pounds of fish in the round with head, gills and viscera intact, except with respect to chubs sorted for human consumption, menominee and whitefish, where it means the avoirdupois weight in pounds of dressed fish.

~~(23m)~~ "Smoked/fileted lake trout package tag" means an adhesive tag authorized by the department for attachment to packages of smoked, portioned or fileted lake trout.

~~(24)~~ **(52)** "Purse seine" means a net which consists of a wall or modified wall of net which is used to encircle fish. The top of the net is fitted with floats while the bottom is weighted. A line threaded through rings under the net allows fishers to close the bottom of the net, thus trapping fish in the enclosure so produced.

(53) "Record" has the meaning given it in s. 29.503 (1) (cm), Stats.

(54) "Riley's Bay" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the most northerly point in section 36, township 28 north, range 24 east at N44°51.486', W87°31.900', and running in a northeasterly direction to the most northerly point in section 30, township 28 north, range 25 east at N44°52.369', W87°31.007'.

(55) "Rowley's Bay" means that body of water in Door county lying north of a line commencing at the water's edge on south line of section 25, township 32 north, range 28 east at N45°12.535', W87°01.954' and running southeasterly to the most southerly point in section 32, township 32 north, range 29 east at N45°12.695', W87°00.158'.

(56) "Snipped" means headless with viscera partially removed.

~~(25)~~ **(57)** "Southern chub fishing zone" means those waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.459', W87°29.522' to its

intersection with the 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour, then proceeding northerly along the 45 fathom depth contour to its intersection with a line extending east from the entrance of Algoma harbor at N44°36.397', W87°25.792', then proceeding east along a line from the entrance of Algoma harbor at N44°36.397', W87°25.792' to its intersection with the Wisconsin-Michigan state line at N44°36.397', W86°48.390'.

~~(26)~~ **(58)** "Southern Green Bay" means those waters of Green Bay lying south of the northern and southern Green Bay line, including the Fox river as far as the dam at DePere, and westerly of the Southern Green Bay – Lake Michigan line.

~~(27)~~ **(59)** "Southern Green Bay – Lake Michigan line" means that line commencing at a point on the southwest shore of the Sturgeon Bay ship canal directly beneath the center of the Wisconsin public service company power line and extending in a northeasterly direction directly beneath and parallel to the center of the power line to a point on the northeast shore of the ship canal, all located in NE1/4 NW1/4, section 22, township 27 north, range 26 east, Door county.

(60) "St. Louis Bay" means that body of water in Douglas county lying between a line commencing at the most northerly point of section 10, township 49 north, range 14 west, running due north to the Minnesota boundary, and the north line of sections 20 and 21, running due west to the Minnesota boundary.

(61) "Standard fish box" means any container with outer dimensions no greater than 18 inches in width, 32 inches in length and 12 inches in depth used or designed for holding fish.

~~(28)~~ **(62)** "Stretch measure" means the extension measure of net mesh size whenever the size of mesh of a net is specified. Stretch measure means the distance between the extreme angles of any single mesh.

(63) "Sturgeon Bay" means that body of water in Door county lying south and east of a line commencing at the most northerly point of section 23, township 28 north, range 25 east at N44°53.582', W87°26.043', and running in a northeasterly direction to the water's edge on north line of section 13, same township and range at N44°54.451', W87°24.390'.

(64) "Superior Bay" means that body of water in Douglas county lying south and east between Minnesota point and the main land of Douglas county extending from a line drawn from the most southerly point in section 20, township 49 north, range 13 west, to the most northerly point in section 29, same township and range.

~~(29)~~ **(65)** "Trap net" means a device constructed of netting, which may employ wings or wings and leads, directing the movement of fish through a tunnel of netting into inner hearts or built-in forebays

wherein they are trapped by their own movement. Such nets may be referred to as shallow trap nets, submarine trap nets or deep water trap nets but shall not include drop nets or fyke nets.

~~(30)~~ **(66)** "Trawl" means a large conical bag of netting to which are often attached wings of netting, which is towed in the water and captures fish by scooping rather than encircling them. The mouth of the bag is normally kept open laterally by 2 large boards, one on each side so rigged that they serve to spread the entire net, and these boards are secured to towing lines running to the vessel or vessels engaged in towing the net through the water.

~~(31)~~ "Trawl cast" means the single placement, towing and retrieval of a trawl.

~~(32)~~ **(67)** "Treaty fisher" means an enrolled tribal member of either the Bad River or Red Cliff bands of Chippewa Indians exercising off-reservation commercial fishing rights in Lake Superior recognized by *State v. Gurnoe*, 53 Wis. 2d 390 (1972).

(68) "Washington Harbor" means that body of water in Door county lying south of a line commencing at the water's edge on the north line of section 25, township 34 north, range 29 east at N45°24.344', W86°55.714', and running in a straight line easterly to the water's edge on the north line of section 25, same township and range at N45°24.357', W86°55.014'.

(69) "West Harbor" means that body of water in Door county and adjoining water in sections 2, 10 and 11, township 33 north, range 29 east, lying east of a line starting at the most northwesterly point of land in section 10 of township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°21.511', W86°57.224', and running in a northerly direction to the most northwesterly point of land in section 2, township 33 north, range 29 east at N45°22.453', W86°57.077'.

~~(33)~~ **(70)** "Zone 1" means all waters in southern Green Bay.

~~(34)~~ **(71)** "Zone 2" means all waters in northern Green Bay and all Lake Michigan waters north of a line running due east from the eastern shore of Door county along 44° 40' north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state boundary at N44°40.000', W86°46.820'.

~~(35)~~ **(72)** "Zone 3" means all waters of Lake Michigan south of a line running due east from the eastern shore of Door county along 44° 40' north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state boundary at N44°40.000', W86°46.820'.

SECTION 2. NR 25.03 (1) (a) 3. is created to read:

NR 25.03 (1) (a) 3. A person may hold more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., for commercial fishing on Lake Superior, if the person meets the criteria of par. (b) for each license separately.

SECTION 3. NR 25.03 (2) (am) is created to read:

NR 25.03 (2) (am) A person may hold more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., for commercial fishing on Lake Michigan, if the person meets the criteria of par. (b) for each license separately.

SECTION 4. NR 25.04 (6) and (7) are amended to read:

NR 25.04 (6) This section does not apply to the transfer of a boat from one license ~~from one boat~~ to another as provided for under s. 29.519 (2) ~~(d)~~ (e), Stats.

~~(7) Notwithstanding subs. (1) to (6)~~ In addition, a licensed commercial fisher may not transfer a license authorizing commercial fishing on ~~Green Bay or~~ Lake Michigan to another person unless:

~~(a) The person the proposed transferee~~ meets the eligibility requirements of ~~subs. (3) and (4) and~~ s. NR 25.03 (2) (b) 1., ~~and~~

~~(b) The person is a member of the licensed commercial fisher's immediate family or the person held a non-temporary crew license issued pursuant to s. 29.519 (4) (a), Stats., throughout the previous 2 license years.~~

SECTION 5. NR 25.05 (3) is amended to read:

NR 25.05 (3) POSSESSION AND HARVEST LIMITS. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person may ~~possess~~ do any of the following:

(a) Possess species of fish for which there is no open season.

~~(b) No person, while~~ While on the water, ~~may~~ possess species of fish outside of the open season for that species.

(c) Catch, take or kill more fish than authorized by his or her harvest limit, except as provided in par. (g). The harvest limit for species of fish for which an open season is provided and a quota has been established shall be the individual quota established by commercial fishing boards or the department for the person harvesting ~~such the~~ fish. ~~No person may take, catch or kill more fish than authorized by his or her harvest limit.~~

~~(d) No person may fish~~ Fish for a species of fish in a zone for which the person has no harvest limit.

(e) At the time of landing, possess fish eggs that weigh more than 25% of the simultaneously landed dressed carcasses of fish of the species from which the eggs were taken.

(f) At the time of landing, possess fish viscera that weighs more than 50% of the simultaneously landed dressed carcasses of fish of the species from which the viscera were taken.

(g) Take, catch or kill more fish, by species and zone, than authorized by the total of the person's individual catch quotas and permits under the person's fleet reporting program, if the person is engaged in fleet reporting under s. NR 25.135.

SECTION 6. NR 25.06 (3) (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 25.06 (3) (intro.) TAGGING OF FISH. All harvested fish species or subspecies required to be tagged in accordance with this section shall be tagged with tags furnished or authorized by the department ~~before being brought to any dock or shore~~ upon completing the net lift and before being transported by boat when fishing in open water and before being transported when fishing with nets under ice. ~~Such fish~~ Fish shall be individually tagged.

SECTION 7. NR 25.09 (1) (am) 5. and 6. are amended to read:

NR 25.09 (1) (am) 5. Shall be tagged by the licensed commercial fisher using the gill net with an informational tag, supplied by the department, on the buoy staff above the water line. Each tag shall state the time and date upon which the gill net was set, the length of the gang of nets, the license number or fleet reporting number and the licensee's initials.

6. May not be placed in the waters of Lake Superior from a boat or watercraft from January 15 through March 31, except as authorized by the department in a permit issued under sub. (6).

SECTION 8. NR 25.09 (1) (as) is amended to read:

NR 25.09 (1) (as) *Gill net marking requirements.* Shall be legibly marked on each float or on each lead with the license number or fleet reporting number of the commercial fishing license holder to whom it belongs.

SECTION 9. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9. and (b) 1. b. and 2. b. and f. are amended to read:

NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9. With a mesh size of 4 inch or larger stretch measure, not to exceed 12,000 feet may be used ~~by each licensed commercial fisher~~ under each license at any one time.

(b) 1. b. May be used up to 30 drop nets or fyke nets in aggregate ~~by each licensed commercial~~

~~fisher~~ under each license, that being the maximum number of pots or cribs allowed.

2. b. No more than 12 pound nets and trap nets in aggregate may be used ~~by each licensed commercial fisher~~ under each license, that being the maximum number of pots or cribs allowed, except that from June 29 to Labor Day no more than 3 pound nets and trap nets in aggregate may be used ~~by each licensed commercial fisher~~ under each license in the waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending from the Lake Michigan shoreline along 44°52'30" north latitude.

f. Shall each be marked and maintained with 2 flags, one above the other, on a single staff attached to the inside or shallow lead end of the net, one flag on a staff attached to the pot or lifting buoy, one flag on a staff attached to the anchor at the outward end of the king line, and one float measuring a minimum of 5" in diameter attached to the anchor at the outward end of each net wing. All flags shall measure not less than 9" high by 18" wide and shall be displayed so that the top edge of the flag is not less than 5' above the water, except that the lower of 2 flags on one staff shall be displayed so that the bottom edge is not less than 3' above the water. Two flags displayed on one staff shall be separated by not less than 6". All floats and all flags except the flag attached to the king line anchor shall be of a highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange or blaze orange with a color range between 595 nm and 605 nm. The flag attached to the king line anchor shall be a dark color other than orange. The license number or fleet reporting number of the commercial fishing license holder to whom each net belongs shall be displayed and maintained in legible, block figures at least 1" high on the bowl of the pot or lifting buoy. Flags are not required October 16 through April 14.

SECTION 10. NR 25.09 (2) (b) 2. g. is created to read:

NR 25.09 (2) (b) 2. g. For legal fish species in Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

SECTION 11. NR 25.09 (3) (c) and (d) are created to read:

NR 25.09 (3) (c) Upon finding that a net has been lost, stolen or is missing, the owner or operator of the net shall immediately inform the department by notifying a department conservation warden. A net owner or operator who recovers a lost, stolen or missing net shall also immediately notify a department conservation warden of the recovery of the net.

(d) A commercial fisher who is engaged in fleet reporting shall display the fleet reporting number issued by the department on the buoys of all nets operated under the fleet reporting program of s. NR 25.135 in place of the individual commercial fishing license numbers.

SECTION 12. NR 25.09 (3) (e) is created to read:

NR 25.09 (3) (e) 1. All gill nets in the water and marked with a commercial fishing license number or a fleet reporting number shall count toward the total allowable gill net effort authorized under sub. (1) (am) or the linear feet of nets authorized under sub. (2) (a) 9.

2. All entrapment gear in the water and marked with a commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number shall count toward the total allowable number of nets under subs. (1) (b) 3. and (2) (b) 1. b. and 2. b., whether the pots are open or closed.

SECTION 13. NR 25.09 (6) is created to read:

NR 25.09 (6) LAKE SUPERIOR OPEN WATER PERMIT. The department may issue a permit authorizing the setting of nets from a boat or watercraft in the waters of Lake Superior for specific time periods during the period of January 15 to March 31 if it determines that open water conditions exist and weather forecasts predict that there will be adequate time to recover the nets prior to ice formation.

SECTION 14. NR 25.10 (1) (b) 3. is amended to read:

NR 25.10 (1) (b) 3. All waters bounded by a line beginning at the signal light on the western end of Long island in section 13, township 48 north, range 4 west at N46°43.708', W90°48.587', then extending northeasterly to the southernmost point of Madeline island in section 6, township 49 north, range 4 west at N46°45.150', W90°34.500', then due east to the western boundary of Gull Island Shoals refuge as described in s. NR 26.23 (1) (a), then southerly along the refuge boundary to latitude N46°40' at N46°400', W90°37.910', then due west to the mainland shoreline commonly known as Long Island, then northwesterly along the shoreline to the point of beginning, all in Ashland county, except waters within 1½ miles of the mainland shoreline in Ashland county.

SECTION 15. NR 25.10 (1) (b) 8. is amended to read:

NR 25.10 (1) (b) 8. All waters lying east of Madeline island bounded by a line extending due east from the southernmost tip of Madeline island in section 6, township 49 north, range 4 west at N46°45.150', W90°47.241' to the western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge at N46°45.150', W90°34.500', as described in s. NR 26.23 (1) (a), and a line extending from the east end of Hagen road along latitude N46°47.274' on Big Bay point on Madeline island in sections 19 and 30, township 50 north, range 2 west, to that same western boundary of the Gull Island Shoals refuge at N46°47.274',

W90°33.071', all in Ashland county, from June 1 through August 31.

SECTION 16. NR 25.10 (1) (c) is amended to read:

NR 25.10 (1) (c) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish and lake herring only from June 1 to August 15 may be used, set, placed or operated in the following waters: the area from the easterly most tip of Houghton Point, section 27, township 49 north, range 4 west, Bayfield county, northerly along the shoreline to the entry to the city of Bayfield marina, then easterly to Point Defroid on Madeline island, section 30, township 50 north, range 3 west, Ashland county, then southerly along the western end of the island to the tip of Grants Point, section 6, township 49 north, range 3 west, Ashland county, then southerly to Chequamegon Point on the western tip of Long island, section 13, township 49 north, range 4 west, Ashland county, thence southwesterly to the eastern tip of Houghton Point, except that float nets as described in s. NR 25.09 (1) (ah) 3. may be fished under the ice only, gill nets of not less than 4 7/16 inch minimum stretch measure may be fished under the ice and not from a boat north of latitude 46°45' at a minimum depth of 19 fathoms, gill nets of not greater than 1 3/4 inch stretch measure may be fished for smelt and herring under the ice, but must be at least 1/2 mile from the mouth of any trout stream, and entrapment gear for smelt pound nets may be allowed by permit from ice out to May 15.

SECTION 17. NR 25.10 (2) (a) 6. to 8. and (b), (c) and (f) are amended to read:

NR 25.10 (2) (a) 6. That portion of southern Green Bay lying north or east of a line beginning at the south end of Ogden street in the city of Marinette in section 9 at N45°05.049', W87°35.810', and running southeasterly to the most ~~southwesterly~~ southern point of Seagull bar in section ~~16~~ 15 at N45°04.154', W87°34.536', then along the north or east shoreline of Seagull bar to the Red Arrow park public boat landing located in section 9 at N45°05.233', W87°35.225', all in township 30 north, range 24 east, Marinette county.

7. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south and west of a line beginning at the southern side of the base of Long Tail point in section 24, township 25 north, range 20 east at N44°37.558', W88°00.575', and following the south or west shore of Long Tail point to its southernmost point at N44°35.126', W87°58.908', then easterly to where the navigation channel intersects latitude 44° 35'N, then southwesterly along the west side of the navigational channel, as marked, for 3.5 statute miles to the Wisconsin public service Pulliam plant outlet at N44°32.363', W88°00.395' on the west bank of the Fox river in section ~~25~~ 19, township 24 north, range ~~20~~ 21 east, all in Brown county.

8. That portion of southern Green Bay lying south or east of a line beginning at the mouth of

Renard creek located in SW 1/4 NW 1/4, section 21, township 26 north, range 23 east at N44°42.837', W87°43.251', Door county, and running southwesterly to the east end of the concrete sea wall located at the end of Point Comfort road in SW 1/4 SE 1/4, section 20, township 25 north, range 22 east, Brown county at N44°37.180', W87°51.307'.

(b) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except entrapping nets authorized by permit issued under sub. (4) for the taking of rough or detrimental fish, perch, whitefish or menominee may be used, set, placed or operated in the waters of Lake Michigan lying south of a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, and north of a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.459', W87°29.522' to its intersection with a line that follows the 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour, then proceeding north along that 45 fathom (270 feet) depth contour to its intersection with 44° 32' north latitude, then proceeding east along 44°32' north latitude to the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, except as provided under pars. (c), (d), (f) and (g).

(c) No commercial fishing gear of any kind may be used, set, placed or operated in all waters bounded by a line beginning at the outer end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.405', W87°25.769' and proceeding along the north side of that pier to the shore of Lake Michigan, then proceeding north along the shore to its intersection with 44°52'30" north latitude, then proceeding east along 44°52'30" north latitude to its intersection with a line extending from the mid-channel marker buoy of Baileys Harbor on a 135° bearing, then proceeding on a line bearing 135° to its intersection with the Wisconsin-Michigan state line, then proceeding south along the Wisconsin-Michigan state line to its intersection with a line extending east from the outer end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.405', W87°25.769', then proceeding west along that line to the point of beginning.

(f) No commercial fishing gear of any kind except pound nets authorized by permit under sub. (4) for the taking of whitefish and rough or detrimental species may be used, set, placed or operated in the waters of Lake Michigan in depths less than 45 fathoms (270 feet) deep in the area between a line extending east from the end of the north pier at Algoma at N44°36.415', W87°25.760' and a line extending east from the entrance of Kewaunee harbor at N44°27.450', W87°29.500'.

SECTION 18. NR 25.13 (1) (title) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (1) (title) SIGNATURE.

SECTION 19. NR 25.13 (2) is amended to read:

NR 25.13 (2) (title) LAKE SUPERIOR REPORTING. ~~Each~~ Except as provided under sub. (4), each

person required to be licensed pursuant to s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., to conduct commercial fishing operations on Lake Superior, or fishing as an eligible member of the Red Cliff or Bad River band of Lake Superior Chippewas, shall report for the preceding biweekly calendar period to the department in writing on forms provided for this purpose by the department such information relative to ~~their~~ the person's fishing activities as may be deemed necessary by the department for management of the fishery, and to prevent depletion of the fish supply. The biweekly report shall be mailed or delivered to the department at the address provided on the form no later than the Tuesday following the biweekly reporting period

(a) Biweekly fishing reports shall include ~~but are not limited to~~ all records of harvest, harvest effort, ~~all wholesale fish sales, and all retail fish sales~~ and all other information called for on the report form.

(b) Biweekly fishing reports shall be filed by each licensee person regardless of whether the licensee person fished during the period of time covered by the report.

(c) All department copies of biweekly report forms issued to a licensee person for the license year and not previously submitted by the licensee person shall be returned by the licensee person to the department by the final reporting deadline for that license year.

SECTION 20. NR 25.13 (3) (title), (intro.), (a) and (b) are amended to read:

NR 25.13 (3) (title) LAKE MICHIGAN REPORTING. (intro.) ~~Each~~ Except as provided under sub. (4), each person required to be licensed pursuant to s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., to conduct commercial fishing operations on Lake Michigan ~~and Green Bay~~ shall report for the preceding biweekly calendar period to the department in writing on forms provided for this purpose by the department such information relative to ~~their~~ the person's fishing activities as may be deemed necessary by the department for management of the fishery, and to prevent depletion of the fish supply. The biweekly report shall be ~~post~~ mailed or delivered to the department at the address provided on the form no later than the Tuesday following the biweekly reporting period.

(a) Biweekly fishing reports shall include ~~but are not limited to~~ all records of harvest, harvest effort, ~~all wholesale fish sales, and, after July 1, 1990, all retail fish sales~~ and all other information called for on the report form.

(b) The biweekly fishing reports shall be carried while fishing by the licensee or by a member of the licensee's crew if the licensee is not present. The information pertaining to the licensee's name, address and license number or fleet reporting number, date, name and number of the boat fished from, fishing location and depth, fishing effort, gear used and estimated pounds of each fish species caught for

each fishing trip shall be recorded on the biweekly fishing reports immediately after completing all net lifts for each trip and before starting to bring the catch to dock or shore. The report shall accompany the fish caught to dock or shore. After a trip's information has been recorded, the report may not be transported for the rest of the day in such a way that it can be altered except to record information pertaining to additional fishing trips taken that day. Biweekly fishing reports shall be filed by each licensee regardless of whether the licensee fished during the period of time covered by the report.

SECTION 21. NR 25.13 (4) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (4) For a person required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., the biweekly reporting requirements of sub. (2) or (3) shall apply until July 1, 2010, or until the person elects to report pursuant to sub. (5), whichever occurs first. Beginning July 1, 2010, all persons required to be licensed under s. 29.519, Stats., shall comply with the electronic reporting requirements of sub. (5).

SECTION 22. NR 25.13 (5) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (5) ELECTRONIC REPORTING. Beginning July 1, 2010, each person required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., to engage in commercial fishing on Lake Superior or Lake Michigan shall report daily fishing activity to the department by means of the electronic fish reporting system as follows:

(a) The person shall use a portable electronic reporting unit provided by the department, subject to the following conditions:

1. The person shall exercise reasonable care to prevent loss, destruction or damage to the portable electronic reporting unit. Some examples of unreasonable damage include preventable damage caused by submersion, undue exposure to moisture and physical damage rendering the unit unusable for its intended purpose.

2. Unless otherwise authorized by the department, once the person starts reporting daily fishing activity under this subsection, the person may not engage in commercial fishing activities unless in possession of a functioning portable electronic reporting unit issued to the person by the department.

3. The person shall immediately notify the department if the unit issued to that person malfunctions or is damaged or lost. The department shall promptly replace the malfunctioning, damaged or lost unit with a replacement unit. The person shall deliver or arrange shipment of the malfunctioning or damaged unit back to the department as directed by the department.

4. Unless the department determines that unavoidable circumstances prevented the person from complying with subd. 1., the person is responsible for reimbursing the department for the actual replacement cost for any unit lost, destroyed or suffering unreasonable damage as determined by the department. The person shall reimburse the department within 30 days of being notified of the reimbursement obligation by the department. Except as provided in par. (b), or unless otherwise authorized by the department, no person may engage in commercial fishing operations until the department has been reimbursed for the cost of the replacement unit. Each day fishing in violation of this subdivision constitutes a separate violation.

(b) A person who is notified that he or she is responsible for reimbursing the department for the replacement cost for any unit may seek a hearing before the department by filing a petition with the department within 30 days after the date of the notice. The petition shall set forth specifically why the damage or loss was not preventable, the reasons why a hearing is warranted and the relief desired. Following receipt of a complete petition, the department shall hold a hearing after at least 10 days' notice. The hearing shall be a contested case under ch. 227, Stats. At the beginning of the hearing the petitioner shall present evidence in support of the relief sought in the petition. Following the hearing the department's action may be affirmed, modified or withdrawn. Until a decision is issued by the department following the hearing, the person may engage in commercial fishing provided that the person has a functioning replacement portable electronic reporting unit issued by the department.

(c) The special reporting requirements of this paragraph apply to fishing on Lake Michigan.

1. The commercial fisher, or a member of the commercial fisher's crew if the commercial fisher is not available, shall carry the portable electronic reporting unit while fishing on Lake Michigan, and after completing the last net lift, but before starting for shore, shall enter and save the estimated weight in pounds of each fish species caught by zone for each fishing trip. The portable electronic reporting unit shall accompany the fish to dock or shore, and shall be immediately produced for inspection and verification of entered data upon the request of a department representative.

2. If the estimated weight in pounds cannot be entered or saved due to mechanical failure or other problems associated with the portable electronic reporting unit, the commercial fisher or crew member shall immediately notify the department of the problem and orally provide the date, licensee's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the estimated weight in pounds of the fish by species by calling a department designated telephone number after completing all net lifts and before bringing the catch to dock or shore for each fishing trip.

3. If the estimated weight in pounds cannot be entered or saved due to mechanical failure or other problems associated with the portable electronic reporting unit, and the commercial fisher or crew member is unable to reach the department designated telephone number, the commercial fisher or crew member shall complete a report on a form available from the department, upon the completion of the last lift, but before starting for shore for each fishing trip. The report shall include the date, licensee's name, commercial fishing number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the estimated weight in pounds of the fish by species, and the signature of the individual completing the form. The report shall accompany the fish caught to dock or shore. After a trip's information has been recorded, the report may not be transported for the rest of the day in such a way that it can be altered except to record information pertaining to additional fishing trips taken that day. The report shall be presented to a department representative upon request and shall be retained as part of the commercial fisher's records under s. 29.519 (5), Stats.

4. Upon reestablishing the functionality of the electronic reporting unit, the licensee shall enter the estimated catch for the date under subd. 2. or 3. and submit it electronically to the department as required under subd. 1.

(d) Except as provided in par. (e), by the end of the day, the commercial fisher or a crew member of the commercial fisher shall:

1. Weigh the pounds of landed catch.

2. Log on to the electronic fish reporting system by computer or hooking up the portable electronic reporting unit as required by the department and enter and submit all the daily fishing activity information required on the electronic form. The report of daily fishing activity shall include the complete name, address and commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number of the commercial fisher; the name or number of the boat fished from; the location fished; the date of each day's fishing activity; the kind and amount of commercial fishing gear used; the weight in pounds of each species of fish or fish parts landed; and any other information required on the electronic form.

3. Every 2 weeks, the commercial fisher shall print and sign the printed biweekly confirmation report of daily fishing activity generated by the electronic reporting system and keep the report as part of his or her commercial fishing records required under s. 29.519 (5), Stats.

(e) When the landed catch cannot be weighed by the end of the day, the commercial fisher or crew member shall call a department designated telephone number before the end of the day and notify the department of the commercial fisher's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, species of fish and that the landed catch cannot be weighed and reported until the next day.

(f) The special electronic reporting requirements of this paragraph apply to fishing with trawls.

1. After the last lift of the trip and prior to returning to dock or port, a commercial fisher or crew member fishing by trawl shall record the estimated weight in pounds of fish harvested by species and zone as provided under par. (c).

2. By the end of the day, the commercial fisher or crew member fishing by trawl on the waters of Green Bay shall report to the department, as provided under par. (d), including the landed pounds of smelt and pounds of incidental catch as authorized by s. 29.519 (4m) (b), Stats.

3. A commercial fisher or crew member fishing by trawl on the waters of Lake Michigan other than Green Bay, within 24 hours of landing the catch on all days except non-work days and days immediately preceding non-work days, shall electronically report to the department as provided under par. (d), the landed pounds of chubs and roe intended for human consumption, pounds of smelt and pounds of incidental catch as authorized by s. 29.519 (4m) (b), Stats. When trawl caught fish are landed on days that immediately precede non-work days and on non-work days, the commercial fisher or crew member shall report the landed catch within 48 hours of the estimated catch entry.

(g) No commercial fisher, crew member or agent may transport or cause to be transported, or deliver or receive or offer to deliver or receive for transportation to a location outside of Wisconsin, any fish or fish parts taken from outlying waters, unless the fish have been reported as part of a weighed catch as required under this section, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the department.

SECTION 23. NR 25.13 (6) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (6) FISH INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. The weight in pounds of any fish that in whole or in part is ultimately used for or intended for human consumption shall be reported as part of the commercial fisher's individual catch quota harvest or chub zone permit harvest by the commercial fisher who caught it.

SECTION 24. NR 25.13 (7) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (7) DISPOSITION RECORDS. Each commercial fisher shall maintain a printed disposition record in the English language of all fish harvested by the commercial fisher as required by s. 29.519 (5) (a) and (c), Stats., that includes all of the following:

(a) The complete name, address and commercial fishing license number of the commercial fisher.

(b) For each wholesale sale, each retail sale over 15 pounds and each donation over 15 pounds: the complete name, address and wholesale fish dealer license number, if any, of the buyer or recipient; the weight in pounds of each species of fish; condition of the fish and the date of each sale or donation.

(c) For each retail sale of 15 pounds or less and donation of 15 pounds or less, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of each sale or donation.

(d) For fish spoiled or otherwise destroyed or utilized, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of disposal or utilization.

SECTION 25. NR 25.13 (8) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (8) UNRECORDED OR UNREPORTED FISH. No person may possess, control, transport or cause to be transported any fish which has not been recorded or reported as required under ss. 29.503 and 29.519, Stats., and this chapter.

SECTION 26. NR 25.13 (9) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (9) ANNUAL INVENTORY. (a) Each commercial fisher required to be licensed under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., shall complete an annual inventory of fish in possession, ownership or under control, including fish in cold storage facilities, and report that inventory to the department within 15 days of completion as required under s. 29.519 (5m), Stats. The inventory report shall be on forms available from the department and shall include the species, condition and weight in pounds of fish, the location of the fish by street address, date of the inventory, the commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, signature of the licensee and any other information required on the inventory report form.

(b) No later than *30 days after effective date of this paragraph* [LRB insert date.], each commercial fisher shall complete the inventory required by par. (a) and submit the inventory report to the department. At the time the initial inventory report is submitted to the department, the commercial fisher shall also designate and advise the department of the month and day in which future annual inventory reports will be submitted. The licensee shall thereafter complete the annual inventory within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

(c) Within 30 days after the transfer of a commercial fishing license, the transferee shall complete an inventory of fish and submit an inventory report as required under par. (a). At the time the inventory report is submitted, the transferee shall designate and advise the department of the month and day on which the transferee will subsequently submit the annual inventory report. The transferee shall thereafter complete the annual inventory within 10 working days preceding that designated month and

day.

(d) Upon written request to the department, a licensed commercial fisher may request a change in the date of the designated annual inventory report submittal. The effective date for the change may not be more than 15 months from the previous designated inventory report submittal date. A change in the annual inventory report submittal date may not be requested more than once per 12 months.

(e) A commercial fisher who does not possess, own or control any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon on the date of the annual inventory shall submit the inventory report to the department as required by pars. (a) and (b) indicating that the commercial fisher does not have any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon in possession, ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities on the date of the inventory.

SECTION 27. NR 25.13 (10) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (10) HIGH VALUE SPECIES. In addition to the reporting requirements contained in subs. (2) to (4), when fishing for a high value species, each commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

SECTION 28. NR 25.13 (11) is created to read:

NR 25.13 (11) ENHANCED REPORTING. In addition to the reporting requirements contained in subs. (1) to (4), any person convicted of 2 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter is subject to the enhanced reporting requirements of this section in addition to any court-ordered penalties, at the following levels:

(a) For conviction of harvesting more than 1,000 pounds of fish in excess of the person's annual quota, failing to report more than 2,000 pounds of catch during a 12-month period, fishing during the closed season, or possessing 200 pounds or more of fish in violation of ch. 29, Stats., or this chapter, the commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

(b) For 3 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 36-month period, the commercial fisher or designated crew member shall file a float plan each day prior to the start of the day's fishing activity by calling a department designated telephone number.

(c) For more than 5 violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 36-month period or 3 or more violations of s. 29.503 or 29.519, Stats., or this chapter within a 12-month period, in addition to the requirements of par. (b), upon returning to the dock, the commercial fisher or crew

member shall weigh the catch not more than 30 minutes after landing and prior to loading or moving the fish from the dock or landing site, and enter and save the species and weight in pounds of the fish in the portable electronic reporting unit. If the actual weight in pounds of the fish is entered and saved in the portable electronic reporting unit prior to returning to shore, the commercial fisher or crew member is exempt from this paragraph.

(d) In the event that the weight of the fish cannot be entered or saved due to mechanical failure or other problems associated with the portable electronic reporting unit:

1. The commercial fisher or crew member shall immediately notify the department of the problem and verbally provide the date, time, licensee's name, commercial fishing license number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the weight in pounds of fish by species by calling a department designated telephone number.

2. If the commercial fisher or crew member is unable to reach the department designated telephone number, the commercial fisher or crew member shall immediately complete a report on a paper form available from the department upon weighing the fish, but before loading the fish for transport. The report shall include the date, licensee's name, commercial fishing number or fleet reporting number, boat name, zone of fishing and the weight in pounds of the fish by species and grid, and the signature of the individual completing the report. The report shall be presented to a department representative upon request and shall be retained as part of the commercial fisher's records under s. 29.519 (5), Stats.

3. Upon reestablishing the functionality of the electronic reporting unit, the licensee shall enter the weighed catch and other requested daily fishing activity data for the date and submit it electronically to the department as required under sub. (5) (c).

(e) A commercial fisher shall remain under the enhanced reporting requirements of this subsection for a period of 24 months from the date of conviction of the offense triggering this subsection.

SECTION 29. NR 25.135 is created to read:

NR 25.135 Fleet reporting programs. (1) FLEET REPORTING FOR LAKE SUPERIOR. (a) The department may authorize a person who holds more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats., and s. NR 25.03 (1) (a) 3. for commercial fishing on Lake Superior to participate in a fleet reporting program involving those licenses if the person applies for fleet reporting on a form available from the department in accordance with s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year.

1. The application shall include the person's name, commercial fishing license numbers and descriptions of the boats to be included in the fleet reporting program.

2. All commercial fishing licenses held by the person shall be included in the fleet reporting program.

(b) The allowable gill net effort authorized under s. NR 25.09 (1) (am) and the number of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (1) (b) 3. for any license included in a person's fleet reporting program may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program.

(2) FLEET REPORTING FOR LAKE MICHIGAN. (a) The department may authorize a person who holds more than one license under s. 29.519 (1m) (a), Stats., and s. NR 25.03 (2) (am) for commercial fishing on Lake Michigan to participate in a fleet reporting program involving those licenses if it determines that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The person applies for fleet reporting on a form available from the department in accordance with s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year and the application includes all of the following:

a. The person's name, commercial fishing license numbers and descriptions of the boats to be included in the fleet reporting program.

b. For each license, a description of the individual catch quotas, by species and zone, "racehorse" chub fishing permits or "racehorse" smelt fishery permits to be included in the fleet reporting program.

c. The order of the licenses to which the person's daily reported catch will be credited until the minimum production criteria of s. NR 25.03 (2) (b) are met for each license.

d. After the minimum production criteria of s. NR 25.03 (2) (b) are met for all of the person's licenses, either the percentages of the person's daily reported catch, by species and zone, that will be credited to each license, until the applicable individual catch quotas under each license are reached, or the applicable "racehorse" fisheries close, or the order of the licenses to which all of the daily reported catch, by species and zone, will be applied until the applicable individual catch quota under each license is reached or the applicable "racehorse" fisheries close.

2. The person holds or will hold individual allocated quotas of sufficient size or "racehorse" chub fishing permits or "racehorse" smelt fishery permits under each license to allow the person to meet the minimum production criteria of s. NR 25.03 (2) (b) independently for the issuance of each license.

3. All commercial fishing licenses held by the person are included in the fleet reporting program.

(3) FLEET REPORTING NUMBER. Upon approval of a person's fleet reporting program under sub. (1) or (2), the department shall issue a fleet reporting number for the person's use in place of commercial fishing license numbers to identify commercial fishing gear under s. NR 25.09 (1) and (2) and in reports under s. NR 25.13.

(4) QUOTA TRANSFERS LIMITED. In addition to any other transfer limitations, individual catch quotas may not be transferred between the person's licenses included in a fleet reporting program except in conjunction with license applications under s. NR 25.03 (3) prior to the start of the license year.

(5) CREW. Crew members licensed under s. 29.519 (4), Stats., to engage in commercial fishing for a person whose fleet reporting program has been approved under sub. (1) or (2) may engage in commercial fishing activities for the person under the person's other commercial fishing licenses without being specifically listed as crew members under the person's other licenses.

(6) BOATS. Boats authorized under any license included in a person's fleet reporting program approved under sub. (1) or (2) may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program without being specifically authorized under the person's other licenses and without any additional fee.

(7) NETS. The linear feet of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (2) (a) 9. and the number of nets authorized under s. NR 25.09 (2) (b) 1. b. and 2. b. for any license included in a person's fleet reporting program approved under sub. (2) may be used for commercial fishing operations under the other licenses included in that person's fleet reporting program.

(8) LICENSE TRANSFERS. A person authorized to participate in fleet reporting under sub. (1) or (2) who obtains a commercial fishing license by transfer shall add the transferred commercial fishing license to the person's fleet reporting plan at the time that the license transfer is approved by the department. A person authorized to participate in fleet reporting under sub. (1) or (2) who transfers a commercial fishing license shall remove the transferred commercial fishing license from the person's fleet reporting plan at the time that the license transfer is approved by the department.

(9) WITHDRAWAL FROM FLEET REPORTING. A person participating in a fleet reporting program may withdraw from the program by providing written notice to the department. The notice shall include the person's name, address, fleet reporting number, commercial fishing license numbers, a statement indicating the person's desire to withdraw from the program, signature and date of signature. The withdrawal from the fleet reporting program shall take effect at the end of the license year.

SECTION 30. NR 25.14 (3) and (4) are created to read:

NR 25.14 (3) Unless otherwise authorized by the department, no person may raise, remove or otherwise tamper with another person's commercial fishing gear set in any water. This restriction does not apply to agents of the department or to a person licensed as a crew member for the person whose gear the licensed crew member is raising, removing or otherwise tending.

(4) Unless authorized by the department, no commercial fisher licensed by the department under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., may do any of the following:

(a) Operate or allow any of the commercial fisher's crew members to operate any boat listed on the commercial fisher's license if there are any lake trout tags on board the boat that were not issued by the department to a department-licensed commercial fisher.

(b) Allow any boat listed on the commercial fisher's license to be used for setting, removing, raising or otherwise tending any net that was not placed by a department-licensed commercial fisher in accordance with s. NR 25.09.

(c) Allow any of the commercial fisher's nets that are marked or identified as department-licensed nets to be used by any person who is not a commercial fisher licensed by the department under s. 29.519 (1m), Stats., or who is not the commercial fisher's crew member.

SECTION 31. NR 25.16 (title) and (1) (title) and (a) are amended to read:

NR 25.16 (title) Lake trout tagging and identification. (1) (title) ~~IMPORTING UNTAGGED FOREIGN LAKE TROUT.~~ (a) ~~No licensed wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish including treaty fishers may import untagged lake trout without the dealer or producer or his or her agent providing the department with the identity of the transporter in addition to the information required by s. 29.503 (4) (b), Stats. The information shall be given to a department office~~ person may import or cause to be imported into Wisconsin any foreign lake trout by means of a boat authorized to be used under a license issued pursuant to s. 29.519 (1m), Stats.

SECTION 32. NR 25.16 (1) (b) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 25.16 (1) (b) No wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish may sell, buy, barter, trade, possess, control, transport or cause to be transported any domestic lake trout unless the fish is tagged with a valid, current commercial fish tag issued or authorized by the department. The tag shall be attached through the gills and mouth of whole or dressed lake trout. Producers of fish and their crew members may not possess filleted or chunked domestic lake trout on the ice or on board a boat.

SECTION 33. NR 25.16 (1) (c), (d) and (e) are repealed.

SECTION 34. NR 25.16 (1) (f) is renumbered to be NR 25.16 (1) (c) and amended to read:

NR 25.16 (1) (c) ~~All foreign lake trout tags and all~~ commercial fish tags issued or authorized by

the department or by a governmental agency of another state or country, when severed from the lake trout are considered state property and may be claimed by the department within one year of the date they were severed.

SECTION 35. NR 25.16 (2) (title) and (a) are amended to read:

NR 25.16 (2) (title) ~~FILETED~~ FILLETED, PORTIONED OR SMOKED DOMESTIC LAKE TROUT. ~~(a)~~ Lawfully possessed domestic lake trout which are intended for smoking, portioning or ~~fileting~~ filleting may have the tags removed immediately prior to smoking, portioning or filleting. ~~Except as set forth in par. (b), the department shall issue to wholesale fish dealers, who are actively selling lake trout, sufficient adhesive smoked/fileted lake trout package tags necessary for no more than one month's processing. The package tags shall be used when the initial tags are removed from the lake trout for smoking, portioning or fileting, according to par. (e). Immediately after smoking, fileting or portioning and packaging, each individual package of smoked, portioned or fileted lake trout shall be tagged with smoked/fileted lake trout package tags in denominations which represent the weight of the contents of the package.~~

SECTION 36. NR 25.16 (2) (b) to (e) are repealed.

SECTION 37. NR 25.16 (3) (b) is amended to read:

NR 25.16 (3) (b) No person may reuse any ~~foreign lake trout tag, smoked/fileted lake trout package tag or any~~ commercial fish tag issued or authorized by the department or by a governmental agency of another state or country.

SECTION 38. NR 25.17 (1) is amended to read:

NR 25.17 (1) (title) RECORD KEEPING. Licensed wholesale fish dealers who purchase fish outside of Wisconsin for sale within this state, are subject to the ~~reporting~~ record keeping requirements of s. 29.503 (5), Stats.

SECTION 39. NR 25.17 (2) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 25.17 (2) ANNUAL INVENTORY. (a) Each wholesale fish dealer shall complete an annual inventory of Great Lakes fish and all species of sturgeon in possession, ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities, and report that inventory to the department within 15 days of completion as required under s. 29.503 (5) (br), Stats. The inventory report shall be on forms available

from the department and shall include shall include the species, condition and weight of fish, the location of the fish by street address, date of the inventory, wholesale fish dealer license number, signature of the licensee and any other information required on the inventory report form.

(b) No later than *30 days after the effective date of this paragraph* [LRB insert date], each wholesale fish dealer shall complete the inventory required by par. (a) and submit the inventory report to the department. At the time the initial inventory report is submitted, the wholesale fish dealer shall designate and advise the department of the month and day in which future annual inventory reports will be submitted. The wholesale fish dealer shall thereafter complete the inventory on an annual basis within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

(c) Within 30 days after receipt of a new wholesale fish dealer license, the wholesale fish dealer shall complete an inventory of fish and submit an inventory report as required under par. (a). At the time the inventory report is submitted, the wholesale fish dealer shall designate and advise the department of the month and day in which future inventory reports will be submitted. The wholesale fish dealer shall thereafter complete the inventory on an annual basis within 10 working days preceding that designated month and day.

(d) Upon written request to the department, a wholesale fish dealer may request a change of the designated date for the annual inventory report submittal. The effective date for the change may not be more than 15 months from the previous designated inventory report submittal date. A change in the annual inventory report submittal date may not be requested more than once per 12 months.

(e) A wholesale fish dealer who does not possess, own or control any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon on the date of the inventory shall submit the inventory report to the department as required by pars. (a) and (b) indicating that the wholesale fish dealer does not have any Great Lakes fish or sturgeon in possession, ownership or under control, including in cold storage facilities on the date of the inventory.

SECTION 40. NR 25.18 is amended to read:

NR 25.18 (title) **Landing and transportation of fish.** **(1)** (title) LANDING OF FISH. Fish and fish parts caught in commercial fishing operations and kept by ~~Wisconsin licensed~~ commercial fishers for sale or other use shall be brought to shore in Wisconsin to one of no more than 2 ports designated by the licensee on his or her Great Lakes commercial fishing license application for open water operations and to one of no more than 2 ports selected by the licensee from a list of ports designated ~~by the department~~ for ice fishing operations from the following Wisconsin primary or secondary ports and unloaded and transported by land, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the department or in the case of an

emergency, following notice to the nearest U.S. coast guard station. Commercial fishers, crew members and their agents who do not comply with the department's written authorization shall be considered to be in violation of this section and the written authorization shall be revoked.

(a) The primary ports for Lake Superior are Bayfield (includes Bodins and Bay Fisheries docks), Cornucopia, Port Wing, Raspberry Bay, Red Cliff and Superior (Siverson's dock). The secondary ports for Lake Superior are LaPointe and Washburn.

(b) The following ports are primary ports for Lake Michigan:

1. Brown County: Suamico.

2. Door County: Baileys Harbor, Ellison Bay, Gills Rock (includes Teskie's, Weborg's and Voight's docks), Sand Bay (includes Sand Bay, Old Sand Bay and Rowley's Bay docks), Jackson Harbor (Washington Island) and Sturgeon Bay.

3. Kenosha County: Kenosha.

4. Kewaunee County: Algoma and Kewaunee.

5. Manitowoc County: Two Rivers.

6. Marinette County: Marinette (includes Menekaunee open water port).

7. Milwaukee County: Milwaukee.

8. Oconto County: Oconto and Pensaukee.

9. Ozaukee County: Port Washington.

10. Racine County: Racine.

11. Sheboygan County: Sheboygan.

(c) The following ports are secondary ports for Lake Michigan:

1. Brown County: Duck Creek, Windjammers and Green Bay.

2. Door County: Chaudoir's dock, Detroit Harbor (Washington Island), Egg Harbor, Jacksonport, Murphy park, Nordheim (Washington Island), Sister Bay and Wave Pointe Resort.

3. Marinette County: Peshtigo river.

4. Oconto County: Little Suamico and Geano Beach.

(d) The following ports are secondary ice fishing only ports for Green Bay:

1. Brown County: Hook Road.

2. Door County: Ern Joy's, Oak Orchard, Pagel's Resort, Porcupine Bay, Sand Bay Resort, Sugar Creek and Waters End (at Sister Bay).

4. Marinette County: Red Arrow park, Pond Road and Leaf Road Landing.

(2) SECONDARY PORT USE. No commercial fisher or crew member may land fish or fish parts at

a secondary port unless the commercial fisher or crew member called in a float plan each day to a department designated telephone number prior to the start of the day’s fishing activity advising that the secondary port would be used.

SECTION 41. NR 25.19 is created to read:

NR 25.19 Vehicle identification requirements. As required under s. 29.503 (4) (e), Stats., no wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish may transport or cause to be transported any fish unless the transporting vehicle or boat is clearly marked on each side of the vehicle or boat with the word “FISH” in letters of block characteristic at least 4 inches high and of contrasting color with the background, and the correct business name of the wholesale fish dealer or producer of fish in letters one inch high, all in the English language.

SECTION 42. The following Note is inserted at ss. NR 25.02 (2), (13), (17), (18), (27), (38), (41), (43), (45), (46), (47), (49), (54), (55), (57), (63), (68) and (69) and 25.10 (2) (a) 6., 7., and 8. and (b) and (c):

Note: All latitude and longitude coordinates are expressed in degrees and minutes.

SECTION 43. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register, as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

SECTION 44. BOARD ADOPTION. The foregoing rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

(SEAL)