

Fish Order 205.20

Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 and Part 491 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740 and MCL 324.49101 to 324.49103, it is ordered on October 10, 2019, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2020, as follows:

The following rules and regulations govern fishing in the waters which form a common boundary between the States of Michigan and Wisconsin. These rules and regulations supersede all others governing fishing on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters that in any way conflict. Where regulations of Michigan and Wisconsin differ, persons shall comply with the regulations of the state in whose territorial waters they are fishing.

The interstate boundary waters in which fishing is to be governed by the special regulations are: The Lake Michigan waters between the breakwalls at the mouth of the Menominee River beginning at an imaginary line drawn between the most lakeward point of each breakwall: Menominee County, Michigan; Marinette County, Wisconsin.

Menominee River, its Sloughs and Impoundments: Menominee, Dickinson, Iron Counties, Michigan; Florence, Marinette Counties, Wisconsin; Brule River, Iron County, Michigan; Florence and Forest Counties, Wisconsin; Brule Island Impoundment, upstream to a line running east-west through the first island upstream from the junction of the Brule and Paint Rivers, Iron County, Michigan; Florence County, Wisconsin; Smoky Lake, Iron County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin; Norwood Lake, LacVieux Desert, Crystal Lake, Mill Lake, Big Bateau Lake, Mamie Lake, West Bay Lake, Big Lake, Crampton Lake, Plum Lake, Tenderfoot Lake, Roach Lake, Little Presque Isle Lake, Cyrus Lake, Basin Lake, Stateline Lake, Gogebic County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin; East Fork Montreal River up to the mouth of Layman Creek, Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin; Montreal River, Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin.

Regulations: Except as otherwise expressly provided, no person shall take fish by any means other than with hook-and-line; nor at any time other than the open season; nor have in his or her possession any fish in excess of the daily creel or possession limit, or fish of less than the legal minimum size.

Species	Waters	Open Seasons (dates inclusive)	Daily Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Trout & Salmon	Montreal & Menominee Rivers from their mouths to first dam upstream and Smoky Lake	Open all year	5	10 inches
	Menominee & Montreal Rivers above the first dam and Brule River from its mouth to the US Highway 2 Bridge	Last Saturday in April – September 30	5	7 inches
	Brule River upstream from US Highway 2	Last Saturday in April – September 30	5	Brook Trout - 8 inches; Brown Trout - 12 inches
Smallmouth Bass & Largemouth Bass	All boundary waters	Catch-and-immediate-release season: open all year	0	---
		Possession season: 3 rd Saturday in June - December 31	5 in combination	14 inches
Walleye (See Note 1) & Sauger	All boundary waters except as otherwise provided in this paragraph	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5 in combination	15 inches
	Rivers and Impoundments	March 2 - the Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	1	15 inches
	Rivers and Impoundments	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5 in combination	15 inches
Northern Pike	All boundary Waters	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5	None
Bluegills, Sunfish, Crappies, and Yellow Perch	All boundary waters	Open all year	25 in combination	None
Muskellunge (including Tiger Muskellunge) (See Note 2)	All boundary waters	Catch-and-immediate-release season: open all year	0	---
		Possession season: first Saturday in June – December 31	1 fish per angling season	50 inches
Lake Sturgeon (See Note 3)	All boundary waters	1 st Saturday in September - September 30	1 fish per angling season	60 inches
Channel Catfish	All boundary waters	Open all year	10	None

Species	Waters	Open Seasons (dates inclusive)	Daily Possession Limit	MinimumSize Limit
Lake Whitefish, Cisco (Lake Herring), and Round Whitefish (Menominee)	All boundary waters	Open all year	10	None
All others	All boundary waters	Open all year	None	None

Note 1 – On Lac Vieux Desert Flowage, the minimum size limit for walleye is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Walleye shall be three (3) in combination from 1st Saturday in May - March 1.

Note 2 – For the Menominee River, from Hattie Street Dam downstream to the end of the breakwalls in Green Bay, the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. Anglers are required to register muskellunge (including tiger muskellunge) harvest within 24 hours. Anglers must report their harvest online (www.michigan.gov/registerfish), toll-free by calling 888-636-7778, or in person at any DNR Customer Service Center during normal state business hours with advanced notice of arrival. Muskellunge harvest is limited to one (1) Muskellunge per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).

Note 3 - For the Menominee River, from Grand Rapids Dam downstream to the end of the breakwalls in Green Bay, the possession limit for Lake Sturgeon is zero (0), catch-and-immediate-release only. Anglers are required to register Lake Sturgeon harvest within 24 hours. Anglers must report their harvest online (www.michigan.gov/registerfish), toll-free by calling 888-636-7778, or in person at any DNR Customer Service Center during normal state business hours with advanced notice of arrival. Lake Sturgeon harvest is limited to one (1) Lake Sturgeon per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).

LEGAL FISHING METHODS:

1. Up to three lines with a total of three (3) hooks or baits may be used.
2. Lines must be attended at all times.
3. A person may not fish for any fish by any means during the closed season on trout in the Brule River upstream from US Highway 2 bridge (T41N, R32W, S9) Iron County, Michigan, and the Montreal River above the Superior Falls Flowage.
4. Dip nets not exceeding nine (9) feet square or in diameter without walls may be used in the Menominee River (except from Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette-Menominee to the first dam upstream and within 200 feet of all other dams) from April 1 - May 14 for taking of Suckers, Redhorse, Carp, Smelt, and Burbot.
5. A person may fish from a motorboat with the motor running or a sailboat under sail.
6. All residents of Michigan and Wisconsin holding a resident sport fishing license from their respective state, or residents of states other than Michigan and Wisconsin holding a sport fishing license issued by either Michigan or Wisconsin, may fish in the boundary waters.
7. Crayfish may not be possessed or used for bait on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters.

This Order shall be assigned number FO-205.20, and is titled "Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations."

This Order supersedes the Order titled "Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters," which became effective April 1, 2018, and is assigned number FO-205.18.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2020, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.