

GUIDE TO WISCONSIN SPEARING, NETTING AND BAIT HARVEST REGULATIONS 2022-2023

Effective April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

Includes regulations on:

- Rough Fish Spearing
- Dipnetting Rough Fish
- Bowfishing And Underwater Spear Fishing
- Harvesting Turtles, Frogs, Crayfish And Minnows
- Catfish Bow And Hand Fishing

This is the guide the DNR link for rough fish netting provides (ie no 2023 2024)

Excerpts were pulled out to answer questions that came up regarding if individuals can catch carp and buffalo using a landing net. This says you can, but be sure to read the entire reg before going out.

Rough fish

GENERAL INLAND WATERS

*Remember: Also check the [Special Regulations-Listed by County](#) section, the Great Lakes, the Winnebago System Waters, the Boundary Waters tables and the Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan table.

FISH SPECIES – <small>NOTE: Species not listed have no open season (e.g., American eel, grass pickerel)</small>	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
LARGEMOUTH BASS (LMB) HARVEST	May 6 – March 3	5	14 inches
SMALLMOUTH BASS (SMB) HARVEST Northern Zone (see map on page 10)	June 17 – March 3	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Other inland waters	May 6 – March 3	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS Statewide - all inland waters	all other times of the year.	0 (catch and release only)	
ROCK, YELLOW (STRIPED) and WHITE BASS	open all year	none	none
PANFISH: BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, SUNFISH, CRAPPIE and YELLOW PERCH	open all year	25 in total	none
BULLHEADS and ROUGH FISH (see definition on page 21)	open all year	none	none
CATFISH (CHANNEL, FLATHEAD)	open all year	10 in total	none

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Hook and line, spearing, bow fishing (bow and arrow, crossbow), minnow trapping or taking fish by hand requires a fishing license, unless the person is a resident and otherwise exempted from purchasing a license (i.e., under 16 years old or residents born before Jan. 1, 1927). Note: Nonresidents under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish with hook and line but do need a license to spear, bowfish, net, trap or take fish by hand. Nonresidents under the age of 18 who have a parent that is a Wisconsin resident may obtain a fishing license at the resident fee.

Netting. No fishing license is required for residents taking minnows, smelt or rough fish with a dip net, landing net or minnow seine. All nonresidents, regardless of age, are required to have a Wisconsin nonresident fishing license for harvesting smelt or taking rough fish or minnows with dip nets, landing nets, seines or minnow traps. Not all types of nets are allowed for all fish species ([see page 12 for clarification](#)).

YOU MAY NOT:

- Transport any live fish or live fish eggs away from any state waters. There is an exception for minnows obtained from a Wisconsin bait dealer or registered fish farm. These minnows may be transported away live and used again:

NETTING

A **Dip Net** is a net suspended from a round or square frame but up to 8 feet in diameter or square and designed to be raised and lowered vertically to take rough fish or minnows.



A **Landing Net** is a net suspended on a frame with an attached handle that is used to help an angler in landing a fish caught with hook and line. Landing nets may also be used to take rough fish where authorized to use dip nets to take rough fish.



A **Seine** is a net made of circular, square, or long webbing of coarse twine fitted with floats on the top and sinkers on the bottom. The net forms a bag near the center that entraps fish as it is pulled through the water. Seines may be used to take minnows, whitefish, cisco and smelt on some waters. They cannot be used to take rough fish (except smelt as noted).



DIP NETS FOR ROUGH FISH



There is no bag or possession for rough fish taken by dipnetting except the limit for suckers is 600. No suckers taken with dip nets or seines may be sold or bartered in any manner.

What Is A Minnow Or Rough Fish? By Wisconsin law, minnows include suckers, mudminnow, madtoms, stonecat, killifish, stickleback, trout perch, darters, sculpins and all species in the minnow family (except goldfish and carp). Rough fish include all suckers (suckers, redhorse, buffalo and carsuckers) not listed as threatened or endangered, common carp, Asian carp (bighead, black, silver and grass), goldfish, freshwater drum, burbot, bowfin, gar, lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, smelt and mooneye.

The below excerpt was to clarify confusion on just what was the catfish limit on BD Lake, an answer is a daily limit of 10 for the lake



Total Daily Bag Limit (Catfish) - As an example, the daily bag limit on catfish for most waters is 10 in total (p. 62). However, the total daily bag limit is 25. That means you can combine your catch from multiple waters in a single day to get your total daily bag limit (25) as long as the daily bag limit for each body of water is never exceeded (e.g., 10 from one water, 10 from another water and 5 from a third water).

TOTAL DAILY BAG LIMITS FOR WISCONSIN FISH SPECIES*

Species	Total Daily Bag Limit
Catfish	25 in total; only one may be a flathead catfish if fishing Winnebago system waters (see page 76).
Cisco (lake herring), whitefish and hybrids	
Inland waters	10 in total
Outlying waters	10 in total