

Ice Fishing Regulations Summary: 1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin

December 1992

This summary of ice fishing regulations is based on the "Model Off-Reservation Conservation Code," as approved in the Voigt case. Not all regulations that apply to ice fishing are summarized here. In addition, your Tribal Council may enact regulations that are more restrictive than those summarized here. For more specific information, contact your Tribal Conservation Department or the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (715-682-6619).

"Ice Fishing" means fishing through an artificial hole in the ice.

I. Ice Fishing Seasons, Bag Limits and Size Limits (apply to all methods except netting)

Walleye, White Bass, Rock Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Yellow Perch, Bullheads, Yellow Bass, Catfish, Cisco, Whitefish, Rough fish

Season: continuous open season

Bag limit: none

Size limit: none

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike

Season: continuous open season

Bag limit: 10 per person per day

Size limit: none

Sturgeon

Season: continuous open season

Bag limit: 1 per person per year (all methods)

Size limit: 45 inch minimum (Sturgeon must be registered and tagged by the Tribal Conservation Department by 5:00 p.m. of the working day following the harvest.)

Muskellunge

Season: continuous open season

Bag limit: none

Size limit: first fish may be of any size; thereafter at least half the catch must be at least 32 inches in length

Lake Trout

Season: continuous open season

Bag limit: 2 per person per day

Size limit: 26 inch minimum size limit

Paddlefish

No open season

II. Methods and Particular Regulations A. Hook and Line (includes attended and unattended tip ups, hand-held lines, and any device using a fishing hook and line)

1. Fishing holes (for attended or unattended lines) cannot be larger than 12" in diameter.

2. Limit of 30 total attended and unattended lines may be used at any one time. Lines cannot be used on more than 3 lakes at any one time.

3. Special rules applying to unattended lines.

a. "Unattended line fishing" means fishing with a line that is beyond visual contact without the aid of a magnifying device for a period of more than 1/2 hour. Unattended lines:

--can only have one single iron hook with a maximum 1/2" point to shank gape;

--must be of a material that will naturally deteriorate in water over time (note: monofilament line will not, but cotton twine will);

--must be securely anchored so that they cannot be dislodged by a hooked fish;

--must be tagged with an identification tag from the tribal conservation department;

--must be checked at least once every 24 hours unless severe weather makes this impractical;

--must be marked so that they are visible to vehicular traffic on the lake.

b. Prior to using unattended lines, you must inform the tribal conservation department of the lakes you intend to fish.

B. Spearing Through the Ice

1. Ice spearing is legal. The seasons, bag limits and size limits noted above apply to ice spearing.

2. Spearing holes cannot be larger than 24" by 36".

3. When not in use, spearing holes must be marked to identify them as a hazard.

4. No special spearing permit is required. The general fishing permit is all that is necessary.

C. Netting Through the Ice

1. If your tribe allows netting, a special netting permit is required. See your tribal conservation department for details.
2. There are many special rules, including seasons and bag limits, which apply to netting that are not summarized here. See your tribal conservation department for more information.

III. General Regulations That Apply to All Ice Fishing

1. You may not share ice fishing gear with any non-member unless:
 - a. the person is part of your immediate family or household; or
 - b. the person is legally fishing under state law.
2. Ice fishing houses:
 - a. must be able to be opened from the outside when occupied;
 - b. must display owner's name and address on the outside;
 - c. must be removed no later than March 15 (note: portable shelters can be used after that date as long as they are removed daily).
3. You must comply with any request to complete an ice fishing catch report or to take part in a creel survey.
4. You may possess only double the daily bag limit of "fresh" fish. "Fresh" means unspoiled and never frozen after being taken from the lake (note: fish that become frozen which are still on the ice are considered fresh). There is no possession limit that applies to fish that are not fresh or that are already in your freezer.
5. You may not use the following live bait: carp, goldfish, redhorse, fresh water drum, burbot, bowfish, garfish, buffalo fish, lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, smelt, goldeye, mooneye, carpsucher, quillback, and crayfish.
6. You must comply with fish refuge regulations. See your tribal conservation department for details.
7. If your tribe allows the sale of fish harvested off-reservation, you cannot sell fish without first getting a tag from the tribal conservation department for each fish you wish to sell. If the fish is filleted, the fillets must be tagged together or packaged together with the tag in the package.