

# Wisconsin 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territory **Open-Water Spearing Regulations Summary**

This is a summary of open water (ice-out to ice-in) spearing regulations that apply in the Wisconsin 1837 and 1842 ceded territories. If you have questions about spearing rules, contact your tribal office or the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) at 715-682-6619.

**IMPORTANT:** The specific regulations of your tribe might be different from those mentioned here and the status of lakes can change from night to night (whether a lake is open, what the bag limit is, etc). Make sure that you have current information before you harvest fish. You must comply with your tribe's ordinances.

**DAILY/NIGHTLY HOURS:** There are no set times that spearing must begin or end. However, a monitoring crew must be present at the designated boat landing before spearing can begin.

**WATERS THAT YOU MAY SPEAR:** You may only spear on a lake or designated stream segment for which you have a valid spearing permit. Check with your tribe or GLIFWC to determine which lakes or river segments are open each night.

**TRIBAL I.D./PERMITS:** You must possess your tribal I.D. and an open water spearing permit, and comply with the terms of that permit. You must show these upon request to any law enforcement officer, and provide harvest reports as requested.

**PERMIT ISSUANCE.** Each tribe determines how it will issue spearing permits. Generally, permits are issued on a "first come, first served" basis during the day at tribal conservation departments or registration stations. At night, many tribes allow remaining available permits to be issued at the designated boat landing. Also, some tribes may issue spearing permits to members of other tribes.

**BOAT LANDINGS:** You must enter and exit a body of water only at designated boat landings. You may exit a body of water at another location in dangerous weather conditions or for your safety.

**SPEARS:** Spears should be sturdy enough to capture the fish you are targeting, and must have at least three barbed tines that are at least 3" long,

**MIXING FISHING GEAR:** You may possess a spear and gear for open water hook and line/set lines/bank lines/snagging while *setting* gillnets or fyke nets. You may only possess a spear and no other fishing gear while you are spearing.

**HARVEST MONITORING:** You must cooperate with the harvest monitors at the designated boat landings. All fish will be counted and identified as to species, and a sample will be measured on each lake each night.

**NON-MEMBERS:** Non-members may not assist you in spearing except that members of your immediate family may operate the boat while you are spearing.

**LAKES PARTIALLY ON-RESERVATION:** These rules apply to the off-reservation portions of lakes. Any fish that you possess off-reservation will be considered part of your off-reservation harvest unless the fish has been tagged as on-reservation fish before leaving the reservation.

**SALE OF GAME FISH:** If your tribe authorizes the sale of game fish, you must use commercial sale tags and keep a record of all sales on required forms. Check with your tribe or GLIFWC if you have questions or need tags.

**SPECIAL STURGEON RULES:** In addition to the requirements listed in the bag/size limit table on the other side, there are special rules that apply to sturgeon spearing.

**Season:** You may harvest sturgeon from June 1 to March 1, except in limited circumstances during spring spearing.

**Spring Spearing Rules:**

**Quota Lakes:** You may spear prior to June 1 on a lake that has a sturgeon quota as long as you have a permit that authorizes you to do so.

**Non-Quota Lakes:** 1 sturgeon per lake may be harvested prior to June 1 by all tribes combined.

**Rivers:** 1 sturgeon per day per designated stream segment may be taken prior to June 1 by all boats combined.

**Caution:** Before you spear a sturgeon on a non-quota lake or in a river, be certain that the allowable sturgeon haven't already been harvested by someone else.

**BAG AND SIZE LIMITS FOR OPEN WATER SPEARING:**

<b><u>Species</u></b>	<b><u>Bag Limit</u></b>	<b><u>Size Limit</u></b>
Northern Pike and Bass	10 per person per day	No size limit
Walleye	Established on the spearing permit	20" maximum size limit, <u>except</u> 1 fish may be between 20-24" and 1 fish may be any size.
Muskellunge	Established on the spearing permit	First fish may be of any size, <u>thereafter</u> at least ½ of the catch must be at least 32"
Lake Trout	2 per person per day	26" minimum size limit
Rough Fish (all species)	No bag limit	No size limit
White Bass, Rock Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Yellow Bass, Catfish	No bag limit	No size limit
Sturgeon ( <u>note</u> : see special season and spring spearing rules on other side)	1 per person per year by all methods (registration required by 5 p.m. of the next working day)	45" minimum size limit <u>except</u> no size limit on sturgeon quota lakes