

GUIDE TO WISCONSIN HOOK AND LINE FISHING SEASON DATES 2025-2026



**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management**

LARGEMOUTH BASS and SMALLMOUTH BASS	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	
Northern Zone - Largemouth bass harvest Southern Zone - Largemouth and smallmouth bass harvest	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Northern Zone - Smallmouth bass harvest	Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens June 21, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Northern Zone/Southern Zone - Largemouth and Smallmouth bass catch and release	At all times of the year except on waters closed to fishing
Lake Winnebago System waters	Continuous open season
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Outlying waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan within 1/4 mile of Washington, Detroit, Plum, Pilot, Hog or Rock Islands	July 1 to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens July 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Other Lake Michigan waters Lake Superior and connected sloughs, Kakagon River - Largemouth bass harvest	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Superior and connected sloughs, Kakagon River - Smallmouth bass harvest	Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens June 21, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Other Lake Michigan waters; Lake Superior and connected sloughs, Kakagon River - Largemouth and Smallmouth bass catch and release	At all times (catch and release).
Wisconsin - Minnesota boundary waters	
St. Louis River	Saturday preceding Memorial Day to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 24, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
St. Croix River upstream from the dam at St. Croix Falls - harvest	Saturday preceding Memorial Day to, but not including, the second Monday in Sept. (May 24, 2025 - Sept. 7, 2025)
St. Croix River upstream from the dam at St. Croix Falls - catch and release	Second Monday in Sept. to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens Sept. 8, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
St. Croix River downstream from the dam at St. Croix Falls to the Hwy 10 Bridge at Prescott	Saturday preceding Memorial Day to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 24, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Mississippi River	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters - Largemouth and smallmouth bass harvest	Third Saturday in June to Dec. 31 (June 21, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters - Largemouth and Smallmouth bass catch and release	At all other times of the year.
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season

ROCK, YELLOW, and WHITE BASS	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	Continuous open season
Major Green Bay tributaries	Continuous open season
All other tributaries, streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan and Green Bay	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters - lakes	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season

CATFISH (CHANNEL and FLATHEAD)	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	Continuous open season (including by bow and arrow and crossbow)
Duck Creek downstream from the first dam above the Pamperin Park Footbridge in the Village of Howard excluding its tributaries, Fox River downstream from DePere Dam, Suamico River downstream from CTH HS, East River downstream from Hoffman Road (CTH XX), Brown County	Continuous open season (including by bow and arrow and crossbow)
All tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake,	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026) (including by bow and arrow and crossbow)
Prairie du Sac Dam on Wisconsin River downstream to US Hwy 12 bridge	First Saturday in May to Nov. 30 (May 3, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025) including by bow and arrow and crossbow
Lake Winnebago System Waters - Channel catfish	Continuous open season
Lake Winnebago System Waters - Flathead catfish	First Saturday in May to Sept. 30 (May 3, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Lake Winnebago System Waters - Flathead and Channel catfish by bow and arrow and crossbow	Saturday nearest May 20 to Sept. 30 (May 17, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)

All waters by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2025
Catfish in Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Michigan tributaries	Continuous open season (including by bow and arrow and crossbow)
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season (including by bow and arrow and crossbow on the Wisconsin boundary waters only)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Continuous open season (including by bow and arrow and crossbow on the Wisconsin boundary waters only)
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters by bow and arrow and crossbow	Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1 (April 19, 2025 to March 1, 2026)
All waters by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2025

PANFISH: bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	Continuous open season
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan and Lake Michigan tributaries	Continuous open season, (but the yellow perch season is CLOSED May 1, 2025 to June 15, 2025)
Green Bay and the Fox River	Continuous open season, (but the open season for yellow perch is May 20, 2025 to March 15, 2026).
All other tributaries, streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026) but the open season for yellow perch is May 20, 2025 to March 15, 2026
Lake Superior	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	Continuous open season

	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	Continuous open season
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Green Bay, major Green Bay tributaries, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan tributaries	Continuous open season
All other tributaries, streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	Continuous open season

LAKE STURGEON	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	
Chippewa River: West Fork downstream from Moose Lake Dam (Sawyer Co.) and East Fork (Ashland Co.) downstream to the confluence of the Mississippi River (Pepin Co.) including sloughs, bayous, and flowages. Flambeau River: N Fork from Turtle-Flambeau Dam (Iron Co.) and S Fork (Price Co.) downstream to the confluence with the Chippewa River (Rusk Co.) including sloughs, bayous, and flowages. Butternut Lake (Price Co.) Jump River from the North and South Forks to the confluence with the Chippewa River (Rusk Co.); Yellow Lake, Little Yellow Lake, Danbury Flowage, Yellow River from Yellow Lake downstream to the Danbury Dam (Burnett Co.) Wisconsin River downstream from the Wisconsin Dells Dam	First Saturday in Sept. to Sept. 30 (Sept. 6, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Lake Winnebago System Waters	No open season for hook and line harvest

Lake Winnebago - Spearing	Second Saturday in February for 16 consecutive days unless harvest cap is triggered (Feb. 8, 2025 - Feb. 23, 2025 or until harvest cap trigger)
Upriver Lakes (includes Poygan, Winneconne, and Butte des Morts) - Spearing	Second Saturday in February for 16 consecutive days unless harvest cap is triggered (participation dependent on random drawing for license purchase) (Feb. 8, 2025 - Feb. 23, 2025 or until harvest cap trigger)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan, Green Bay and their tributaries	No open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	
Mississippi River upstream of Red Wing Dam, St. Croix River from Prescott to Gordon Flowage	June 16, 2025 - March 1, 2026 (catch and release only)
St. Louis River, Nemadji River and the Mississippi River downstream of the Red Wing Dam	June 16, 2025 - April 14, 2026 (catch and release only)
St. Croix River downstream from the St. Croix Falls Dam	Harvest season - First Saturday in Sept. to Sept. 30 (Sept. 6, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025) Catch and release only - June 16 to the Friday before the first Saturday in Sept. (June 16, 2025 - Sept. 5, 2025) and Oct. 1 to March 1 (Oct. 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	
Menominee River	First Saturday in Sept. to Sept. 30 (Sept. 6, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	No open season

MUSKELLUNGE	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	
Northern Zone - inland waters north of U.S. Hwy 10 (excluding Wisconsin - Michigan boundary waters)	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to Dec. 31 on open water only (May 24, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Southern Zone - inland waters south of U.S. Hwy 10	First Saturday in May to Dec. 31 (May 3, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Green Bay, Lake Michigan and Lake Michigan tributaries north of a line running due east from eastern terminus of Waldo boulevard in the City of Manitowoc, all tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake.	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to Dec. 31 (May 24, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	First Saturday in May to Dec. 31 (May 3, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	June 1 to Dec. 31 on open water only (June 1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025 on open water only)
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	
St. Louis River, St. Croix River, and Mississippi River	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to Nov. 30 (May 24, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025)

NORTHERN PIKE	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Green Bay tributaries and Lake Michigan tributaries south of US Hwy 10	Continuous open season
Green Bay tributaries and Lake Michigan tributaries north of US Hwy 10	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025, opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Superior	Continuous open season (spearing through the ice)
Lake Superior tributaries and connected sloughs upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	First Saturday in May to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	

St. Croix River to Hwy 10 at Prescott	Saturday nearest May 1 to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
St. Louis River	Saturday 2 weeks prior to the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 10, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Mississippi River	Continuous open season

RUFFE, WHITE PERCH, and GOBIES	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	No open season, one of each may be killed and possessed for transport to a Wisconsin DNR office
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Michigan tributaries, major Green Bay tributaries	Continuous open season for white perch, no open season for ruffe or gobies
All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026) for white perch, no open season for ruffe or gobies
Lake Superior	Continuous open season for white perch, No open season for ruffe or gobies except one of each may be killed and possessed for transport to a Wisconsin DNR office
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	No open season, one of each may be killed and possessed for transport to a Wisconsin DNR office
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Continuous season for white perch, no open season for ruffe or gobies
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	No open season, one of each may be killed and possessed for transport to a Wisconsin DNR office

BULLHEADS and ROUGH FISH	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	Continuous open season
Bullheads - by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2026
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Major Green Bay tributaries, Major Lake Michigan tributaries	Continuous open season (including bullheads by bow and arrow and crossbow)
Bullheads - by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2025
All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Bullheads - by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2025
Bullheads - by bow and arrow and crossbow	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Superior	Continuous open season (including bullheads by bow and arrow and crossbow)
Bullheads - by hand	June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2026
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season (including bullheads by bow and arrow and crossbow on the Wisconsin side of the boundary waters only)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Continuous open season (including bullheads by bow and arrow and crossbow on the Wisconsin side of the boundary waters only)
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	Continuous open season (including bullheads by bow and arrow and crossbow on the Wisconsin side of the boundary waters only)

TROUT AND SALMON	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	
Early season catch and release	First Saturday in January at 5:00 am to Friday preceding the first Saturday in May (Jan. 4, 2025 - May 2, 2025)
General Inland trout season	First Saturday in May at 5:00 am to Oct. 15 (May 3, 2025 - Oct. 15, 2025)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	

Lake Michigan and its tributaries, Green Bay, and major Green Bay tributaries	Continuous open season
All other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Superior (does not include Lake Superior tributaries)	Continuous open season except the open season for lake trout is Dec. 1, 2025 to Sept. 30, 2026
Lake Superior tributaries	First Saturday in May at 5:00 AM to Sept. 30 (May 3, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Brule River downstream from US Hwy 2; Amnicon River, Nemadji River, Poplar river and the St. Louis River downstream from WI/MN state line	Last Saturday in March to Nov. 15 (March 29, 2025 - Nov. 15, 2025)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters	Last Saturday in April to Sept. 30 (April 26, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Montreal and Menominee rivers from their mouths upstream to the first dam and Smokey Lake	Continuous open season
Brule River (i.e., "boundary" Brule in Florence & Forest Counties) upstream from US Highway 2	Last Saturday in April to Sept. 30 (April 26, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters - St. Louis River	First Saturday in May at 5:00 AM to Sept. 30 (May 3, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025)

SHOVELNOSE STURGEON	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	
Wisconsin River downstream from the Prairie du Sac dam	Continuous open season
All other inland waters	No open season
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	
Mississippi River from the Red Wing Dam upstream and the St. Croix and St. Louis Rivers	June 16, 2025 - March 1, 2026 (catch and release only)
Mississippi River from the Red Wing dam downstream	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season

WALLEYE and SAUGER	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
General Inland Waters	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Chippewa Flowage (Sawyer County)	First Saturday in May to Nov. 30 (May 3, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025)
Boundary and Outlying Waters	
Major Green Bay tributaries and tributaries to Lake Michigan north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc	Monday after the first Sunday in March to the Friday before the first Saturday in May (March 3, 2025 - May 2, 2025) 1 in total with 15" minimum length limit
Major Green Bay tributaries and tributaries to Lake Michigan north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026) 5 in total with 15" minimum length limit
Tributaries to Lake Michigan south of Waldo Boulevard	Continuous open season
All other tributary streams & ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Superior	Continuous open season
Lake Superior tributaries	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March of the following year (season closes March 2, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Lake Winnebago System waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters	Continuous open season
Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	

Mississippi River	Continuous open season
St. Croix downstream to Prescott	Saturday nearest May 1 to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
St. Louis River	Saturday 2 weeks prior to the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 10, 2025 - March 1, 2026)
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters - rivers and flowages	(5 bag/15") season closes March 1, 2025. March 2 to the Friday before the First Saturday in May (March 2, 2025 - May 2, 2025) (1 bag/ 15") and First Saturday in May to March 1 (May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026) (5 bag/15")
Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters - lakes	First Saturday in May to March 1 (season closes March 1, 2025; opens May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026)

CLAMMING (Mussel harvest)	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
Inland waters	No open season on live mussels (dead shell harvest only)
Boundary and outlying waters	There is a year-round open season from sunrise to sunset on live mussels of species other than those that are endangered/threatened
St. Croix River - Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters	No open season on live mussels (dead shell harvest prohibited)

FROGS and TURTLES	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
Frogs	Saturday nearest May 1 to Dec. 31 (May 3, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)
Turtles	July 15, 2025 to Nov. 30, 2025

ICE SHANTY REMOVAL	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior, and inland waters north of Hwy 64	Remove by the first Sunday following March 12 (March 16, 2025; March 15, 2026)
Inland waters south of Hwy 64	Remove by the first Sunday following March 1 (March 2, 2025; March 8, 2026)
Wisconsin - Iowa Boundary Waters	Remove by Feb. 20, 2025 and 2026
Wisconsin - Michigan Boundary Waters	Remove by March 15, 2025 and 2026
Wisconsin - Minnesota Boundary Waters	Remove by March 1, 2025 and 2026

URBAN FISHING	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
Southeast, North, and Northeast	Second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April (March 8 - April 25 in 2025, March 14 - April 24 in 2026)

FREE FISHING WEEKENDS	Season Dates Inclusive (2025 - 2026 dates in parentheses)
Summer Free Fishing Weekend	First Saturday and Sunday in June (June 7-8, 2025)
Winter Free Fishing Weekend	The full weekend before the 3rd Monday in January (Jan. 18-19, 2025 and Jan. 17-18, 2026)

