

THE 2020 WISCONSIN FISHING OPENER FAQ

CAN I STILL FISH?

Yes! Under Gov. Evers Safer at Home order, outdoor recreation is listed as an essential activity. As such, the fishing season opener will proceed as normal. We encourage anglers to use waterbodies close to home and in their community.

DO I NEED A LICENSE?

Wisconsin residents and nonresidents who are 16 years or older need a valid 2020-2021 fishing license to fish in any waters of the state. You can easily purchase a fishing license on the DNR [Go Wild Web page](#).

WHERE CAN I FISH?

As of May 1, all State-owned launches and access points are open. Please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to shore fishing access and boat launches. Anglers are encouraged to use the [DNR boat and shore fishing access tool](#) to locate access points close to home and within their community. **Anglers should contact their local municipalities for more information regarding localized closures and access changes to boat launches outside of state parks and properties.**

WHAT CAN I FISH?

All [regulations](#) and season dates still apply. Check the [2020-2021 Guide to Wisconsin Hook & Line Fishing Regs](#) for specific information about where you plan to fish.

WHAT KIND OF BAIT CAN I USE?

It depends on your fishing location and the species you are pursuing. Make sure to check the [regulations](#) for your location.

WHAT CAN I DO TO KEEP MYSELF/FAMILY SAFE?

- Avoid crowded locations and set out with backup fishing locations in mind.
- Give other anglers space and maintain 6 feet between yourself and members outside of your household. Measure your fishing rod and use it as a gauge.
- Don't travel in the same boat or vehicle as another angler unless they reside in your household.
- Wash and sanitize your hands especially after touching public surfaces such as handrails on boat launches or piers.
- Don't share equipment with other anglers.
- If you are feeling sick, stay home.

ARE YOU ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Parks staff and DNR wardens continue to monitor social distancing on state owned lands to support the Safer at Home order. We all must follow DHS & CDC guidelines and stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside of your household. This includes all travel from your vehicle to your fishing location and throughout the return trip. Safe distancing is your responsibility.

ARE THE BOAT LAUNCHES IN STATE PARKS NOW OPEN?

Yes, boat launches within open state parks are open. However, all state parks have updated hours of operation from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm and will be closed on Wednesdays. As such, anglers who want to fish

within a state park on Wednesday may still do so that day but will be required to walk in if they are accessing water via the state park. Hour of operation restrictions will still apply. All restrooms, water fountains, buildings, and facilities are also closed on all state parks. Northern forests, flowages, and the Lower Wisconsin Riverway system are exempt from these changes and remain open from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, 7 days a week.

I DON'T SEE ANY TRASH BARRELS AT PARKS/LAUNCHES?

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park or boat launch. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests, launch sites and other day-use areas [do not have garbage or recycling bins](#). When you visit a park or launch, you will need to take your garbage, pet waste, and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources.

CAN I FISH IN WISCONSIN IF I AM A NON-RESIDENT?

All anglers must hold a valid 2020-2021 fishing license. Non-residents can easily purchase a license at DNR [Go Wild web page](#). Make sure to check with your state's emergency orders and travel restrictions. Under Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order we encourage the public to fish within your local community.