

2024 Wisconsin Aquaculture Association Conference

Fisheries Regulations and Policy Updates

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March 22, 2024 | DNR.WI.GOV

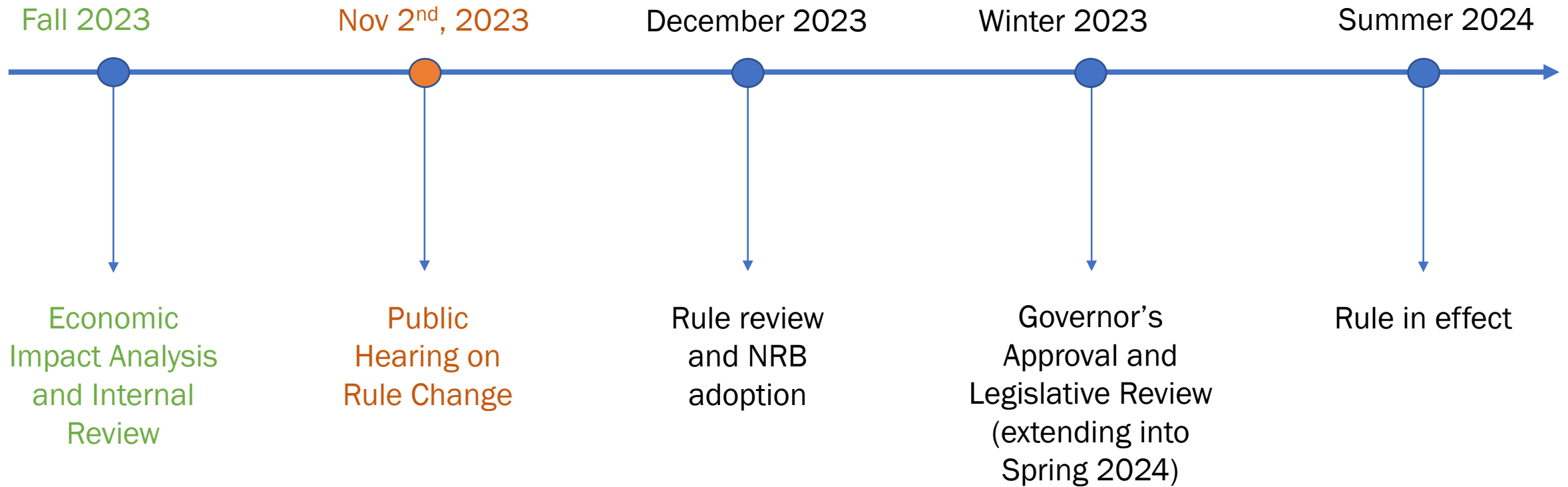


Wild Bait Harvest Proposed Rule Summary

- ~65 commercial wild bait harvesters in WI
- ~265 wild bait harvest permit applications per year
- The primary species targeted by commercial wild bait harvest are chubs, suckers (incl. common white suckers), fathead minnows, mudminnows, dace, emerald shiners, common shiners, bluntnose minnows, and spottail shiners
- Wild bait harvest reporting is not currently required
- Goal of this rule: create, implement, and evaluate a wild bait harvest reporting system, address issues with the current rules, and develop a framework to address future issues
- This is an initial step in a larger comprehensive assessment of our current exotic/invasive/detrimental species strategy



Anticipated Timeline



Wild Bait Harvest Proposed Rule Change

Main Topics

- Permit Duration
- Reporting Requirements
- Non-Standard Gear Use
- White Sucker Egg Take
- Commercial and Personal Minnow Harvest on VHS waters

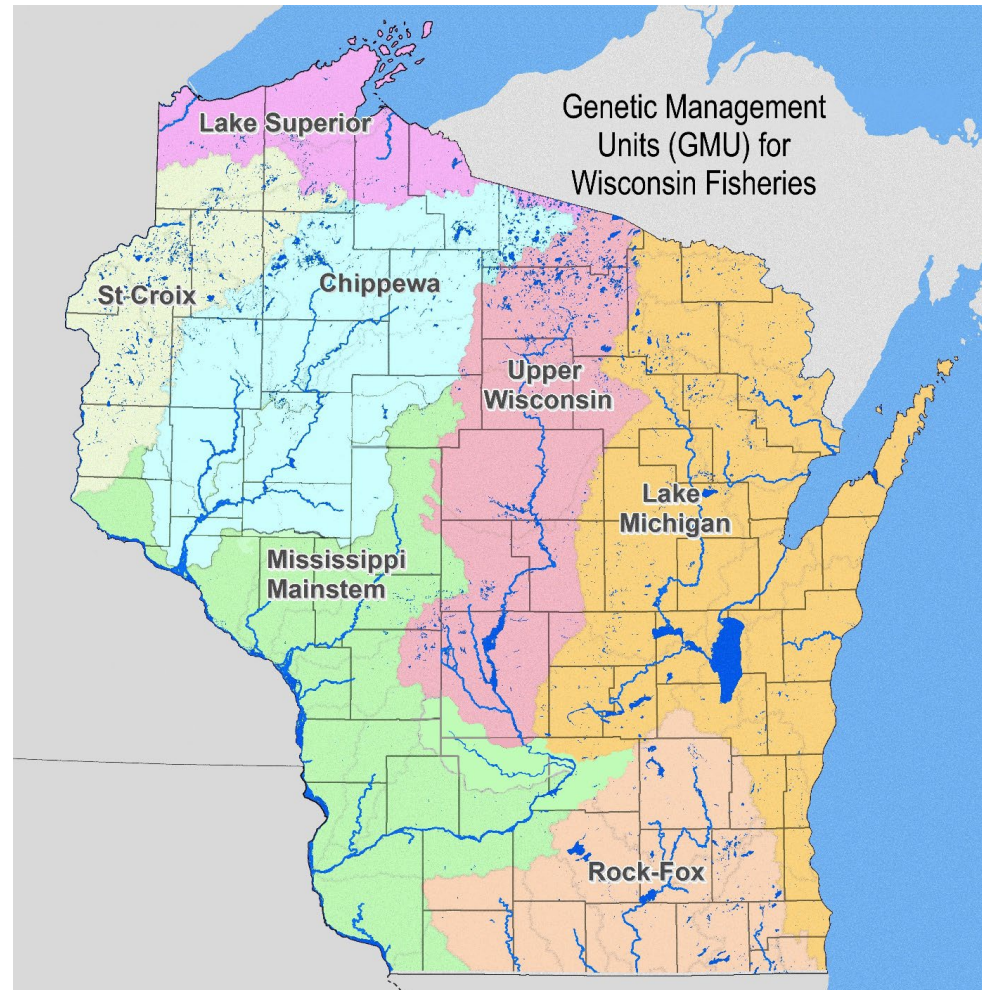


Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

Genetics Management Policy

- WI Statute - 2017 WI ACT 21 – “Aquaculture Bill” directs DNR to define the role and extent that genetics are involved in fish stocking.
- WI Administrative Code, NR 1.02(4), NRB Genetics Policy, eff. 2/2020.
 - Preserving the genetic integrity of fish stocks documented and proven to survive and thrive in WI waters is a central goal of fisheries management in WI.
 - All inland fish stocking shall be authorized by permit and shall be conducted to maintain the genetic boundaries of fish best adapted to those waters.
 - The department shall implement fish stocking strategies to ensure that fish stocked are best suited to survive and thrive in the unique ecological conditions found throughout WI
 - These strategies shall be developed in partnership with private aquaculture to protect, sustain and improve the genetic integrity of native, nonnative and self-sustained fish populations.

Genetic Management Units



2024 Engagement Opportunities

- DNR staff visit WI private hatcheries throughout the state
- Develop a task group to gather input and discuss options
- DNR convenes public meetings to gather input and discuss options

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Thank you

Questions or comments

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Commercial and Personal Minnow Harvest

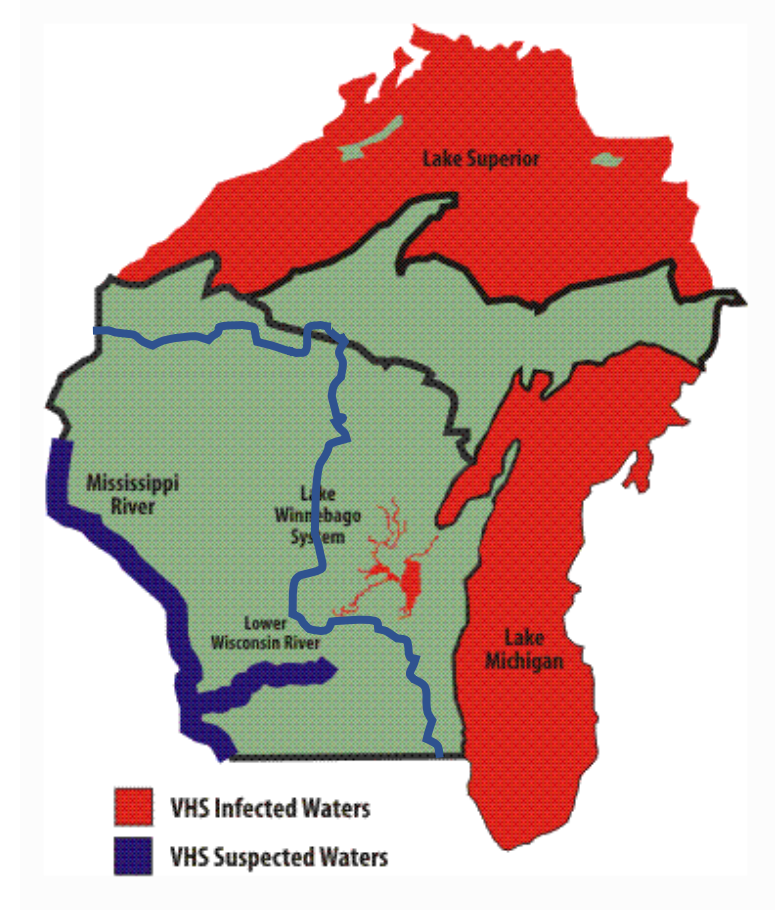
Current Regulations

No commercial or personal harvest of minnows on VHS-affected waters

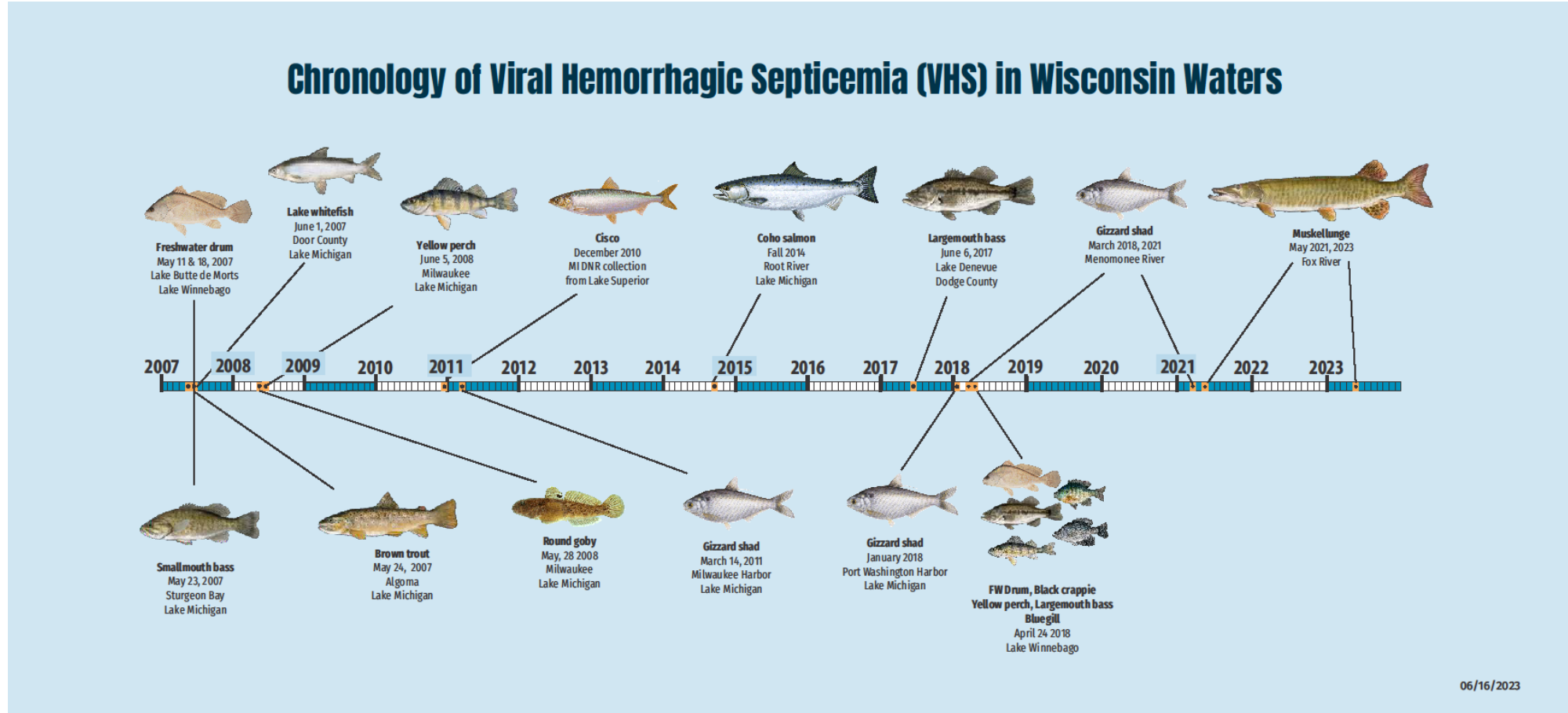
Proposed Changes

None

Currently evaluating options to assess potential future changes

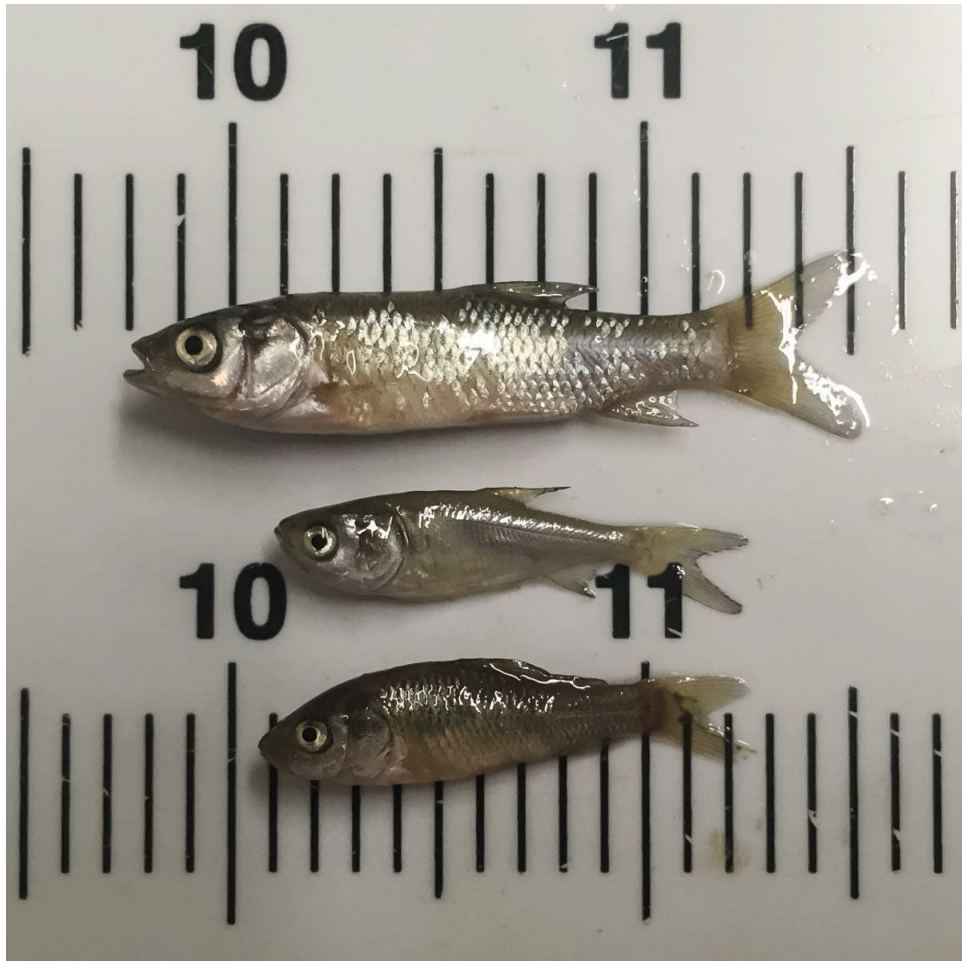


VHS Collected in Wisconsin



06/16/2023

Invasive carp



Fathead, shiner, dace

