

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



March 27, 2020

Subject: Tournament Permit Notification

Dear Tournament Organizer:

Thank you for your interest in Wisconsin's recreational fishery. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information regarding your approved tournament permit in response to Gov. Evers' Safer at Home Emergency Order #12 issued on March 24 (hereafter, "E.O. #12").

Please note that your approved tournament permit **does not** supersede or exempt your event or its participants from any local, state, or federal Executive or Emergency Orders pertaining to COVID-19. The issuance of a tournament permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not constitute confirmation by the Department that the permitted tournament activities, the manner in which the permittee conducts the permitted activities, or the activities of individual angler in relation to the permitted tournament comply with E.O. #12 or any other Executive or Emergency Orders.

It is the responsibility of the tournament organizer to verify that all aspects of the fishing tournament comply with E.O. #12 and all other orders that have been or may be issued. It is also the responsibility of each individual angler to comply with the "Social Distancing Requirements" as outlined in E.O. #12, Sec. 16. Compliance with these provisions may require the tournament organizer to adjust certain portions of a fishing tournament and impose additional requirements on participants. Examples of adjustments that may be appropriate include but are not limited to imposing 1 angler per boat maximum, using electronic rather than in-person pre-registration and weigh-ins, and staggering start/end times.

Tournament organizers and participants may be subject to law enforcement action by any local law enforcement official if the permitted event or the conduct of individual participants is determined to violate any standing local, state, or federal Executive or Emergency Orders pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak. Violations are punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, or up to \$250 fine, or both pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 252.25.

Requests to reschedule fishing tournaments will be handled on a first come-first serve basis. Please contact Joe Bevington, Statewide Tournament Coordinator, with any questions or if you will be cancelling or rescheduling your event:

Joe Bevington  
Bureau of Fisheries Management  
(608) 264-9257  
[Joseph.Bevington@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joseph.Bevington@Wisconsin.gov)

Please keep a hard copy of this letter on hand during the event in case there is an inquiry from law enforcement.

Thank you for your patience and doing your part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Justine Hasz  
Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management

Good Morning,

The emergency proclamation for the State of Iowa yesterday by Governor Reynolds has resulted in the Iowa DNR determining that all events scheduled through April 30, 2020 be cancelled. This email is your notification that your event scheduled via the DNR's Special Events System is no longer authorized by the DNR, and must be cancelled.

These are unprecedented times, and we must all do our part to help curb the spread of the coronavirus. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Refunds for events will be issued upon request. Those requests should be sent directly to me.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kopaska  
Administrator, DNR Special Events



Jeff Kopaska | Biometrician

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

1436 255th St., Boone, IA 50036

P 515-204-8021 | F 515-432-2835



[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)

