

Upper Mississippi River commercial fishing gear type licensed in each state and gear requirements. Click on individual state to link to their regulations page.

Gear	Illinois	Iowa	Minnesota	Missouri	Wisconsin/Minnesota Boundary Waters	Wisconsin/Iowa Boundary Waters
Gear Tag Requirement	All gear must be tagged with a tag purchased from the IDNR and a metal tag with the name and address of the licensee.	All gear must be tagged with weather-resistant gear tag that must plainly show the name, address and commercial license number of the licensee and if the gear is for fish or turtles.	All gear must be tagged with "infested water" tag furnished by the state. Flags with License ID must accompany all gear left unattended.	All gear must be tagged with equipment tags furnished by the state.	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by the state.	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by the state.
Gill Net	Must be constructed of mesh not less than 4 inches bar measure. Shall be not less than 100 feet in length. Nets must be under the immediate supervision of the operator with the following exceptions: 1) from May 1 – September 30 they must be attended every 24 hours. 2) From sunset to sunrise. 3) When set under the ice, they must be attended every 96 hours. 4) When operating under a commercial roe harvest permit and taking roe bearing species, they must be attended from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$18 for each 100 lineal yards for residents and \$36 for each 100 lineal yards for non-residents.	Minimum mesh size:3 1/2" square. Must lift ever 24 hrs. in open water or 96 hours under ice. Constance net attendance by licensee or operator when drifting or driving.	Minimum mesh size :3 1/2" bar. Must be marked with 16"flag. No drifting or dragging. Must lift ever 24 hrs. in open water or 48 hours under ice.	Gill nets having a mesh smaller than 2" bar measure, measured when wet, may not be used. Gill nets must be attended at all times by the permittee's immediate presence where nets are set.	Open all Year. Mesh size of 7 inch stretch or larger. All gill nets shall be lifted and emptied of fish at least once each day between May 1 and September 1, at least once each 2-day period when set during the remaining open water period and at least once each 4 days when set under ice. Gill nets may not be used as a drag seine or drift net at anytime. May not be set in a manner that will shut-off more than one-half the width of any channel, bay or slough. Net may not be hobbled, doubled or overlapped on itself or with another net to reduce the effective size of the mesh with a second layer of net. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 21 (link above).	No season. Mesh size of 7 inch stretch or larger. All gill nets shall be lifted and emptied of fish at least once each day between May 1 and September 1, at least once each 2-day period when set during the remaining open water period and at least once each 4 days when set under ice. Nets may not be used as a drag seine or drift net at anytime. May not be set in a manner that will shut-off more than one-half the width of any channel, bay or slough. Net may not be hobbled, doubled or overlapped on itself or with another net to reduce the effective size of the mesh with a second layer of net. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Seine Net	Maximum of 100 yards of seine can be 1 1/4 inch bar measure. Remainder of seine can be no smaller than 2 inch bar measure. No seine shall be more than 1,500 yards in length. If seines are greater than 200 yards in length they must be operated with a backstop. Seines shall not be operated in less than 2 feet of water. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$ for each 100 lineal yards for residents and \$36 for each 100 lineal yards for non-residents.	No mesh restrictions. Constant net attendance.	Oct 1 -April 30 No more than 100lbs of catfish/day. Notify DNR of fishing location.	Seine nets having a mesh smaller than 2" bar measure, measured when wet, may not be used.	No season. No size restrictions. A commercial fisher and his or her crew members may not take more than 100 lbs. plus one fish of catfish per day with seines regardless of the number of seine hauls made in one day, from the Saturday nearest October 1 to April 30. Seines may not be drawn, lifted or operated in any manner between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise without permission of the department. Shovelnose sturgeon may not be taken in seines. Seines may not be drawn, lifted or operated in any manner between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise without permission of the department. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 21 (link above).	No season. No size restrictions. A commercial fisher and his or her crew members may not take more than 100 lbs. plus one fish of catfish per day with seines regardless of the number of seine hauls made in one day, from the Saturday nearest October 1 to April 30. Seines may not be drawn, lifted or operated in any manner between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise without permission of the department. Shovelnose sturgeon may not be taken in seines. Seines may not be drawn, lifted or operated in any manner between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise without permission of the department. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above)
Trammel Net	Must be constructed of mesh not less than 2 inches bar measure. Shall be not less than 100 feet in length. Nets must be under the immediate supervision of the operator with the following exceptions: 1) from May 1 – September 30 they must be attended every 24 hours. 2) From sunset to sunrise. 3) When set under the ice, they must be attended every 96 hours. 4) When operating under a commercial roe harvest permit and taking roe bearing species, they must be attended from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$18 for each 100 lineal yards for residents and \$36 for each 100 lineal yards for non-residents.	Minimum mesh size:2". Constance attendance by licensee or operator when drifting. Must lift ever 24 hrs. in open water or 96 hours under ice.	Prohibited	Trammel nets having a mesh smaller than 2" bar measure, measured when wet, may not be used. Trammel nets must be attended at all times by the permittee's immediate presence where nets are set.	Prohibited	Open all year. No person may fish with a dead set trammel net. a. Licensed commercial fisher or crew shall be in attendance when net is fished. <i>Drive set</i> : not more than 300' in length and no mesh size limit. A. May be used in a drifting manner only. <i>Drive set</i> : Not more than 300 feet in length with a mesh of 7 inches stretch or larger. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Trot Line (setline)	Shall have hooks spaced at intervals not less than 24 inches. Must be checked at least every 24 hours. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee.	Must be attended every 24 hrs.	Season: April 1-Oct. 31.100 hooks with no more than 4 lines.	Hooks attached to trotlines or throwlines shall be staged not less than 2" apart. Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bank lines, or jug or block lines may be left set and unattended for not more than 24 hours.	Season: Saturday nearest April 1 to October 31, except for the specified closed areas. Each licensee is limited to 8 setlines with not to exceed a total of 50 hooks on each line or 4 setlines with not to exceed 100 hooks on each line. No person may use frogs or game fish, whether dead or alive, or any part of a frog or game fish as bait on a setline in the Mississippi river. Must have buoy at each end of every setline. The buoys shall have a staff extending at least 3 feet above the surface of the water. Upon the upper end of each staff there shall be a flag at least 10 inches square. Upon the bowl of each buoy there shall be maintained in plain figures the license number of the licensee. License tag shall be attached to the buoy or staff at one end of the setline so that the tag will be visible above the surface of the water. Setlines set in open water shall be lifted and all fish removed at least once each day following the day set. Setlines may not be set, lifted, hauled or operated in any manner between one-half hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise without prior permission of the department. Shovelnose sturgeon 25 inches and over in length may be taken. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).	Each licensee is limited to 12 setlines with not to exceed a total of 50 hooks on each line or 6 setlines with not to exceed 100 hooks on each line, either not to exceed a total of 600 hooks in the aggregate. No frogs or game fish, or any part of, whether dead or alive, may not be used as bait. Lines shall be lifted and fish removed at least once each day following the day set. At one end of every licensed setline there shall be placed and maintained a white flag, not less than 10 inches square, with the upper end of the staff extending at least 3 feet above the water and numbered with legible figures at least 3 inches in height corresponding with the number of the license authorizing the use of such setline. It shall be lawful to use buoys in lieu of flags providing that same are numbered with legible figures at least 3 inches in height corresponding with the number of the license authorizing the use of such setlines. Lines shall be lifted and fish removed at least once each day following the day set unless a longer period is granted by the department or its agents. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Set or bank pole	Regulated as a single hook trot line.	Not permissive gear	Prohibited	Prohibited		

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Bait Net	Must be constructed of mesh not less than 1 inch bar measure. Wings must be constructed of number 9 or larger diameter twine. Must be attended every 72 hrs. during open water conditions. During ice cover conditions, must be attended every 20 days. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$3 for residents and \$6 for non-residents.	An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one half inches in all directions must be provided within 12 inches past the last hoop to the tail-line. The gear must be attended at least once every 96 hours in open water and at least once every 20 days during ice cover conditions.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Open all year. Any size mesh with a maximum not over 4 x 8 foot rectangular front or 8 foot round hoop front. Shall be raised and emptied except for bait once each 4-day period. May not be used with any lead or wings. Only commercial species of fish, cheese, blood, soybeans or other non-fish materials may be used as bait. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Buffalo Net	Must be constructed of mesh not less than 1 inch bar measure. Wings must be constructed of number 9 or larger diameter twine. Must be attended every 72 hrs. during open water conditions. During ice cover conditions, must be attended every 20 days. Shall have a metal tag inscribed with the name and address of the licensee. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$3 for residents and \$6 for non-residents.	An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one half inches in all directions must be provided within 12 inches past the last hoop to the tail-line. The gear must be attended at least once every 96 hours in open water and at least once every 20 days during ice cover conditions.	Prohibited	Hoop nets having a mesh smaller than 1 1/2" bar measure, measured when wet, may not be used. Hoop net wings and leads must be a single panel, not more than 6' in depth, mesh size 1 1/2" bar measure, measured when wet, and made of twine not less than 3/64" in diameter. Hoop nets may be left set and unattended for not more than 48 hours.	Prohibited	Open all year. Any size mesh with a maximum not over 4 x 8 foot rectangular front or 8 foot round hoop front. Shall be raised and emptied except for bait once each 4-day period. May not be used with any lead or wings. Only commercial species of fish, cheese, blood, soybeans or other non-fish materials may be used as bait. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Fyke Net	Regulated as a hoop net with an attached wing.	An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one half inches in all directions must be provided within 12 inches past the last hoop to the tail-line. The gear must be attended at least once every 24 hours.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Season: Sept. 1 - June 1. Any size mesh not to exceed 4 x 8 foot front if rectangular or 8 foot diameter front if round, with a one or two leads. Shall be raised and emptied once each 2-day period. May not contain any bait. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Slat Trap	Must be constructed of wood or plastic slats. Must have an unobstructed opening in the rear of the trap not less than 1 1/2 inches square. Must be attended at least once every 72 hours during open water conditions. During ice cover conditions, must be attended every 20 days. Each device being used shall be licensed with the IDNR, cost is \$3 for residents and \$6 for non-residents.	An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one half inches in all directions must be provided in the end opposite the throat. The gear must be attended once every 48 hours during open water conditions.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Season: Saturday nearest May 1 - Oct 31. Not more than 6' in length and not more than 72" in circumference, over-all dimensions and with one end closed with webbing of a mesh not less than one and one-fourth inches bar or square measure. Such webbing shall be attached in such a manner that the length, depth or width of each mesh is not decreased. May contain bait. Must be lifted at least once every 2-day period. Restricted to use of 50 nets. Additional restrictions are contained in s. NR 22 (link above).
Turtle Traps	Prohibited		No more than 40 traps/person. Minimum mesh size: 3 1/2" bar.	Prohibited		Turtle trappers must possess one of the following resident license: Fishing, Small Game, Sports, Conservation Patron, Setline, or Set or Bank Pole license. No reporting requirements for turtle trappers. See Fishing Regulations for details.