

State Commercial Fishing Regulations by Gear

Gear	Illinois	Iowa	Minnesota	Missouri	Wisconsin/Minnesota	Wisconsin/Iowa
Bait Net	Mesh no less than 1 inch.	Escape hole minimum diameter of 1 1/2" all direction within 12" beyond last hoop to the tailline. Must be attended every 96 hrs in open water.	By Special Permit Only		Prohibited	Open all year. Any size mesh not over 4 foot hoop front. Leads not allowed.
Buffalo Net	Must be attended every 72 hrs open water and 20 under ice.	Escape hole minimum diameter of 1 1/2" all direction within 12" beyond last hoop to the tailline. Must be attended every 96 hrs in open water.	By Special Permit Only	Minimum mesh size: 1 1/2". Maximum lead/wing length: single panel 6 feet. Must be attended: every 48 hours.	Prohibited	No size restrictions
Fyke Net		Must be attended every 24 hrs.	By Special Permit Only		Prohibited	Sept 1- June 1. Any size mesh not to exceed 4'x8' front with single lead.
Slat Trap		Escape hole minimum diameter of 1 1/2" all direction in the end opposite the throat. Must be attended every 4 hrs in open water.		Not permitted	Prohibited	Saturday nearest May 1 - Oct 31. Not more than 6' in length and not more than 72" in circumference. One end closed with webbing of mesh not less than 1 1/4"

Gear	Illinois	Iowa	Minnesota	Missouri	Wisconsin/Minnesota	Wisconsin/Iowa
Gill Net	Must be attended every 24 hrs open water and 96 under ice. Constant net attendance when drive netting or drifting.*	Minimum mesh size: 3 1/2" square. Must lift every 24 hrs in open water or 96 hours under ice. Constant 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 every 24 hrs in open water or 48 hours under ice.	Minimum mesh size: 2" bar. Must be attended at all times.	Open all Year. Mesh size of 7 inch stretch or larger.	Open all Year. Mesh size of 7 inch stretch or larger.
Seine Net	Constant net attendance when drive netting or drifting.	No mesh restrictions. Constant net attendance.	Oct 1 -April 30 No more than 100lbs of catfish/day. Notify DNR of fishing location.	Minimum mesh size: 2" bar.	No size restrictions.	No size restrictions.
Trammel Net	Must be attended every 24 hrs open water and 96 under ice. Constant net attendance when drive netting or drifting.*	Minimum mesh size: 2". Constant attendance by licensee or operator when drifting. Must lift every 24 hrs in open water or 96 hours under ice.		Minimum mesh size: 2" bar. Must be attended at all times.	Prohibited	Open all year. Drift not more than 300' in length and no mesh size limit. Drive set not more than 300' in length and 7" stretch or larger.
Trot Line (setline)		Must be attended every 24 hrs.	Season: April 1-Oct. 31. 100 hooks with no more than 4 lines.	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart. Must be attended every 24 hours.	Saturday nearest April 1 to October 31, except for the specified closed areas. 4 lines not to exceed 100 hooks.	Open all year. 8 setline not to exceed 50 hooks on each line or 4 lines not to exceed 100 hooks.
Set or bank pole		Not permissive gear				Open all year. Not to exceed 5 set or bank poles
Turtle Traps				Not permitted.		

* When operating and taking or possessing roe-bearing species, nets must be attended from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. DST.

Illinois

Seine

(515 ILCS 5/15-100) (from Ch. 56, par. 15-100)

Sec. 15-100. Length and mesh size of seine. Except as provided in Sections 20-5 through 20-25, any person may use a single seine not exceeding 100 yards in length of 1 1/2 inch bar measurement. In all seines over 100 yards in length it shall be unlawful at any time to use any mesh less than 2 inch bar measurement except that all seines over 100 yards in length may have a section of the seine not more than 300 feet in length of 1 1/2 inch bar measurement. No seine shall be more than 1500 yards in length. If seines are more than 200 yards in length they must be operated

with a backstop constructed of vertical slats not less than 1 1/4 inches apart or 3 inch bar measurement netting or of chicken wire or metallic cloths of not less than 1 1/2 inches square and shall not be dragged or otherwise operated in less than 2 feet of water.

(Source: P.A. 87-833.)

It shall be unlawful to use seines except in the Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash Rivers

**Hoop Net
& Slat Trap**

(515 ILCS 5/15-115) (from Ch. 56, par. 15-115)

Sec. 15-115. Basket traps and hoop nets. Except as provided in Section 20-25, it is unlawful to use any basket trap other than a basket trap constructed of wood or plastic slats. A legal trap must have an unobstructed opening or openings in the rear end of the trap not less than 1 1/2 inches square. It is unlawful to use a hoop net of mesh less than 1 inch bar measurement, or attached wings and leads of a material smaller than number 9 twine.

(Source: P.A. 87-833.)

**Gill and Trammel
Nets**

(515 ILCS 5/15-130) (from Ch. 56, par. 15-130)

Sec. 15-130. Gill or trammel net. It shall be unlawful to use a gill or trammel net except in the Mississippi River, in the Ohio River, and in the Illinois River from its mouth up to the Illinois River bridge, Highway Route 89, including adjacent backwaters but not above the mouth of any stream, ditch, or tributary connected to these backwaters. No trammel net used under this Section shall have meshes less than 2 inches bar measurement and no gill net used under this Section shall have meshes less than 4 inches bar measurement. No gill or trammel net shall be less than 100 feet in length.

All gill or trammel nets that are set in any body of water shall be under the immediate supervision of the operator, who may be the licensee or his or her employee, except (i) from May 1 to September 30, (ii) when the nets are set under the ice, (iii) from sunset to sunrise, or (iv) as specified by administrative rule. Immediate supervision shall be defined as the operator being on the waters where the nets are set to be readily available to identify the nets to law enforcement officers empowered to enforce this Code. It shall be unlawful for any employee on any one day to lift or attend nets of more than one licensee.

All gill or trammel nets set under the ice shall be at a distance of not less than 100 yards from any natural opening in the ice.

The Department may modify provisions of this Section as provided in Section 1-135.

Trot Lines

(515 ILCS 5/15-140) (from Ch. 56, par. 15-140)

Sec. 15-140. Spacing of hooks. All trot lines, throw lines, or similar devices except trolley or power lines used in Lake Michigan shall have hooks spaced at intervals of not less than 24 inches.

(Source: P.A. 87-833.)