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Wild Bait Harvest & Nonstandard Minnow Gear Application & Permit

Form 3600-533 (R 06/2025)

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Wild Bait Harvest Permits - FH/4
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov

Notice: Use of this form is required to obtain a Wild Bait Harvest Permit pursuant to s. 29.509, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 19.057, Wis. Adm. Code, and a Nonstandard Gear Permit pursuant to s. 29.516(1), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 20.39, Wis. Adm. Code. The department will not consider your application unless you fully complete and submit this form. Personal information collected will be used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Open Records Law (ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.).

Upon approval, this application serves as a permit to authorize the harvest and transport of live minnows from the wild for use as fishing bait by the bait dealer listed below and his or her employees on the waterbody during the effective period specified in this permit. Engaging in these activities in the absence of an approved permit could subject you to penalties under the law. This application, when approved, also serves as a permit to authorize the bait dealer to set, use or operate the nonstandard minnow seines, minnow dip nets or minnow traps described herein, which are otherwise prohibited by s. NR 20.14, Wis. Adm. Code.

Complete this form legibly and fax to 608-266-2244, mail to the above address, or send to DNRFWPFHFishPermits@wisconsin.gov

For DNR Use Only
Permit Number

Applicant Information

Applicant /Bait Dealer's First MI Last Name*			Requested Start Date*	
Business Name (if applicable)			Bait Dealer License Number*	
Mailing Address*			Phone (include area code)*	
City*	State*	ZIP Code*	Fax	
Return Permit By: (check one) <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Fax <input type="radio"/> Email			Email Address	

*Required

Harvest Information

Check species to be harvested: VHS Susceptible Species* <u>FHC and VHS Test Required</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Bluntnose Minnows <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Shiners <input type="checkbox"/> Spottail Shiners	Other species: <input type="checkbox"/> Mudminnows <input type="checkbox"/> Chubs <input type="checkbox"/> Dace <input type="checkbox"/> Shiners <input type="checkbox"/> Fatheads <input type="checkbox"/> Suckers <input type="checkbox"/> Other Species _____	On page 3, please include estimated harvest per waterbody for the duration of the permit
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*I am also applying for a Non-Standard Gear permit (check one) ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list Non-Standard Gear Types below.

Gear Type*	Number*	Length*	Depth*	Mesh Size*	Throat Size*

*Required

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Permit Conditions

- 1) **Fish Health Certificate (FHC):** All Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) susceptible minnow species harvested under this permit must be inspected by a qualified fish health inspector, tested for VHS, and be issued a FHC before they can be used or distributed. A bait dealer must mail a copy of the certificate and required test results to the department address on page 1 within 7 days of issuance, keep copies of certificates and test results for 5 years from date certificate is issued, and make them available to the department for inspection and copying upon request.
- 2) **Checking Gear:** All harvest gear must be raised and emptied at least once every 48 hours, except traps on trout streams must be raised and emptied at least once every 24 hours.
- 3) **Labels:** All harvest gear authorized by this permit, which is left in the waterbody must have a label or tag bearing the legible name and address of the operator, written in the English language and securely attached.
- 4) **Habitat Destruction:** The removal or destruction of vegetation, logs, and other habitat features is prohibited.
- 5) **Disinfection:** All equipment used in one water body must be disinfected prior to use in another water body. Disinfection can be achieved by soaking equipment for 10 minutes in a solution of 5 gallons of water and 1/2 cup of household bleach, cleaning equipment with either soap or high pressure water and then thoroughly drying the equipment for at least 5 days, or cleaning with Virkon Aquatic.
- 6) **Catch & Release:** All fish species not authorized to be taken under this permit must be promptly returned unharmed to the water body from which they were caught.
- 7) **Farm-raised Fish:** Farm-raised fish may not be possessed while harvesting wild bait or while transporting wild harvested bait from the water where it was harvested to the bait dealer's business location or from the water where it was harvested to the point of sale.
- 8) **Transport:** Live minnows harvested under this permit may only be transported away from the waterbody where they were harvested and only by the bait dealer or bait dealer's employees who harvested the minnows in compliance with this permit. This permit does not authorize a wild bait harvester to transport minnows away from any water, bank, or shore after hook-and-line fishing and using the minnows as bait. Any live minnows which are harvested, kept, and transported must be: 1) transported in tanks equipped with either an oxygen tank or an adequate aeration system, 2) transported and held in tanks or facilities that are not loaded beyond their capacity to keep the minnows alive and healthy, and 3) sold or used only for fishing bait.
- 9) **Reporting:** Each bait dealer shall maintain a legible daily record in the English language on forms available from the Department of all minnows harvested. The bait dealer or the bait dealer's employee shall submit a report of all daily records no later than the 10th day of the month following the month of harvest in the form specified by the department. After December 31, 2027, the bait dealer or the bait dealer's employee shall submit the report forms electronically to an electronic reporting system designated by the department by 11:59 p.m. the day the minnows are removed from the harvest gear. The bait dealer shall maintain all records required under this subsection for no less than 2 years after the expiration of the permit and shall make the records available to a department representative for inspection upon request at all reasonable hours.
- 10) **Compliance:** The permittee and all employees shall comply with all Wisconsin statutes and rules related to the harvest, possession, and sale of minnows. The permittee and all employees shall carry a copy of this permit with them when conducting activities authorized by this permit and must display the permit upon request to any conservation warden or agent of the Department of Natural Resources. Employees of the permittee may only engage in wild bait harvest under this permit while under the direct supervision of the permittee. This permit is subject to revocation at any time if deemed necessary by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 11) **Non-standard Gear:** The described nonstandard gear may only be used in the water(s) specified and during the authorized dates.
- 12) **Changes to the Permit and/or Additional Conditions** may be set by the authorizing DNR Fisheries Biologist here:

Certification

I hereby certify that I currently hold a valid Wisconsin Bait Dealer's License and that my license privileges have not been revoked and I will comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and all the laws regulating the harvest, possession, transportation, sale of minnows.

(Check one): ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

NOTE: If submitting this request electronically, please type your name on the signature line. Your typed name, along with the email message generated from electronic submittal of this form, will be used as an electronic signature which is the legal equivalent to an actual signature.

Signature of Applicant*

Date Signed
(MM/DD/YYYY)*

Printed Name*



For DNR Use Only

☐ I certify that I am a member of DNR staff

Name of Authorizing DNR Fisheries Staff	Telephone Number (include area code)
DNR Mailing Address	Date Application was received (mm/dd/yyyy)
City, State, Zip Code	Date Application was returned / issued (mm/dd/yyyy)
Signature of Approval	Permit Number
Authorized Permit Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Authorized Permit Expiration Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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*Required