

CHAPTER 83  
SCUBA AND SKIN SPEARING OF ROUGH FISH  
[Prior to 12/31/86, Conservation Commission [290] Ch 6]

**571—83.1(481A) When permitted.** The spearing of rough fish by scuba and skin divers will be permitted in accordance with the following seasons and rules.

**571—83.2(481A) Prohibited areas.** Scuba and skin spearing for rough fish shall be lawful in all natural lakes and state-owned meandered streams in Iowa year-round.

**83.2(1)** Scuba and skin spearing shall be permitted in streams or impoundments on private land where access is permitted by owner or lessee.

**83.2(2)** Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited in all state-owned artificial lakes.

**83.2(3)** Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited in all state-owned strip mines, county conservation board areas and fish and game management areas where posted as such.

**83.2(4)** Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited within 100 feet of any swimming beach area.

**83.2(5)** A valid fishing license shall be required of all individuals engaged in scuba and skin spearing unless the individual is exempt under the provisions of Iowa Code section 483A.17.

**571—83.3(481A) Permitted equipment.** Permitted equipment to be used in scuba and skin spearing shall be:

1. Hand and pole spears.
2. Spear guns powered by rubber bands, springs, or pneumatically powered springs.
3. All spears used on powered spear guns shall be attached to the gun by a cord lanyard or other device, the overall length of spear gun and cord shall not exceed 20 feet.

**571—83.4(481A) Prohibited equipment.** Prohibited equipment and methods shall be:

1. No power or exploding spear heads will be permitted.
2. No guns powered by gunpowder explosive or explosives or compressed gas will be permitted.

**571—83.5(481A) Diver's flag.** The "International Diver's Flag" shall be displayed by each diver or group of divers on a buoy, float or boat during any underwater spear fishing activity. the diver or group of divers must stay within a 100-foot circle of the flag.

**571—83.6(481A) Employees exempt.** Underwater scuba and skin spearing regulations shall not apply to authorized agents of the department of natural resources when engaged in research or management studies or enforcement.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.67.

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