

Response to citizen petition to allow a 4-prong square pattern gig for frogs. Admin. Cause No. 24-FW-022

The Natural Resources Commission received this petition from Danny Widner Jr., and it was reviewed by Nate Engbrecht (the DNR's herpetologist), Col. Steve Hunter (DNR Law Enforcement), Joe Basile (DNR staff attorney), and Linnea Petercheff (Permits and Rules Supervisor).

Indiana allows frogs to be taken from the wild with a gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; bow and arrow; club; hands alone; or pole or hand line with not more than one hook in 312 IAC 9-5-6. By using a gig with four (4) prongs, it may help an individual retrieve a frog, meaning that fewer might be injured and escape. There is a season from June 15 through April 30 in which green frogs and bullfrogs can be taken from the wild, with a daily bag limit of 25 and possession limit of 50 (total for both species combined) per individual. For other non-endangered species of frogs, only two (2) can be taken from the wild per day and no more than 4 can be in possession per species. Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois all allow gigs to be used to take frogs without specifying their size or number of tines.

The Indiana DNR would be comfortable with recommending a gig that can be used that has four (4) prongs, regardless of whether the tines are in a single row or square. There is still the same daily bag limit and possession limit, but this change would allow for additional equipment options that are allowed in other states, as well as help prevent frogs from escaping the gig if there were additional tines. Therefore, the Indiana DNR recommends that the rule be changed to remove the single row of tines and simply require that a gig be no more than three (3) inches wide; the proposed change would be as follows:

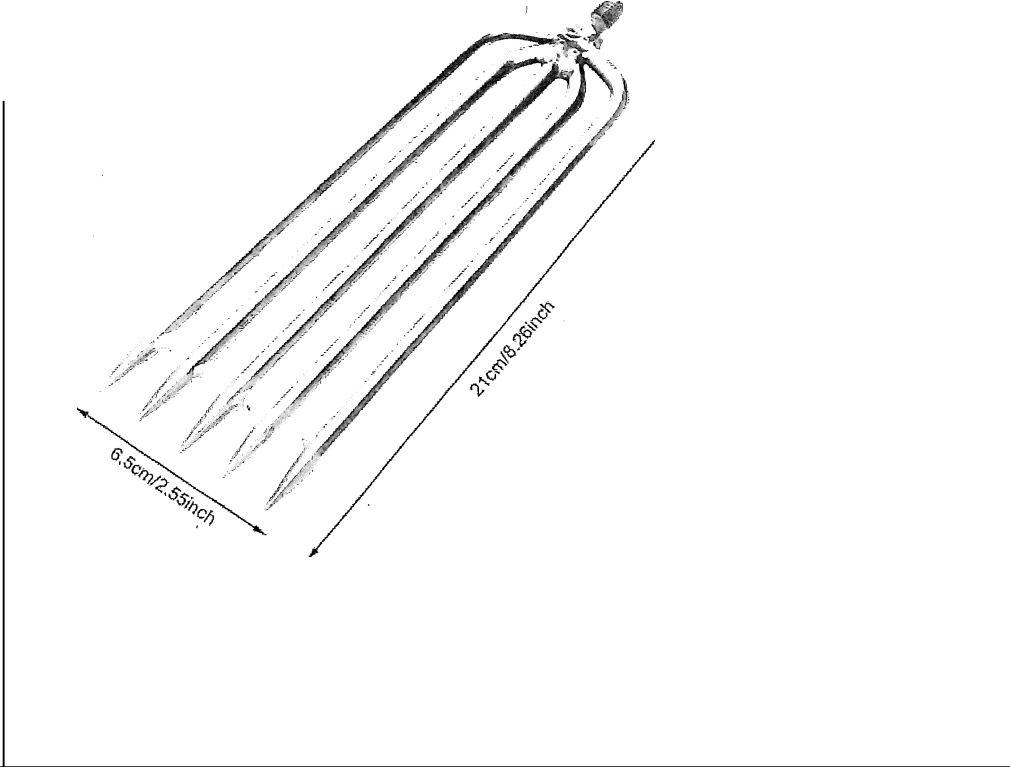
“(j) An individual may take frogs by any of the following methods:

(1) A gig or spear having a head not more than three (3) inches wide ~~and a single row of tines...~~”

This proposed change would allow any number of tines or design (single row, square, cone, etc.). Please see some examples of frog gigs in the attached document.

1. 57in/4cm

Examples of allowable gig types under current regulations. Note the single row of tines and width of less than 3 inches (shown in second example).



AGENDA ITEM #9

Examples of gig types that would become legal if "single row of tines" language was eliminated.

