LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

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HELP STOP POACHING

REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS

Operation Game Thief
1-800-442-2511
24 hours a day - 7 days a week

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DISCLAIMER

This publication is not an official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized or relied upon as such. It does represent an attempt by the publisher to present, as a public service, a partial summary of some of the laws in effect at the time of the printing of this publication. Substantive changes to the law may very well occur following the printing of this publication. For these reasons, the accuracy of the information contained within this publication cannot be guaranteed and the reader is cautioned that it is his responsibility to apprise himself of the laws in effect at any given time. These laws include those contained within the Louisiana Revised Statutes, particularly Title 56, the official regulations of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, federal laws, and any local or parish ordinances. State laws can be viewed on the legislative website: *www.legis.state.la.us/*.

Fishing regulations on state Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges may differ from those contained in this pamphlet. Consult the Wildlife Management Area Regulations portion of this pamphlet or contact the nearest Department office for WMA regulations.

This public document was published at a total cost of $**?????**. 300,000 copies of this public document were published in the first printing at a cost of $. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents as to the rules and regulations governing the fishing resources of the State of Louisiana. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

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COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES

COMMERCIAL LICENSE FEES *All commercial licenses expire on December 31 each year, unless otherwise noted.*		
	Resident	**Non-Resident**
Commercial Fisherman's License	$55	$460
Apprentice	$27	$230
Vessel License (required south of saltwater line)	$15	$60
Mussel Harvester Permit (captain only)	$100	$1,000
Oyster Harvester Permit (captain only)	$100	$400
Oyster Tong (per tong)	$30	$240
Oyster Dredge (per dredge)	$25	$200
Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit	$15	$60
Shrimp Trawl (per trawl)	$25	$100
Butterfly Net (per net)	$25	$100
Skimmer Net (per net)	$25	$100
Shrimp Gear Fee (one-time annually)	$10	$40
Senior Commercial License (residents 70 years and older - includes Commercial Fisherman and certain Gear Licenses ONLY)	$20	N/A
Hoop Net (any legal number)	$25	$100
Freshwater Fish Seine (any legal number)	$25	$100
Freshwater Trammel Net (any legal number)	$25	$100
Freshwater Gill Net (any legal number)	$25	$100
Freshwater Shrimp Net License	$25	N/A
Dip Net	$25	$100
Crab Trap (any legal number)	$25	$100
Crab Trap Gear Fee	$10	$40
Crab Drop Net	$25	$100
Slat Trap (any legal number)	$25	$100
Minnow Trap (any legal number)	$25	$100
Eel Pot (any legal number)	$25	$100
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums (any legal number)	$25	$100
Cast Net	$25	$100
Set Lines (trot, bush, etc. - any legal number)	$25	$100
Flounder Gig (per gig)	$25	$100
Spear Gun (per spear gun)	$25	$100
Mullet Permit (captain only) [1]	$100	$400
Mullet Strike Net (per net)	$250	$1,000
Freshwater Shad Seine	$25	$100

COMMERCIAL LICENSE FEES (*continued*)

	Resident	Non-Resident
Shad Gill Net (Lac Des Allemands, Lake Palourde, Lake Verret)	$25	$100
Pompano Permit (captain only)	No Fee	No Fee
Pompano Strike Net (per net)	$250	$1,000
Saltwater Rod & Reel (any legal number) [1, 2]	$250	$1,000
Shark Permit	No Fee	No Fee
Spotted Seatrout Permit [1]	$100	$400
Traversing Permit	No Fee	No Fee
Purse/Menhaden Seine (per seine)	$505	$2,020
Crawfish Traps (any legal number)	$25	$100
Out-of-State Oyster Landing Permit	$100	$100
Special Bait Dealer Permit [3]	$110	N/A
Wire Net (any legal number)	$25	$100

CHARTER LICENSE FEES

	Resident	Non-Resident
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers)	$250	$1,000
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (more than 6 passengers)	$500	$2,000
Mothership License (carrying up to 6 skiffs)	$1,000	$1,000
Mothership License (carrying more than 6 skiffs)	$2,000	$2,000
Charter Skiff License (per skiff - 2 persons per skiff limit)	$50	$50

DEALER LICENSE FEES

	Resident	Non-Resident	4-year Resident	4-year Non-Resident
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Business	$250	$1,105	$1,000	$4,420
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Vehicle	$250	$1,105	$1,000	$4,420
Seafood Retail Dealer - Business	$105	$405	$420	$1,620
Seafood Retail Dealer - Vehicle	$105	$405	$420	$1,620
Seafood Transport - Wholesale/Retail Dealer	$30	$30	$120	$120
Seafood Transport - Retail Dealer	$30	$30	$120	$120

	Resident	Non-Resident
Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping	$100	$100
Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping	$100	$100
Seafood Transport - Commercial Fisherman	$30	$30
Fresh Products (Commercial Fisherman License required)	$20	$120
Fresh Products - Spouse	$5	N/A
Domesticated Aquatic Organism License (fish farming)	$15	$400
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16)	$10	N/A
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (16 years of age and older)	$25	$200
Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retailer Dealer	$105	$405
Reptile & Amphibian Transport	$30	$120
Non-Resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer (3-day)	N/A	$75

DEALER LICENSE FEES *(continued)*		
	Resident	**Non-Resident**
Alligator Parts Dealer (expires June 30)	$50	$50
Alligator Parts Retailer (expires June 30)	$5	$5
Mussel Buyer's Permit [4]	$150	$600
Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit	$250	$1105
ADDITIONAL LICENSE FEES		
Bow and Arrow Gear	$25	$100
Garfish Gig (per gig)	$25	$100
Non-game Quadruped - Exhibitor	$10	$10
Non-game Quadruped - Breeder	$25	$25
Game Breeder ($50 inspection fee to raise deer and birds of prey)	$25	N/A
Fur Buyer (expires June 30)	$25	$100
Fur Dealer ($500 deposit is required of residents and $1,000 for non-residents - expires June 30)	$150	$300
Resident Hunting Preserve (expires June 30)	$200	N/A

[1] *Must meet qualifying criteria. For more information call 225-765-2898.*
[2] *Each person on board must have a Commercial Fisherman's License.*
[3] *Must meet qualifying criteria - application deadline is April 30, 2010. For more information call 225-765-2401.*
[4] *Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer License required.*

A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S LICENSE IS NON-TRANSFERABLE

Persons taking fish, whether recreationally or commercially, and persons involved in the fish industry, including wholesale/retail dealers and transporters, and vessels involved in the fish industry must be licensed.

COMMERCIAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Persons and vessels engaged in commercial fishing activities for which a license is required shall show an original, valid license upon demand to duly authorized agents of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The person in charge of the operation of each vessel engaged in commercial fishing activities must have in his possession, and in his name, a valid, original Commercial Fisherman's License. This person must also have in his possession a gear license indicating that the applicable gear fee has been paid, and if fishing south of the saltwater line (*see page 4*), a valid and original vessel license. If harvesting oysters, mullet, mussels, spotted seatrout, shark or pompano, a commercial fisherman must also have in his possession, and in his name, the applicable Oyster Harvester's License, Mullet Permit, Mussel Harvester Permit, Spotted Seatrout Permit, Shark Permit or Pompano Permit.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S LICENSE

A commercial fisherman taking fish, including bait species, from state waters or possessing fish in the state must purchase and possess a commercial fisherman's license.

All persons on board a vessel with commercial rod and reel in use must possess a valid commercial fisherman's license.

A licensed commercial fisherman may only sell to a wholesale/retail dealer. Any commercial fisherman may transport his catch to licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail dealers located within the state. A commercial fisherman may sell his own catch instate to the consumer with a fresh products license.

It is unlawful for the owner of a licensed commercial fishing vessel to permit any person not holding a valid, original commercial fisherman's license to operate such licensed vessel while the vessel is engaged in commercial fishing or while in possession of fish for sale in the waters of the state. Violation subjects the vessel owner to revocation of license and seizure of the vessel and all fish and equipment aboard.

Helpers or persons assisting or engaged in operations while aboard commercial fishing vessels need not have a commercial fisherman's license in their name as long as the captain or owner of the vessel (while aboard the vessel) has in his name a valid and original commercial fisherman's license.

SENIOR

Resident commercial fishermen who are 70 years of age or older may apply for a Senior Commercial Fisherman and Gear License for $20. This license is non-transferable and includes gear licenses, unless qualifications are required. The crab trap gear fee will be required if the senior commercial fisherman will use crab traps, and the shrimp gear fee will be required if using shrimp trawls, skimmers or butterfly nets.

FRESH PRODUCTS LICENSE

A validly licensed commercial fisherman must possess a fresh products license if selling fish to a consumer within the state. He must also file monthly reports with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. A commercial fisherman may purchase a secondary fresh products license which will allow the commercial fisherman to continue to fish while the spouse sells the catch.

COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE

A commercial fisherman must possess a valid and original commercial gear license whenever using or possessing such gear on the fishing grounds. In the event that more than one gear type is in possession on the fishing grounds a gear license for each gear type must be in possession.

A gear license is required for each piece of gear or each type of gear in use or in possession, whichever is applicable.

A commercial gear license (except for a menhaden purse seine) can only be purchased by a person possessing a valid commercial fisherman's license.

Gear licenses are transferable, but only to persons holding a valid commercial fisherman's license and of the same residency status. Gear licenses issued to a resident fisherman cannot be transferred to a non-resident. Violation subjects the commercial gear licensee to revocation of the commercial gear license and seizure of gear.

No commercial gear license shall be issued to any non-resident whose domiciliary state prohibits the use of similar gear in commercial fishing.

COMMERCIAL VESSEL LICENSE

A vessel must be licensed whenever engaged in commercial fishing or whenever possessing fish for sale in the saltwater areas of the state. Vessel licenses are issued in the name of the owner (person having legal ownership of the vessel; includes association, corporation, partnership or other legal entity) of the vessel and shall list the owner's name and address, the vessel name and registration or documentation number, and any other information required by the department.

GEAR LICENSES ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE WHEN QUALIFICATIONS EXIST

CHARTER BOAT FISHING LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS MUST APPLY IN PERSON IN THE BATON ROUGE OFFICE ONLY. RENEWALS MAY BE MAILED IN OR HANDLED IN PERSON AT THE BATON ROUGE LOCATION ONLY.

CHARTER BOAT FISHING GUIDE LICENSE

Guides operating charter fishing vessels in saltwater areas of the state must possess a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License. The license is required for resident and non resident guides. A saltwater guide may not possess a spotted seatrout permit.

The annual fee for a **Resident** Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is $250 per vessel for those carrying no more than six passengers and $500 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

The annual fee for the **Non-resident** Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is $1,000 per vessel for those carrying no more than six passengers and $2,000 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

To qualify for purchase of a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License, the captain of a charter vessel must present his valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, a valid driver's license and his Louisiana recreational fishing license. The guide license is valid for one year beginning Jan. 1 of each year.

MOTHERSHIP AND CHARTER SKIFF LICENSES

A Mothership License shall be required for charter fishing operation which does not have a charter boat fishing guide present and consists of a large vessel carrying small skiffs that will be used by no more than two people for fishing purposes. The main motorized vessel shall carry a Mothership License and the captain must have a valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard on his person. For vessels carrying up to six skiffs, the license fee shall be $1,000 per year. For those vessels carrying more than six skiffs, the license fee shall be $2,000 per year.

In addition, each skiff is required to have a Charter Skiff License which identifies the charter vessel to which it is attached. A licensed skiff shall only be used for fishing purposes while the charter vessel with which it is identified is located in Louisiana territorial waters. Each Charter Skiff License shall be issued for an annual cost of $50 per skiff.

The Mothership License and the Charter Skiff License shall be valid for one year, beginning on Jan .1

of each calendar year and expiring on Dec. 31 of the same calendar year.

Licensing requirements for individuals fishing under the direction of a mothership operation or a charter guide are listed in the recreational regulations pamphlet or on the Web at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov*.

LICENSE/PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

License/permit applicants must complete and sign an application form, which can be obtained by contacting the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commercial License Section at 225-765-2898. If applying by mail, remittance for license fees must be in the form of money order or cashier's check payable to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Applications applied for by mail may take up to four weeks for processing. License/permits may be applied for in person at the Baton Rouge office (2000 Quail Drive). Office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. ***NOTE: an original valid license/permit must be in possession in order to engage in the licensed/permitted activity. Under no circumstance is a copy of a license/permit or application and/or proof of payment thereof acceptable in lieu of the original license/permit.***

LICENSE PREREQUISITES

The Mussel Harvester Permit, Oyster Harvester License and Shark, Spotted Seatrout and Mullet Permits can only be obtained by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License. The Mussel Buyer's Permit can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Seafood Transport Licenses can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License, Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License or Seafood Retail Dealer's License. Convictions of some offense types may disqualify applicants.

Gear licenses are only temporarily transferable (allowing another to use) to a person of same residency status and if qualifications exist to a qualified fisherman. Some gear licenses are not transferable.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALERS AND RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSES, RESTAURANTS & FRESH PRODUCTS LICENSE

"Fish" (in quotation marks) in this section means all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers:

Any individual person, firm, association, corporation, partnership or any legal entity recognized by law that buys or handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale or resale, including bait species, whether on a commission basis or otherwise. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers include but are not limited to any person who makes sales of seafood on a wholesale basis, including any dock, distributor, broker, fish factory, platform, processing plant or anyone shipping fish out of or into the state for resale.

A wholesale/retail seafood dealer is the only licensee who can legally purchase "fish" from a commercial fisherman and resell such fish. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers are not required to obtain a Reptile and Amphibian Dealer's License. They are required, however, to abide by regulations of those particular activities. If a Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. If you are applying for a new Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license in a business name, you must submit a copy of the occupational license or the registration certificate filed with the Secretary of State, if Federal Tax ID is not obtained.

Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer who exports or attempts to export outside the state of Louisiana any crabs, softshell crabs, boiled crabs, containerized crabmeat or containerized pasteurized crabmeat shall be required to purchase a Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping license in addition to his Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license. The Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping license shall be issued in the same manner as a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Retail Seafood Dealers:

Any individual person, firm association, corporation, partnership or any legal entity recognized by law that only buys, acquires or handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale. Retail seafood dealers shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from a licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealer. When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out of state sellers and bringing the fish into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell fish in that state. When out of state sellers bring fish into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Retail seafood dealers may only sell "fish"/seafood directly to the consumer for personal or household use. Retail seafood dealers are not authorized to make wholesale transactions (sales intended to be resold). Restaurants

or grocers that sell raw "fish" such as oysters or sushi are required to obtain a Retail Seafood Dealer's license if purchasing such "fish" from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. If a Retail Seafood Dealer's license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. Retail seafood dealers are not authorized to purchase fish from a commercial fisherman.

Any retail seafood dealer who exports or attempts to export outside of the state of Louisiana any crabs, soft-shell crabs, boiled crabs, containerized crabmeat or containerized pasteurized crabmeat shall be required to purchase a Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping license in addition to his Retail Dealer's license. The Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping license shall be issued in the same manner as the Retail Seafood Dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed retail seafood dealer.

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers and retail seafood dealers may purchase a license for a four-year period at four times the cost of the annual license fee.

Restaurants and Retail Grocers:
Restaurants and retail grocers who only purchase "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed from a licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealer and only sell such "fish" fully prepared by cooking for immediate consumption by the consumer are exempt from these license requirements.

Restaurants and retail grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from wholesale/retail seafood dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a Retail Seafood Dealer's License and applicable transport license(s). Persons exempt from license requirements are required to maintain records as provided below.

PURCHASES/SALES

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers:

Shall only purchase from a validly licensed commercial fisherman or another licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. When purchasing species of "fish"/seafood from commercial fisherman for which a permit is required, they may only purchase "fish"/seafood from those commercial fisherman who possess the required permit. Permits include but are not limited to: mullet, reef fish, shark, spotted seatrout, tuna, etc. (permits include both state and federal). When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out of state sellers and bringing the "fish"/seafood into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell "fish"/seafood in that state. When out of state sellers bring "fish"/seafood into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Persons out of state purchasing "fish"/seafood in Louisiana for resale regardless of the type of transportation used must possess a Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License. Out of state buyers purchasing "fish"/seafood for resale from a Louisiana licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer are not required to be licensed when receiving the shipment by that licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers may be required to obtain certain federal permits when purchasing federally regulated species from commercial fisherman. For information regarding federal permits, contact 727-570-5326 or 1-888-USA-TUNA.

Fresh Products Licensees:

Shall only sell to the consumer and are required to maintain "trip ticket" records and file monthly reports as required in the **Reporting** Section below.

Non Licensed Restaurants and Retail Grocers:

Shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealers (see exemptions). If a restaurant or retail grocer purchases "fish"/seafood from out of state they shall possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License or a Retail Seafood Dealer's License. Restaurants or retail grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from wholesale/retail seafood dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a Retail Seafood Dealer's License and applicable transport license.

RECORDS

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers, Retail Seafood Dealers, Fresh Products Licensees, Restaurants and Retail Grocers:

Shall keep and maintain in the English language:

1. records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood (fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed) acquired;
2. the date the "fish"/seafood was acquired and the full name and license number of the commercial fisherman, wholesale/retail dealer or the out of state seller from whom the "fish"/seafood was acquired;
3. records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood sold and the name and license number of the person to whom the "fish"/seafood was sold.

When sold to the consumer the records shall indicate the quantity, species and date, and shall state the "fish"/seafood was sold to the consumer. Records shall be maintained for three years and shall be available and open to inspection by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Purchases made from fishermen for which a permit is required shall document the commercial fisherman's permit number on the records. When creel limits apply to commercial species, records shall also indicate the number by head count of such species.

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers purchasing from commercial fishermen and fresh products licensees are required to document such transactions on LDWF issued trip tickets.

REPORTING

Monthly Returns to the Department:

Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer buying "fish" or seafood from anyone other than a licensed wholesale/

retail seafood dealer and fresh products licensee shall complete trip tickets documenting each transaction. On or before the tenth of each month, the dealer shall submit all the previous month's trip tickets and a submission sheet. Computerized trip tickets are available to wholesale/retail dealers. For more information on monthly dealer reports or computerized trip tickets call 225-765-2371.

All "fish"/seafood purchased by a wholesale/retail seafood dealer from persons other than licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealers which are not reported as required are deemed to have been illegally possessed or purchased by the purchasing wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Severance Tax (oyster):

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers purchasing oysters from persons harvesting oysters in Louisiana are responsible for and shall pay an Oyster Severance Tax on or before the tenth day of the following month.

Shrimp Excise Tax:

La. R.S. 56:506 enacted in the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature requires an excise tax on all saltwater shrimp taken from state waters and on all shrimp imported into the state. The tax is assessed at the rate of 15 cents per barrel of 210 pounds or 210 pounds equivalence. If the heads have been removed the shrimp will be computed at 125 pounds per barrel or its equivalence. Imported peeled shrimp will be computed at 75 pounds per barrel. Payment of the excise tax is by the first wholesale/retail dealer to whom the shrimp is first delivered. On imported shrimp brought to cold storage, the tax is to be paid by the dealer storing, brokering or distributing the shrimp. The taxes and reports required are to be filed no later than the tenth day of the succeeding month.

Shrimp excise taxes shall be payable to the department on or before the tenth day of the month following the date of sale. Upon failure to pay excise taxes when due, a penalty of 10 percent per month, not exceeding 30 percent in the aggregate, calculated upon the excise tax due, shall be levied and collected by LDWF in addition to the tax due. If there is a delinquency in the filing of reports and in the payment of taxes due as required above, demand for payment shall be made by LDWF as soon thereafter as possible, coupled with the warning that the license of the delinquent shall be revoked unless report is made and taxes paid. After demand for payment and warning, LDWF may seize any shrimp or parts of products thereof in the possession of a person liable for taxes and penalties due and sell them for payment of the tax and penalties. Any surplus from the proceeds of sale, after deducting all costs and charges, taxes and penalties due, shall be paid to the owner of the shrimp or parts or products thereof seized. At any time after demand for payment and warning the licenses of any person who fails to make monthly reports and to pay excise taxes due shall be revoked by the department and shall remain until all reports are made and all taxes due are paid with accrued penalties. Any person who refuses or fails to pay the excise taxes due or to make monthly reports as aforesaid, and whose license has been revoked, is hereby prohibited from buying and selling or otherwise engaging in the disposition of shrimp or parts or products thereof and other seafoods under the jurisdiction of this department.

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

All vehicles used for the commercial transportation of "fish"/seafood must be marked with the name and address of the company. Shipments containing "fish" shall be plainly marked; records, tags or certificates to show the names of the consignor and the consignee, with an itemized statement of the number of pounds of "fish" or seafood and the names of each kind or species contained therein, must accompany all shipments of "fish"/seafood. All operators and drivers of any form of commercial transport who are in the act of loading, unloading or transporting "fish"/seafood shall have in their possession one of the following licenses:

1. **Commercial Fisherman's License:** only valid for a commercial fisherman transporting his own catch to a wholesale/retail seafood dealer.
2. **Transport License:**
   a. if purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license authorizes to deliver "fish"/seafood to and for a wholesale dealer.
   b. if purchased in connection with a Retail Seafood Dealer's license only valid to pick up "fish"/seafood from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer and transport product to the place of business of the retail seafood dealer
   c. if purchased in connection with a Commercial Fisherman's license, only valid to transport that commercial fisherman's catch to a wholesale/retail seafood dealer to be sold for that commercial fisherman. Dealers are responsible for all activities which take place under authority of a transport license issued in the name of that dealer.
3. **Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers License:** good for all activities of wholesale/retail seafood dealers. Vehicles commercially shipping seafood out of state must have a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license or a Transport License purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Commercial fishermen who sell their catch to anyone other than a Louisiana licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer or transport their catch out-of-state are required to purchase and possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License and are required to comply with all regulations governing wholesale/retail seafood dealers.

A validly licensed commercial fisherman may sell his catch to a consumer within the state if he is also the holder of a valid Fresh Products license.

EXEMPTIONS

Persons who produce and harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license in order to sell their crawfish or catfish. Any person may purchase crawfish or catfish from persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds. A seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license is required to purchase products to be resold.

Persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license to transport their own crawfish or catfish from the private pond to the first point of sale.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Angle:** to fish with rod, fishing pole or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bait seine:** a net measuring no more than 30 feet in length with a mesh size not exceeding 1/4 inch mesh bar, 1/2 inch mesh stretched, and operated solely by foot without any mechanical device, pulley or mechanical assistance whatsoever.
3. **Bait species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
4. **Bandit gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels.
5. **Bona fide resident:**

   A. Any person who has resided in this state continuously during the 12 months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable:

   I. If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.

   II. If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana drivers license.

   III. If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.

   IV. If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

   B. As to a corporation or other legal entity, a resident shall be any which is incorporated or otherwise organized under, and subject to, the laws of Louisiana, and is domiciled in Louisiana and has a permanent physical location of business in Louisiana where records are held.

   C. Any person, corporation, or other legal entity which possesses a resident license from any other state or country shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.
6. **Butterfly net:** a fixed, frame mounted net, used to fish near surface waters, which is suspended from the side or sides of a boat, pilings, floats, rafts or shore installation.
7. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55 gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
8. **Cast net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials and weighted around its perimeter that is thrown by hand over the water.
9. **Charter boat fishing guide:** any person who operates a vessel for hire and derives income from the bringing of recreational fishermen upon waters in saltwater areas within the state for the purpose of taking fish.
10. **Commercial fish:** all designated freshwater commercial fish and designated saltwater commercial fish found in the waters of the state.
11. **Commercial fisherman:** any person who derives income from harvesting fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament. (See also **Nonresident Commercial Fisherman**).
12. **Common carrier:** any agency or person transporting passengers or property of any description for hire.
13. **Crab dropnet:** any device constructed with vegetable, synthetic or metal fibers and without flues or throat, attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be operated solely by hand and fished in a stationary, passive manner.
14. **Crab trap:** a cube-shaped device, constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches on any side, and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than seven inches into the inside of the trap, with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
15. **Crawfish net:** any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for taking crawfish.
16. **Crawfish trap:** any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding two inches and which is used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish.
17. **Crawfish farmer:** a person who farms or cultivates crawfish commercially in private ponds.
18. **Crawfish harvester:** a person who harvests wild crawfish commercially without participating in the growing of the crawfish.

19. **Dip net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame not to exceed three feet in diameter attached to a handle and worked exclusively by hand without any mechanical assistance and by no more than one individual.
20. **Eel pot:** any device not to exceed 48 inches in length and with an outside mesh size not smaller than two inches, constructed with throats or flues not larger than three inches in diameter at their narrowest point and not larger than five inches in diameter at their widest point, and which is used solely for the purpose of taking eel. No lead or wing shall be connected to or used in conjunction with any eel pot. Any fish other than eel taken in this gear must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.
21. **Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** zone which falls within a line conterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal states and a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.
22. **Finfish** (noun): any of numerous cold blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills and are covered with skin or scales.
23. **Fish** (noun): all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans and all other species of aquatic life.
24. **Fish dealer - retail:** persons, excluding restaurants, purchasing fish or seafood whether whole, dressed or fresh frozen for sale within the state to the consumer only.
25. **Fish dealer - wholesale:** persons purchasing fresh or frozen fish for resale to dealers or to ship out of state.
26. **Fishing gear:**
    A. any vessel and,
    B. any equipment, whether or not attached to a vessel, which is used in the commercial handling or harvesting of living marine resources.
27. **Fork length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
28. **Freshwater recreational fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
29. **Freshwater commercial fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken by a commercial fisherman. Freshwater commercial fish do not include any species of game fish.
30. **Fyke net:** any cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic fibers having throats or flues which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing, with vertical panels of net wings set obliquely on one or both sides of the mouth of the cone shaped net.
31. **Game fish:** all of the following species of freshwater and saltwater fish:
    A. Freshwater game fish: largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), shadow bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*), black or white crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus, P. annularis*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), yellow bass (*Marone mississippiensi*), striped bass (*Morone saxatillis*), hybrid striped bass (striped bass-white bass cross or striped bass-yellow bass cross) and any species of bream (*Lepomis sp*.)
    B. Saltwater game fish: any sailfish (*Istiopharus platypterus*), blue marlin (*Makaira indica*), black marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), hatchet marlin (*Tetrapturus spp*.), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) and red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).
32. **Gill net:** any net of one or more layers not customarily used for shrimp or menhaden fishing, with a mesh of such size and design as to be used primarily to catch or entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections.
33. **Hook:** any curved or bent device attached to a line for the purpose of taking fish or alligator and consisting of not more than one eye and one shank with no more than three barbs.
34. **Hoop net:** a cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials having throats or flues and which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing.
35. **Lead or wing net:** a panel of netting of any mesh size or length, with or without weights and floats, attached to one or both sides of the mouth of a cone shaped net having flues or throats, and set so as to deflect or guide fish toward the mouth of the net.
36. **Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.
37. **Longline gear:** a line which is over 440 yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101).
38. **Lower jaw fork length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin and swordfish.
39. **Menhaden seine:** a purse seine used to take menhaden and herring like species.

40. **Mesh size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows:
    A. *Bar measure* is the length of the full bar stretched from the near side of one knot to the far side of the other after being tarred, treated, or otherwise processed.
    B. *Stretched measure* is the full stretched distance from the near side of one knot to the far side of the opposite knot diagonally across the mesh. This measurement shall not be applicable to weaved or woven nets commonly used for menhaden fishing.
    C. In woven nets, stretched measure is the full stretched distance of the opening of the mesh; bar measure is one half of stretched measure.
41. **Minnow trap:** any device with throats or flues not to exceed one inch in width which is used for the sole purpose of taking minnows for bait.
42. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
43. **Mullet strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 1,200 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than three and 1/2 inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A mullet strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56:8 (102).
44. **Nonresident commercial fisherman:** means any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8 (69). (See **Bona fide resident)**
45. **Nonresident commercial fishing boat:** any boat or vessel registered in any state other than Louisiana, or which has not continually been registered in this state for a period of more than 12 months, or which is not owned by any person who is a bona fide resident, and which is used for the purpose of taking or assisting in taking or catching fish from the waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange.
46. **Pompano strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 2,400 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than five inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A pompano strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56.8(102).
47. **Possess:** in its different tenses, the act of having in possession or control, keeping, detaining, restraining or holding as owner, or as agent, bailee or custodian for another. When possession of fish or other wildlife is prohibited, reference is made equally to such fish or other wildlife coming from without the state as to those taken within the state.
48. **Processing:** any method of preparing fish or fish products for market including drying to a point of dehydration, canning, salting, packing or packaging of alligators or parts, breading, freezing and cooking for immediate consumption, but not simple packing of fresh fish in a sack, bag, package, crate, box, lug or vat.
49. **Purse seine:** any net or device commonly known as a purse seine and/or ring net that can be pursed or closed by means of a drawstring or other device that can be drawn to close the bottom of the net or the top of the net or both. Such nets are constructed of mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projection.
50. **Recreational purpose:** a purpose other than deriving or attempting to derive an income of any kind from the harvest of fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament.
51. **Reptiles and amphibians:** Native turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders.
52. **Saltwater commercial fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for commercial purposes. Saltwater commercial fish do not include any species of game fish.
53. **Saltwater recreational fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
54. **Saltwater fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
55. **Seine:** any net used to enclose or entrap fish either in a bag or where its ends are pulled together on a vessel or a shore and constructed with a mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections (see **Purse seine**).
56. **Shad gill net:** a net having a mesh size no less than two inches stretch and no more than four inches stretched. May not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one-gallon jug painted international orange and with the words “Shad Gill Net” in black and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R. S. 56:320(F).
57. **Shad seine:** seine with a mesh size not less than one-inch bar and two inches stretched and not more than two-inch bar and four inches stretched. A shad seine may not be constructed of monofilament.
58. **Shellfish:** an aquatic, invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to, oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans.

59. **Skimmer net:** a net attached on two sides to a triangular frame and suspended from or attached to the sides of a boat, with one corner attached to the side of the boat and one corner resting on the waterbottom. A ski and one end of the lead line are attached to the corner of the frame that rests on the waterbottom and the other end of the lead line is attached to a weight which is suspended from the bow of the boat.
60. **Slat trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone shaped throats, flues or entrances.
61. **Slot limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
62. **Strike net:** any gill net, trammel net or seine not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used.
63. **Take:** in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing, netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding or killing by any means or device.
64. **Test trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the leadline.
65. **Total length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
66. **Trammel net:** any device composed of layers of netting material attached to one or more float lines or one or more weighted bottom lines, with the layers being constructed of fine mesh and of larger mesh so that a fish attempting to pass through the device pushes the smaller mesh through the larger mesh creating a pocket or compartment in which the fish is entrapped, entangled or restricted.
67. **Transport:** in its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying or exporting by air, land or water, or by any means whatsoever.
68. **Trawl:** any net, generally funnel shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, and that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is under way.
69. **Trigger:** any tension loaded rubber band or spring device that contains several feet of line and a hook or hooks, which is baited and set, and which automatically hooks and plays a fish.
70. **Trotline:** any set line which is four hundred forty yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.
71. **Unattended net:** any net in the water to which the licensee thereof cannot be immediately located for identification within 200 feet thereof.
72. **Wing net:** See **Lead net**.
73. **Wire net:** a cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials, with a mesh no less than one inch square or two inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of five inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.

GENERAL REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The following digest includes a summary of certain relevant statutes contained in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and relevant rules and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to implement additional restrictions in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taking or harassment of any of the following species is a violation of state and federal laws: Louisiana pearlshell mussel, inflated heelsplitter mussel, fat pocketbook mussel, pink mucket mussel, American burying beetle, sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed sawback turtle, Mississippi gopher frog, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, whales (blue, finback, sei, sperm), West Indian manatee, Florida panther, Louisiana black bear, pallid sturgeon and Gulf sturgeon.

SPECIALLY REGULATED AREAS

In addition to the general statewide fishing regulations, state wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas, national refuges, federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and certain local areas may have special regulations or restrictions on fishing. For more complete information, see your local wildlife enforcement agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

RESTRICTIONS & METHODS OF TAKING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER FISH

Commercial finfish may be taken with any pole, line, the device known as yo-yo, the device known as a trigger device, handline, with any trotline wherein hooks are not less than 24 inches apart, with approved slat traps, cans and minnow traps, with legal seines and nets, with bows and arrows or by any skin diver in saltwater or fresh water, when submerged in the water and using standard spearing equipment, and by no other means. In the saltwater areas of the state, as defined in R.S. 56:322, commercial finfish may be taken by commercial saltwater rod and reel (see **License prerequisites** for requirements). Eel may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots and other legal gear as provided herein. Certain species of finfish have specific regulations regarding gear and have permits required for harvest.

Wire nets shall only be used for the taking of legal sized catfish.

No person shall take or possess fish taken by means of spears (except for taking flounder in saltwater areas and garfish), poisons, stupefying substances or devices, explosives, guns, tree-topping devices, lead nets (except lead nets are permitted on hoop nets when set in overflowed regions when the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake and the hoop net is set 500 feet from the actual stream bed), electricity or any instrument or device capable of producing an electrical current used in shocking said fish. No person shall take or possess game fish taken by means of snagging devices (not including bow and arrow). Catfish may be taken by means of snagging devices. Garfish may be taken by means of spears and bows and arrows. It shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices set out herein above with the intent to take fish in violation of the provisions of this section.

No nets or beam trawls used for taking fish or shrimp from saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended, except legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a bona fide inhabitable camp, which shall be tagged with an LDWF issued tag. Hoop nets, without leads, may be left unattended in the saltwater areas of the state for the sole purpose of taking legal commercial catfish species.

No person shall use or deploy within the state territorial waters bandit gear or longline gear. A person may possess bandit gear or longline gear aboard a vessel within state territorial waters so long as such gear is not in use or deployed to take fish. No person shall possess fish taken within the state territorial waters using bandit gear or longline gear.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by means of an elevated trotline, except in exempt areas. Contact a local wildlife enforcement agent.

Eels may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots. Eel pots shall be fished only in areas of the state which are south of the saltwater line and in designated saltwater lakes, excluding Lake Maurepas, except that LDWF may issue permits to fish eel pots in these otherwise prohibited areas under provisions in the underutilized species act.

All fishing operations shall be conducted in such a way that the nests of fish or the natural hiding places of young fish are not destroyed. Nets shall not be hauled out upon the shore in such a way that any fish which may happen to be taken therein cannot be returned to the waters without injury.

No person shall obstruct the free passage of fish in any of the streams, lakes, bayous or in any body of water including crevasses, coulees and canals in marsh and swamp areas of the state by any means whatsoever, provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to water control structures or dams for the retention of water for conservation purposes. No obstructions including trawls, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill nets or trammel nets, which interfere with the free passageway of fish as defined herein, shall be set within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass, or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams or weirs. Wings and leads are permitted on hoop nets in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake but not within the restricted 500 foot area. The possession of fish caught in leads or wings is prohibited. Wings and leads on hoop nets south of the saltwater line, as defined in R.S. 56:322(A), are permitted. However, the use of monofilament leads or wings shall be prohibited south of the saltwater line. No pair of wings or leads shall be within 100 feet of each other and no single lead shall exceed 25 feet in length. Free passageway for fish means a minimum passageway opening of five feet in width extending from the surface to the bottom of the water in the deepest portion of the water.

No person shall possess or have on board any vessel a gill net, trammel net, strike net or seine in the saltwater areas of the state, except as provided in R.S. 56:333 for the commercial taking of mullet, R.S. 56:320.3 for traversing, or R.S. 56:406 for the commercial taking of pompano.

The Louisiana Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, changed many aspects of commercially harvesting saltwater finfish. Persons involved in these activities should contact LDWF's Enforcement Division for accurate information.

ADDITIONAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

CADDO LAKE

Yo-yo Restrictions

1. No resident shall have set in the water for the taking of recreational or commercial fish in Caddo Lake more than 24 yo-yos or other trigger devices. Each yo-yo or other trigger device shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the user.
2. No resident shall leave a yo-yo or trigger device unattended in Caddo lake while it is set in the water for taking fish, except from one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise. A yo-yo or trigger device shall be deemed unattended when the user cannot be immediately located for identification therewith without leaving the location of the yo-yo or trigger device.
3. No person who is a nonresident shall set in the water, use or leave a yo-yo or trigger device at any time in Caddo Lake.

CHICOT LAKE

Yo-yo Restrictions

Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted in Chicot Lake only from Nov. 1 - March 1 of each year under the following conditions:

1. Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat.
2. Each yo-yo must be tagged with the name of the responsible party, the registration number of the boat and the date and the time the yo-yo was set.
3. All yo-yos must be attended and re-tagged at least every 48 hours.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

Yo-yo Restrictions

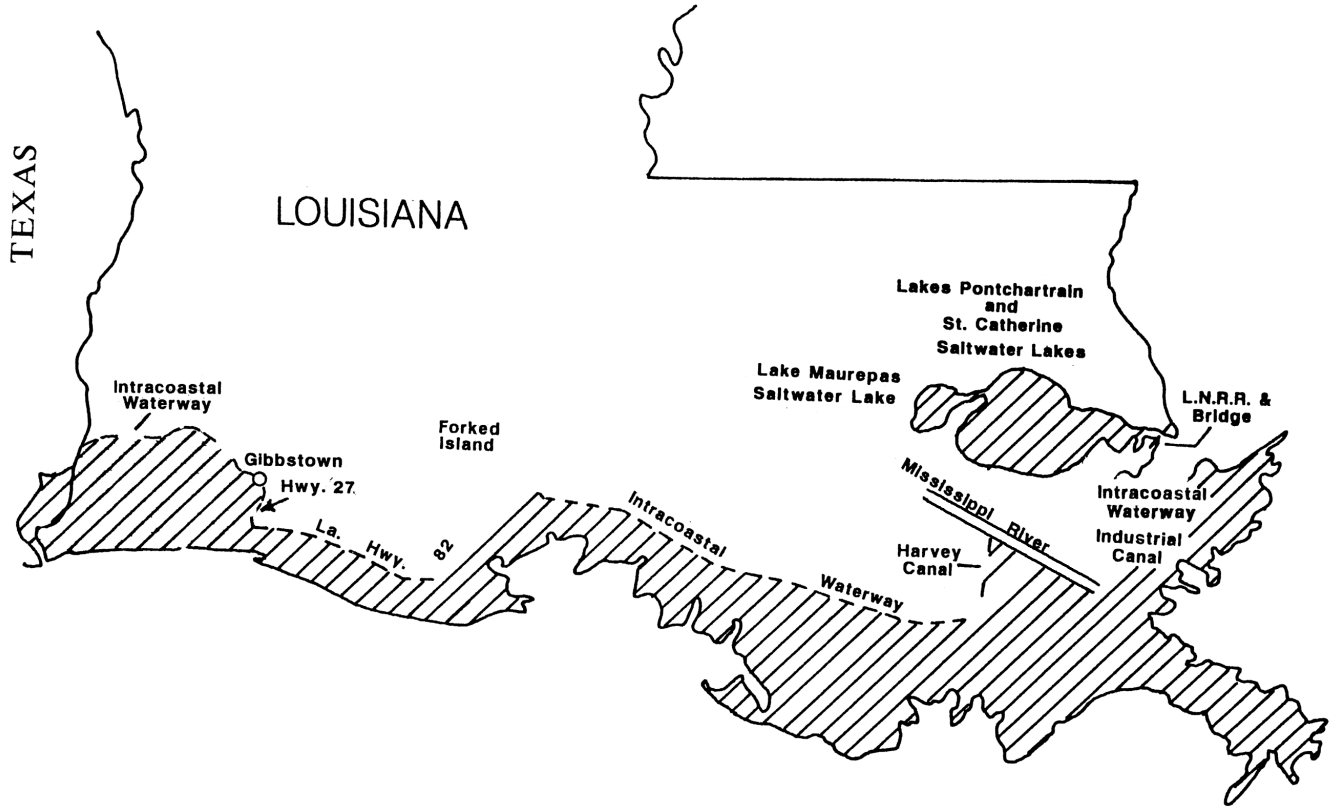
The use of yo-yos, or trigger devices on Lake D'Arbonne shall be governed by the following terms:

1. No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person.
2. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user.
3. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device, shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device.
4. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours.
5. When not being used in accordance with these regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake D'Arbonne.
6. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object.

Trotline Restrictions

1. All trotlines must be marked, tagged and dated with the owner's or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible.
2. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline.
3. All trotlines must be removed from Lake D'Arbonne when not in use.
4. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink.
5. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

SALTWATER - FRESHWATER LINE



For complete requirements regarding the taking of fish in federal waters obtain a *Commercial Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters* pamphlet from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:
2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Phone: 813-348-1630. E-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Web: *www.gulfcouncil.org*

For the purposes of regulating certain fisheries the legislature recognized the historic division of the state into saltwater and freshwater areas based on the variations of flora and fauna found within these two divisions. The legislature further recognized that the exact line of demarcation cannot be precisely located due to constant changes in water salinity caused by winds, tides, and rains. The legislature therefore legally defined the freshwater and saltwater areas by describing a line from the Texas state line, easterly to the Mississippi state line. The areas south of the described line, plus a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, were designated as saltwater areas and all other areas north of the described line were designated as freshwater areas.

LOUISIANA SALTWATER LINE DEFINITION

Title 56, Section 322 - The Intracoastal waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, and then south to Louisiana Highway 82 and then east to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway in Orleans Parish from the overhead power lines at the Interharbor Navigation Canal east to the Rigolets shall be considered both salt and fresh water for the purposes of authorizing the taking or possessing fish or the use or possession of gear. Commercial fishing operations in these waters shall not interfere with normal commercial traffic.

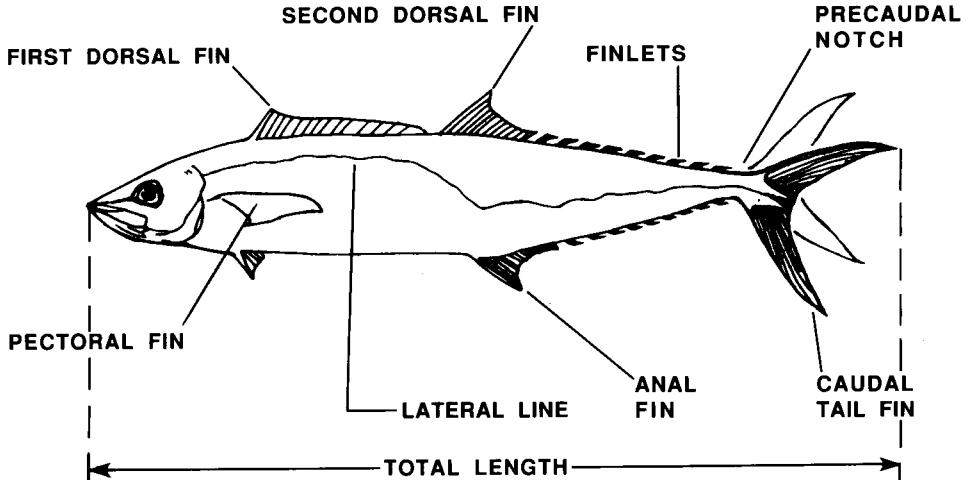
The areas south of the above described line, plus the saltwater lakes known as Sabine Lake, Calcasieu Lake, including that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel which actually adjoins Calcasieu Lake, West and East Pass of the Calcasieu River and Oyster Bayou in Cameron Parish, Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except that seven-tenths of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intercoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

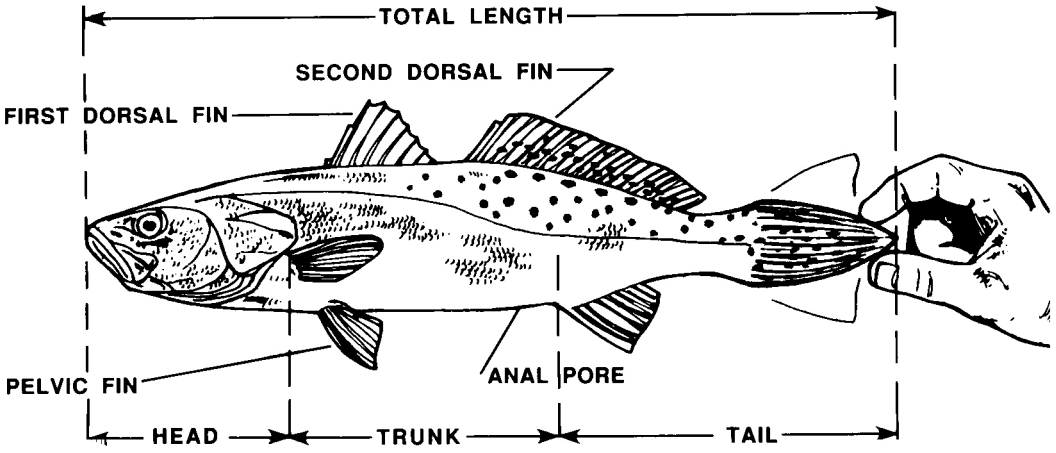
Use these guidelines to measure a fish correctly (*refer to illustrations*)**:**

1. Place the fish on its side on a flat board with the jaw closed.
2. **Maximum overall length** - Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length. (*illustration 1, example 1*)
3. **Total length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. (*illustration 1, example 2*)
4. **Fork length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. (*illustration 2*)
5. **Lower jaw fork length** - Measure in a straight line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. (*illustration 3*)
6. **Curved fork length** - Measure from the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body. (*illustration 4*)
7. **Carcass length** - Measure curve from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel. (*illustration 4*)

illustration 1



Example 1. Total length measurement.



Example 2. Total length measurement.

illustration 2

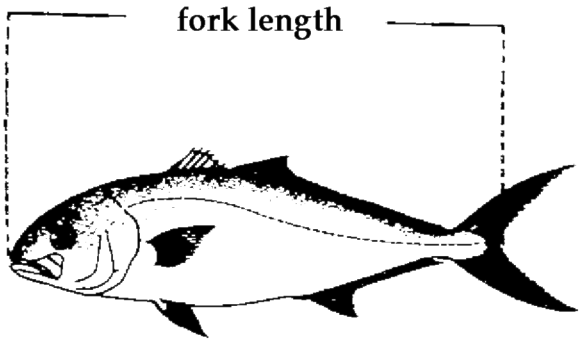


illustration 3

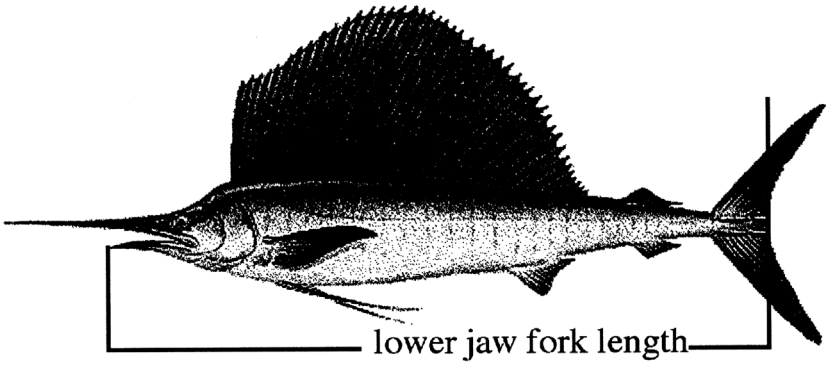
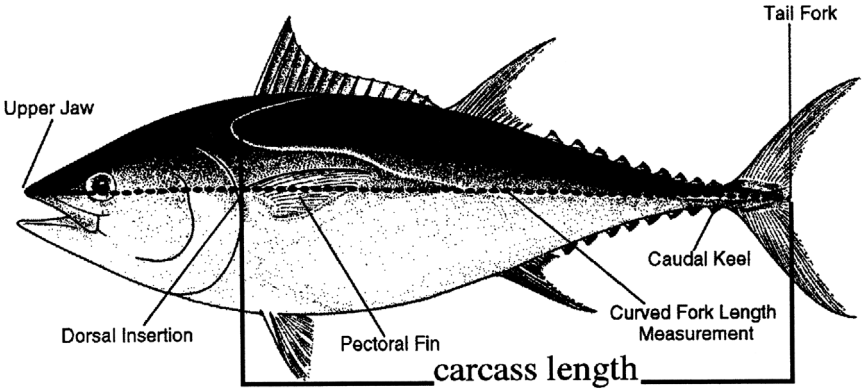


illustration 4



PROHIBITED NOXIOUS AQUATIC PLANTS IMPORTATION

No person shall at any time import or cause to be transported into the jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana from any other state or country, any of the invasive noxious aquatic plants listed below, without first obtaining an Invasive, Noxious Aquatic Plant permit from the department:

1. *Eichhornia azurea* (rooting or anchoring hyacinth)
2. *Elodea canadensis* (elodea)
3. *Hydrilla* spp. (hydrilla)
4. *Lagarosiphon muscoides* & *Lagarosiphon major* (African elodea)
5. *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil)
6. *Najas marina* (marine naiad)
7. *Najas minor* (slender naiad)
8. *Panicum repens* (torpedograss)
9. *Pontederia* spp. (pickerelweed)
10. *Spirodela oligorrhiza* (giant duckweed)
11. *Trapa* (waterchestnut)
12. *Melaleuca quinquenvia* (kapok tree)
13. *Pistia stratioties* (water lettuce)
14. *Salvinia* spp. (salvinia)
15. *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)
16. *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth)

NOTICE TO FISHERMEN AND BOATERS

With increasing frequency, introduced aquatic plants are creating serious aquatic habitat problems in many areas of the state. To minimize the spread of these plants in Louisiana waters we recommend the following: check boats (live wells, ice chests, fishing tackle, etc.) and trailers for the presence of aquatic vegetation prior to departing the launch site. If present, we encourage you to remove **ALL** plant material and dispose of it in a manner that will prevent introduction into other waterbodies.

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR

All commercial fishing by means of gill nets, seines, strike nets and trammel nets is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake. These areas remain open for the use of hoop nets and trot or set lines.

For the taking of commercial fish, a person may have in possession or in use the following:

Cast Net: any cast net used for commercial purposes.

Crawfish Trap: any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of its throats or flues not exceeding two inches used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Minimum mesh size is 3/4 inch x 11/16 inch hexagon.

Gill Net: minimum mesh of not less than three inches square or six inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No gill net in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Hoop Net: mesh of not less than one inch square or two inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.

Seine: minimum mesh of not less than two inches square or four inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No seine in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Shad Gill Net: Only shad and skipjack herring may be taken in Lake Verret, Lake Palourde or Lac des Allemands by special shad gill net licenses. However, a commercial fisherman may keep other commercial fish species up to a maximum of twenty-five fish. All fish on board the vessel shall have the head and caudal fin intact. A single shad gill net having a mesh size no less than one-inch bar or two inches stretched and no more than two-inch bar or four inches stretched may be used per licensee per vessel. The net may not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one-gallon jug painted international orange and with the words "Shad Gill Net" in black and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R. S. 56:320(F). The net cannot be left unattended. The season will be closed during the months July - October and no fishing will be allowed between sunset and sunrise nor on Saturday or Sunday. Only strike fishing is authorized. Once deployed, the shad gill net shall remain stationary until fish are being removed from the net or the net is retrieved from the water (R.S. 56:322.2(E). In Lake Palourde and Lake Verret, shad and skipjack may be taken after sunset and before sunrise during open season. In addition, in Pat's Bay in Iberville Parish from Nov. 1, 2008 - June 31, 2010, shad and skipjack may be taken after sunset and before sunrise during the open season.

Shad Seine: Shad, skipjack herring and any other legal-sized freshwater commercial fish may be taken with a shad seine. All fish on board the vessel shall have the head and caudal (tail) fin intact. A single shad seine having a mesh size no less than one-inch bar and two inches stretched and not more than two-inch bar and four inches stretched, not constructed of monofilament, may be used per licensee, per vessel and cannot be left unattended. The net may not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one gallon jug painted international orange and with the words "Shad Seine" in black lettering and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R.S. 56:320(F). A shad seine may only be fished in the freshwater areas of the state, but it shall not be used in the bodies of water where seine use is prohibited nor the Pearl River or the Pearl River navigational canal. There shall be no daily take or possession limit for the commercial harvest of shad and skipjack taken by properly licensed shad seine commercial fishermen.

Slat Trap: any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone shaped throats, flues or entrances.

Trammel Net: minimum mesh of not less than three inches square or six inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No trammel net in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Trotline: hooks must be a minimum of 24 inches apart. Use of elevated trotlines is prohibited in certain areas.

Wire Net: mesh size must not be less than one square inch or two inches stretched. For the taking of legal sized catfish only.

All gill nets and trammel nets must be tagged with a waterproof tag attached to the corkline at each end of the net, no more than three feet from the edge of the webbing. The tags must contain the fisherman's full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number. The tags are to be supplied by the commercial fisherman.

FRESHWATER AREAS CLOSED TO NETTING

Use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines are prohibited in the following waterbodies:

Caddo Lake	False River Lake	Lake Concordia
D'Arbonne Lake	Lake Bartholomew	Lake Claiborne

Use of gill nets, trammel nets, fish seines and hoop nets are prohibited in the following waterbodies:
Anacoco Bayou (that portion between Anacoco Lake and Lake Vernon)
John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (wire nets prohibited also)

	Caney Creek Reservoir	
Anacoco Lake	Bundicks Lake	Chicot Lake
Cross Lake	Lake Bistineau	Lake Vernon

Toledo Bend Reservoir (Louisiana portion): Hoop nets are prohibited Mar 1-May 15 each year only in that portion of Toledo Bend Reservoir from a point north of Logansport where the lake enters Texas, and south to a point on the lake where the Texas Duck Refuge Canal intersects the Old Channel of the Sabine River.

NOTICE CONCERNING FISHING IN LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI BORDER WATERS

When commercial fishing in Mississippi border waters, as defined in "Reciprocal License Agreement - Mississippi & Louisiana, November 2000" (copy available upon request), trot lines, snag lines, hoop nets, gill nets and trammel nets may be tagged with a waterproof tag containing the fisherman's full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number, in lieu of tags required by Mississippi regulations. The tag shall be placed within five feet of one end on trot and snag lines, on the first hoop on hoop nets, and on the float line within five feet of one end on gill and trammel nets. Fishermen shall supply their own tags. Louisiana fishermen using slat traps or slat baskets in Mississippi border waters are required to obtain tags from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES PROHIBITED

No person may possess or sell in this state the following fishes: all species of piranha, tilapia and carp, except koi or common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*); Rio Grand cichlid; freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus* sp.); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); all members of the families *Synbranchidae* (Asian swamp eels), *Channidae* (snakeheads), *Clariidae* (walking catfishes) and *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes).

Asian carp (grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)) taken in state waters may be possessed and sold by properly permitted commercial fishermen or by any commercial fisherman provided the fish is dead.

FRESHWATER MUSSELING

Areas Closed to Freshwater Musseling

A. Areas officially recognized as saltwater areas.
B. Amite River from the junction with Bayou Manchac to the Mississippi State Line.
C. All of Rapides and Grant Parishes except the main channel of the Red River.
D. Bayou Bartholomew in Morehouse Parish from the Arkansas state line to its confluence with the Ouachita River.
E. Additional areas may be closed at any time by notice from the Secretary.

Mussel Harvester Permit: A freshwater mussel harvester is required to purchase a Commercial Fishing License and a Mussel Harvester Permit to commercially harvest mussels.

SIZE AND TAKE LIMITS

Commercial fishermen must return all undersized fish to waters without injury. Any commercial species upon which there is no specified size limit may be taken in any size and quantity.

Five percent of each species of commercial fish by number may be smaller than the legal limit, EXCEPT channel catfish of which 10 percent by number may be smaller than the legal limit.

Commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants or retail grocers shall not sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange or attempt to sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange undersized fish.

BLUE CATFISH (*Ictalurus furcatus*)
12 inches minimum total length.

BUFFALO (*Ictiobus spp.*)
16 inches minimum total length.

CHANNEL CATFISH (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
11 inches minimum total length, 8 inches collar boned.

FLATHEAD CATFISH (*Pylodictis olivaris*)
14 inches minimum total length.

FRESHWATER DRUM (*Aplodinotus grunniens*)
12 inches minimum total length.

BOWFIN (*Amia calva*)
22 inches minimum total length. Fishermen are prohibited, while on the water, from possessing bowfin eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to a whole fish. The taking of bowfin with nets or bowfin body parts, including eggs (roe), is prohibited during the months of

December, January and February, EXCEPT in Assumption, Avoyelles, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Terrebonne, Tangipahoa and West Baton Rouge parishes and in the areas know as Bayou Courtableau, Bayou Teche, Lake Dauterive, Lake Fausse Point, Vermilion River, Carencro Bayou, Queue de Tortue Bayou, Bayou Nez Pique, Mermentau River, Bayou Lacassine, Sabine River and the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway that is bounded by the East and West levees of the Atchafalaya Basin and is south of U.S. Highway 190.

MULLET

May be taken in hoop nets in the freshwater areas of the state. Mullet taken in freshwater may not be possessed in saltwater, at night, or taken with a hoop net with leads on it.

PADDLEFISH (*Polyodon spathula*)

Commonly called spoonbill catfish. Taking or possession of whole or any body parts, including roe (eggs) is prohibited.

PALLID, ATLANTIC AND SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

Taking or possession of whole or any body parts, including roe is prohibited.

FROGS

See **Reptiles and Amphibians** section.

ADDITIONAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

BLACK LAKE/CLEAR LAKE/PRAIRIE LAKE

No yo-yo or trigger device with a hook in the water may be left unattended between two hours after official sunrise and one-half hour after official sunset. The device will be considered unattended if the user cannot be located and identified within the immediate vicinity of the device. Hoop nets and wire nets must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and address of the fisherman and his fishing license number.

BOGUE CHITTO RIVER

The use of seines, nets and webbing for the taking of fish in Bogue Chitto River from where it enters the state in the northern part of Washington Parish to where it enters into the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish is prohibited. The taking of fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums or natural or artificial nesting areas by hand grabbing is also prohibited in this area.

CADDO LAKE

No resident shall have set in the water for the taking of commercial fish in Caddo Lake more than 24 yo-yos or other trigger devices. Each yo-yo or other trigger device shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the user. No resident shall leave a yo-yo or trigger device unattended in Caddo Lake while it is set in the water for taking fish, except from one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise. A yo-yo or trigger device shall be deemed unattended when the user cannot be immediately located for identification therewith without leaving the location of the yo-yo or trigger device. No person who is a nonresident shall set in the water, use or leave a yo-yo or trigger device at any time in Caddo Lake.

CHICOT LAKE

Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted on Chicot Lake only from Nov. 1 - March 1 of each year. Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat. Each yo-yo must be tagged with the name of the responsible party, the registration number of the boat and the date and time the yo-yo was set. All yo-yos must be attended and retagged at least every 48 hours.

CYPRESS LAKE AND BLACK BAYOU RESERVOIR, BOSSIER PARISH

The use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines is prohibited. Hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps are prohibited from March 1 - Oct. 31 of each year. All hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps shall be removed from the lakes prior to March 1 of each year.

FOOL RIVER, FRANKLIN PARISH

Fish seines prohibited.

LACASSINE BAYOU (*that portion of the bayou that flows through the Lacassine National Refuge*)

Gill nets, trammel nets and hoop nets prohibited March 1 - Nov. 30 each year.

LAKE BRUIN

The use of fish nets in Lake Bruin is prohibited EXCEPT that a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than or having at least a minimum of three and one-half inch bar and seven inches stretched, and allowing the use of slat traps is permitted. The season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year. Commercial fishermen must obtain a Lake Bruin Commercial Fishing Permit in order to participate in this special season. The permit is issued at no cost on a seasonal basis and must be renewed for each season. Please contact the Baton Rouge Office for more information. The permittee must also file a report to LDWF of his catch no later than 15 days following the closure of the season. Commercial fishing will be allowed only during daylight hours except that gear can remain set overnight but fish captured shall be removed during daylight hours only.

LAKE CHARLES

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours. When not being used in accordance to the above regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake D'Arbonne. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object. All trotlines must be marked, tagged and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline. All trotlines must be removed from Lake D'Arbonne when not in use. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

LAKE PROVIDENCE

Gill nets and trammel nets prohibited, EXCEPT during a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than, or having at least a minimum of three and one-half inches bar and seven inches stretched. The special season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year.

MOSS LAKE

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls over 16 feet prohibited.

NANTACHIE LAKE

Netting prohibited.

OLD RIVER LAKES (*Vidalia & Deer Park, Concordia Parish, and Lake Louis, Catahoula Parish*)

Fish seining on the Louisiana sides of Old River Lake, Vidalia and Deer Park, Concordia Parish, is prohibited EXCEPT that fish seining is legal under a special permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Please contact the Baton Rouge office for more information.

POVERTY POINT LAKE

All freshwater commercial fish netting prohibited.

PRIEN LAKE

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER

Seines, nets, webbing or traps of any kind and all types, including slat traps, for the taking of fish in the Tchefuncte River, and its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish, are prohibited.

NOTE: *Sanctuaries exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local LDWF office or Enforcement Agent or the current hunting regulations pamphlet.*

GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NETTING IN IMPOUNDMENTS DURING DRAWDOWN PERIODS

All fresh water impoundments shall be closed to use of commercial fish netting during water drawdown periods, unless otherwise specified by LDWF based upon biological and technical data; the closure to begin on the date the drawdown control structure is opened and continued until the lake returns to full pool following closure of the structure.

FRESHWATER BAIT SEINES, CAST NETS, DIP NETS AND MINNOW TRAPS

A person may have in possession or in use for the sole and only purpose of taking minnows, shrimp and other baits permitted by law, seines of 1/4 inch mesh or less and measuring 30 feet or less in length, cast nets with a radius of less than eight and one-half feet, dip nets and minnow traps (See **Recreational and Commercial Licensing Requirements**).

SALTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING

Circle hook: a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape.

Dehooking device: a device intended to remove a hook embedded in a fish to release the fish with minimum damage.

Venting device: a device intended to deflate the swim bladder of a fish to release the fish with minimum damage.

GENERAL

Commercial fishermen must be properly licensed to commercially harvest and sell fish. Specific state and federal permits are required for certain fisheries.

Commercial gear must be properly licensed when used in state waters. Use or possession of certain commercial gear requires qualification. See **Commercial Gear License** section of this pamphlet for more information.

Commercial vessels must be properly licensed whenever taking or possessing fish for sale in Louisiana saltwater areas.

Any commercial species for which there is no specified size or take limit may be taken in any size or quantity.

Commercial fishermen must return all undersized fish to waters without injury.

Five percent of each species of commercial fish by number may be smaller than the legal limit, EXCEPT channel catfish, of which 10 percent by number may be smaller than the legal limit.

Commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants or retail grocers shall not sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange or attempt to sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange any undersized fish.

Possession of red drum or spotted seatrout on board any vessel on which there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net or seine is prohibited.

All finfish in or from saltwater areas, except tuna, garfish, swordfish and sharks, possessed by a commercial fisherman shall have the head and caudal fin intact until set or put on shore or when sold. Shark fins shall not be possessed aboard a fishing vessel unless naturally attached to the original shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin. All garfish possessed by a commercial fisherman shall retain a strip of skin sufficient to clearly identify the fish until set or put on shore or when sold. All finfish shall be measured in accordance with applicable law.

For the purpose of consumption at sea onboard the harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.

When on a commercial finfish fishing trip all finfish in possession are deemed to be used for commercial purposes. This means finfish possessed must comply with commercial sizes, limits, seasons and other commercial requirements.

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or employ any aircraft including fixed wing aircraft, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters or any other form of aerial surveillance in the airspace of this state to assist in the taking of finfish EXCEPT in fishing for menhaden and herring like fish.

NOTE: *Sanctuaries exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local LDWF Office or Enforcement Agent or the WMA section of this pamphlet.*

SALTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR AND RESTRICTIONS

Some commercial gears are restricted to specific fisheries, and are described under each of those fisheries.

Saltwater Gill Nets, Seines, Trammel Nets: use or possession is prohibited in the designated saltwater areas of the state.

The use of bandit and longline gears are prohibited in state waters.

***Gears Limited to Federal Waters*:**
Bandit gear: vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels (cannot be used in state waters).
Longline gear: a line which is over 440 yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101) (cannot be used in state waters).

Saltwater Gill Net for EEZ: A traversing permit is required from LDWF for transport of gill nets, trammel nets, seines and strike nets across state waters for use in federal waters. Permittees must notify LDWF four hours before leaving port to traverse or fish under the conditions of the Traversing Permit and immediately upon returning from the permitted trip. LDWF shall be notified by calling 1-800-442-2511 or 225-765-2441 (24 hours).

***Legal Gears in State Waters*:**
Cast Net: any cast net used for commercial purposes or cast nets exceeding eight and one-half feet in radius.

Commercial rod and reel: any rod and reel used for commercial purposes.

Qualifying criteria for Rod and Reel gear licenses are:

1. applicant must provide positive proof that they held a valid commercial gear license for saltwater gill nets during any two years of the years 1993, 1994, and 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than 50 percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Hoop Net: One inch square or two inches stretched mesh (minimum) after treating with tar or copper. Hoop nets without leads may be left unattended in saltwater areas for the sole purpose of taking catfish.

Trawl: any net generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. This gear is only allowed to be used in waters where and when the shrimp season is open.

Trotline: any set line which is 440 yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.

OTHER SPECIES PROHIBITED COMMERCIALLY

Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin and red drum are designated game fish with the commercial sale or purchase prohibited unless fish are imported and tagged with metal self locking tags placed in one operculum of each fish. Tags to be issued by the official conservation agency of the state from which the fish were taken and showing the originating water body and identity of the issuing agency, EXCEPT that red drum need only be accompanied by a bill of lading in accordance with L.R.S. 56:327 and 327.1, or unless certified by LDWF as having been raised and taken in accordance with a certified aquaculture program or a valid mariculture permit pursuant to L.R.S. 56:579.1. LDWF must be notified at 1-800-442-2511 or (225) 765-2441 prior to importation of these fish.

SIZE AND TAKE LIMITS

COBIA (LING OR LEMON FISH)

33 inches minimum fork length. Two fish per person. Licensed commercial fishermen may only possess and sell two fish per trip.

DRUM

Black: 16 inches minimum total length. There is an annual harvest quota of 3.25 million pounds for black drum measuring 16-27 inches total length, and an annual harvest of 300,000 fish measuring longer than 27 inches total length. Fishing year begins Sept. 1.
Red: Commercial take of red drum is prohibited.

FLOUNDER, SOUTHERN

10 fish for each licensed fisherman for each consecutive day on the water EXCEPT any commercial shrimping vessels may retain and any commercial fisherman may sell all Southern flounder caught as bycatch on any shrimping trip.

MACKEREL

King: 24 inches minimum fork length. There is a 3,000 pound trip limit in effect. Fishing year begins July 1. (Federal permit is required when fishing in federal waters.)
Spanish: 12 inches minimum fork length. (Federal permit is required when fishing in federal waters.)

SHEEPSHEAD

10 inches minimum total length.

MENHADEN

Legal Gear - Purse Seine: Cannot be used to take finfish other than menhaden or herring like species. Use is otherwise prohibited in inside or outside waters as delineated in LA. R.S. 56:495.
Regular Menhaden Season: The season for the taking of menhaden as well as processing of menhaden shall be from the third Monday in April (April 19, 2010) through Nov. 1. The menhaden season shall apply to all waters seaward of the inside-outside line described in R.S. 56:495 including waters in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and in Chandeleur and Breton Sounds LAC 76:VII.307.D. All other inside waters and passes are permanently closed to menhaden fishing.
Menhaden Bait Season: runs from after the close of the

regular menhaden season until Dec. 1. If the quota has not been reached by Dec. 1, then, beginning on April 1 of the following year, bait gulf menhaden may be taken until LDWF determines that the quota (3,000 metric tons) has been met. Any menhaden taken pursuant to this special season shall be sold only for use as bait. The Secretary shall grant special permits for the taking of menhaden during the special bait season.

Anyone legally harvesting menhaden cannot possess more than 5 percent, by weight, of any species other than menhaden and herring-like species.

MULLET, STRIPED

Mullet Permit: The commercial fisherman (captain) is required to qualify and purchase a mullet permit to commercially harvest mullet. Mullet permit required in addition to other licenses, qualifications exist.

Qualifying criteria for Mullet Permit are:

1. applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Legal Gear - Mullet Strike Net: Mullet may only be taken commercially with a mullet strike net. One and three-fourth inches square or three and one-half inches stretched mesh (minimum). No mullet strike net in use can exceed 1,200 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Mullet strike nets may only be used in state waters for the legal taking of striped mullet with a special mullet permit during the commercial season.

Commercial season: from the third Monday in October (Oct. 18, 2010) until the third Monday in January (Jan. 17, 2011). No commercial harvest of mullet is allowed outside this season. Mullet strike nets may be used Monday through Friday from sunrise to sunset. Only one mullet strike net may be in use from any vessel at any time. A commercial fisherman must have in possession a valid LDWF mullet permit in his name for legal harvest and sale. Mullet strike nets must be tagged with an LDWF issued tag. No other fish may be possessed when mullet fishing.

Strike net gear licenses are non-transferable.

POMPANO, FLORIDA

Pompano Permit: A commercial fisherman is required to obtain a pompano permit to commercially harvest and sell pompano using a pompano strike net in Breton and Chandeleur sounds during the pompano season.

Legal Gear - Pompano Strike Net: In addition to other legal gears, Florida pompano can be harvested with pompano strike nets in seasons and areas described below. Two and one-half inches square or five inches stretched mesh (minimum). No pompano strike net in use shall exceed 2,400 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Pompano strike nets may only be used for the legal taking of pompano in the waters in excess of seven feet in depth and beyond 2,500 feet from land within the Chandeleur and Breton Sound areas described in R.S. 56:406(A)(2). Pompano strike nets may be used from Aug. 1-Oct. 31 of each year.

REEF FISH

To commercially harvest or sell certain reef fish species listed below (triggerfishes, amberjacks, wrasses, snappers, groupers and tilefishes) whether taken within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, fishermen must possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Resources. Contact:

National Marine Fisheries Service,
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5305
(For permit related inquiries 727-824-5326)

For a person on board a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf Reef fish in the Gulf EEZ, the vessel must possess on board and such person must use the gear as specified below:

1. Non-stainless steel circle hooks - required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish
2. Dehooking device - at least one device is required and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage.
   A. The hook removal device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process.
   B. The dehooking end must be blunt and all edges rounded.
   C. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery.
3. Venting tool - at least one venting tool is required and must be used to deflate the swim bladders of Gulf reef fish to release the fish with minimum damage.
   A. This tool must be a sharpened, hollow instrument, such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed, or a 16-gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel. A tool such as a knife or an ice pick may not be used.
   B. The venting tool must be inserted into the fish at a 45 degree angle approximately 1-2 inches (2.54-5.08 cm) from the base of the pectoral fin.
   C. The tool must be inserted just deep enough to release the gases, so that the fish may be released with minimum damage.

Amberjack, Greater: 36 inches minimum fork length. Closed season March 1 - May 31 each year.

Amberjack, Lesser: 14 inches minimum fork length and 22 inches maximum fork length.

Rudderfish, Banded: 14 inches minimum fork length and 22 inches maximum fork length.

Seabass, Black: Eight inches minimum total length.
Triggerfish, Grey: 14 inches minimum total length.

Grouper*: Commercial harvest of grouper species is limited to those persons possessing a federal commercial vessel permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources, and are limited to a commercial trip limit of 6,000 pounds gutted weight of deep-water and shallow-water grouper combined per vessel, during the open seasons for each of those species groups.
Goliath (formerly called Jewfish): Take or possession of Goliath grouper within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.
Nassau Grouper: Take or possession of Nassau grouper within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.
Shallow-Water Grouper:
Black: 24 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 through March 14 each year.
Gag: 24 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 through March 14 each year.
Red: 20 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 through March 14 each year.
Scamp: 16 inches minimum total length.
Yellowfin: 20 inches minimum total length.
Deep-Water Grouper: Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge, Warsaw Groupers and Speckled Hind: no minimum lengths.

Snapper:
***Lane*:** Eight inches minimum total length.
***Mutton*:** 16 inches minimum total length.
Vermilion (beeliner): 10 inches minimum total length. (Closed season April 22 - May 31)
***Yellowtail*:** 12 inches minimum total length.
***Schoolmaster*:** 12 inches minimum total length.
***Cubera*:** 12 inches minimum total length.
***Mahogany*:** 12 inches minimum total length.
***Dog*:** 12 inches minimum total length.
Gray (mangrove): 12 inches minimum total length.
***Hogfish*:** 12 inches minimum fork length.
Red:** 13 inches minimum total length.
***Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Dwarf Sandperch and Sandperch*:** no minimum limits.

****Commercial regulations for harvest of reef fish include additional regulations required under the NMFS Reef Fish Permit System. For grouper and tilefish an IFQ is in place in federal waters. Persons involved in the commercial harvest of these species should contact their local and federal enforcement agents for details on these regulations***

*****Commercial red snapper harvest regulations include several changes to reflect requirements for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) regulations in federal waters off of Louisiana. In addition to a requirement for a federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish, in order to fish for, possess or land Gulf red snapper, a federal Gulf red snapper IFQ vessel endorsement must have been issued to the vessel and be on board. IFQ allocation must be assigned that is at least equal to the pounds of red snapper landed/docked at a shore side location or off loaded. On the last fishing trip of the year a vessel may exceed by 10 percent the remaining IFQ allocation. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which federal commercial license, permit and appropriate allocation were issued.***

In addition to the requirement for a federal dealer permit for Gulf reef fish, for a dealer to receive Gulf red snapper from a commercial fishing vessel he must have a federal Gulf red snapper IFQ dealer endorsement. For a person aboard a vessel with a federal Gulf red snapper IFQ vessel endorsement to sell to anyone other than a permitted dealer, such person must also have a federal Gulf red snapper IFQ dealer endorsement.

The owner or operator of a vessel landing red snapper is responsible for calling National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement at least three hours, but no more than 12 hours, in advance of landing to report the time and location of landing and the name of the IFQ dealer where the red snapper are to be received. At-sea or dockside transfer of commercial red snapper from one vessel to another vessel is prohibited.

SEATROUT, SPOTTED (SPECKLED TROUT)

Spotted Seatrout Permit: In addition to other commercial fishing licenses a qualified commercial fisherman must have in possession a valid Spotted Seatrout permit to commercially harvest and sell spotted seatrout. (See **License Section** for qualifying criteria). The commercial fisherman (captain) is required to qualify and purchase a spotted seatrout permit to commercially harvest and sell spotted seatrout. A saltwater guide may not possess a spotted seatrout permit.
Qualifying criteria for Spotted Seatrout Permit are:

1. applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Legal Gear: Spotted seatrout may be taken only by properly licensed and permitted commercial rod-and-reel fishermen. No commercial gear other than commercial rod-and-reel may be used or in possession to take spotted seatrout. All persons on board a vessel commercially fishing for spotted seatrout shall be validly licensed commercial fishermen. Only the spotted trout permit holder may sell spotted seatrout.
Size: 14 inches total minimum total length, with an annual harvest quota of one million pounds.
Seasons/Times: Commercial fishing begins on the second day of January until the last day of July or until the quota is reached, whichever comes first. Spotted seatrout may not be taken commercially during the period from official sunset on Friday through official sunrise on Monday, and there shall be no possession of spotted seatrout in excess of the recreational limit during the period between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. However, a

person holding a permit for the commercial taking or possession of spotted seatrout may take or possess an amount not to exceed the legal recreational limit of spotted seatrout between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the open season and at any time during the closed season if that person also possesses a basic recreational fishing license and a saltwater fishing license.
It is illegal to possess spotted seatrout on a vessel where there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net or seine or other commercial gear. No person shall qualify for a charter boat fishing guide license and a spotted seatrout permit during the same licensure period.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Tuna, swordfish and sharks possessed by a commercial fisherman shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore or when sold. Those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may have the head removed as long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the minimum size requirement.

Shark:
NOTE: *There are proposed rules that could significantly modify rules for the harvest of sharks. Harvesters and wholesale/retail dealers interested in harvesting shark should remain aware of the current regulations.*

Persons commercially fishing for shark are required to obtain a shark permit from LDWF. In addition to other commercial licenses and state shark permits, persons commercially fishing for sharks in federal waters are required to have a federal shark permit. **Note:** There is a trip limit of 33 fish per trip and per day for large coastal sharks, which are the following: great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research permit under 50CFR635.32(1). The act of "finning" and possession of fins in excess of 5 percent of the weight of shark carcasses are prohibited. All sharks aboard a vessel shall have fins naturally attached to the original shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of sharks between vessels on state or federal waters. All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the commercial harvest of all sharks between April 1 - June 30 of each year. The fishing year for shark shall begin on Jan. 1. The opening date for the commercial shark season may be set at some date other than Jan. 1, and the closure of the fishery may be done on short notice as quotas are achieved, so participants in this fishery must remain aware of seasons as well as the potential for other rule changes.
Shark Permit: A commercial fisherman is required to acquire a shark permit to commercially harvest shark.
Prohibited Shark Species: No person shall take, possess, purchase, sell, barter, exchange or attempt to possess, purchase, sell, barter or exchange any of the following species or parts thereof:

Atlantic angel shark	*Caribbean sharpnose shark*
sand tiger shark	*basking shark*
dusky shark	*sevengill shark*
bigeye sand tiger shark	*Galapagos shark*
sixgill shark	*bigeye sixgill shark*
largetooth sawfish	*smalltail shark*
bigeye thresher shark	*longfin mako*
smalltooth sawfish	*bignose shark*
narrowtooth shark	*whale shark*
Caribbean reef shark	*night shark*
white shark	

Swordfish: 29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight. To commercially harvest, possess or sell swordfish, whether within or outside Louisiana state territorial waters, fishers must possess a valid Federal Commercial Swordfish Permit aboard the vessel. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessel on state or federal waters.

Tuna: In addition to state required commercial fishing licenses, to commercially harvest, possess or sell Atlantic bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and albacore, whether within or outside Louisiana state territorial waters, fishers must possess a valid Federal Commercial Tuna Permit (1-888-USA-TUNA).
Person subject to the jurisdiction of the state, fishing for tunas within or without Louisiana state waters, are subject to both state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Federal regulations on recreational harvest of tunas change often, especially for bluefin tuna. Prior to harvest of tuna, be aware of the most current federal regulations on harvest, including sizes, bag limits and closed seasons. The "Atlantic Tunas Regulations Brochure" is available at: *http://www.nmfspermits.com/library.asp* and announcements of changes may be accessed via the Web at: *http://www.nmfspermits.com/newes.asp*.
Following are permanent Louisiana regulations on tuna harvest, which may be superseded by seasonal changes within the federal regulatory system. See websites referenced above for current federal regulations.
Yellowfin: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)
Bigeye: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)
Bluefin: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

COMMERCIAL CRABBING

GENERAL

Commercial fishermen shall tag, mark or otherwise identify any crabs that are sold, in a manner which will ensure that such commercial fisherman can be identified as the person who harvested the crabs. The identification required herein shall include the commercial fisherman's name, license number and date on which the crabs were harvested.

Any commercial fisherman identified as having sold undersized crabs to a wholesale/retail dealer shall be subject to penalties for the taking and possession of undersized crabs.

SEASONS

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has authority to prohibit the use of crab traps in state waters during a 16 consecutive-day period between Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year and during a 14 consecutive-day period which includes the opening day of the spring inshore shrimp season.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

Hard shell crabs: Five inches in width as measured from point to point of the upper shell, EXCEPT when held for processing as soft crabs or sold to a processor for the making of soft shell crabs. Crabs under the minimum size limit shall be returned immediately to the waters from which taken without avoidable injury.

Maximum possession of whole stone crab is one stone crab per each crate of blue crabs or group of blue crabs equivalent to one crate.

Premolt crabs: Premolt crabs less than five inches in width held by a fisherman for processing as softshell crabs or sold by him to a processor for the making of softshell crabs must be identifiable as premolt crabs and must be held in a separate container marked "peelers" or "busters" while in the possession of the fisherman. Crabs in the premolt stage are no further from molting than having a white line on the back paddle fin.

Minimum commercial size limits do not apply to crabs held in a work box. Each fisherman may have one work box if not using a grader, or two work boxes if using a grader.

Stone crabs: Stone crabs (*Menippe adina*) may be taken by the same method as blue crabs, however only the claws may be landed. Minimum claw length is 2 3/4 inches forearm (propodus) measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint. Whole stone crabs may be possessed on the vessel until the claws are removed after which time the crab shall be returned to the waters from which taken.

By-catch: A licensed commercial fisherman may retain for personal consumption finfish caught as by-catch in crab traps up to an aggregate of 25 finfish per vessel per day. No freshwater game fish, no red drum and no spotted seatrout may be kept as a part of this aggregate. Any fish retained are subject to recreational size and possession limits.

METHODS OF TAKING

Crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab dropnet, trawl, skimmer net, butterfly net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs.

The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with a legal mesh size (see **Shrimp - Trawls**).

No person shall possess or sell adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs in the berry stage taken by any means shall be returned immediately to the waters. However, a legally licensed commercial crab fisherman may have in his work box an incidental take of crabs in the berry stage equal to not more than 2 percent of the total number of crabs in his possession.

Crab Traps: The baiting, tending, checking or removing of crab traps, the contents of crab traps or their lines, buoys or markers is prohibited in public waters from one half hour after legal sunset until one half hour before legal sunrise.

It is the responsibility of the crabber to place traps so vessels can safely navigate and to properly dispose of his unserviceable traps on shore. No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. A crabber who retrieves his trap with a commission approved common float shall return the common float to any shrimper for reuse.

No person other than the licensee or his agent shall intentionally damage or destroy crab traps or the floats or lines attached thereto, or remove the contents thereof.

Crab fishers may utilize a plastic bait box cover to mark trap ownership or a two inch stainless steel, self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Either must be legibly engraved or embossed with the commercial fisherman's license number. Crab traps may be attached to a trotline to which at least one end is attached to a non floating line and a visible float of at least six inches in diameter or half gallon volume size. Crab traps located in areas designated as freshwater north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal/Waterway and west of LA Highway 70 are not required to be marked with a float and float line. Each crab trap on a

trotline shall be registered with the department and shall have attached thereto a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number.

All crab traps must be marked with a solid float, six inches in diameter or greater, attached with a non-floating line 1/4 inch minimum diameter or better. Each crab trap must have a minimum of two escape rings 2 5/16 inches in inside diameter, excluding the ring material. Rings must be placed on the vertical outside walls flush with the trap floor or baffle with at least one ring located in each chamber of the trap. Except from April 1 - June 30 and from Sept. 1-Oct. 31, escape rings shall not be obstructed with any material that hampers or prevents exit of crabs. Escape ring mandates shall not apply to crab traps placed in Lake Pontchartrain.

Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.

Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.

SOFT SHELL CRAB SHEDDERS LICENSE

The owner or operator of any soft shell crab shedding facility must purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers who shed soft shell crabs or operate soft shell crab shedding facilities shall on or before the tenth of each month submit to LDWF on forms specified by the department, information relative to the amount of soft shell crabs produced.

COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING

AREAS

Shrimping areas in Louisiana are divided into inside waters, the outside territorial sea and the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The line (shrimp line) as described in LA R.S. 56:495(A) that separates inside waters from outside territorial waters generally follows the coastline, although there are some exceptions. For specific boundary locations check with your local LDWF enforcement agent. Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of $10 per map by writing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Oyster Lease Survey Section, Post Office Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000. Please specify which area of the coast you are interested in. The line that separates state territorial waters from the EEZ generally runs along the Louisiana coast three miles from shore. For specific boundary locations, particularly in the Grand Isle and Marsh Island area, you should contact your local LDWF Enforcement Agent.

For management purposes, both state inside and state outside territorial waters are divided into three shrimp management zones:

a. **Zone 1** extends from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River.
b. **Zone 2** extends from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island.
c. **Zone 3** extends from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana/Texas state line.

***NOTE**: Restricted areas exist within certain WMA, state and federal refuges and other areas. These areas may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing and different possession limits may apply. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or enforcement agent or the WMA section of this pamphlet.*

SEASONS

Shrimp seasons are flexible and are fixed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations in Louisiana waters. Generally, the spring inshore season will begin in early to mid May and may extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins in early to mid August and extends into December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's territorial waters is generally open year-round EXCEPT for a closed season in portions of state outside waters which may be set during late fall to early winter, usually beginning in mid to late December and extending into March or April. The shrimp season in the federal waters of the Gulf outside (south) of Louisiana's territorial waters is usually open all year; these waters are controlled by the federal government. A federal shrimp vessel moratorium permit is required for all vessels fishing for shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Information concerning federal shrimp vessel moratorium permits, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) requirements and exemptions can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, Petersburg, FL 33701 at (727) 824-5312 or website at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov*.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

There is no size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season nor is there any size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season in Louisiana. There is, however, a possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana of 100 count (whole shrimp per pound). This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, EXCEPT during the period from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken or pos-

sessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the saltwater shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed shall not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total saltwater shrimp taken or possessed.

METHODS OF TAKING

During open seasons, saltwater shrimp may be taken with trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets or cast nets and by no other means. Bait shrimp may be taken at any time, even during the closed season, with cast nets less than eight and one-half feet in radius, hand operated dip nets with a diameter not to exceed three feet, bait traps, and bait seines less than 30 feet with a maximum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar mesh which are manually operated on foot only. Trawls, butterfly nets or skimmer nets cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during closed season.

***NOTE**: Federal law requires that all shrimp trawlers with a power retrieval system must have approved Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) installed in each trawl except test nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less. Test nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less are limited by tow-time restrictions. Also, in federal waters, federal law requires shrimp trawlers to install approved Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in each trawl.*

Trawls:

1. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8 inch bar or one and one-fourth inches stretched. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less then 3/4 inch bar or one and one-half inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.
2. In inshore waters vessels may use one trawl measuring 50 feet or less in length along the corkline and 66 feet or less along the lead line; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet or less along the lead line and have trawl doors no larger than 8 feet in length and 43 inches in height; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet along the lead line and have no more than two outer trawl doors no larger than eight feet in length and 43 inches in height and no more than two inner sled doors, EXCEPT that each vessel may, in addition, pull a test trawl. In state outside territorial waters (from the beach to three miles offshore in most areas), each shrimping vessel may only use nets that do not exceed a total maximum per vessel of 130 feet of cork line and 165 feet of lead line, in addition to one test trawl.
3. In Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the "double rig" line in LA R.S. 56:495.1(A)(2), two trawls may be used, each measuring 65 feet or less in length along the corkline and 82 feet or less in length along the lead line, plus one test trawl.
4. "***Test trawl***," as used in this section, means a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the lead line or head rope.
5. In federal offshore waters (EEZ), up to four trawls may be used of any size, plus one test trawl.
6. Trawling, skimming and butterflying is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1 1/4 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to South Point, from South Point to North Shore along the railroad bridge west from North Shore to Goose Point.
7. Trawling, skimming and butterflying is prohibited between the railroad bridge and Interstate 10 in Lake Pontchartrain.
8. No person shall trawl, seine or use a skimmer net over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place which is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation.
9. Trawling at night is prohibited in the Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, the Black Bayou system, Grand Bayou and Little Burtons Ditch (all in the Calcasieu Lake area) and in Grand Lake and White Lake.
10. Use of skimmer nets is prohibited at night in Calcasieu Lake; however, skimmer nets may be used during day and night in all areas of Cameron Parish west of the western shore of Calcasieu Lake.
11. Trawling, skimming and butterflying at night is prohibited in Grand Lake and White Lake.
12. All commercial fishing with butterfly nets and trawls longer than 16 feet is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake.
13. Night shrimping, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, is prohibited in Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche Bays and Atchafalaya Bay to the western shore of the Atchafalaya River and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island as described by the inside-outside line in R.S. 56:495.
14. Trawls and butterfly nets are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Lake Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately one mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.
15. Trawling, skimming or butterflying north of the LA Highway 631 bridge at Des Allemands and in Lake Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries, is prohibited.
16. Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1-Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish, from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.
17. Trawling is prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremont Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremort Point to the shoreline.

Butterfly and Skimmer Nets:

1. Butterfly and skimmer nets with a mesh size less than 5/8 inch bar or 1 1/4 inches stretched are prohibited. Butterfly and skimmer nets cannot have a mess size less than 3/4 inch bar or one and one-half inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.
2. A single stationary butterfly net measuring more than 22 feet vertically or horizontally, or double butterfly nets having individual nets measuring more than 12 feet vertically or horizontally are prohibited, unless double butterfly nets are used on a vessel, in which case each individual net can measure no more than 12 feet vertically by 16 feet horizontally. No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an individual net frame more than 16 feet measured horizontally or 12 feet measured vertically, or 20 feet measured diagonally, or with a lead line measuring more than 28 feet for each net. Reinforcement framing attached to the net frame shall not be considered in determining the dimensions of a double skimmer. A skimmer or butterfly net may be mounted no more then 24 inches from the side of the vessel. Individual nets cannot be tied together. Operation of butterfly and skimmer nets shall in no way impede normal navigation.
3. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings or other attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets or skimmer nets.
4. No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended as defined in R.S. 56:8(102) except such legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a camp and which are tagged with an LDWF tag issued in conjunction with the gear being used.
5. Fishing with a butterfly net shall be prohibited in inside waters during the closed season.
6. No butterfly net or bottom net may be suspended from a piling, float, barge, raft, bridge or shore installation in the Rigolets or Chef Menteur Pass or in those portions of Lake Pontchartrain or Lake Borgne which are within two miles of the Rigolets or the Chef Menteur Pass. However, in the Chef Menteur Pass a properly licensed single butterfly net measuring not more than 22 feet by 22 feet may be suspended from a wharf which has been approved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and which is attached to privately owned or leased immovable property, or to a structure that is not attached to privately owned or leased property if the owner has possessed a permit for such structure from the U.S. Corps of Engineers prior to 1988, provided that the owner or leaseholder is present on the immovable property or permitted structure at all times that the net is in the water.
7. Butterfly nets may be used for the taking of shrimp in Calcasieu Lake, Calcasieu River, Grand Bayou and Calcasieu Ship Channel, all within Cameron Parish only, in the daytime and in the nighttime, during open season.
8. All butterfly nets located in East and West Passes of the Calcasieu River, in Grand Bayou and in Oyster Bayou, all within Cameron Parish only, shall be tagged with a tag listing the fisherman's name, address and butterfly net license number. This tag shall be attached to the net, frame or any other structure or part directly attached to the net or frame in such a manner that it is above the water at all times. This tag shall be of readable size, easily visible and with letters at least three inches high and of appropriate width.
9. No person may operate a stationary shrimp net within 1,000 feet upstream from another stationary shrimp net that is attached to or moored to a wharf or platform permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. However, if two permitted wharves or platforms are located within 1,000 feet of each other, the owner of the upstream wharf or platform may attach a stationary shrimp net if any one of the following applies:
   a. This permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was issued prior to Aug. 15, 2004.
   b. His permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was issued prior to the permit for the downstream wharf or platform.
   c. The owner of the downstream wharf or platform does not operate a stationary shrimp net.
10. A stationary shrimp net is any net for taking shrimp including butterfly or skimmer net that is attached to the water bottom, bank, or fixed structure.
11. When a butterfly net located in West or East Pass of the Calcasieu River, in Oyster Bayou or in Grand Bayou, all within Cameron Parish, is not being fished, all of the following shall apply:
    a. Any object to which the net is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be moved from the waterway and relocated adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.
    b. Any anchor or weight used to secure in the waterway the net or any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be removed from the waterbottom.
    c. Any rope, line, chain or other device used to connect to the shoreline the net and any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be prohibited. However, the prohibition expressed herein shall not apply when such rope, line, chain or other device is being used to secure, when not in use, such net and any object to which it is attached or mounted

adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.

d. Any butterfly net, whether or not it is being fished, that is not marked for identification so that the person owning or responsible for such net can be identified shall be considered contraband. Any agent finding the contraband butterfly net shall immediately seize and take it into custody and may obtain from a judge of any court in the parish where the butterfly net was found an ex parte order forfeiting the contraband and ordering its destruction. An agent of the department or an authorized employee who seizes items as provided in this paragraph is immune from liability and from suit for seizure and destruction of a butterfly net.

Shrimper/Crab Trap Interaction: A shrimper who catches an unserviceable crab trap shall keep it on the vessel and properly dispose of it on shore. A shrimper that catches an otherwise serviceable trap without a float shall return it to the water with a common float. A common float is defined as an all-white plastic, one-gallon or larger bleach bottle.

Qualified permit holders in possession of a "special bait dealers permit" may take live bait shrimp during the closed season beginning May 1 of each year and between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. The fee for this permit is $110 and the permit may be purchased any time between Jan. 1 - April 30 of each year. For more information concerning this permit, contact the Marine Fisheries Division.

COMMERCIAL OYSTERING

SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates which public oyster beds are open for fishing by opening or closing the season as biological data indicate a need. The oyster harvest season for state public oyster beds (seed grounds and reservations) generally runs from the first Wednesday following Labor Day in September through April 30 of the following year; however, there are often exceptions to this for certain seed grounds. No public ground or reservation shall be fished for market sacks until the second Monday in October. Consult the LDWF web site for the most recent information regarding oyster seasons. The owner of an oyster lease or his designee with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease, unless the lease is under a Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) closure order.

NOTE: *Areas opened by the commission may, however, be closed by DHH for health reasons. Information on closed areas is available from LDWF or from DHH (1-800-256-2775).*

The commission shall fix the open season for commercial taking of oysters from Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake, which for Calcasieu Lake shall begin on any date between Oct. 15 and Nov. 1 and shall end on April 30 or on a date set by commission.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

All oysters taken from public grounds must be three inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster grounds may be permitted to take undersized oysters from public grounds for bedding purposes only. Size restrictions do not apply to commercially harvested oysters taken from a private lease.

Not more than 25 sacks per boat per day may be taken from Sabine Lake. Harvest limits in Calcasieu Lake shall be set by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission not to exceed 25 sacks of oysters per day per licensed vessel.

Harvest from private leases for commercial purposes is unlimited.

Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters:

1. in leased areas only with the written permission of the lease holder;
2. in personally leased areas;
3. in areas open to the public for the harvesting of oysters, but shall be limited to two sacks per person (R.S. 56:424c) per day for personal consumption.

METHODS OF TAKING

Oysters may be taken from public grounds by dredges, scrapers and tongs. Dredges and scrapers shall be no longer than six feet in width measured along the tooth bar. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than five inches and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel. Dredges shall not be used in such a manner as to remove excessive non-living reef material with seed oyster loads or as to cause physical destruction to the natural reefs.

The use of dredges in Calcasieu and Sabine Lake is limited to a single hand dredge or a single scraper with mechanical assist that has a tooth or flat bar of no more that 36 inches in length.

Any oysters taken from the public natural reefs or the oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those in Calcasieu Lake or Sabine Lake, shall be placed only on a vessel which has an Oyster Seed Ground Vessel permit issued. Such permit shall be issued in the name of the vessel owner and shall identify the vessel permitted by including the state registration number or the United States Coast Guard documentation number. For more information, contact LDWF Marine Fisheries Division at 225-765-2370 or LDWF Licensing Section at 225-765-2898.

Each person in charge of an oyster cargo vessel shall purchase an Oyster Cargo Vessel permit. The permit

shall be issued at a cost of $250 per year for residents and $1105 per year for non-residents.

LEASES

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a written application and cash deposit of such amount as determined by the department. Lessees, under the supervision of the department, shall stake off and mark the lease water bottoms in order to locate accurately and fix the limits of the water bottoms embraced by each lease. Areas shall also be prominently marked with signs which state the lease number and name or initials of the lessee.

Oysters shall not be harvested from any unmarked lease.

RESTRICTIONS

Culling oysters, which is the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shell, shall be performed only on the open designated public grounds or on private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. At no time will the act of culling oysters be permitted in areas closed to harvesting oysters.

The taking of oysters one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.

Oysters taken from the reefs of this state either for sale or consumption shall be landed in Louisiana, except persons in possession of an out-of-state oyster landings permit may land oysters taken from private leases only in any state.

Sacks or any other types of containers used to hold oysters harvested in Louisiana and placed in commerce must be tagged with a tag issued by LDWF.

OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE

Commercial fishermen harvesting or possessing oysters in state waters must purchase an oyster harvester license, in addition to any and all licenses otherwise required. Commercial fisherman harvesting oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those grounds of Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes, are required to possess a valid Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

GENERAL

Reptile and amphibian regulations apply to lizards, snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders and related species. ***They do not include alligators.***

Any person engaged in the sale, barter or trade of native reptiles and amphibians collected in Louisiana must possess either

a. Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License or
b. Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License.

Any person engaged in acquiring or handling, by any means, native reptiles or amphibians for resale, or engaged in the shipping or transporting of such reptiles or amphibians into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Act 376 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature exempts wholesale/retail seafood dealers from this license.

METHODS OF TAKING

- Removal of nesting or nest tending animals is prohibited.
- Traps must be checked daily.
- Turtle traps must be placed in a manner that leaves enough area above the waterline to allow trapped turtles to breath; be marked as "turtle trap," and be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.
- A commercial gear license is required to operate a single throated hoop net or turtle trap.
- Possession of finfish while turtle trapping is prohibited.
- Use of gasoline to flush animals from hiding places is prohibited.
- Natural cover such as stumps and logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals.
- Frogs may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin such as gigs and spears.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and **pig frogs** (*Rana grylio*): may be taken year round except during the months of April and May where the season is closed throughout the state.

No person shall take or possess bullfrogs that are less than five inches in length, nor take or possess pig frogs or grunters that are less than three inches in length. Length is measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs.

***Exception*:** Frogs under the legal length may be taken from privately owned ponds or waters by the owner thereof or his authorized representative and may be sold for the purpose of stocking ponds or waters.

Alligator snapping turtles (*Macroclemys temminckii*):

a. *Commercial Take*: may not be sold nor caught for purposes of commerce.

b. *Recreational take*: Limit of one per day per boat or vehicle.

Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*): may not be taken by trap of any kind and may not be taken between April 15 - June 15. All terrapins taken must measure at least six inches in length on the plastron (bottom shell plate).

Box turtles (genus *Terrapene*): may not be sold commercially, and recreational take and possession shall not exceed four.

Green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*): less than 1 3/4 inches snout-vent length or less than five inches overall length may not be sold or purchased.

Turtle Eggs: No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*), wherever found.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN COLLECTOR'S LICENSE

Anyone gathering reptiles and amphibians for sale must possess a Commercial Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License.

Alligators are excluded from this provision.

All non protected native reptile and amphibian species (frogs, turtles, lizards, salamanders, snakes, etc.), except alligators, can be legally taken by residents possessing a valid recreational fishing license. See **Reptiles and Amphibians** section. Nonresidents may purchase a "Three-day Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License" that is valid for three consecutive days.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN WHOLESALE/ RETAIL DEALER'S LICENSE

Commercial dealers engaged in the buying, selling, acquiring or handling by any means any species of native reptile or amphibian in Louisiana for resale, or shipping or transporting any native reptile or amphibian into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License, Reptile and Amphibian Transport License or Seafood Wholesale/ Retail Dealer's License and Seafood Transport Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license if applicable. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers are exempt from this license.

RESTRICTED - THREATENED/ENDANGERED REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

The following species may not be taken or collected from the wild in Louisiana: tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); southern red backed salamander (*Plethodon serratus*); Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*); mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*); red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*); or threatened or endangered species: green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*); leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); ringed sawback turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*); Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*).

WMA AND REFUGE REGULATIONS

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Commercial Fishing: Permits are required of all commercial fishing using Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre and Spring Bayou WMAs. Drag seines (except minnow and bait seines) are prohibited EXCEPT experimental bait seines allowed on Dewey Wills WMA north of LA 28 in diversion canal. Commercial fishing is prohibited during regular waterfowl seasons on Grand Bay, Silver Lake and Lower Sunk Lake on Three Rivers WMA. Commercial fishing is prohibited on Salvador/Timken, Ouachita and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs EXCEPT commercial fishing on Pointe-aux-Chenes is allowed in Cutoff Canal and Wonder Lake. No commercial fishing activity shall impede navigation and no unattended vessels or barges will be allowed. Non-compliance with permit regulations will result in revocation of commercial fishing privileges for the period the license is issued and one year thereafter. Commercial fishing is allowed on Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta WMAs. See **Pass-a-Loutre** for addition commercial fishing regulations on mullet.

Commercial activities prohibited without prior approval from Office of Wildlife, or District Offices or unless otherwise specified.

Camping and houseboat mooring allowed only in designated areas.

FORT POLK

Fishing: Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

GRASSY LAKE

Commercial Fishing: Permitted EXCEPT on Smith Bay, Red River Bay and Grassy Lake proper on Saturday and Sunday and during waterfowl season. Permits available from area supervisor Spring Bayou Headquarters or Opelousas Regional Office.

OUACHITA

Commercial Fishing: CLOSED.

PASS-A-LOUTRE

Commercial Fishing: Same as outside. Commercial mullet fishing open only in: South Pass, Pass-a-Loutre, North Pass, Southeast Pass, Northeast Pass, Dennis Pass, Johnson Pass, Loomis Pass, Cadro Pass, Wright Pass, Viveats Pass, Cognevich Pass, Blind Bay, Redfish Bay, Garden Island Bay, Northshore Bay, East Bay (west of barrier islands)and oil and gas canals as described on LDWF Pass-a-Loutre WMA Map.

POINTE- AU-CHENES

Commercial fishing and nighttime activities are prohibited.

POMME DE TERRE

Commercial Fishing: Permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT closed during duck season. Commercial Fishing Permits available from area supervisor, Opelousas Regional Office or Spring Bayou Headquarters.

POVERTY POINT

Commercial Fishing: The use of freshwater commercial fish netting (gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, wire nets and fish seines) is prohibited. No person shall use or possess any gill net, trammel net, hoop net or fish seines in or on Poverty Point Reservoir.

SALVADOR

Commercial fishing and nighttime activities are prohibited.

SPRING BAYOU

Commercial Fishing: Permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT slat traps and hoop nets permitted any day. Permits available from area supervisor or Opelousas Regional Office. CLOSED until after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season.

VOLUNTARY GULF OF MEXICO MARINE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

The voluntary Gulf of Mexico (GOM) communications protocol is an agreed communications format that identifies methods of notification, recommended frequencies and generally accepted two-way marine VHF radio protocols. It is for use in GOM Outer Continental Shelf areas and State Territorial Waters adjacent to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The objective is to provide a common voluntary marine communications protocol for GOM resource users to use in alerting parties that will be interacting in the same general area. This protocol will provide a common communication format for notification and feedback between offshore platform and rig operators and others in responding to the safety needs of all GOM resources users.

Any vessel operator (commercial, for hire (charter/headboat), recreational fishermen, sport divers and oil and gas contractors and operators) proposing to approach either fixed or floating drilling, production and support facilities or oil and gas transportation infrastructure should utilize the GOM communications protocol.

PROTOCOL

Any vessel approaching either a fixed or floating offshore facility with the intent of tying to or remaining around (within 1,500 feet of) that facility for any purpose, should contact as far in advance as practical that specific facility using a marine VHF radio on Channel No. 16. All offshore facilities are identified by signage that identifies the Area, Block, Platform and Operator.

This protocol helps GOM offshore facility operators identify vessels approaching or mooring and gives shared resource users a common communication tool. If vessels fail to establish communications, a facility operator is faced with the task of evaluating the vessel's intent. Communications will help operators make a judgment on the activity and help access if the vessel poises a threat to the people or facility.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO FISHERMEN WHEN FISHING AROUND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION PLATFORMS

Most offshore fishermen target oil and gas production platforms as their fishing location of choice. Petroleum platforms, commonly referred to as "rigs," provide recreation for fishermen and scuba divers because they act as artificial reefs, attracting and establishing aquatic communities, including highly sought food and sport fishes. Also, offshore facilities serve as navigation points for small marine craft. Manned facilities can also provide a haven for small craft operators forced to abandon their vessels during storms or following accidents.

Generally this interaction between fishermen and offshore platform personnel takes place without incident. However, periodically, a fisherman or scuba diver may be asked by platform personnel to move to another location. This request is generally made when certain potentially dangerous activities are taking place onboard the platform and is made for the safety of both platform personnel and the fisherman.

Some of these potential hazards to fishermen occur when construction or maintenance activities are underway. These activities frequently require use of marine support vessels that limit access to the facility and require frequent movement and the possibility for entanglement in anchor lines or mooring hardware exists. Platform cranes making lifts can expose vessels and personnel to dropped objects, and overhead work, such as blasting, welding and burning or painting, can also potentially expose people and equipment to falling debris and equipment. These activity types are easy to see and the request to move is easily understood.

Some activities taking place on offshore platforms that may also be dangerous are not as easily seen, and therefore, a request to move may be misunderstood. Activities such as well perforating, poisonous gas releases (red flashing light) or emergency shut downs that may require significant venting or flaring may not be visible from the sea surface. Perforating activities require elimination of radio transmissions to help prevent an inadvertent triggering of the explosive charges. Gas releases, some of which may be poisonous (red flashing light), have the potential to drift to the water surface and envelop a vessel, where an open flame or spark could set off the gas.

Therefore, if asked by platform personnel to move to another structure, please understand the request is made for your safety, the safety of the personnel on board the platform and the safety of the facilities. Please observe common courtesy and move to another location.

EXAMPLE

Contact Request: "Eugene Island 313 "A" Platform, this is M/V Duck, M/V Duck, on Channel 16"
Response: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back to M/V Duck. Switch to Channel No. _____."
Follow Up on New Channel: "M/V Duck back; we are 5 miles out and in route to your location for _____ (offloading, fishing, diving, bird watching, etc) and request assistance in determining your current facility status."
Recognition: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back; we have no current marine traffic or hazardous operations but expect a supply boat later today." If the facility was planning operations that might preclude safe positioning of marine craft or if potentially hazardous lifting or well work is scheduled, the operator would so inform the vessel.
Notification: "M/V Duck back; we are a 25 foot sport fisherman out of Cocodrie with a total of five people on board and will approach your location at 0900 hours and estimate our stay at three hours."

The approaching vessel has established contact, identified its intent to approach or moor, its purpose, and estimated its time of arrival and time at location. The operator is now alerted to the fact that the vessel is approaching with the intent of being in the area and can validate actual activities by visually observing the vessel and its crew.