

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to modify the recreational harvest regulations for blue and channel catfish on the waters of the Louisiana-Texas border, specifically Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River, in accordance with the reciprocal agreement between Texas and Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§110. Texas Border Waters Recreational Creel, Size, and Possession Limits

A. Purpose

1. Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 56:673 and the July 1, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Commission hereby ratifies and enters into an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish uniform and reciprocal regulations for the recreational harvest of freshwater game fish on the waters of the Louisiana-Texas border, specifically Toledo Bend Reservoir,

Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River. Those regulations are as follows:

B. Toledo Bend Reservoir

1. The recreational daily creel limit (daily take) for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) is set at eight fish, in aggregate. The minimum total length limit for largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) is 14 inches. There is no minimum length limit on spotted bass. For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

2. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum length limit.

3. There is no limit on the daily take of Yellow Bass (*Morone mississippiensis*).

4. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

5. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed thirty (30) inches in total length.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

C. Caddo Lake

1. Harvest regulations for black basses (largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* and spotted bass, *Micropterus punctulatus*) on Caddo Lake are as follows:

a. Largemouth bass size limits - fourteen to eighteen (14-18) inch slot. A 14-18 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a largemouth bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 18 inches, both measurements inclusive.

b. Spotted bass size limits - no minimum length limit. For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

c. The daily creel limit (daily take) for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*) is set at eight (8) fish, in the aggregate, of which no more than four (4) largemouth bass may exceed eighteen (18) inches maximum total length.

2. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum length limit.

3. There is no daily creel limit on yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), and there is no minimum length limit.

4. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

5. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed thirty (30) inches in total length.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

D. Sabine River

1. For purposes of this Section the Sabine River shall be defined as River proper from the Toledo Bend Dam downstream to the Interstate 10 Bridge and the River proper upstream from Toledo Bend Reservoir to the point at which the entire river enters Texas as marked by state line sign.

2. The recreational daily creel limit (daily take) for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) is set at eight fish, in aggregate. The minimum length limit for largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) is 14 inches. There is no minimum length limit on spotted bass.

For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

3. The daily creel limit for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) is set at five (5) fish. There is no minimum length limit and only two (2) fish may be over thirty (30) inches in total length.

4. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum length limit.

5. There is no daily creel limit on yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), and there is no minimum length limit.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

7. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed thirty (30) inches in total length.

8. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

E. Daily Possession Limit: Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River

1. The following possession limits apply to all persons while on the waters of Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, or the Sabine River. No person shall possess any species of fish in excess of a one day creel limit. No person shall at any time possess in excess of the daily creel limit of any species, except that a two day creel limit may be possessed on the land, if the fish were caught on more than one day and no daily creel limits were exceeded. No person shall possess any fillets of any fish species while on the water.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), R.S. 56:325 (C), R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:548 (August 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), LR 17:1123 (November 1991), LR 19:790 (June 1993), LR 23:999 (August 1997), LR 31:948 (April 2005), LR 37:2439 (August 2011). LR 40

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the Final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statements, the filing

of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Interested persons may submit written comments of the Notice of Intent to Mr. Mike Wood, Director, Inland Fisheries Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., March 6, 2014.

Billy Broussard
Chairman