

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Office of Fisheries
Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations (LAC 76:VII. 335)**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend a Rule, LAC 76:VII.335, modifying existing reef fish harvest regulations. Proposed changes remove closed seasons and bag limits on rock and red hind. Authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1, and 56:326.3 to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations

A. Recreational bag limits regarding the harvest of reef fish: triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies, within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Recreational Bag Limits</u>
1. Red Snapper	2 fish per person per day
2. Queen, mutton, blackfin, cubera, gray, dog , mahogany, silk, yellowtail snappers, schoolmaster and wenchman	10 fish per person per day (in aggregate)
3. Vermilion snapper, lane snapper, gray triggerfish, almaco jack, goldface tilefish, tilefish, blackline tilefish , anchor tilefish , blueline tilefish	20 per person per day (in aggregate) with not more than 2 gray triggerfish and not more than 10 vermilion snapper per person included in the bag limit.

4. Red hind, rock hind, speckled Speckled hind, black grouper, misty grouper , red grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, warsaw grouper, gag grouper, scamp	4 fish per person per day (in aggregate) with not more than 1 speckled hind and 1 warsaw grouper per vessel and with not more than 4 red grouper per person and not more than 2 gag grouper per person included in the bag limit
5. Greater amberjack	1 fish per person per day
6. Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack	5 fish per person per day (in aggregate)
7. Hogfish	5 fish per person per day
8. No person shall possess goliath grouper or Nassau grouper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters per LAC 76:VII.337.	

B. - D..

E. Recreational and commercial minimum and maximum size limits, unless otherwise noted.

Species	Minimum Size Limits
1. Red snapper	16 inches total length (Recreational) 13 inches total length (Commercial)
2. Gray, yellowtail, cubera, dog, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster	12 inches total length
3. Lane snapper	8 inches total length
4. Mutton snapper	16 inches total length
5. Vermilion snapper	10 inches total length
6. Red grouper	20 inches total length (Recreational) 18 inches total length (Commercial)

Species	Minimum Size Limits
7. Yellowfin grouper	20 inches total length
8. Gag grouper	22 inches total length
9. Black grouper	22 inches total length (Recreational) 24 inches total length (Commercial)
10. Scamp	16 inches total length
11. Greater amberjack	30 inches fork length (Recreational) 36 inches fork length (Commercial)
12. Black seabass	8 inches total length
13 12. Hogfish	12 inches fork length
14 13. Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack	14 inches fork length (minimum size) 22 inches fork length (maximum size)
15 14. Gray triggerfish	14 inches fork length

F. - G. 1...

2. Seasons for the recreational harvest of reef fish species or groups listed below shall be closed during the periods listed below.

Species or Group	Closed Season
a. Gag	January 1-June 30 of each year
b. Black, red, yellowfin, and yellowmouth groupers, rock hind, red hind, and scamp	February 1-March 31 of each year in waters seaward of the 20 fathom boundary

Species or Group	Closed Season
c.Red Snapper	October 1 through the Friday before Palm Sunday of the following year. The open season shall be for weekends only. A weekend is defined as Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of Memorial Day and Labor Day, when Monday would be classified as a weekend as well.
d.Greater Amberjack	June 1-July 31 of each year.
e. Gray Triggerfish	June 1-July 31 of each year.

G. 3. - J....

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:320.2(C), R.S. 56:326.1 and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24:1138 (June 1998), LR 24:1139 (June 1998), LR 24:1972 (October 1998), LR 26:793 (April 2000), LR 26:1505 (July 2000), LR 26:2833 (December 2000), LR 31:3166 (December 2005), LR 33:1156 (June 2007), repromulgated LR 33:1397 (July 2007), amended LR 34:2209 (October 2008), LR 34:2682 (December 2008), LR 36:1791 (August 2010), LR 38:1455 (June 2012), LR 38:2383 (September 2012), LR 39:330 (February 2013), LR 40:95 (January 2014), repromulgated LR40:1116 (June 2014), LR 40:

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 9000, or via e-mail to: jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Adriance, Jason W. 6/27/14 3:41 PM

Deleted: -

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 No. 1183 of the 1999 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature, 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).Fiscal and Economic Impact Summary

Insert Poverty Impact Statement

Insert Provider Impact Statement

Billy Broussard, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission