

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Office of Fisheries Management Targets for Selected Finfish Species(LAC 76:VII.385)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate a Rule (LAC 76:VII.385) establishing Management Targets for black drum, sheepshead, and southern flounder. Proposed rules will establish biomass and fishing mortality rate targets based upon Act 205 (R.S. 56:325.4) of 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Authority for promulgation 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, 56:326.3, and 56:325.4.

Title 76 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§385. Management Targets for Selected Finfish Species

A. Policy

The stocks of black drum, sheepshead, and southern flounder shall have management targets established within this rule. Management targets shall be established utilizing a historical time-series of fisheries data, defined for each stock, as a basis of reference. The reference time-series is developed utilizing a period of time within the most recent assessment where recruitment has not been impacted and sustainability has been demonstrated for each stock. The biomass and fishing mortality rate of each stock over this historical time-series shall be derived from the beginning of the assessed period through 2013. If data indicate that a stock is not meeting or is likely not to meet thresholds established in the assessment of the stock, the department shall provide, for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's consideration, management options to ensure that a stock can remain within the management thresholds established for that particular stock.

B. Management Targets

1. Biomass targets shall be calculated as the average (geometric mean) Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) from each stock's historical time-series.
2. Fishing mortality rate targets shall be the fishing mortality rate that corresponds to each stock's SSB targets at equilibrium.
3. Biomass and fishing mortality rate targets shall be calculated based upon a historical time-series from the beginning of the assessed period through 2013, inclusive.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:320.2(C), R.S. 56:326.1, R.S. 56:326.3, and R.S. 325.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 42: _____ .

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, May 5, 2016.

Insert Family Impact Statement

Insert Poverty Impact Statement

Insert Provider Impact Statement

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 issue 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).

Bart R. Yakupzack

Chairman, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission