

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Alligator Regulations

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby advertise their intent to amend the rules for alligator egg collections in the Alligator Regulations.

TITLE 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART V. WILD QUADRUPEDS AND WILD BIRDS

Chapter 7. Alligators

§701. Alligator Regulations

14. Alligator Egg Collections

a. – i. ...

j. The alligator egg collection permittee and the landowner are responsible for the return of the percentage of live alligators to the wild described on the alligator egg collection permit. This requirement is nontransferable. Minimum return rates will be based upon the state average hatching success which is 78 percent. In no case shall the return rate be less than ~~42~~ 10 percent at 48 inches total length. Each alligator shall be returned to the original egg collection area within a maximum time of two years from date of hatching. Each alligator shall be a minimum of 36 inches and a maximum of 60 inches (no alligator over 60 inches total length will be accepted for release) in total length and the returned sex ratio should contain at least 50 percent females. The alligator egg collection permittee/landowner are responsible for and must compensate in kind for alligator mortality which occurs for department-authorized return to the wild alligators while being processed, stored, or transported. The department shall be responsible for supervising the required return of these alligators. A department transfer authorization permit is not required for return to the wild alligators which are delivered to the farm of origin no more than 48 hours prior to being processed for wild release. Releases back to the wild will only occur between March 15 and August 25 of each calendar year provided that environmental conditions as determined by the department are favorable for survival of the released alligators. Any farmer who owes 1000 or more alligators at 48 inches must release at least 1/4 of the total owed for that year by April 30; at least another quarter by June 15, at least another quarter by July 31; and the remainder by August 25. A farmer may do more than the required one-fourth of his releases

earlier if available unscheduled days allow. Should an alligator egg collection permittee be unable to release the required number of alligators to the wild from his own stock, he shall be required to purchase additional alligators from another farmer to meet compliance with the alligator egg collection permit and these regulations, as supervised by the department. Department-sanctioned participants in ongoing studies involving survivability and return rates are exempt from these requirements during the period of the study. Violation of this Subparagraph is a Class Four violation as described in Title 56.

k. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991), LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28:1996 (September 2002), LR 30:2338 (October 2004), LR 30:2878 (December 2004), LR 31:2267 (September 2005), LR 33:677 (April 2007), LR 35:690 (April 2009), LR 37:2421 (August 2011), LR 39: .

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

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Buddy Baker, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000 or bbaker@wlf.la.gov no later than 4:30 p.m., ??????, 2016.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 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).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014

Bart R. Yakupzack

Chairman