

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 7, 2008

**PATRICK C. MORROW
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
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**AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Chairman Patrick Morrow presiding.

Earl King, Jr.
Frederic Miller
Henry Mouton
Stephen Oats
Stephen Sagrera
Robert Samanie, III

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Chairman Morrow called for a motion for approval of the **January 9, 2008 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Oats. The motion passed with no opposition.

Under **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, Chairman Morrow welcomed the new Secretary, former Senator Robert Barham and looked forward to working with him for the next 4 years. Secretary Barham stated he was thrilled to work with the Commission and Department and that it was a dream come true. He added that he was from north Louisiana, but spent his summers in Terrebonne Parish. Again he noted he was thrilled to be with the Department and looked forward to working with each person. Then Chairman Morrow welcomed the Commissioners recently appointed by Governor Jindal. Those members were Commissioner Stephen Sagrera from the Abbeville area and the re-appointment of Commissioner Earl King.

Commissioner Mouton reported that Dr. McCann from Marksville and 2 others were cited for hunting violations and Dr. McCann was sentenced to no hunting for 3 years, a \$5,000 fine and 80 hours of community service. The others received 1 year of no hunting and 80 hours of community service.

Moving on to the next item, **To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January**, Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stated activity this month centered around wrapping up the duck and deer seasons. The total number of cases was 1,268 with an additional 34 written warnings and agents helped with 39 public assists. There were 9 reported boating accidents for this month, 5 injuries and 3 fatalities. The fatalities occurred

in Vermilion Parish, Terrebonne Parish and Tangipahoa Parish. The Aviation Report showed the Department's three planes flew a total of 85.2 hours for the month. News Releases discussed were on the sentencing Commissioner Mouton mentioned, a joint patrol for oyster violations in the Lake Borgne area between Department agents and St. Bernard Sheriff's Officers and another oyster case in St. Bernard Parish. Lt. Col. LaCaze stated they would continue to focus extra efforts on the oyster industry. Chairman Morrow asked if the fatalities occurred from vessels operated with hand-tiller motors. Sgt. Zechenelly stated they were not sure at this time. Chairman Morrow stated they have been receiving comments on the proposed regulations with PFD's and kill switches.

Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne began the next item, **To receive and consider Amendment to Notice of Intent on Emergency Cut-Off Switches** stating Sgt. Zechenelly would present the proposed changes. Sgt. Zechenelly asked the Commission to make two changes to the original Notice of Intent on emergency cut-off switches. The first was to exempt sail boats since no statistics showed there were any safety issues and there have been no accidents or fatalities. The next change was to exempt a 10 horsepower motor or less since in excess of 99 percent of the fatalities involve motors greater than 10 horsepower. Commissioner Mouton asked when would the regulation become effective and Lt. Col. Mayne stated the public comment period was extended and final ratification would be in June. Commissioner Mouton then stated he has received numerous phone calls and visitors on the cut-off switch and again talked about his business partners experience with the kill switch. Sgt. Zechenelly stated the Marine Manufacturers Association was providing kill switches with the outboard motors. Then to Chairman Morrow, she noted that the fatality in Vermilion Parish had the hand tiller outboard, but was not sure about the other 2. She then read from statistics compiled since 2005 of accidents that occurred where no PFD or kill switch was used. These regulations were an attempt to reduce the number of fatalities right now, and education was being used as a long term fix. Commissioner Miller explained that his outboard motor on a go-devil would not crank unless the kill switch was attached and whether the operator chooses to use it was one thing. Sgt. Zechenelly added that operators of hand-tiller motors have to stop the motor to move around. When a boat was underway is when the Department was wanting the kill switches used and Sgt. Zechenelly hoped it would save 5 to 7 people a year. Commissioner Oats asked, if a person has an outboard motor made prior to kill switches, would they be exempt and Sgt. Zechenelly answered yes. Then Commissioner Morrow asked if there was a kill switch, would it have to be functional and again Sgt. Zechenelly answered yes and added they should have the lanyard attached. Commissioner Oats stated he did his own informal survey during the duck season with professional guides and long time hunters. There was an overwhelming support for the kill switch but not as much on the PFD usage. Commissioner King asked if any user group asked for the 10 horsepower or less exemption. Sgt. Zechenelly commented there was no one group to request the exemption, but the Department wanted to have a regulation the numbers supported. Commissioner Miller stated he received a letter and petition from Dr. William H. Buller on behalf of Louisiana Sportsmen who are already sufficiently regulated complaining about the boating safety requirements. He asked Lt. Col. Mayne if they received the original and asked it be made a part of the record. Lt. Col. Mayne stated they were compiling the numerous

comments they have received, but of those received, Louisiana has over 2.2 million people that participate in boating annually. Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the amendment and it was seconded by Commissioner Samanie. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Amended Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to enact rules requiring the use of engine cut-off switches on Class A or Class One motorboat with a hand tiller outboard motor equipped with such devices.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XI. Boating

Chapter 1. Vessel Equipment; Requirements; Penalties

§111. Emergency Cut-off Switches

A. In accordance with R.S. 34:851.24 and R.S. 34:851.27, the provisions of this act shall apply on all waters within the jurisdiction of this state.

B. Definitions

“Engine cut-off switch” – an operable emergency cut-off engine stop switch installed on a motorboat and that attaches to the motorboat operator by an engine cut-off switch link.

“Engine cut-off switch link” – the lanyard and/or cut-off device used to attach the motorboat operator to the engine cut-off switch installed on the motorboat.

“Hand Tiller Outboard Motor” - an outboard motor that has a tiller or steering arm attached to the outboard motor to facilitate steering and does not have any mechanical assist device which is rigidly attached to the boat and used in steering the vessel, including but not limited to mechanical, hydraulic or electronic control systems. Hand tiller outboard motor shall not mean any type of electronic trolling motor.

C. No person shall operate a Class A or Class One motorboat with a hand tiller outboard motor in excess of ten horsepower designed to have or having an engine cut-off switch, while the engine is running and the motorboat is underway, unless:

1. The engine cut-off switch is fully functional and in operable condition;
and

2. The engine cut-off switch link is attached to the operator, the operator's clothing, or if worn, the operator's personal flotation device.

D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to licensed commercial fishermen operating a motorboat while engaged in a commercial fishing activity.

E. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to sailboats.

E. F. Violation of this Section is a class one violation as defined in R.S. 56:31.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 34:851.24 and R.S. 34:851.27.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 34: .

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne, Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2008.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

Mr. Kenny Ribbeck handled the next 2 agenda items together, **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Amendments to the Resident Small Game and Deer Hunting Seasons** and **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Amendments to the Rules**

and Regulations for General Hunting and Wildlife Management Areas. He began stating the dates for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 deer hunting seasons would be calendar adjustments. The only exception was in the generic language for Area 2 for hunting deer with or without dogs and it was changed to close 40 days after opening in odd numbered years or 39 days after opening in even numbered years. Also, the muzzleloader dates for Area 2 had to be adjusted to follow the closing the with or without dogs season. That language was to open the Monday after the last day of modern firearm season in January and close after 7 days. Deer tagging would be enforced for 2008-09 season. A change in the 2008-09 either-sex modern firearm chart for East Carroll Parish was presented last year, but was being restated to note this would be effective this year. Next was to allow hunters on WMAs during the managed deer hunts to harvest deer without it counting against their season limit. This would shadow the change that would be presented for lands in DMAP and LADT in regard to antlerless harvest. The youth deer shotgun season on private lands was moved under the muzzleloader segment and the Department would ask the Legislature to change the definition of youth from under 16 to under 18. The intent was to include 16 and 17 year olds as youths. If the Legislature does not pass this change, Mr. Ribbeck stated they would ask the Commission to keep the WMA regulations at 16. Under the archery segment, staff asked that crossbows be allowed to be a legal means of take during the archery season with an archery license. Commissioner Miller asked if the regulation would allow a hunter to use a draw-lock system on a compound bow. Mr. Ribbeck stated it should with the way it was written. Commissioner Mouton stated he has data on the number of crossbow licenses and noted a rise in those numbers. The area boundary description in Area 1 was corrected for St. Helena Parish. Staff asked the bobcat regulation be included on the WMAs but still exclude the state wildlife refuges, Kisatchie National Forest or federally-owned refuges and lands. It was recommended that the pheasant season open concurrently with the quail season with no limit. There was a clarification made in the falconry regulation. On DMAP and LADT lands, antlerless deer harvested would not count in a hunters season or daily bag limit. Next was adding crossbows as a legal method of taking resident game birds or quadrupeds.

The next changes referred to the 2008-09 regulations on wildlife management areas. The first change was to prohibit insects from being removed off WMAs without prior approval from the Baton Rouge office. This prohibition would address the State Wildlife Action Plan which identified species of concern. Commissioner Oats asked if insects was a defined term. Mr. Ribbeck stated that term could be refined. On the WMA special youth seasons, the age of a youth would be changed to under 18 which would include those 16 and 17 years old. Additional WMAs were added to the youth squirrel hunts and Loggy Bayou WMA was added to the youth mourning dove hunt. For the waterfowl lottery hunts, the deadline for applications was extended one month to October 3. Raccoon hunting was allowed by a special permit from the region offices, but participation declined. The change for raccoon hunting would allow this activity be by self-clearing permit. The spring squirrel season was added to the small Farmer Home tracts across the state. Again, Mr. Ribbeck talked about allowing antlerless deer harvested on WMAs during hunts designated as daily permit deer hunts not count in the season bag limit for hunters. A numbered deer tag

would be affixed to the deer carcass by a Department staff. Commissioner Miller asked about a hunter's tags. Mr. Ribbeck explained that this change would occur only on the daily permit deer hunts. Continuing on, he noted present regulations do not allow for permanent stand structures on WMAs, but with the construction of special permanent stands for the physically challenged wheelchair confined hunts, there was a need to change the wording. Mr. Ribbeck noted that these stands would be identified with LDWF logos. In regards to horses and mules, the additional language was added: "Riding is restricted to designated roads and trails depicted on WMA maps, self-clearing permit is required. Organized trail rides prohibited." Chairman Morrow asked if trail rides were permitted at present. Mr. Ribbeck stated they were permitted on one property with the permission of the landowner. Commissioner Miller stated there has been e-mails on the horse issue and asked the status of that. Commissioner Mouton stated the gentleman that brought the issue up could not attend the meeting, so the issue had temporarily gone away. For the WMA muzzleloader season for deer, it was recommended that youth be allowed to use shotgun with slugs. Under commercial activities, clarification was noted that the Secretary of the Department would be the person to issue a permit for such activity. Also, for commercial fishing, gill nets or trammel nets and the take or possession of grass carp were prohibited on Spring Bayou WMA. On some WMA restricted areas, small game hunting would be opened after the gun deer season was completed. The use of ATVs on WMA roads when closed to licensed motorized vehicles would be allowed when their use would not be damaging to the wildlife resources. Refinement of the language allowing the use of ATVs during the spring squirrel season was presented. The spring squirrel season would open on all WMAs this year except for Biloxi, Camp Beauregard, Fort Polk and Peason Ridge. On waterfowl hunting, Jackson-Bienville WMA was added. The incidental take of outlaw quadrupeds would not be allowed during the turkey and spring squirrel seasons. Also, staff asked that the take of outlaw quadrupeds and birds be allowed with or without the use of electronic calls.

Changes on the specific WMAs included: on the Acadiana Conservation Corridor, unmarked hogs may be taken by properly licensed hunters by archery only. Move the physically challenged hunt to coincide with the muzzleloader season on Alexander State Forest. Atchafalaya Delta wanted to prohibit mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 hp. Also on Atchafalaya Delta, the youth hunt weekend would have the same shooting hours as outside. On Bayou Pierre, the waterfowl lottery hunts would be on the second weekend of both splits instead of the first 2 weekends of the first split. Added to Bens Creek was the regulation of daily permit required for the first either-sex firearm hunt. On Boeuf WMA, the opening date was moved to follow outside season in Area 2 plus a youth squirrel hunt was added. The youth and physically challenged hunt on Buckhorn was clarified to be either-sex, mandatory deer check. Changes on Camp Beauregard included no hunting in restricted areas; the hunt dates were set to match Dewey Wills WMA; allow for a raccoon hunt and special fishing regulations posted at Twin Lakes. The October hunt on Clear Creek was changed to a daily permit, the Thanksgiving hunt was made a self-clearing permit hunt and a youth squirrel hunt was added. The firearms either-sex hunt on Dewey Wills was moved forward to avoid a conflict with the waterfowl season and closing small game and waterfowl during the firearms either-sex hunt. All motorized vehicles would

be prohibited on Elbow Slough. A change in the squirrel hunting with dogs season was made on Fort Polk at the request of the U.S. Army. On Grassy Lake, the crawfish season would open on March 15 instead of April 1. Jackson-Bienville would open for waterfowl season except closed during deer hunts. No loaded firearms would be allowed within 100 yards of the Swamp Walk on Joyce WMA. The youth hunt was deleted from Lake Boeuf but an extra 31 days was added to the archery season. Muzzleloader season on Little River was matched with the firearm season on Dewey Wills. The opening day of the first split of dove season would be restricted to youth only on Loggy Bayou. Staff felt the deer herd on Maurepas Swamp was being underutilized and so requested additional either-sex firearm season. Also, a raccoon nighttime hunting season was added and allow the spring squirrel season on all of Maurepas Swamp instead of just the East Tract. On Ouachita WMA, the crawfish season would open earlier on March 15. One change on Pass-a-Loutre was the prohibition of mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 hp. The other change was clarifying that bucks only and unmarked hogs could be taken during the shotgun season. Commissioner King asked if recreational crawfishing required a license. He was told a regular fishing license was needed. Continuing on, Mr. Ribbeck stated the specific times for the rifle range on Pearl River were deleted and allowing the rifle range to be used during the youth deer weekend. Additional opportunity was added to the either-sex firearms season. Peason Ridge changes were made to mirror those on Fort Polk. The changes for Pointe-aux-Chenes were to require self-clearing permit for hog hunters and controlling access during the mourning dove hunts on the Point Farm Unit. The early crawfish season was proposed for Pomme de Terre. A youth squirrel hunt was added to Sandy Hollow, change the age for the mourning dove youth hunt, and defined that a self-clearing permit would be required for horseback riding. The generic language for the youth deer lottery hunt was adjusted to allow for 6 days instead of 5 days on Sherburne. Also, on Sherburne the early opening for crawfish season was requested. A youth squirrel hunt was added and the early opening for crawfish season were the noted changes on Spring Bayou. The language of "No hunting or trapping in restricted area." was deleted from Thistlethwaite. A youth squirrel hunt was added to West Bay and the October either-sex firearms hunt was made a daily permit. Next, Mr. Ribbeck discussed seasons requested by Corps of Engineers and other entities. The Indian Bayou Tract would have calendar adjustments from last year. The Old River Control and Lock area also had calendar adjustments. Changes on the Bonnet Carre Spillway included having an additional permit required for all persons regardless of age; added youth either-sex hunt; and changed shooting hours on waterfowl to 12 PM instead of 2 PM. There would only be calendar adjustments on the Barataria Preserve of the National Park Service. Seasons for Barksdale Air Force Base would be set within the outside season dates except deer which would open with Area 2 and close with Area 6 and all deer seasons were either-sex. Louisiana Army National Guard Camp Minden would have the outside season dates as Area 2 except all deer seasons would be either-sex. A special deer hunt on Camp Avondale was scheduled for November 8, 9 and 10. Changes on Kisatchie National Forest lands were presented at this point. The first was refining their rule on motorized travel off designated roads and trails. The proposed seasons on Catahoula Ranger District, Winn Ranger District, Kisatchie Ranger District and Evangeline Unit were a 7 day bucks only with dogs, 27 day bucks only still hunt only and 3 either-sex still hunt only days for a total of 37

days. Last year's season on these areas were 14 bucks only with dog days, 18 bucks only still hunt days, 3 either-sex still hunt days and 1 either-sex with dog day. Seasons for the Vernon Unit were 5 days for either-sex still hunt (same as last year) and 32 days of bucks only still hunt as compared to 21 days last year. For National Catahoula and Red Dirt Wildlife Management Preserves, they wanted to include those youth 16 and 17 years old as the Department did, change the October muzzleloader season to still hunt only and close the spring squirrel hunting season.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Miller stated he received a letter dated February 1, 2008 from Mr. David Lewis noting he lives on rural property adjoining the Kisatchie National Forest. Mr. Lewis complained about deer hunting with dogs on Kisatchie and requested the area be closed to dog hunting. Commissioner Miller asked the letter be included in the record. Commissioner Mouton asked if the problem with the deer tags was worked out. Mr. Jimmy Anthony stated the Department has plans to follow the tagging system of Arkansas. Commissioner King asked if there were any statistics on the voluntary reporting with the deer tags and Mr. Anthony answered it was very light. Then Commissioner King asked the Commission be provided with those statistics. Mr. Anthony noted that would be presented at the March meeting. Commissioner King asked for a copy of the deer tagging format and reporting protocol. Mr. Anthony commented there were some problems this past year, but he felt they had been resolved. Commissioner King requested that a question be asked on how the deer was taken, with dogs or still hunting. Mr. Anthony did not see that to be a problem. Lastly Commissioner King asked for an update be presented at the next meeting on the licensing system and the progress made or not made. Commissioner Oats suggested for the muzzleloading segment that the regulation read: "Youths under the age of 18 may hunt deer with shotguns using slugs only" and delete the 20 gauge requirement. Commissioner Mouton felt the suggestion by Commissioner Oats was good as long as they stay with slug guns. Commissioner Miller asked if the muzzleloader definition included the .45-70 round and Mr. Ribbeck answered no. Then Commissioner Miller asked if the .45-70 was still thought of as a modern cartridge and not a primitive cartridge and were there plans to open the muzzleloader season to that round. Mr. Anthony stated a legislative package was being prepared and that item would be a part of the package. The request was to have the Legislature give the Commission authority to set a primitive arms season instead of just a muzzleloader season as legal now. Once this law was passed, the Department would come back and explain how this would be operated. Commissioner Miller then asked the staff to discuss with him the regulation requiring non-toxic shot for snipe on WMAs. In north Louisiana, snipe hunters were using the same ground as dove hunters but were required to use the more expensive non-toxic shot. Commissioner Miller did not have a problem with using the non-toxic shot for rails, gallinules and coots. Hearing no further questions, public comments were accepted.

Mr. Dave Moreland began by congratulating Secretary Barham on his appointment. He hoped that the Governor and Secretary would put the Department on some good financial standing since everyone in the state benefits from the resources. Mr. Moreland hunted in Missouri during the fall and showed the license he needed and felt the length of Louisiana's

license was not that bad. He then noted he hunts 2 small tracts in East Feliciana Parish and also hunts on Jackson-Bienville, Sherburne and Pearl River WMAs. Mr. Moreland appreciated the extra days for either-sex hunting on Pearl River and the additional areas open for the spring squirrel season. He added that he saw the largest buck of the season on January 21 which was the first day of the last segment for muzzleloader and knew that the rut was still going on in Area 1 at that time.

Mr. Larry Robichaux, an Area 6 hunter in the Atchafalaya Basin and Attakapas WMA, asked if the sign-in cards could represent the number of days a hunter was at his camp as long as the kill was recorded. He commented that he had a very enjoyable season for 2007. But he asked for 2 changes in order to make the upcoming seasons better. The first was to lower the temperature for the season, the hot weather was rough. The second was to increase the number of still hunt days in that portion of Area 6 that is in the Basin. The dates he recommended were: still hunt only November 15-January 4, with or without dogs would be January 5-January 18 and then follow with the muzzleloader season.

Mr. Bruce Prudhomme, Acting Staff Officer of Ecosystem Conservation on the Kisatchie National Forest along with Dr. Ken Dancak, asked if the restriction for deer dog training during the still hunt and archery season was included in the regulations. Mr. Ribbeck stated that was included.

Mr. Wayne Blackwell stated he would like to see wheelchair bound hunters be included with the special youth hunts on the WMAs. Mr. Ribbeck noted that there was a list of WMAs in the presentation that were for the physically challenged and some of those hunts occurred at the same time as the youth deer hunts. He then asked that the Region Office be contacted to set up the hunts. Mr. Blackwell knew that the Department provided 5 areas for wheelchair hunters and he hunted on 3 of those 5 areas. He then read from letters written by hunters that are physically challenged and were able to utilize the areas. Mr. Blackwell stated he hunted at Buckhorn, Clear Creek and Sherburne and saw more deer on Sherburne. He appreciated the hard work done by the Department. Chairman Morrow knew it was difficult for Mr. Blackwell to come forward and speak not only for himself but for all disabled hunters. Mr. Blackwell felt, with more advertisement, there would be more disabled hunters in the woods. Chairman Morrow hoped that other businesses would follow the example of Mr. Joe Elder in his donation of lumber to build one of those handicapped blinds. Mr. Blackwell thanked the Department staff that helped with the hunts. He then suggested the Commission or Legislature allow private landowners the chance a reduced liability if they allowed disabled hunters to hunt on their property. Chairman Morrow thought there was a law on the books regarding recreational immunity for landowners. Mr. Anthony stated staff has been looking into a program for private lands handicapped hunts and have the sites set just as they are on WMAs. The program would be called the Wheelchair Bound Deer Hunting Trail. Commissioner Miller asked how many areas are there presently and he was told 5. He then asked if there were plans to expand. Mr. Anthony stated they were waiting to see what the demands may be as well as supplement that with hunts on private lands since their seasons are longer than WMAs.

Mr. Joe Macaluso, The Advocate, stated that writers have a problem with the language of youth 18 and under. He suggested that the wording should read "17 and younger". He then asked for a list of lottery hunts on the different WMAs, an application and the district offices the application goes to be published in the hunting pamphlet. Chairman Morrow asked Mr. Ribbeck to look at this suggestion.

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Oats made a motion to amend the regulations for deer dog hunting and muzzleloader seasons in Area 2 and the recommendation to delete 20 gauge from the muzzleloader segment as well as accept the recommendations presented in the Notices of Intent for the resident small game and deer hunting seasons and the rules and regulations for general hunting and WMAs. Commissioner Samanie seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent on Hunting Seasons is made a part of the record. The full text of the Notice of Intent on General & WMA Rules is made a part of the record as Attachment A.)

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 promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of resident game birds and game quadrupeds.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART XIX. HUNTING AND WMA REGULATIONS

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season

§101. General

The Resident Game Hunting Season regulations are hereby adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. A complete copy of the Regulation Pamphlet may be obtained from the Department.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 21:707 (July 1995), amended LR 22:585 (July 1996), LR 23:871 (July 1997), LR 24:1324 (July 1998), LR 25:1290 (July 1999), LR 26:1506 (July 2000), LR 27:1061 (July 2001), LR 28:1615 (July 2002), LR 29:1122 (July 2003), LR 30:1493 (July 2004), LR 31:1627 (July 2005), LR 32:1253 (July 2006), LR 33:1399 (July 2007), LR 34: .

§103. Resident Game Birds and Animals

A. Shooting hours. One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

B. Consult Regulation Pamphlet for seasons or specific regulations on Wildlife Management Areas or specific localities.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Quail	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Saturday of November <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	10	20
Rabbit and Squirrel	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st Saturday of October <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	8	16
Squirrel*	OPENS: 1 st Saturday of May for 23 days	3	6
Deer	See Schedule	1 antlered and 1 antlerless (when legal)	6/season (3 antlered deer & 3 antlerless deer)

*NOTE: Spring squirrel season is closed on the Kisatchie National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property. Some State Wildlife Management Areas will be open, check WMA season schedule.

C. Deer Hunting Schedule

Area	Archery	Muzzleloader (All Either Sex Except as Noted)	Still Hunt (No dogs allowed)	With or Without Dogs

1	<p><u>OPENS:</u> 1st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> 2nd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. after 2nd Sat. of Nov.</p> <p><u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Sun. of Jan.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Sat. before Thanksgiving Day <u>EXCEPT</u> when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3rd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2nd Sat. of Dec. <u>EXCEPT</u> when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1st Sat. of Dec.</p> <p><u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after 1st Sat. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> next to last Sun. of Jan.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> 2nd Sat. of Dec. <u>EXCEPT</u> when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1st Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after 1st Sat. of Jan.</p>
2	<p><u>OPENS:</u> 1st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Next to last Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before last Sat. of Oct.</p> <p><u>OPENS:</u> <u>Mon. after the last day of Modern Firearm Season in Jan. Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan.</u> <u>CLOSES:</u> <u>After 7 days. Last Sun. of Jan.</u></p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Last Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Tues. before 2nd Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Wed. during even numbered years <u>EXCEPT</u> when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Tues. in odd numbered years or Wed. during even numbered years before the 1st Sat. of Dec.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Wed. before the 2nd Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Thurs. during even numbered years <u>EXCEPT</u> when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the Wed. before the 1st Sat. of Dec. on odd years and Thurs. during even numbered years. <u>CLOSES:</u> <u>Sun. after 2nd Sat. of Jan. 40 days after opening in odd numbered years</u></p>

				<u>or 39 days after opening in even numbered years.</u>
3	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Sat. of Sept. <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 15	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 st Sat. of Dec.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day <u>OPENS:</u> 1 st Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> After 37 days	
4	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 nd Sat. of Nov. <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after 1 st Sat. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Mon. after 2 nd Sat. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after 1 st Sat. of Jan.	
5	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 rd Sat. of Nov. (BUCKS ONLY) <u>OPENS:</u> Day after Christmas Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 1 st (BUCKS ONLY)	<u>OPENS:</u> Day after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after 2 nd Sat. of Dec.	
6	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Feb. 15 (1 st 15 days are BUCKS ONLY)	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 rd Sat. of Nov. <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Sun. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> Sat. before Thanksgiving Day EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3 rd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 nd Sat. of	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1 st Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> Next to last Sun. of Jan.

			Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. And then it will close on the Fri. before the 1 st Sat. of Dec.	
7	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>OPENS:</u> 1 st Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 nd Sat. of Nov.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 st Sat. of Nov. <u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	<u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> After 35 days
8	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Sat. of Sept. <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 15	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 nd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 st Sat. of Dec.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 rd Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 st Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> After 37 days.

D. Modern Firearm Schedule (Either Sex Seasons)

Parish	Area	Modern Firearm Either-sex Days
East Carroll	Area 4 portion- 2007-2008	Antlerless deer may be harvested during entire deer season on private lands (all segments included), east of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.
East Carroll	Area 1 New for 2008-2009	Antlerless deer may be harvested during entire deer season on private lands (all segments included), east of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.
East Carroll	Area 4 portion	Nov. 8-9, 28-30, 2008, west of mainline Mississippi River Levee and north and west of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, north of La. 580 to U.S. 65, east of U.S. 65 to

Parish	Area	Modern Firearm Either-sex Days
		Madison Parish line.
West Carroll	Area 5	Nov. 28-30, 2008

E. Farm Raised White-tailed Deer on Supplemented Shooting Preserves: Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader: October 1 - January 31 (Either-Sex).

F. Exotics on Supplemented Shooting Preserves: Either Sex, no closed season.

G. — Promotional Hunting Days

1. — The following dates are established as promotional hunting days: the 1st three days after Thanksgiving Day.

H G. Spring Squirrel Hunting

1. Season Dates: Opens 1st Saturday of May for 23 days.

2. Closed Areas: Kisatchie National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property and **all** WMAs except as provided in Paragraph 3 below.

3. Wildlife Management Area Schedule: Opens 1st Saturday of May for 9 days on **Bodcau, Boeuf, Clear Creek, Little River, Maurepas Swamp (East Tract), Russell Sage, and Sherburne WMAs only all WMAs except Ft. Polk, Peason Ridge and Camp Beauregard.** Dogs are allowed during this season for squirrel hunting. Feral hogs may not be taken on Wildlife Management Areas during this season.

4. Limits: Daily bag limit is 3 and possession limit is 6.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:109(B) and R.S. 56:141(C).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 21:707 (July 1995), amended LR 22:585 (July 1996), LR 23:871 (July 1997), LR 24:1324 (July 1998), LR 25:1290 (July 1999), repromulgated LR 25:1526 (August 1999), LR 26:1506 (July 2000), LR 27:1061 (July 2001), LR 28:1615 (July 2002), LR 29:1122 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1521 (August 2003), LR 30:1494 (July 2004), LR 31:1627 (July 2005), LR 32:1254 (July 2006), LR 33:115 (January 2007), LR 33:1399 (July 2007), LR 34: .

Public hearing locations will be announced. Also comments will be accepted at regularly scheduled Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meetings from March through May. Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until

Thursday, May 1, 2008 to Mr. Jimmy Anthony, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

Mr. Scott Durham gave a presentation on **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Amendments to Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Amendments to Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag Program (LADT)** together. The first proposed change was to remove the daily limit on antlerless deer harvested on DMAP and LADT clubs. The second change was to issue antlered tags for DMAP clubs only. The antlered tags was being used as an incentive for participants to stay in the DMAP program. There are now only 1.3 million acres in DMAP. With the new antlerless harvest in effect during the entire deer season and new limits implemented, there was less of a reason for clubs to be in DMAP. Mr. Durham acknowledged the program involves a lot of work for some clubs which may also have contributed to the decline. DMAP data was critical since it was broken into age class. The buck tag would be used as an additional management tool when herd reduction was necessary. This program was available in Mississippi by request. Chairman Morrow asked if this program would issue tags for bucks in addition to the doe tags and Mr. Durham answered yes. He added that it would not count toward the daily or season limits. Mr. Durham mentioned that he did not think the buck tags would be issued often. Commissioner King asked what was the cost of the DMAP program to the Department. Mr. Anthony stated the deer program has a budget of \$400,000 per year as well as collecting fees with DMAP and LADT. Commissioner King asked if the fees were based on acreage and how much per acre. Mr. Anthony thought it was a \$25 application fee plus 5 cents per acre for DMAP but there was no acreage fee on LADT. Chairman Morrow asked if the jaw bone would still need to be removed. Mr. Durham stated strictly on DMAP clubs. The only change for LADT was removing the daily limit on antlerless deer. Commissioner King asked if the decreased acreage was attributed to complying with the rules. Mr. Durham noted that when the LADT program was introduced, all of the harvest data was not required. This resulted in a decrease in DMAP but an increase in LADT. Mr. Durham wanted to maintain at least one million acres since this was where the basic harvest data

was obtained from private lands. Having the additional tag should be an incentive to keep the high end DMAP clubs involved and may help to keep the program going. Commissioner King asked if the \$400,000 was to better educate the public on their deer herds and the resources. Mr. Durham answered yes. Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Miller made a motion to adopt both Notices of Intent for DMAP and LADT. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Mr. Dave Moreland again noted he hunts in Area 1 on some DMAP clubs but mainly on land enrolled in LADT. He felt the plan was good. He added that Mississippi and Texas both have buck management programs. Mr. Moreland thought the program would provide the incentive to harvest a 1 ½ year old runt instead of letting it walk and then harvest it as a 3 year old runt.

(The full text of the Notices of Intent are made a part of the record.)

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 amend the rules and regulations for participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§111. Rules and Regulations for Participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program

A. The following rules and regulations shall govern the Deer Management Assistance Program

1. Application Procedure

a. Application for enrollment of a new cooperator in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife

and Fisheries by August 1. Application for the renewal enrollment of an active cooperator must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries annually by September 1.

b. Each application for a new cooperator must be accompanied by a legal description of lands to be enrolled and a map of the property. Renewal applications must be accompanied by a legal description and map only if the boundaries of the enrolled property have changed from records on file from the previous hunting season. This information will remain on file in the appropriate regional office. The applicant must have under lease or otherwise control a minimum of 500 acres of contiguous deer habitat of which up to 250 acres may be agricultural lands, provided the remainder is in forest and/or marsh. Private lands within Wildlife Management Area boundaries shall be enrolled in DMAP regardless of size.

c. Each cooperator will be assessed a \$25 enrollment fee and \$.05/acre for participation in the program. DMAP fees must be paid by invoice to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fiscal Section prior to September 15.

d. An agreement must be completed and signed by the official representative of the cooperator and submitted to the appropriate regional wildlife office for his approval. This agreement must be completed and signed annually.

e. Boundaries of lands enrolled in DMAP shall be clearly marked and posted with DMAP signs in compliance with R.S. 56:110 and the provisions of R. S. 56:110 are only applicable to property enrolled in DMAP. DMAP signs shall be removed if the land is no longer enrolled in DMAP. Rules and regulations for compliance with R. S. 56:110 are as follows:

i. The color of DMAP signs shall be orange. The words DMAP and Posted shall be printed on the sign in letters no less than 4" (four inches) in height. Signs may be constructed of any material and minimum size is 11 1/4" x 11 1/4".

ii. Signs will be placed at 1000 foot intervals around the entire boundary of the property and at every entry point onto the property.

f. By enrolling in the DMAP, cooperators agree to allow Department personnel access to their lands for management surveys, investigation of violations and other inspections deemed appropriate by the Department. The person listed on the DMAP application as the contact person will serve as the liaison between the DMAP Cooperator and the Department.

g. Each cooperator that enrolls in DMAP is strongly encouraged to provide keys or lock combinations annually to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for access to main entrances of the DMAP property. Provision of keys is voluntary; however, the cooperator's compliance will ensure that DMAP enrolled properties will be properly and regularly patrolled.

2. Tags

a. A fixed number of special tags will be provided by the Department to each cooperator in DMAP to affix to deer taken as authorized by the program. These tags shall be used only on DMAP lands for which the tags were issued.

b. All antlerless deer **(and antlered deer if special antlered tags are issued)** taken shall be tagged, including those taken during archery season, muzzleloader, and on either-sex days of gun season.

c. Each hunter must have a tag in his possession while hunting on DMAP land in order to harvest an antlerless **(or an antlered deer if special antlered tags are issued)** deer. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported. The DMAP tag will remain with the deer so long as the deer is kept in the camp or field, is in route to the domicile of its possessor, or until it has been stored at the domicile of its possessor, or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game. The DMAP number shall be recorded on the possession tag of the deer or any part of the animal when divided and properly tagged.

d. Antlerless deer harvested ~~ed~~ on property enrolled in DMAP ~~does~~ **do** not count in the **daily or** season bag limit for hunters.

e. Special antlered deer tags may be issued on property enrolled in DMAP to increase the antlered deer harvest if a Regional or Deer Program biologist deems it necessary for herd health or habitat management purposes. DMAP tagged antlered deer will not count in the daily or season bag limits.

e f. All unused tags shall be returned by March 1 to the regional wildlife office which issued the tags.

3. Records

a. Cooperators are responsible for keeping accurate records on forms provided by the Department for all deer harvested on lands enrolled in the program. Mandatory information includes tag number, sex of deer, date of kill, name of person taking the deer, hunting license number (transaction number, authorization number, lifetime number or date of birth for under 16 and over 59 years of age) and biological data (age, weight, antler measurements, lactation) as deemed essential by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Deer Section. Biological data collection must meet quality standards established by the Deer Section. Documentation of mandatory information shall be kept daily by the Cooperator. Additional information may be requested depending on management goals of the cooperator.

b. Information on deer harvested shall be submitted by March 1 to the regional wildlife office handling the particular cooperator.

c. The Contact person shall provide this documentation of harvested deer to the Department upon request. Cooperators who do not have a field camp will be given 48 hours to provide this requested documentation.

B. Suspension and cancellation of DMAP Cooperators

1. Failure of the cooperator to follow these rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved. Failure to make a good faith attempt to follow harvest recommendations may also result in suspension and cancellation of the program.

a. Suspension of Cooperator from DMAP - Suspension of the Cooperator from DMAP, including forfeiture of unused tags, will occur immediately for any misuse of tags, failure to tag any antlerless deer, or failure to submit records to the Department for examination in a timely fashion. Suspension of the Cooperator, including forfeiture of unused tags, may also occur immediately if other DMAP rules or wildlife regulations are violated. Upon suspension of the Cooperator from DMAP, the Contact Person may request a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hearing within 10 working days to appeal said suspension. Cooperation by the DMAP Cooperator with the investigation of the violation will be taken into account by the Department when considering cancellation of the program following a suspension for any of the above listed reasons. The Cooperator may be allowed to continue with the program on a probational status if, in the judgement of the Department, the facts relevant to a suspension do not warrant cancellation.

b. Cancellation of cooperator from DMAP - Cancellation of a cooperator from DMAP may occur following a guilty plea or conviction for a DMAP rule or regulation violation by any individual or member hunting on the land enrolled in DMAP. The Cooperator may not be allowed to participate in DMAP for one year following the cancellation for such guilty pleas or conviction. Upon cancellation of the Cooperator from DMAP, the Contact Person may request an administrative hearing within 10 working days to appeal said cancellation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:204 (February 1991), amended LR 25:1656 (September 1999), LR 26:2011 (September 2000), LR 30:2496 (November 2004), LR 34: .

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Scott Durham, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2008.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

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 amend the rules and regulations for participation in the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag Program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§119. Rules and Regulations for Participation in the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag Program

A. The following rules and regulations shall govern the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag (LADT) Program:

1. Eligibility: The following landowners or lessees are eligible to participate in this program.

a. Licensed Deer Farmers authorized to hunt deer by Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

b. Landowners or lessees with less than 500 acres who have verified deer depredation problems and have met all of the requirements of LDWF as stated in the Nuisance Deer Management Program and who are dependent upon this commercial crop as a major source of income.

c. Landowners with 40 acres or more enrolled in the Louisiana Forest Stewardship Program and who have a written wildlife management plan on file with LDWF.

d. Landowners or lessees with 40 or more contiguous acres of forested or marsh land.

2. Application Procedure

a. Application for enrollment in the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag Program must be submitted to the Regional Office, Deer Program personnel, or Forest Stewardship Program personnel of LDWF prior to September 1. The application will become an official agreement between the applicant and LDWF.

b. Each applicant will be assessed a \$25 administrative processing fee which must be paid prior to October 1. Applicant must identify the enrolled property on a Louisiana road atlas that will be kept on file in the Region Office.

c. By enrollment in this program the applicant agrees to allow LDWF personnel access to their land for management surveys, investigations of violations and other inspections deemed appropriate by the Department.

d. Boundaries of lands enrolled in the LADT program shall be clearly marked and posted with LADT or DMAP signs. Signs will be placed at 1000 foot intervals around the entire boundary of the property and at every point onto the property. Signs shall be removed if the land is no longer enrolled in the program. The color of the LADT sign shall be white, with the words LADT and Posted printed on the sign in letters no less than four inches. The minimum sign size is 11 1/4" x 11 1/4".

3. Tags

a. A fixed number of Landowner Antlerless Deer Tags will be provided by the department to each applicant that must be attached to each antlerless deer harvested during the regular deer season. These tags can be used only on the land for which they were issued and must be attached to all antlerless deer killed during the entire deer season including special either-sex days. Tag allotment for each applicant will be determined by Deer Program personnel.

b. The total harvest of antlerless deer is restricted to that number of antlerless deer for which tags were issued. Once the number of antlerless deer for

which tags were issued have been killed, all deer hunting will then be for bucks-only, even though there may be either-sex days later in the season for the Area at large. No additional tags will be issued to the applicant.

c. Each hunter must have the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag in his possession while hunting on the property for which the tag was issued and immediately upon kill of an antlerless deer, the hunter must tag the animal through the hock. The deer must be tagged before it is transported from the site of kill and the tag will remain with the deer while the hunter is in route to his domicile. The tag number will be recorded on the possession tag for the deer or any part(s) of the animal when divided and properly tagged among other individuals.

d. Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in LADT does **do** not count in the **daily or** season bag limit for hunters.

4. Records

a. Approved applicants will keep daily records for all deer harvested as required by LDWF personnel. This information along with any unused tags will be submitted to the Regional Office, the Deer Program, or Forest Stewardship Program personnel by March 1. Information will include: Date of kill; Name of hunter; Social Security number of hunter; Hunting license # of hunter, if applicable; Sex of animal; Landowner Antlerless Tag Number. Additional biological information from harvested deer may be required of some applicants for management purposes.

b. Approved applicants will provide documentation of harvested deer during the season to Department personnel upon request. Applicants will be given 48 hours to provide this requested information.

5. Cancellation of Program

a. Failure of the approved applicant or other persons permitted to hunt on this property to follow these rules and regulations may result in cancellation of the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 26:2011 (September 2000), amended LR 27:1935 (November 2001), LR 30:2497 (November 2004), LR 34: .

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Scott Durham, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2008.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Amendments to Physically Challenged Hunters Permit was presented by Mr. Jimmy Anthony. The rule as it was written prohibited anyone from applying for a permit that ever had a Class 2 or higher wildlife violation. He felt the intent of the rule was to allow the physically challenged to not only hunt but to hunt with special advantages on the WMAs. The first change was to up date the ATV regulation. The next change was to allow the physically challenged to have 1 or 2 helpers to get them to or from the hunting stands. Another change was to allow the helper to ride with the permittee and/or allow the helper to bring an additional ATV with them. All of the changes would be for all 3 classes of the PCHP (wheelchair bound, mobility impaired and amputee of upper extremity). As far as the application process, those with felony convictions and Class 2 or above wildlife convictions that occurred more than 5 years ago should be allowed to have one of the permits. Commissioner Oats asked if boating and fishing violations were being excluded. Mr. Anthony stated the current law refers to wildlife-type violations and Enforcement did not want boating to be included. Public comments were accepted at this time.

Mr. Dave Townsend stated he appreciated what the Department has done for the handicapped community in the past and felt they were strong steps in getting those people back in the outdoors. He hoped the good work would continue.

Mr. Jerome Carney stated he has a son that was physically challenged and they met Mr. Wayne Blackwell several years ago and got them back into hunting. Mr. Carney's son has harvested 3 deer from Indian Bayou and Sherburne. Another interest was squirrel hunting but the regulations do not allow mules to be ridden off WMA trails. Mr. Carney asked if there was a possibility of allowing a mule to be ridden off the trail into the woods to squirrel hunt. Mr. Anthony felt there may be a safety factor with this request. He stated there could be an incident with other hunters in the woods. Commissioner King asked if those big animals could degrade the trails and asked about the State's responsibility. Mr. Anthony stated there is quite a bit of responsibility with horses which is why they do not allow unregulated horse riding. He added that hunting off a horse was allowed for quails and this request could possibly be allowed for squirrel hunting for the mobility impaired. Commissioner King suggested offering it during the spring squirrel season only.

Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Anthony to look at that issue and provide more information before making a decision. Mr. Carney asked if it would be possible if the mule was clothed in hunter orange. Chairman Morrow stated that would be an issue the Department would look into.

Mr. Wayne Blackwell asked if the felony convictions included crimes with guns or drugs. Mr. Anthony noted that felons can reacquire the ability to possess firearms and can hunt with muzzleloaders and bows and arrows. So, if they were physically challenged they should have the right to apply for the permit to allow the pursuit of the sport. Mr. Blackwell urged the Commission to pass the Notice of Intent.

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Oats made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent. He further asked the Department to look at the language of C.2. and try to tighten it up. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

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 amend regulations for the Physically Challenged Hunters Permit Program.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§105. Physically Challenged Hunters Permit

A. Definitions

ATV - a small motorized vehicle designed for off road use, weighing less than ~~600~~ 750 pounds, designed for no more than two passengers, with a maximum of six wheels, and tires with a manufacturers recommended air pressure of less than 10 pounds per square inch.

Amputee of the Upper Extremity - an individual suffering the loss of at least one arm, hand, or five fingers from one hand.

Commission - the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Commission Approved Physician - any physician licensed to practice medicine by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners who evaluates permit applicants to determine the Disabled Hunter Rule classification of permanent disability.

Department - the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee - a committee of five individuals which collectively have final authority to approve or deny, by majority vote, rejected applications for Disabled Hunter Permits. The five members of the committee shall be appointed by the Commission from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen With Disabilities Inc., Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc., the Wildlife Division, the Enforcement Division, and the Commission.

Disabled Hunter Permit - a permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to qualified disabled individuals.

Disabled Hunter Review Board - a board of five individuals which collectively review and approve or reject, by majority vote, applications for Disabled Hunter Permits. The Board shall be selected by the Commission with recommendations from: the Louisiana Outdoorsmen With Disabilities Inc. (two recommendations), Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc. (two recommendations), and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (one recommendation).

Enforcement Division - the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Handicap ATV Permit - a permit issued by the Wildlife Division to certain disabled hunters to allow access to the specially designated handicapped ATV trails on Wildlife Management Areas.

Helper - an individual who accompanies a permitted disabled hunter to assist the disabled hunter in accessing a hunting area, carrying hunting gear, and retrieving harvested game.

Mobility Impaired - a permanent disability caused by injury, illness, or birth defect that prevents an individual from walking farther than very short distances (less than 150 yards) even with the help of mechanical aids.

Permanent Disability - a qualifying disability that a Commission Approved Physician, the Disabled Hunter Review Board, and the Wildlife Division or the Disabled

Hunter Oversight Committee have determined will not improve over time or with medical treatment.

Special Deer Season - a special deer season only for individuals with valid Disabled Hunter Permits established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Special Handicapped Hunt - special hunt or hunts on certain W.M.A.s only for individuals with valid Disabled Hunter Permits.

W.M.A. - a tract of land managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and proclaimed as a Wildlife Management Area by the governor of Louisiana.

Wheelchair Bound - a permanent disability that prohibits mobility by any means other than a wheelchair.

Wildlife Division - the Wildlife Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Wheelchair Bound

1. Qualifications

a. Permanent Disability. The disability must permanently confine the applicant to the use of a wheelchair. If the Applicant may eventually recover enough to not require the use of a wheelchair, he or she does not qualify for this class permit. If the future prognosis is uncertain, the applicant does not qualify at this time.

b. Certification By Commission Approved Physician

i. Applicants must be certified permanently disabled and confined to a wheelchair by:

(a). a Commission Approved Physician;

(b). the Disabled Hunter Review Board; and

(c). the Wildlife Division.

ii. Should the Commission Approved Physician determine the applicant is not permanently confined to a wheelchair for medical reasons, the application is rejected and no permit shall be issued. If approved by the physician, the application must then be approved by the Wildlife Division and the Disabled Hunter Review Board. Should either reject the application, it shall be forwarded to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee which shall make the final determination to approve or reject the application.

c. Disqualification

i. Applicants not disabled sufficiently to meet the confined to a wheelchair criterion shall not qualify for this class permit.

ii. Applicants with felony convictions or with Class Two or above wildlife convictions (including WMA violations and littering within the last five years but excluding boating and fishing violations), as determined by the Enforcement Division, shall not be issued permits.

2. Approved Applicants Receive the Following Considerations

a. Special Handicapped Hunts. May participate in special W.M.A. hunts.

b. Special Deer Seasons

i. May participate in special statewide handicapped hunts.

ii. May take either-sex deer on private lands statewide during the entire gun deer season and during the muzzle loader season. This provision does not include W.M.A.s, National Wildlife Refuges, Kisatchie National Forest, or other federal properties.

c. Crossbow. May use a crossbow to archery hunt during the statewide archery season.

d. Access To Wildlife Management Areas. Upon request, permittees of this class shall receive a Handicap ATV permit/sticker for access to specially designated ATV trails on W.M.A.s.

e. Hunting From Vehicles. May hunt resident game from a stationary vehicle or stationary boat statewide, provided that this activity does not violate state or parish laws.

f. Helpers. Permittee may be accompanied by helpers (no more than two) as necessary to get to and from a hunting area or stand and to assist in retrieving harvested game. Helpers may not use or possess firearms/bows/crossbows when acting as a Helper unless the weapon is legal for the game hunted and the season is open to all licensed hunters in the area the Helper is hunting. Permittee is allowed one extra ATV for his helper(s). At no time will parked or unattended helper's ATV and permittee's ATV be placed at separate locations.

3. Conditions of Approval

a. Nontransferable. The Disabled Hunter Permit is nontransferable and is valid for named permittee only.

b. Permit in Possession

i. The permit must be carried by named permittee at all times while hunting in the field or transporting game harvested under the permit.

ii. Permittee must, in addition to the permit, carry one other form of picture identification while hunting or transporting harvested game.

c. Helpers. Helpers accompanying handicapped hunters are not permitted to carry firearms/bows/crossbows except as provided for by statewide or W.M.A. regulations. (See Subsection B.2.f.)

d. All Terrain Vehicles

i. ATVs may be used only on regular public ATV trails and handicapped ATV trails as specifically designated on W.M.A. maps.

ii. Approved individuals (Permittees & Helpers) may drive the ATV to a stand within 100 yards of an ATV trail. The ATV may also be used to retrieve the permittees harvested deer. Travel on an ATV beyond 100 yards of the designated trail, except to retrieve a deer, is prohibited.

~~iii. Permittee may not transport other nondisabled hunters or their harvested game, firearms/bows/crossbows or other equipment while on or within 100 yards of handicapped ATV trails.~~

e. Other Licenses Required. The issuance of a Disabled Hunter permit does not exempt the permittee from other license requirements. All applicable licenses required to hunt a particular species of game must be purchased and in the permittees possession while hunting.

f. Revocation

i. Any violation of the permit conditions by the permittee and/or helper of wildlife laws and/or regulations may result in cancellation of this permit.

ii. Should there be a change in the permittee's condition, the permittee must notify the Wildlife Division. If said change is sufficient to make the permanent use of a wheelchair unnecessary, the permit shall be revoked.

g. Duration

i. This permit is valid for the lifetime of named permittee or until revoked by the Department.

ii. The Department shall retain the right to change the duration and/or conditions of the Disabled Hunter Permits to comply with future Commission or Legislative actions.

h. Cost. None

C. Mobility Impaired

1. Qualifications

a. Permanent Disability

i. The disability must be permanent and impair the applicant sufficiently to preclude walking farther than very short distances (less than 150 yards) even with mechanical aids. If the applicant may eventually recover, he or she does not qualify. If the future prognosis is uncertain, the applicant does not qualify at this time.

ii. Qualifying disabilities under this class may include, but are not limited to:

(a). Permanent and continual use of artificial limbs, crutches, leg braces, or canes due to injury, disease, or birth defect.

(b). Defects of circulatory system, respiratory system, skeletal structure, or neurological disorders caused by disease, injury, or birth defect.

iii. Nonqualifying disabilities may include, but are not limited to:

(a). Vision impairment;

(b). Arm, hand, shoulder, or other impairments that do not affect walking;

(c). Any impairment considered to be a part of or resulting from the normal aging process;

(d). Any impairment resulting from or due to a lack of physical conditioning.

b. Certification By Commission Approved Physician

mobility impaired by:

- i. Applicants must be certified permanently disabled and

- (a). a Commission Approved Physician;
- (b). the Disabled Hunter Review Board; and
- (c). the Wildlife Division.

- ii. Should the Commission Approved Physician determine the applicant is not permanently mobility impaired, the application is rejected and no permit shall be issued. If approved by the physician, the application must then be approved by the Disabled Hunter Review Board and the Wildlife Division. Should either reject the application, it shall be forwarded to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee which shall make the final determination to approve or reject the application.

c. Disqualification

- i. Applicants not disabled sufficiently to meet the mobility impaired criterion shall not qualify for the class permit.

- ii. Applicants with felony convictions or with Class Two or above wildlife convictions (including WMA violations and littering within the last five years but excluding boating and fishing violations), as determined by the Enforcement Division, shall not be issued permits.

2. Approved Applicants Receive the Following Considerations

- a. Special Handicapped Hunts. May participate in special W.M.A. hunts.

- b. Special Deer Seasons. May participate in special statewide handicapped hunts.

- c. Access To Wildlife Management Areas. Upon request, permittees of this class shall receive a Handicap ATV permit/sticker for access to specially designated ATV trails on W.M.A.s.

- d. Helpers. Permittee may be accompanied by helpers (no more than two) as necessary to get to and from a hunting area or stand and to assist in retrieving harvested game. Helpers may not use or possess firearms/bows/crossbows when acting as a Helper unless the weapon is legal for the game hunted and the season is open to all licensed hunters in the area the Helper is hunting. Permittee is allowed one extra ATV for his helper(s). At no time will parked or unattended helper's ATV and permittee's ATV be placed at separate locations.

3. Conditions of Approval

a. Nontransferable. The Disabled Hunter Permit is nontransferable and is valid for named permittee only.

b. Permit In Possession

i. The permit must be carried by named permittee at all times while hunting in the field or transporting game harvested under the permit.

ii. Permittee must, in addition to the permit, carry one other form of picture identification while hunting or transporting harvested game.

c. Helpers. Helpers accompanying handicapped hunters are not permitted to carry firearms/bows/crossbows except as provided for by statewide or W.M.A. regulations. (See Subsection C.2.d.)

d. All Terrain Vehicles

i. ATVs may be used only on regular public ATV trails and handicapped ATV trails as specially designated on W.M.A. maps.

~~ii. Permittee may not transport other nondisabled hunters or their harvested game, firearms/bows/crossbows or other equipment while on handicapped ATV trails.~~

e. Other Licenses Required. The issuance of a Disabled Hunter permit does not exempt the permittee from other license requirements. All applicable licenses required to hunt a particular species of game must be purchased and in the permittees possession while hunting.

f. Revocation

i. Any violation of the permit conditions by the permittee and/or helper of wildlife laws and/or regulations may result in cancellation of the permit.

ii. Should there be a change in the permittee's condition, the permittee must notify the Wildlife Division. If said change is sufficient to enable the permittee to walk more than 150 yards, the permit shall be revoked.

g. Duration

i. This permit is valid for the lifetime of named permittee or until revoked by the Department.

ii. The Department shall retain the right to change the duration and/or conditions of the Disabled Hunter Permits to comply with future Commission or Legislative action.

h. Cost. None

D. Amputee of the Upper Extremity

1. Qualifications

a. Permanent Disability. The applicant must have an amputation of at least one arm, hand, or all five fingers of one hand to qualify for a permit of this class.

b. Certification By Commission Approved Physician

i. Applicants must be certified permanently disabled as an amputee of the upper extremity by a Commission Approved Physician.

ii. Should the Commission Approved Physician determine the applicant is not an amputee of the upper extremity, the application shall be rejected. If approved by the physician, the application must then be approved by the Disabled Hunter Review Board and the Wildlife Division. Should either reject the application, it shall be forwarded to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee which shall make the final determination to approve or reject the application.

c. Disqualification

i. Applicants not disabled sufficiently to meet the amputee of the upper extremity criterion shall not qualify for this class permit.

ii. Applicants with felony convictions or with Class Two or above wildlife convictions (including WMA violations and littering within the last five years but excluding boating and fishing violations), as determined by the Enforcement Division, shall not be issued permits.

2. Approved Applicants Receive the Following Considerations

a. Special Handicapped Hunts. May participate in special W.M.A. hunts.

b. Special Deer Seasons. May participate in special statewide handicapped hunts.

c. Access to Wildlife Management Areas. Upon request, permittees of this class shall receive a Handicap ATV permit/sticker for access to specially designated ATV trails of W.M.A.s.

d. Crossbow. May use a crossbow to archery hunt during the statewide archery season.

e. Helpers. Permittee may be accompanied by helpers (no more than two) as necessary to get to and from a hunting area or stand and to assist in retrieving harvested game. Helpers may not use or possess firearms/bows/crossbows when acting as a Helper unless the weapon is legal for the game hunted and the season is open to all licensed hunters in the area the Helper is hunting. Permittee is allowed one extra ATV for his helper(s). At no time will parked or unattended helper's ATV and permittee's ATV be placed at separate locations.

2. Conditions of Approval

a. Nontransferable. The Disabled Hunter Permit is nontransferable and is valid for named permittee only.

b. Permit In Possession

i. The permit must be carried by named permittee at all times while hunting in the field or transporting game harvested under the permit.

ii. Permittee must, in addition to the permit, carry one other form of picture identification while hunting or transporting harvested game.

c. Helpers. Helpers accompanying handicapped hunters are not permitted to carry firearms/bows/crossbows except as provided for by statewide or W.M.A. regulations. (See Subsection D.2.d.)

d. All Terrain Vehicles

i. ATVs may be used only on regular public ATV trails and handicapped ATV trails as specially designated on W.M.A. maps.

ii. ~~Permittee may not transport other nondisabled hunters or their harvested game, firearms/bows/crossbows or other equipment while on handicapped ATV trails.~~

e. Other Licenses Required. The issuance of a Disabled Hunter permit does not exempt the permittee from other license requirements. All applicable licenses required to hunt a particular species of game must be purchased and in the Permittees possession while hunting.

f. Revocation. Any violation of the permit conditions by the permittee and/or helper of wildlife laws and/or regulations may result in cancellation of this permit.

g. Duration

i. This permit is valid for the lifetime of named permittee or until revoked by the Department.

ii. The Department shall retain the right to change the duration and/or conditions of the Disabled Hunter Permits to comply with future Commission or Legislative action.

h. Cost. None

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 1226 of the 1995 Louisiana Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 22:856 (September 1996), amended LR 34: .

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Jimmy Anthony, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2008.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

To receive and consider Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent to Modify Reef Fish Rules: Vermilion Snapper Size Limit and Commercial Season, Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Landing and Offloading Requirements was the first of two items for Mr. Harry Blanchet. The first change related to rules on vermilion snapper. There was a new assessment of vermilion snapper that found some of the more restrictive requirements were not required. The lower size limit with no closed commercial season were proposed for vermilion snapper. The red snapper individual fishing quota regulations

were established last year. The National Marine Fisheries Service clarified the language of landing and offloading requirements and so the Department wanted to make that change to be consistent. Commissioner Miller made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent, it was seconded by Commissioner Samanie and unanimously passed.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY REEF FISH HARVEST RULES

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2008

WHEREAS, the reef fish resources in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with the advice of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (Gulf Council), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable for waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and for federally permitted reef fish harvesters, and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, have provided rules for the harvesting of reef fish in Louisiana's state waters, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has modified management measures for vermilion snapper, including the recreational take and possession limit, eliminated a closed commercial season, and reduced the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial harvest in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has clarified landing and offloading requirements for the red snapper individual fish quota (IFQ), and

WHEREAS, adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters where feasible would enhance effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for reef fishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, fisheries for reef fishes also occur in Louisiana state waters that are significant to the citizens of the State of Louisiana and thus enactment of compatible regulations may also impact those persons involved in those fisheries, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:320.2(C) provides that all vessels fishing in the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2(C), 56:326.1, and 56:326.3 provide authority for adoption of this rule through the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby promulgates a Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent to modify management measures for the recreational and commercial take of vermilion snapper, and to modify IFQ landing and offloading requirements for commercial red snapper, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the complete copy of the Notice of Intent and Declaration of Emergency are attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Rule shall become effective upon promulgation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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.

Patrick C. Morrow, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were established by NMFS to reduce the commercial and recreational vermilion snapper minimum size limit; eliminate the bag limit restriction for vermilion snapper with the existing 20-fish aggregate reef fish bag limit;

eliminate the 40-day commercial closure for vermilion snapper, and modify Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) requirements for the commercial red snapper fishery. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana water to coincide with the regulation set forth by NMFS, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

NMFS has clarified landing and offloading requirements for the red snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program. Effective 6 a.m., February 8, 2008, IFQ fishermen can land their vessels anytime during the day and night, provided that a landing notification has been given 3 to 12 hours prior to landing; can only offload red snapper from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and do not need to give a law enforcement an offloading notification for red snapper. For the purposes of these regulations, the term "landing" means tying a vessel to a dock. "Offloading" means removing red snapper from a vessel.

Effective March 5, 2008, the commercial and recreational vermilion snapper minimum size limit is reduced from 11 inches to 10 inches total length; the 10 fish recreational bag limit restriction for vermilion snapper within the existing 20-fish aggregate reef fish bag limit is eliminated; and the 40-day commercial closure for vermilion snapper is eliminated, which extended from April 22 through May 31 each year.

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.335) modifying size limits, eliminating a closed commercial season and modifying recreational creel and possession limits for vermilion snapper, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission, and provides that all persons fishing in the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall comply with all the applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Authority of adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1 and 56:326.3. Said Rule is attached to and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

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	4 fish per person per day
2. Queen, mutton, schoolmaster, blackfin, cubera, gray, dog, mahogany, silk, yellowtail snappers, 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 10 vermilion snapper per person
4. Red hind, rock hind, speckled hind, black grouper, misty grouper, red grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, warsaw grouper, gag grouper, scamp	5 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 1 red 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 jewfish or Nassau grouper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters per LAC 76:VII.337.

B.1. - C.3. ...

D. Red Snapper:

D.1. - D.4. ...

5. Requirement for transaction approval code: 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 3 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. For the purpose of these regulations, the term "landing" means tying a vessel to a dock. Failure to comply with this advance notice of landing requirement will preclude authorization to complete the required NMFS landing transaction report and, thus, will preclude issuance of the required NMFS-issued transaction approval code. Possession of commercial red snapper from the time of transfer from a vessel through possession by a dealer is prohibited unless the red snapper are accompanied by a transaction approval code verifying a legal transaction of the amount of red snapper in possession.

6. Offloading and transfer: No person shall offload from a vessel or receive from a vessel commercially harvested red snapper during the hours from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., local time. For the purpose of these regulations, the term "offloading" means removing red snapper from a vessel. ~~No person who is in charge of a commercial red snapper fishing vessel shall offload red snapper from the vessel prior to three hours after proper notification is made to NOAA Fisheries.~~ At-sea or dockside transfer of commercial red snapper from one vessel to another vessel is prohibited.

D.7. ...

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limits</u>
1. Red Snapper	16 inches total length (Recreational) 15 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	44 <u>10</u> inches total length
6.	Red and yellowfin grouper	20 inches total length
7.	Gag and black grouper	22 inches total length (Recreational) 24 inches total length (Commercial)
8.	Scamp	16 inches total length
9.	Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (Recreational) 36 inches fork length (Commercial)
10.	Black seabass	8 inches total length
11.	Hogfish	12 inches fork length
12.	Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack	14 inches fork length (minimum size); 22 inches fork length (maximum size)
13.	Gray triggerfish	12 inches total length

F. Definitions: Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

1. Charter vessel - a vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

2. Headboat - a vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to be operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or, in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory pelagic fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

G. Seasons

1. Seasons for the commercial harvest of reef fish species or groups shall be closed within and without Louisiana's territorial waters during the periods listed below. Possession of reef fish in excess of the daily bag limit while on the water is prohibited

during the specified closed season. Any reef fish harvested during the closed season shall not be purchased, sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be purchased, sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. This prohibition on sale/purchase does not apply to reef fish that were harvested, landed ashore, sold and purchased prior to the closed season. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing reef fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

<u>Species or Group</u>	<u>Closed Season</u>
a. Greater Amberjack	March 1 through May 31
b. Gag, Black and Red Grouper	February 15 through March 14
c. Vermilion Snapper	April 22 through May 31

G.2. - 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 (June 1990), 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 .

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2008.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

Then Mr. Harry Blanchet handled the agenda item, **To receive Presentation of Annual Stock Assessment Reports for Striped Mullet, Black Drum, Sheepshead and Southern Flounder**. He began by stating these were annual reports received each year.

Some of the comments received from peer review have been incorporated into the reports.

Mr. Blanchet noted there were no changes in the stocks as it related to the Conservation Standards. Commissioner Samanie made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Commissioner Oats seconded the motion. Commissioner King asked if there were any red flags from last year to this year. Mr. Blanchet stated the most striking thing was the effects of the hurricanes on the harvest rates. This showed up in the reduced harvest rates for 2005 recreational harvest and the 2005 and 2006 commercial harvests. Commissioner King asked Mr. Blanchet if he anticipated a leveling out after several years. Mr. Blanchet answered yes, but added there may be other impacts such as imports and high fuel prices. Hearing no further questions, the motion passed with no opposition.

To receive and consider the Louisiana Oyster Task Force Request for a Declaration of Emergency for Season Re-Opening (February 11, 2008 through February 29, 2008) and Harvest Limits for the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation was handled by Mr. Ralph Pausina, Chairman of the Oyster Task Force. Sister Lake opened in the fall as scheduled. It was closed due to problems. Fishermen from the area felt there may be some product left to harvest, so the request was to open the season for 18 days for harvesting for seed and for sale, with a 50 sack possession limit. Mr. Pausina then asked Mr. Wilson Voisin to come explain the reasons for the request.

Mr. Wilson Voisin, Jr. stated that Sister Lake was open last November but was closed within the first 8 days. The reason for the closure was overfishing and a real concern for the cultch and product. This request went through the Oyster Task Force. Mr. Voisin stated the area still has resources which have grown and are fatter now. There are small boats in the area that have not worked for the past few months. The request was to open Sister Lake beginning on February 11 and run through the end of the month with a 50 sack possession limit.

Commissioner Samanie asked for a comment from the Department on the request. Mr. Patrick Banks stated there was no issue from the biological side with the re-opening or the sack limit. As done in the past, the Commission has provided the Secretary the authority to close an area if a problem develops. As stated by Mr. Voisin, the Secretary closed the area earlier than was scheduled. Commissioner Samanie asked if the cultch plant was remaining closed. Mr. Banks stated it was recommended to keep that area closed since they documented heavy harvest pressure during the first opening and heavy harvest related mortality. Hearing no further comments, Commissioner King made a motion to adopt the Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Mouton seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:434, notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission reopens the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation, as described in R.S. 56:434.E, effective at one-half hour before sunrise on February 11, 2008 until one-half hour after sunset on February 29, 2008 with the following provisions:

1. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation described above shall:

a. Be limited to a daily take and possession limit not to exceed 50 sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this Declaration of Emergency shall be defined as the size described in R.S. 56:440. The daily take and possession limit shall not apply to vessels harvesting seed oysters from the reservation for bedding purposes.

b. Be limited to either harvesting oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically prohibited from doing both.

2. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed reservation described above, all oysters contained on that vessel shall be deemed to have been taken from said reservation.

3. Any oysters taken for direct sale (sacking) from the public oyster seed reservation described above must be contained within properly tagged sacks prior to departing the public oyster seed reservation; and undersized oysters that do not meet the requirements set forth in R.S. 56:433(A) and non-living reef material shall be immediately replaced and scattered broadcast upon the public oyster seed reservation from which taken.

4. The 2004 cultch plant location within the following coordinates shall remain closed to all harvest:

29 degrees 13 minutes 36.49 seconds N
90 degrees 54 minutes 59.89 seconds W

29 degrees 13 minutes 32.29 seconds N

90 degrees 54 minutes 43.89 seconds W

29 degrees 13 minutes 15.72 seconds N
90 degrees 55 minutes 05.51 seconds W

29 degrees 13 minutes 12.58 seconds N
90 degrees 54 minutes 46.94 seconds W

All rules and regulations set forth by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission through the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency passed on August 2, 2007 for other public oyster areas, and all statutes, remain in effect.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close or delay this season in areas if oyster mortalities are occurring, where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, where it is found that there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for public health concerns.

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman

Mr. Ralph Pausina also presented the next item, **To receive and consider the Louisiana Oyster Task Force Request for a Declaration of Emergency for Season Re-Opening (May 01, 2008 through May 15, 2008) of Certain Public Oyster Areas, including Lake Mechant, Sister Lake (only the portion of the lake which is presently closed by DHH order), Dept. of Health and Hospitals Harvest Area 25, and Little Lake.** He stated that these 4 areas were all public grounds and during the normal time public grounds are open, these particular areas were closed by the winter closure lines set by the Health Department. The spring and summer closure line would allow these to be open but the Department's closure was in effect at that time. So, the oysters in the 4 areas are never harvested. Mr. Pausina requested that those areas be opened in order to harvest oysters from there. This season would add some product to the market and would deplete the harvest of oysters to avoid the temptation of someone harvesting them and possibly causing a health problem.

Chairman Morrow asked for the Department's position on this issue. Mr. Patrick Banks stated they recognized and understood the Oyster Task Force's desire to have the areas open in May. However, this could present an issue since May was the reproductive time for oysters. Mr. Banks added that it was difficult to say whether a May season was a good idea since the environmental issues are unknown right now. He requested that this issue be deferred until a later date and allow the Secretary to make the decision. The action taken by the Commission at the August Meeting provided the Secretary the authority to open and close and re-open areas as needed. Commissioner Oats agreed and stated it was hard to declare an emergency in February for May, so he made a motion to table the item. Commissioner King seconded the motion.

Mr. Pausina stated the Oyster Task Force agreed with the Department's recommendation.

Hearing no further public discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2008 Meeting** on Thursday, June 5, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next item was to receive **Public Comments** and none were heard.

There being no further business, Commissioner King made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Samanie.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

scf

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 promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of resident game birds and game quadrupeds.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season

§111. General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations

A. Hunting Seasons and Wildlife Management Area Regulations

1. The rules and regulations contained within this digest have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission under authority vested by Sections 115 and 116 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and are in full force and effect in conjunction with all applicable statutory laws. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority to close or alter seasons in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

2. Pursuant to Section 40.1 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted monetary values which are assigned to all illegally taken, possessed, injured or destroyed fish, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and other wildlife and aquatic life. Anyone taking, possessing, injuring or destroying fish, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and other wildlife and aquatic life shall be required to reimburse the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a sum of money equal to the value of the wildlife illegally taken, possessed, injured or destroyed. This monetary reimbursement shall be in addition to any and all criminal penalties imposed for the illegal act.

B. Resident Game Birds and Animals

1. Shooting hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

C. Other Season Dates

1. Turkey. Please refer to separate pamphlet.

2. Raccoon and Opossum. No closed season. Raccoon and opossum can be taken at night by one or more licensed hunters with one or more dogs and one .22 rimfire firearm. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum with .22 rimfire rifle, .36 caliber or smaller muzzleloader rifle or shotgun during daylight hours during the open rabbit season. Hunting from boats or motor vehicles is prohibited. No bag limit for nighttime or daytime raccoon or opossum hunting during the open trapping season except on certain WMAs as listed. The remainder of the year, the raccoon and opossum bag limit for daytime or nighttime is one per person per day or night. No one who hunts raccoons or opossums as prescribed above shall pelt during the closed trapping season nor sell skins or carcasses of raccoons and opossums taken during the open trapping season unless he is the holder of a valid trapping license which shall be required in addition to his basic hunting license. Pelting or selling carcasses is illegal during closed trapping season.

3. Nutria. On WMAs and private property nutria may be taken recreationally by licensed hunters from September 1 through the last day of February, during legal shooting hours by any legal hunting method with a daily limit of five. When taken with a shotgun, steel shot must be used. On WMAs during waterfowl seasons, nutria may be taken only with the use of shotguns with shot no larger than F steel, and during gun deer seasons, anyone taking nutria must display 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap or hat. Recreational nutria hunters must remove each nutria carcass in whole condition from the hunting area, except that nutria may be gutted. Possession of detached nutria parts, including nutria tails, by recreational hunters is illegal. Nutria harvested recreationally may not be pelted nor may such nutria or any nutria parts from recreationally taken nutria be sold, including the tail. Trespassing upon private property for the purpose of taking nutria or other furbearing animals is punishable by fines and possible jail time (R.S. 56:265). The Coastwide Nutria Control Program is a separate program and is in no way related to the nutria recreational season. For questions on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, call the New Iberia office (337) 373-0032.

4. Blackbirds and crows. The season for crows shall be September 1 through January 1 with no limit; however crows, blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles may be taken year round during legal shooting hours if they are depredating or about to depredate upon ornamentals or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers as to cause a health hazard. Louisiana has determined that the birds listed above are crop depredators and that crows have been implicated in the spread of the West Nile virus in humans.

5. Pheasant. Open concurrently with the quail season; no limit.

5 6. Falconry. Special permit required. Resident and migratory game species **except turkeys** may be taken **EXCEPT turkeys**. Seasons and bag limits are the same as for statewide and WMA regulations. Refer to LAC 76:V.301 for specific Falconry Rules.

6 7. Licensed Hunting Preserve. October 1 - April 30. Pen-raised birds

only. No limit entire season. Refer to LAC 76:V.305 for specific Hunting Preserve Rules.

7 8. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Land enrolled in the voluntary program will be assessed a \$25 registration fee and 5¢/acre fee. Deer management assistance tags must be in the possession of the hunter in order to harvest an antlerless deer. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported (including those taken on either-sex days and those taken with bow or muzzleloader). Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters. Failure to do so is a violation of R.S. 56:115. Failing to follow DMAP rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved. Refer to LAC 76:V.111 for specific DMAP Rules.

8 9. Landowner Assistance Deer Tag (LADT)

a. Eligibility for LADT is limited to the following landowners or lessees:

- i. License Deer Farmers;
- ii. Landowners or lessees with less than 500 acres who have verified deer depredation problems;
- iii. Landowners with 40 acres or more enrolled in the Louisiana Forest Stewardship Program; and
- iv. Landowners or lessees with 40 or more contiguous acres of forested or marsh land.

b. Each applicant will be assessed a \$25 administrative processing fee. Each hunter must have the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag in his possession while hunting on the property for which the tag was issued and immediately upon kill of an antlerless deer, the hunter must tag the animal through the hock. The deer must be tagged before it is transported from the site of kill and the tag will remain with the deer while the hunter is in route to his domicile. Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in LADT does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters. For more information, contact any Wildlife Division Regional Office.

9 10. Farm Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics on Licensed Supplemented Shooting Preserves

a. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is confined on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve. Exotics shall

include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Hunting: In its different tenses and for purposes of this rule means to take or attempt to take, in accordance with R.S. 56:8.

Same as Outside: For purposes of this rule means hunting on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting, as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC).

Supplemented Hunting Preserve: For purposes of this rule means any enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) with concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and is authorized in writing by the LDAF and LDWF to permit hunting.

White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is confined on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve.

b. Seasons

i. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Consult the regulations pamphlet.

ii. Exotics: year round.

c. Methods of Take

i. White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

ii. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow and crossbow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than .22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, .44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

d. Shooting Hours

i. White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

ii. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

e. Bag Limit

- i. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
- ii. Exotics: No limit.

f. Hunting Licenses

- i. White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
- ii. Exotics: No person shall hunt any exotic without possessing a valid basic and big game hunting license.

g. Tagging. White-tailed Deer and Exotics: Each animal shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the LDAF. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

10 11. Bobcat. No person other than the holder of a valid big game license may take or possess bobcat, except licensed trappers who may take or possess bobcat during the open trapping season. A big game licensee shall only take bobcat during the time period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset with a bow and arrow, shotgun, muzzleloader or centerfire firearm. A big game licensee shall not take more than one bobcat per calendar year. This regulation applies only to property that is privately owned and state wildlife management areas and does not apply to state wildlife management areas and refuges, the Kisatchie National Forest, federally owned refuges and lands owned by the Corps of Engineers. On state wildlife management areas, the take of bobcat is restricted to those open seasons on the WMAs which require the respective legal weapons noted above.

D. Hunting-General Provisions

1. A basic resident or non-resident hunting license is required of all persons to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported by any other person any wild bird or quadruped. See information below for exceptions.

2. All persons born on or after September 1, 1969 must show proof of satisfactorily completing a Hunter Safety course approved by LDWF to purchase a Basic Hunting License, EXCEPT any active or veteran member of the United States armed services or any POST-certified law enforcement officer. Application for the exemption shall be filed in person at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries main office building in the city of Baton Rouge. A person younger than 16 years of age may hunt without such certificate if he is accompanied by, and is under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older, EXCEPT during a statewide youth deer hunt.

3. A big game license is required in addition to the basic hunting license

to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported any deer. A separate wild turkey license is required in addition to the basic hunting license and the big game license to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported any turkey.

4. Taking game quadrupeds or birds from aircraft or participating in the taking of deer with the aid of aircraft or from automobiles or other moving land vehicles is prohibited.

5. Methods of Taking Resident Game Birds and Quadrupeds

a. It is illegal to intentionally feed, deposit, place, distribute, expose, scatter, or cause to be fed, deposited, placed, distributed, exposed, or scattered raw sweet potatoes to wild game quadrupeds.

b. Use of a longbow (including compound bow [and crossbow](#)) and arrow or a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest shall be legal for taking all resident game birds and quadrupeds. Also, the use of a handgun, rifle and falconry (special permit required) shall be legal for taking all game species except turkey. It shall be illegal to hunt or take squirrels or rabbits at any time with a breech-loaded rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber rimfire or a muzzleloader rifle larger than .36 caliber. During closed deer gun season, it shall be illegal to possess shotgun shells loaded with slugs or shot larger than BB lead or F steel shot while small game hunting.

c. Still hunting is defined as stalking or stationary stand hunting without the use of dog(s). Pursuing, driving or hunting deer with dogs is prohibited when or where a still hunting season or area is designated, and will be strictly enforced. Shotguns larger than 10 gauge or capable of holding more than three shells shall be prohibited. Plugs used in shotguns must be incapable of being removed without disassembly. Refer to game schedules contained within these regulations for specific restrictions on the use of firearms and other devices.

6. Nuisance Animals. Landowners or their designees may remove beaver and nutria causing damage to their property without a special permit. Water set traps and firearms may be used to remove beaver; nutria may be removed by any means EXCEPT that nutria cannot be taken by the use of headlight and gun between the hours of sunset and sunrise. With a special permit issued by the Department, beavers may be taken between one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise for a period of three consecutive calendar evenings from the effective date of the permit. For specific details contact a regional office near you. Any nuisance beaver or nutria trapped or shot outside open trapping season cannot be pelted or sold. A trapping license is required to sell or pelt nuisance beavers or nutria taken during open trapping season. Squirrels found destroying commercial crops of pecans may be taken year-round by permit issued by the Department. This permit shall be valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Contact the local regional office for details.

7. Threatened and Endangered Species - Louisiana black bear, Louisiana pearl shell (mussel), sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed sawback turtle, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, West Indian manatee, Florida panther, pallid sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Attwater's greater prairie chicken, whales and red wolf. Taking or harassment of any of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.

8. Unregulated Quadrupeds. Holders of a legal hunting license may take coyotes, unmarked hogs where legal, and armadillos year round during legal daylight shooting hours. The running of coyotes with dogs is prohibited in all turkey hunting areas during the open turkey season. Coyote hunting is restricted to chase only when using dogs during still hunting segments of the firearm and archery only season for deer. Foxes are protected quadrupeds and may be taken only with traps by licensed trappers during the trapping season. Remainder of the year "chase only" allowed by licensed hunters.

9. Hunting and/or Discharging Firearms on Public Roads. Hunting, standing, loitering or shooting game quadrupeds or game birds with a gun during open season while on a public highway or public road right-of-way is prohibited. Hunting or the discharge of firearms on roads or highways located on public levees or within 100 feet from the centerline of such levee roads or highways is prohibited. Spot lighting or shining from public roads is prohibited by state law. Hunting from all public roads and rights-of-way is prohibited and these provisions will be strictly enforced.

10. Tags. Any part of the deer or wild turkey divided shall have affixed thereto the name, date, address and big game license number of the person killing the deer or wild turkey and the sex of that animal. This information shall be legibly written in pen or pencil, on any piece of paper or cardboard or any material, which is attached or secured to or enclosing the part or parts. On lands enrolled in DMAP, deer management assistance tags must be attached and locked through the hock of antlerless deer, (including those taken with bow, muzzleloader and those antlerless deer taken on either-sex days) in a manner that it cannot be removed, before the deer is moved from the site of the kill.

11. Sex Identification. Positive evidence of sex identification, including the head, shall remain on any deer taken or killed within the State of Louisiana, or on all turkeys taken or killed during any special gobbler season when killing of turkey hens is prohibited, so long as such deer or turkey is kept in camp or field, or is in route to the domicile of its possessor, or until such deer or turkey has been stored at the domicile of its possessor or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game.

~~12. Promotional Hunting Days~~

~~a. The following dates are established as promotional hunting days: the 1st three days after Thanksgiving Day.~~

~~b. Persons availing themselves of promotional hunting days~~

~~shall be entitled to hunt resident game birds and game quadrupeds (excluding bears), as well as coyotes, bobcats and feral hogs on designated days without the payment of fees and without obtaining any license other than the below referenced letter of permit. Persons wishing to avail themselves of promotional hunting days shall be subject to the following requirements and restrictions:~~

~~i. All applicants must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, and not currently under a suspension or revocation of hunting privileges.~~

~~ii. All applicants must submit, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Department, such personal information as may be required by the Department including, but not limited to, name, address, date of birth, drivers' license number, and social security number.~~

~~iii. No person shall be entitled to apply for or receive more than one (1) letter of permit for promotional hunting days in his or her lifetime.~~

~~iv. Any eligible person who applies for the promotional hunting days shall receive a letter of permit from the Secretary.~~

~~v. Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit must be accompanied by a validly licensed hunter.~~

~~vi. Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit shall meet all other legal requirements for obtaining a hunting license, including but not limited to, successful completion of a hunter education course.~~

~~vii. Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit must have in his possession while hunting, a valid hunter education card or certificate.~~

~~viii. Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit may hunt during all legal hunting hours on the dates recited in the permit, but only during legal hunting hours.~~

~~ix. Any person hunting under a letter of permit shall be subject to all of the limitations, restrictions, conditions, laws, and rules and regulations applicable to the holder of a hunting license.~~

~~x. Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit may hunt any species of resident game birds or game quadrupeds (excluding bears), as well as coyotes, bobcats and feral hogs for which the season is open at the time of the above stated weekends, but only those species for which the season is open at the time of the above stated weekends.~~

~~xi.—Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit may use any gear or method of take which is legal on the above designated weekends.~~

~~xii.—Any person hunting under the promotional hunting days letter of permit may hunt only resident game birds and game quadrupeds (excluding bears), as well as coyotes, bobcats and feral hogs. All other species are excluded including, but not limited to, migratory game birds.~~

E. General Deer Hunting Regulations

1. Prior to hunting deer, all deer hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain deer tags and have in possession when hunting deer. Immediately upon harvesting a deer, the hunter must tag the deer with the appropriate carcass tag and document the kill on the deer tag license. Within 72 hours the hunter must validate the kill and record the validation number on the license. Hunters harvesting deer on DMAP and LADT lands can validate deer per instructions by LDWF using the DMAP and LADT harvest data sheets. Hunters on wildlife management areas can validate deer during mandatory deer check hunts, when deer check stations are in operation. Hunters may validate deer by calling the validation toll free number or using the validation web site.

2. One antlered and one antlerless deer per day (when legal) except on National Forest Lands and some Federal Refuges (check refuge regulations) where the daily limit shall be one deer per day. Season limit is six, three antlered bucks and three antlerless deer (all segments included) by all methods of take, except antlerless harvest on property enrolled in DMAP and LADT does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters and except antlerless harvest on State Wildlife Management Areas during the daily permit deer hunts, when validated by LDWF personnel, does not count in the season bag limit for hunters. Antlerless deer may be harvested during entire deer season on private lands (all segments included) except in the following parishes: West Carroll and portions of East Carroll. Consult regulations pamphlet, modern firearms table for either-sex days for these parishes. This does not apply to public lands (wildlife management areas, National Forest Lands, and Federal Refuges) which will have specified either-sex days.

3. A legal buck is a deer with visible antler of hardened bony material, broken naturally through the skin. Killing bucks without at least one visible antler as described above and killing does is prohibited except where specifically allowed and EXCEPT in Thistlethwaite Wildlife Management Area where a legal buck shall be defined as deer with at least 4 points on one side or a deer with unbranched antlers commonly referred to as spikes (no minimum length). To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and its length must exceed the length of its base. The beam tip is counted as a point but not measured as a point.

4. Deer hunting restricted to legal bucks only, except where otherwise

allowed.

5. Either-sex deer is defined as male or female deer. Taking or possessing spotted fawns is prohibited.

6. It is illegal to hunt or shoot deer with firearms smaller than .22 caliber centerfire or a shotgun loaded with anything other than buckshot or rifled slug. Handguns may be used for hunting.

7. Taking game quadrupeds or birds from aircraft, participating in the taking of deer with the aid of aircraft or from automobiles or other moving land vehicles is prohibited.

8. Still hunting is defined as stalking or stationary stand hunting without the use of dog(s). Pursuing, driving or hunting deer with dogs or moving vehicles, including ATVs, when or where a still hunting season or area is designated, is prohibited and will be strictly enforced. The training of deer dogs is prohibited in all still hunting areas during the gun still hunting and archery only season. Deer hunting with dogs is allowed in all other areas having open deer seasons that are not specifically designated as still hunting only. Except in wildlife management areas, a leashed dog may be used to trail and retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer during legal hunting hours. Any dog used to trail or retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer shall have on a collar with owner's name, address, and phone number. In addition, a dog may be used to trail and retrieve unrecovered deer after legal hunting hours; however, no person accompanying a dog after legal hunting hours may carry a firearm of any sort.

9. It is illegal to take deer while deer are swimming or while the hunter is in a boat with motor attached in operating position; however the restriction in this paragraph shall not apply to any person who has lost one or more limbs.

10. Areas not specifically designated as open are closed.

11. Muzzleloader Segment: (Special license and muzzleloader firearms specifications apply only to the special state, WMA, National Forest and Preserves, and Federal Refuge seasons.) Still hunt only. Specific WMAs will also be open, check WMA schedule for specific details. Muzzleloader license required for resident hunters between the ages of 16 and 59 inclusive and non-residents 16 years of age and older. Either-sex deer may be taken in all deer hunting areas EXCEPT Area 5 and as specified on Public Areas. It is unlawful to carry a gun, other than a muzzleloader, including those powered by air or other means, while hunting during the special muzzleloader segment. Except, it is lawful to carry a .22 caliber rimfire pistol loaded with #12 shot (ratshot only).

a. Legal Muzzleloader Firearms For Special Season: Rifles or pistols, .44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, use black powder or approved substitute only, take ball or bullet projectile only, including sabot bullets and may be fitted

with magnified scopes. This includes muzzleloaders known as “inline” muzzleloaders.

b. Special Youth Deer Shotgun Season on Private Land (either-sex): Youths under the age of 16 may hunt deer with 20-gauge shotguns using slugs only during the Muzzleloader Season in each deer hunting area.

12. Archery Segment: Consult regulations pamphlet. WMA seasons are the same as outside except as noted below. Archery license required for resident bow hunters between the ages of 16 and 59 inclusive and non-residents 16 years of age and older. ~~Residents 60 years of age and older may use a crossbow without a special permit or license.~~ Either-sex deer may be taken in all areas open for deer hunting EXCEPT when a bucks only season is in progress for gun hunting, and EXCEPT in Area 6 from October 1-15. Archer's must conform to the bucks only regulations. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs at anytime during archery season EXCEPT when bucks only seasons are in progress on the respective WMA. Also, archery season restricted on Atchafalaya Delta, Salvador, Lake Boeuf, and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs (SEE SCHEDULE).

a. Bow and arrow regulations: Longbow, compound bow and crossbow or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take for all properly licensed hunters. Hunting arrows for deer must have well-sharpened ~~metal~~ broadhead ~~points blades not less than 7/8 inch in width.~~ Bow and arrow fishermen must have a sport fishing license and not carry any arrows with broadhead points unless a big game season is in progress.

i. It is unlawful:

(a). to carry a gun, including those powered by air or other means, while hunting with bow and arrow during the special bow and arrow deer season EXCEPT it is lawful to carry a .22 caliber rimfire pistol loaded with #12 shot (ratshot) only.

(b). to have in possession or use any poisoned or drugged arrow, or arrows with explosive tips, ~~or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means except that hand held releases are lawful and except disabled persons with a crossbow permit and individuals who are 60 years of age or older may use a bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means.~~

(c). to hunt deer with a bow having a pull less than 30 pounds.

(d). to hunt with a bow or crossbow fitted with an infrared, ~~or~~ laser sight, electrically-operated sight or device specifically designed to enhance vision at night (does not include non-projecting red dot sights) [R.S. 56:116.1.A.(3)].

13. Hunter Orange. Any person hunting deer shall display on his head, chest and/or back a total of not less than 400 square inches of "HUNTER ORANGE" during the open deer gun season including muzzleloader season. Persons hunting on privately owned, legally posted land may wear a hunter orange cap or hat in lieu of the 400 square inches. These provisions shall not apply to persons hunting deer from elevated stands on property that is privately owned and legally posted or to archery deer hunters hunting on legally posted lands where firearm hunting is not allowed by agreement of the landowner or lessee. However, anyone hunting deer on such lands where hunting with firearms is allowed shall be required to display the 400 square inches or a hunter orange cap or hat while walking to and from elevated stands. While a person is hunting from an elevated stand, the 400 square inches or cap or hat may be concealed. **WARNING: DEER HUNTERS ARE CAUTIONED TO WATCH FOR PERSONS HUNTING OTHER GAME OR ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES NOT REQUIRING "HUNTER ORANGE".**

14. Special handicapped either-sex deer season on private land: 1st Saturday of October for 2 days. Restricted to individuals with Physically Challenged Hunter Permit.

15. Special Youth Deer Hunt on Private Lands (Either-Sex). Areas 1, 4, 5 and 6 - last Saturday of October for 2 days; Area 2 - 2nd Saturday of October for 2 days; and Areas 3, 7 and 8 - 4th Saturday of September for 2 days. Youths under the age of 16 only. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. Legal firearms are the same as described for deer hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt.

~~16.— Special Youth Deer Shotgun Season on Private Land (either-sex): Youths under the age of 16 may hunt deer with 20 gauge shotguns using slugs only during the Muzzleloader Season in each deer hunting area.~~

F. Description of Areas

1. Area 1

a. All of the following parishes are open: Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Franklin, Madison, St. Helena, Tensas, Washington.

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Catahoula - East of Boeuf River to Ouachita River, east of Ouachita River from its confluence with Boeuf River to La. Hwy. 8, south and east of La. Hwy. 8 southwesterly to Parish line.

ii. East Carroll - ~~Beginning September 2008~~, East of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.

iii. Grant - East of U.S. 165 and south of La. 8.

iv. LaSalle - South of a line beginning where Little River enters Catahoula Lake following the center of the lake eastward to Old River then to U.S. Highway 84, east of U.S. Highway 84 northward to La. Highway 8, south of La. Highway 8 eastward to Parish line.

v. Livingston - North of I-12.

vi. Rapides - East of U.S. 165 and north of Red River.

vii. St. Tammany - All EXCEPT that portion south of I-12, west of Hwy. 1077 to La. 22, south of La. 22 to Tchefuncte River, west of Tchefuncte River southward to Lake Pontchartrain.

viii. Tangipahoa - North of I-12.

ix. West Feliciana - All EXCEPT that portion known as Raccourci and Turnbull Island.

c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:

i. Catahoula - South of Deer Creek to Boeuf River, east of Boeuf and Ouachita Rivers to La. 8 at Harrisonburg, west of La. 8 to La. 913, west of La. 913 and La. 15 to Deer Creek.

ii. East Carroll - ~~Beginning September 2008~~, East of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.

iii. East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge - East of Thompson Creek from the Mississippi state line to La. 10, north of La. 10 from Thompson Creek to La. 67 at Clinton, west of La. 67 from Clinton to Mississippi state line, south of Mississippi state line from La. 67 to Thompson Creek. Also that portion of East Baton Rouge Parish east of La. 67 from La. 64 north to Parish Line, south of Parish Line from La. 64 eastward to Amite River, west of Amite River southward to La. 64, north of La. 64 to La. 37 at Magnolia, east of La. 37 northward to La. 64 at Indian Mound, north of La. 64 from Indian Mound to La. 67. Also, that portion of East Feliciana Parish east of La. 67 from parish line north to La. 959, south of La. 959 east to La. 63, west of La. 63 to Amite River, west of Amite River southward to parish line, north of parish line westward to La. 67.

iv. Franklin - All.

v. St. Helena - North of La. 16 from Tickfaw River at Montpelier westward to La. 449, east and south of La. 449 from La. 16 at Pine Grove northward to La. 1045, south of La. 1045 from its junction with La. 449 eastward to the Tickfaw River, Rohner Road, south of Rohner Road to LA 1045, south of LA 1045 to the Tickfaw River, west of the Tickfaw River from La. 1045 southward to La. 16 at Montpelier.

vi. Tangipahoa - That portion of Tangipahoa Parish north of La. 10 from the Tchefuncte River to La. 1061 at Wilmer, east of La. 1061 to La. 440 at Bolivar, south of La. 440 to the Tchefuncte River, west of the Tchefuncte River from La. 440 southward to La. 10.

vii. Washington and St. Tammany - East of La. 21 from the Mississippi state line southward to the Bogue Chitto River, north of the Bogue Chitto River from La. 21 eastward to the Pearl River Navigation Canal, east of the Pearl River Navigation Canal southward to the West Pearl River, north of the West Pearl River from the Pearl River Navigation Canal to Holmes Bayou, west of Holmes Bayou from the West Pearl River northward to the Pearl River, west of the Pearl River from Holmes Bayou northward to the Mississippi state line, south of the Mississippi state line from the Pearl River westward to La. 21. Also, that portion of Washington Parish west of La. 25 from the Mississippi state line southward to the Bogue Chitto River, then west of the Bogue Chitto River to its junction with the St. Tammany Parish line, north of the St. Tammany Parish line to the Tangipahoa Parish line, east of the Tangipahoa Parish line to the Mississippi state line, south of the Mississippi state line to its junction with La. 25.

viii. West Feliciana - West of Thompson Creek to Illinois-Central Railroad, north of Illinois-Central Railroad to Parish Road #7, east of Parish Road #7 to the junction of U.S. 61 and La. 966, east of La. 966 from U.S. 61 to Chaney Creek, south of Chaney Creek to Thompson Creek.

2. Area 2

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Union, Webster, Winn.

ii. EXCEPT: Kisatchie National Forest which has special regulations. Caney, Corney, Middlefork tracts of Kisatchie have the same regulations as Area 2, EXCEPT still hunting only for deer and EXCEPT National Forest Land within the Evangeline Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District described in Area 2 description shall be still hunting only.

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Allen - North of U.S. 190 from parish line westward to Kinder, east of U.S. 165 from Kinder northward to La. 10 at Oakdale, north of La. 10 from Oakdale westward to the parish line.

ii. Avoyelles - That portion west of I-49.

iii. Catahoula - West of Boeuf River to Ouachita River, west of Ouachita River from its confluence with Boeuf River to La. Highway 8, north and west of La. Highway 8 southwesterly to Parish line.

iv. Evangeline - All EXCEPT the following portions: east of I-49 to junction of La. 29, east of La. 29 south of I-49 to Ville Platte, and north of U.S. 167 east of Ville Platte.

v. Grant - All EXCEPT that portion south of La. 8 and east of U.S. 165.

vi. Jefferson Davis - North of U.S. 190.

vii. LaSalle - North of a line beginning where Little River enters Catahoula Lake, following the center of the lake eastward to Old River then to U.S. Highway 84, west of U.S. Highway 84 northward to La. Highway 8, north of La. Highway 8 eastward to Parish line.

viii. Morehouse - West of U.S. 165 (from Arkansas state line) to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, west of La. 139 to junction of La. 593, west and south of La. 593 to Collinston, west of La. 138 to junction of La. 134 and north of La. 134 to Ouachita Parish line at Wham Brake.

ix. Ouachita - All EXCEPT south of U.S. 80 and east of Ouachita River, east of La. 139 from Sicard to junction of La. 134, south of La. 134 to Morehouse Parish line at Wham Brake.

x. Rapides - All EXCEPT north of Red River and east of U.S. 165, south of La. 465 to junction of La. 121, west of La. 121 and La. 112 to Union Hill, and north of La. 113 from Union Hill to Vernon Parish line, and that portion south of Alexandria between Red River and U.S. 167 to junction of U.S. 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.

xi. Vernon - North of La. Highway 10 from the parish line westward to La. 113, south of La. 113 eastward to parish line. Also the portion north of La. 465 west of La. 117 from Kurthwood to Leesville and north of La. 8 from Leesville to Texas state line.

c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:

- i. Claiborne and Webster - Caney, Corney and Middlefork tracts of Kisatchie National Forest. (See Kisatchie National Forest Regulations).
- ii. Ouachita - East of Ouachita River.
- iii. Rapides - West of U.S. 167 from Alexandria southward to I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, west of I-49 southward to Parish Line, north of Parish Line westward to U.S. 165, east of U.S. 165 northward to U.S. 167 at Alexandria. North of La. 465 from Vernon Parish line to La. 121, west of La. 121 to I-49, west of I-49 to La. 8, south and east of La. 8 to La. 118 (Mora Road), south and west of La. 118 to Natchitoches Parish line.
- iv. Vernon - East of Mora-Hutton Road from Natchitoches Parish line to Hillman Loop Road, south and east of Hillman Loop Road to Comrade Road, south of Comrade Road to La. 465, east and north of La. 465 to Rapides Parish line.

3. Area 3

- a. All of Acadia, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes are open.
- b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:
 - i. Allen - South of U.S. 190 and west of La. 113.
 - ii. Beauregard - West of La. 113 and east of La. 27 from the parish line northward to DeRidder and north of U.S. 190 westward from DeRidder to Texas state line.
 - iii. Calcasieu - South of U.S. 90 from Sulphur to Texas state line. Also east of La. 27 from Sulphur northward to the parish line.
 - iv. Iberia - West of U.S. 90 and north of La. 14.
 - v. Jefferson Davis - All EXCEPT north of U.S. 190.
 - vi. Lafayette - West of I-49 and U.S. 90.
 - vii. Rapides - South of La. 465 to junction of La. 121, west of La. 121 and La. 112 to Union Hill and north of La. 113 from Union Hill to Vernon Parish line.
 - viii. St. Landry - West of U.S. 167.
 - ix. Vernon - West and north of La. 113, south of La. 465, east of La. 117 from Kurthwood to Leesville, and south of La. 8 from Leesville to Texas state line.

4. Area 4

- a. All of Richland parish is open.
- b. Portions of the following parishes are open:

- i. East Carroll - ~~All of East Carroll Parish is open for the 2007-2008 season. Beginning with the 2008-2009 season, that portion of East Carroll Parish east of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line will move to Area 1. The remainder of the parish will remain in Area 4. West of mainline Mississippi River Levee and north and west of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, north of La. 580 to U.S. 65, east of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.~~

- ii. Morehouse - East of U.S. 165 (from Arkansas state line) to Bonita, south and east of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), east of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, east of La. 139 at Bastrop to junction of La. 593, east and north of La. 593 to Collinston, east of La. 138 to junction of La. 134 and south of La. 134 to Ouachita line at Wham Brake.

- iii. Ouachita - South of U.S. 80 and east of Ouachita River, east of La. 139 from Sicard to junction of La. 134, south of La. 134 to Morehouse line at Wham Bake.

5. Area 5

- a. All of West Carroll Parish is open.

6. Area 6

- a. All of the following parishes are open: Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge.

- b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

- i. Avoyelles - All except that portion west of I-49.

- ii. Evangeline - That portion east of I-49 to junction of La. 29, east of La. 29 south of I-49 to Ville Platte and north of U.S. 167 east of Ville Platte.

- iii. Iberia - East of U.S. 90.

- iv. Lafayette - East of I-49 and U.S. 90.

- v. Livingston - South of I-12.
 - vi. Rapides - South of Alexandria between Red River and U.S. 167 to the junction of U.S. 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.
 - vii. St. Landry - East of U.S. 167.
 - viii. St. Mary - North of U.S. 90 from Iberia Parish line eastward to Wax Lake Outlet, east of Wax Lake Outlet southward to Intracoastal Waterway, north of Intracoastal Waterway eastward to the Atchafalaya River, east of the Atchafalaya River southward to Bayou Shaffer, north of Bayou Shaffer to Bateman Lake, north and west of Bayou Chene from Bateman Lake to Lake Palourde.
 - ix. St. Tammany - That portion south of I-12, west of Hwy. 1077 to La. 22, south of La. 22 to Tchefuncte River, west of Tchefuncte River southward to Lake Pontchartrain.
 - x. Tangipahoa - South of I-12.
 - xi. West Feliciana - West of Mississippi River, known as Raccourci and Turnbull Islands.
- c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:
- i. Avoyelles - North of La. 1 from Simmesport westward to La. 115 at Marksville, east of La. 115 from Marksville northward to the Red River near Moncla, south and west of the Red River to La. 1 at Simmesport.
 - ii. Plaquemines - East of the Mississippi River.
 - iii. Rapides - South of Alexandria between Red River and U.S. 167 to the junction of U.S. 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.
 - iv. St. Bernard - All of the parish shall be still hunting only EXCEPT that portion of St. Bernard known as the spoil area between the MRGO on the east and Access Canal on the west, south of Bayou Bienvenue and north of Bayou la Loutre.
 - v. St. John - South of Pass Manchac from Lake Pontchartrain to U.S. 51, east of U.S. 51 from Pass Manchac to La. 638 (Frenier Beach Road). North of La. 638 from U.S. 51 to Lake Pontchartrain, west of Lake Pontchartrain from La. 638 to Pass Manchac.

vi. St. Landry - Those lands surrounding Thistlethwaite WMA bounded north and east by La. 359, west by La. 10, and south by La. 103.

vii. HIGH WATER BENCHMARK CLOSURE. Deer hunting in those portions of Iberia, Iberville, St. Martin, and St. Mary parishes south of Interstate 10, west of the East Guide Levee, east of the West Guide Levee, and north of U.S. Highway 90 will be closed when the river stage of the Atchafalaya River reaches 18 feet at Butte LaRose.

7. Area 7

a. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Iberia - South of La. 14 and west of U.S. Hwy. 90.

ii. St. Mary - All EXCEPT that portion north of U.S. 90 from Iberia Parish line eastward to Wax Lake Outlet, east of Wax Lake Outlet southward to Intracoastal Waterway, north of Intracoastal Waterway eastward to the Atchafalaya River, east of the Atchafalaya River southward to Bayou Shaffer, north of Bayou Shaffer to Bateman Lake, north and west of Bayou Chene from Bateman Lake to Lake Palourde.

8. Area 8

a. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Allen - That portion east of La. 113 from the parish line to U.S. 190, north of U.S. 190 eastward to Kinder, west of U.S. 165 northward to La. 10 at Oakdale and south of La. 10 from Oakdale westward to parish line.

ii. Beauregard - That portion east of La. 113. Also that portion west of La. 27 from parish line northward to DeRidder, south of U.S. 190 from DeRidder to Texas state line.

iii. Calcasieu - That portion east of La. 27 from the parish line southward to Sulphur and north of U.S. 90 from Sulphur to the Texas state line.

iv. Vernon - That portion east of La. 113 from the parish line northward to Pitkin and south of La. 10 from Pitkin southward to the parish line.

G. Wildlife Management Area Regulations

1. General

a. The following rules and regulations concerning the management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in

Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

b. Citizens are cautioned that by entering a WMA managed by the LDWF they may be subjecting themselves and/or their vehicles to game and/or license checks, inspections and searches.

c. Wildlife management area seasons may be altered or closed anytime by the Department Secretary in emergency situations (floods, fire or other critical circumstances).

d. Hunters may enter the WMA no earlier than 4:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified. On days when Daily permits are required, permit stations will open 2 hours before legal shooting hours. Hunters must check out and exit the WMA no later than two hours after sunset, or as otherwise specified.

e. Lands within WMA boundaries will have the same seasons and regulations pertaining to baiting and use of dogs as the WMA within which the lands are enclosed; however, with respect to private lands enclosed within a WMA, the owner or lessee may elect to hunt according to the regular season dates and hunting regulations applicable to the geographic area in which the lands are located, provided that the lands are first enrolled in DMAP or LADT. Interested parties should contact the nearest LDWF regional office for additional information.

f. Dumping garbage or trash on WMAs is prohibited. Garbage and trash may be properly disposed of in designated locations if provided.

g. Disorderly conduct or hunting under influence of alcoholic beverages, chemicals and other similar substances is prohibited.

h. Damage to or removal of trees, shrubs, hard mast (acorn, pecans, etc.), wild plants and non-game wildlife (including reptiles, and amphibians and insects) is prohibited without prior approval from the Baton Rouge Office. Gathering and/or removal of soft fruits, mushrooms and berries shall be limited to five gallons per person per day.

i. Burning of marshes is prohibited. Hunting actively burning marsh prohibited.

j. Nature trails. Trails shall be limited to pedestrians only. No vehicles, ATVs, horses, mules, bicycles, etc. allowed. Removal of vegetation (standing or down) or other natural material prohibited.

k. Deer seasons are for legal buck deer unless otherwise specified.

l. Small game, when listed under the WMA regulations may include both resident game animals and game birds as well as migratory species of birds.

m. Oysters may not be harvested from any WMA, EXCEPT that oysters may be harvested from private oyster leases and State Seed Grounds located within a WMA, when authorized by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and upon approval by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

n. Free ranging livestock prohibited.

2. Permits

a. A WMA Hunting Permit is required for persons aged 18 through 59 to hunt on WMAs.

b. Daily. Daily permits when required shall be obtained at permit stations on or near each WMA after first presenting a valid hunting license to a Department employee. Hunters must retain permit in possession while hunting. Hunters may enter the area no earlier than two hours before legal shooting time unless otherwise specified. Hunters must checkout daily and exit the area not later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.

c. Self-Clearing Permits. A Self-Clearing Permit is required for ALL ACTIVITIES (hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, sightseeing, etc.) on WMAs unless otherwise specified. The Self-Clearing Permit will consist of three portions: Check In, Check Out and a Vehicle Tag. On WMAs where Self-Clearing Permits are required, all persons must obtain a WMA Self-Clearing Permit from an Information Station. The Check In portion MUST be completed and put in a permit box BEFORE each day's activity on the day of the activity (EXCEPT if hunting from a private camp adjacent to the WMA being hunted or if camping on the WMA, users need only to check in once during any 72 hour period). Users may check-in one day in advance of use. The Check Out portion must be carried by each person while on the WMA and MUST be completed and put in a permit box immediately upon exiting the WMA or within 72 hours after checking in if hunting from a private camp adjacent to the WMA being hunted or if camping on the WMA. EACH PERSON MUST leave the Vehicle Tag portion of his permit on the dashboard of the vehicle used to enter into the WMA in such a way that it can be easily read from outside of the vehicle. This MUST be done only when the vehicle is parked and left unattended on the WMA. If an ATV, boat or other type vehicle was used to enter the WMA, then the vehicle tag must be attached to that vehicle in such a manner that it can be readily seen and read. No permit is required of fishers and boaters who do not travel on a WMA road and/or launch on the WMA as long as they do not get out of the boat and onto the WMA. When Mandatory Deer Checks are specified on WMAs, hunters must check deer at a check station. Call the appropriate Region office for the location of the deer check station on these WMAs. (Self-Clearing Permits are not required for persons only traveling through the WMA provided that the most direct route is taken and no activities or stops take place.)

d. Persons using WMAs or other department administered lands for any purpose must possess one of the following: a valid Wild Louisiana stamp, a valid Louisiana fishing license, or a valid Louisiana hunting license. Persons younger than 16 or older than 60 years of age are exempt from this requirement. Also a Self-Clearing WMA permit, detailed above, may be required (available at most entrances to each WMA). Check individual WMA listings for EXCEPTIONS.

3. Special Seasons

a. Youth Deer Hunt. Only youths younger than **16 18** years of age may hunt. All other seasons are closed EXCEPT Handicapped Seasons. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of a hunter safety certification, a valid Louisiana hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. Legal firearms are the same as described for deer hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt. Contact the appropriate region office for special check station locations when daily permits are required and maps of specific hunting areas. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs with youth hunts. Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth hunts. NOTE: Some hunts may be by pre-application lottery.

b. Youth Squirrel Hunt (on selected WMAs only). Only youths younger than **16 18** years of age may hunt. Squirrel, rabbit, raccoon and opossum may be taken. Hogs may not be taken. No dogs allowed. All other seasons will remain open to other hunters. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. Self-clearing permits are required. Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth squirrel hunts.

c. Youth Mourning Dove Hunt. A youth mourning dove hunt will be conducted on specific WMAs and will follow the same regulations provided for youth deer hunts on the **first or** second weekend of the mourning dove season (Saturday and/or Sunday only). Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth mourning dove hunts.

d. Handicapped Season. An either-sex deer season will be held for hunters possessing a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit on WMAs during the dates specified under the individual WMA. Participants must possess a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit. Contact region office for permit application and map of specific hunting area.

Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering Handicapped Seasons. Pointe-aux-Chenes will have an experimental Lottery Handicapped waterfowl hunt. Contact New Iberia Office, Fur and Refuge Division for details.

e. Turkey Lottery Hunts. Hunts restricted to those persons selected by lottery. Consult the regulations pamphlet for deadlines. All turkeys must be reported at self-clearing station. Contact Region Offices for more details. Consult separate turkey hunting regulations pamphlet for more details.

f. Waterfowl Lottery Hunts. Hunts restricted to those persons selected by lottery. Consult the regulations pamphlet for deadline. Consult regulations pamphlet for individual WMA schedules or contact any Wildlife Division Office for more details.

g. Mourning Dove Lottery Hunts. Consult regulations pamphlet for individual WMA schedules or contact any Wildlife Division Office for more details.

h. Trapping. Consult Annual Trapping Regulations for specific dates. All traps must be run daily. Traps with teeth are illegal. Hunter orange required when a deer gun season is in progress. A permit is required to carry a firearm outside of the normal hunting season and is available at the Region Office.

i. Raccoon Hunting. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum, one per person per day, during daylight hours only, during the open rabbit season on WMAs. NIGHTTIME EXPERIMENTAL - All nighttime raccoon hunting where allowed is with dogs only. There is no bag limit. **Self-clearing permit required. Raccoon hunters with dogs must submit an annual report of their kill to the region office for WMAs where permits are required. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture of raccoon or all hunting privileges on WMAs. Permits, when required, may be obtained at region offices only between hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on normal working days.**

j. Sport Fishing. Sport fishing, crawfishing and frogging are allowed on WMAs when in compliance with current laws and regulations EXCEPT as otherwise specified under individual WMA listings.

k. Additional Department Lands. The Department manages additional lands that are included in the WMA system and available for public recreation. Small tracts are located in Vernon, Evangeline, St. Helena and other parishes. These small tracts have been acquired from the Farmers Home Administration or other sources for conservation purposes. Contact the appropriate Wildlife and Fisheries Region Office for specific information and any additional season dates.

4. Firearms

a. Firearms having live ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder or clip when attached to firearms are not allowed in or on vehicles, boats under power, motorcycles, ATVs, ATCs or in camping areas on WMAs. Firearms may not be carried on any area before or after permitted hours except in authorized camping areas and except as may be permitted for authorized trappers.

b. Firearms and bows and arrows are not allowed on WMAs during closed seasons EXCEPT on designated shooting ranges or as permitted for trapping. Bows and broadhead arrows are not allowed on WMAs EXCEPT during deer archery season, turkey season or as permitted for bowfishing.

c. Encased or broken down firearms and any game harvested may be transported through the areas by the most direct route provided that no other route exists EXCEPT as specified under Wildlife Management Area listing.

d. Loaded firearms are not allowed near WMA check stations.

e. Centerfire rifles and handguns larger than .22 caliber rimfire, shotgun slugs or shot larger than BB lead or F steel shot cannot be carried onto any WMA EXCEPT during modern firearm deer season.

f. Target shooting and other forms of practice shooting are prohibited on WMAs EXCEPT as otherwise specified.

g. Discharging of firearms on or hunting from designated roads, ATV trails and their rights-of-way is prohibited during the modern firearm and muzzleloader deer season.

5. Methods of Taking Game

a. Moving deer or hogs on a WMA with organized drivers and standers, drivers or making use of noises or noise-making devices is prohibited.

b. On Wildlife Management Areas the daily limit shall be one antlered deer and one antlerless deer (when legal) per day. Three antlered and three antlerless per season (all segments included) by all methods of take, **EXCEPT antlerless deer harvested on Wildlife Management Areas during hunts designated as Daily Permit Deer hunts do not count in the season bag limit for hunters. A numbered WMA tag must be affixed to the deer carcass by LDWF personnel and recorded in the official check station records.**

c. Baiting or hunting over bait is prohibited on all WMAs (hogs included).

d. Hunters who kill deer on WMAs that require daily permits must have deer checked at the check station on same day of kill. Deer may not be skinned **or**

nor have any external body parts removed including but not limited to feet, legs, tail, head or ears before being checked out.

e. Deer hunting on WMAs is restricted to still hunting only. No WMA will be open for deer during early still hunt season unless specified in the regulation pamphlet.

f. Construction of and/or hunting from permanent tree stands or permanent blinds on WMAs is prohibited. Any permanent stand or permanent blind will be removed and destroyed. A permanent blind is any blind using non-natural materials or having a frame which is not dismantled within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds with frames of wood, plastic, metal poles, wire, mesh, webbing or other materials may be used but must be removed from the WMA within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds made solely of natural vegetation and not held together by nails or other metallic fasteners may be left in place but cannot be used to reserve hunting locations. All decoys must be removed from the WMA daily. Permanent tree stands are any stands that use nails, screws, spikes, etc., to attach to trees and are strictly prohibited. Portable deer stands (those that are designed to be routinely carried by one person) may not be left on WMAs unless the stands are removed from trees and left in a non-hunting position (a non-hunting position is one in which a hunter could not hunt from the stand in its present position). Also, all stands left must be legibly tagged with the user's name, address, phone number and Big Game Hunting License number (or Lifetime License Number). No stand may be left on any WMA prior to the day before deer season opens on that WMA and all stands must be removed from the WMA within one day after the close of deer hunting on that WMA. Free standing blinds must be disassembled when not in use. Stands left will not reserve hunting sites for the owner or user. All portable stands, blinds, tripods, etc. found unattended in a hunting position or untagged will be confiscated and disposed of by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. LDWF not responsible for unattended stands left on an area.

[g. Physically Challenged Wheelchair Confined Deer and Waterfowl Hunting Areas: Special deer and waterfowl hunting areas, blinds and stands identified with LDWF logos, have been established for PCHP wheelchair confined hunters on Wildlife Management Areas. Hunters must obtain PCHP permits and are required to make reservations to use blinds and stands. PCHP wheelchair hunting areas are available on Alexandria State Forest, Big Colewa Bayou, Buckhorn, Clear Creek, Elbow Slough, Jackson–Bienville, Ouachita and Sherburne WMAs. Check WMA hunting schedules or call the LDWF Offices in Pineville, Ferriday, Lake Charles, Opelousas, Minden, Monroe or Baton Rouge for information.](#)

[g h.](#) Hunting from utility poles, high tension power lines, oil and gas exploration facilities or platforms is prohibited.

[h i.](#) It is illegal to save or reserve hunting locations using permanent stands or blinds. Stands or blinds attached to trees with screws, nails, spikes, etc. are illegal.

i j. Tree climbing spurs, spikes or screw-in steps are prohibited.

j k. Unattended decoys will be confiscated and forfeited to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and disposed of by the Department. This action is necessary to prevent preemption of hunting space.

k l. Spot lighting (shining) from vehicles is prohibited on all WMAs.

l m. Horses and mules may be ridden on Wildlife Management Areas except where prohibited and except during gun seasons for deer and turkey. Riding is restricted to designated roads and trails depicted on WMA map, self-clearing permit is required. Organized Trail Rides prohibited. Hunting and trapping from horses and mules is prohibited EXCEPT for quail hunting or as otherwise specified.

m n. All hunters (including archers and small game hunters) EXCEPT waterfowl hunters and mourning dove hunters on WMAs must display 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap during open gun season for deer. Hunters participating in special dog seasons for rabbit and squirrel are required to wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap. All other hunters and archers (while on the ground) except waterfowl hunters also must wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap during special dog seasons for rabbit and squirrel. ALSO all persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display "Hunter Orange".

n o. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 feet degrees.

o p. Archery season for deer. The archery season on WMAs is the same as outside and is open for either-sex deer EXCEPT as otherwise specified on individual WMAs. Archery season restricted on Atchafalaya Delta and closed on certain WMAs when special seasons for youth or handicapped hunts are in progress. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific seasons.

p q. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs at any time during archery season EXCEPT when bucks only seasons are in progress on the respective WMAs. Archers must abide by bucks only regulations and other restrictions when such seasons are in progress.

q r. Muzzleloader season for deer. Either-sex unless otherwise specified. See WMA deer schedule. EXCEPT youth under the age of 18 may use shotgun with slugs during muzzleloader season on the WMA.

6. Camping

a. Camping on WMAs, including trailers, houseboats, recreational vehicles and tents, is allowed only in designated areas and for a period not to exceed sixteen (16) consecutive days, regardless if the camp is attended or unattended.

Houseboats shall not impede navigation. At the end of the 16 day period, camps must be removed from the area for at least 48 hours. Camping area use limited exclusively to outdoor recreational activities.

b. Houseboats are prohibited from overnight mooring within WMAs EXCEPT on stream banks adjacent to Department-owned designated camping areas. Overnight mooring of vessels that provide lodging for hire are prohibited on WMAs. On Atchafalaya Delta WMA and Pass-a-Loutre, houseboats may be moored in specially designated areas throughout the hunting season. At all other times of the year, mooring is limited to a period not to exceed sixteen (16) consecutive days. Permits are required for the mooring of houseboats on Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta WMAs. Permits must be obtained from the New Iberia office.

c. Discharge of human waste onto lands or waters of any WMA is strictly prohibited by State and Federal law. In the event public restroom facilities are not available at a WMA, the following is required. Anyone camping on a WMA in a camper, trailer, or other unit (other than a houseboat or tent) shall have and shall utilize an operational disposal system attached to the unit. Tent campers shall have and shall utilize portable waste disposal units and shall remove all human waste from the WMA upon leaving. Houseboats moored on a WMA shall have a permit or letter of certification from the Health Unit (Department of Health and Hospitals) of the parish within which the WMA occurs verifying that it has an approved sewerage disposal system on board. Further, that system shall be utilized by occupants of the houseboats when on the WMA.

d. No refuse or garbage may be dumped from these boats.

e. Firearms may not be kept loaded or discharged in a camping area.

f. Campsites must be cleaned by occupants prior to leaving and all refuse placed in designated locations when provided or carried off by campers.

g. Non-compliance with camping regulations will subject occupant to immediate expulsion and/or citation, including restitution for damages.

h. Swimming is prohibited within 100 yards of boat launching ramps.

7. Restricted Areas

a. For your safety, ALL oil and gas production facilities (wells, pumping stations and storage facilities) are off limits.

b. No unauthorized entry or unauthorized hunting in restricted areas or refuges, unless otherwise specified.

8. Dogs. All use of dogs on WMAs, EXCEPT for bird hunting and duck hunting, is EXPERIMENTAL as required by law. Having or using dogs on any WMA is prohibited EXCEPT for nighttime experimental raccoon hunting, squirrel hunting, rabbit hunting, bird hunting, duck hunting, hog hunting and bird dog training when allowed; see individual WMA season listings for WMAs that allow dogs. Dogs running at large are prohibited on WMAs. The owner or handler of said dogs shall be liable. Only recognizable breeds of bird dogs and retrievers are allowed for quail and migratory bird hunting. Only beagle hounds which do not exceed 15 inches at the front shoulders and which have recognizable characteristics of the breed may be used on WMAs having experimental rabbit seasons.

9. Vehicles

a. An all-terrain vehicle is an off-road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight-750 pounds, length-85", and width-48". ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. Use of all other ATVs or ATV tires are prohibited on a WMA.

b. Vehicles having wheels with a wheel-tire combination having a radius of 17 inches or more from the center of the hub (measured horizontal to ground) are prohibited.

c. The testing, racing, speeding or unusual maneuvering of any type of vehicle is prohibited within wildlife management areas due to property damages resulting in high maintenance costs, disturbance of wildlife and destruction of forest reproduction.

d. Tractor or implement tires with farm tread designs R1, R2 and R4 known commonly as spade or lug grip types are prohibited on all vehicles.

e. Airboats, aircraft, personal water craft, "mud crawling vessels" (commonly referred to as crawfish combines which use paddle wheels for locomotion) and hover craft are prohibited on all WMAs and Refuges. Personal water craft are defined as a vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel. Personal water craft allowed on designated areas of Alexander State Forest WMA.

f. Driving or parking vehicles on food or cover plots and strips is prohibited.

g. Blocking the entrance to roads and trails is prohibited.

h. Licensed motorized vehicles (LMVs) legal for highway use, including motorcycles, are restricted entirely to designated roads as indicated on WMA

maps. ATVs are restricted to marked ATV trails only, EXCEPT when WMA roads are closed to LMVs. ATVs may then use those roads **until they are reopened for LMV traffic when allowed**. WMA maps available at all region offices. This restriction does not apply to bicycles. NOTE: All ATV trails are marked with signs and/or paint, but not all ATV trails appear on WMA maps.

i. Use of special ATV trails for handicapped persons is restricted to special ATV handicapped permittees. Handicapped ATV permittees are restricted to handicapped ATV trails or other ATV trails only as indicated on WMA maps or as marked by sign and/or paint. Persons 60 years of age and older, with proof of age, are also allowed to use special handicapped trails and need not obtain a permit. However, these persons must abide by all rules in place for these trails. Handicapped persons under the age of 60 must apply for and obtain a Physically Challenged Hunter Program Permit from the Department.

j. Entrances to ATV trails will be marked with peach colored paint. Entrances to handicapped-only ATV trails will be marked with blue colored paint. Entrances to ATV trails that are open all year long will be marked with purple paint. The end of all ATV trails will be marked by red paint. WMA maps serve only as a general guide to the route of most ATV trails, therefore all signage and paint marking as previously described will be used to determine compliance. Deviation from this will constitute a violation of WMA rules and regulations.

k. Roads and trails may be closed due to poor condition, construction or wet weather.

l. ATVs, and motorcycles cannot be left overnight on WMAs EXCEPT on designated camping areas. ATVs are prohibited from two hours after sunset to 4:00 AM, EXCEPT raccoon hunters may use ATVs during nighttime raccoon take seasons only. ATVs are prohibited from March 1 through August 31 **EXCEPT ATV trails are open on WMAs with a spring squirrel season EXCEPT squirrel hunters are allowed to use ATV trails during the spring squirrel season on the WMA** and except certain trails may be open during this time period to provide access for fishing or other purposes and some ATV trails will be open all year long on certain WMAs.

m. CAUTION: Many Department-maintained roadways on WMAs are unimproved and substandard. A maximum 20 mph speed limit is recommended for all land vehicles using these roads.

n. Hunters are allowed to retrieve their own downed deer and hogs with the aid of an ATV except on Thistlethwaite and Sherburne WMAs under the following conditions:

i. No firearms or archery equipment is in possession of the retrieval party or on the ATV;

ii. The retrieval party may consist of no more than one ATV and one helper;

iii. ATVs may not be used to locate or search for wounded game or for any other purpose than retrieval of deer and hogs once they have been legally harvested and located.

10. Commercial Activities.

a. Hunting Guides/Outfitters: No person or group may act as a hunting guide, outfitter or in any other capacity for which they are paid or promised to be paid directly or indirectly by any other individual or individuals for services rendered to any other person or persons hunting on any Wildlife Management Area, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club memberships.

b. Except for licensed activities otherwise allowed by law, commercial activities are prohibited without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Department. Commercial activities prohibited without prior approval from Baton Rouge office or unless otherwise specified.

c. Commercial fishing. Permits are required of all commercial fishermen using Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre and Spring Bayou WMAs. Gill nets or trammel nets and the take or possession of grass carp are prohibited on Spring Bayou WMA. 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 Cut Off 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 additional commercial fishing regulations on mullet.

11. Wildlife Management Areas Basic Season Structure. For season dates, bag limits, shooting hours, special seasons and other information consult the annual regulations pamphlet for specific details.

12. Resident Small Game (squirrel, rabbit, quail, mourning dove, woodcock, snipe, rail and gallinule). Same as outside EXCEPT closed during modern firearm either-sex deer seasons and EXCEPT non-toxic shot must be used for snipe, rail and gallinule. Consult regulations pamphlet. Unless otherwise specified under a specific WMA hunting schedule, the use of dogs for rabbit and squirrel hunting is prohibited. **New** Spring squirrel season with or without dogs: 1st Saturday of May for 9 days. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMAs.

13. Waterfowl (ducks, geese and coots). Consult regulations pamphlet. Hunting after 2 p.m. prohibited on all WMAs EXCEPT for Atchafalaya Delta, Biloxi, Lake Boeuf, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes, Salvador/Timken and Wisner WMAs. Consult specific WMA regulations for shooting hours on these WMAs.

14. Archery. Consult regulations pamphlet.

15. Hogs. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMA regulations. Unmarked hogs may be taken during any legal hunting season, EXCEPT during the spring squirrel season, on designated WMAs by properly licensed hunters using only guns or bow and arrow legal for specified seasons in progress. Hunters may harvest hogs during the month of March on Pass-a-Loutre WMA only by using shotguns with shot no larger than BB lead or F steel, or .22 caliber rimfire firearms. Hogs may not be taken with the aid of dogs, EXCEPT unmarked hogs may be taken with the aid of dogs on Pearl River, Red River and Three Rivers WMAs (consult Pearl River, Red River and Three Rivers WMAs regulations) by permit from either the Baton Rouge or Ferriday Offices and all hogs must be killed immediately and may not be transported live under any conditions and hunters may use centerfire pistols in addition to using guns allowed for season in progress.

16. Outlaw Quadrupeds and Birds. Consult regulations pamphlet. During hunting seasons specified on WMAs, except the turkey and spring squirrel seasons, incidental take of outlaw quadrupeds and birds, with or without the use of electronic calls, is allowed by properly licensed hunters and only with guns or bows and arrows legal for season in progress on WMA. However, crows, blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds may not be taken before September 1 or after January 1.

17. Wildlife Management Areas Hunting Schedule and Regulations:

a. Acadiana Conservation Corridor.

b. Alexander State Forest. From December through February all hunters must check daily with the Office of Forestry for scheduled burning activity. No hunting or other activity will be permitted in burn units the day of the burning. Call 318-487-5172 or 318-487-5058 for information on burning schedules. Vehicles restricted to paved and graveled roads. No parking on or fishing or swimming from bridges. No open fires EXCEPT in recreation areas.

c. Atchafalaya Delta. Water control structures are not to be tampered with or altered by anyone other than employees of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at any time. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited EXCEPT as permitted for authorized WMA trappers. Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.

d. Attakapas.

provided.

- e. Bayou Macon. All night activities prohibited except as otherwise

- f. Bayou Pierre

- g. Bens Creek

- h. Big Colewa Bayou. All nighttime activities prohibited.

- i. Big Lake.

- j. Biloxi.

- k. Bodcau.

- l. Boeuf.

- m. Buckhorn.

- n. Camp Beauregard. Daily military clearance required for all recreational users. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. All game harvested must be reported on self-clearing checkout permit. Retriever training allowed on selected portions of the WMA. Contact the Region office for specific details.

No hunting in restricted areas.

- o. Clear Creek (formerly Boise-Vernon).

- p. Dewey W. Wills. Crawfish: 100 pounds per person per day.

- q. Elbow Slough. Steel shot only for all hunting. **All motorized vehicles prohibited.**

- r. Elm Hall. No ATVs allowed.

- s. Floy Ward McElroy.

- t. Fort Polk. Daily military clearance required to hunt or trap. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. New special regulations apply to ATV users.

- u. 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 at Spring Bayou headquarters or Opelousas Region Office. No hunting in restricted area.

- v. Jackson-Bienville. Beginning September 1, 2004, ATVs are allowed ONLY on non-public maintained gravel roads and marked ATV trails.

w. Joyce. Swamp Walk: Adhere to all WMA rules and regulations. No **loaded** firearms or hunting allowed within 100 yards of walkways. Check hunting schedule and use walkway at your own risk.

x. Lake Boeuf. Hunting allowed until 12:00 noon on all game **EXCEPT during Youth Lottery Hunt**. All nighttime activities prohibited.

y. Lake Ramsay. Foot traffic only - all vehicles restricted to Parish Roads.

z. Little River.

aa. Loggy Bayou.

bb. Manchac. Crabs: No crab traps allowed. Attended lift nets are allowed.

cc. Maurepas Swamp. No loaded firearms or hunting allowed within 100 yards of Nature Trail.

dd. Ouachita. Waterfowl Refuge: North of La. Hwy. 15 closed to all hunting, fishing and trapping and ATV use during duck season including early teal season. Crawfish: 100 pounds per person per day limit. Night crawfishing prohibited. No traps or nets left overnight. Commercial Fishing: Closed. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided.

ee. 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 the Department Pass-a-Loutre WMA map. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited on this area. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. **Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.**

ff. Pearl River. All roads closed 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. to all vehicles. Old Hwy. 11 will be closed when river gauge at Pearl River, Louisiana, reaches 16.5 feet. All hunting will be closed when the river stage at Pearl River reaches 16.5 feet except waterfowl hunting south of Hwy. 90. No hunting in the vicinity of Nature Trail. Observe "No Hunting" signs. Rifle range open ~~noon until 4 p.m.~~ Friday, ~~and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.~~ Saturday and Sunday with a fee.

gg. Peason Ridge. Daily military clearance required to hunt or trap. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. Special federal regulations apply to ATV users.

hh. Pointe-aux-Chenes. Hunting until 12 noon on ALL GAME, EXCEPT for mourning dove hunting and youth lottery deer hunt as specified in regulation pamphlet. Point Farm: Gate will be open all weekends during month of February. No motorized vessels allowed in the drainage ditches. Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be allowed. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) may be taken for bait. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes only. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the wildlife management area and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited. All boats powered by engines having horsepower ratings above 25 h.p. are not allowed in the Grand Bayou, Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes water management units. Public is permitted to travel anytime through the WMA for access purposes only, in the waterways known as Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue and Grand Bayou Blue unless authorized by the Department. All other motorized vehicles, horses and mules are prohibited unless authorized by the Department.

ii. Pomme de Terre. Commercial Fishing: permitted Monday through Friday, EXCEPT closed during duck season. Commercial fishing permits available from area supervisor, Opelousas Region Office or Spring Bayou headquarters. Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT allowed only after 2 p.m. only during waterfowl season. Crawfish: [April 4](#) [March 15](#) - July 31, recreational only, 100 lbs. per boat or group daily.

jj. Red River. Recreational crawfishing allowed on Yakey Farms wetland restoration projects February 1 to the last day of February, 100 pounds per person per day, maximum of five wire traps per person. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed.

kk. Russell Sage. Transporting trash or garbage on WMA roads is prohibited. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided. Internal combustion engines and craft limited to 10 h.p. rating or less in the Greentree Reservoirs. NOTE: All season dates on Chauvin Tract (U.S. 165 North) same as outside, EXCEPT still hunt only and EXCEPT deer hunting restricted to archery only. All vehicles including ATVs prohibited.

ll. Sabine.

mm. Sabine Island. Sabine Island boundaries are Sabine River on the west, Cut-Off Bayou on the north, and Old River and Big Bayou on the south and east.

nn. Salvador/Timken. Hunting until 12 noon only for all game. All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging. Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be

taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum may be taken for bait. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes only. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none of the lines are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the wildlife management area and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited. Boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 H.P. are permitted only in oil company access canals, Louisiana Cypress Canal, the Netherlands Pond including the West Canal, Lakes - "Baie Des Chactas" and "Baie du Cabanage" and the Rathborne Access ditch. Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with four cylinders or less is permitted in interior ditches from first Saturday in September through January and may be further permitted. Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities which cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited on this area.

oo. Sandy Hollow. Bird Dog Training: Consult regulation pamphlet. Wild birds only (use of pen-raised birds prohibited). Bird Dog Field Trials: Permit required from Baton Rouge Region Office. Horseback Riding: [Self-clearing permit required](#). Organized trail rides prohibited. Riding allowed only on designated roads and trails [depicted on WMA map](#). Horses and mules are specifically prohibited during turkey and gun season for deer EXCEPT as allowed for bird dog field trials. No horses and mules on green planted areas.

pp. Sherburne. Crawfishing: Recreational crawfishing only on the South Farm Complexes. Crawfish harvest limited to 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed on farm complex. Commercial crawfishing not allowed. Retriever training allowed on selected portions of the WMA. Contact the Region office for specific details. Vehicular traffic prohibited on east Atchafalaya River levee within Sherburne WMA boundaries. Rifle and Pistol Range open daily. Skeet ranges open by appointment only, contact Hunter Education Office. No trespassing in restricted area behind ranges. Note: Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land holdings adjacent to the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area will have the same rules and regulations as Sherburne WMA. No hunting or trapping in restricted area.

qq. Sicily Island Hills.

rr. Soda Lake. No motorized vehicles allowed. Bicycles allowed. All trapping and hunting prohibited EXCEPT archery hunting for deer and falconry.

ss. Spring Bayou. Commercial Fishing: permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT slat traps and hoop nets permitted any day [and EXCEPT gill or trammel](#)

[nets or the take or possession of grass carp are prohibited](#). Permits available from area supervisor or Opelousas Region Office. Closed until after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season. Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT allowed only after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season. Crawfish: recreational only. No hunting allowed in headquarters area. Only overnight campers allowed in the improved Boggy Bayou Camping area. Rules and regulations posted at camp site. A fee is assessed for use of this campsite. Water skiing allowed only in Old River and Grand Lac.

tt. Tangipahoa Parish School Board. No horseback riding during gun season for deer or turkey. ATVs are not allowed.

uu. Thistlethwaite. [No hunting or trapping in restricted area \(See WMA Map\)](#). All motorized vehicles restricted to improved roads only. All users must enter and leave through main gate only. No entry into restricted areas.

vv. Three Rivers.

ww. Tunica Hills. All vehicles restricted to Parish roads. Access to restricted areas is unauthorized. Refer to WMA map. Camping prohibited on area. North of Hwy. 66 (North Tract) closed to all users the day after turkey season closes to August 31.

xx. Union. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided.

yy. West Bay.

zz. Wisner.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:1279 (July 1999), amended LR 26:1494 (July 2000), LR 27:1049 (July 2001), LR 28:1603 (July 2002), LR 29:1124 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1522 (August 2003), amended LR 30:1495 (July 2004), LR 31:1611 (July 2005), LR 32:1251 (July 2006), LR 33:1382 (July 2007), LR 34: .

Public hearing will be held at the following locations: March 13 beginning at 6PM at the Bossier Civic Center, Bossier City; March 12 beginning at 6PM at Alexandria City Hall Convention Center, Alexandria; March 10 beginning at 7 PM at Winnsboro City Court Building, Winnsboro; March 13 beginning at 6:30 PM at LSU Agriculture Center, Lake Charles; March 12 beginning at 6 PM at Yambilee Hall, Opelousas; March 11 beginning at 6 PM at Ponchatoula High School Auditorium, Ponchatoula; and March 13 beginning at 6 PM and LDWF Headquarters Building, Louisiana Room, Baton Rouge. Also comments will be accepted at regularly scheduled Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meetings from March through May. Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until Thursday, May 1, 2008 to Mr. Jimmy Anthony, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000.

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).

Patrick C. Morrow
Chairman