

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

ANN L. TAYLOR  
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
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AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
February 2, 2012

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Chairman Ann Taylor presiding.

Ronny Graham  
Stephen Oats  
Pat Manuel  
Ann Taylor  
Mike Voisin

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Chairman Taylor called for a motion for approval of the **January 5, 2012 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Voisin and seconded by Commissioner Oats. The motion passed with no opposition.

There was nothing for the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**.

Lt. Col. Joey Broussard stated, for the agenda item, **To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January**, there were a total of 1,149 cases and 344 written warnings were issued during January and agents helped with 56 public assists. The Department's planes flew a total of 146.9 hours for the month. There were 3 boating accidents reported with 5 injuries and 0 fatalities. News releases discussed were a Texas man found with his vehicle stuck in the sand on Elmer's Island arrested and booked into jail for possessing an illegal shotgun, DWI, and littering, a Livingston Parish man sentenced for hunting violations – hunting during illegal hours, contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and resisting an officer. He was sentenced to pay \$1,388, complete a two-year supervised probation and refrain from owning a shotgun for two years. The last was a West Monroe man who was sentenced for killed a bald eagle. He was ordered to pay \$2,525 in fines, serve three years supervised probation, and his hunting privileges were revoked for three years.

Mr. Randy Myers handled the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on 2013 – 14 Hunting Season Dates**. Mr. Myers stated that LDWF is in the process of establishing hunting seasons for next year and the following year for resident game. There have been meetings with LDWF staff and other resource partners such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Myers stated that recommendations for seasons from these resource partners are included in the information that will be presented. Mr. Myers requested permission from the Commission to handle both Notices of Intent together and vote after both have been presented. Chairman Taylor agreed. Mr. Myers stated that, as in the past,

the Department has looked at ways to simplify and standardize some of the hunting regulations to make them clearer and easier for the general public to understand. Mr. Myers stated that he would not review each edit that is being proposed, only the ones that are major in regards to specific hunting regulations or rules. He also pointed out that where possible additional hunting opportunities have been provided, particularly in the way of youth hunts as well as the control of nuisance quadrupeds, feral hogs, etc.

Mr. Myers stated that the Commission is being asked to set the 2012-2013 resident small game seasons, as these are set two years in advance. The 2012-2013 season information is provided as well, and LDWF is not asking for any major changes in regards to these season dates, they are simply calendar adjustments. Mr. Myers stated that last year the Commission passed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to combine areas 1 and 4, and that will take effect in the 2012-2013 season. The other change from last year that will go into effect for the 2012-2013 season is the extension of the primitive firearm season in Area 1 and 6 to close the last day of January. That will give some additional opportunities rather than ending on the last Sunday of the month.

Mr. Myers stated that Deer Area 6 has the same change to primitive firearm season, the second segment will close the last day of January, and there are simple calendar adjustments for those season dates. Mr. Myers pointed an asterisk next to Deer Area 6, and stated that due to concerns of flooding the Morganza this past summer LDWF asked the Commission to adopt an emergency declaration that reduced the hunting opportunity within that area. The Department is only asking to amend Area 6 to include those lands south of I-10 within the Morganza Floodway and the protection levees of the Atchafalaya Basin. The Department is still concerned about the deer population within that area and the recommendation is to maintain that season that was established through the declaration of emergency only for those lands south of I-10. There will be no primitive firearm season in the 1<sup>st</sup> segment, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> segment will be bucks only. Also, for still hunt, rather than having either-sex opportunities throughout the entire season the Department is asking the Commission to consider passing that the first 9 days during the modern firearm season will be either-sex, and during the with or without dogs season the first two days will be either sex. Mr. Myers stated that the last segment of the modern firearm season, with or without dogs, the Department is requesting to maintain the shortening of that season by one week.

Mr. Myers stated that Areas 2 and 3 take up the majority of the portion of the Western part of the state, and that the Department is requesting simple calendar adjustments for those areas. For Area 2, depending on whether it is in odd or even numbered year, the Commission has elected as a compromise to alternate between the number of dog days and still hunt days. This year, for 2012-2013 there will be 40 days of still hunt compared to 39 with or without dogs, and then in 2013-2014 it will flip to 39 days of still hunt and 40 days of with or without dogs. Mr. Myers stated that the Department is asking the Commission to consider simple calendar adjustments for the 2013-2014 season.

Mr. Myers stated that for Deer Area 5 LDWF is asking the Commission to suspend the rules and consider making these changes effective for the 2012-2013 season. Mr. Myers stated that to provide additional hunting opportunities in Area 5 the Department is asking to modify the primitive firearm season to be either-sex, and to provide 14 additional days of modern firearm in December. With that season extending 14 additional days in December the Department is asking that the second primitive firearm season have a slight modification to open the day after the close of the modern firearm season and extend for seven days.

For 2012-2013 Mr. Myers stated that Area 5, West Carroll Parish, the Department has maintained for the last few years to have three days of either sex during the modern firearm season, and the simple calendar adjustments for those will be November 23-25 for next year, and November 29-December 1 for 2013-2014.

For Deer Areas 7 and 8 Mr. Myers stated that the Department is proposing simple calendar adjustments for both.

Mr. Myers stated that at the request of the public the Department is asking the Commission to consider for the 2013-2014 general deer hunting season to amend the season limit structure for deer hunting. The Department is asking that the Commission consider maintaining the season limit at 6 as it presently is, but that the limit shall not exceed 3 antlered bucks but it shall include no more than 4 antlerless deer. This proposal will allow landowners some additional flexibility to have a choice tag. This consideration has come out of public request from people that would like the additional opportunity to manage their property. This is one way the Department is able to help them do so.

Mr. Myers stated that for the 2012-2013 season general deer hunting regulations the Department is asking the Commission to modify the regulations pertaining to primitive firearms. Mr. Myers stated that several years ago Mississippi had taken the lead in modifying their primitive firearm seasons to include those that are single shot breech loading rifles that are .38 caliber or larger. Since that time there has been some liberalization from the State of Mississippi to include various cartridges and reducing a type of weapon. Mr. Myers stated that the Department has found that some rifles that are identical to rifles that are legal may be illegal simply because they are not of a type manufactured prior to 1900. The Department is asking the Commission to consider removing that language and to add the statement "of a Commission approved caliber" just in case there are some calibers out there other than .38 caliber or larger that meet that true definition of a primitive firearm. If approved, the Department would come back to the Commission with a list of firearms so that they could be approved and available to the public. Commissioner Oats asked when in the cycle the Commission would do this. Mr. Myers answered that the Department is anticipating in the next couple of months. Commissioner Oats stated that what he would like to avoid is the Commission having to approve a new list every month. Mr. Myers stated that the Department is anticipating having a preliminary list next month or the following month to present to the Commission. Commissioner Voisin questioned why the language states "Commission approved" rather than "Department approved". Assistant Secretary Jimmy Anthony stated that the Department could do that if the Commission gives the authority to the Department. He stated that the Department would like to ask the public what they need at the statewide meetings in March. Mr. Anthony pointed out a resolution from the legislature asking to approve the .35 Whelen, and there is even more about allowing six shooters. He stated that the Department would like to present all considerations to the Commission at one time, probably in April. Commissioner Oats requested a protocol as to how this will be done so that there is not discussion each month about particular firearms. Mr. Anthony stated that the Department would like to have the list to put in the regulation pamphlet, so if it is done by April that would give enough time to be put in the pamphlet, and that would be it for that year. Anything asked for after that would go to the Commission next year for approval. Commissioner Oats requested that the protocol be published. Commissioner Voisin asked Mr. Anthony why the Commission would not just give the Department the authority to approve these weapons. Commissioner Voisin stated that the authority belongs to the Commission unless delegated to LDWF staff. Mr. Myers stated that this has to be approved at the Commission level

unless the Commission gives authority to the Department to make changes. Commissioner Voisin stated that unless there is a legal restriction it seems that would be the way to go. Commissioner Voisin mentioned that it would be better for the Department to handle, as they have the expertise. Commissioner Graham commented that regardless of who approves the firearms, the Commissioners will receive the requests anyway. Commissioner Voisin commented that the Department will be able to make decisions in a more timely manner than the Commission, so changes can be made more quickly. Commissioner Graham asked Don Puckett if he is comfortable with that. Mr. Puckett answered that if the Commission would like to do a delegation to the Department he would suggest setting it as a formal agenda item on next month's agenda, "Delegation of Authority to Designate primitive firearms to the Department", otherwise it would be a Commission function. Commissioner Voisin asked why that couldn't be changed in the rule today. Mr. Puckett answered that the Commission can pass the rule then do an Act of Delegation later on. Mr. Puckett noted that can be done on any rule that is passed, for example the Commission sets Shrimping Season but delegates to the Secretary the authority to close under certain conditions. Commissioner Voisin asked if that is done in the rule. Mr. Puckett answered that it would state "the Commission shall delegate..." Commissioner Graham stated that he would like to hear from the Department, what the Department thinks about this. Mr. Anthony stated that the Department would be glad to take over the delegation if the Commission would like, and that Commissioner Voisin made a good point that the Department could make changes quickly.

Mr. Myers continued with methods of taking Resident Game Birds and Quadrupeds. The Department is asking that the Commission consider the use of air rifles for the take of squirrels, rabbits and outlaw quadrupeds. He stated that there has been some discussion, public concern and questions as to whether it is legal to do so or not. The Department has worked with the Enforcement Division, and is asking that the Commission consider formally approving the use of air rifles for the use of squirrels, rabbits and outlaw quadrupeds. Mr. Myers stated that in this past legislative session there were two separate acts, Act 95 and Act 29 that were particular and specific to the nighttime take of nuisance animals and outlaw quadrupeds. Act 95 removed the restriction on the type of weapon that is legal to take these quadrupeds at night and also put a restriction that anyone who would like to engage in the nighttime take of nuisance animals or outlaw quadrupeds would have to notify the Sheriff's department within 24 hours. Additionally Act 29 allowed for the use of a silencer, for those who are legally allowed to possess one, in the take of these species at night. He stated that the Department is asking the Commission to amend the NOI for Title 76 to update what is already legal through Title 56.

Next, Mr. Myers moved to the agenda item, **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on General/WMA Hunting Regulations**. Mr. Myers stated that these are for 2012-2013 and will go into effect next year. He stated that for Hutchinson Creek, Marsh Bayou Walnut WMA's the Department is requesting a general edit. These lands are listed separately in the existing NOI, and the Department is requesting to move these with the other Wildlife Management Areas and establish the generic seasons as seen in the NOI. Mr. Myers was clear that the Department is not losing the WMA's, but that they are simply being moved to the proper location within the NOI, but the Department is asking to establish a feral hog season on those areas. Previously there was not a feral hog season. Mr. Myers stated that last year the Commission allowed for the use of any legal weapon during the primitive firearm season for youth who are 17 or younger, and the Department is requesting that the Commission consider allowing the use of any legal weapon

during the primitive firearm season on the WMA for youth 17 or younger. The Department is simply aligning with what is allowed on the outside, and making that legal on the WMA's. Mr. Myers stated that for feral hogs the Department is asking to suspend the regulations that require those not transporting live hogs to have a special permit. The Department will still require those desiring to transport live hogs to have the live transport permit. This is just to simplify the process on one side and maintain what is already in place on the other side. Mr. Myers also stated that the Department is asking to consider allowing the use of stands to remain on the WMA during hog season. The regulations currently state that at the end of the deer season the next following day all deer stands must be removed. There is an extended hog season on several of the WMA's, so the Department is asking that hunters can leave those stands in during that period so that they can take advantage of additional opportunities to take feral hogs. Mr. Myers also noted that the Department is requesting an extended season for the take of feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pointe-aux-Chenes, Salvador, and Pass-a-Loutre WMA's, and include additional equipment, such as archery equipment, and to extend the seasons an additional month on these coastal WMA's, as there are increasing problems with feral hogs in these areas. Mr. Myers stated that additionally the Department is asking to increase the allowable time to recreationally take nutria to overlap with the feral hog season. The reason behind this is so that people who are taking advantage of feral hog season may also take other nuisance animals while on the area. Commissioner Sagrera asked the reason for no larger than .22 caliber. Mr. Myers answered that is what is legal for the take of small game, and that the concern is that anything larger would encourage the illegal take of deer. Commissioner Sagrera noted that a .22 caliber is not very effective on hogs. Commissioner Graham asked if he was reading correctly that you may have shotgun loaded with buckshot or slugs but you cannot have centerfire rifle. Mr. Myers stated that is correct. Mr. Myers stated that as previously mentioned of the area south of I-10, the Department remains concerned about the deer herd on Attakapas WMA. The Department is asking the Commission to consider amending the NOI to maintain the season that was established through the Declaration of Emergency this past year. For Boeuf WMA the Department is asking to close only a portion of the WMA for the youth hunts. During this time everything north of Hwy. 4 will be open for all activities, and south of Hwy. 4 would be open for youth. The Department is asking the Commission to consolidate the dates set aside for physically challenged, wheelchair confined with the youth hunts. For Elm Hall WMA Mr. Myers stated that the Department is asking to move the primitive firearms to the last Sat. in Jan. for two days rather than opening on a Monday. For Maurepas Swamp WMA the Department has acquired an additional 29 thousand acres, so the area is now around 103 thousand acres. The Department would like the Commission to approve the Departments proposal to establish two separate areas for tent camping, as well as a limited use area that will be same as outside for small game except shotgun only, and archery only for deer. Mr. Myers stated that for Pass-a-Loutre WMA the Department is requesting to remove the requirement to check in all deer and hogs at Headquarters, and simply require them to be reported through the self-clearing permit that is already required. For Pearl River WMA the Department received a donation of about 500 acres near the area of White Kitchen from the Nature Conservancy that has an established boardwalk, so the Department is requesting no loaded firearms or hunting within 100 yards of the boardwalk to minimize potential conflicts. For Red River WMA the Department is asking to amend the youth hunt that was established last year to add an additional day. Mr. Myers stated for Russell Sage WMA that the Department has a lease agreement for the Wham Brake area, and the Department is requesting to keep that area open for waterfowl hunting three days after



Thanksgiving. For Sicily Island Hills WMA the Department is asking to provide additional hunting opportunities by moving the date from January 15<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of January, giving an additional two weeks. For Grassy Lake, Red River and Three Rivers WMA's the Department is asking the Commission to consolidate the areas so they open at the same time, the last Sat. of Dec. for 9 days. Mr. Myers stated that for raccoon hunting on Three Rivers WMA the Department is asking to add a season, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Sept. for 16 days. For Thistlewaite WMA, at the request of the landowner, no dogs shall be allowed on the area. Mr. Myers stated that for Camp Beauregard WMA, at the request of the Louisiana National Guard, the Department is asking to remove the experimental quality deer season, as it posed a conflict for military training this January. For Sabine Island WMA the Department is asking to provide opportunities to take hogs with dogs, similar to the other WMA's. For Sherburne WMA, the hunting seasons were modified last year as a result of the flood, and the Department is asking to amend the NOI to maintain the season established in the Declaration of Emergency, but add back one weekend of either-sex, and one additional day after Thanksgiving, for three days total. Mr. Myers clarified the language for Tunica Hills WMA to be consistent with the other WMA's. For Atchafalaya Delta, Biloxi, Pass-a-Loutre, and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs Mr. Myers stated that the language has been changed to clarify what is legal to use on the WMA. For Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA some additional areas are being clarified where access is provided, St. Louis Canal and Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes. For Salvador Timken WMA the Department is requesting to liberalize what is legal on the WMA to allow the use of mudboats that are not powered by more than four cylinders. For Atchafalaya Delta WMA the Department is requesting to establish for the first time a Louisiana Women in the Wild lottery deer hunt the 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of Oct, either sex. For Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador/Timken WMA the Department is clarifying that all castnet contents shall be contained and bycatch contents shall be returned to the water immediately. Mr. Myers moved to the US Army Corps of Engineers properties. Changes to Indian Bayou, Old River Control and Lock area, and the Bonnet Carre Spillway are simply calendar adjustments. Mr. Myers, for Kisatchie National Forest, stated that all seasons are for the 2012-2013 season only, and calendar adjustments are being recommended from last year's hunting proposal, but all deer hunting will be still hunting only, no dogs. Commissioner Voisin asked for clarification on hunting with dogs. Mr. Myers stated there is no deer hunting with dogs. Commissioner Voisin asked further about hunting with dogs. Mr. Myers stated that during open season dogs are allowed for the take of certain species, but there are regulations on the open deer season. Commissioner Voisin asked if that contradicts what was said earlier about no dogs during deer season. Mr. Myers clarified that it does not contradict, because the use of dogs during open season is not specific to deer season. Dogs may be used to hunt species other than deer as long as they are in voice command, but they may not be used to hunt deer. Commissioner Manuel asked if a shock collar was mandatory as well, and Mr. Myers answered "no sir". Moving on, Mr. Myers stated that for National Catahoula and Red Dirt Wildlife Management Preserves calendar adjustments are being recommended. Mr. Myers told the Commission that next month, March, begins the public hearings that are listed in the NOI. The Department will continue to accept public comment on the NOI until May 3, 2012 at 4:30 PM. Commissioner Oats requested that Mr. Myers review the process for these two NOI's. Mr. Myers stated that he will ask the Commission to vote for the two NOI's and any amendments at this meeting to put it out for the public comment period. Any public comments will be presented as amendments at the March or April meeting. The April meeting will be the last opportunity for amendments, so that the Department can get public comments, then at the May meeting the Commission will vote for all amendments and both

NOI's. At that time the NOI's will go to the Legislative Oversight Committee. Commissioner Oats asked whether, with the documents the Commissioners are provided with, the language that is recommended to be added is underlined, and the language that is recommended to be removed is struck through, and that this will be done throughout this process. Mr. Myers answered yes, that is correct. Commissioner Oats asked if the Department can create a document with a list of all requested amendments that the Commission will be asked to vote on. Mr. Myers answered yes, that the Department does provide an Excel spreadsheet with the comments and concerns. Commissioner Oats asked, for example, the choice deer tag, he did not see that in the document today. Mr. Myers answered that it is in the document, but does not specifically say "choice deer tag". Commissioner Graham asked if it would be appropriate to clarify the "choice deer tag" by calling it a choice deer tag so that the public can understand. Mr. Myers agreed, saying that it's written as "no more than three antlered or 4 antlerless", which is a little confusing. Commissioner Oats commented that the bullet point document of items that are up for consideration will help the Commission to vote properly. Mr. Myers stated that the Department will be advertising the Public Hearings as news releases, and will be posted on the website. Commissioner Graham commented that he would suspect that the actual tag would say "buck and/or doe", but that during this comment period it should be clear. Mr. Myers stated that the Department is still in the process of how it will appear on the tag, but yes, it will denote that and the Department will have to clearly explain that regulation in the hunting pamphlet. Commissioner Oats presented an email question from Dutch Bowers about the .35 Whelen and making all of Calcasieu Parish Area 3 rather than having a small area of the Parish in another area. Chairman Taylor asked for additional questions or comments. Commissioner Voisin moved adoption of the NOI on the 2012-2013 Hunting Seasons, agenda item 5, and Commissioner Manuel seconded. Commissioner Oats asked if the issue of what is proposed right now about Kisatchie being still hunt only would be agenda item 5 or 6? Mr. Myers answered that will be agenda item 6. Chairman Taylor announced a motion to approve the NOI on the 2012-2013 Hunting Seasons by Commissioner Voisin, and a second by Commissioner Manuel. There being no public comment or additional discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Oats moved that item 6 be approved favorably and leave the deer dog hunting seasons as was done this year with the special permits in the NOI, as opposed to the proposed. Mr. Kenny Ribbeck clarified that Commissioner Oats was referring to Kisatchie. Commissioner Oats affirmed, saying that the reason for his motion is to wait until the Forest Service makes it through their process. Commissioner Graham said he understands what Commissioner Oats is saying, but asked if there is any indication of when this will happen. Mike Balboni of the Forest Service stated that a decision is anticipated prior to the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Oats commented that for the public and the comment process it is premature to make the change until the Forest Service has finished their process. Chairman Taylor announced a motion by Commissioner Oats to adopt agenda item 6 with the changes stated by Commissioner Oats, and a second by Commissioner Voisin. There was one public comment by Mr. Larry Robichaux. Mr. Robichaux commented that he has a camp and hunts the Attakapas WMA and some of the state land in the Spillway. Mr. Robichaux supports keeping the limited doe season as recommended by the Department, and actually thinks it should never get back, as he doesn't think the Spillway can handle that much pressure. Mr. Robichaux state that the deer hunt was tough this year, that deer and hog sightings were way down, but it was hunting. He thanked the Department for the opportunity. Mr. Robichaux also commented

that on the primitive firearm change on any type weapon, that the Department should consider allowing it to change on the fly, that an annual change would be sufficient. He commented that changing the list month to month might be difficult to keep up with. Chairman Taylor asked for additional comments. There was a question of specific dates for the season. Commissioner Oats clarified that he was referring to Kisatchie, and answered that there will simply be calendar adjustments from last year. The intention of the motion was to leave Kisatchie as is with calendar adjustments. Mr. Joe Macaluso with the advocate commented that the dates were never formally published in a document by the Department because the Commission passed the regulation after the brochure was published. Mr. Macaluso commented that the Commission should publish specific dates for the upcoming season to prevent a repeat of last year. Commissioner Oats agreed and asked if that can be provided today. Mr. Myers answered yes, that he could provide it before the end of the meeting. Commissioner Oats commented that it is just for calendar adjustments, but that Mr. Macaluso makes a good point, and the intention is for staff to put those dates in and get them out. There being no further comment the motion passed as amended by Commissioner Oats with no opposition.

Commissioner Voisin commented on delegating the primitive firearms approval to the Department, he requested that something be drafted and put on the agenda for the March meeting. Commissioner Oats also asked the Department to provide a memo as to what the process would be with the Federal partners to increase the number of youth days.

(The full texts 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 promulgate hunting seasons for 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 34:1447 (July 2008), LR 35:1278 (July 2009), LR 36:1580 (July 2010), LR 37:2206 (July 2011), LR .

**§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.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Quail	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	10	20
Rabbit and Squirrel	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of October <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	8	16
Squirrel*	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 23 days	3	6
Deer 2012-13	See Schedule	1 antlered and 1 antlerless (when legal)	6/season (3 antlered deer & 3 antlerless deer)

Deer 2013-14	See Schedule	1 antlered and 1 antlerless (when legal)	6/season ( <u>not to exceed 3 antlered deer &amp; 3 or 4 antlerless deer</u> )
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\*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, 2012-2014

Area	Archery	Primitive Firearms (All Either Sex Except as Noted)	Still Hunt (No dogs allowed)	With or Without Dogs
1	OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov.  OPENS: Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.	OPENS: Sat. before Thanksgiving Day EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.  OPENS: Mon. after 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Jan. CLOSES: next to last Sun. of Jan.	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. CLOSES: Sun. after 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Jan.

2	<p>OPENS: 1<sup>st</sup> day of Oct.  CLOSSES: Last day of Jan.</p>	<p>OPENS: Next to last Sat. of Oct.  CLOSSES: Fri. before last Sat. of Oct.</p> <p>OPENS: Mon. after the last day of Modern Firearm Season in Jan.  CLOSSES: After 7 days.</p>	<p>OPENS: Last Sat. of Oct.  CLOSSES: Tues. before 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Wed. during even numbered years EXCEPT 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.</p>	<p>OPENS: Wed. before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Thurs. during even numbered years EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the Wed. before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. on odd years and Thurs. during even numbered years  CLOSSES: 40 days after opening in odd numbered years or 39 days after opening in even numbered years</p>
3	<p>OPENS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Sept.  CLOSSES: Jan. 15</p>	<p>OPENS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  CLOSSES: Fri. before 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.</p> <p>OPENS: Mon. after Thanksgiving Day  CLOSSES: Fri. before 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.</p>	<p>OPENS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  CLOSSES: Sun. after Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>OPENS: 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.  CLOSSES: After 37 days</p>	
4	See Area 1.			

5	OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. ( <del>BUCKS ONLY EITHER SEX</del> )  OPENS: Day after <del>Christmas Day</del> <u>the close of Modern Firearm Season</u> CLOSES: <del>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></del> <u>After 7 consecutive days</u> ( <del>BUCKS ONLY EITHER SEX</del> )	OPENS: Day after Thanksgiving Day CLOSES: <del>Sun. after 2<sup>nd</sup> 4th Sat.</del> <u>Sun.</u> of Dec.	
6*	OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. CLOSES: Feb. 15 (1 <sup>st</sup> 15 days are BUCKS ONLY)	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov.  OPENS: Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.	OPENS: Sat. before Thanksgiving Day EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. CLOSES: Next to last Sun. of Jan.
7	OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct. CLOSES: Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov.	OPENS: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct. CLOSES: Fri. before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Nov.  OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. CLOSES: Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	OPENS: Mon. after Thanksgiving Day CLOSES: After 35 days
8	OPENS: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Sept. CLOSES: Jan. 15	OPENS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct. CLOSES: Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  OPENS: Mon. after Thanksgiving Day CLOSES: Fri. before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.	OPENS: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct. CLOSES: Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	OPENS: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. CLOSES: After 37 days.

\*Except lands within the Morganza Floodway and Atchafalaya Basin.

All lands within the Morganza Floodway from I-10 South within the protection levees of the

Atchafalaya Basin shall have the following seasons

	<u>OPENS: 1<sup>st</sup> day of Oct.</u> <u>CLOSES: Last day of Jan. (1<sup>st</sup> 15 days are Bucks Only)</u>	<u>OPENS: Mon after the next to last Sun. of Jan.</u> <u>CLOSES: Last day of Jan. (Bucks-Only)</u>	<u>OPENS: Sat. before Thanksgiving Day</u> <u>EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> nine days Either-Sex.</u> <u>CLOSES: Fri. before 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec.</u> <u>EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.</u>	<u>OPENS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2 days Either-Sex.</u> <u>CLOSES: 2<sup>nd</sup> to last Sun. in Jan.</u>
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D. Modern Firearm Schedule (Either Sex Seasons)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Modern Firearm Either-sex Days</u>
West Carroll	Area 5	Opens Friday after Thanksgiving Day for 3 days.

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

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

G. Spring Squirrel Hunting

1. Season Dates: Opens 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 9 days on all WMAs except Fort Polk, Peason Ridge, Camp Beauregard, Pass-a-Loutre and Salvador. 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 34:1447 (July 2008), LR 35:1280 (July 2009), LR 35:2856 (December 2009), LR 36:1580 (July 2010), LR 37: 2207 (July 2011).

Public hearings will be held at the following locations: March 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Alexandria Convention Hall, 915 Third Street, Alexandria; March 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the LDWF Office, 9961 Highway 80, Minden; March 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m., Yambilee Festival Building, 1939 W. Landry, Opelousas; March 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m., St. John Parish Council Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Highway, Laplace; March 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m., Bastrop Visitor Center, 124 North Washington Street, Bastrop; and March 15 beginning at 6:30

p.m., LSU Ag Center (next to Burton Coliseum), 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles. 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 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012 to Mr. Randy Myers, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000, or via email to [rmyers@wlf.la.gov](mailto:rmyers@wlf.la.gov).

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).

Ann L. Taylor  
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 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 (WMA) 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 (LDWF) 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 LDWF 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. 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 two 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. Except nutria may be taken on Atchafalaya Delta, Salvador/Timken, Pointe Aux Chenes and Pass a Loutre WMAs from September 1 to March 31. 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. As described in 50 CFR Part 21, non-toxic shot must be used for the take of crows, blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles under the special depredation order. In addition an annual report has to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for those that participate in the take of these species.

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

6. Falconry. Special permit required. Resident and migratory game species 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.

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.

8. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Refer to LAC 76:V.111 for specific DMAP Rules. 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 approved archery equipment or primitive firearms). 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. DMAP participants must follow the deer season schedule established for their respective areas.

#### 9. 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.

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 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 and other approved primitive firearms.

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. 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 approved archery equipment, 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, state WMAs, and the Bayou des Ourses, Bodcau, Bonnet Carre, Indian Bayou, Loggy Bayou and Soda Lake tracts owned by the Corps of Engineers but does not apply to state wildlife refuges, the Kisatchie National Forest, or other federally owned refuges and lands. On state WMAs, 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 LDWF 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.

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 primitive firearm larger than .36 caliber. It shall be legal to hunt or take squirrels, rabbits, and outlaw quadrupeds with air rifles. 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.

d. No person shall take or kill any game bird or wild quadruped with a firearm fitted with any device to deaden or silence the sound of the discharge thereof; or fitted with an infrared sight, laser sight, or except as provided in R.S. 56:116(A)(8) any sighting device which projects a beam of light to the target or otherwise electronically illuminates the target, or device specifically designed to enhance vision at night [R.S. 56:116.1.B(3)].

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 LDWF, 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 region 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 LDWF. This permit shall be valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Contact the local region 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. Outlaw Quadrupeds. Holders of a legal hunting license may take coyotes, feral 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. Nighttime take of nuisance animals & outlaw quadrupeds. On private property, the landowner, or his lessee or agent with written permission and the landowner's

contact information in his possession, may take outlaw quadrupeds (coyotes, armadillos and feral hogs), nutria or beaver during the nighttime hours from one-half hour after official sunset on the last day of February to one-half hour after official sunset the last day of August of that same year. ~~The method of such taking shall be limited to a shotgun no larger than a No. 10 gauge fired with buckshot or smaller or a standard .22-caliber rimfire firearm, and~~ Such taking may be with or without the aid of artificial light, infrared or laser sighting devices, or night vision devices. In addition, pursuant to 56:116(D)(3) any person who is authorized to possess a firearm suppressor may use a firearm fitted with a sound suppressor when taking outlaw quadrupeds, nutria, or beaver. Any person attempting to take outlaw quadrupeds under the provisions of the paragraph, within 24 hours prior to the attempted taking, shall notify the sheriff of the parish in which the property is located of his intention to attempt to take outlaw quadrupeds under the provision of this paragraph.

10. 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.

11. 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 approved archery and primitive firearms, 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.

12. 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.

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 7 days the hunter must validate the kill. Hunters harvesting deer on DMAP lands can validate deer per instructions by LDWF using the DMAP harvest data sheets. Hunters on WMAS 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 does not count in the season or daily 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~~ and except those lands within the Morganza Floodway and Atchafalaya Basin. Consult regulations pamphlet, modern firearms table for either-sex days for these parishes. This does not apply to public lands (WMAs, National Forest Lands, and Federal Refuges) which will have specified either-sex days.

3. 2013-14 Season. 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, not to exceed three antlered bucks ~~and three~~ or 4 antlerless deer (all segments included) by all methods of take, except antlerless harvest on property enrolled in DMAP does not count in the season or daily 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~~ and except those lands within the Morganza Floodway and Atchafalaya Basin. Consult regulations pamphlet, modern firearms table for either-sex days for these parishes. This does not apply to public lands (WMAs, National Forest Lands, and Federal Refuges) which will have specified either-sex days.

4. A legal antlered deer is a deer with at least one visible antler of hardened bony material, broken naturally through the skin, EXCEPT in Thistlethwaite WMA, see specific Thistlethwaite WMA regulations for more information, and EXCEPT on Alexander State Forest WMA, Bayou Macon WMA, Big Lake WMA, Bodcau WMA, Boeuf WMA, Buckhorn WMA, ~~Camp Beauregard WMA~~, Dewey Wills WMA, Jackson-Bienville WMA, Loggy Bayou WMA, Ouachita WMA, Pearl River WMA, Pomme de Terre WMA, Red River WMA, Russell Sage

WMA, Sherburne WMA, Sicily Island Hills WMA, Spring Bayou WMA, Three Rivers WMA and Union WMA during the EXPERIMENTAL QUALITY DEER SEASON (See the specific WMA schedule for more information). Killing antlerless deer is prohibited except where specifically 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. 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.

9. Areas not specifically designated as open are closed.

10. Primitive Firearms Segment: (Special license and primitive 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. Primitive firearms 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 primitive firearm, including those powered by air or other means, while hunting during the special primitive firearms segment. Except, it is lawful to carry a .22 caliber rimfire pistol loaded with #12 shot (ratshot only).

a. Legal Primitive 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. Single shot, breech loading rifles, .38 caliber or larger, or of a Commission approved caliber of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions or reintroductions of that type rifle having an exposed hammer that use metallic cartridges loaded either with black powder or modern smokeless powder and may be fitted with magnified scopes.



c. Special Youth Deer Season on Private Land (either-sex): 14.

Special Youth Deer Hunt on Private Lands (Either-Sex). Areas 1, 4, 5 and 6 - last Saturday of October for 7 days; Area 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October for 7 days; and Areas 3, 7 and 8 - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of September for 7 days. Youths 17 or younger only. Youths must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. 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. EXCEPT properly licensed youths 16-17 years old and youths 12 years old or older who have successfully completed a hunter safety course may hunt without a supervising adult. In addition, youths 17 or younger may hunt deer with any legal weapon during the Primitive Firearms Season in each deer hunting area.

11. 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. 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 broadhead points. 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.

(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, 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.B.(4)].

12. Hunter Orange. Any person hunting any wildlife during the open gun deer hunting season and possessing buckshot, slugs, a primitive firearm, or a centerfire rifle shall display on his head, chest and/or back a total of not less than 400 square inches of "HUNTER ORANGE". 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".**

13. Special Physically Challenged either-sex deer season on private land: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of October for 2 days. Restricted to individuals with Physically Challenged Hunter Permit.

GE. Description of Areas, 2012-2014

1. Area 1

a. All of the following parishes are open: Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Franklin, Madison, Richland, 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 8, south and east of LA 8 southwesterly to Parish line.

ii. East Carroll - 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 US 65, west of US 65 to Madison Parish line.

iii. Grant - East of US 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 US 84, east of US 84 northward to LA 8, south of LA 8 eastward to Parish line.

v. Livingston - North of I-12.

vi. Ouachita - South of US 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.

vii. Rapides - East of US 165 and north of Red River.

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

ix. Tangipahoa - North of I-12.

x. 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 - All.

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. Morehouse - East of US 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.

vi. Ouachita - South of US 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.

vii. Richland - All.

viii. 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 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.

ix. 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.

x. 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.

xi. 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 US 61 and LA 966, east of LA 966 from US 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 US 190 from parish line westward to Kinder, east of US 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 8, north and west of LA 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 US 167 east of Ville Platte.

v. Grant - All EXCEPT that portion south of LA 8 and east of US 165.

vi. Jefferson Davis - North of US 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 US 84, west of US 84 northward to LA 8, north of LA 8 eastward to Parish line.

viii. Morehouse - West of US 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 US 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 US 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 US 167 to junction of US 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.

xi. Vernon - North of LA 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 US 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 US 165, east of US 165 northward to US 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 US 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 US 190 westward from DeRidder to Texas state line.

iii. Calcasieu - South of US 90 from Sulphur to Texas state line. Also east of LA 27 from Sulphur northward to the parish line.

iv. Iberia - West of US 90 and north of LA 14.

v. Jefferson Davis - All EXCEPT north of US 190.

vi. Lafayette - West of I-49 and US 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 US 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. See Area 1.

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 US 167 east of Ville Platte.

iii. Iberia - East of US 90.

iv. Lafayette - East of I-49 and US 90.

v. Livingston - South of I-12.

vi. Rapides - South of Alexandria between Red River and US 167 to the junction of US 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.

vii. St. Landry - East of US 167.

viii. St. Mary - North of US 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 LA 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 US 167 to the junction of US 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 US 51, east of US 51 from Pass Manchac to LA 638 (Frenier Beach Road). North of LA 638 from US 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 I-10, west of the East Guide Levee, east of the West Guide Levee, and north of US 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 US 90.
- ii. St. Mary - All EXCEPT that portion north of US 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

US 190, north of US 190 eastward to Kinder, west of US 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 US 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 US 90 from Sulphur to the Texas state line.

- iv. Vernon - That portion west of LA 113 from the parish line

northward to Pitkin and south of LA 10 from Pitkin southward to the parish line.

HG. WMA 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. WMA seasons may be altered or closed anytime by the LDWF 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. 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. Interested parties should contact the nearest LDWF region 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 (including but not limited acorn and pecans), wild plants, non-game wildlife (including reptiles and amphibians) or any species of butterflies, skippers or moths is prohibited without a permit from the LDWF. Gathering and/or removal of soft fruits, mushrooms and berries shall be limited to 5 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 ages 18 through 59 to hunt on WMAs.

b. 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 two portions: CHECK IN, CHECK OUT. 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. 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. (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.)

c. Persons using WMAs or other LDWF 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. Youths 17 or younger only. Youths must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. 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. EXCEPT properly licensed youths 16-17 years old and youths 12 years old or older who have successfully completed a hunter safety course may hunt without a supervising adult. Contact the appropriate region office for 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 17 or younger 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. Youths 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. EXCEPT properly licensed youths 16-17 years old and youths 12 years old or older who have successfully completed a



hunter safety course may hunt without a supervising adult. 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. Physically Challenged 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 Physically Challenged Seasons.

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.

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.

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 LDWF Lands. The LDWF 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 LDWF 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 and crossbows cocked in the ready position 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 and EXCEPT as allowed pursuant to R.S. 56:109.C and R.S. 56:1691. Bows and broadhead arrows are not allowed on WMAs EXCEPT during deer archery season, turkey season or as permitted

for bowfishing. Active and retired law enforcement officers in compliance with POST requirements, Federal Law Enforcement Officers and holders of Louisiana concealed handgun permits or permit holders from a reciprocal state who are in compliance with all other state and federal firearms regulations may possess firearms on WMAs provided these firearms are not used for any hunting purpose.

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 WMA 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 and during special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs (consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMA regulations).

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 WMAs 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.

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

d. Deer may not be skinned 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.

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. Natural vegetation (including any material used as corner posts) is defined as natural branches that are 2 inches or less in diameter. 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 or hog 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 LDWF. 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 WMAs. Hunters must obtain PCHP permits and are required to make reservations to use blinds and stands. PCHP wheelchair hunting areas are available on Alexander State Forest, Big Colewa Bayou, Buckhorn, Clear Creek, Elbow Slough, Floy McElroy, Jackson–Bienville, Ouachita, and Sherburne WMAs. Check WMA hunting schedules or call the LDWF Offices in Pineville, Lake Charles, Opelousas, Minden, Monroe or Hammond for information.

h. Hunting from utility poles, high tension power lines, oil and gas exploration facilities or platforms is prohibited.

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.

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

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

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

m. Horses and mules may be ridden on WMAs 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 EXCEPT allowed by permit only on Camp Beauregard. Hunting and trapping from horses and mules is prohibited EXCEPT for quail hunting or as otherwise specified. Horse-drawn conveyances are prohibited.

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. Quail and woodcock hunters and hunters participating in special dog seasons for rabbit, squirrel and feral hogs 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 and feral hogs. ALSO all persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display "Hunter Orange". Hunters participating in special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs must display 400 square inches of hunter orange and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap.

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 degrees.

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 Physically Challenged hunts are in progress. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific seasons.

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.

r. Primitive Firearms season for deer. Either-sex unless otherwise specified. See WMA deer schedule. EXCEPT youth 17 or younger may use any legal weapon during the Primitive Firearm Season ~~shotgun with slugs during primitive firearms 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 LDWF-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 unless otherwise specified.

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, refuges, or limited use areas 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. 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. 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. Utility Type Vehicle (UTV, also Utility Terrain Vehicle) is defined as any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, not legal for highway use, designed for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, traveling on four (4) or more low-pressure tires,

with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight-1900 pounds, length-128" and width-68". UTV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi. UTV's are commonly referred to as side by sides and may include golf carts.

c. 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.

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

e. 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.

f. 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. Except, Type A personal water craft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are eight feet in length and greater, may be operated in the areas of Catahoula Lake, Manchac WMA, Maurepas Swamp WMA, Pearl River WMA and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA from April 1 until the Monday of Labor Day Weekend, from sunrise to sunset only. No person shall operate such water craft at a speed greater than slow/no wake within 100

feet of an anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, persons engaged in angling or any other manually powered vessel.

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

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

i. Licensed motorized vehicles (LMVs) legal for highway use, including motorcycles, are restricted entirely to designated roads as indicated on WMA maps. UTVs are restricted to marked UTV trails only. ATVs are restricted to marked ATV trails only, EXCEPT when WMA roads are closed to LMVs. ATVs may then use those roads when allowed. WMA maps available at all region offices. This restriction does not apply to bicycles.

NOTE: All ATV and UTV trails are marked with signs and/or paint, but not all ATV and UTV trails appear on WMA maps.

j. Use of special ATV trails for Physically Challenged persons is restricted to ATV Physically Challenged permittees. Physically Challenged ATV permittees are restricted to Physically Challenged 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 Physically Challenged trails and need not obtain a permit.

However, these persons must abide by all rules in place for these trails. Physically Challenged persons under the age of 60 must apply for and obtain a Physically Challenged Hunter Program Permit from the LDWF.

k. Entrances to ATV trails will be marked with peach colored paint.

Entrances to Physically Challenged-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.

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

m. 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 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.

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

o. Hunters are allowed to retrieve their own downed deer and hogs with the aid of an ATV except on Thistlethwaite and, Sherburne, Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes, Salvador, Timken, Lake Bouef, and Biloxi 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.

iv. UTV's may not be used to retrieve downed deer or hogs.

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 WMA, 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 LDWF.

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. WMAs 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 on certain WMAs (See WMA schedule) and EXCEPT non-toxic shot must be used for rail, snipe, 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. Spring squirrel season with or without dogs: 1<sup>st</sup> 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, and Salvador/Timken 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. Feral 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. Hogs may not be taken with the aid of dogs, EXCEPT feral hogs

may be taken with the aid of dogs on Attakapas, Bodcau, Boeuf, Dewey Wills, Jackson-Bienville, Pearl River, Red River, Sabine, Sabine Island and Three Rivers WMAs (consult Bodcau, Dewey Wills, Little River, Jackson-Bienville, Pass-a-Loutre, Pearl River, Red River, Sabine and Three Rivers WMAs regulations) by Self-clearing permit, ~~from either the Minden, Pineville, Hammond or Opelousas Offices and a~~ All hogs must be killed immediately and may not be transported live under any conditions, except as allowed by permit from either the Minden, Lake Charles, Monroe, Pineville, Hammond or Opelousas offices, and hunters may use centerfire pistols in addition to using guns allowed for season in progress. Additionally, feral hogs may be taken on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs from February 16 through March 31 with shotguns loaded with buckshot or slugs.

16. Outlaw Quadrupeds and Birds. Consult regulations pamphlet. During hunting seasons specified on WMAs, except the turkey and spring squirrel seasons, 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. As described in 50 CFR Part 21, non-toxic shot must be used for the take of crows, blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles under the special depredation order. In addition an annual report has to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for those that participate in the take of these species.

17. WMAs 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 LDWF at any time. ~~ATVs, ATCs~~ All All Terrain vehicles, and motorcycles, horses, and mules prohibited EXCEPT as permitted for authorized WMA trappers. Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines ~~greater~~ powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA. Limited access area – no internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

d. Attakapas.

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

f. Bayou Pierre

g. Bens Creek

h. Big Colewa Bayou. All nighttime activities prohibited.

i. Big Lake.

j. Biloxi. All All Terrain Vehicles, motorcycles, horses, and mules are prohibited. Mud Boats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA. All All Terrain vehicles and motorcycles are prohibited.

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.

- 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. All

nighttime activities prohibited. All All Terrain vehicles, motorcycles, horses, and mules are 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 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 LDWF Pass-a-Loutre WMA map. ~~ATVs, ATCs~~ All All Terrain vehicles, motorcycles, horses, and mules prohibited on this area. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines powered by more ~~greater~~ than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA. Limited access area – no internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

ff. Pearl River. All roads closed 8 p.m. to ~~4:30~~ 4:00 a.m. to all vehicles. Old Hwy. 11 will be closed when river gauge at Pearl River, Louisiana, reaches 16.5 feet. All hunting except waterfowl will be closed when the river stage at Pearl River reaches 16.5 feet. No hunting in the vicinity of Nature Trail. Observe "No Hunting" signs. Rifle range open Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a fee. Type A personal water craft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are eight feet in length and greater, may be operated in the areas of Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, south of U.S. 90 from April 1 until the Monday of Labor Day Weekend, from sunrise to sunset only. No person shall operate such water craft at a speed greater than slow/no wake within 100 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, persons engaged in angling or any other manually powered vessel.

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. All castnet contents shall be contained and Bycatch returned to the water immediately. 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 WMA 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 total 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,~~ St. Louis Canal and Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes unless authorized by the LDWF. All other motorized vehicles, horses and mules are prohibited unless authorized by the LDWF. Limited access area – no internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations. All All Terrain Vehicles, motorcycles, horses, and mules prohibited.

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: March 15 - July 31, recreational only, 100 lbs. per boat or group daily.

jj. Red River. Recreational crawfishing: Yakey Farms only March 15-July 31. 100 pounds per vehicle or group per day. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed. Commercial crawfishing now 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. All castnet contents shall be contained and Bycatch returned to the water immediately. 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 WMA 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 more than four cylinders ~~or less is permitted in interior ditches from first Saturday in September through January and may be further permitted~~ is prohibited. 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.~~ Limited access area – no internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

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. Horse-drawn conveyances are prohibited.

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 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 WMA 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 except as otherwise specified.

uu. Thistlethwaite. All motorized vehicles restricted to improved roads only. All users must enter and leave through main gate only.

vv. Three Rivers.

ww. Tunica Hills. ~~All vehicles restricted to Parish roads. Access to restricted areas is unauthorized. Refer to WMA map.~~ Camping limited to tents only in designated area.

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

yy. West Bay.

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 34:1429 (July 2008), LR 35:1264 (July 2009), LR 36:1566 (July 2010), LR 37:2190 (July 2011), LR .

Public hearings will be held at the following locations: March 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Alexandria Convention Hall, 915 Third Street, Alexandria; March 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the LDWF Office, 9961 Highway 80, Minden; March 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m., Yambilee Festival Building, 1939 W. Landry, Opelousas; March 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m., St. John Parish Council Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Highway, Laplace; March 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m., Bastrop Visitor Center, 124 North Washington Street, Bastrop; and March 15 beginning at 6:30 p.m., LSU Ag Center (next to Burton Coliseum), 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles. 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 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012 to Mr. Randy Myers, Wildlife Division,



Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000, or via email to rmyers@wlf.la.gov.

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).

Ann L. Taylor

Chairman

Mr. David Cresson of CCA handled the next agenda item, **To receive presentation of Current and Upcoming Inshore Reef Projects.** Mr. Cresson thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present to them the very active and vibrant activities of the State's inshore Artificial Reef program and the fortunate position CCA is in to be a partner. Mr. Cresson stated that it occurred to him that there hasn't been much focus on the inshore reef projects. Since 2003 CCA has been active with the Department in building inshore reefs, and 8 have been built. Mr. Cresson stated that he would focus on the more recent reefs that have been completed in the past couple of years and let the Commission know about this really great and under-publicized program the Department has going on. CCA believe that it's one of the best things that the Department has going. Mr. Cresson noted the Independence Island reef that was constructed this past year between May and June of 2011. There is a story on Louisiana's Artificial Reef Program in "Tide", CCA's national magazine. The Independence Island reef was the largest inshore artificial limestone reef ever constructed in Louisiana, and remains so today. Independence Island is a 5 acre reef consisting of 8,000 tons of limestone, and the project cost was just under \$500,000. This project was funded with the Artificial Reef Development Fund and matching funds (50/50) from CCA. The reef is marked with custom designed buoys that can be tied to. Independence Island was a very popular island, and a popular place for people to fish just north of Grand Isle and Grand Terre that is now completely underwater. Mr. Cresson stated that the reef is well marked and people have already started catching fish on it. He also noted that there is a 50 acre site permitted, so it can be added to in the future if needed. Next, Mr.

Cresson discussed the “Twin Span Reefs”, or Lake Pontchartrain Reefs, that were made from recycled material from Katrina Damage of the I-10 Twin Span Bridge. There are currently two reefs with a third coming. The Southshore Reef was started two days before the Saints Superbowl and finished later that year. Mr. Cresson noted that this was the first reef built from recycled concrete rubble. The reef ended up being a little more than 4 acres. This was a partnership between the Department, CCA, Department of Transportation (DOTD), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Boh Bros. Construction. This project was very widely covered by State and National media, and was a great showcase of the Department. Mr. Cresson moved on to the most recent project that was completed a week and a half before the meeting, the Dudley and Kim Vandendorre Reef in Lake Pontchartrain. This was named for Captain Dudley, who approached CCA with the idea of turning the area into a reef. This reef was the 2<sup>nd</sup> to be built with recycled material from Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Cresson stated that this reef is about 5 acres, and was a partnership between the Department, CCA, DOTD, NOAA and NASDI who was the construction company. This event was very widely covered by the media, and Mr. Cresson encouraged everyone to Google “Dudley & Kim Vandendorre Reef” to see how well the Department was showcased. He stated that CCA was pleased to be a small part of the project. Mr. Cresson also provided an overview of the Pontchartrain reefs locations, how they were constructed, and some of the media activities surrounding the projects. Mr. Cresson stated that the third phase of the Twinspan Reef Program will be a reef that CCA will work with the Department to build around the ends of the new St. Tammany Pier for those who do not have boats. Mr. Cresson reviewed some projects that are currently on the front burner and will be done this Spring. The Breton Sound Reef, which will also use recycled concrete materials, will be funded from the Artificial Reef Development Fund, CCA and the Barrier Island Redevelopment Society in Plaquemines. The Breton Sound Reef will be accessible to hundreds of fishermen, and it is expected to be a very popular reef. The other upcoming reef this Spring is the Lake Calcasieu Reef, which will also use recycled material. Funding will be from the Artificial Reef Development Fund and CCA. Mr. Cresson stated that this is not a very heavily fished area now, but is expected to become a very popular fishing area once construction is completed this Spring. This will help take some pressure off the areas that are currently heavily fished. Mr. Cresson wrapped up and welcomed any questions. Commissioner Voisin thanked Mr. Cresson for using the Artificial Reef Funds, and the Commissioners thanked him for his presentation.

The next agenda item, **To receive presentation of Annual Stock Assessment Report for Striped Mullet**, was handled by Mr. Harry Blanchet. Mr. Blanchet stated that Legislature requires that the Commission provide this Annual Assessment for Striped Mullet each year. He stated that this report is strictly an update from last year and that he would be happy to answer any questions. Commissioner Voisin moved to adopt the assessment, and Commissioner Oats seconded. There being no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

The next agenda item, **To consider Notice of Intent to Establish a Commercial Netting season on False River Lake**, was handled by Rachel Walley. Ms. Walley introduced the NOI to remove the current net ban and establish a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing for the certain use of nets on False River Lake. Ms. Walley provided some history on how the net ban was established, stating that in 1991 False River gained trophy status and initiated a largemouth bass management plan which included a slot limit and banned the use of gill nets &

trammel nets. In 1998 trophy status was rescinded and largemouth bass regulations were altered, but the net ban was never lifted. The Department is recommending to establish a recurring net season to allow commercial fishermen the opportunity to utilize the resources of False River. Ms. Walley noted that the lake is no longer managed under trophy status and the purpose of the net ban is no longer merited. A commercial fishing season will allow for the removal of undesirable species in the lake. A letter of support from the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury was provided for the Commissioners. Commissioner Sagrera moved to adopt the NOI, and Commissioner Oats. There being no further discussion the motion 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

Pursuant to the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 56, Sections 22 and 326.3, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to remove the current net ban and to establish and permit a special recurring commercial fishing season, allowing the use of certain nets in False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana.

### Title 76

## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

### Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic life

#### Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

#### §157. Netting Prohibition—~~False River Lake and Lake Concordia~~

A. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines ~~in False River Lake located in Pointe Coupee Parish, and in Lake Concordia located in Concordia Parish, Louisiana.~~ Said netting ban will become effective Friday, September 20, 1991.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:894 (September 1991), amended LR .

§158. False River, Trammel Nets, Gill Nets and Fish Seines

A. Prohibits the use of trammel and gill nets in False River, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, except their use will be allowed for the legal harvest of commercial fish during a special recurring trammel and gill netting season to commence each year at sunrise on November 1 and close at sunset on the last day of February the following year. The use of fish seines is prohibited and there is no season.

B. The trammel and gill nets allowed during the special recurring season shall have a minimum mesh size of 3½” square (7” stretched) or greater.

C. Commercial fishing will be allowed only during daylight hours except that gear can remain set overnight but fish captured shall be removed during daylight hours only.

D. Commercial fishing with trammel and gill nets will be allowed on False River Lake only during the open season and only by licensed commercial fishermen.

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 final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule Mike Wood, Director, Inland Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to April day 5, 2012.

Ann L. Taylor

Chairman

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2012 Meeting** on Thursday, June 7, 2012, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Taylor then asked for **Public Comments**. Mr. Randy Myers stated that he was able to locate the dates from last year, December 17-25. The corresponding calendar adjustment for Kisatchie with or without dog hunting would be December 15-23.

The Commissioners agreed that there was no need to enter **Executive Session to Discuss Prospective Litigation relative to return of Artificial Reef Fund Monies** at this meeting, but that it will remain on the agenda for next month.

There being no further business, Chairman Taylor **Adjourned** the meeting.

Ann Taylor  
Chairman