

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 3, 2012

ANN L. TAYLOR  
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.  
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AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
May 3, 2012  
9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, May 3, 2012

Chairman Ann Taylor presiding.

Ronny Graham  
Pat Manuel  
Ann Taylor  
Mike Voisin  
Billy Broussard

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

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

For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, Commissioner Voisin recognized the attendance of Mr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Director of the National Fisheries Service, and Senator Allain at the meeting and thanked them for being there.

Lt. Col. Joey Broussard stated, for the agenda item, **To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March**, there were a total of 1336 cases and 575 written warnings were issued during February and agents helped with 42 public assists. The Department's planes flew a total of 75.6 aviation hours for the month. There were 15 boating accidents reported with 7 injuries and 3 fatalities. Three news releases were discussed. The first was on a St. Charles Parish man arrested for DWI and child endangerment. The second was on two men arrested for shark violations in Plaquemines Parish. The two men had 2,073 individual fins, and 529 total sharks possessed, which is 496 over the daily limit. The last case was a covert operation involving Roy Folsie, a St. James Parish man who was illegally purchasing and selling fish and game, among other charges.

The next item, **To hear a Proclamation for Safe Boating Week**, was handled by Captain Rachel Zechenelly. Captain Zechenelly gave the Commission background information on some of the ways the Department encourages safe boating practices. She said one of the things the Department always participates in is National Safe Boating Week, which is May 19-25 this year. The other component is boating education, and on May 12, 2012 across the State of Louisiana the Department will hold a Boating Education Lagniappe Day, where the Department has partnered with other organizations and will provide lunch and door prizes to participants. Captain Zechenelly asked the Commission to proclaim May 19-25 as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana. The proclamation emphasizes safe and knowledgeable boating, as well as life jacket

wear. Commissioner Manuel made a motion to pass the proclamation, and Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

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

## PROCLAMATION

### Safe Boating Week

Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

May 3, 2012

WHEREAS, the United States has over 13 million boats, and 322,000 of those boats are on Louisiana waters; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of boating incidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, 74% of our states fatalities on the water are due to drowning; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

WHEREAS, while boats are a marvelous source of recreation, unknowledgeable boat operators are a risk to other boaters when they do not know or obey the Navigation Rules of the Road, drink alcohol, or take drugs while operating a boat or choose not to wear a life jacket; and

WHEREAS, one precaution, wearing a life jacket, could save 80% of the lives of those who fall into the water unexpectedly; and

WHEREAS, boating knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment, if people are aware of the risk they are more likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others; which is why we must spread the message of boating safety education in our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby proclaim May 19-25, 2012 as Safe Boating Week in the State of Louisiana.

Ann Taylor, Chairman  
Louisiana Wildlife and  
Fisheries Commission

Robert J, Barham, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

Secretary Robert Barham handled the next item, **To hear Information on State Gulfward Boundary**. Secretary Barham stated that in 2011 the Legislature passed Act 336 which is now in Title 49.1.A, and it is the historic gulfward boundaries the Legislature has adopted, and went on to read the pertinent part, “the historic gulfward boundary of the state of Louisiana extends a distance into the Gulf of Mexico three marine leagues from the coastline. For the purposes of this Part, “three marine leagues” is equal to nine geographic miles or 10.357 statute miles”. Secretary Barham stated that Monday morning at 6AM the Department will implement that line. Commissioner Voisin asked Secretary Barham to explain “implement”. Secretary Barham answered that is where the Department’s Enforcement agents will consider the boundary of state waters. Commissioner Voisin had questions on the status of the act, and Secretary Barham stated that Congress has not taken any action on this, but that the Department is first obligated to the legislature, and being that this is an Act signed by the Governor and it is our obligation to implement what they have declared. He acknowledged that there are avenues for Congress or the Court to take a contrary view, and there is a possibility of this going to Federal Court. Commissioner Voisin stated that he is not opposed to the issue, but has questions on the timing. Secretary Barham stated that he thinks it will not be judged as final until action is taken by Congress or a Court, but in the interim the Legislature has clearly stated what they believe is our historic boundary by passing the Act and having it signed by the Governor. There was discussion on the implications of enforcing this new boundary. Commissioner Voisin stated that he is for extending the gulfward boundary but is concerned about the fishermen who may be caught in the middle by federal enforcement. Secretary Barham stated that he administers the decision of the Commission, and if the Commission directs him not to implement this act he will follow their wishes. Commissioner Voisin stated that he believes the law is clear, and asked for input from Don Puckett, General Counsel. Chairman Taylor stated that she is for implementing the Act. Secretary Barham stated that he would like a decision by the Commission. Commissioner Graham moved to implement the new state gulfward boundary and Commissioner Manuel seconded the motion. Commissioner Voisin voiced concern that there is no indication of this being an action item on the agenda, and to make it an action item would require a motion. Secretary Barham suggested that the Chairman make this an action item at the next meeting. Commissioner Graham asked if there would be any adverse consequences to waiting one month, and Secretary Barham stated that there will not be. Commissioner Broussard moved to make this an action item on the agenda next month, and Commissioner Graham seconded. Commissioner Voisin stated that he would like more discussion between now and the next meeting on what this action would mean for the fishermen who could be caught in the middle. Commissioner Broussard stated that this is currently taking place with no enforcing the TEDs regulations on shrimping vessels, and if someone is caught in federal waters without a TED on their vessel they will be cited, although the state does not enforce that. Secretary Barham stated that the feds can come into state waters to enforce their regulations, so this is exactly the same situation. Commissioner Voisin stated his opinion that extending the state boundary by seven miles is different than a TED regulation, and the enforcement in that seven mile area will create confusion and unintended consequences, but also stated that he will hear the discussion between now and next month, and that his opinion may change.

The next item, **To hear and consider a Notice of Intent on Red Snapper Regulations**, was handled by Commissioner Ronny Graham. Commissioner Graham made a motion that the recreational season for 2013 Red Snapper is to open on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and close on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The season will be three-day weekend fishing only, plus the Labor Day and Memorial Day holidays which may follow the weekend. The bag limit will be three fish per day. The Secretary may also modify the portion of this rule pertaining to Red Snapper recreational daily harvest limits and Red Snapper recreational season as NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service institutes, sub-regional management of the species, or if he deems it necessary. Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. There were several public comments.

The first was Senator Bret Allain from Franklin, who stated that he is in support of the extended snapper season and limit. Senator Allain confirmed that there is an abundance of Red Snapper in state waters. Senator Allain stated that he has been appointed Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission, and will be taking that seat at the next meeting, and he would like this ruling by the Commission so that he can take it to the Commission and argue for separate regulations for the East and West fisheries. Senator Allain also added that, as a member of the Legislature, he supports Secretary Barham's position on implementing the new state gulfward boundary, and believes that he is correct in his interpretation. Senator Allain urged the Commission to adopt the new gulfward boundary. Commissioner Graham asked Senator Allain what is happening to the other fisheries due to the population of the Red Snapper being so prolific. Senator Allain answered that, as a fisherman, there are so many snapper, and such large snapper, that he and others have been unable to catch other fish due to the size and population of snapper. Senator Allain stated that it takes six or seven people longer to bait the hook than to hit the snapper limit.

Mr. Myron Fischer gave a brief, informative presentation that recapped the discussion from the previous meeting. Mr. Fischer stated that this year our recreation season is scheduled to begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> and go until July 10<sup>th</sup>, approximately 40 days, with a daily bag limit of two fish per person and 16 inch total length. A state license is required to land these fish in Louisiana. Charter captain and crew on vessels have a zero bag limit, and are required to fish by the most stringent of either state or federal regulations. Mr. Fischer gave an overview of the history of the Red Snapper fishery. Commissioner Broussard emphasized that the "overfishing" was not purely from hook and line fishing, and the activity that led to a large part of the current restrictions is down from what it once was, specifically in regards to by catch from commercial shrimping. Chairman Taylor asked if any charter captain can fish in state waters without a reef fish permit. Mr. Fischer stated that charter captains must abide by the more stringent of state or federal regulations, regardless of where they are fishing, when on their licensed charter boat. A non-permitted vessel would be legal in state waters. Commissioner Voisin asked about the Gulf Council's view on this issue. Mr. Randy Pausina stated that the motion is not out of compliance because there is no season set for 2013 at the federal level. There was discussion as to whether or not the Gulf Council has discussed the idea of Louisiana going out of compliance with federal regulations in state waters, and ultimately, Mr. Fischer stated that the issue has not been discussed. Florida recently met and decided to remain compatible with the federal Red Snapper Season. Commissioner Graham stated that the motion for three-day weekend fishing would increase the Red Snapper season by about 20 days, and something needs to be changed, but the last thing he wants to do is to harm the resource. He believes that the Commission has a

responsibility to provide the recreational and commercial fishermen. There was discussion on unlimited harvest at fishing rodeos. Mr. Randy Pausina stated that recreational anglers do not have much trust in the feds, and although this is an extremely complicated issue that would take much effort and redirection of resources, but the intent is to open up the dialogue for regional management. Commissioner Voisin asked if the intent was to send Louisiana's representatives to the Gulf Council to begin the dialogue of instituting regional management, so that a conclusion may be reached prior to the 2013 season. Mr. Pausina stated that the dialogue has already begun, and that the new stock assessment could be ready as early as June 2013. He stated that the recreational fishermen of Louisiana want action, and that is what this motion is intended for.

Next to comment was Dr. Roy Crabtree of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and he began by stating that the council has had discussions about regional management over the years, and that there has been some regionalization of the stock assessment, assessing the Western Gulf and Eastern Gulf with a break at the Mississippi River. Dr. Crabtree stated that recently there have been discussions about going to weekend fishery versus the current fishery, however, based on public testimony, no change was made. There have also been discussions about moving the start date. Currently the 2013 season is set to open in federal waters on June 1, but the council could change that, and there have been discussions on this. Dr. Crabtree stated that the trickiest issue with going to regional management is allocating the quota between states. Dr. Crabtree stated that these are all fair questions and he hopes that everyone can work together to come to a conclusion, as it could be confusing having one set of regulations in state versus federal waters. Commissioner Broussard discussed recreational landings of Red Snapper in year 2011, as well as projected season information for next year. Dr. Crabtree stated that this is not something he has any control over, that the Magnuson Act states that there must be a commercial quota and a recreational quota, and that the fishery must be closed when those quotas are caught. Commissioner Broussard acknowledged that it is a very complicated system, but noted that Red Snapper are not migratory, and stated that he believes the Gulf biomass from the Mississippi River to Brownsville, TX support more fish being taken out of the water than the coast of Alabama, as a sustainable fishery. Commissioner Broussard went on to voice his concerns with the current situation, including fishable days during the season. Commissioner Broussard stated that there is no confidence from people in the state that there will ever be regional separation, that nobody wants to be non-compliant, and asked for Dr. Crabtree to provide some kind of hope for the future. Dr. Crabtree stated that with the stock assessment there should be more fish, which would allow for a higher catch level. The assessment is broken into East and West, but the decision to allocate the TAC gulf-wide is a decision by the Council, and that can change. There was discussion about voting members on the Council. Commissioner Voisin stated that Texas has gone non-compliant, and Florida has gone non-compliant in the past, which reduced the season by 57 days, and asked about Red Snapper in Louisiana state waters. Dr. Crabtree stated that historically only about 1-2% of Louisiana catch has been in state waters. Commissioner Voisin asked if there are any actions taken against non-compliance, and what impact would there be if Louisiana went non-compliant. Dr. Crabtree stated that the only authority he has is that he is required to close federal waters when the quota is caught, but the Council has broader authority to close specific federal waters. The requirement to close the federal waters when the quota is caught lies in the Magnuson Act, but the authority over the



management of this fishery lies in the Council, which is where the states have representatives who can decide how to manage the fishery.

Mr. Harlon Pearce with the Gulf Council was next to comment, stating that it is such a complicated process that the council goes through, stating “we need to move at the speed of business and we move at the speed of government”. The decisions made are mandated by law, some of which the council has no choice on, but Mr. Pearce stated that he believes the root of the problem is how the fisheries are managed with data. Fisheries are being managed based on old data and we need to increase our ability to manage data in a better way. Mr. Pearce suggested an ongoing assessment rather than having to wait on benchmark data. He stated that the process is difficult, and the way to accomplish it is to start at the bottom and work our way up. Mr. Pearce stated that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center is bogged down with all the assessments they are doing, so we need to figure out a better and quicker way. Commissioner Broussard asked about the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and if money is an issue in getting these assessments in a timely manner. Dr. Crabtree explained that it is headquartered in Miami and that assessments are completed through a series of public workshops. Dr. Crabtree stated that money is always an issue. Commissioner Broussard brought up \$18 million that was reallocated to the implementation of catch shares. Dr. Crabtree stated that there are two major catch share programs in the Gulf of Mexico, the commercial Red Snapper IFQ and commercial Grouper IFQ, and that a portion of the money goes toward running those programs and a portion goes to collect data. There was discussion on catch share programs. Dr. Crabtree stated that he realizes that catch shares are a controversial subject and he has heard from many fishermen who do not like the notion that money was put aside for catch shares and have argued that it should have gone into data collection programs. Commissioner Broussard stated that this discussion would probably not be happening if the days had stayed the same or been increased from last year. Commissioner Broussard stated that he called biologists from each state and the reality according to them is that the harvest of red snapper is over restricted. He stated that money may be better spent on fixing the system that is currently in place. The only comments against going non-compliant at the last meeting were the guys who hold federal charter permits, pretty much across the board everyone else is for the idea. The new stock assessment will not be completed before the 2013 season is set, but it will come out in time to allow extra fishing if the evidence supports it. Mr. Pearce stated that money is coming down for the Restore program from BP and that possibly \$500 million could be allocated toward data collection and stock assessments. Commissioner Broussard stated that is fine as long as the money is used for data collection and not reallocated elsewhere. Quicker and better stock assessments are vital to managing the fishery.

Chairman Taylor stated that there are several public servants who have contacted the Commission and agree with the state going non-compliant, including US Congressman Jeff Landry, State Senators Paige Cortez and Jonathan Perry, and State Representatives Stuart Bishop and Simone Champagne.

Next to comment was Dr. James Cowan, Jr. with the Coastal Fisheries Institute at LSU, who provided the Commission with a detailed informational handout. Dr. Cowan noted that while Alabama may land the majority of the recreational landings, Louisiana’s total landings of Red Snapper are highest of any state in the Gulf, mainly from the commercial sector. He also stated

that he has been involved in catch share programs, and the only sector if fisheries that remains unrestrained is the private sector. Dr. Cowan came to discuss the biological aspects of the red snapper fishery. He stated that there has been an enormous decline in shrimp by-catch. Dr. Cowan provided detailed biological information, as well as discussion of life history and year class dominance of red snapper. Dr. Cowan stated that you cannot just look at abundance of fish, you must examine life history and year class dominance. Dr. Cowan also discussed regional differences in abundance and maturation, as well as strategies to rebuilding the stock. Commissioner Broussard asked Dr. Cowan if he thinks the stock is rebuilding slower. Dr. Cowan answered no that it is rebuilding at a pace that is higher than it has been in the past. Commissioner Broussard and Dr. Cowan discussed reasons for year class success. Commissioner Broussard asked if Dr. Cowan thinks it would be beneficial to the fishery to go to a weight per person on a vessel type of limit, from a biological standpoint. Dr. Cowan stated that anything that would promote leaving the larger fish alone would go a long way in rebuilding the stock.

Next was Chris Macaluso who stated that he supports the possible actions of the Commission in theory, but still has reservations about how practical it is in application. Mr. Macaluso suggested considering to open state waters to red snapper fishing at a time when they are closer, which is during the fall and winter. Mr. Macaluso encouraged everyone to try to effect real change on the law.

David Cresson, Executive Director of CCA Louisiana was the next to speak. Mr. Cresson stated that doubt and uncertainty of the future of this fishery are reflected in the widespread dissatisfaction among recreational anglers of all sectors. He stated that CCA is a resource to put fish first, and they believe that the best thing for Red Snapper is a more regional style of management, and Commissioner Graham's motion would lead to that. Mr. Cresson stated that the state managed fisheries are in better shape than federally managed fisheries. He stated that what is most important to CCA is that there is a united effort to fix the problem and come to a better outcome of the management of Red Snapper for recreational anglers. Inconsistency with federal regulations is not a fix all solution, but is a reflection of the incredible frustration of recreational anglers on how this fishery has been managed. Mr. Cresson thanked the Commission for standing up for this issue.

Chris Moran of Moran's Marina, and several more, was next to comment. Mr. Moran stated, as a marina owner, there is a very limited timeframe to make money, and it is time to make a change. Mr. Moran stated that people are taking up other hobbies rather than fishing.

Steve Tomeny was next to comment, stating he operates two 65-foot charter boats in Port Fourchon. He stated that while he is not happy with the shorter seasons, he would like to urge the Commission to remain compliant. Mr. Tomeny stated that understands the frustration, and something needs to be done, but going non-compliant is not the right thing to do. He stated that it would hurt the federally permitted charter boat businesses that make their living out past the state waters.

Next was Randy Boggs with Reel Surprise Charters in Orange Beach, Alabama. Mr. Boggs stated that everyone is frustrated with the current state of the fishery, but going non-compliant

will open state waters to private anglers who own their own boat, and the people who depend on charter boats to go fishing will receive no benefit. Mr. Boggs stated that the best thing that could be done would be to change the Magnuson Act when it comes up for reauthorization in Congress in 2013, and encouraged everyone to pull together to change it. He urged the Commission to remain compliant. He stated that we need better science and electronic data, but we do not need another state that is not compliant.

George Huye, of CCA Louisiana, was next to comment. Mr. Huye voiced support for Commissioner Graham's proposal, stating that it is a solid plan that allows recreational fishermen more available days to fish without making any kind of drastic impact on the harvest. Mr. Huye stated that he always supports local authorities managing local situations, and that the Louisiana fishery is unique and appreciates the Commission trying to take charge of this situation and moving the issues forward. At this moment Mr. Huye believes that Commissioner Graham's proposal is the best solution for the near future.

Ben Graham was next to speak. Mr. Graham is a recreational fisherman and he supports going non-compliant.

Commissioner Graham stated that his motion is not to go non-compliant, that the motion is for the 2013 season which has not been set. He also stated that hopefully this will provide time for regional management to come into play and we will be compliant and we will have a different structured season that will fit everyone's needs.

Stephen Babcock submitted a comment card in favor of the proposal, but was not available to speak.

Next to speak was Dean Blanchard, of Dean Blanchard Seafood. He stated that he has recently become a recreational fisherman, and is tired of catching Red Snapper, that there are so many that you cannot catch anything else. Mr. Blanchard expressed extreme frustration with the federal government.

Chairman Taylor announced that several comments were received from people who do not wish to speak, including Marc Barker in favor of the proposal, Pete McKnight in favor of the proposal, Michael Matthews in favor of the proposal, Burden Edmonds is in favor of the proposal, Jay Poche, Jr in favor of the proposal, Rad Trosclair in favor of the proposal, Mark Mathews in favor of the proposal, Andrew Roberts in favor of the proposal, Amy Bihm in favor of the proposal, and Drew Peasson in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Joe Wegeman, representing the Louisiana Council of Underwater Dive Clubs, stated that they are for non-compliance on this issue. Mr. Wegeman stated that he got involved through days and days of diving and seeing an abundance of Red Snapper.

Chairman Taylor stated that there is a motion and a second on Commissioner Graham's NOI. Commissioner Voisin commented that he understands that this motion does not make Louisiana non-compliant with federal regulations. Commissioner Graham affirmed, stating that it does not make Louisiana non-compliant at this time, but gives us a chance for regional management. He

stated that this will give us a chance for things to be fixed between now and next year, but if not, we need to let our people go fishing. Commissioner Voisin clarified that Commissioner Graham's goal is not to go non-compliant at this time. He asked Mr. Pausina if this motion creates us to be non-compliant. Mr. Pausina stated that it does not because the framework for the 2013 season is not yet in place, but depending on the Gulf Council's decision on the 2013 season it has the potential to be non-compliant. Commissioner Voisin asked Mr. Puckett to explain the NOI process. Mr. Puckett asked for clarification on the motion, and Commissioner Graham said the motion states that beginning Palm Sunday of next year the Commission will open the Red Snapper season with a three fish limit, and fish on three-day weekends only. Mr. Puckett stated that the normal process is 120 days, that it will be published in the State Register, there is a public comment period, sent to oversight, then becomes a rule on or about 120 days and is published in the State Register. There was no action item on Red Snapper last month, there was simply discussion. Commissioner Voisin asked what the process is to change the rule if necessary. Mr. Puckett stated that the Secretary has authority to modify the rule, and any modifications would have to be published in the State Register, as a Declaration of Emergency of amended Notice of Intent. There was further discussion on the process of modifying the rule. Commissioner Voisin asked to include language requiring the Secretary to notify the Chairman of the Commission before any action is taken. He stated that this is a difficult situation and that he fears unintended consequences. Commissioner Voisin stated that he will support the motion, since the intent is not to be non-compliant, and see how this plays out and appreciate the complexities of this decision.

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

Reef Fish

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend a Rule, LAC 76:VII.335, modifying existing reef fish harvest regulations. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1 and

56:326.3. Said Rule is attached to and made part of this Notice of Intent.

**Title 76**

**WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life**

**Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery**

**335. Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations**

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Recreational Bag Limits</u>
1. Red Snapper	2- <u>3</u> fish per person per day
2 - 8...	

B - F ...

G. Seasons

1...

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

Species or Group	Closed Season
a. - b...	

<p><del>b.</del> c. Red Snapper</p>	<p><u>October 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year through the Friday before Palm Sunday of the following year. The open season shall be for weekends only. A weekend is defined as Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of Memorial Day and Labor Day, when Monday would be classified as a weekend as well.</u></p>
<p><u>d. Greater Amberjack</u></p>	<p><u>June 1 through July 31 of each year.</u></p>

3. ...

4. The provisions of §335.G apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters except for the season for the recreational harvest of red snapper, which is for Louisiana's territorial waters only.

5. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized, upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, to close, open, re-open or re-close any reef fish season as needed when informed of such by the National Marine Fisheries Service in order to maintain consistency with modifications in the adjacent federal waters,

should the federal seasons be modified. The Secretary may also modify those portions of this rule pertaining to red snapper recreational daily harvest limits and red snapper recreational seasons if NOAA - NMFS institutes sub-regional management for the species or if he deems it necessary, following notification of the Chairperson of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

H. - J...

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24:1138 (June 1998), LR 24:1139 (June 1998), LR 24:1972 (October 1998), LR 26:793 (April 2000), LR 26:1505 (July 2000), LR 26:2833 (December 2000), LR 31:3166 (December 2005), LR 33:1156 (June 2007), repromulgated LR 33:1397 (July 2007), amended LR 34:2209 (October

2008), LR 34:2682 (December 2008), LR 36:1791 (August 2010),  
LR 38:.... (\_\_\_\_ 2012). LR 38:.... (\_\_\_\_ 2012).

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the  
proposed Rule to: Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division,  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge,  
LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to: [jadriance@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jadriance@wlf.la.gov) prior  
to Thursday, August 20, 2012.

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. Aaron Griffith asked to speak, stating the he is a US Army Veteran and has been living in Louisiana for 48 years. Mr. Griffith stated his opinion that oil companies are to blame for the



problems being experienced in the Gulf Coast fisheries. He expressed his distrust and frustration with BP's response and management of the oil spill.

Mr. Marty Bourgeois handled the next agenda item, **To consider a Declaration of Emergency on Fisheries Closures due to Oil Spill**. Commissioner Voisin moved and Commissioner Manuel seconded the motion. Commissioner Sagraera confirmed that this is the same Declaration of Emergency that is done every month, and Mr. Bourgeois stated that it just renews the action. Chairman Taylor asked about the difference between recreational fishing and recreational angling. Mr. Bourgeois stated that the areas, primarily in the Barataria basin, the area that surrounds Bay Jimmy and the area that surrounds Grand Terre island, only recreational and commercial angling is allowed. All other recreational activities, such as crabbing and shrimping, are closed. Commercial activity is prohibited in all those areas. There being no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

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

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

#### Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby closes all commercial fishing, effective immediately May 3, 2012 in the following areas:

Those waters north of 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River eastward to a line beginning at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 56 minutes 30

seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those waters north of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 20 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, and those waters north of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and southeastward along a line beginning at 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, and those waters west of the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 28 degrees 59 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, 2) 28 degrees 58 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 3) 28 degrees 59 minutes 01 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, and those waters east of the eastern shore of South Pass of the

Mississippi River and south of 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude eastward to a line beginning at 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those waters adjacent to but not including Northeast Pass and Southeast Pass of the Mississippi River and bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 08 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 04 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 04 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, and those waters south and west of Pass a Loutre of the Mississippi River and east of 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 25 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 03 minutes 30 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, and those waters south of

North Pass of the Mississippi River bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 12 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 01 minutes 05 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, and those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude.

Recreational fishing is open in all state inside and outside territorial waters, except in the following areas, where only recreational angling and charter boat angling is allowed:

those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, and those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude.

The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

The Commission hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened

to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chair of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Ann L. Taylor

Chairman

The next agenda item, **To hear and consider a Declaration of Emergency on Setting the Opening dates of the 2012 Spring Inshore and Territorial Sea Shrimp Seasons**, was also handled by Mr. Marty Bourgeois. Mr. Bourgeois stated that the state has been actively assessing impact to the ecosystem and to our fishery resources since the oil spill, and in order to protect the litigation sensitive information he will present the information that is necessary to make a decision on the opening dates of the spring shrimp season. Mr. Bourgeois provided information on sizes of shrimp samples taken this week, showing the mean size and what the mean would be on a future date. Mr. Bourgeois stated that brown shrimp are not heavily targeted in this area of the coast. During the spring shrimp season fishermen target overwintering white shrimp, so these shrimp will take quite a while to reach harvestable size. Mr. Bourgeois stated that this is the predicted astronomical tide for May, and May 5 will be the full moon, and there will be significant tidal ranges on the backside of it. Shrimp move with the lunar tides, so it is good to keep that in mind. Commissioner Voisin stated that a May 21<sup>st</sup> open date has been discussed for the west, and a May 7<sup>th</sup> open date for the central, and potentially a May 21<sup>st</sup> open date on the east as well, and asked if that can be supported with his data. Mr. Bourgeois answered that pretty much every year fishermen ask for the basin area to be opened later, so while the Department may suggest that it open on May 14<sup>th</sup>, it would not be a problem to delay opening until the 21<sup>st</sup>. The important thing about Zone 2 is that brown shrimp are relatively unimportant, on opening day they are discarded. Fishermen are targeting the larger, overwintering white shrimp. Mr. Bourgeois stated that, when talking about splitting zones into smaller areas, it is important to consider that when we create smaller areas we will create competition. Commissioner Graham stated that he would like to hear from the shrimp fishermen to see what they have to say. There being no other questions for Mr. Bourgeois Chairman Taylor received public comment.

First to comment was Mr. Dean Plaisance who stated that he has been a commercial fisherman for over 30 years. Mr. Plaisance stated that opening areas separately creates a problem, because fishermen from other areas will come to the open areas, then move back to their areas when they open up, creating congestion. Mr. Plaisance stated that he would like to open all zones to let everyone stay in their own zones. Mr. Plaisance is in favor of a statewide opening on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next was Mr. Patrick Luhe, who stated that he would like an emergency opening on May 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. He stated that we need to open the season as soon as possible.

Next was Mr. Robert Parfait, from DuLac, who was in favor of opening the season on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next was Mr. T-Roy Borne, Jr., who stated that he would like the season to open on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Taylor stated that she has several comment cards from those who do not wish to speak. Teddy Duplantis would like the season to open on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Shawn Polkey would like to open all zones at the same time, and two comment cards were submitted with no information.

Commissioner Graham asked to hear from Mr. Bourgeois after hearing from the shrimpers. Mr. Bourgeois shared some of the projections, stating that if Zone 2 is opened on May 7<sup>th</sup> only 28% of the brown shrimp population would be at sizes 100 count per pound or larger, which poses a challenge. Commissioner Manuel asked Mr. Bourgeois if opening the season on May 7<sup>th</sup> is too early. Mr. Bourgeois stated that, according to the projection, it is, but the anticipated tide on May 5<sup>th</sup> will cause movement. Commissioner Manuel asked if the season is opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the shrimpers do well, will the population be hurt. Mr. Bourgeois stated that is difficult to assess. Commissioner Manuel stated that if they hurt the population this year there will be no shrimp to catch next year. Mr. Bourgeois stated that shrimp are an annual crop with high reproductive capacities. Commissioner Graham stated that he is from North Louisiana and does not know much about shrimp, so he asked the shrimpers what May 11<sup>th</sup> would do to them related to their business. The general answer was that waiting until May 11<sup>th</sup> would hurt business. Commissioner Sagrera stated that he tends to agree that a statewide opening spreads boats out, and he hears the public comments, but coming from Vermillion Parish and speaking to shrimpers on that end, they are more in favor of waiting until the 14<sup>th</sup> or later. He asked if it is feasible to have two openings. Commissioner Broussard moved to open the Vermillion-Teche and Mermentau Basin on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, and all other basins, excluding the Pontchartrain Basin open on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Pontchartrain Basin open on the 21<sup>st</sup> as well. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion. Commissioner Broussard explained that the areas that open later do not focus on the brown shrimp as much as the overwintering white shrimp and opening later would give the white shrimp time to grow. He stated that he has received overwhelming comments from his area that they want the season to open as late as possible. The split will be Vermillion-Teche Basin west, the old area 2, area 1 except for the Pontchartrain Basin. Mr. Bourgeois suggested that the dividing line at the Vermillion-Teche Basin be the Atchafalaya River. Commissioner Voisin stated that the boundaries would be the state line with Texas, the Atchafalaya, the Mississippi River, and the Mississippi state line. Commissioner Broussard restated his motion to open the Vermillion-Teche Basin west of the Atchafalaya River on May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Vermillion-Teche Basin east of the Atchafalaya River to the Mississippi River or the Pontchartrain Basin Black Bay on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and from there north on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The motion was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Sagrera.

Mr. Dean Blanchard asked about the area around Bay Jimmy, and Commissioner Voisin clarified that the Declaration of Emergency that was just passed closed all commercial activity in that area because of the oil spill. Mr. Blanchard expressed his extreme frustration with the entire situation in Barataria Bay related to the oil spill. Commissioner Voisin stated that there is a significant amount of monitoring the Department continues to do and when that area meets the requirements for opening the Commission will open that area. There was discussion between Mr. Blanchard and Commissioner Voisin regarding the status of the problems in Barataria Bay.

Mr. Bourgeois stated that there is currently a portion of territorial sea closed to shrimping that corresponds with the Vermillion area between the Atchafalaya River and Freshwater Bayou, and he would like to include that with the openings. Commissioner Broussard stated that it would be best to open that area on the 21<sup>st</sup> for consistency, and Commissioner Voisin agreed.

There being no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

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

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

#### Spring Inshore Shrimp Season Opening Dates

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2012 Spring Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters to open as follows:

That portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6:00 am May 21, 2012, and

That portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the Atchafalaya River



Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00 am May 7, 2012, and

That portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to the Louisiana/Texas state line, to open at 6:00 am May 21, 2012, and

That portion of state outside waters south of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou at 92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude to open at 6:00 am May 21, 2012.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close any portion of Louisiana's inside waters to protect small juvenile white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is further granted the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, and to open and close special shrimp seasons in any portion of state inside waters based upon biological and technical data following notification to the Chair of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Ann L. Taylor

Chair

Commissioner Voisin made a motion to move items 12 and 13 up because Mr. Dave Kustersky, of Ducks Unlimited Canada, had a flight to catch. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which passed with no opposition.

Mr. Dave Kustersky handled the next agenda item, **To hear Report from Ducks Unlimited on Waterfowl and Breeding Grounds Work in Saskatchewan**. Mr. Kustersky stated that since 1965 Louisiana has provided funding to waterfowl conservation on the prairies of Canada. The report he has today is in the last two years with specific information on the past year of funding, in which the Department provided \$325,081 which Ducks Unlimited (DU) matched in four times. Mr. Kustersky provided a brief overview of the conservation strategies in Canada. He stated that wetland loss is a continued problem in the prairies of Canada, so the funding from the Department really does make a difference in preserving and restoring wetland habitats. DU has put forward the money the Department has given to the province of Saskatchewan because that is where the largest concentration of birds come from. Within Saskatchewan conservation efforts are focused in priority areas, which are areas with highest waterfowl densities. Those priority areas are where over 75% of money raised for habitat conservation goes. Mr. Kustersky stated that the two main focuses are to protect what is there and restore what has been lost. The ultimate goal is to put a productive landscape back out there so that waterfowl can thrive. Mr. Kustersky provided the Commissioners with a report of how the money is being spent, and stated, in summary, that the Department's money is being well spent. He also stated that land values have increased and that, as a result, conservation program costs will continue to increase. Mr. Kustersky urged that the sooner conservation work is done the cheaper it will be.

Mr. Kustersky provided a two-year summary, outlining the two-year goal, stating that all goals were exceeded except for wetland restoration, and provided reasons for that. At the end of the two-year contract 159% of the acre goal was accomplished. Mr. Kustersky stated that the major improvements in wetland restoration are going to come through policy over time. He stated that the prairies of Canada have seen a decline, specifically Saskatchewan, primarily driven by the loss of habitat. The prairie habitat joint venture objectives for the next 25 years are to restore six million acres and to protect 2.5 million acres in Saskatchewan, which will cost about \$21 million each year. The current funding levels are about \$10 million per year, which is about 48% of the funding needs in order to meet the objectives. Mr. Kustersky stated that, ultimately, DU Canada is looking at not meeting objectives without additional funding. He highlighted that supporting North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) programs in Canada keeps NAWCA healthy, which is federal funding coming out of the US that has legislated designation for 45% of it to be spent in Canada. In order for NAWCA to be healthy a portion of NAWCA funding must be spent in Canada. Mr. Kustersky stated that since 1991 over \$20 million of NAWCA money has been spent in Louisiana. The leadership role Louisiana has played in supporting Canada has kept NAWCA funding strong. Mr. Kustersky provided an overview of a decade of success of the partnership between LDWF and DU Canada. He thanked the Commission for their long term commitment and stated that he would be back next month. Commissioner Graham asked about the winter wheat program, and Mr. Kustersky stated that 1.2 acres were seeded this past fall, and that the opportunity for seeding should be good this fall. Commissioner Manuel asked Mr. Kustersky to explain the importance of winter wheat. Mr. Kustersky explained that it is seeded in the fall, versus the spring, which provides a non-disturbed nesting cover during the nesting time, and is about six to eight inches tall by the time the ducks come to nest, which provides a

very highly concealed cover. The other benefit is that predators do not typically go across cultivated landscapes, so the nest success tends to be higher. Nest success rates are much higher in winter wheat areas than they are in native grassland areas.

Commissioner Voisin moved to take up item 13, as it follows item 12 and Commissioner Broussard seconded. There being no opposition, the motion passed.

Mr. Larry Reynolds handled the next agenda item, **To hear LDWF Monitoring Report on Ducks Unlimited work in Saskatchewan.** Mr. Reynolds stated that Louisiana has a state statute that allocates 10% of our basic license fees dedicated by the Commission to the development and preservation of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl, the funds to be expended for such purposes through DU, or under the direction of the LDWF Commission at its discretion. Mr. Reynolds stated that LDWF was the first state agency to provide funding to Canada. He stated that from inception to 2002 all of the money went to DU for habitat projects, from 2002-2007 Delta Waterfowl received 1/3 of the available funding for predator removal, from 2008-2009 the available funding was split between Delta Waterfowl and DU, but the funds were not allowed to be used for predator control, and 2010 was the last time that the Commission heard proposals and made a decision, which was to award all revenue to the proposal from DU, in the amount of \$318,705. There has been dissatisfaction and criticism surrounding this funding in the past. Mr. Reynolds stated that in September of 2011 he made a monitoring trip to Canada, and combined it with some other efforts. He provided the Commission with a tracking sheet to show how DU Canada keeps track of expenditures. Mr. Reynolds stated that he chose six areas he wanted to visit, and DU did not know where it would be until a few days before his trip. He stated that he also spent a good amount of time in the office, going through their records like a state auditor would do, and provided examples and information on agreements. Mr. Reynolds stated that the point of his visit and his presentation is to publicly and openly affirm that the money we are sending to Canada is being used as intended, and to show how the program is being administered. Commissioner Sagrera asked about the process for new proposals. Mr. Reynolds stated that he anticipates three proposals at the June meeting, and the Commission will vote in July.

Mr. Randy Myers handled the next two items, **To receive Final Public Comment on Notice of Intent on 2013-14 Hunting Season Dates, and To receive Final Public Comment on Notice of Intent on General/WMA Hunting Regulations,** together. Mr. Myers stated that the NOI's will govern hunting seasons for the next two years. He stated that at the end of his presentation the Commission will vote on each NOI separately, as well as the two amendments. With a favorable passage they will go to the legislative oversight committees, and they should come back before the Commission in July for final ratification. Mr. Myers provided an overview of the major changes. Mr. Myers stated that there are two amendments being considered. The first is to be consistent and allow the take of raccoon and opossum, as with small game, to allow calibers smaller than .22. The second amendment adds a bird dog training area to the Vernon Unit of the Kisatchie National Forest. Before moving on Mr. Myers introduced Ms. Leslie Ariamo, the acting Forest Supervisor on the Kisatchie. Ms. Ariamo stated that the regional forester made a decision in February to ban dog-deer hunting on the Kisatchie National Forest, and, if members of the public do not like that decision they are entitled to appeal it to the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington DC, Tom Tidwell. Ms. Ariamo stated that the appeal period

is now closed, and there are over 1,100 appeals to that decision. It is expected that a decision will be made no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Commissioner Voisin moved to approve both amendments, and Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Commissioner Manuel asked when the amendments were added, and Mr. Myers answered that the Commission added one in March and one in April. Mr. Myers clarified that the motion would include accepting and adopting the primitive firearm list as well. There being no further comment, the motion to approve both amendments passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Voisin moved both NOI's as amended and Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. There being no public comment and no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to 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</u> antlered deer & <del>3</del> <u>or 4</u> antlerless deer)

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

C. Deer Hunting Schedule, 2012-2014

Area	Archery	Primitive Firearms (All Either Sex Except as Noted)	Still Hunt (No dogs allowed)	With or Without Dogs
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1	<p>OPENS: 1<sup>st</sup> day of Oct. CLOSES: Last day of Jan.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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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</u> <u>Modern Firearm</u> <u>Season</u> CLOSES: <del>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></del> <u>After 7</u> <u>consecutive days</u> <del>(BUCKS ONLY</del> <u>EITHER SEX)</u>	OPENS: Day after Thanksgiving Day CLOSES: <del>Sun.</del> <del>after 2<sup>nd</sup> 4th</del> <del>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.
* <u>Except lands within the Morganza Floodway and Atchafalaya Basin.</u>				
<u>All lands within the Morganza Floodway from I-10 South within the protection levees of the Atchafalaya Basin shall have the following seasons</u>				

	<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 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. 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 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum with .22 caliber or smaller 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 sabotated 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.

GF. 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~~ aAll 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 Chaetas" 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

The next item, **To recognize Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation**, was handled by Mr. Bob Love. Mr. Love stated that this item is for information only, that it is a good news story that began in 1957. The Biloxi WMA is 35,643 acres, leased to the Department by Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation, that offers wonderful coastal fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating, wildlife and bird watching opportunities, as well as important marine and estuary activities. This long commitment began with three successive ten-year leases, was followed by a 25 year lease. This March the lease was renewed for another 25 years for free to the Department. Mr. Love pointed

out that Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation has demonstrated 80 years of commitment to the Department. Mr. Love gave a history on the Department and the WLF Commission. Mr. Love provided Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation with a plaque to demonstrate the Departments appreciation of their commitment.

Mr. John Sturgis handled the next agenda item, **To hear Request for Designation of “Free Fishing Days” Scheduling in June.** Commissioner Voisin moved and Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. Mr. Sturgis stated that the public is invited to go out on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to fish without having to purchase the normal require sports fishing license, fresh and saltwater alike. There being no public comment and no further discussion the designation passed with no opposition.

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

## **RESOLUTION**

### **LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

- WHEREAS,** sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and
- WHEREAS,** sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contributes significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and
- WHEREAS,** the estimated 970,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana spend in excess of \$703 million annually, and
- WHEREAS,** Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two no license required recreational Fishing Days each year, and
- WHEREAS,** no license required recreational Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby officially declare the week of June 4 – 10, 2012 as

## **FISHING WEEK**

in the state of Louisiana, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that June 9 & 10, 2012 are hereby declared Free Fishing Days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

Date: May 3, 2012

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Ann L. Taylor  
Chairman

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Ronald "Ronny" Graham  
Vice-Chairman

**RESOLUTION – FISHING WEEK**

**May 3, 2012**

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Stephen Sagrera

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Steve Oats

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Michael C. Voisin

---

Billy Broussard

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Edwin "Pat" Manuel

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **September Commission meeting** on Thursday, September 6, 2012.

For **Public Comments**, Chris Macaluso pointed out to the Commission that it has come to their attention that HB822 includes another \$5 million from the Artificial Reef Fund. Mr. Macaluso stated that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is in support of any action the Commission would take to address the continued removal of funds. Commissioner Graham asked Secretary Barham if that \$5 million is coming from the Conservation Fund. Secretary Barham answered that it is coming from the Rigs to Reef Fund, and commented that the Department has all the money needed to complete all of the projects this year, and have more flexibility to spend the money in the Rigs to Reef program. Commissioner Sagrera asked what the next step is now that it has passed the House. Secretary Barham answered that the budget bill has now left the House and is in the Senate. Commissioner Voisin asked if this is in HB1, and Secretary Barham confirmed that. There was discussion amongst the Commissioners concerning the Rigs to Reef money.



There was a question on what time the shrimp season will open. Commissioner Voisin stated that it usually opens at 6AM, and the Commissioners agreed that it would open at 6 AM.

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

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Ann Taylor  
Chairman