

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

APRIL 3, 2003

TERRY D. DENMON  
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
APRIL 3, 2003

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Chairman Terry Denmon presiding.

Bill Busbice  
Lee Felterman  
Tom Kelly  
Henry Mouton  
Wayne Sagrera

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Jerry Stone was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **March 6, 2003 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Felterman. The motion passed with no opposition.

Then the Chairman called for a motion for approval of the **March 10, 2003 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

No **Commission Special Announcements** were made at this meeting.

**Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification** began with Mr. Noel Kinler bringing the Commission up-to-date on the Notice of Intent. At the December meeting, the Commission passed a Notice of Intent that changed the sliding scale release length to allow for a maximum of 54 inch farm-raised animals to be released; it also stated that no animal over 54 inches would be allowed to be released; and it changed the closing date for the release season from August 25 to August 15. The reasons for these changes were again presented by Mr. Kinler. The Department has become concerned with the continuing decrease in grade quality of skins especially from those farm-raised alligators released into the wild. Some 59,000 skins over a four year period were studied to look at changes in grade trends. Also studied were the components in the release program. Between 30,000-40,000 farm-raised alligators are released each year with their average length being 50.3 inches. In 1998, there was an increase in the numbers

of animals released over 54 inches and an even larger number over 60 inches. About 9 percent of the releases in 2002 were over 60 inches. At this time, 7 to 10 percent of the wild harvest is comprised of farm-raised alligators. From 1998-2001, the skins were studied and it was found that skin grades for all harvested animals decreased, but the skin grades for the farm-raised decreased more. When studying the size of animals at release and their grades at recapture, it was discovered that the smaller the animal is at release, the better quality it is at recapture. A high percentage of the grade 3 skins were from animals released at 55 inches or greater and only 26 percent of those released at 60 inches or better were grade 1. The outcome of this study was what resulted in the Notice of Intent asking for a reduction in the size release to 54 inches.

Commissioner Sagrera stated in the spirit of compromise, he met with staff and agreed to amend the Notice of Intent. The amendment reads as follows: "Each alligator shall be a minimum of 36 inches and a maximum of 54 inches in total length except that a 10 percent overage of animals between 54 inches and 60 inches total length will be allowed to be released. Credit will not be given for inches above 54 inches. No alligators over 60 inches will be accepted for release. The actual number of alligators to be released as part of the 10 percent overage will be calculated for each alligator egg collection permit and will be based on the number of alligators required to be returned at the return rate of 14 percent at 48 inches. The return sex ratio should contain at least 50 percent female." Chairman Denmon asked if the Department had a comment on the proposed amendment. Mr. Kinler stated after discussing this amendment, staff went back and looked at what effect a percent overage would have on the projected grade improvement. For every 1 percent overage, the percentage grade improvement would change by 4.3 percent only if every farmer uses the 10 percent to its fullest. Since only a few farmers would use this overage, the amendment will not change the improvement by what was initially estimated, it would probably be substantially lower. Mr. Kinler then stated the Department would support the amendment. Chairman Denmon asked Commissioner Sagrera if it was his intent to amend the Notice of Intent to that which he stated? Commissioner Sagrera answered yes, and made a motion to amend the Notice of Intent as already stated. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then asked for public comments.

Mr. Mark Shirley, representing the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association, read from a statement for the record. All of the farmers are opposed to reducing the size limit from the current regulations. A number of cost factors and the timing of the release for a 54 inch alligator were listed as reasons not to

support the proposal. The Farmers felt the size and quality of the released alligators should be addressed between the farmers and the landowners. Landowners are satisfied with the current regulations and insist that the proper number of alligators are released to insure continued egg production and to have a healthy wild population. Mr. Shirley noted other options that could be tried instead of having a 54 inch size limit, such as a fall release period or reducing the allotment of bonus tags. Commissioner Busbice asked how many members are there in the Association? Mr. Shirley stated there are 25 members, but only 18 are producing members. Then he stated there are about 30 commercial alligator producers.

Mr. Rudy Sparks, representing the Louisiana Alligator Marketing Coop, stated the Coop is comprised of 10 major landowners in south Louisiana and market about 10,000 wild skins annually. Also he mentioned the members are permitted to receive approximately 100,000 eggs. There are serious issues developing with respect to alligators born in the wild as well as those farm-raised that are returned to the wild. Mr. Sparks also noted they have seen a deterioration in the grade of farm-raised skins when harvested as it relates to size. He felt the issue should be dealt with at the Department level. The Coop does not support the amendment, but does support the original Notice of Intent and felt it should help in addressing the quality issue. As the quality of the skins decrease, so will the price commented Mr. Sparks.

Mr. Ted Joanen, representing the Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunting Association, is composed of about 360 members statewide. He felt it was obvious that the farm-raised skins graded out below that of the wild skins. Mr. Joanen then noted that alligators over 48 inches in length do not do well in captivity, they tend to fight and scar each other. He preferred the release of a maximum 48 inch alligator, he would accept the 54 inch as proposed by the Department. Mr. Joanen stated he did not support the amendment. Another concern is disease of an unknown origin which are occurring on farms throughout Louisiana. With the Department not having a program to screen alligators, it was felt only small, healthy alligators less than 54 inches should be released back into the wild. The Association also supports the Department's change in providing additional time between the release of farm-raised alligators and the beginning of the wild season.

Mr. Zachary Casey, Pelts and Skins, stated he was very strongly opposed to the rule change. Before explaining his reasons why, Mr. Casey noted his company is the largest alligator farming operation in the world with 35 full-time employees and 35 seasonal

employees that do \$10 million in sales. Also, Pelts and Skins is the largest processor of alligator meat, processing over 600,000 pounds of cut meat annually by 15 full-time employees and 75 seasonal employees, which amounts to \$2 million in sales. The company also releases 7,000 to 9,000 alligators to the wild each year. The average alligator is 2 years old and the average size is 57-58 inches. The Department's rule change would have a major negative impact on Pelts and Skins. Mr. Casey noted the damage for one year with the rule change would be about \$235,000 and would result in a 50 percent increase in labor costs for returns. He felt this change in regulations would encourage the worst animal husbandry practices and would encourage the practice of restricting and stunting an animals growth to keep them under 54 inches. Copies of letter from Apache and Delacroix landowners were included in packets and was read by Mr. Casey. He then commented Mr. Joanen was wrong in stating that alligators can not be grown over 48 inches in a healthy state. The markets do not want the change, added Mr. Casey. The small percentage of farm-raised alligators that will be downgraded will have an approximate value of \$200,000. Another point to consider was that only two alligator farmers return over 80 percent of the animals over 54 inches. The Department has contracted with Pelts and Skins to do a 3 year hide study to see what the true impact is on wild skins. Civil remedies exist to where landowners can deal with these problems on their own. The last point made by Mr. Casey was the Department does not have good science to support the original Notice of Intent. He then implored the Commission to reject any change in the regulations. Chairman Denmon asked Mr. Casey if he was also opposed to the amendment made by Commissioner Sagraera? Mr. Casey answered yes, he was opposed to the amendment. This 10 percent overage would reduce his cost from \$235,000 only to \$215,000. Commissioner Felterman asked Mr. Casey what do other farmers do on releases and size and does it not cost more money to grow the alligators larger? Mr. Casey stated it does cost a lot more to grow alligators to a larger size, but fewer animals need to be put back. The release sizes for other farmers was thought to be 50 inches.

Mr. Gordon Logan, Miami Corporation, stated Miami is the largest private landowner in south Louisiana with about 260,000 acres of coastal marsh. He then stated they care about the quality of the natural resource and want to do what is needed to preserve and improve it. Mr. Logan noted they support the original Notice of Intent and oppose the amendment. The Corporation is a member of the Coop and he felt the Coop has taken the proper position on the regulation.

Mr. Steele McAndrew, an alligator farmer, stated he agreed with what Mr. Shirley and Mr. Casey pointed out. He added that any problem should be handled between the landowner and farmer. To make this regulation a law would be a mistake. Mr. McAndrew stated all of his landowners are happy with the regulations as they are now. He suspects that the standard for a number 1 skin has gotten a lot harder and unbelievable to where a skin has to be perfect.

Mr. Jeff Donnell, a farmer, stated there is only a certain time period to release the alligators. In a one year time, an alligator will exceed the 54 inch size when it gets time to release him that second year. This means the smaller, slower growing animals will be released and this will reduce the quality of the animal.

Commissioner Felterman asked Mr. Kinler if the wild and farm-raised people were involved in the decision making and was the data given accurate and worthy? Mr. Kinler stated skin grades were received from 2 major exporters of skins in Louisiana. The skins were graded before this regulation change was considered. The trends were very similar over time. Commissioner Felterman then asked if the Department had a thought on the compromise? Mr. Kinler stated the 10 percent overage mentioned in the amendment would actually have a less impact than what was projected and the Department would support it.

Commissioner Sagrera stated, after talking with the 3 tanneries that handle the majority of the wild skins produced in Louisiana, they all feel the biggest problem with quality has been the drought over the last 5 years. Also, the standards for grading the skins has become much stricter over the last 5-6 years with the tanners wanting almost perfect quality. Commissioner Sagrera felt there were very good comments made, noting the possibility of mismanagement when trying to keep alligators below 54 inches. All of the landowners are satisfied with the system now. He knew of the fear of putting diseased alligators out into the marsh and if the regulation was passed, there would have to be more smaller animals put into the wild. The Coops, the farmers, the tanners all oppose the amendment. Commissioner Sagrera then made a substitute motion to leave the regulations as they are and try to get better data and more input between the landowners and farmers and have a joint appeal. Chairman Denmon asked Commissioner Sagrera if he was withdrawing his origin proposed amendment? Commissioner Sagrera answered yes. Commissioner Kelly seconded the substitute motion. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Felterman.

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for March was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during March.

Region I - Minden - 82 citations and 13 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 117 citations and 20 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 137 citations and 3 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 48 citations and 6 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 174 citations and 8 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 187 citations and 13 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 101 citations and 21 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 256 citations and 24 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 261 citations and 59 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 32 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 25 citations.

SWEP - 6 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 30 citations and 7 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of March was 1,363. Also there were 167 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for March 2003 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 27.5 hours for enforcement and 19.5 hours for other divisions.

Major LaCaze then announced other activities by the division included the beginning of a training academy with 17 new cadets and the hope of starting another academy in September. Also, agents were still searching Toledo Bend for shuttle parts. He then announced there was one boating fatality in Region IX.

Chairman Denmon stated on the next item, **Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations** most comments he has received were on the deer season in Area 5 and the 2 p.m. closure on the coastal WMAs. He asked Mr. Tommy

Prickett to come and talk on these problems. Mr. Prickett first explained that each Commissioner was given a packet that contained a brief synopsis of public comments received to date. There were 7 public hearings held across the state with the average attendance being 20. Comments from the public hearings ranged from the proposed 2 p.m. closure on Atchafalaya Delta WMA, quality deer management, more doe days from the dog hunters, and dog hunting on Kisatchie National Forest. There is a continued increase in hunting pressure on the National Forest lands. Other comments received outside of the public hearings included: the proposed coastal WMA 2 p.m. closure for waterfowl hunting, quality deer management, too many doe days statewide, too few doe days statewide and deer hunting days in Area 5. As a result of these comments, staff recommended changing the gun deer season in Area 5 to run from November 28 through December 14 and move the second split of muzzleloader season to run from December 26 through January 1. The other recommended change involved the 2 p.m. closure on the 6 coastal WMAs of Biloxi, Wisner, Pass-a-Loutre, Atchafalaya Delta, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador. Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs historically had a 12 noon closure and the other areas had all day hunting. Mr. Prickett asked that Atchafalaya Delta WMA be removed from the 2 p.m. closure and continue with all day hunting on this area only. Commissioner Felterman made a motion to go with the Department's recommendations and amend the Notice of Intent to include those recommendations. Commissioner Sagraera seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then asked for public comments.

Mr. Thomas Cotton began by thanking the Commission for making the change on Atchafalaya Delta. He did note a concern on the permanency of blinds on the WMA and asked that enforcement see about removing those blinds.

Mr. John Robert stated he has been hunting Wax Lake for the past 6 years and noted he was opposed to the 2 p.m. closing. If there is a problem with duck populations, he suggesting finding another means to address it.

Mr. Matt Ourley, a hunter on most of the coastal WMAs, stated it was right to leave Atchafalaya Delta open for all day hunting due to tides, the tides would also affect Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi. He suggested that Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi be left open for all day hunting also. He even asked the Commission to consider outlawing go devils.

Mr. Ronnie Roach reinforced Mr. Ourley's comments and stated he hunts Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta extensively. The same issues, such as tides, occur on both areas.

Mr. Duane Bollier stated he used to hunt in Area 2 and they moved his area into Area 8 and he would like to see it moved back into Area 2. Squirrel hunting in southwest Louisiana is a big family tradition and the schedule for Area 8 has muzzleloader season begin the same day as squirrel season. This may keep some hunters from bringing their youth into the woods knowing rifle hunters will be out there. Mr. Bollier asked that the deer season open the first weekend in November. Also he requested that the number of doe days be reduced.

Mr. Clark Van Sickle stated he hunts both Atchafalaya Delta and Pass-a-Loutre WMAs and has since 1975. He felt hunting pressure was not a problem for these areas but access was a greater problem.

Mr. Lindsey Grainger backed up what was stated by Mr. Bollier. The rutting season in the northern portion of Area 8 comes before the area he hunts. The move from Area 2 to Area 8 also messed up bringing youth into the woods since there will be rifles used during that time. Mr. Grainger asked the Commission to consider moving Area 8 back into Area 2.

Mr. Kirk Reinhardt urged the Commission to include Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi WMAs in the all day hunting change. The 2 p.m. for Pass-a-Loutre would limit the ability to access and utilize the area. If the Department wants to eliminate some pressure on the areas, Mr. Reinhardt suggested looking at use of go devils, the permanent blinds and houseboats.

Mr. Ronald Dugas stated he attended the public hearing in Lafayette and the extension of the archery season into the month of February was discussed. A study by Mr. Dave Moreland in Area 6 surmised that there was a late rut in that area and the archery hunting in October could threaten some of the young deer with their mothers. Mr. Dugas, representing bowhunters and other deer hunters, asked the Commission to extend the archery season into the month of February in a portion of Area 6. He then applauded Mr. Prickett for recommending the change in seasons for Area 5.

Mr. Bill Shockey seconded the comments by Mr. Dugas to extend the archery season to the end of February in Area 6. He also mentioned Mr. Moreland's study which showed a late rut in a majority of Area 6. If a hunter kills a doe in October this will orphan a lot of fawns. He suggested running the archery season from October 1 through February 28 since there was no biological reason not to extend it.

Mr. Tommy Daigle, a land manager and owner of Water Oak Plantation in Area 6, stated it was a common occurrence to see small fawns in October. He felt this was documented by Mr. Moreland's study. Mr. Daigle noted 95 percent of the deer hunters are out of the woods by January 31<sup>st</sup>. He felt, as a land manager, having a few more days will help control the deer population.

Commissioner Felterman asked Mr. Puckett if the Commission could receive public comments at the next meeting on this topic? Mr. Puckett explained there were 2 rules going through the rulemaking process. The first rule related to season dates and times and public comments can be taken through the July meeting when it is ratified. Public comments on the second rule for general hunting rules can be taken through the June meeting. Commissioner Felterman stated the Commission has heard some good comments and asked Mr. Prickett and Mr. Moreland to review these and come up with a recommendation at the next meeting for any further changes. He then noted his motion stands as stated. Mr. Prickett stated, last year, a change in the season structure for Area 6 was recommended. The recommendation was to remove the October days and adding the February days. But there was so many controversies that the Commission elected to leave it as it was.

Commissioner Mouton stated he received a lot of comments on the 2 p.m. closure for Atchafalaya Delta and only one on Pass-a-Loutre and expected to receive more on Pass-a-Loutre. He then made a substitute motion to go with the season date change for Area 5 and take not only Atchafalaya Delta but also Pass-a-Loutre out of the 2 p.m. closure and have all day hunting. There was no second to the motion.

Going back to the Commissioner Felterman's original motion, the Chairman asked the pleasure of the Commission. This motion passed with no opposition.

The **Public Information Quarterly Report** was given by Ms. Marianne Burke. The January/February as well as the March/April issues of the Louisiana Conservationist Magazine were published. The Media Relations and News Unit covered a black bear relocation from Delhi to Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge and sent out 15 video news releases to television stations across the State. Also, they helped record four of the seven public hearings on hunting seasons, put out 89 news releases and two regulations booklet. The library had 263 e-mail contacts, 51 regular mail contacts, 147 phone calls and 1,068 walk-ins. The front desk handled 3,777 phone calls and 1,318 walk-ins. The Audio Visual Unit put together a video for the Department to present at the Legislative Sunset Hearing which was shown at this point. Following the video, Ms.

Burke acknowledged Mr. Thomas Gresham and Mr. Joel Courtney and stated they were the ones who created the video. The video presentation before the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees was very successful. The Commission all agreed the job on the video was well done. Secretary Jenkins stated he was at the Sunset Hearing and the Department of Natural Resources spent 1-½ hours telling what they did the last 2 years while the Department spent 20 minutes explaining what has occurred over the past 100 years. He felt the video was very valuable and would be good to show at user group events. Secretary Jenkins complimented Ms. Burke, Mr. Gresham and Mr. Courtney for the good job. Chairman Denmon commended the Department.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **August 2003 Meeting** on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments**. Commissioner Sagrera commented he spoke to the two farmers who returns the largest amount of big sized alligators. They have committed that if the rule did not change, they would be willing to take care of the return work with Department supervision since it was a safety issue.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

JHJ:sch

4/14/2003

Marianne,

For your review.

Thanks,

Susan Hawkins

*[Handwritten signature]*  
4/15/03

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 3, 2003

Residing.

Tom Kelly  
Henry Mouton  
Wayne Sagera

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Jerry Stone was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **March 6, 2003 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Felterman. The motion passed with no opposition.

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No **Commission Special Announcements** were made at this meeting.

**Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification** began with Mr. Noel Kinler bringing the Commission up-to-date on the Notice of Intent. At the December meeting, the Commission passed a Notice of Intent that changed the sliding scale release length to allow for a maximum of 54 inch farm-raised animals to be released; it also stated that no animal over 54 inches would be allowed to be released; and it changed the closing date for the release season from August 25 to August 15. The reasons for these changes were again presented by Mr. Kinler. The Department has become concerned with the continuing decrease in grade quality of skins especially from those farm-raised alligators released into the wild. Some 59,000 skins over a four year period were studied to look at changes in grade trends. Also studied were the components in the release program. Between 30,000-40,000 farm-raised alligators are released each year with their average length being 50.3 inches. In 1998, there was an increase in the numbers

of animals released over 54 inches and an even larger number over 60 inches. About 9 percent of the releases in 2002 were over 60 inches. At this time, 7 to 10 percent of the wild harvest is comprised of farm-raised alligators. From 1998-2001, the skins were studied and it was found that skin grades for all harvested animals decreased, but the skin grades for the farm-raised decreased more. When studying the size of animals at release and their grades at recapture, it was discovered that the smaller the animal is at release, the better quality it is at recapture. A high percentage of the grade 3 skins were from animals released at 55 inches or greater and only 26 percent of those released at 60 inches or better were grade 1. The outcome of this study was what resulted in the Notice of Intent asking for a reduction in the size release to 54 inches.

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Mr. Jeff Donnell, a farmer, stated there is only a certain time period to release the alligators. In a one year time, an alligator will exceed the 54 inch size when it gets time to release him that second year. This means the smaller, slower growing animals will be released and this will reduce the quality of the animal.

Commissioner Felterman asked Mr. Kinler if the wild and farm-raised people were involved in the decision making and was the data given accurate and worthy? Mr. Kinler stated skin grades were received from 2 major exporters of skins in Louisiana. The skins were graded before this regulation change was considered. The trends were very similar over time. Commissioner Felterman then asked if the Department had a thought on the compromise? Mr. Kinler stated the 10 percent overage mentioned in the amendment would actually have a less impact than what was projected and the Department would support it.

Commissioner Sagrera stated, after talking with the 3 tanneries that handle the majority of the wild skins produced in Louisiana, they all feel the biggest problem with quality has been the drought over the last 5 years. Also, the standards for grading the skins has become much stricter over the last 5-6 years with the tanners wanting almost perfect quality. Commissioner Sagrera felt there were very good comments made, noting the possibility of mismanagement when trying to keep alligators below 54 inches. All of the landowners are satisfied with the system now. He knew of the fear of putting diseased alligators out into the marsh and if the regulation was passed, there would have to be more smaller animals put into the wild. The Coops, the farmers, the tanners all oppose the amendment. Commissioner Sagrera then made a substitute motion to leave the regulations as they are and try to get better data and more input between the landowners and farmers and have a joint appeal. Chairman Denmon asked Commissioner Sagrera if he was withdrawing his origin proposed amendment? Commissioner Sagrera answered yes. Commissioner Kelly seconded the substitute motion. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Felterman.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for March** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during March.

Region I - Minden - 82 citations and 13 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 117 citations and 20 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 137 citations and 3 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 48 citations and 6 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 174 citations and 8 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 187 citations and 13 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 101 citations and 21 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 256 citations and 24 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 261 citations and 59 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 32 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 25 citations.

SWEP - 6 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 30 citations and 7 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of March was 1,363. Also there were 167 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for March 2003 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 27.5 hours for enforcement and 19.5 hours for other divisions.

Major LaCaze then announced other activities by the division included the beginning of a training academy with 17 new cadets and the hope of starting another academy in September. Also, agents were still searching Toledo Bend for shuttle parts. He then announced there was one boating fatality in Region IX.

Chairman Denmon stated on the next item, **Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations** most comments he has received were on the deer season in Area 5 and the 2 p.m. closure on the coastal WMAs. He asked Mr. Tommy

Prickett to come and talk on these problems. Mr. Prickett first explained that each Commissioner was given a packet that contained a brief synopsis of public comments received to date. There were 7 public hearings held across the state with the average attendance being 20. Comments from the public hearings ranged from the proposed 2 p.m. closure on Atchafalaya Delta WMA, quality deer management, more doe days from the dog hunters, and dog hunting on Kisatchie National Forest. There is a continued increase in hunting pressure on the National Forest lands. Other comments received outside of the public hearings included: the proposed coastal WMA 2 p.m. closure for waterfowl hunting, quality deer management, too many doe days statewide, too few doe days statewide and deer hunting days in Area 5. As a result of these comments, staff recommended changing the gun deer season in Area 5 to run from November 28 through December 14 and move the second split of muzzleloader season to run from December 26 through January 1. The other recommended change involved the 2 p.m. closure on the 6 coastal WMAs of Biloxi, Wisner, Pass-a-Loutre, Atchafalaya Delta, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador. Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs historically had a 12 noon closure and the other areas had all day hunting. Mr. Prickett asked that Atchafalaya Delta WMA be removed from the 2 p.m. closure and continue with all day hunting on this area only. Commissioner Felterman made a motion to go with the Department's recommendations and amend the Notice of Intent to include those recommendations. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then asked for public comments.

Mr. Thomas Cotton began by thanking the Commission for making the change on Atchafalaya Delta. He did note a concern on the permanency of blinds on the WMA and asked that enforcement see about removing those blinds.

Mr. John Robert stated he has been hunting Wax Lake for the past 6 years and noted he was opposed to the 2 p.m. closing. If there is a problem with duck populations, he suggesting finding another means to address it.

Mr. Matt Ourley, a hunter on most of the coastal WMAs, stated it was right to leave Atchafalaya Delta open for all day hunting due to tides, the tides would also affect Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi. He suggested that Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi be left open for all day hunting also. He even asked the Commission to consider outlawing go devils.

Mr. Ronnie Roach reinforced Mr. Ourley's comments and stated he hunts Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta extensively. The same issues, such as tides, occur on both areas.

Mr. Duane Bollier stated he used to hunt in Area 2 and they moved his area into Area 8 and he would like to see it moved back into Area 2. Squirrel hunting in southwest Louisiana is a big family tradition and the schedule for Area 8 has muzzleloader season begin the same day as squirrel season. This may keep some hunters from bringing their youth into the woods knowing rifle hunters will be out there. Mr. Bollier asked that the deer season open the first weekend in November. Also he requested that the number of doe days be reduced.

Mr. Clark Van Sickle stated he hunts both Atchafalaya Delta and Pass-a-Loutre WMAs and has since 1975. He felt hunting pressure was not a problem for these areas but access was a greater problem.

Mr. Lindsey Grainger backed up what was stated by Mr. Bollier. The rutting season in the northern portion of Area 8 comes before the area he hunts. The move from Area 2 to Area 8 also messed up bringing youth into the woods since there will be rifles used during that time. Mr. Grainger asked the Commission to consider moving Area 8 back into Area 2.

Mr. Kirk Reinhardt urged the Commission to include Pass-a-Loutre and Biloxi WMAs in the all day hunting change. The 2 p.m. for Pass-a-Loutre would limit the ability to access and utilize the area. If the Department wants to eliminate some pressure on the areas, Mr. Reinhardt suggested looking at use of go devils, the permanent blinds and houseboats.

Mr. Ronald Dugas stated he attended the public hearing in Lafayette and the extension of the archery season into the month of February was discussed. A study by Mr. Dave Moreland in Area 6 surmised that there was a late rut in that area and the archery hunting in October could threaten some of the young deer with their mothers. Mr. Dugas, representing bowhunters and other deer hunters, asked the Commission to extend the archery season into the month of February in a portion of Area 6. He then applauded Mr. Prickett for recommending the change in seasons for Area 5.

Mr. Bill Shockey seconded the comments by Mr. Dugas to extend the archery season to the end of February in Area 6. He also mentioned Mr. Moreland's study which showed a late rut in a majority of Area 6. If a hunter kills a doe in October this will orphan a lot of fawns. He suggested running the archery season from October 1 through February 28 since there was no biological reason not to extend it.

Mr. Tommy Daigle, a land manager and owner of Water Oak Plantation in Area 6, stated it was a common occurrence to see small fawns in October. He felt this was documented by Mr. Moreland's study. Mr. Daigle noted 95 percent of the deer hunters are out of the woods by January 31<sup>st</sup>. He felt, as a land manager, having a few more days will help control the deer population.

Commissioner Felterman asked Mr. Puckett if the Commission could receive public comments at the next meeting on this topic? Mr. Puckett explained there were 2 rules going through the rulemaking process. The first rule related to season dates and times and public comments can be taken through the July meeting when it is ratified. Public comments on the second rule for general hunting rules can be taken through the June meeting. Commissioner Felterman stated the Commission has heard some good comments and asked Mr. Prickett and Mr. Moreland to review these and come up with a recommendation at the next meeting for any further changes. He then noted his motion stands as stated. Mr. Prickett stated, last year, a change in the season structure for Area 6 was recommended. The recommendation was to remove the October days and adding the February days. But there was so many controversies that the Commission elected to leave it as it was.

Commissioner Mouton stated he received a lot of comments on the 2 p.m. closure for Atchafalaya Delta and only one on Pass-a-Loutre and expected to receive more on Pass-a-Loutre. He then made a substitute motion to go with the season date change for Area 5 and take not only Atchafalaya Delta but also Pass-a-Loutre out of the 2 p.m. closure and have all day hunting. There was no second to the motion.

Going back to the Commissioner Felterman's original motion, the Chairman asked the pleasure of the Commission. This motion passed with no opposition.

The **Public Information Quarterly Report** was given by Ms. Marianne Burke. The January/February as well as the March/April issues of the Louisiana Conservationist Magazine were published. The Media Relations and News Unit covered a black bear relocation from Delhi to Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge and sent out 15 video news releases to television stations across the State. Also, they helped record four of the seven public hearings on hunting seasons, put out 89 news releases and two regulations booklet. The library had 263 e-mail contacts, 51 regular mail contacts, 147 phone calls and 1,068 walk-ins. The front desk handled 3,777 phone calls and 1,318 walk-ins. The Audio Visual Unit put together a video for the Department to present at the Legislative Sunset Hearing which was shown at this point. Following the video, Ms.

Burke acknowledged Mr. Thomas Gresham and Mr. Joel Courtney and stated they were the ones who created the video. The video presentation before the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees was very successful. The Commission all agreed the job on the video was well done. Secretary Jenkins stated he was at the Sunset Hearing and the Department of Natural Resources spent 1-½ hours telling what they did the last 2 years while the Department spent 20 minutes explaining what has occurred over the past 100 years. He felt the video was very valuable and would be good to show at user group events. Secretary Jenkins complimented Ms. Burke, Mr. Gresham and Mr. Courtney for the good job. Chairman Denmon commended the Department.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **August 2003 Meeting** on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments**. Commissioner Sagrera commented he spoke to the two farmers who returns the largest amount of big sized alligators. They have committed that if the rule did not change, they would be willing to take care of the return work with Department supervision since it was a safety issue.

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

---

James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

JHJ:sch

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

**To:** Noel Kinler  
**Fax #:** 337-373-0181  
**Subject:** Commission Transcript  
**Date:** April 4, 2003  
**Pages:** 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806  
Fax: 225-765-0948

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMISSIONER SAGRERA'S SECOND MOTION:

Commission Meeting of 4/3/2003

Chairman Denmon: Any further discussion from the Commission?

Commissioner Sagrera: Yes, I have several points I would like to make. Zac had input from the 2 major French tanneries and I spoke with the Hing Lon tannery in Singapore. Between these three tanneries, they handle by far the majority of the wild skins produced in the State of Louisiana. And they all have taken into consideration that the biggest problem in quality has been the drought over the last 5 years and beauty is in the eye of the beholder as far as these grades. I don't remember what, Noel might remember what it is, I found maybe 40 or 45 percent number 1's in my grade, probably 8,000 or 10,000 a year of those skins went to Hing Lon and they found 18 or 20 percent number 1's when they got them over there. That is the point that Steele made that I think is very valid. All grades have become much stricter over the last 5 or 6 years. We are seeing a trend of wanting almost perfect quality, they are dealing in competition with embossed leather and they want a perfect quality skin. So that in itself has caused part of the problems as far as for grading. I think there has been some very good points brought up, the issue of mismanagement. If you have to hold these skins and keep them under 54 inches, we are asking for trouble, we are asking for serious trouble. And we've got people looking over our shoulders.. Farmers are not going to be taking care of animals right. The actual animals that are going to be going back into the wild are not going to be as healthy, I think it is going to impact all aspects of the industry. Zac talked about his landowners, one of them, Apache-85,000 eggs and Zac is permitted for 100,000 eggs or plus. I am permitted for approximately 100,000 eggs. Steele is probably 40,000 or 50,000 eggs. All of our landowners are quite satisfied with the way the system is working now. I think that this is an issue that truly hasn't been studied enough. One thing that we have to also take into consideration is the return of small animals. There is a natural fear from both the farmers and the trappers that we may be putting diseased animals back that will spread to the marsh. The smaller size you have the more of them you are putting back out there too. It is something else to be taken into consideration. The Coop opposes the amendment, the farmers oppose the amendment, the tanners who are using these skins oppose the amendment. I would like to make another amendment, I would like to make a different motion.

Chairman Denmon: Well we have a motion and second on the table, you can make a substitute motion.

Commissioner Sagrera: I would like to make a substitute motion that we leave everything as is and try and get some better data and possibly more input and better work or more common ground between the landowners who are unhappy and the farmers and see if we can't work out something ourselves and come back to this Commission and this Department with a joint appeal rather than one side or another because the majority of the industry is against this. It's that simple.

Chairman Denmon: And that is your substitute motion?

Commissioner Sagrera: My substitution motion is to leave it as is until we can get further data to make a decision on whether we want to change it or not.

Chairman Denmon: So you would withdraw the original proposed rule change?

Commissioner Sagrera: That is correct.

Chairman Denmon: Everybody understand the substitute motion? Do I hear a second?

Commissioner Kelly: I'll second it.

Chairman Denmon: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion from the Commission? All in favor say aye, any opposed?

Commissioner Felterman: I am opposed.

Chairman Denmon: The motion passes with Commissioner Felterman opposing.

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## LWFC makes changes

### Alters Atchafalaya duck hunting time

By JOE MACALUSO

Advocate outdoors writer

Duck hunters who use the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area will have no time restriction for their activities after the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission amended the proposed 2003-04 hunting regulations Thursday.

Reacting to comments from hunters, state wildlife managers relented from a proposed rule that would have ended waterfowl hunting on the 100,000-acre-plus WMA to 2 p.m.

The commission did not amend the proposed regulations to include the Pass-a-Loutre, Biloxi, Wisner and Salvador-Timkin WMAs from the 2 p.m. deadline.

When the 2003-04 regulations were outlined at the LWFC's March meeting, State Wildlife Division administrator Ton Prickett said the move to close at 2 p.m. was to stem increasing hunting pressure on ducks and geese on the WMAs.

During the intervening weeks, Prickett said public comment focused on the time change with most of the negative comments citing the need for all-day hunting on the Atchafalaya Delta WMA because of the tidal influences on the area.

Several hunters at the March meeting said the ducks raft up in hard-to-reach offshore areas and move into the WMAs marsh when the tide rises. During the winter, most high tides come later in the day.

A motion by Lafayette commission member Henry Mouton to exempt the popular Pass-a-Loutre from the 2 p.m. closure failed to get a second from any of the other five LWFC members present.

Mouton said he made the move after the LWFC took public comment. A handful of duck hunters objected to the early close on the Pass-a-Loutre WMA. Portions of the WMA near the mouth of the Mississippi River are subject to tides, too.

Baton Rouge hunter Clark Van Sickle told the commission that he's hunted the Atchafalaya Delta and Pass-a-Loutre areas since 1975 and that hunting pressure on the migratory waterfowl on the WMAs decreases after opening

weekend.

"Hunting pressure is not the problem. Access is the problem," Van Sickle said referring to the tides. "When you deny access to the resource, you deny the ability for public access and you will limit hunting if you close at 2 p.m."

Public comment on the seasons will be taken through the June 5 meeting.

In other action, the LWFC bowed to testimony from two major alligator farmers in withdrawing a Notice of Intent to change standards for release of farm-raised alligators into the wild. A Department of Wildlife and Fisheries study showed farm-raised gators taken from the wild had skins inferior to raised-in-the-wild gators. The move would have limited most releases to 54 inches or smaller.

Farm owner and LWFC member Wayne Sagrera and farm manager Zachary Casey told the commission the move was a mistake while others, including former state biologist and alligator researcher Ted Joanen, said the LDWF's management plan was a move to improve the state's alligator stocks. Sagrera's plan calls for more study before implementing changes in the release program.

In other action, the LWFC learned that Enforcement Division agents issued 1,363 citations and 167 written warnings and set its August meeting for Wednesday, Aug. 6.

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## Time limit proposal shot down

By **JOE MACALUSO**

Advocate outdoors writer

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COMMISSION MEETING  
ROLL CALL

Thursday, April 3, 2003  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Terry Denmon (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	—
Lee Felterman	<u>✓</u>	—
Bill Busbice	<u>✓</u>	—
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	—
Wayne Sagrera	<u>✓</u>	—
Jerry Stone	—	<u>✓</u>
Henry Mouton	<u>✓ (late)</u>	—

Mr. Chairman:

There are 56 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.  
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
April 3, 2003  
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements
5. Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification - Wayne Sagrera
6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March - Keith LaCaze
7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations
8. Public Information Quarterly Report - Marianne Burke
9. Set August 2003 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

# **ALLIGATOR RULE CHANGE**

## **NOTICE OF INTENT FOR ALLIGATOR RELEASE LENGTH**

**At the December meeting of the LWFC a Notice of Intent regarding alligator release length was passed. Specifically the rule change provided for:**

- Change sliding scale to allow for a maximum 54” release length for farm raised alligators to be released to the wild**
- Do not allow for alligators to be released over 54”**
- Change the close of alligator release season from August 25 to August 15**

**At the December Commission meeting the Department presented the results of a detailed skin grading analysis that supported the Notice of Intent. The analysis included:**

- Skin grades from over 59,000 skins were studied**
- A statistical analysis was conducted and trend data was also evaluated**

**The summary points of the analysis included:**

- Current 5 year average length of released alligators is 50.3”**
- Proportion of released alligators greater than 60” was 9.0% in 2002**
- Proportion of released alligators greater than 54” was 23% in 2002**
- 7-10% of total wild harvest is comprised of farm released alligators. For some landowners, farm releases make up a higher percentage of the harvest. In the 2002 wild season, over 3,149 farm released alligators were harvested.**
- Skin grades decreased (1998-2001) for all harvested alligators**
- Skin grades of farm released alligators are significantly lower than wild alligator skin grades. Impact of farm released alligator skin grades on total wild harvest skin grade is small at this time, but the impact is greater for some landowners and will increase in the future.**
- Farm released skin grades significantly affected by size of alligators at release and length of time between release and harvest**
- 68.1% of grade 3 skins were from alligators released when 55” and greater in length**
- Only 26.4% of alligators released at 61” and greater in length were grade 1’s**
- Farm released skin grades can be improved by reducing maximum release size**
- By reducing the maximum release length to 54”, we can expect a 15.5% increase in skin grades**
- Releasing large alligators is problematic for the release crew**

**Hawkins, Susan**

---

**From:** Kinler, Noel  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2003 8:13 AM  
**To:** Savoie, Brandt; Hawkins, Susan  
**Subject:** Notice of Intent for alligator rule change

Attached is the summary sheet for Commission members regarding the pending alligator rule change. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

Noel



**PELTS & SKINS, L.L.C.**

**1310 Carroll Street**

**Kenner, LA 70062**

**504-469-9553**

**985-875-3080**

## **WE ARE PELTS & SKINS**

- **The largest farmer of alligators in the world**
  - 3 farms in Louisiana
  - 1 farm in Florida
  - Up to 200,000 animals at any one time
  - 35 full-time employees
  - 35 seasonal employees
  - \$10 million/year in sales of farmed and wild skins
  
- **The largest meat processor and marketer of alligator**
  - 1 location in Louisiana
  - Over 600,000 pounds processed annually
  - 15 full-time employees
  - 75 seasonal employees
  - Over \$2 million/year in sales
  
- **Pelts & Skins returns 7,000 - 9,000 alligators each year**
  - The average age of these animals is 2 years
  - The average size is 57 - 58 inches

## **IMPACT OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTED RULE CHANGE**

- ▲ **Reduce the maximum release size to 54 inches**

### **Negative impact to operations**

- **The damage to Pelts & Skins will be \$235,000/year\***
- **Up to 50% increase in labor costs for returns**
- **Encourages poor animal husbandry practices**
  - stunting growth
  - returning the release of genetically poor growers

\* based on Deloit & Touche audited financial statements

## **IMPACT OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTED RULE CHANGE**

- ▲ **Reduce the maximum release size to 54 inches**

### **Negative impact on wildlife management**

- **Landowners are unhappy with lack of control of release sizes**

“...We believe that the survival rates for the largest of the release alligators contribute to the overall health of our wetlands....As far as we are concerned, bigger really is better.”

John W. Woodard  
Apache LA Minerals, Inc.

“(Delacroix Corporation has) had successful egg seasons and wild harvests since about 1986, and the populations of wild alligators on our land are successful and growing. We credit your return of large animals...as a large part of this success.”

Mike Bengé  
Delacroix Corporation



**APACHE LOUISIANA MINERALS, INC.**

POST OFFICE BOX 206 / HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361-0206

TEL (985) 879-3528  
FAX (985) 876-5267

March 24, 2003

Mr. Zachary A. Casey  
Pelts & Skins  
78070 Koogie Road  
Covington, LA 70435

Dear Mr. Casey:

The current rule change before the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will have a great impact on the wetlands owned by our company. We have thriving alligator populations on our property, and have had successful egg seasons and wild harvest for many years.

We want the commission to know that we believe that the survival rates for the largest of the release alligators contribute to the overall health of our wetlands. We support your efforts to raise the release length for these animals. As far as we are concerned, bigger really is better.

Please let us know how we can support your efforts in thwarting this rule change.

Sincerely,

**APACHE LOUISIANA MINERALS, INC.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Woodard".

John W. Woodard  
General Manager

**DELACROIX CORPORATION**

**206 DECATUR STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130-1016**

**TELEPHONE (504) 523-2245**

March 31, 2003

Mr. Zachary A. Casey  
Pelts & Skins  
78070 Koogie Rod  
Covington, LA 70435

Dear Mr. Casey:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is proposing a rule change that will have a major impact on the wetlands owned by the Delacroix Corporation. We have had a successful egg seasons and wild harvests since about 1986, and the populations of wild alligators on our land are successful and growing. We credit your return of large animals close to breeding age and size as a large part of this success.

We understand that you are opposing this rule change, and we would like the commission to know that we believe that your releasing the largest possible alligators contributes to the overall health of our alligators, and our marshes. We support your efforts to raise the release length for these animals, and encourage the commission to allow quality producers such as Pelts and Skins to continue to release large animals.

We will be happy to do all we can in support of your presentation against this rule change. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Commission meeting, but either Donald Ansardi and/or Michael Farizo will attend as representatives of the Delacroix Corporation. Please feel free to call on either gentleman to attest to the success that we have enjoyed with our alligators.

Sincerely,



Mike Bengé  
Chief Financial Officer

CC: Michael Farizo  
Donald Ansardi

## **IMPACT OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTED RULE CHANGE**

- ▲ **Reduce the maximum release size to 54 inches**

### **Negative impact on market**

- **Tanneries are unhappy with smaller sized skins**

“I believe it to be absolutely necessary to authorize returns of larger sizes for those farmers attempting to raise larger animals. They are contributing to the development of a mono-product industry into a multi-product industry, much less dependent on market hazards.”

Philippe Roggwiler  
TCIM

“We have studiously recorded and monitored wild skin grades over the last many years. ...We have not seen any major increase in the percentage of low-grade skins. Further, we do not have any information that would suggest farm released alligators are in any way impacting these statistics.”

H. Loubert  
Gordon Choisy



Mr. James Jenkins  
Secretary  
La. Dept Wildlife & Fisheries

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2003

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

We were pleased to be informed that your Department is initiating a 3-year wild hide quality study. We think this will be important work to establish a baseline and benchmark for wild skin grades.

We are, however, disturbed to learn that your Department is considering a reduction from the time tested 60" return maximum. We are concerned about this for two major reasons.

1. This will very dramatically increase the number of alligators a farm has to return and thereby increase their costs. Costs increases, especially now during an economic downturn, could be ruinous for farms that currently operate on very small profits.
2. We have been working for years to encourage farms to grow alligators beyond the normal "watch-strap" size. This has been difficult because of the large capital requirement for such a change. However, this is starting to happen. Reducing the allowed return size will greatly hamper the industry's move in this direction.
3. We have studiously recorded and monitored wild skin grades over the last many years. We have always found wild skin grades to be extremely poor overall. We have not seen any major increase in the percentage of low-grade skins. Further, we do not have any information that would suggest farm released gators are in any way impacting these statistics.

Our company was the first international company to buy wild alligators when the season re-opened after being closed. We are very pleased to be a part of the proud history of the return of the American Alligator. The industry is moving in the right direction and we would hate to see steps taken that would diminish its bright future.

We implore you to follow your long tradition of careful and deliberate study before embarking on this course of action.

Sincerely yours,

H. Loubert

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Loubert", written over a horizontal line.

Siège : 17, boulevard Jules-Ferry - 75011 Paris - Tél. : 01 48 05 47 05 - Fax : 01 47 00 70 48  
Tannerie : 5, rue de la Grande-Haie - 77130 Montarneuville - Tél. : 01 60 73 56 00 - Fax : 01 60 96 21 29

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## **THE TRUE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE**

- **Using unsupported and biased science to protect the value of only 10% of the wild skins (valued at \$200,000)**
- **The LSWF proposed rule change will create an industry-wide crisis of losses up to \$1,000,000/year**
- **Only two of Louisiana's alligator farmers contribute 80% off all animals released into the wild that are 54 inches or longer. Their landowners have no complaints.**

## **BAD SCIENCE/BAD GOVERNMENT**

- **Grading data is inconsistent**
  - The State recognizes this and creates a 3-year Hide Study
  
- **The LDWF objectively states there is “no biological reason for the rule change.”**
  
- **As the total population of farm-released animals increased, the cohort group of 300-day, 600-day, and 900-day animals DECREASES as an overall contribution to the total population**
  
- **Civil remedies exist: no additional government regulations are required**
  
- **The requirement is for GOOD SCIENCE of the usual high-quality work normally associated with the Rockefeller Refuge.**

**ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT**

**MARCH 2003**

**REGION 1:MINDEN**  
**20 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,**  
**CADDO, CLAIBORNE,**  
**WEBSTER**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Angling W/O Resident License</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Fishing W/O Resident Cane Pole License</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Take Game Fish Illegally (Snagging)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Take Illegal Size Black Bass</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sell &amp;/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Violate Caddo Lake Yo-Yo Regulations</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Not Abiding By R&amp;R On WMA</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Possession Of Marijuana</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 13</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Boating Safety</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Angling W/O Resident License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Violate Recreational Gear License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Not Abiding By R&amp;R On WMA</b>

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>1 hybrid bass; 2 rod &amp; reel combos; 1 freshwater drum; 1 largemouth bass; 2 black bass; 4 marijuana cigarettes; 20 marijuana roaches; 1 pipe w/residue.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 2:MONROE**  
**20 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, JACKSON,  
 LINCOLN,MOREHOUSE  
 QUACHITA, RICHLAND  
 UNION, W. CARROLL**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Angle Without Resident License</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hunt Without Non-resident License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Over Limit Freshwater Game Fish</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Operate ATV On Public Road</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt On WMA Without Permit</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Intoxication While Operating A Boat</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Failure To Mark/Tag Nets</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Not Abiding By Rules &amp; Regulations On WMA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fish Without Resident Pole License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Fail To Abide By Commission Rules (DMAP Regulations)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Illegal Size Black Bass</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Hunt Turkey Over Baited Area</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>Hunt Turkey In Closed Area</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Reckless Operation Of Vehicle</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Flight From An Officer</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 20</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Angle Without Resident License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>No Boat Numbers</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Operate Unregistered Motorboat</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Improper Running Lights</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Not Abiding By WMA Rules &amp; Regulations</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>No Fire Extinguisher</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Angle Without Non-resident License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail To Have PFD on Under 13</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Expired Boat Registration</b>

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>2-Shotguns, 1-Turkey breast, 1-Black Bass (released), 62-Crappie.</b>	

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>-0-</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 3:ALEXANDRIA**

**PARISHES:AVOUELLES, GRANT  
NATCHITOCHE  
RAPIDES, SABINE  
VERNON, WINN**

**26 Agent positions**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Angling W/O A License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Illegal Size Bass</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Angling W/O A Non-Resident License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Undersize Frogs</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Possess Firearm While Frogging</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Game Fish Illegally</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Dealer License</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Fish W/O Resident Cane Pole License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Use Illegal Size Nets (Mesh)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Possession Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hunt Rabbits Closed Season</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hunt Turkey Over Baited Area</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt Turkey W/O Turkey Stamp</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Not Abiding By Rules And Regs.</b>

7	Littering
3	Operate ATV On Public Road
3	Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia
4	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
1	Possession Of CDS With Intent To Distribute
1	Careless Operation Of A Vehicle
1	Criminal Trespass On State Property

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

TOTAL 3	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Angle W/O A License
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate

**CONFISCATIONS:**

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
10 bass, 600' of 2 1/2" gill net, 6 frogs, 1 pistol, 2 shotguns, 4 bags of marijuana, 6 smoking devices.

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 4:FERRIDAY**  
**24 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA**  
**CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN**  
**LASALLE, MADISON, TENSAS**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Boating Safety Violations</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Angling W/O Resident License</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Angling W/O Non-Resident License</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Fish W/O Resident Pole License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Use Illegal Mesh Nets (Freshwater)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Failure To Mark/Tag Nets</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hunting W/O Resident License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Failure To Comply W/Hunter Safety Regulations</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Obtain License Fraudulently</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt Deer Illegal Methods</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Hunt Turkey Closed Season</b>

2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On WMA
1	Resisting An Officer
1	Simple Assault On An Officer

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

TOTAL 6	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Angling W/O A License
1	Failure To Mark/Tag Nets (Freshwater)
1	Hunt W/O Resident License
2	Operate Unregistered Boat

**CONFISCATIONS:**

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
141' of 3" gill net; 235' 2 1/2" gill net; 14 white perch; 2 shotguns

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 5: LAKE CHARLES**  
**23 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU**  
**EVANGELINE, ALLEN,**  
**CAMERON, ACADIA,**  
**VERMILION, JEFF DAVIS**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
86	Boating
34	Angling W/O A License
12	Angling W/O A Non. Res. License
2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
5	Angling W/O A Non. Res. Saltwater License
1	Take Or Poss. Game Fish Illegally – Hoop Net
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Chicot Lake – Use of YoYo's
1	Take Or Poss. Undersize Red Drum (Rec)
3	Take Or Poss. Undersize Black Drum (Rec)
1	Take Or Poss. Overlimit Black Drum (Rec)
3	Sell &/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's Lic. – Non. Res.
5	Sell &/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
6	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Transport W/O Required License – Non. Resident
1	Illegal Shipping of Comm. Fish Shipping Reg. Tags & Identification

1	Comm. Truck W/O Display Of Owner's Name And Address
2	Poss. Of Illegally Taken Deer Closed Season
1	Hntg. Turkey W/O Turkey Stamp
1	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
3	Littering
1	Other Than Wildlife & Fisheries Charge
1	DWI

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 8</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat
1	Failure To Display Valid Certificate Decal
1	Improper Or No Sound Producing Device
2	Failure To Comply W/PFD Requirements
3	Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
13 rods; 13 reels; 1 blackdrum rtw; 16 u/s blackdrum rtw; 1 u/s reddrum rtw; 1 bull frog destroyed; 1 muskrat; 2 wooden squirrel traps; 1 doe whitetail deer; photo's of nets; 1 rifle w/scope; 1 q beam; sale invoices; assorted papers; 3 envelopes w/box tops.

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>86</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>WMA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>DWI</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 6:OPELOUSAS**  
**24 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,**  
**PT.COUPPEE,LAFAYETTE**  
**ST.MARTIN,IBERIA**  
**IBERVILLE,W.B.R.**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>88</b>	<b>Angling W/O License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Illegal Size Black Bass</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take/Possess Gamefish Illegally</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Take Oysters From Unapproved Area</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Fish W/O Resident Pole License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Angling W/O Non-Resident License</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs</b>

<b>2</b>	<b>Possession Of Live Alligators W/O Permit</b>
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**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 13</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Angling W/O License</b>

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>65 lbs. Of crawfish, 3 black bass, 3 bass, 1 white perch, 95 sacks of oysters, 2 oyster dredges, 6 rod and reels, 1 beer bottle, ½ box undersize crabs, 1 alligator.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
7	Public Assistance

**REGION 7:BATON ROUGE**

**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,  
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,  
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,  
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,  
W. FELICIANA**

**22 Agent positions**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Angling w/o Basic Resident License</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Angling w/o Basic Non-Resident License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Angling w/o Resident Pole License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sell/Buy Fish w/o Retail Seafood License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Failure to Maintain Records</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Hunt Turkeys Over Bait</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Hunt Turkeys w/o Turkey Stamp</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt Squirrels in Closed Season</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Violate Rules &amp; Regulations of W.M.A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Possess Illegally Taken Deer Closed Season</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Possess Gear w/o Commercial Gear License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Littering</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 21</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Violate Rules &amp; Regulations on W.M.A</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Angling w/o License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt Turkeys w/o Stamp</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt w/o Basic License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hunt w/o Big Game License</b>

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>1 deer, and 1 squirrel.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Public Assistance:</b> <b>5—Assist Motorists</b> <b>1—Assist Boater</b>

**REGION 8:NEW ORLEANS**  
**18 Agent positions**

**PLAQUEMINE, ST. BERNARD,**  
**ORLEANS, JEFFERSON**  
**ST. CHARLES**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>79</b>	<b>Angling W/O A License</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Angling W/O A License Non-Resident</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Angling W/O A Saltwater License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take/Poss. O/L Red Drum(On Water)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take/Poss. Red Drum EEZ</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail to Have Intact (Saltwater)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take/Poss. Undersized Red Drum (Recreational) 16" Minimum</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take/Poss. O/L Spotted Seatrout (On Water)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail to Comply with Charter Boat Regulations</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commission Rules and Regs. (misc.) Snapper</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Commission Rules and Regs. (misc.) Amberjack</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commission Rules and Regs. (misc.) Tuna</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commission Rules and Regs. (misc.) Red Snapper</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>Commission Rules and Regs. Cobia</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Fail To have Commercial Lic. In Poss.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Take or Sell Commercial Fish</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic.</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Take or Poss. Commercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Transport W/O Required Lic.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Allow Unlicensed Fisherman use CML Vessel Lic.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Allow Unlicensed Fisherman use CML Gear Lic.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take/Possess Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester Lic.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Commercial Truck W/O Display of Owner Name and Address</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Trawling in Closed Season</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Failure to Have Written Permission</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Oysters from Unapproved Area (Polluted) possess, sell, barter, trade, exchange Attempt to sell barter trade or exchange</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Unlawfully Take Oysters Off a Private Lease</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail to Mark Oyster Lease While Harvesting</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Failure to Display Proper Number On Vessel</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Possession of Wild Quadrupeds W/O Permit</b>

1	<b>Resisting An Officer</b>
2	<b>Littering</b>
1	<b>Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries</b>
4	<b>Lacey Act</b>
1	<b>Conspiracy (Federal)</b>
1	<b>Obtain License by Fraud</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 24</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
12	<b>Boating</b>
7	<b>Angling W/O A License</b>
1	<b>Angling W/O A Saltwater License</b>
1	<b>Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27" (Recreational)</b>
2	<b>Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum</b>
1	<b>Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum</b>

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>229 oyster sacks returned to water, donated 5 amberjack, 800 lbs. of sheepshead, 1 gallon fillets of speckled trout, 74 black drum, 15 red drum, 2 red snapper, 450 lbs. of crabs, 5 grey snapper, 2 nutria, 1 cobia, 1 flounder, 15 rod and reels, 2 trawls, 6 oyster dredge, 6 crab traps, 1 rifle, 1 rec. license, 1 commercial license, 1 oyster log book.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>124</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**REGION 9: SCHRIEVER**

25 Agent positions

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, ST. JAMES  
ST. JOHN, ST. MARY  
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE  
JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE  
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
96	Boating
77	Angling Without A License
7	Angling Without A Non-Resident License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
2	Angling Without Saltwater License Non-Resident
3	Possess O/L Red Drum In Excess Of 27 Inches (Recreational)
5	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
5	Take Undersized Red Drum (Recreational)
3	Take Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)
6	Possession Of Alcohol By Person Under 21 Years Of Age
1	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial License
1	Buy Fish Without Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License (Resident)
1	Restaurant Buy Fish From Other Than Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer
6	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman

1	Theft Of Crab Trap
5	Failure To Have Written Permission
1	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
1	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
1	Failure To Tag Sacked Oysters
3	Possession Of Untagged Oysters
1	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules (Nutria Permits)
3	Hunting From Moving Vehicle
3	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
3	Hunt From Public Road
1	Trespass On Marshlands To Take FBA
1	Resisting An Officer
19	Angling Without A Saltwater License

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 59</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
38	Boating
14	Angling Without A License
3	Angling Without Saltwater License
1	Hunt Without Resident License

1	Hunt Without Resident Big Game License
2	Not Biding By Rules And Regulations WMA – No Self-Clearing Permit

**CONFISCATIONS:**

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
58 sacks oysters, 500 lbs. crabs, 4 dozen soft-shell crabs, 10 lbs. stone crab claws, 13 black bass, 15 red drum, 8 black drum, 1 sheephead, 19 gallons crab meat, 16 commercial purchase receipts, 2 vessels (paper seizure), 4 oyster dredges, 4 rods and reels, 2 rifles, 1 crab trap, 1 ice chest, 50 cans beer, 6 bottles beer.

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9**

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
96	Boating
25	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
7	Miscellaneous
122	Recreational Fishing
11	State Hunting/Trapping
59	Written Warnings

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
16	Public Assistance

**OYSTER STRIKE FORCE**  
**3 Agent positions**

**COASTAL WATERS**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
7	Boating
2	Angling W/O A License
2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
1	Take Or Possess Over Limit of Red Drum
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License
2	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Gear License
2	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License
4	Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease
6	Failure To Have Written Permission
1	Failure To Display Number On Vessel
2	Possession Of Untagged Oysters
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code (Log Book)
1	Harvester Oysters W/O An Oyster Harvester License

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 0</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
0	

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
120 sacks of oysters, 5 red drum.

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
7	Boating
20	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
5	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
0	Public Assistance

**SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT**  
**8 Agent positions**

**STATEWIDE**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sell And/Or Buy W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Fail To Maintain Records</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fail To Tag Sacked Or Containerized Oysters</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Transport W/O Required License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Retail Dealer Buy From Other Than Wholesale Retail Dealer</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Selling For Resale Untagged Oysters</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Violation Of Sanitary Code</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 0</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>0</b>	

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
1467 lbs. of I.Q.F. shrimp sold for \$2,934.00, and 2 quarts of oysters destroyed.

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
0	Boating
25	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
0	Public Assistance

**S.W.E.P.**  
**8 Agent positions**

**COASTAL WATERS**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Angling W/O A Basic Fishing License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Angling W/O A Saltwater License</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Take Overlimit Of Red Drum</b>

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 0</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
<b>0</b>	

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>15 red drum.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Public Assistance</b>

**NOTE: 53 BOATS CHECKED**

**SPECIAL NOTE: DUE TO INCLIMATE WEATHER FOGGY  
CONDITIONS; CASE LOAD VERY LIGHT**

**REFUGE PATROL**  
**8 Agent positions**

**MARSH ISLAND,**  
**ROCKEFELLER, STATE**  
**WILDLIFE**

<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
7	Boating
2	Take Frogs Illegal Methods
2	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt Raccoons Illegally
2	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
2	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
1	Angling W/O A Basic License Non-Resident
1	Illegal Spotlighting From A Public Road
11	Angling W/O A Basic License

**WRITTEN WARNINGS:**

<b>TOTAL 7</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CITATION</b>
2	Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher
1	Fail To Display Valid Certificate Decal
2	Angling W/O A Basic License
2	No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession

**CONFISCATIONS:**

<b>CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>2 rifles, 3 spotlights, 1 rod and reel, 9 black drum 7 bull frogs, and 22 bullets.</b>

**TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REFUGE PATROL**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Boating</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Commercial Fishing</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Federal Migratory</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Littering</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Recreational Fishing</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>State Hunting/Trapping</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Written Warnings</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Assistance 911 CALL COUPLE STRANDED ON WATER AND VEHICLE ASSISTANCE.</b>

**TOTAL CASES -1363**

**NOTE: WRITTEN WARNINGS = 167**

**ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT**  
**MARCH, 2003**

**185-Amph. - 61092**  
**Hrs. - 16.5**

**185-Float - 9667Q**  
**Hrs. - 15.2**

**210 - 9467Y**  
**Hrs. - 15.3**

**Enforcement Hours - 27.5**

**Other Divisions - 19.5**

**Total Plane Use - 47.0**

PUBLIC HEARINGS 2003  
Seasons and Bag Limits

A. Minden: March 11 - (17 present/10 comments):

1. Quality buck management (7)
2. More either-sex days for dog hunters. (4)
3. Against 2 pm coastal WMA closure for waterfowl (2)

B. Ruston : March 18 - (33 present/7 comments) :

1. Quality buck management (5)
2. More either-sex days for dog hunters. (2)

C. Alexandria: March 11 - (23 present/16 comments):

1. ATV regs. on WMAs (1)
2. KNF- No doe days for dog hunters but more dog hunting days (1)
3. Too many doe days (2)
4. More Muzzleloader days on Tunica Hills and Camp Beauregard (1)
5. Self-clearing permits on WMAs (1)
6. Deer Season- more days (2)
7. Other comments pertained to Dept. policies or migratory seasons

D. Ferriday: March 12 - (6 present/4 comments):

1. All comments were not related to resident seasons or regulations.

E. Lake Charles: March 13 - (13 present/6 comments):

1. Move Area 8 back to Area 2 (5)
2. Wants more days to hunt squirrels w/o deer hunters in woods (1)
3. Deer season too early in Areas 3& 8 (5)

F. Lafayette: March 19 (34 present/17 comments):

1. Supports extending Area 6 archery season later (5)
2. Against 2 pm. waterfowl closure on coastal WMAs (4)
3. Deer seasons (4)

G. Pontchatoula: March 10 (25 present/10 comments):

1. Against 2 pm. waterfowl closure on coastal WMAs (6)
2. Other comments not pertaining to resident seasons.

**F. Major comments for all meetings**

1. Against 2 pm. Coastal WMA closure (17)
2. Want some sort of quality buck management (12)
3. Want more doe days for dog hunters (6)

**Additional Public Comments 2003  
Resident Seasons and Bag Limits**

1. More days for dog hunters on KNF by petition (117)
2. Against 2 pm coastal WMA closure for waterfowl (32)
3. Quality buck management (8)
4. Area 6 deer season later (3)
5. Against 6 pt. rule in tri-parish area (2)
6. Earlier Area 7 season (1)
7. Later deer season in Areas 3 & 8 to allow for squirrel hunting w/o deer hunters (1)
8. More still hunting days for KNF (1)

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

April 1, 2003

## Memorandum

To: Jimmy Anthony, Federal Aid Section  
From: David Moreland, Deer Program  
Subject: Harvest Survey Comments

As of 3/31/03 we have received 284 written comments from hunters responding to our Annual Game Harvest Survey. The following is a breakdown of them:

Subject	# of Comments
Waterfowl	56, majority wanting a later season
Small game	14
General Department	32
WMAs and KNF	22
Deer	160

Season dates, length, and area description- 30  
Doe days- 20, fourteen say there are too many doe days.  
Antler restrictions- 42, thirty-seven support statewide restrictions.  
Tagging- 47, forty-three favor deer tagging.  
Hunting deer with dogs- 11, all against it.  
General Deer- 10

These letters and comments are available for review should someone have the desire to look at them.

# State of Louisiana



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Secretary

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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

February 5, 2003

**Memo**

To: Wildlife Division Administrative Staff  
From: David Moreland, Deer Program *D Moreland*  
Subject: Tri-Parish Pre-Season Survey Results

Attached are the responses to some of the more important survey questions. It is obvious that the major support for the program is coming from the clubs/landowners. It should be noted that only those hunters who purchased licenses in the three parishes were the ones selected for our six-percent sample. From the responses, most of the clubs/landowners believe their members will cooperate fully with the program and it is necessary for them to be successful.

# State of Louisiana



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## PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY - MARCH 2003 LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

The Public Information Section manages internal and external communications for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. These responsibilities are accomplished through four units: the *Louisiana Conservationist* magazine, Media Relations & News, Informational & Resource Library and Audio-Visual. Special promotions and events are also coordinated through the Public Information Section.

### LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST MAGAZINE

Two issues were produced

- January/February 2003: circulation 23,956
- March/April 2003: circulation 23,925

### MEDIA RELATIONS & NEWS

#### Media Relations:

- Media coverage on a black bear relocation from Epps Plantation near Delhi, LA to Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge in Avoyelles Parish. Video News Releases with scripts were distributed to 15 major television stations statewide.
- Attended and recorded four of the seven Wildlife Division Public Meetings for the 2003-04 hunting seasons. Those meetings included Region 3, Alexandria March 11; Region 5, Lake Charles March 13; Region 6, Lafayette March 19; Region 7, Ponchatoula March 10.

#### News

- 89 news releases generated and distributed through electronic means
- 2003 Louisiana Turkey Hunting Regulations pamphlet - 60,000 printed and distributed
- 2003 Louisiana Commercial Fishing Regulations book - 22,000 printed and distributed

### INFORMATIONAL AND RESOURCE LIBRARY

The number of public contacts during this quarter are outlined by the month.

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
E-mail	125	65	73
USPS mail	16	24	11
Phone	67	44	36
Walk-ins	500	246	322

**Receptionist Desk**

The receptionist desk offers the initial greeting from our agency to the public. It is maintained and managed through the operations of the Information and Resource Library.

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Phone	1109	1283	1365
Walk-ins	601	21	696

**AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT**

- 2003 Department Overview video: a 19 minute video presented to the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees for LDWF's Sunset review.



Daily limit is one gobbler, two gobblers per season. Taking of hens (including warded hens) is prohibited. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corns (shelled, hulled or unshelled), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunter are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn, (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain valid areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a turkey stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game hunting licenses. Additionally, a WMA Hunting Permit is required of any person (age 18-59) who hunts on land administered by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, including Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Refuges and Habitat Conservation Areas.

**Statewide Turkey Hunting Areas**

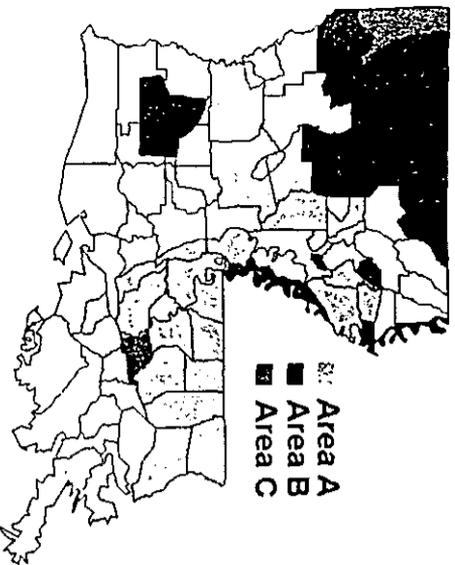
*Shooting Hours*

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Area A: March 22-April 20

Area B: March 22-April 13

Area C: March 22-March 30



A cash reward of not less than \$300 is offered by LA Operation Game Thief, Inc. to anyone giving information and/or testimony leading to the arrest of any one violating wild turkey hunting regulations in the state of Louisiana. An additional reward of up to \$300 is offered by the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Contact your nearest LDWF regional law enforcement office for details or call the OGR toll free hotline, 1-800-442-2511. All calls are kept in strictest confidence!

**2003 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON**

*Open Only In the Following Areas*

Area A: March 22-April 20

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE OPEN:**

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, LaSalle, Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: see Federal Land Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest Hunting dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Racocourc Island).

**PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE ALSO OPEN:**

Allen - North of LA 26 from DeRidder to the junction of LA 104 and north of LA 104.

Avoynes - That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by LA 452 from Brouillette to LA 1, on the south by LA 1, eastward to Hamburg, thence by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection levee southward.

Beauregard - North of LA 26 east of DeRidder, north and east of US 171-190 from the junction of LA 26 to DeRidder, and north of US 190 from DeRidder to Texas state line.

Caldwell - West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east of LA 165 from LaSalle Parish line to the junction of LA 126, north of LA 126 westward to the Winn Parish line.

Catahoula - West of Ouachita River southward to LA 559 at Dury Ferry, north of LA 559 to LA 124, south and west of LA 124 from Dury Ferry to LA 8 at Harrisonburg and north of LA 8 to LA 126, north and east of LA 126. ALSO that portion lying east of LA 15.

Concordia - That portion east of LA 15 and west of US 65 from its juncture with LA 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline - North and west of LA 115, north of LA 106 from St. Landry to LA 13, west of LA 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of LA 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin - That portion lying east of LA 17 and east of LA 15 from its juncture with LA 17 at Winnsboro.

Grant - All of the parish except that portion of land that lies north of the Red River between US 71 and LA 8 (Exception: see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates).

Iberville - West of LA 1. (EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.)

Madison - That portion lying west of US 65 and south of US 80.

Pointe Coupee - All of the parish except that portion bounded on the north by LA Hwy 1, from Innis to the junction of LA Hwy 417, on the west by LA Hwy 417 southward toward McCrea, on the south by LA Hwy 417 from McCrea to its junction with Delhi Lane, then by Delhi Lane to LA Hwy 418, the LA Hwy 418 northward to LA Hwy 1 at Innis. (EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.)

Rapides - All of the parish except that portion of land that lies north of the Red River and south of US 71 from the its junction with the Red River northward to the Grant Parish line. (EXCEPTION: see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest Hunting dates).

Richland - That portion south of US 80 and east of LA 17.

Sabine - That portion north of LA 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of US 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry - That portion bounded on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and on the east by the Atchafalaya River. (EXCEPTION: The Indian Bayou area, see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for the Indian Bayou Area dates).

Upper St. Martin - All within the Atchafalaya Basin. (EXCEPTION: Sherburne WMA and Indian Bayou area, see WMA Turkey Hunting schedule for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne WMA boundaries and see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Indian Bayou dates.)

Tensas - That portion west of US 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with LA 128, north of LA 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of LA 605, 604, and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon - That portion east of US 171 from Sabine Parish line to the junction of LA 111, south of LA 111 westward to LA 392, and south of LA 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. (EXCEPTION: see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest season dates).

**Area B: March 22-April 13**

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE OPEN:**

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Lincoln, Red River, Union, Webster (Exception: see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates), Winn (Exception: see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates).

**PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE OPEN:**

Allen - South and west of LA 26 from DeRidder to US 190 east of Elton, north of US 190 from the junction of LA 26 to Kinder and west of US 165 south of Kinder.

Beauregard - South of LA 26 east of DeRidder, east of US 171 from the junction of LA 26 and south of LA 12 west of Ragley.

Catahoula - South of LA 12 east of DeQuincy, east of LA 27 from DeQuincy to I-10 and north of I-10 east of Sulphur.

East Carroll - East of US 65 from Arkansas state line to Madison Parish line.

Jefferson Davis - North of US 190 from junction with LA 26 to Kinder, west of US 165 and north of I-10 west from junction of US 165.

Ouachita - East of LA 143 from Union Parish line to US 80 in West Monroe, North of US 80 to LA 139, west of LA 139 to the Morehouse Parish line.

Madison - South of US 80 and east of US 65 to Tensas Parish line and all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Morehouse - West of US 165 from the Arkansas line to Bontita, north and west of LA 140 to junction of LA 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of LA 830-4 to US 165, north of US 165 to LA 139, west of LA 139 to Ouachita Parish line.

**Area C: March 22-March 30**

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PARISH IS OPEN:** Caddo

**PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE OPEN:**

Ascension - All east of the Mississippi River.

Catahoula - That portion lying 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.

Concordia - North and east of Sugar Mill Cane (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River; east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to US 84, south of US 84 eastward to LA 15 (Ferry); east of LA 15 northward to US 65 (Clyburn), east of US 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Franklin - That portion lying west of LA 17, from Richland Parish line to LA 577 at Crowley, north of LA 577 to LA 15 at Bastin, east of LA 15 to Big Creek, and south and east of Big Creek to Richland Parish line.

Iberville - All east of the Mississippi River.

Richland - West of LA 17 from Franklin Parish line to Ringle Rd., south of Ringle Rd. to Ferguson Rd., south of Ferguson Rd. to Little Rd., south of Little Rd. to Big Creek, east of Big Creek to Franklin Parish line.

Tensas - East and south of US. 65 from Concordia Parish line to LA 128, south of LA 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of LA 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

**Win a Shotgun and Help Manage Turkeys**

Help manage Louisiana's turkey population by bringing your turkey to a volunteer check station. By doing so, you automatically are eligible for one of three shotguns given away by the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Volunteers weigh and check stations are located throughout the state at local sporting good and grocery stores and hunting clubs. Scales and data sheets are located at each station for your convenience.

- Allen
- Elizabeth: Bro-In-Law Pit Stop
- Oakdale: West Bay Grocery
- Ascension
- Gonzales: Old Tyne Feed Supply,
- Hutch's Hardware
- Avoynes
- Marksville: Bergeron's Grocery,
- Beauregard
- DeQuincy: Country Store
- Longville: Longville Country Store
- Singer: Singer Grocery
- Sugartown: Harper's Grocery
- Bienville
- Acadia: The Pit Stop
- Ashland: Sullivan's Store
- Bienville: Hilltop Quick Stop,
- Poland: General Store
- Georgetown: Baulmer's
- Gibbsland: Fastpak Foods
- Jamestown: Culbertson's Grocery
- Saline: Williams Farm Supply
- Bossier
- Bossier City: J&A Stop & Go
- Elm Grove: Taylor's Grocery
- Haughton: Walker Bros. Country Store,
- Toole's Grocery
- Plain Dealing: Mar Mart
- Caddo
- Shreveport: Lorant's Sporting Goods
- Lincoln
- Choudrant: Spiller's 1-20 Texaco
- Dubach: Goose Creek Grocery
- Caldwell
- Columbia: Lakeside Grocery,
- Pete's Sporting Goods,
- U-Roll-It Grocery/Market
- Hebert: Cat Island Food Mart
- Catahoula
- Jonesville: Larry's One Stop
- Claiborne
- Athens: R & S Hardware and General Store
- Homer: Keith's Food Mart
- Summerfield: Rebel Stop
- Concordia
- Ferrydy: LDWF Office
- DeSoto
- Logansport: Hilltop Grocery,
- Mansfield: R. P. Outdoors, Dupino's Tire Service
- East Baton Rouge
- Baker: Sportsman Corner
- Baton Rouge: Sportsman's One Stop,
- Sports Connection, LDWF Office
- East Carroll
- Transylvania: Transylvania Exxon
- East Feliciana
- Clinton: Flunken's One Stop,
- Slator's General Store
- Ehler: F. S. Williams Country Store
- Franklin
- Gilbert: Boone's Bail Stand
- Winnsboro: Mike's Gun Shop
- Grant
- Fairfield: Woodruff Grocery
- Georgetown: Baulmer's
- Fishville: Fishville Grocery,
- Pollock: Grant One Stop
- Verda: Verda Kwick Shop
- Williamna: Williamna One Stop
- Jackson
- Chalham: Corn's Store, Brown's Landing
- Quinman: Handy Foods No. 2
- Jonesboro: Karen's Country Store
- LaSalle
- Jean: Biale and Barrel

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LOUISIANA  
COMMERCIAL  
FISHING REGULATIONS

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

P. O. Box 98000

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

225/765-2384 Marine Fisheries Division

225/765-2330 Inland Fisheries Division

225/765-2898 Commercial License

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James H. Jenkins Jr., *Secretary*

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**STOP OUTDOOR OUTLAWS**  
**Operation Game Thief 1-800-442-2511**

## **DISCLAIMER**

This publication is not an official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized or relied upon as such.

It does represent an attempt by the publisher to present, as a public service, a partial summary of some of the laws in effect at the time of the printing of this publication. Substantive changes to the law may very well occur following the printing of this publication. For these reasons, the accuracy of the information contained within this publication cannot be guaranteed and the reader is cautioned that it is his responsibility to apprise himself of the laws in effect at any given time. These laws include those contained within the Louisiana Revised Statutes, particularly Title 56, the official regulations of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, federal laws, and any local or parish ordinances.

Fishing regulations on state Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges may differ from those contained in this pamphlet. Contact the nearest LDWF office for WMA regulations.

Contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Agent for specific information.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

We at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are interested in providing quality customer service. If you would like to voice your comments or concerns regarding the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, please fill out a comment card when you visit one of our offices located throughout the state. You can also go to the customer service portion of the Department's web page at: <http://www.wlf.state.la.us>, click on the "Customer Service" link under "About LDWF", and fill out a comment card. We would appreciate any comments you have to offer.

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**LOUISIANA COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS**

**January 1 - December 31, 2003**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following digest includes a summary of certain relevant statutes contained in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and relevant rules and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to implement additional restrictions in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

**Threatened and Endangered Species**

Taking or harassment of any of the following species is a violation of state and federal laws: Louisiana pearlshell mussel, inflated heelsplitter mussel, fat pocketbook mussel, sea turtles, whales, 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, Atlantic sturgeon, manatee, blue whale, finback whale,

Dealer Licenses (continued)Seafood	
Transport- Wholesale/Retail Dealer	\$30
Seafood Transport-Retail Dealer	\$30
Seafood Transport-Commercial Fisherman	\$30
Soft Shell Crab Shedder	\$100
Fresh Products (Commercial Fisherman's License required)	\$20
Fish Farmer	\$15
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16)	\$10
Reptile & Amphibian Collector	\$25
Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer	\$105
Reptile & Amphibian Transport	\$30
Alligator Parts Dealer (expires June 30)	\$50
Alligator Parts Retailer (expires June 30)	\$5
Mussel Buyer's Permit**	\$150

\*\*Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer License required.

**Additional Licenses**

	Resident	Non-Resident
Bow & Arrow Gear	\$25	\$100
Garfish Gig (per gig)	\$25	\$100
Non Game Quadruped - Exhibitor	\$10	N/A
Non Game Quadruped - Breeder	\$25	N/A
Game Breeder (\$50 inspection fee to raise deer and birds of prey)	\$25	N/A
Fur Buyer (expire June 30th)	\$25	\$100
Fur Dealer (\$500 deposit is required of residents and \$1000 for non-residents) (expire June 30th)	\$150	\$300
Hunting Preserve (expire June 30th)	\$200	N/A

sei whale, sperm whale, pink mucket.

**Specially Regulated Areas**

In addition to the general statewide fishing regulations, state wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas, national refuges, and certain local areas may have special regulations or restrictions on fishing. For more complete information, see your local wildlife enforcement agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

**DEFINITIONS**

1. **Angle:** to fish with rod, fishing pole, or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bait species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
3. **Bandit gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric, or hydraulic reels.
4. **Bona fide resident:**
  - (a) Any person who has resided in this state continuously during the 12 months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable:
    - (i) If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.
    - (ii) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana drivers license.
    - (iii) If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
    - (iv) If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.
  - (b) As to a corporation or other legal entity, a resident shall be any which is incorporated or otherwise organized under, and subject to, the laws of Louisiana, and is domiciled in Louisiana and has a permanent physical location of business in Louisiana where records are held.
  - (c) any person, corporation, or other legal entity which possesses a resident license from any other state or country shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.
5. **Butterfly net:** a fixed, frame-mounted net, used to fish near-surface waters, which is suspended from the side or sides of a boat, pilings, floats, rafts or shore installation.
6. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55-gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
7. **Cast net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials and weighted around its perimeter that is thrown by hand over the water.
8. **Charter boat fishing guide:** any person who operates a vessel for hire and derives income from the bringing of recreational fishermen upon waters within the state for the purpose of taking fish.
9. **Commercial fish:** all designated freshwater commercial fish and designated saltwater commercial fish found in the waters of the state.
10. **Commercial fisherman:** any person who derives income from the harvesting of living aquatic resources for commercial purposes (see also nonresident commercial fisherman).
11. **Common carrier:** any agency or person transporting passengers or property of any description for hire.
12. **Crab dropnet:** any device constructed with vegetable, synthetic, or metal fibers and without flues or throat, attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be operated solely by hand and fished in a stationary, passive manner.
13. **Crab trap:** a cube-shaped device with entrance funnels and either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs, which is used for the sole purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be fished in a stationary, passive manner.
14. **Crawfish net:** any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for taking crawfish.
15. **Crawfish trap:** any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding 2 inches and which is used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish.
16. **Crawfish farmer:** a person who farms or cultivates crawfish commercially in private ponds.
17. **Crawfish harvester:** a person who harvests wild crawfish commercially without participating in the growing of the crawfish.
18. **Dip net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame attached to a handle and held and worked exclusively by hand and by no more than one individual.

**Commercial Licenses Fees (continued)**

All commercial licenses expire on December 31 each year, unless otherwise noted.

	Resident	Non-Resident
Pompano Permit ( <i>captain only</i> )*	No fee	No fee
Pompano Strike Net ( <i>per net</i> )	\$250	\$1,000
Saltwater Rod & Reel ( <i>any legal number</i> )†‡	\$250	\$1,000
Shark Permit	No fee	No fee
Spotted Seatrout Permit †	\$100	\$400
Traversing Permit	No fee	No fee
Purse/Menhaden Seine ( <i>per seine</i> )	\$505	\$2,020
Crawfish Traps ( <i>any legal number</i> )	\$25	\$100
Out-of-state Oyster Landing Permit ( <i>issued in New Orleans Office only</i> )	\$100	N/A
Wire Net ( <i>any legal number</i> )	\$25	\$100

\*Commercial Fisherman's License required.

†Must meet qualifying criteria. ‡For more information call 225/765-2898

‡Each person on board must have a commercial fisherman's license.

**Charter Licenses**

Charter Boat Fishing Guide ( <i>up to 6 passengers</i> )	\$250	\$1,000
Charter Boat Fishing Guide ( <i>more than 6 passengers</i> )	\$500	\$2,000
Mothership License ( <i>carrying up to 6 skiffs</i> )	\$1,000	\$1,000
Mothership License ( <i>carrying more than 6 skiffs</i> )	\$2,000	\$2,000
Charter Skiff License ( <i>per skiff</i> ) ( <i>2 persons per skiff limit</i> )	\$50	\$50

**Dealer Licenses**

	Resident	Non-Resident
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Business	\$250	\$1,105
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Vehicle	\$250	\$1,105
Seafood Retail Dealer-Business	\$105	\$405
Seafood Retail Dealer-Vehicle	\$105	\$405

### Commercial Licenses Fees

All commercial licenses expire on December 31 each year, unless otherwise noted.

	Resident	Non-Resident
Commercial Fisherman's License	\$55	\$460
Apprentice	\$27	\$230
Vessel License (required south of saltwater line)	\$15	\$60
Mussel Harvester Permit (captain only)*	\$100	\$1,000
Oyster Harvester (captain only)*	\$100	\$400
Oyster Tong (per tong)	\$30	\$240
Oyster Dredge (per dredge)	\$25	\$200
Shrimp Trawl (per trawl)	\$25	\$100
Butterfly Net (per net)	\$25	\$100
Skimmer Net (per net)	\$25	\$100
Shrimp Gear Fee (one-time annually)	\$10	\$40
Hoop Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Fish Seine (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Trammel Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Gill Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Dip/Cast Nets (per net type)	\$25	\$100
Crab Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Crab Trap on Trot Line (per trap - maximum of 25)	\$1	\$4
Crab Drop Net	\$25	\$100
Slat Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Minnow Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Eel Pot (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Set Lines (Trot, Bush, etc.; any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Flounder Gig (per gig)	\$25	\$100
Spear Gun (per spear gun)	\$25	\$100
Mullet Permit (captain only)*†	\$100	\$400
Mullet Strike Net (per net)	\$250	\$1,000

19. **Eel pot:** any device not to exceed 48 inches in length and with an outside mesh size not smaller than 1/2 inch, constructed with throats or flues not larger than 3 inches in diameter at their narrowest point and not larger than 5 inches in diameter at their widest point, and which is used solely for the purpose of taking eel. No lead or wing shall be connected to or used in conjunction with any eel pot. Any fish other than eel taken in this gear must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.
20. **Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** zone which falls within a line continuous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal states and a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.
21. **Finfish:** (noun) any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills, and are covered with skin or scales.
22. **Fish:** (noun) all finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans.
23. **Fish dealer — retail:** persons, excluding restaurants, purchasing fish or seafood whether whole, dressed or fresh frozen for sale within the state to the consumer only.
24. **Fish dealer — wholesale:** persons purchasing fresh or frozen fish for resale to dealers or to ship out of state.
25. **Fishing gear:** (a) any vessel and (b) any equipment, whether or not attached to a vessel, which is used in the commercial handling or harvesting of living marine resources.
26. **Fork length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
27. **Freshwater commercial fish:** gar of any species, freshwater catfish of any species, suckers, including buffalo fish of any species, carp, freshwater drum, bowfin, crayfish, and all bait species that are taken for economic purposes.
28. **Freshwater game fish:** any species of fish found in the fresh waters of the state taken for sport or recreational purposes.
29. **Fyke net:** any cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic fibers having throats or flues which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing, with vertical panels of net wings set obliquely on one or both sides of the mouth of the cone-shaped net.
30. **Game fish:** all species of freshwater and saltwater fish which are taken for recreational purposes, and which are taken with the aid or use of a line, reel, rod, and artificial or natural bait (See Methods of Taking).
31. **Gill net:** any net of one or more layers not customarily used for shrimp or menhaden fishing, with a mesh of such size and design as to be used primarily to catch or entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections.
32. **Hook:** any curved or bent device attached to a line for the purpose of taking fish or alligator and consisting of not more than one eye and one shank with no more than three barbs.
33. **Hoop net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials having throats or flues and which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing.
34. **Lead or wing net:** a panel of netting of any mesh size or length, with or without weights and floats, attached to one or both sides of the mouth of a cone-shaped net having flues or throats, and set so as to deflect or guide fish toward the mouth of the net.
35. **Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.
36. **Longline gear:** a line which is over four hundred forty yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101).
37. **Lower jaw fork length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin and swordfish.
38. **Menhaden seine:** a purse seine used to take menhaden and herring-like species.
39. **Mesh size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows: Bar measure is the length of the full bar stretched from the near side of one knot to the far side of the other after being tared, treated, or otherwise processed. Stretched measure is the full stretched distance from the near side of one knot to the far side of the opposite knot diagonally across the mesh. This measurement shall not be applicable to weaved or woven nets commonly used for menhaden fishing. In woven nets, stretched measure is the full stretched distance of the opening of the mesh; bar measure is one-half of stretched measure.
40. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
41. **Mullet strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 1,200 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than 3 1/2 inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A mullet strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56:8 (102).
42. **Nonresident** means any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8 (69). See definition 3 above.
43. **Nonresident commercial fishing boat:** any boat or vessel registered in any state other than Louisiana, or which has not continually been registered in this state for a period of more than 12 months, or which is not owned by any person who is

## FISHING REGULATIONS ON WMAS

a bona fide resident, and which is used for the purpose of taking or assisting in taking or catching fish from the waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange.

44. **Pompano strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 2,400 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than 5 inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A pompano strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56:8(102).
45. **Possess:** in its different tenses, the act of having in possession or control, keeping, detaining, restraining or holding as owner, or as agent, bailee or custodian for another. When possession of fish or other wildlife is prohibited, reference is made equally to such fish or other wildlife coming from without the state as to those taken within the state.
46. **Processing:** any method of preparing fish or fish products for market including drying to a point of dehydration, canning, salting, packing or packaging of alligators or parts, breeding, freezing and cooking for immediate consumption, but not simple packing of fresh fish in a sack, bag, package, crate, box, lug or vat.
47. **Purse seine:** any net or device commonly known as a purse seine and/or ring net that can be pursed or closed by means of a drawstring or other device that can be drawn to close the bottom of the net or the top of the net or both. Such nets are constructed of mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projection.
48. **Reptiles and amphibians:** Native turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs, toads, and salamanders.
49. **Saltwater commercial fish:** any species of saltwater fish legally taken for commercial purposes.
50. **Saltwater game fish:** any species of saltwater fish legally taken for recreational purposes.
51. **Saltwater fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
52. **Seine:** any net used to enclose or entrap fish either in a bag or where its ends are pulled together on a vessel or a shore and constructed with a mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections (see purse seine).
53. **Shellfish:** an aquatic, invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to, oysters, clams, crayfish, shrimp, crabs, and other mollusks and crustaceans.
54. **Skimmer net:** a net attached on two sides to a triangular frame and suspended from or attached to the sides of a boat, with one corner attached to the side of the boat and one corner resting on the waterbottom. A ski and one end of the lead line are attached to the corner of the frame that rests on the waterbottom and the other end of the lead line is attached to a weight which is suspended from the bow of the boat.
55. **Slat trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular, or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least 1 inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than 6 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone-shaped throats, flues or entrances.
56. **Slot limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
57. **Strike net:** any gill net, trammel net or seine not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used.
58. **Take:** in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing, netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding or killing by any means or device.
59. **Test trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the headline.
60. **Total length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
61. **Trammel net:** any device composed of layers of netting material attached to one or more float lines or one or more weighted bottom lines, with the layers being constructed of fine mesh and of larger mesh so that a fish attempting to pass through the device pushes the smaller mesh through the larger mesh creating a pocket or compartment in which the fish is entrapped, entangled or restricted.
62. **Transport:** in its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying or exporting by air, land or water, or by any means whatsoever.
63. **Trawl:** any net, generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with other boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, and that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is under way.
64. **Trigger:** any tension-loaded rubber band or spring device that contains several feet of line and a hook or hooks, which is baited and set, and which automatically hooks and plays a fish.
65. **Trotline:** any set line which is four hundred forty yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.
66. **Unattended net:** any net in the water to which the licensee thereof cannot be immediately located for identification.

### FORT POLK

**Fishing:** Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

### 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 Spring Bayou Headquarters or Opelousas Region Office.

### OUACHITA

**Commercial Fishing:** CLOSED.

### 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, Viveas Pass, Cognevich Pass, Blind Bay, Redfish Bay, Garden Island Bay, Northshore Bay, East Bay (west of barrier islands) and oil and gas canals as described on the Department Pass-a-Loutre WMA Map.

### 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.

### SPRING BAYOU

**Commercial Fishing:** Permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT slat traps and hoop nets permitted any day. Permits available from area supervisor or Opelousas Region Office. CLOSED until after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season.

Alligators are excluded from this provision.

All non-protected native reptile and amphibian species (frogs, turtles, lizards, salamanders, snakes, etc.) — except alligators — can be legally taken by residents possessing a valid recreational fishing license. See Reptiles and Amphibians section.

### Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

Commercial dealers engaged in the buying, selling, acquiring or handling by any means any species of native reptile or amphibian in Louisiana for resale, or shipping or transporting any native reptile or amphibian into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License, Reptile and Amphibian Transport License or Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License and Seafood Transport Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license if applicable. Wholesale/Retail seafood dealers are exempt from this license.

### Charter Boat Fishing Licenses

Guides operating charter fishing vessels in saltwater areas of the state must possess a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License. The license is required for resident and non-resident guides.

The annual fee for a resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is \$250 per vessel for those carrying no more than six passengers and \$500 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

The annual fee for the non-resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is \$1,000 per vessel for those carrying no more than six passengers and \$2,000 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

To qualify for purchase of a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License, the captain of a charter vessel must present his valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, a valid driver's license or state issued ID, and his Louisiana recreational fishing license. The guide license is valid for one year beginning January 1 of each year.

A "Mothership License" shall be required for charter fishing operation which does not have a charter boat fishing guide present and consists of a large vessel carrying small skiffs that will be used by no more than two people for fishing purposes. The main vessel shall carry a "Mothership License" and the captain must have a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard on his person. For vessels carrying up to six skiffs, the license fee shall be one thousand dollars per year. For those vessels carrying more than six skiffs, the license fee shall be two thousand dollars per year.

### NEW APPLICANTS MUST APPLY IN PERSON IN THE BATON ROUGE OFFICE ONLY.

In addition, each skiff is required to have a "Charter Skiff License" which identifies the charter vessel to which it is attached. A license skiff shall only be used for fishing purposes while the charter vessel with which it is identified is located in Louisiana territorial waters. Each charter skiff license shall be issued for an annual cost of fifty dollars per skiff.

The "Mothership License" and the "Charter Skiff License" shall be valid for one year, beginning on January 1st of each calendar year and expiring on December 31st of the same calendar year.

Licensing requirements for individuals fishing under the direction of a mothership operation or a charter guide are listed in the recreational regulations pamphlet or on the website at [www.wlf.state.la.us](http://www.wlf.state.la.us).

### License/Permit Application Procedures

License/permit applicants must complete and sign an application form, which can be obtained by contacting the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commercial License Section at 225/765-2898. If applying by mail, remittance for license fees must be in the form of money order or cashier's check payable to "Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries." Applications applied for by mail may take up to four weeks for processing. License/permits may be applied for in person at either the New Orleans office (1600 Canal St.) or the Baton Rouge office (2000 Quail Drive). Office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. **NOTE: an original valid license/permit must be in possession in order to engage in the licensed/permitted activity. Under no circumstance is a copy of a license/permit or application and/or proof of payment thereof acceptable in lieu of the original license/permit.**

within 200 feet thereof.

67. **Wing net:** See Lead net.

68. **Wire net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials, with a mesh no less than one inch square or two inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of five inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.

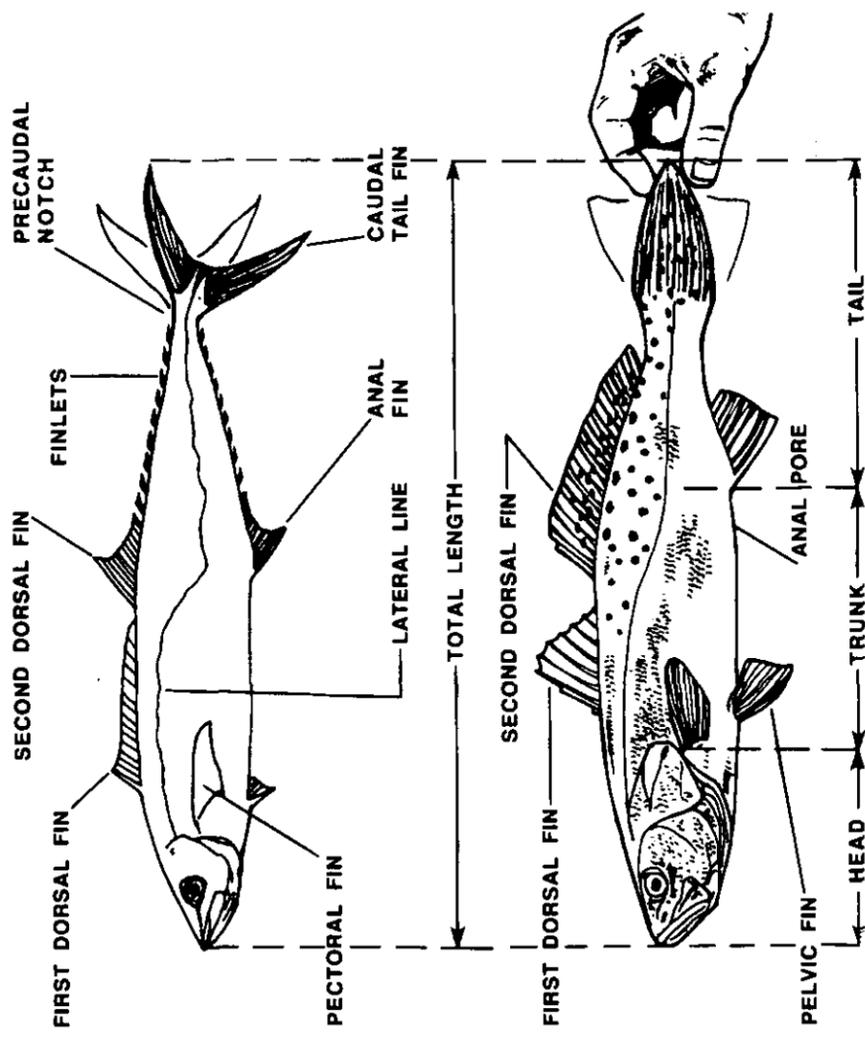


illustration 1

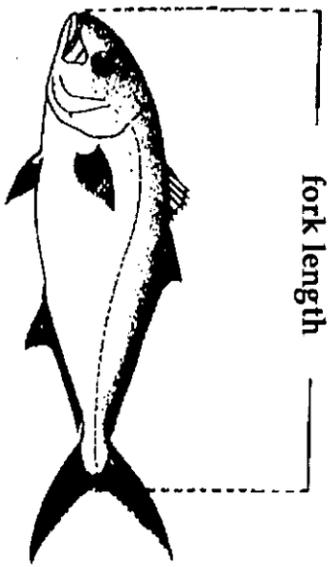


Illustration 2

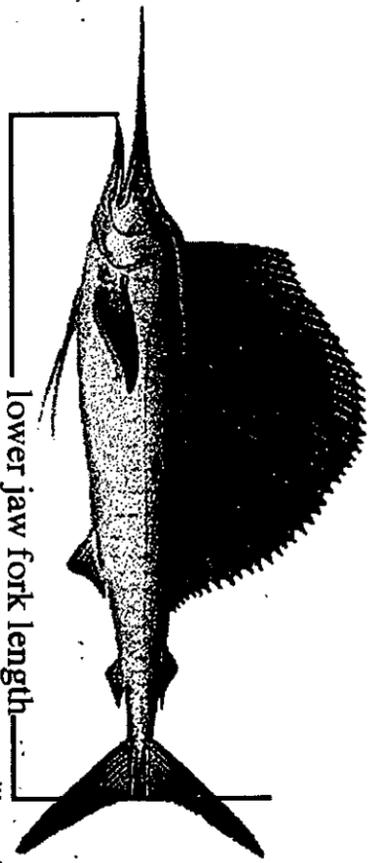


Illustration 3

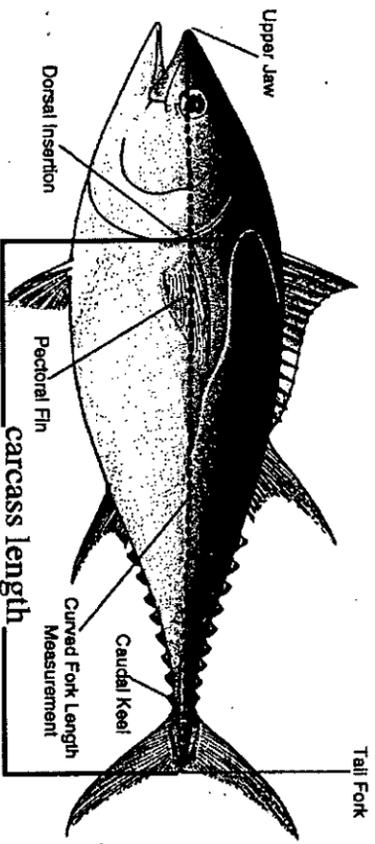


Illustration 4

### HOW TO MEASURE FISH

Use these guidelines to measure fish correctly:

1. Place the fish on its side on a flat board with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length (See illustration 1).
3. For species with total length requirements, measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin (see illustration 1).
4. For species with fork length requirements, measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail (see illustration 2).
5. For species with lower jaw fork length requirements, measure in a straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail (see illustration 3).

— if purchased in connection with a commercial fisherman's license, only valid to transport that commercial fisherman's catch to a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer to be sold for that commercial fisherman.

Dealers are responsible for all activities which take place under authority of a transport license issued in the name of that dealer.

c. **Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers license** — good for all activities of Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers. Vehicles commercially shipping seafood out of state must have a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers License or a Transport License purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers License.

#### 6. Commercial Fishermen:

Commercial fishermen who sell their catch to anyone other than a Louisiana licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer or transport their catch out-of-state are required to purchase and possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers license and are required to comply with all regulations governing Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers.

A validly licensed commercial fisherman may sell his catch to a consumer within the state if he is also the holder of a valid Fresh Products License.

**EXEMPTIONS:** Persons who produce and harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license in order to sell their crawfish or catfish. Any person may purchase crawfish or catfish from persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds. A seafood wholesale/retail dealer's license is required to purchase products to be resold...

Persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license to transport their own crawfish or catfish from the private pond to the first point of sale.

#### License Prerequisites

The Mussel Harvester Permit; Oyster Harvester License; Shark, Spotted Seatrout and Mullet permits can only be obtained by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License. The Mussel Buyer's Permit can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Seafood Transport Licenses can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License; Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License or Seafood Retail Dealer's License. Convictions of some offense types may disqualify applicants:

Qualifying criteria for Spotted Seatrout Permit are:

- 1) applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
- 2) applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994, or 1995.

Qualifying criteria for Mullet Permit are:

- 1) applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
- 2) applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994, or 1995.

Qualifying criteria for Rod and Reel gear licenses are:

- 1) applicant must provide positive proof that they held a valid commercial gear license for saltwater gill nets during any two years of the years 1993, 1994, and 1995.
- 2) applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994, or 1995.

#### Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License

Anyone gathering reptiles and amphibians for sale must possess a Commercial Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License.

of Wildlife and Fisheries. Purchases made from fishermen for which a permit is required shall document the commercial fisherman's permit number on the records. When creel limits apply to commercial species, records shall also indicate the number by head count of such species.

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers purchasing from commercial fishermen and Fresh Products Licensees are required to document such transactions on Department issued trip tickets.

#### 4. Reporting:

**Monthly Returns to the Department:** Any Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer buying "fish" or seafood from anyone other than a licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer and Fresh Products licensee shall complete trip tickets documenting each transaction. On or before the tenth of each month, the dealer shall submit all the previous month's trip tickets and a submission sheet. Computerized trip tickets are available to wholesale/retail dealers. For more information on monthly dealer reports or computerized trip tickets call 225/765-2371.

All fish/seafood purchased by a wholesale/retail seafood dealer from persons other than licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealers which are not reported as required are deemed to have been illegally possessed or purchased by the purchasing wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

**Severance Tax (oyster):** Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers purchasing oysters from persons harvesting oysters in Louisiana are responsible for and shall pay an Oyster Severance Tax on or before the tenth day of the following month.

L.A. R.S. 56:506 enacted in the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature requires an excise tax on all saltwater shrimp taken from state waters and on all shrimp imported into the state. The tax is assessed at the rate of 15 cents per barrel of 210 pounds or 210 pounds equivalence. If the heads have been removed the shrimp will be computed at 125 pounds per barrel or its equivalence. Imported peeled shrimp will be computed at 75 pounds per barrel. Payment of the excise tax is by the first wholesale/retail dealer to whom the shrimp is first delivered. On imported shrimp brought to cold storage, the tax is to be paid by the dealer storing, brokering, or distributing the shrimp. The taxes and reports required are to be filed no later than the tenth day of the succeeding month.

**Shrimp excise taxes** shall be payable to the department on or before the tenth day of the month following the date of sale. Upon failure to pay excise taxes when due, a penalty of ten percent per month, not exceeding thirty percent in the aggregate, calculated upon the excise tax due, shall be levied and collected by the department in addition to the tax due. If there is a delinquency in the filing of reports and in the payment of taxes due as required above, demand for payment shall be made by the department as soon thereafter as possible, coupled with the warning that the license of the delinquent shall be revoked unless report is made and taxes paid. After demand for payment and warning, the department may seize any shrimp or parts of products thereof in the possession of a person liable for taxes and penalties due and sell them for payment of the tax and penalties. Any surplus from the proceeds of sale, after deducting all costs and charges, taxes, and penalties due, shall be paid to the owner of the shrimp or parts or products thereof seized. At any time after demand for payment and warning the licenses of any person who fails to make monthly reports and to pay excise taxes due shall be revoked by the department and shall remain until all reports are made and all taxes due are paid with accrued penalties. Any person who refuses or fails to pay the excise taxes due or to make monthly reports as aforesaid, and whose license has been revoked, is hereby prohibited from buying and selling or otherwise engaging in the disposition of shrimp or parts or products thereof and other seafoods under the jurisdiction of this department.

#### 5. Shipping Requirements:

All vehicles used for the commercial transportation of "fish"/seafood must be marked with the name and address of the company. Shipments containing fish shall be plainly marked; records, tags or certificates to show the names of the consignor and the consignee, with an itemized statement of the number of pounds of fish or seafood and the names of each kind or species contained therein, must accompany all shipments of "fish"/seafood. All operators and drivers of any form of commercial transport who are in the act of loading, unloading or transporting "fish"/seafood shall have in their possession one of the following licenses:

- a. a **commercial fisherman's license** — only valid for a commercial fisherman transporting his own catch to a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer)
- b. a **transport license** — if purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer license authorizes to deliver "fish"/seafood to and for a Wholesale Dealer  
— if purchased in connection with a Retail Seafood Dealers license only valid to pick up "fish"/seafood from a licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer and transport product to the place of business of the Retail Seafood Dealer

In federal waters:

6. For species with *curved fork length* requirements, measure from the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body (see illustration 4).
7. For species with *carcass length* requirements, measure curve from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel (see illustration 4).

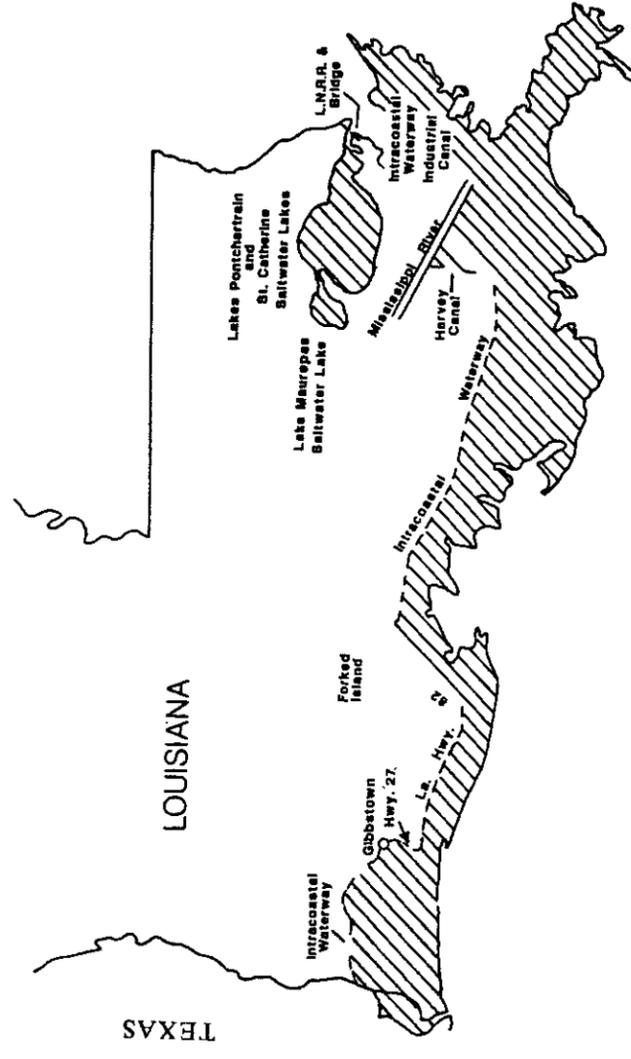
For complete requirements regarding the taking of fish in federal waters obtain a *Commercial Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters* pamphlet from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 U.S. Hwy. 301 N, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619-2266; 813-228-2815, toll free 1-888-833-1844; e-mail: gulf.council@noaa.gov; webpage: www.gulfcouncil.org.

## SALTWATER-FRESHWATER LINE

For the purposes of regulating certain fisheries the legislature recognized the historic division of the state into saltwater and freshwater areas based on the variations of flora and fauna found within these two divisions. The legislature further recognized that the exact line of demarcation cannot be precisely located due to constant changes in water salinity caused by winds, tides, and rains: The legislature therefore legally defined the freshwater and saltwater areas by describing a line from the Texas state line, easterly to the Mississippi state line. The areas south of the described line, plus a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, were designated as saltwater areas and all other areas north of the described line were designated as freshwater areas.

### Louisiana Saltwater Line Definition

Title 56, Section 322- Louisiana Highway 82 from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.



Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway in Orleans Parish from the overhead power lines at the Interharbor Navigation Canal east to the Rigolets shall be considered both salt and fresh water for the purposes of authorizing the taking or possessing fish or the use or possession of gear. Commercial fishing operations in these waters shall not interfere with normal commercial traffic.

The areas south of the above described line, plus the saltwater lakes known as Sabine Lake, Calcasieu Lake, including that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel which actually adjoins Calcasieu Lake, West and East Pass of the Calcasieu River and Oyster Bayou in Cameron Parish, Lake Maurepas, Lake Ponchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except that seven-tenths of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intracoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

## METHODS OF TAKING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER FISH

COMMERCIAL FINFISH may be taken with any pole, line, the device known as yo-yo, the device known as a trigger device, handline, with any trotline wherein hooks are not less than 24 inches apart, with approved slat traps, cans and minnow traps, with legal seines and nets, with bows and arrows or by any skin diver in saltwater or fresh water, when submerged in the water and using standard spearing equipment, and by no other means. In the saltwater areas of the state, as defined in R.S. 56:322, commercial finfish may be taken by commercial saltwater rod and reel. (see License prerequisites for requirements). Eel may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots and other legal gear as provided herein. Certain species of finfish have specific regulations regarding gear and have permits required for harvest.

Wire nets shall only be used for the taking of legal sized catfish.

No person shall take or possess fish taken by means of spears, poisons, stupefying substances or devices, explosives, guns, tree-topping devices, lead nets (except lead nets are permitted on hoop nets when set in overflowed regions when the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake and the hoop net is set 500 feet from the actual stream bed), electricity or any instrument or device capable of producing an electrical current used in shocking said fish; except a barbless spear used in saltwater for taking flounder. No person shall take or possess game fish taken by means of snagging devices (not including bow and arrow). Catfish may be taken by means of snagging devices. Garfish may be taken by means of spears and bows and arrows. It shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices set out herein above with the intent to take fish in violation of the provisions of this section.

No nets or bream trawls used for taking fish or shrimp from saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended except such legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a bonafide inhabitable camp. Hoop nets, without leads, may be left unattended in the saltwater areas of the state for the sole purpose of taking legal commercial catfish species.

No person shall use or deploy within the state territorial waters bandit gear or longline gear. A person may possess bandit gear or longline gear aboard a vessel within state territorial waters so long as such gear is not in use or deployed to take fish. No person shall possess fish taken within the state territorial waters using bandit gear or longline gear.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by means of an elevated trotline. (Except in exempt areas. Contact the local Wildlife Enforcement Agent).

Eels may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots. Eel pots shall be fished only in areas of the state which are south of the saltwater line and in designated saltwater lakes, excluding Lake Maurepas, except that the department may issue permits to fish eel pots in these otherwise prohibited areas under provisions in the underutilized species act.

All fishing operations shall be conducted in such a way that the nests of fish or the natural hiding places of young fish are not destroyed. Nets shall not be hauled out upon the shore in such a way that any fish which may happen to be taken therein cannot be returned to the waters without injury.

No person shall obstruct the free passage of fish in any of the streams, lakes, bayous or in any body of water including crevasses, coulees and canals in marsh and swamp areas of the state by any means whatsoever, provided that the provisions of this Section shall not apply to water control structures or dams for the retention of water for conservation purposes. No obstructions including trawls, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill nets or trammel nets, which interfere with

ing for a new Wholesale/Retail Dealers license in a business name, you must submit a copy of the occupational license or the registration certificate filed with the Secretary of State, if Federal Tax ID is not obtained.

**Retail Seafood Dealers** are any individual person, firm association, corporation, partnership or any legal entity recognized by law that only buys, acquires or handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale. Retail Seafood Dealers may only purchase fish from a licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer. Retail Seafood Dealers may only sell "fish"/seafood directly to the consumer for personal or household use. Retail Seafood Dealers are not authorized to make wholesale transactions (sales intended to be resold). Restaurants or Grocers that sell raw "fish" such as oysters or sushi are required to obtain a Retail Seafood Dealers license if purchasing such fish from a licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer. If a Retail Seafood Dealers license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. Retail Seafood Dealers are not authorized to purchase fish from a commercial fisherman.

Restaurants and Retail Grocers who only purchase "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed from a licensed Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer and only sell such "fish" fully prepared by cooking for immediate consumption by the consumer are exempt from these license requirements.

Restaurants and Retail Grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a Retail Seafood Dealers license and applicable transport license(s). Persons exempt from license requirements are required to maintain records as provided below.

### 2. Purchases/Sales:

**Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers** shall only purchase from a validly licensed commercial fisherman or another licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer. When purchasing species of "fish"/seafood from commercial fisherman for which a permit is required, they may only purchase "fish"/seafood from those commercial fisherman who possess the required permit. Permits include but are not limited to: Mulllet, Reef Fish, Shark, Spotted Seatrout, Tuna, etc. (permits include both state and federal). When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out-of-state sellers and bringing the "fish"/seafood into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell "fish"/seafood in that state. When out-of-state sellers bring "fish"/seafood into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Persons out-of-state purchasing "fish"/seafood in Louisiana for resale regardless of the type of transportation used must possess a Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers license. Out-of-state buyers purchasing "fish"/seafood for resale from a Louisiana licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer are not required to be licensed when receiving the shipment by that licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer. Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers may be required to obtain certain federal permits when purchasing federally regulated species from commercial fisherman. For information regarding federal permits contact: 727-570-5326 or 1-888-USA-TUNA.

**Retail Seafood Dealers** shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from a licensed Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer. When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out-of-state sellers and bringing the fish into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell fish in that state. When out-of-state sellers bring fish into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Retail Seafood Dealers may only sell "fish"/seafood directly to consumers.

**Fresh Products Licensees** shall only sell to the consumer and is required to maintain "trip ticket" records and file monthly reports as required in Section 4 below.

**Non-Licensed Restaurants and Retail Grocers** shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from licensed Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers. (See exemptions) If a Restaurant or Retail grocer purchases "fish"/seafood from out of state they shall possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license or a Retail Seafood Dealer's license. Restaurants or Retail Grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a Retail Seafood Dealers license and applicable transport license.

### 3. Records:

**Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers, Retail Seafood Dealers, Fresh Products Licensees, Restaurants and Retail Grocers** shall keep and maintain in the English language:

- 1) records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood (fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed) acquired;
- 2) the date the "fish"/seafood was acquired and the full name and license number of the commercial fisherman, wholesale/retail dealer, or the out-of-state seller from whom the "fish"/seafood was acquired;
- 3) records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood sold and the name and license number of the person to whom the "fish"/seafood was sold.

When sold to the consumer the records shall indicate the quantity, species and date, and shall state the "fish"/seafood was sold to the consumer. Records shall be maintained for three years and shall be available and open to inspection by the Department

the free passageway of fish as defined herein, shall be set within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass, or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams or weirs. Wings and leads are permitted on hoop nets in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake but not within the restricted 500 foot area. The possession of fish caught in leads or wings is prohibited. Wings and leads on hoop nets south of the saltwater line, as defined in R.S. 56:322(A), are permitted. However, the use of monofilament leads or wings shall be prohibited south of the saltwater line. No pair of wings or leads shall be within 100 feet of each other and no single lead shall exceed 25 feet in length. Free passageway for fish means a minimum passageway opening of 5 feet in width extending from the surface to the bottom of the water in the deepest portion of the water.

No person shall possess or have on board any vessel a gill net, trammel net, strike net or seine in the saltwater areas of the state except as provided in 56:333 for the commercial taking of mullet, 56:320.3 for traversing, or 56:406 for commercially taking of pompano.

*The Louisiana Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, changed many aspects of commercially harvesting saltwater finfish. Persons involved in these activities should contact the Department's Enforcement Division for accurate information.*

#### Areas Closed to Freshwater Musseling

A. Areas officially recognized as saltwater areas.

B. Amite River from the junction with Bayou Manchac to the Mississippi State Line.

C. All of Rapides and Grant Parishes except the main channel of the Red River.

D. Bayou Bartholomew in Morehouse Parish from the Arkansas state line to its confluence with the Ouachita River.

E. Additional areas may be closed at any time by notice from the Secretary.

#### Caddo Lake

A. No resident shall have set in the water for the taking of recreational or commercial fish in Caddo Lake more than 24 yo-yos or other trigger devices. Each yo-yo or other trigger device shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the user.

B. No resident shall leave a yo-yo or trigger device unattended in Caddo lake while it is set in the water for taking fish, except from one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise. A yo-yo or trigger device shall be deemed unattended when the user cannot be immediately located for identification therewith without leaving the location of the yo-yo or trigger device.

C. No person who is a nonresident shall set in the water, use, or leave a yo-yo or trigger device at any time in Caddo Lake.

#### Chicot Lake

A. Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted in Chicot Lake only from Nov. 1 through March 1 of each year under the following conditions:

1) Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat.

2) Each yo-yo must be tagged with the name of the responsible party, the registration number of the boat and the date and the time the yo-yo was set.

3) All yo-yos must be attended and re-tagged at least every 48 hours.

## FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING

#### Size Limits:

**Blue Catfish** (*Ictalurus furcatus*): 12 inches minimum total length.

**Buffalo** (*Ictiobus spp.*): 16 inches minimum total length.

**Channel Catfish** (*Ictalurus punctatus*): 11 inches minimum total length, 8 inches collar-boned.

**Flathead Catfish** (*Pylodictis olivaris*): 14 inches minimum total length.

**Freshwater Drum** (*Aplodinotus grunniens*): 12 inches minimum total length.

**Bowfin** (*Amia calva*): 22 inches minimum total length.

Fishermen are prohibited, while on the water, from possessing bowfin eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to a whole fish. The taking of bowfin with nets or bowfin body parts, including eggs (roe), is prohibited during the months of December, January and February, EXCEPT in Assumption, Avoyelles, Iberville, Pointe Coupee,

**Mussel Harvester Permit:** A commercial fisherman is required to purchase a Mussel Harvester Permit to commercially harvest mussels.

**Oyster Harvester License:** Commercial fishermen harvesting or possessing oysters in state waters must purchase an oyster harvester license, in addition to any and all licenses otherwise required.

**Pompano Permit:** A commercial fisherman is required to obtain a pompano permit to commercially harvest and sell pompano using a pompano strike net in Breton and Chandeleur sounds during the pompano season.

**Shark Permit:** A commercial fisherman is required to acquire a shark permit to commercially harvest shark.

**Soft Shell Crab Sheddors License:** Any operator of a soft shell crab shedding facility must purchase a soft shell crab shedders license. If the licensee owns or operates more than one place of business, then a separate license is required for each place. Employees of soft shell crab shedders are not required to obtain soft shell crab shedders licenses. Licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealers are exempt from this license.

**Spotted Seatrout Permit:** The commercial fisherman (captain) is required to qualify and purchase a spotted seatrout permit to commercially harvest spotted seatrout.

#### Commercial Gear License

A commercial fisherman must possess a valid and original commercial gear license whenever using or possessing such gear on the fishing grounds. In the event that more than one gear type is in possession on the fishing grounds a gear license for each gear type must be in possession.

A gear license is required for each piece of gear or each type of gear in use or in possession, whichever is applicable.

A commercial gear license (except for a menhaden purse seine) can only be purchased by a person possessing a valid commercial fisherman's license.

Gear licenses are transferrable but only to those persons holding a valid commercial fisherman's license. Violation subjects the commercial gear licensee to revocation of the commercial gear license and seizure of gear.

No commercial gear license shall be issued to any nonresident whose domiciliary state prohibits the use of similar gear in commercial fishing.

#### Commercial Vessel License

A vessel must be licensed whenever engaged in commercial fishing or whenever possessing fish for sale in the saltwater areas of the state. Vessel licenses are issued in the name of the owner (person having legal ownership of the vessel; includes association, corporation, partnership or other legal entity) of the vessel and shall list the owner's name and address, the vessel name and registration or documentation number, and any other information required by the Department.

#### Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers and Retail Seafood Dealer Licenses

"Fish" (in quotation marks) in this section means all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans.

##### 1. License Requirements:

**Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers** are any individual person, firm, association, corporation, partnership or any legal entity recognized by law that buys, or handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed, or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale or resale, including bait species, whether on a commission basis or otherwise. Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers include but are not limited to any person who makes sales of seafood on a wholesale basis, including any dock, distributor, broker, fish factory, platform, processing plant or anyone shipping fish out of or into the state for resale.

A Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer is the only licensee who can legally purchase "fish" from a commercial fisherman and resell such fish. Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers are not required to obtain a Soft Shell Crab Sheddors License or a Reptile and Amphibian Dealers License. They are required, however, to abide by regulations of those particular activities. If a Wholesale/Retail Dealers license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. If you are apply-



**Stone crabs** - Stone crabs (*Menippe adina*) may be taken by the same method as blue crabs, however only the claws may be landed. Minimum claw length is 2 3/4-inch forearm (propodus) measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint. Whole stone crabs may be possessed on the vessel until the claws are removed after which time the crab shall be returned to the waters from which taken.

**General:**

Commercial fishermen shall tag, mark or otherwise identify any crabs that are sold, in a manner which will ensure that such commercial fisherman can be identified as the person who harvested the crabs. The identification required herein shall include the commercial fisherman's name, license number and date on which the crabs were harvested.

Any commercial fisherman identified as having sold undersized crabs to a wholesale/retail dealer shall be subject to penalties for the taking and possession of undersized crabs.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Reptile and Amphibian regulations apply to lizards, snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders and related species. *They do not include alligators.*

Any person engaged in the sale, barter or trade of native reptiles and amphibians collected in Louisiana must possess either a) Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License, or b) Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License.

Any person engaged in acquiring or handling, by any means, native reptiles or amphibians for resale, or engaged in the shipping or transporting of such reptiles or amphibians into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Act 376 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature exempts wholesale/retail dealers from this license.

Removal of nesting or nest tending animals is prohibited.

Traps must be checked daily.

Turtle traps must be placed in a manner that leaves enough area above the waterline to allow trapped turtles to breathe; be marked as "turtle trap", and be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.

Possession of finfish while turtle trapping is prohibited.

Use of gasoline to flush animals from hiding places is prohibited.

Natural cover such as stumps and logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals.

**Frogs** may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin such as gigs and spears.

Possession of firearms while taking or hunting frogs at night is prohibited.

Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and pig frogs (*Rana grylio*) may be taken year round except during the months of April and May.

No person shall take or possess bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) that are less than 5 inches in length, nor take or possess pig frogs or grunners (*Rana grylio*) that are less than 3 inches in length. Length is measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs.

**Exception:** Frogs under the legal length may be taken from privately owned ponds or waters by the owner thereof or his authorized representative and may be sold for the purpose of stocking ponds or waters.

**Alligator snapping turtles** (*Macrocllemys temminckii*):

A. Commercial Size Limit: All turtles taken shall be 15 inches carapace length or greater measured in a straight line along the midline of the carapace.

B. Commercial Bag Limit: No limit.

C. Recreational take: Limit of 4 per day or in possession; no limit on size.

**Diamondback terrapins** (*Malaclemys terrapin*) may not be taken by trap of any kind and may not be taken between April

**Bundicks Lake**                      **Caney Creek Reservoir**                      **Chicot Lake**                      **Cross Lake**  
**John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir** (wire nets prohibited also)    **Lake Bistineau**                      **Lake Vernon**

*Other netting prohibitions follow.*

**Bogue Chitto River** – the use of seines, nets and webbing for the taking of fish in Bogue Chitto River from where it enters the state in the northern part of Washington Parish to where it enters into the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish is prohibited. The taking of fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums, or natural or artificial nesting areas by hand grabbing is also prohibited in this area.

**Fool River** (Franklin Parish) – fish seines prohibited.

**Lacassine Bayou** (that portion of the bayou that flows through the Lacassine National Refuge) – gill nets, trammel nets and hoop nets prohibited March 1 through Nov. 30 each year.

**Lake Bruin** – the use of fish nets in Lake Bruin is prohibited EXCEPT that a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than or having at least a minimum of 3 1/2-inch bar and 7 inches stretched, and allowing the use of slat traps is permitted. The season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year. Commercial fishermen must obtain a Lake Bruin Commercial Fishing Permit in order to participate in this special season. The permit is issued at no cost on a seasonal basis, must be renewed for each season and may be obtained at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries District 4 Headquarters, Ferriday, Louisiana. The permittee must also file a report to the department of his catch no later than 15 days following the closure of the season. Commercial fishing will be allowed only during daylight hours except that gear can remain set overnight but fish captured shall be removed during daylight hours only.

**Lake Charles** – fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

Lake Providence – gill nets and trammel nets prohibited, EXCEPT during a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than, or having at least a minimum of 3 1/2-inches bar and 7 inches stretched. The special season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year.

**Moss Lake** – fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls over 16 feet prohibited.

**Nantachie Lake** – Netting prohibited.

**Old River Lakes** (Vidalia and Deer Park, Concordia Parish) – fish seining on the Louisiana sides of Old River Lake, Vidalia and Deer Park, Concordia Parish, is prohibited EXCEPT that fish seining is legal under a special permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries which may be obtained at the District 4 Headquarters, Ferriday.

**Prien Lake** – fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

**Tchefuncte River** – seines, nets, webbing or traps of any kind and all types, including slat traps, for the taking of fish in the Tchefuncte River, and its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish, are prohibited.

**General Prohibition of Netting in Impoundments During Drawdown Periods** – All fresh water impoundments shall be closed to use of commercial fish netting during water drawdown periods, unless otherwise specified by the Department based upon biological and technical data; the closure to begin on the date the drawdown control structure is opened and continued until the lake returns to full pool following closure of the structure.

**Freshwater Bait Seines, Cast Nets, Dip Nets and Minnow Traps** – A person may have in possession or in use for the sole and only purpose of taking minnows, shrimp and other baits permitted by law, seines of 1/4-inch mesh or less and measuring 30 feet or less in length, cast nets with a radius of less than 8 1/2 feet, dip nets and minnow traps (See Recreational and Commercial Licensing Requirements).

**Freshwater Fish Species Prohibited** – No person shall have in possession or sell in this state a piranha or Rio Grande tetra. Other species prohibited include canero catfish (*Ciarias batrachus*), all of the family Clariidae, freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus sp.*), carp [except those taken in state waters, provided such fish shall be dead when in a person's possession, common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)], rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) and all species of live tilapia.

No fish of any species from outside the state shall be liberated within the state except upon written permission of the Secretary.

**NOTE: Sanctuaries exist within Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement Agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.**

### Noxious Aquatic Plants —Importation Prohibited

No person shall, at any time, knowingly import or cause to be transported into the jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana from any other state or country, without first obtaining a written permit from the Commission, any of the following noxious aquatic plants which are or can be grown submerged or partly submerged, or floating in water:

*Eichhornia azurea* (floating or anchoring hyacinth), *Elodea canadensis* (elodea), *Hydrilla* spp. (hydrilla), *Lagarosiphon muscoides* & *Lagarosiphon major* (African elodea), *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil), *Najas marina* (marine naiad), *Najas minor* (slender naiad), *Panicum repens* (torpedograss), *Pontederia* spp. (pickeralweed), *Spirodela oligorrhiza* (giant duckweed), *Trapa* (waterchestnut), *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (kapok tree), *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce), *Salvinia* spp. (salvinia), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth).

### NOTICE TO OFFSHORE FISHERMEN

Louisiana recreational and commercial fishermen fishing offshore beyond the Louisiana boundary are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To ensure that you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the National Marine Fisheries Service office at 813/570-5326 or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at 813/228-2815 (write 3018 U.S. Hwy. 301 N., Suite 1000, Tampa FL 33619-2266 for international pamphlet).

Gulf-wide Phone Number  
(1-866- WE ENFORCE) (1-866-933-6367)

### Report fishery law violators using the Gulf-wide Number

A program sponsored by the Coastal Conservation Association in partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Law Enforcement Panel allows citizens across the Gulf Coast to immediately report game law violations to the appropriate state agencies using a single, toll-free number.

### VOLUNTARY GULF OF MEXICO MARINE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide a common voluntary marine communications protocol for Gulf of Mexico (GOM) resource users to use in alerting parties that will be interacting in the same general area. This Protocol will provide a common communication format for notification and feedback between offshore platform and rig operators and others in responding to the safety needs of all GOM resources users.

**WHO:** Any vessel operator (commercial, for hire (charter/headboat) recreational fishermen, sport divers, and oil and gas contractors and operators) proposing to approach an offshore platform or rig.

**WHAT:** An agreed communications format that identifies methods of notification, recommended frequencies, and generally accepted two-way marine VHF radio protocols.

**WHEN:** To be used when vessels of any size approach either fixed or floating drilling, production and support facilities or oil and gas transportation infrastructure.

**WHERE:** For use in GOM Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas and State Territorial Waters adjacent to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

### PROTOCOL

Any vessel approaching either a fixed or floating offshore facility with the intent of tying to or remaining around (within 1,500 feet of) that facility for any purpose, should contact as far in advance as practical that specific facility using a marine VHF radio on Channel No. 16. All offshore facilities are identified by signage that identifies the Area, Block, Platform and Operator.

The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with a legal mesh size (see Shrimp - Trawls).

No person shall keep or sell adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs in the berry stage taken by any means shall be returned immediately to the waters. However, a legally licensed commercial crab fisherman may have in his work box an incidental take of crabs in the berry stage equal to not more than 2 percent of the total number of crabs in his possession.

**Crab Traps:** The baiting, tending, checking or removing of crab traps, the contents of crab traps or their lines, buoys or markers is prohibited in public waters from one-half hour after legal sunset until one-half hour before legal sunrise.

It is the responsibility of the crabber to place traps so vessels can safely navigate and to properly dispose of his unserviceable traps on shore. A crabber who retrieves his trap with a Commission approved common float shall return the common float to any shrimper for reuse.

No person other than the licensee or his agent shall intentionally damage or destroy crab traps or the floats or lines attached thereto, or remove the contents thereof.

Crab fishers may utilize a plastic bait box cover to mark trap ownership or a two inch stainless steel, self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Either must be legibly engraved or embossed with the commercial fisherman's license number. Crab traps may be attached to a trolley to which at least one end is attached to a non floating line and a visible float of at least 6 inches in diameter or half-gallon volume size. Each crab trap on a trolley shall be registered with the department and shall have attached thereto a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number.

All crab traps must be marked with a solid float, 6 inches in diameter or greater, attached with a non-floating line 1/4 inch minimum diameter or better. Each crab trap must have a minimum of two escape rings 2 5/16 inches in inside diameter, excluding the ring material. Rings must be placed on the vertical outside walls flush with the trap floor or baffle with at least one ring located in each chamber of the trap. Except from March 1 through June 30 and from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31, escape rings shall not be obstructed with any material that hampers or prevents exit of crabs. Soft shell crab shedders license holders using traps in Lake Ponchartrain are not required to use escape rings.

Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.

*Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.*

### Commercial Size Limits:

Hard-shell crabs - 5 inches in width as measured from point to point of the upper shell, EXCEPT when held for processing as soft crabs or sold to a processor for the making of soft-shell crabs. Crabs under the minimum size limit shall be returned immediately to the waters from which taken without avoidable injury.

Maximum possession of whole stone crab is 1 (one) stone crab per each crate of blue crabs or group of blue crabs equivalent to one crate.

**Premolt crabs** - Premolt crabs less than 5 inches in width held by a fisherman for processing as softshell crabs or sold by him to a processor for the making of softshell crabs must be identifiable as premolt crabs and must be held in a separate container marked "peelers" or "busters" while in the possession of the fisherman. Crabs in the premolt stage are no further from molting than having a white line on the back paddle fin.

Any operator of a soft shell crab shedding facility must possess a soft shell crab shedder's license. Operators owning more than one soft shell crab shedding facility must possess a separate soft shell crab shedding license for each place of business. Wholesale/Retail dealers are exempted from this license if license is for the same location.

Minimum commercial size limits do not apply to crabs held in a work box. Each fisherman may have one work box if not using a grader, or two work boxes if using a grader.

limit from January 1 through the last day of the season. A lessee of private oyster grounds may be permitted to take undersized oysters from public grounds for bedding purposes only. Size restrictions do not apply to commercially harvested oysters taken from a private lease.

Not more than ten 1 1/2-bushel sacks per boat per day may be taken from Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes, EXCEPT, in the event the open season is closed by the department or DHH for more than seven days, a licensed fisherman may harvest fifteen 1 1/2-bushel sacks of oysters per boat per day for three consecutive days following re-opening of the season.

Harvest from private leases for commercial purposes is unlimited.

Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters:

- 1) in leased areas only with the written permission of the lease holder;
- 2) in personally leased areas;
- 3) in areas open to the public for the harvesting of oysters, but shall be limited to two sacks per person (56:424c) per day for personal consumption.

#### **Methods of Taking:**

Oysters may be taken from public oyster beds by dredges, scrapers and tongs. Dredges and scrapers shall be no longer than 6 feet in width measured along the tooth bar. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than 5 inches and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel.

Only tonging is allowed in Calcasieu Lake

#### **Leases:**

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a written application and cash deposit of such amount as determined by the department. Lessees, under the supervision of the department, shall stake off and mark the lease water bottoms in order to locate accurately and fix the limits of the water bottoms embraced by each lease. Areas shall also be prominently marked with signs which state the lease number and name or initials of the lessee.

Oysters shall not be harvested from any unmarked lease.

#### **Restrictions:**

No person shall trawl, seine or use a skimmer net over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place which is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation.

Culling oysters, which is the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shall, shall be performed only on the open designated public grounds or on private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. At no time will the act of culling oysters be permitted in areas closed to harvesting oysters.

The taking of oysters one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.

Oyster taken from the reefs of this state either for sale or consumption shall be landed in Louisiana, except with an out-of-state oyster landing permit and in compliance with all other rules and regulations.

Sacks of any other types of containers used to hold oysters harvested in Louisiana and placed in commerce must be tagged with a tag issued by the Department.

## **C R A B S**

#### **Methods of Taking:**

Crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab dropnet, trawl, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs.

An example might be as follows:

**Contact Request:** "Eugene Island 313 "A" Platform, this is M/V Duck, M/V Duck, on Channel 16"

**Response:** "Eugene Island 313 "A" back to M/V Duck. Switch to Channel No. ??."

**Follow Up on New Channel:** "M/V Duck back; we are 5 miles (1 mile?) out and in route to your location for ?? (offload-ing, fishing, diving, bird watching, etc) and request assistance in determining your current facility status.

**Recognition:** "Eugene Island 313 "A" back; we have no current marine traffic or hazardous operations but expect a sup-ply boat later today." If the facility was planning operations that might preclude safe positioning of marine craft or if poten-tially hazardous lifting or well work is scheduled, the operator would so inform the vessel.)

**Notification:** M/V Duck back; we are a 25 foot sport fisherman out of Cocodrie with a total of five (5) people on board and will approach your location at 0900 hours and estimate our stay at 3 hours.

The approaching vessel has established contact; identified its intent to approach or moor, its purpose, and estimated its time of arrival and time at location. The operator is now alerted to the fact that the vessel is approaching with the intent of being in the area and can validate actual activities by visually observing the vessel and its crew.

This protocol helps GOM offshore facility operators identify vessels approaching or mooring and gives shared resource users a common communication tool. If vessels fail to establish communications, a facility operator is faced with the task of eval-uating the vessel's intent. Communications will help operators make a judgment on the activity and help access if the vessel poses a threat to the people or facility.

## **SALTWATER COMMERCIAL FINFISHING**

#### **Legal Gears**

**Bandit gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric, or hydraulic reels (cannot be used in state waters).

**Cast Net:** any cast net used for commercial purposes or cast nets exceeding 8 1/2 feet in radius.

**Hoop Net:** 1 inch square or 2 inches stretched mesh (minimum) after treating with tar or copper. Hoop nets without leads may be left unattended in saltwater areas for the sole purpose of taking catfish.

**Longline gear:** a line which is over four hundred forty yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101) (cannot be used in state waters).

**Mullet Strike Net:** 1 3/4 inches square or 3 1/2 inches stretched mesh (minimum). No mullet strike net in use can exceed 1,200 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Mullet strike nets may only be used in state waters for the legal taking of striped mullet with a special permit during special season (see the size and take limits section for commercial sea-son dates).

**Pompano Strike Net:** 2 1/2 inches square or 5 inches stretched mesh (minimum). No pompano strike net in use shall exceed 2,400 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Pompano strike nets may only be used for the legal taking of pompano in the Chandeleur Sound area with special permit between August and October (see the size and take limits section for commercial season dates).

**Purse Seine:** Cannot be used to take finfish other than menhaden or herring-like species. Use is otherwise prohibited in inside or outside waters as delineated in L.R.S. 56:495.

**Saltwater Gill Nets, Seines, Trammel Nets, Strike Nets:** use or possession is prohibited in the designated saltwater areas of the state.

**Saltwater Gill Net for EEZ:** A permit is required from the Department for transport of gill nets, trammel nets, seines and strike nets across state waters for use in federal waters. Permittees must notify the Department four hours before leaving port to traverse or fish under the conditions of the Traversing Permit and immediately upon returning from the permitted trip. The Department shall be notified by calling 1-800-442-2511 or 225-765-2441.

**Trotline:** any set line which is four hundred forty yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.

### Calcasieu Lake

No person shall set or use any trammel net, gill net, strike net or seine for the taking of fish in that portion of Calcasieu Lake which is situated in Calcasieu Parish.

All commercial fishing by means of gill nets, seines, strike nets and trammel nets is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake. These areas remain open for the use of hoop nets and trot or set lines.

### Size and Take Limits

**Cobia (ling or lemon fish):** 33 inches minimum fork length. 2 fish per person. Licensed commercial fishermen may only sell 2 fish per trip.

**Drum, Black:** 16 inches minimum total length. There is an annual harvest quota of 3.25 million pounds for black drum measuring 16-27 inches total length, and an annual harvest of 300,000 fish measuring longer than 27 inches total length. Fishing year begins Sept. 1.

**Drum, Red:** Commercial take of red drum is prohibited.

**Flounder, Southern:** 10 fish for each licensed fisherman for each consecutive day on the water EXCEPT any commercial shrimping vessels may retain and any commercial fisherman may sell all Southern flounder caught as bycatch on any shrimping trip.

**Mackerel, King:** 24 inches minimum fork length. There is a 3,000 pound trip limit in effect. Fishing year begins July 1.

**Mackerel, Spanish:** 12 inches minimum fork length.

**Menhaden:** The season for the taking of menhaden as well as processing of menhaden shall be from the third Monday in April (Apr. 21, 2003 and Apr. 19, 2004) through November 1. The menhaden season shall apply to all waters seaward of the inside-outside line described in R.S. 56:495 including waters in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and in Chandeleur and Breton Sounds LAC 76:VII.307.D. All other inside waters and passes are permanently closed to menhaden fishing.

**Menhaden Bait Season:** runs from after the close of the regular menhaden season until December first. If the quota has not been reached by December first, then, beginning on April first of the following year, bait gulf menhaden may be taken until the department determines that the quota (3,000 metric tons) has been met. Any menhaden taken pursuant to this special season shall be sold only for use as bait. The Secretary shall grant special permits for the taking of menhaden during the special bait season.

**Mullet, Striped:** Commercial season from the third Monday in October (Oct. 20, 2003, and Oct. 18, 2004) until the third Monday in January (Jan. 19, 2004, and Jan. 17, 2005). No commercial harvest of mullet is allowed outside this season. Mullet may only be taken commercially with a mullet strike net not exceeding 1,200 feet in length. Mullet strike nets may be used Monday through Friday from sunrise to sunset. Only one mullet strike net may be in use from any vessel at any time. A commercial fisherman must have in possession a valid Department mullet permit (see License Prerequisites on page 29) in his name for legal harvest and sale. Mullet strike nets must be tagged with Department-issued tag.

**Pompano, Florida:** Pompano strike nets may be used from August 1 through October 31 of each year in waters in excess of seven feet in depth and beyond 2,500 feet from land within the Chandeleur and Breton Sound areas described in R.S. 56:406(A)(2). A Department permit is required.

**Reef Fish:** To commercially harvest or sell certain reef fish species listed below (triggerfishes, amberjacks, wrasses, snappers, groupers, and tilefishes) whether taken within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, fishermen must possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Resources. (Contact: National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Koger Building, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, 813/570-5326)

**Amberjack, Greater:** 36 inches minimum fork length. Closed season March 1-May 31 each year.

**Amberjack, Lesser:** 14 inches minimum fork length & 22 inches maximum fork length.

**Rudderfish, Banded:** 14 inches minimum fork length & 22 inches maximum fork length.

**Triggerfish, Grey:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Grouper:**

**Jewfish:** Take or possession of jewfish within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.

**Nassau Grouper:** Take or possession of Nassau grouper within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.

**Shallow-Water Grouper:**

**Black:** 24 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 to Mar. 15 each year.

**Gag:** 24 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 to Mar. 15 each year.

**Red:** 20 inches minimum total length. Commercial season closed from Feb. 15 to Mar. 15 each year.

**Yellowfin:** 20 inches minimum total length.

**Deep-Water Grouper:**

Butterfly nets may be used for the taking of shrimp in Calcasieu Lake, Calcasieu River, Grand Bayou and Calcasieu Ship Channel, all within Cameron Parish only, in the daytime and in the nighttime, during open season.

All butterfly nets located in East and West Passes of the Calcasieu River, in Grand Bayou and in Oyster Bayou, all within Cameron Parish only, shall be tagged with a tag listing the fisherman's name, address and butterfly net license number. This tag shall be attached to the net, frame or any other structure or part directly attached to the net or frame in such a manner that it is above the water at all times. This tag shall be of readable size, easily visible and with letters at least 3 inches high and of appropriate width.

When a butterfly net located in West or East Pass of the Calcasieu River, in Oyster Bayou or in Grand Bayou, all within Cameron Parish, is not being fished, all of the following shall apply:

(a) Any object to which the net is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be moved from the waterway and relocated adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.

(b) Any anchor or weight used to secure in the waterway the net or any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be removed from the waterbottom.

(c) Any rope, line, chain or other device used to connect to the shoreline the net and any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be prohibited. However, the prohibition expressed herein shall not apply when such rope, line, chain or other device is being used to secure, when not in use, such net and any object to which it is attached or mounted adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.

(d) Any butterfly net, whether or not it is being fished, that is not marked for identification so that the person owning or responsible for such net can be identified shall be considered contraband. Any agent finding the contraband butterfly net shall immediately seize and take it into custody and may obtain from a judge of any court in the parish where the butterfly net was found an ex parte order forfeiting the contraband and ordering its destruction. An agent of the department or an authorized employee who seizes items as provided in this paragraph is immune from liability and from suit for seizure and destruction of a butterfly net.

**Shrimper/Crab Trap Interaction:** A shrimper who catches an unserviceable crab trap shall keep it on the vessel and properly dispose of it on shore. A shrimper that catches an otherwise serviceable trap without a float shall return it to the water with a common float. A common float is defined as an all-white plastic, one-gallon or larger bleach bottle.

Qualified permit holders in possession of a "special bait dealers permit" may take live bait shrimp during the closed season between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. For more information concerning this permit, contact the Marine Fisheries Division.

## OYSTERS

### Seasons:

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates which public oyster beds are open for fishing by opening or closing the season as biological data indicate a need. The oyster harvest season for state public oyster beds (seed grounds and reservations) generally runs from the first Wednesday following Labor Day in September through April 1 of the following year; however, there are often exceptions to this for certain seed grounds. Consult the DWF web site for the most recent information regarding oyster seasons. The owner of an oyster lease or his designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease, unless the lease is under a DHH closure order. **Note: Areas opened by the Commission may, however, be closed by the Department of Health and Hospitals for health reasons. Information on closed areas is available from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or from the Department of Health and Hospitals (1-800-256-2775).**

The Commission shall fix the open season for oyster tonging in Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake, which for Sabine Lake shall begin on Nov. 15 and shall end on April 30 and for Calcasieu Lake shall begin on any date between Oct. 15 and Nov. 1 and shall end on April 30.

### Size/Possession Limits:

All oysters taken from natural reefs must be three inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth, however, there is no size

"Test trawl," as used in this section, means a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the lead line or head rope.

In Federal offshore waters (EEZ), up to four trawls may be used of any size, plus one test trawl.

Trawling is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1 1/4 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to South Point, from South Point to North Shore along the railroad bridge west from North Shore to Goose Point.

Trawling is prohibited between the railroad bridge and I-10 in Lake Pontchartrain.

Trawling at night is prohibited in Calcasieu Lake, the Black Bayou system, and Little Burtons Ditch (all in the Calcasieu Lake area) and in Grand Lake and White Lake.

All commercial fishing with butterfly nets and trawls longer than 16 feet is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake.

Night shrimping, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, is prohibited in Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche Bays, and Atchafalaya Bay.

Trawls and butterfly nets are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Lake Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately one mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.

Trawling north of the U.S. Highway 90 bridge at Des Allemands and in Lake Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries, is prohibited.

Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls and seines longer than 30 feet in length from May 1 through Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish, from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.

**Butterfly and Skimmer Nets:** Butterfly and skimmer nets with a mesh size less than 5/8-inch bar or 1 1/4 inches stretched are prohibited. Butterfly and skimmer nets cannot have a mesh size less than 3/4-inch bar or 1 1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.

A single stationary butterfly net measuring more than 22 feet vertically or horizontally, or double butterfly nets having individual nets measuring more than 12 feet vertically or horizontally are prohibited, unless double butterfly nets are used on a vessel, in which case each individual net can measure no more than 12 feet vertically by 16 feet horizontally. No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an individual net frame more than 16 feet measured horizontally or 12 feet measured vertically, or 20 feet measured diagonally, or with a lead line measuring more than 28 feet for each net. Reinforcement framing attached to the net frame shall not be considered in determining the dimensions of a double skimmer. A skimmer or butterfly net may be mounted no more than 24 inches from the side of the vessel. Individual nets cannot be tied together. Operation of butterfly and skimmer nets shall in no way impede normal navigation.

No type of sweeper device, lead or other extension attached to, or used in conjunction with, a butterfly net can be used.

A butterfly net cannot be unattended in waters defined as saltwater, unless it is attached to a wharf at a camp.

Fishing with a butterfly net shall be prohibited in inside waters during the closed season.

No butterfly net or bottom net may be suspended from a piling, float, barge, raft, bridge or shore installation in the Rigoles or Chef Menteur Pass or in those portions of Lake Pontchartrain or Lake Borgne which are within two miles of the Rigoles or the Chef Menteur Pass. However, in the Chef Menteur Pass a properly licensed single butterfly net measuring not more than 22-feet-by-22 feet may be suspended from a wharf which has been approved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and which is attached to privately owned or leased immovable property, or to a structure that is not attached to privately owned or leased property if the owner has possessed a permit for such structure from the U.S. Corps of Engineers prior to 1988, provided that the owner or leaseholder is present on the immovable property or permitted structure at all times that the net is in the water.

**Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge, Warsaw Groupers, and Speckled Hind:** no minimum lengths.  
**Snapper:**

**Lane:** 8 inches minimum total length. Mutton: 16 inches minimum total length.

**Vermilion (beeliner):** 10 inches minimum total length.

**Yellowtail:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Schoolmaster:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Cubera:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Mahogany:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Dog:** 12 inches minimum total length.

**Gray (mangrove):** 12 inches minimum total length.

**\*Red:** 15 inches minimum total length.

**Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Dwarf Sandperch, and Sandperch:** no minimum limits.

\*Those persons possessing a Class 2 Red Snapper License issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are limited to a daily take and possession limit of 200 pounds per vessel of red snapper during the open commercial season. Those persons possessing a Class 1 Red Snapper License are limited to a daily take and possession limit of 2,000 pounds per vessel during the open season. Persons not possessing a red snapper license are limited to the recreational creel limit when the recreational season is open, and their catch cannot be sold.

**Seatrust, Spotted (speckled trout):** 14 inches total minimum total length, with an annual harvest quota of 1 million pounds. Commercial fishing begins on the third Monday in November (Nov. 17, 2003, and Nov. 15, 2004). Spotted seatrust may be taken only by properly licensed and permitted commercial rod-and-reel fishermen until May 1 or until the quota is reached, whichever comes first. No commercial gear other than commercial rod-and-reel may be used to take spotted seatrust. It is illegal to possess spotted seatrust on a vessel where there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net or seine or other commercial gear. A commercial fisherman must have in possession a valid Department spotted seatrust permit (see License Prerequisites on page 29) in his name for legal harvest and sale. Spotted seatrust may not be taken commercially during the period from official sunset to official sunrise.

**Shark:** Persons commercially fishing for shark are required to obtain a permit from the Department. **Note:** There is a 4,000 pound trip limit for large coastal sharks, which are the following: great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark. The act of "finning" and possession of fins in excess of five percent of the weight of shark carcasses are prohibited. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of sharks between vessels on state or federal waters. **All Louisiana State waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the commercial harvest of all sharks between April 1 and June 30 of each year.** The fishing year for shark shall begin on January 1.

**Prohibited Shark Species -** No person shall take, possess, purchase, sell, barter, exchange or attempt to possess, purchase, sell, barter, or exchange any of the following species or parts thereof:

Atlantic angel shark	Caribbean sharpnose shark	sand tiger shark
basking shark	dusky shark	sevengill shark
bigeye sand tiger shark	Galapagos shark	sixgill shark
bigeye sixgill shark	largetooth sawfish	smalltail shark
bigeye thresher shark	longfin mako	smalltooth sawfish
bignose shark	narrowtooth shark	whale shark
Caribbean reef shark	night shark	white shark

**Sheepshead:** 10 inches minimum total length.

**Tuna:** To commercially harvest, possess or sell Atlantic bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and albacore, whether within or outside Louisiana state territorial waters, fishers must possess a valid Federal commercial tuna permit (1-888-USA-TUNA).

**Yellowfin:** 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

**Bigeye:** 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

**Bluefin:** 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

**Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin and red drum** are designated game fish with the commercial sale or purchase prohibited unless fish are imported and tagged with metal self-locking tags placed in one operculum of each fish. Tags to be issued by the official conservation agency of the state from which the fish were taken and showing the originating water body and identity of the issuing agency. **EXCEPT** that red drum need only be accompa-

ried by a bill of lading in accordance with L.R.S. 56:327 and 327.1, or unless certified by the Department as having been raised and taken in accordance with a certified aquaculture program or a valid experimental mariculture permit pursuant to L.R.S. 56:579.1. The Department must be notified at 1-800-442-2511 prior to importation of these fish.

### **General**

The use of bandit and longline gears are prohibited in state waters.

Any commercial species for which there is no specified size or take limit may be taken in any size or quantity.

Commercial fishermen must return all undersized fish to waters without injury.

Five percent of each species of commercial fish by number may be smaller than the legal limit, **EXCEPT** channel catfish of which 10 percent by number may be smaller than the legal limit.

Commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants or groceries shall not purchase, barter, trade, or exchange or attempt to purchase, barter, trade, or exchange any undersize fish.

Purse seines cannot be used for taking finfish except menhaden and herring-like species.

Possession of red drum or spotted seatrout on board any vessel on which there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net, or seine is prohibited.

Anyone legally harvesting menhaden cannot possess more than 5 percent, by weight, of any species other than menhaden and herring-like species.

All saltwater finfish except tuna, garfish, swordfish and sharks possessed by a commercial fisherman shall have the head and caudal fin intact until set or put on shore or when sold. Those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may have the head removed so long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the minimum size requirement. Swordfish and sharks possessed by a commercial fisherman shall not be skinned until set or put on shore or when sold. All garfish possessed by a commercial fisherman shall retain a strip of skin sufficient to clearly identify the fish until set or put on shore or when sold. All saltwater finfish shall be measured in accordance with applicable law.

Tuna, swordfish and sharks possessed by a commercial fisherman shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore or when sold. All garfish possessed by a commercial fisherman shall retain a strip of skin sufficient to clearly identify the fish until set or put on shore or when sold.

For the purpose of consumption at sea onboard the harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or employ any aircraft including fixed wing aircraft, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance in the airspace of this state to assist in the taking of finfish **EXCEPT** in fishing for menhaden and herring-like fish.

**NOTE: Sanctuaries exist within Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement Agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.**

## **S H R I M P**

### **Areas:**

Shrimping areas in Louisiana are divided into inshore waters, the offshore territorial sea and the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The line (shrimp line) that separates inshore waters from offshore territorial waters generally follows the coast-line, although there are some exceptions. For specific boundary locations check with your local wildlife and fisheries enforcement agent. Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of \$10 per map by writing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1600 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70112. Please specify which area of the coast you are interested in. The line that separates state territorial waters from the EEZ generally runs along the Louisiana coast three miles from shore. For specific

boundary locations, particularly in the Grand Isle and Marsh Island area, you should contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Agent.

For management purposes, both state inshore and state offshore territorial waters are divided into three shrimp management zones; Zone 1 extends from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River; Zone 2 extends from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island; Zone 3 extends from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana/Texas state line.

**NOTE: Sanctuaries exist within Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement Agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.**

### **Seasons:**

Shrimp seasons are flexible and are set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations in Louisiana waters. Generally, the spring inshore season will begin in late May or early June and extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins in late August and extends into November or December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's offshore territorial waters is open year-round. However, the Commission may close this area. The shrimp season in the Federal waters of the Gulf outside (south) of Louisiana's territorial waters is usually open all year; these waters are controlled by the federal government.

### **Size Limit:**

There is no size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season nor is there any size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season in Louisiana. There is, however, a possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana of 100 count (whole shrimp per pound). This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, **EXCEPT** during the period from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the saltwater shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed shall not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total saltwater shrimp taken or possessed.

### **Methods of Taking:**

During open seasons, saltwater shrimp may be taken with trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets or cast nets and by no other means. Bait shrimp may be taken at any time, even during the closed season, with cast nets less than 8 1/2 feet in radius, hand operated dip nets with a diameter not to exceed three feet, bait traps, and seines less than 30 feet with a maximum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar mesh which are manually operated on foot only. Trawls, butterfly nets or skimmer nets cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during closed season.

**NOTE:** Federal law requires that all shrimp trawlers with a power retrieval system must have approved Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) installed in each trawl except test nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less. Also, in federal waters, federal law requires shrimp trawlers to install approved Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in each trawl.

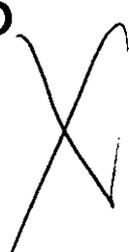
**Trawls:** Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8-inch bar or 1 1/4 inches stretched. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 3/4-inch bar or 1 1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.

In inshore waters vessels may use one trawl measuring 50 feet or less in length along the corkline and 66 feet or less along the lead line; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet or less along the lead line and have trawl doors no larger than 6 feet in length and 34 inches in height; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet along the lead line and have no more than two outer trawl doors no larger than 8 feet in length and 40 inches in height and no more than two inner sled doors, **EXCEPT** that each vessel may, in addition, pull a test trawl. In state offshore territorial waters (from the beach to three miles offshore in most areas), each shrimping vessel may only use nets that do not exceed a total maximum per vessel of 130 feet of cork line and 165 feet of lead line, in addition to one test trawl.

In Breton and Chandeleur Sounds two trawls may be used, each measuring 65 feet or less in length along the corkline and 82 feet or less in length along the lead line, plus one test trawl.

AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
April 3, 2003  
10:00 AM

- ~~1.~~ Roll Call
- ~~2.~~ Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
- ~~3.~~ Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
- ~~4.~~ Commission Special Announcements
- ~~5.~~ Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification - Wayne Sagrera
- ~~6.~~ Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March - Keith LaCaze
- ~~7.~~ Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations
- ~~8.~~ Public Information Quarterly Report - Marianne Burke
- ~~9.~~ Set August 2003 Meeting Date
- ~~10.~~ Public Comments
11. Adjournment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August 2003</h1>					1	2
3	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	PERCENT DOLLARS PAID	PERCENT CASES PAID
<b>FISCAL YEAR 1993-94</b>								
July, 1993	25	\$21,039.00	(\$9,778.00)	29	\$4,855.00	\$2,545.00		
Aug., 1993	53	\$44,922.00	(\$1,137.00)	41	\$7,950.00	\$3,603.00		
Sept., 1993	42	\$137,635.00	(\$17,938.00)	35	\$6,783.00	\$3,048.00		
Oct., 1993	49	\$21,471.00	(\$11,282.00)	40	\$3,285.00	\$1,519.00		
Nov., 1993	57	\$31,207.00	(\$13,260.00)	32	\$3,053.00	\$2,845.00		
Dec., 1993	53	\$13,777.00		27	\$6,507.00	\$6,713.00		
Jan., 1994	38	\$18,918.00		32	\$4,423.00	\$2,831.00		
Feb., 1994	68	\$38,131.00	(\$8,238.00)	46	\$9,124.00	\$5,993.00		
Mar., 1994	38	\$22,739.00	(\$2,482.00)	51	\$10,854.00	\$6,796.00		
April, 1994	14	\$44,732.00	(\$1,404.00)	27	\$7,307.00	\$4,632.00		
May, 1994	10	\$4,504.00	(\$165.00)	7	\$5,447.00	\$3,808.00		
June, 1994	29	\$26,167.00	(\$2,986.00)	12	\$1,886.00	\$1,214.00		
<b>Total FY 1994</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>\$425,242.00</b>	<b>(\$68,670.00)</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>\$71,474.00</b>	<b>\$45,547.00</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 1994-95</b>								
July, 1994	17	\$2,127.00	(\$335.00)	23	\$2,101.00	\$1,437.00		
Aug., 1994	41	\$96,403.00	(\$3,035.00)	20	\$1,010.00	\$605.00		
Sept., 1994	34	\$14,614.00	(\$14,002.00)	26	\$2,596.00	\$2,342.00		
Oct., 1994	94	\$17,426.00	(\$8,677.00)	38	\$2,922.00	\$3,179.00		
Nov., 1994	43	\$103,592.00		45	\$3,992.00	\$2,803.00		
Dec., 1994	68	\$31,400.00		35	\$4,315.00	\$2,329.00		
Jan., 1995	55	\$27,601.00		52	\$7,493.00	\$4,921.00		
Feb., 1995	70	\$61,119.00		41	\$6,472.00	\$3,973.00		
Mar., 1995	31	\$25,072.00		44	\$8,315.00	\$4,737.00		
Apr., 1995	13	\$15,353.00		16	\$3,565.00	\$1,538.00		
May., 1995	23	\$11,632.00		16	\$4,315.00	\$654.00		
June 1995	45	\$31,008.00		18	\$2,630.00	\$1,025.00		
<b>Total FY 1995</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>\$437,347.00</b>	<b>(\$26,049.00)</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>\$49,726.00</b>	<b>\$29,543.00</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>70.0%</b>
<b>FICAL YEAR 1995-96</b>								
July, 1995	0	\$0.00						
Aug., 1995	46	\$17,425.00		27	\$9,028.00	\$1,729.00		
Sept., 1995	1	\$125.00		21	\$3,093.00	\$2,049.00		
Oct., 1995	122	\$206,244.00		29	\$2,720.00	\$1,161.00		
Nov., 1995	55	\$23,124.00		62	\$10,151.00	\$6,383.00		
Dec., 1995	50	\$18,607.26		32	\$4,780.66	\$2,802.76		
Jan., 1996	49	\$13,814.88	(\$15,296.45)	36	\$5,296.51	\$3,472.89		
Feb., 1996	50	\$14,716.97		38	\$5,777.53	\$3,416.91		
Mar., 1996	33	\$24,936.91		36	\$6,035.12	\$3,421.75		
Apr., 1996	30	\$11,006.66		36	\$7,173.12	\$2,711.54		
May., 1996	23	\$7,989.34		24	\$3,941.69	\$2,020.29		
June 1996	50	\$22,151.31		16	\$2,790.02	\$1,182.23		
<b>Total FY 1996</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>\$360,141.33</b>	<b>(\$15,296.45)</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>\$60,786.65</b>	<b>\$30,350.37</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>70.1%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 1996-97</b>								
July, 1996	40	\$71,894.13		32	\$5,249.93	\$2,947.96		
Aug., 1996	32	\$5,362.64		32	\$6,254.59	\$3,783.69		
Sept., 1996	41	\$7,210.00		29	\$2,259.96	\$1,326.58		
Oct., 1996	29	\$11,092.53		25	\$3,697.89	\$2,261.98		
Nov., 1996	20	\$10,009.10		22	\$1,624.63	\$698.02		
Dec., 1996	13	\$238,466.04		22	\$5,877.18	\$2,121.53		
Jan., 1997	27	\$11,755.22		17	\$4,393.30	\$2,377.09		
Feb., 1997	47	\$18,520.87		42	\$8,579.84	\$5,552.63		
Mar., 1997	26	\$13,434.02		27	\$4,999.59	\$2,757.67		
Apr., 1997	10	\$2,908.87		15	\$2,322.88	\$1,298.66		
May., 1997	20	\$11,682.70		15	\$5,198.91	\$1,399.21		
June 1997	5	\$8,036.58		10	\$2,335.24	\$765.34		
<b>Total FY 1997</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>\$410,372.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>\$52,793.94</b>	<b>\$27,290.36</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>92.9%</b>
<b>FICAL YEAR 1997 - 98</b>								
July, 1997	10	\$2,811.71		8	\$1,584.67	\$823.11		
Aug., 1997	14	\$8,741.30		8	\$1,496.49	\$779.14		
Sept., 1997	29	\$19,926.37		12	\$2,051.78	\$1,278.04		
Oct., 1997	12	\$4,716.81		23	\$3,184.83	\$2,063.89		
Nov., 1997	23	\$54,965.34		10	\$2,424.86	\$1,218.28		
Dec., 1997	25	\$36,881.09		15	\$4,376.97	\$2,775.66		
Jan., 1998	42	\$30,025.81		17	\$5,300.40	\$3,533.66		
Feb., 1998	37	\$31,164.95		29	\$22,961.69	\$8,501.18		
Mar., 1998	9	\$13,273.45		32	\$9,406.56	\$4,371.53		

Apr., 1998	10	\$5,628.21		10	\$2,602.62	\$1,279.77		
May., 1998	0	\$225.00		8	\$2,885.02	\$950.46		
June 1998	5	\$2,414.03		6	\$1,041.54	\$98.00		
<b>Total FY 1998</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>\$210,774.07</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>\$59,317.43</b>	<b>\$27,672.72</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>
<b>FICAL YEAR 1998 - 99</b>								
July, 1998	9	\$1,390.43		8	\$1,964.20	\$716.75		
Aug., 1998	10	\$2,240.70		10	\$1,048.28	\$372.47		
Sept., 1998	8	\$2,768.96		11	\$2,000.36	\$1,148.23		
Oct., 1998	22	\$28,704.85		14	\$1,860.17	\$807.48		
Nov., 1998	19	\$9,137.79		11	\$1,765.97	\$1,092.43		
Dec., 1998	23	\$11,959.10		27	\$4,441.02	\$2,040.71		
Jan., 1999	41	\$21,179.55		18	\$6,621.63	\$3,838.22		
Feb., 1999	45	\$26,236.24		41	\$12,119.09	\$6,923.61		
Mar., 1999	15	\$7,549.57		33	\$8,281.77	\$4,138.44		
Apr., 1999	9	\$8,013.54		14	\$3,035.82	\$1,388.41		
May., 1999	5	\$5,161.23		5	\$905.50	\$405.00		
June 1999	7	\$3,719.01		13	\$3,011.06	\$533.83		
<b>Total FY 1999</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>\$128,060.97</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>\$47,054.87</b>	<b>\$23,405.58</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000</b>								
July, 1999	5	\$1,556.38		9	\$2,287.53	\$1,198.81		
Aug., 1999	10	\$2,510.83		15	\$2,455.38	\$513.73		
Sept., 1999	6	\$2,032.19	\$5,324.80	28	\$3,563.06	\$475.93		
Oct., 1999	11	\$4,452.31	\$567.75	25	\$2,775.48	\$557.41		
Nov., 1999	14	\$8,634.64		26	\$3,250.96	\$1,322.96		
Dec., 1999	24	\$15,891.96		19	\$3,862.76	\$2,126.27		
Jan., 2000	49	\$27,872.14		28	\$7,952.94	\$3,814.02		
Feb., 2000	21	\$11,039.59		30	\$10,159.24	\$6,216.42		
Mar., 2000	19	\$9,873.21		31	\$6,709.07	\$3,555.40		
Apr., 2000	12	\$7,897.70		17	\$2,932.41	\$1,512.54		
May, 2000	7	\$5,039.46	\$293.60	20	\$7,062.23	\$3,164.00		
June, 2000	16	\$14,566.88		18	\$5,766.59	\$1,852.12		
<b>Total FY 2000</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$111,367.29</b>	<b>\$6,186.15</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>\$58,777.65</b>	<b>\$26,309.61</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>137%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2000-01</b>								
July, 2000	2	\$865.01		14	\$1,948.03	\$154.01		
Aug., 2000	20	\$15,837.60		17	\$3,302.27	\$1,063.92		
Sept., 2000	12	\$3,562.26		23	\$8,718.21	\$1,351.41		
Oct., 2000	18	\$122,696.24		29	\$7,457.98	\$490.16		
Nov, 2000	13	\$15,851.30		22	\$4,038.50	\$309.30		
Dec., 2000	40	\$30,234.92		24	\$7,189.98	\$462.13		
Jan., 2001	28	\$15,923.38		25	\$7,611.66	\$833.60		
Feb., 2001	35	\$20,181.39		30	\$18,568.12	\$1,917.82		
Mar., 2001	8	\$5,956.83		37	\$15,724.02	\$753.86		
Apr., 2001	20	\$24,145.82		22	\$4,856.39	\$225.93		
May 2001	4	\$1,677.36		20	\$3,700.77	\$313.58		
June 2001	3	\$932.20		31	\$8,433.81	\$346.90		
<b>Total FY 2001</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>\$257,864.31</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>\$91,549.74</b>	<b>\$8,222.62</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>145%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2001-02</b>								
July, 2001	4	\$4,290.29		25	\$6,328.36	\$293.54		
Aug., 2001	6	\$9,452.69		18	\$2,984.52			
Sept., 2001	0	\$175.00		25	\$4,157.32	\$66.29		
Oct., 2001	15	\$6,439.06		18	\$3,174.66	\$67.32		
Nov., 2001	15	\$5,913.63		24	\$3,932.41	\$194.66		
Dec., 2001	36	\$21,868.88		20	\$5,384.19	\$502.17		
Jan., 2002	56	\$27,650.44		38	\$11,100.99	\$1,008.09		
Feb., 2002	27	\$14,211.31	\$620.55	37	\$20,017.87	\$861.63		
Mar., 2002	8	\$6,765.68		36	\$10,061.89	\$419.16		
Apr., 2002	20	\$11,296.19		19	\$2,196.02	\$49.33		
May, 2002	3	\$30,852.57	\$11,887.80	27	\$8,265.67	\$538.72		
June, 2002	3	\$8,636.08		23	\$3,418.15	\$87.91		
<b>Total FY 2002</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>\$147,551.82</b>	<b>\$12,508.35</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>\$81,022.05</b>	<b>\$4,088.82</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>161%</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2002-03</b>								
July, 2002	8	\$6,915.26		20	\$3,308.14	\$111.90		
Aug., 2002	12	\$11,943.66		24	\$4,010.98	\$47.33		
Sept., 2002	6	\$1,944.83		19	\$4,624.36	\$85.25		
Oct., 2002	24	\$12,167.99		25	\$7,131.20	\$442.95		
Nov., 2002	21	\$11,013.41		27	\$8,688.51	\$624.99		
Dec., 2002	32	\$15,763.99		23	\$7,660.18	\$689.95		

Jan.,2003	58	\$32,391.55	22	\$7,149.09	\$562.34
Feb.,2003	33	\$18,426.48	40	\$13,988.00	\$1,122.57
Mar., 2003	13	\$3,668.17	28	\$9,342.76	\$643.57
Apr., 2003					
May, 2003					
June, 2003					

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT  
 CURRENT MONTH  
 03/01/2003 TO 03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	13	\$3,543.17
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	5	\$125.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	13	\$3,668.17
PAYMENTS	24	\$9,124.36-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	0	\$0.00
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	4	\$218.40-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	0	\$0.00
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	0	\$0.00
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	15	\$643.57-
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$0.46
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	\$0.00
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$148.60-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY D.A.	1	\$2,134.47-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	1	\$1,851.58-
-----		
FOOTNOTE:		
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT  
 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE  
 07/01/2002 TO 03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	207	\$113,585.34
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	23	\$650.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	207	\$114,235.34
PAYMENTS	125	\$52,026.68-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	10	\$3,402.52-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	21	\$6,467.04-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	9	\$3,756.98-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	21	\$550.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	90	\$4,330.85-
OVERPAYMENTS	10	\$2.33
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	4	\$130.74
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$148.60-
WRITE-OFFS	7	\$390.89-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	5	\$8,149.24-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	8	\$3,270.48-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	1	\$2,134.47-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	2	\$3,018.92-
-----		
FOOTNOTE:		
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT  
 INCEPTION TO DATE  
 03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	4,597	\$3,215,823.88
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	363	\$9,625.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	138	\$58,209.82
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	4,597	\$3,013,793.25
PAYMENTS	3,097	\$678,558.94-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	34	\$8,156.03-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	81	\$26,207.99-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	35	\$26,896.22-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	190	\$4,950.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2,172	\$260,724.72-
OVERPAYMENTS	125	\$94.27
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	62	\$11,803.32
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	17	\$44,255.65-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	5	\$6,780.54
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	8	\$45,896.70
RETURNED CHECKS	1	\$61.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	3	\$55.00
CREDITS	13	\$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	21	\$6,881.15
CREDITS	64	\$37,061.90-
WRITE-OFFS	990	\$1,065,145.70-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	7	\$1,794.95-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	30	\$20,550.04-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	91	\$169,056.29-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	1	\$2,134.47-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	2	\$559.32-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	1	\$524.54-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	2	\$3,018.92-
		=====
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING	349	\$735,760.08

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 FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	38	\$106,941.70 *
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## AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	0	\$0.00
31 - 60 DAYS	2	\$150.00
61 - 90 DAYS	5	\$4,782.80
91 - 120 DAYS	3	\$2,962.65
121 - 150 DAYS	1	\$254.65
151 - 180 DAYS	3	\$3,261.25
181 - 365 DAYS	45	\$47,495.34
OVER ONE YEAR	102	\$87,356.28
OVER TWO YEARS	150	\$127,753.00
OVER THREE YEARS	837	\$565,425.22
		=====
** TOTAL AGING	1,148	\$839,441.19

## AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

## COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	4	\$801.90
CURRENT	7	\$2,007.44
1 - 30 DAYS	32	\$19,404.15
31 - 90 DAYS	34	\$17,957.34
91 - 180 DAYS	16	\$6,881.52
181 - 365 DAYS	21	\$60,566.56
OVER ONE YEAR	127	\$131,332.10

## COLLECTIONS WITH PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FIRM:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	106	\$422,043.53

## AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	2	\$74,765.54
		=====

** TOTAL AGING	349	\$735,760.08
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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT  
 CURRENT MONTH  
 03/01/2003-03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	763	\$42,450.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	85	\$2,275.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$44,725.00

PAID IN FULL	374	\$22,755.00-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	12	\$812.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	0	\$0.00
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	8	\$534.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	8	\$32.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$2.50
REFUNDS	2	\$22.50
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	3	\$150.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
VOIDS	31	\$1,550.00-
NOT GUILTY	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	4	\$250.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT  
 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE  
 07/01/2002-03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	5,396	\$299,960.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	2,731	\$68,925.00
CREDITS	18	\$825.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	435	\$3,316.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$371,376.00

PAID IN FULL	4,183	\$243,865.00-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	112	\$5,582.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	0	\$0.00
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	18	\$1,176.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	18	\$72.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	4	\$7.00
REFUNDS	64	\$1,992.00
RETURNED CHECKS	2	\$150.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	1	\$20.00
CREDITS	1	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	40	\$2,350.00
CREDITS	7	\$300.00-
VOIDS	224	\$11,400.00-
NOT GUILTY	34	\$1,750.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	30	\$1,550.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	13	\$650.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	2	\$100.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT  
 INCEPTION TO DATE  
 03/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	103,727	\$5,299,467.07
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	27,441	\$686,837.80
CREDITS	19	\$10,191.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	532	\$4,068.50
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$5,980,182.37

		=====
PAID IN FULL	61,987	\$3,288,327.49-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	1,578	\$72,561.25-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	14	\$690.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	33	\$345.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	18	\$1,176.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	18	\$72.00-
WRITE-OFFS	11,921	\$695,077.50-
OVERPAYMENTS	181	\$4,054.28
REFUNDS	326	\$14,709.81
RETURNED CHECKS	72	\$3,750.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	69	\$1,095.00
CREDITS	170	\$141.88-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	238	\$14,000.00
CREDITS	40	\$2,300.00-
VOIDS	5,398	\$271,500.00-
NOT GUILTY	1,207	\$61,350.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	209	\$10,600.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	39	\$1,950.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	157	\$7,900.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$1,603,800.34

## AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM CITATION DATE

## COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CURRENT	550	\$30,300.00
1 - 30 DAYS	293	\$16,900.00
31 - 90 DAYS	234	\$15,200.00
91 - 180 DAYS	501	\$33,925.00
181 - 365 DAYS	2,022	\$154,035.00
OVER ONE YEAR	19,084	\$1,339,263.34

## COLLECTIONS WITH DEPT OF REVENUE:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	186	\$13,952.00

## AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	3	\$225.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING	22,873	\$1,603,800.34
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## AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM HEARING DATE

PREHEARING	911	\$51,900.00
0 - 90 DAYS	640	\$41,125.00
91 - 180 DAYS	1,314	\$100,110.00
181 - 270 DAYS	435	\$33,450.00
271 - 365 DAYS	544	\$41,460.00
OVER ONE YEAR	19,029	\$1,335,755.34

=====

** TOTAL AGING	22,873	\$1,603,800.34
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# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

# NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.  
Secretary



CONTACT  
225/765-2925

2003-088

3/27/03

## L.W.F.C. ANNOUNCES AGENDA FOR APRIL MEETING

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold their next monthly meeting on Thursday, April 3. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building in Baton Rouge. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements
5. Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification
6. Enforcement and Aviation Reports for March
7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons and General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations
8. Public Information Quarterly Report
9. Set August 2003 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

**EDITORS:** For more information, contact Thomas Gresham at 225/765-2923  
([gresham\\_tp@wlf.state.la.us](mailto:gresham_tp@wlf.state.la.us)).

March 26, 2003

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 3, 2003, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements
5. Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification
6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March
7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations
8. Public Information Quarterly Report
9. Set August 2003 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

March 26, 2003

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission  
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 3, 2003, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements

## COMMISSIONER SAGRERA

5. Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification

## WINTON VIDRINE

6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

## OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations

Page 2  
Commission Meeting  
March 26, 2003

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

(None)

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

8. Quarterly Report
9. Set August 2003 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton  
Phil Bowman  
John Roussel  
Craig Lamendola  
Don Puckett  
Dennis Kropog  
Ewell Smith  
Division Chiefs  
Marianne Burke

C O V E R  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
S H E E T



FAX

**To:** Terry Denmon  
**Fax #:** 318-361-5036  
**Subject:** Agenda  
**Date:** March 20, 2003  
**Pages:** 3, including this cover sheet.

**COMMENTS:**

Please call me after you have reviewed the attached agenda. Thanks.

From the desk...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806  
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission  
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 3, 2003, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements

COMMISSIONER SAGRERA

5. Notice of Intent - Alligator Regulations; Consideration of Modification

WINTON VIDRINE

6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations

Page 2  
Commission Meeting  
, 2003

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

(None)

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

8. Quarterly Report
9. Set August 2003 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton  
Phil Bowman  
John Roussel  
Craig Lamendola  
Don Puckett  
Dennis Kropog  
Ewell Smith  
Division Chiefs  
Marianne Burke

, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission  
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 3, 2003, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2003
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2003
4. Commission Special Announcements

COMMISSIONER SAGRERA

5. <sup>Notice of Intent</sup> Alligator Regulations; *Consideration of modification*

WINTON VIDRINE

6. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

7. Public Comments - 2003-04 Hunting Seasons & General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations

*Language from  
Dr. Pickett  
3/20/2003*

## Hawkins, Susan

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**From:** Foote, Karen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2003 10:34 AM  
**To:** Roussel, John E  
**Cc:** Hawkins, Susan; Porch, Pat; Abbott, Janet  
**Subject:** No Marine Fisheries agenda items for April at this point

# State of Louisiana



*To: Susan Hawkins*

James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

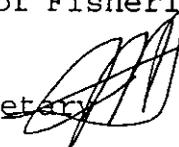
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

March 5, 2003

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,  
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential  
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary 

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 3, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, April 3rd Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 3rd. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners  
Don Puckett  
Winton Vidrine  
Tommy Prickett ✓  
Bennie Fontenot  
Karen Foote  
Wynnette Kees  
Brandt Savoie  
Ewell Smith  
Marianne Burke

*Public Comment: Seasons, Bag Limits,  
Hunting Regulations*

Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunter Association  
Darrell Dupont

P.O. Box 755, Cameron, LA 70631

Mr. Phil E. Bowman  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Box 9800  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Bowman,

The Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunter Association would like to request equal time to discuss the issue of alligator returns at the Commission meeting on April 3, 2003. The Association has hired Ted Joanen to speak on its behalf. Please add us to the agenda.

Thank you,

*Darrell Dupont*

Darrell Dupont

REC'D  
FEB 19 2003  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

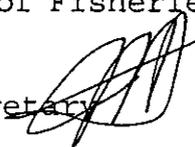
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.  
Governor

March 5, 2003

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,  
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential  
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary 

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Public Information -  
written quarterly report.  


# State of Louisiana



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Secretary

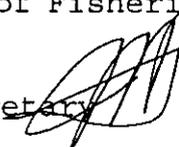
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Marianne Burke

3/17/03  
Susan!  
Louisiana Fisheries Division  
has no items for the  
April Agenda.

Sincerely,  
Benford

C. Johnson

An Equal Opportunity Employer

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

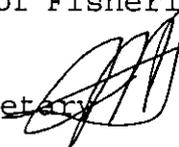
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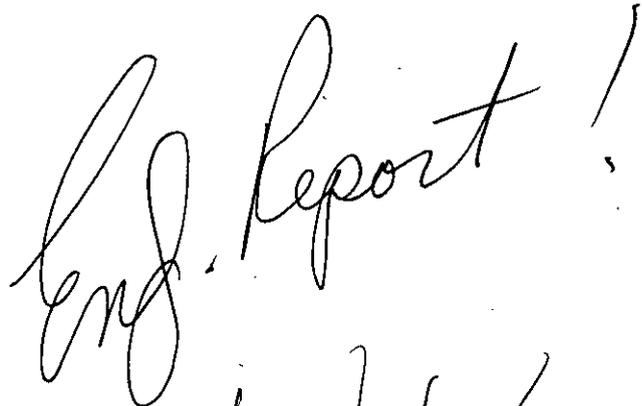
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# State of Louisiana



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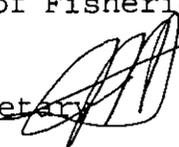
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*Alligator Regulations*  
*Brandt*

# State of Louisiana



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Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
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TRANSACTION REPORT

P. 01

MAR-05-03 WED 11:51 AM

DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
MAR-05	11:50 AM	SEAFOOD MKTG BOARD	45"	1	SEND	OK	313	

TOTAL : 45S PAGES: 1

State of Louisiana



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Secretary

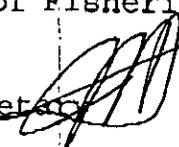
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