

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Office of Fisheries
Sharks and Sawfishes – Harvest Regulations (LAC 76:VII. 357)**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.357) modifying existing commercial shark harvest regulations. Proposed changes increase the daily possession limit of commercially harvested sharks from the large coastal species group to a default limit of 45 and establish Secretarial authority to modify those commercial possession limits within a defined range (0-55) if notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that an in-season change has been implemented. Authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1, and 56:326.3 to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

**Title 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§357. Sharks and Sawfishes—Harvest Regulations

A – H.1 ...

2. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit but no Federal Shark Permit shall not possess on any one day, or on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of the federal possession limit of sharks per vessel from the large coastal species group, taken from Louisiana state waters. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research permit under 50CFR635.32(1). If the Department is notified that the National Marine Fisheries Service has made an in-season adjustment to the default daily federal possession limit (45 sharks), the Secretary of the Department is authorized to adjust the daily possession limit of sharks from the large coastal species group. Such an adjustment of the daily possession limit shall not exceed 55 sharks from the large coastal species group.

H.3 – O...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(10), R.S. 56:326(E)(2), R.S. 56:326.1, R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:320.2(C), and R.S. 325.2(A).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:543 (March 1999), amended LR 27:2267 (December 2001), LR 30:1507 (July 2004), LR 35:705 (April 2009), LR 39:1062 (April 2013), LR 42: _____

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, March 3, 2016.

Insert Family Impact Statement

Insert Poverty Impact Statement

Insert Provider Impact Statement

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate the effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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

Pat Manuel

Chairman, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission