Louisiana Fishing Regulations

2013

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

SPORT FISH RESTORATION

75 Years

IT'S YOUR NATURE

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

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For updated information and the latest regulations visit us online at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov.*

INFORMATION HOTLINE
1-800-256-2749

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LDWF MISSION STATEMENT

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education for the social and economic benefit of current and future generations; to provide opportunities for knowledge of and use and enjoyment of these resources; and to promote a safe and healthy environment for the users of the resources

HELP STOP POACHING

REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS

Operation Game Thief
1-800-442-2511
24 hours a day - 7 days a week

MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2013 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

1. Changes in yo-yo and trotline regulations on Black Lake, Clear Lake and Prairie Lake (Natchitoches Parish), Caddo Lake (Caddo Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Lake D'Arbonne (Union Parish), Lake Lafourche (Caldwell Parish) and Lake Saint Joseph (Tensas Parish).
2. Marine Finfish:
   - Established a closed season for gag grouper from Nov. 1 - June 30 of the following year.
   - Changed the closed season for the harvest of black grouper, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, red hind and scamp to Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year.
   - Changed grouper aggregate limit to 4 fish for red grouper, black grouper, gag, misty grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, Warsaw grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind and speckled hind. Changed allowance of red grouper within aggregate to 4 and gag to 2.
   - Established a closed season for greater amberjack from June 1 - July 31 of each year.
   - Established a required free Recreational Offshore Landing Permit when possessing tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except gray snapper). Permit must be obtained at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp*.
   - Established reporting requirements when landing yellowfin tuna that must be met prior to offloading those fish from the vessel.

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. State laws can be viewed on the legislative website: *www.legis.state.la.us/*.

Fishing regulations on state Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges may differ from those contained in this pamphlet. Consult the Wildlife Management Area and Refuge Regulations portion of this pamphlet or contact the nearest LDWF office for WMA & refuge regulations.

Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.

SAFETY ON THE WATER

- Personal flotation devices save lives. Get one and wear it when you're on the water.
- Remember that children 16 years old or younger must wear a properly sized and fitted, personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard at all times when a vessel is underway. Get your child fitted for a proper life vest and lead by example by wearing one too.
- For more information on how to find the right life vest or for more boating safety tips, visit *http://www.uscgboating.org* or *www.wlf.louisiana.gov*.

LDWF FISHERIES CONTACT INFORMATION

FRESHWATER OFFICES

Minden	318-371-5216
Monroe	318-343-4044
Alexandria	318-487-5881
Lake Charles	337-491-2577
Opelousas	337-948-0255
Baton Rouge	225-765-2336
Lacombe	985-882-5228
New Iberia	337-373-0032
Many	337-286-5940

SALTWATER OFFICES

Lacombe	985-882-0027
New Orleans	504-286-4042
Bourg	985-594-4139
New Iberia	337-373-0032
Lake Charles	337-491-2579
Grand Isle	504-284-2037
	985-787-2163

LDWF ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Have a specific question that you don't see answered here?
Call an Enforcement Office to speak with someone directly.

Alexandria	318-487-5634	**New Iberia**	337-373-0032
Baton Rouge	225-765-2999	**New Orleans**	504-284-2023
Lake Charles	337-491-2580	**Opelousas**	337-948-0257
Minden	318-371-3049	**Thibodaux**	985-447-0821
Monroe	318-343-2417		

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RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES		
	Resident	Non-Resident
Basic Fishing Season	$9.50	$60.00
Saltwater License (*Basic Fishing required*)	$5.50	$30.00
Basic Fish Trip - 1 day		$5.00
Saltwater Trip - 1 day		$17.50
Hook and Line (*cane pole*)	$2.50	
Charter Passenger License (*3-day*)[1]	$5.00	$5.00
Charter Skiff (*3-day*)[2]		$30.00
LA Sportsman's Paradise License[3]	$100.00	
Senior Fish/Hunt[4]	$5.00	
Non-Resident Student Basic Fishing[5]		$9.50
NR Student Saltwater Fishing (*Basic Fishing required*)[5]		$5.50
Resident Disabled Basic Fishing[6]	$2.50	
Resident Disabled Saltwater[6]	$2.50	
Offshore Landing Permit[7]	Free	Free
MILITARY		
Military Basic Fishing	$9.50	$9.50
Military Saltwater	$5.50	$5.50
Resident LA National Guard Fish/Hunt	$50.00	
FISHING GEAR		
Crab Traps (limit 10)	$15.00	$60.00
Slat Traps (limit 5)	$20.00	$80.00
Trawls - up to 16 feet	$25.00	$100.00
Trawls - 16 feet to 25 feet	$80.00	$320.00
Oyster Tong (per tong)	$5.00	$20.00
Crawfish Traps (limit 35)	$15.00	$60.00
Pipes/Drums (limit 5)	$10.00	$40.00
Cans/Buckets (limit 5)	$10.00	$40.00
Wire Nets (limit 5)[8]	$20.00	$80.00
Hoop Nets (limit 5)[8]	$20.00	$80.00

[1] *Valid to fish from a charter vessel in saltwater areas of the state, with a licensed guide on board at all times.*

[2] *Valid to fish under the direction of a charter operation in a licensed charter skiff in saltwater areas of the state.*

[3] ***Sportsman's Paradise License:*** *Includes Basic and Saltwater Fishing, Basic and Big Game Hunting, Bow, Primitive Firearms, Turkey, LA Duck and WMA Hunting Permit, and all recreational gear licenses (EXCEPT recreational trawls greater than 16 feet in length).*

[4] ***Senior Fish/Hunt License:*** *Any resident who reached age 60 on June 1, 2000 or later must obtain a Senior Hunt/Fish License to hunt or fish. This license is in lieu of basic and saltwater fishing, basic hunting, big game, bow, primitive firearms, LA duck license, turkey stamp and WMA hunting permit. It does not include special gear such as trawls, crab traps, crawfish traps, hoop nets, etc.*

[5] ***NR Student:*** *Applies to a nonresident who is enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university that has a physical campus in Louisiana. Verification of full-time status on the Department form available at http://wlf.la.gov/licenses. Any person fishing under a "student license" must carry valid student I.D. card indicating current full time status while hunting or fishing.*

[6] ***LA Disabled Fishing and Saltwater:*** *See page 8.*

[7] ***Offshore Landing Permit:*** *See pages 6 and 33.*

[8] *Recreational wire and hoop nets shall be used only in the geographical areas of the state designated as freshwater (see page 20).*

LIFETIME LICENSES

LIFETIME LICENSE FEES	
Lifetime Fishing (5-13 years old)	**$200**
Lifetime Fishing (14 years and older)	**$300**
Lifetime Hunt/Fish (0-4 years old)	**$200**
Lifetime Hunt/Fish (5-13 years old)	**$300**
Lifetime Hunt/Fish (14 years and older)	**$500**
NR Lifetime Hunt/Fish	**$3,000**
Lifetime Resident Senior Hunt/Fish (60 or older)	**$50**
Lifetime Fishing Gear	10 times annual fee per gear type

Lifetime fishing licenses include both freshwater and saltwater fishing.

Lifetime licenses are available from the Baton Rouge office only. Allow three weeks processing time. Applicants are required to have lived in Louisiana for the immediate 12 months prior to making application to qualify for resident rates. Mandatory documents required with application are a valid LA driver's license issued a minimum of 12 months **and one of the following**:

1. Louisiana voter's registration card
2. Louisiana vehicle registration or
3. Two previous year's state tax filing, stamped by Department of Revenue and Taxation.

(Applications available at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses/lifetime/* or by calling 225-765-2887)

Recreational fishing and hunting licenses may be purchased by phone toll-free at 1-888-765-2602 or online at* www.la.wildlifelicense.com. *Methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express or E-check. An authorization number for immediate use will be provided. A handling fee is assessed.

RECREATIONAL LICENSES

ABOUT THE LICENSE

- Recreational licenses are valid from the date of purchase, are available for purchase each June 1, and expire June 30 of the following year.
- To obtain licenses at resident rates, proof of residency is required. Valid forms of I.D. include:
  - Louisiana driver's license
  - Louisiana ID card (issued by the Department of Public Safety)

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE

Anglers 16 years of age or older who take or possess fish in Louisiana waters must possess a fishing license.

WHO DOES NOT NEED A LICENSE

- Children under the age of 16 do not need a fishing license (15 and under).
- Residents born before June 1, 1940 who have lived in Louisiana for one year prior to fishing are exempt from basic and saltwater licenses but MUST have appropriate gear licenses when using trawls, crab traps, slat traps, oyster tongs, crawfish traps, wire nets, hoop nets or any other legal fishing gear.

FISHING IN FRESHWATER

Anglers fishing in freshwater must possess a basic fishing license.

FISHING IN SALTWATER

Title 56, Section 302.1.C.(1) requires that all recreational anglers fishing south of the "saltwater line" (*see page 20*) for saltwater species have in their possession a Louisiana saltwater angler's license IN ADDITION TO a basic Louisiana fishing license EXCEPT those persons otherwise exempted. All regulations apply regardless of where the fish is taken.

OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT

Both non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains are required to obtain this permit (free of charge) to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except for grey snapper). Anglers wishing to obtain a permit must register at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp*. More details on this program are also available on this site.

ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A LICENSE

A valid basic fishing license is required to possess fish in Louisiana waters OR to use the following:

- Bow and arrow
- A barbed or barbless spear
- Frog gig/catcher
- Scuba gear
- Hook and Line (trot line)
- Cast net with a radius not to exceed 8 feet, 6 inches
- Crabbing on a refuge or wildlife management area (WMA)

MILITARY RECREATIONAL LICENSES

- Active-duty members of the United States armed forces, including National Guard, are eligible to purchase annual licenses for the same fee that Louisiana residents pay for annual licenses.
- An active-duty military member's spouse and/or any dependents may also obtain a fishing license at the Louisiana resident rate.
- In order to obtain Louisiana resident rate licenses the active-duty member of the military, spouse or dependents must present a valid active duty military ID card at the time of the license purchase.
- A Louisiana resident who is a member of the Louisiana National Guard or any reserve component of the United States armed forces may purchase a combination license to hunt and fish for $50. Information and applications are available at *http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses* or by calling 225-765-2887.

TEXAS/LOUISIANA RECIPROCAL

1. Louisiana and Texas residents who hold resident licenses from their resident state or who are exempted from holding resident licenses in their state may fish the border waters between Texas and Louisiana without additional licenses. Boundary waters include:
   - Caddo Lake
   - Toledo Bend Reservoir
   - Sabine River
   - Sabine Lake
   - Sabine Pass
2. Louisiana residents who are 65 years old or older may fish in Texas public waters (both freshwater and saltwater) as long as they possess valid Louisiana resident licenses and comply with Texas law.
3. Louisiana residents born before June 1, 1940 are not required to have a license to fish border waters, only.
4. Louisiana residents who are 17 to 64 years of age must purchase Texas nonresident fishing license(s) when fishing in Texas, except when fishing in border waters.
5. Texas residents who are 65 years old or older may fish in Louisiana public waters (both freshwater and saltwater) as long as they possess valid Texas resident license(s) and comply with Louisiana law.
6. Texas residents born before Sept. 1, 1930 must possess Texas resident fishing license(s) when fishing in Louisiana, except in the border waters.

DISABILITY LICENSES

- Resident veterans who have a permanent service-connected disability classification of 50 percent or more, and residents who are blind, paraplegic or multiple amputee can be issued recreational basic and saltwater fishing license(s) for free.
- Residents who are totally and permanently disabled and receiving federal social security disability benefits or disability retirement income from a retirement system whose members are exempt from social security pursuant to the Railroad Retirement Insurance Act or employees of the state or a political subdivision of the state that has not voluntarily agreed to participate in federal social security may qualify for reduced rate basic and saltwater fishing licenses. (This exemption does not apply to Supplemental Security Income benefits).
- Residents required to use one or more artificial limbs or permanent braces for mobility or a single amputee can be issued recreational basic and saltwater fishing licenses for free.
- As defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), Mobility impaired persons that are bona fide residents of Louisiana, in possession of valid identification, and over 60 years of age may use one legal slat trap and/or one hoop net not greater than 18 feet by 8 feet, without a license in any waters of the state, only for the purpose of catching catfish and only for home consumption.
- Applications for these licenses can be mailed to the Baton Rouge office or presented to the Baton Rouge office in person.
- Application forms for the Resident Disabled Sportsman License or Resident Disabled with Social Security Benefit License are available at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses*. For more information contact Sports License at 225-765-2887

TAG LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA
Cooperative Marine Fish Tagging Program

If You Catch A Tagged Fish...
- Record the tag number, location, date, and length.
- Report the recapture as soon as possible to obtain your reward!

Get Involved...
Any angler can contribute to this important research!
To obtain your tagging kit, simply contact us by:

Email: fishtagging@ccalouisiana.com
Phone: 1-800-567-2182
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tag.louisiana

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Sport Fish Restoration
CCA Louisiana
RFRI Fish Research Team
Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University
Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

DEFINITIONS

1. **Angle:** to fish with rod, fishing pole or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bag Limit/Creel Limit:** the maximum number of a species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day.
3. **Bait Seine:** a net measuring no more than 30 feet in length with a mesh size not exceeding 1/4-inch mesh bar, 1/2-inch mesh stretched, and operated solely on foot and solely by hand, without any mechanical device, pulley or mechanical assistance whatsoever.
4. **Bait Species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
5. **Bandit Gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved with rods and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels. (Use prohibited in state waters)
6. **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.
      - If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.
      - If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana driver's license.
      - If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
      - If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

   B. any person who possesses a resident license from any other state shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.
7. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55-gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
8. **Cast Net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials that is weighted around its perimeter and is thrown by hand over the water.
9. **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.
10. **Crab Trap:** a cube-shaped, device constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches on any side, and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than seven inches into the inside of the trap, with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
11. **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 the purpose of taking crawfish.
12. **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 express purpose of taking crawfish.
13. **Dip Net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame not to exceed three feet in diameter attached to a handle that is held and worked solely by hand by no more than one individual, and without any mechanical assistance.

14. **Finfish:** (*noun*) any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills and are covered with skin or scales.
15. **Fish:** (*noun*) all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans and all other species of aquatic life.
16. **Fork Length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
17. **Freshwater Recreational Fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
18. **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.
19. **Game Fish:** all of the following species of freshwater and saltwater fish. :
    A. ***Freshwater Game Fish:*** largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), shadow bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*), black or white crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus, P. annularis*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), hybrid striped bass (striped bass-white bass cross or striped bass-yellow bass cross) and any species of bream (*Lepomis sp.*).
    B. ***Saltwater Game Fish:*** any sailfish (*Istiopharus platypterus*), blue marlin (*Makaira indica*), black marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), hatchet marlin (*Tetrapturus spp.*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), and red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).
20. **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.
21. **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.
22. **Landing Net:** means a net, usually a mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic material on a fixed frame attached to a handle held and operated by hand for the sole purpose of assisting in the landing of fish legally caught by other legal gear.
23. **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.
24. **Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).
25. **Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin, swordfish and paddlefish.
26. **Mesh Size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows:
    A. **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 tarred, treated or otherwise processed.
    B. **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.
27. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
28. **Nonresident:** any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8(69) (*See Bona Fide Resident on page 9*).
29. **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.

30. **Recreational Purposes:** a purpose other than deriving or attempting to derive an income of any kind from the harvest of fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament.
31. **Reptiles and Amphibians:** native frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.
32. **Saltwater Fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
33. **Saltwater Recreational Fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
34. **Shellfish:** an aquatic invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans.
35. **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 one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone-shaped throats, flues or entrances.
36. **Slot Limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
37. **Stupefying Substances or Devices:** the use of explosives or chemicals or comparable destructive fishing practices as a capture technique.
38. **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.
39. **Test Trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the headline or headrope.
40. **Total Length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
41. **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.
42. **Trawl:** any net, generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter 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. Trawls are only allowed to be used in state waters when and where the shrimp season is open.
43. **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.
44. **Turtle Trap:** any device designed to attract and/or capture turtles in aquatic habitats. It must be open above water to allow respiration of air-breathing animals and clearly marked "turtle trap."
45. **Venting Tool:** a device intended to deflate the abdominal cavity of a fish to release the gases so the fish may be released with minimum damage.
46. **Wing Net:** see Lead Net on page 10.
47. **Wire Net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials, with a mesh no less than 1 inch square or 2 inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of 5 inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

FISHING OFFSHORE

Ensuring you are fishing in the right places and for the right species in Louisiana's offshore waters is essential. Not exactly sure where you can and can't fish or what you can fish for off the Louisiana coast in the Gulf of Mexico? Get the information directly from the federal agencies that regulate these offshore waters.

In addition to owning a basic fishing license and a saltwater fishing license, a federal recreational fishing permit is also required for tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks. For information about obtaining additional fishing permits contact the National Marine Fisheries Service Highly Migratory Species Management Divisions.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

- *www.gulfcouncil.org*
- info@gulfcouncil.org
- 1-888-833-1844 or 813-348-1630
- App available for iPhone and Android

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office

- *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/cyberfish*
- *www.nmfs.permits.com*
- Permits:
  1-877-376-4877 or 727-824-5301

National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division

(for tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks)

- *nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/*
- *www.nmfs.permits.com*
- Editor.HMS@noaa.gov
- 1-888-872-8862 or 727-824-5399 (direct number)

NMFS Marine Recreational Information Program

- *countmyfish.noaa.gov/index.html*
- 301-427-8528

OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT

Both non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains are required to obtain this permit (free of charge) to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except for grey snapper). Anglers wishing to obtain a permit must register at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp*. More details on this program are also available on this site.

SPECIES YOU CAN'T HARVEST

Some aquatic species are off-limits for fishing or recreational take. These federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species are listed below. Some civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species:

- Mussels
  - Louisiana pearlshell mussel
  - Inflated heelsplitter mussel
  - Fat pocketbook mussel
  - Pink mucket mussel
- Sea turtles
- Gopher tortoise
- Ringed sawback turtle
- Dusky gopher frog
- All whales
- Dolphin (mammal)
- West Indian manatee
- Pallid sturgeon
- Gulf sturgeon
- Shovelnose sturgeon
- Sharks
  - Basking shark
  - Caribbean sharpnose shark
  - Whale shark
  - White shark
  - Bigeye sand tiger shark
  - Smalltail shark
  - Bignose shark

- Caribbean reef shark
- Dusky shark
- Galapagos shark
- Narrowtooth shark
- Sixgill shark
- Atlantic angel shark
- Sand tiger shark
- Sevengill shark
- Bigeye sixgill shark
- Night shark
- Bigeye thresher shark
- Longfin mako shark
- Smalltooth sawfish
- Largetooth sawfish
- Nassau grouper
- Goliath grouper

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GO FISHING

Fishing in Louisiana is exciting and rewarding. The more you hit the water, the better your chances of taking home beautiful, often delicious, fish. Knowing what to do when you go fishing, how to care for your catch, properly release what you don't keep, and how you are permitted to fish is very important. Here is some valuable information to make sure your next fishing trip is a successful one.

Want to check the weather and river stages before you leave shore? Call the National Weather Service's *Dial A Forecast* for regularly updated marine forecasts.

- Shreveport 318-635-7575
- Lake Charles 337-439-0000
- New Orleans 504-522-7330

Also stay tuned to the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) for up to the minute broadcasts.

METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING FISH

As an angler, you're on the front line of conservation. There are many ways to catch fish and other aquatic species, some are legal and others are not. The decisions you make about when and where you fish, and the catch you keep have a real impact on the resource. The following is a breakdown of what methods are acceptable in Louisiana. Some regulated species may limit the methods for catch. In particular, some species of gamefish may not be taken with some of the methods listed. Always remember to check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions (*See page 3 for contact information*).

LEGAL METHODS (not for all fish)

NOTE: Certain species of game fish may not be taken with some gear listed below.

- Rod
- Fishing Pole
- Hook and Line
- Trolling Line
- Handline
- Bait Casting
- Fly Casting Apparatus
- Recreational Crawfish Traps (must be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag, and must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of one inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire)
- Yo-yos or Trigger Devices
- Bow and Arrow
- Recreational Hoop Nets*
- Recreational Wire Nets*
- Recreational Slat Traps
- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by a skin diver sport fishing in saltwater or freshwater when submerged in the water)
- Recreational Pipes
- Recreational Buckets

- Recreational Drums
- Recreational Tires and Cans
- Barbless Spear or Multi-pronged Barbed Gig (may be used in saltwater for taking flounder ONLY)
- Dip Nets (may be used for taking carp ONLY)

**Recreational Hoop Nets and Recreational Wire Nets shall be used only in the geographical areas of the state designated as freshwater (see page 20).*

ILLEGAL METHODS (for all fish)

It shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices described below with the intent to take fish.

- Crossbows
- Gill Nets (freshwater and saltwater)
- Spears
- Poisons
- Stupefying Substances or Devices
- Explosives
- Guns
- Tree-topping Devices
- Electricity
- Any instrument or device capable of producing electric current to shock fish
- Snagging Devices (*see Catfish exception listed below*)

EXCEPTIONS TO METHOD PERMISSIONS BY SPECIES

Some alternative methods are available for catching/taking specific aquatic species. Other species may not be harvested by particular methods. Those exceptions are listed below by species.

FRESHWATER GAMEFISH

Including largemouth, spotted, shadow, yellow, white, striped and hybrid striped bass, black or white crappie, and bream as defined in R.S. 56.8 (*see Definitions on page 9*)

NOT LEGAL

- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by skin divers for recreational purposes in freshwater, when submerged in water)
- Bow and Arrow
- Possession with nets or traps including recreational hoop nets, slat traps, pipes, buckets, drums, tires or cans, including those licensed for recreational purposes

CATFISH

LEGAL – snagging devices

PADDLEFISH (commonly called "spoonbill catfish," but are not catfish)

NOT LEGAL – snagging devices

RED DRUM

LEGAL

- Bow and Arrows
- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by skin divers while submerged in water)

GARFISH

LEGAL

- Spears
- Bows and arrows

LEGAL BAIT SPECIES

Including minnows, crawfish and shrimp (not including game fish)

LEGAL

- Cast nets
- Minnow traps
- Dip Nets (net must be on a fixed frame no larger than 3 feet in diameter worked exclusively by hand, by no more than one person, without any mechanical assistance)
- Bait Seines (with a maximum mesh size not exceeding 1/4 inch bar, 1/2 inch stretched and 30 feet in length; must be operated solely on foot and by hand, without any pulley, mechanical device or assistance whatsoever)
- Recreational Trawls

SILVER CARP & BIGHEAD CARP

LEGAL

- Boats
- Dip nets
- Spears
- Snagging

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS BY METHOD

Skin Divers: While submerged in water, the only legal method to take fish, with the exception of game fish, is with standard spearing equipment used by a skin diver.

Mobility Impaired Individuals: as defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), that are bona fide residents of Louisiana, in possession of valid identification and over 60 years of age may use one legal slat trap and/or one hoop net not greater than 18 feet by 8 feet, without a license in any waters of the state, only for the purpose of catching catfish and only for home consumption.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS BY LOCATION

In addition to the general method of take restrictions, some Louisiana waterbodies have specific gear restrictions and are listed below.

BLACK LAKE, CLEAR LAKE, PRAIRIE LAKE (Natchitoches Parish) CADDO LAKE (Caddo Parish) CHICOT LAKE (Evangeline Parish) LAKE D'ARBONNE (Union Parish) LAKE LAFOURCHE (Caldwell Parish) and LAKE SAINT JOSEPH (Tensas Parish)

Yo-Yo Restrictions

- No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person.
- Each yo-yo or trigger device shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user.
- All fish or any other animals caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device.
- Each yo-yo or trigger device must be re-baited at least once every 24 hours.
- No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object.

Trotline Restrictions

- All trotlines must be marked, tagged, and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible.
- No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline.
- All trotlines must have an 8-foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink.
- All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

BOGUE CHITTO RIVER

Seines, Nets and Webbing Restrictions

- The use of seines, nets or 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.

Taking by Hand

- The taking of fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums or natural or artificial nesting areas by hand grabbing is also prohibited in this area.

CYPRESS LAKE AND BLACK BAYOU RESERVOIR (Bossier Parish)

Hoop Nets, Wire Nets and Slat Traps

- These devices are prohibited from March 1 through Oct. 31 of each year.
- These devices must be removed from the lakes prior to March 1 of each year.

POVERTY POINT

No person shall possess, set or use any recreational hoop nets, recreational wire nets, yo-yos, trotlines or slat traps.

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.

BEST PRACTICES FOR RELEASING FISH

There are many reasons for releasing fish you have caught or harvested from both fresh and saltwater trips. In some instances, you may have caught your creel limit, or perhaps you catch a species you don't want to keep. Releasing fish back into the water using best practices will help ensure that they have a fighting chance at survival. Below is a list of best practices to ensure the survival of fish you may release:

- When angling, do not use a slack line. Set the hook immediately. This will reduce the chance of getting the hook deeper into the throat or gut and may help increase chances of survival.
- If you plan to release the fish, do not let the fish become exhausted. Retrieve it quickly.
- Do not handle the fish more than absolutely necessary and do not take it from the water if possible. Handle with a wet hand, wet towel or wet glove to minimize removal of mucus (slime). Use a landing net only when necessary. Do not let the fish flop on a dry deck or beach.
- Use one of several tools available to remove the hook from the fish if the hook is visible and not in the gills.
- Where practical, use barbless hooks or flatten down the barb with pliers to make hook removal easier.
- A circle hook, used properly, decreases the chance for deep hooking compared to J-style or Kahle hooks.
- If the hook is deeply buried, cut the leader as close to the hook as possible.
- Immediately put the fish back into the water. If it is sluggish, gently hold it and move it forward and back to get water moving across the gills.

Even fish that appear to be in poor shape have a chance of survival; treating them with care reduces stress and increases their chances considerably.

BEST PRACTICES FOR CARING FOR YOUR CATCH

Louisiana anglers always have the chance to take home recreational catches for consumption. That, of course, means additional levels of preparation to ensure fish and shellfish stay safe and delicious. The following are some best practices to keep your catch safe for consumption:

- Be sure you have ample ice before leaving the dock. You'll need this in order to keep the fish you wish to take home.
- Once caught, quickly ice down fish. This sounds elementary, but it is easy to get swept up in the thrill of catching fish and forget this important step. Fish you intend to keep should be placed on ice immediately upon being caught.

- Take full advantage of your ice. This means pouring the ice out of the bag and making sure there is a layer of ice above and below the fish.
- Fish placed in an ice/water slurry chill faster than those placed on ice alone. Leave water in your ice chest as long as an adequate amount of ice stays in the water. Water temperatures will stay at or near 32 degrees Fahrenheit and help keep fish cool.
- Another technique effective in keeping fish fresh on hot days or for extended periods is to gut the fish and pack the body cavities with ice. This practice chills the fish faster.
- Bank and surf anglers often use stringers and live baskets to hold their catch. If using a stringer, put the stringer through the jaw tissue and not the gills.
- Anglers using baskets should be aware that overcrowded fish easily die. Those with live wells on their boats also should be aware of this danger.

A bit of attention to details will ensure that fish stay fresh longer and taste better when cooked. It may take a few more minutes, but the result will be a more enjoyable and memorable experience.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

With increasing frequency, introduced aquatic plants and marine species are creating serious aquatic habitat problems in many areas of the state. This harmful introduction can create significant changes in freshwater and marine ecosystems. Help do your part by taking a few simple steps to stop the spread of unwanted aquatic plants:

- Dispose of unwanted live bait on land before leaving the waterbody.
- Inspect all fish caught using seines, dipnets, or other types of netting; remove and discard undesirable bycatch.
- Check boats (live wells, ice chests, fishing tackle, etc.) and trailers for the presence of aquatic vegetation before leaving the launch site. If present, remove all plant material and dispose of it in a manner that will prevent introduction into other water bodies.
- Wash and dry your boat, tackle, and other equipment to remove/kill harmful species that were not evident at the boat launch.

Giant Salvinia: Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Hydrilla: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan; Alligatorweed: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service (all courtesy of *forestryimages.org*). Water Hyacinth: LDWF.

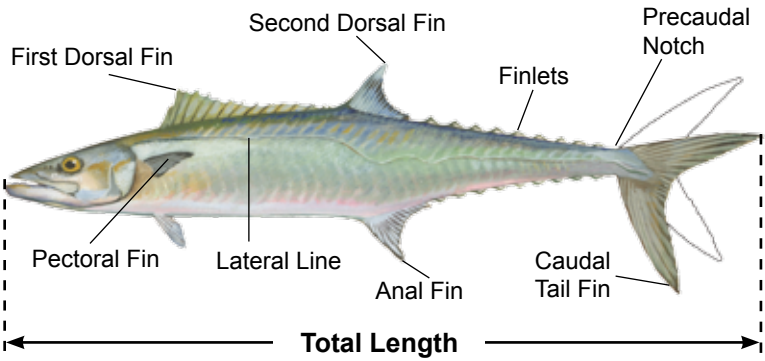
HOW TO MEASURE YOUR FISH

Use these guidelines to measure a fish correctly (refer to Illustrations):

1. Place the fish on its side on a flat board with the jaw closed.
2. **Total Length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. Adjust the tail by rotating (*Example 1*) or by squeezing (*Example 2*) to obtain the maximum length of the fish. (*Illustration 1*)
3. **Fork Length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. (*Illustration 2*)
4. **Lower Jaw Fork Length** - Measure in a straight line the length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. (*Illustration 3*)
5. **Curved Fork Length** - Measure from the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body. (*Illustration 4*)
6. **Carcass Length** – Measure the curve from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel. (*Illustration 4*)

Illustration 1

Example 1. Rotating



Example 2. Squeezing

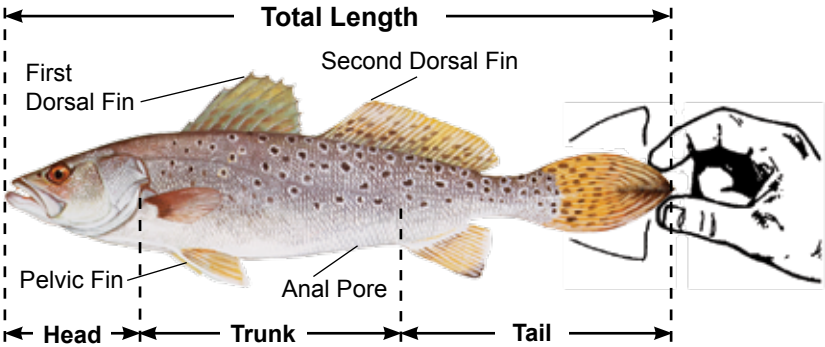


Illustration 2

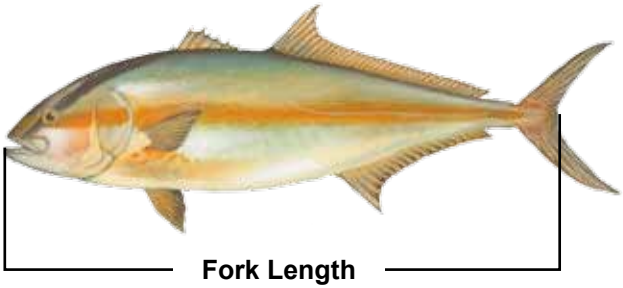


Illustration 3

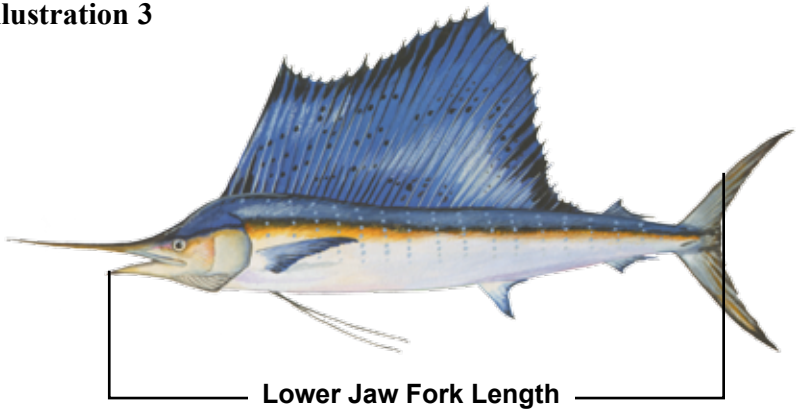
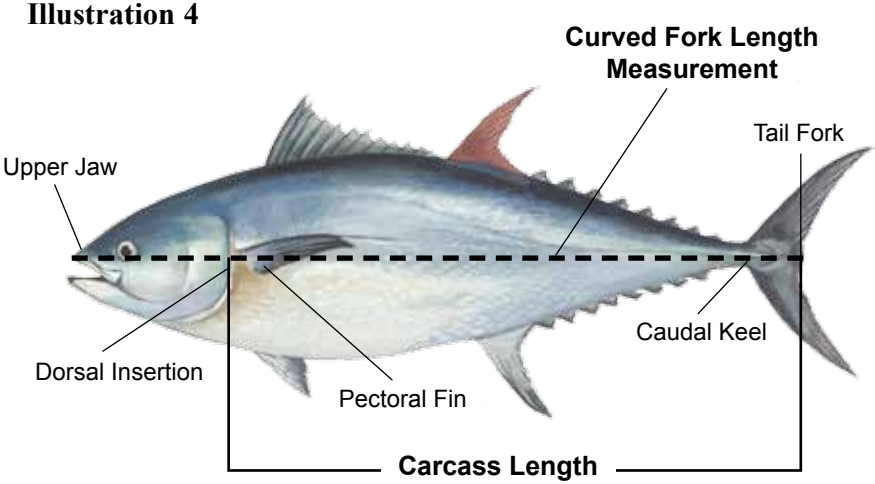


Illustration 4



Fish illustrations by Duane Raver

SALTWATER - FRESHWATER LINE

The saltwater-freshwater line in Louisiana extends easterly from the Texas state line all the way to the Mississippi state line. The areas north of this saltwater-freshwater line are deemed freshwater. The areas south of the described line, including a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, are legally considered saltwater. Although the actual levels of salt in the water may differ from day to day due to tides and shifts in wind and currents, in most cases, the flora and fauna found on either side of the line differ dramatically. A detailed description of the saltwater-freshwater line can be found below. As with any regulation issue, please contact your local LDWF Enforcement Office with any questions you may have (*see page 3*).

LOUISIANA SALTWATER LINE DEFINITION

The Intracoastal waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, south along Louisiana Highway 82, east 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.

Also, the areas south of the above described line, plus the saltwater lakes known as Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, 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, Intracoastal, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

Persons fishing and/or possessing saltwater fish in these areas are required to have a saltwater fishing license in addition to the

basic fishing license (Source Title 56, Section 302.1). Persons fishing for and/or possessing freshwater fish in saltwater areas are not required to hold a saltwater license.

FEDERAL WATERS (EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone)

Louisiana state waters extend out 9 nautical miles from the nearest land, but in some cases extend further. Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters extend from that point out to 200 miles from the coast.

Saltwater Series PDF

FRESHWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

KEY
LMB - Largemouth Bass
MLL - Minimum Length Limit
SL - Slot Limit

Location	Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit
BLACK BASS (Largemouth & Spotted)*		
Largemouth Bass Spotted Bass		
All state waters EXCEPT LA-TX boundary waters[1] and as follows:	No size limits **EXCEPT as follows:**	10 daily, of any size **EXCEPT as follows:**
Atchafalaya Basin, Lakes Verret/ Palourde, Fausse Point/Dauterive Areas**	14” MLL	10 daily
Eagle Lake	16” MLL	10 daily
Poverty Point Reservoir	15” to 19” protected SL***	8 daily No more than one over 19” total length
Caney Creek Lake (Jackson Parish)	15” to 19” protected SL***	8 daily No more than two over 19” total length
False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)	14” MLL	5 daily
Spanish Lake (St. Martin and Iberia parishes)	16” to 21” protected SL***	8 daily No more than two over 21” total length
Black Bayou (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish), John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish)	14” to 17” protected SL***	8 daily No more than four over 17” total length

**NOTE: For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass is defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on the tongue.*
***See page 27 for area descriptions.*
****Fish falling within a protected slot limit must be immediately released.*

Location	Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
STRIPED OR HYBRID STRIPED BASS (or any combination thereof)			
All state waters	None	5 daily No more than two over 30” total length	 Striped Bass
WHITE BASS			
State waters EXCEPT LA-TX boundary waters[1]	None	50 daily EXCEPT no more than 25 daily at Toledo Bend Reservoir	 White Bass
YELLOW BASS			
State waters EXCEPT LA-TX boundary waters[1]	None	50 daily; EXCEPT no daily limit at Toledo Bend Reservoir	 Yellow Bass
BOWFIN (Choupique)			
All state waters	16” MLL	No limit	 Bowfin
BUFFALO FISH (or their hybrids)			
All state waters	16” MLL	25 per day	 Smallmouth Buffalo Bigmouth Buffalo
CRAWFISH			
All state waters	None	150 pounds daily	
CATFISH			
State waters EXCEPT LA-TX boundary waters[1]	**BLUE CATFISH:** 12” MLL **CHANNEL CATFISH:** 11” MLL **FLATHEAD CATFISH:** 14” MLL	100 daily in the aggregate. A fisherman may possess up to 25 undersized catfish of the three species combined.	 Blue Catfish Channel Catfish Flathead Catfish

Location	Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
CRAPPIE			
State waters EXCEPT LA-TX boundary waters[1]	None	50 daily EXCEPT only 25 at Poverty Point, LA-TX boundary waters, and D'Arbonne Lake	Black Crappie White Crappie
FRESHWATER DRUM (Gaspergou)			
All state waters	12" MLL	25 per day	Freshwater Drum
FROGS & TURTLES			
All state waters	None	*See Reptiles and Amphibians section*	
PADDLEFISH			
No open season in boundary waters with TX[1] or below the saltwater line	30" max lower jaw fork length	Two per person	Paddlefish
SHAD			
All state waters	None	50 pounds daily	Gizzard Shad
STURGEON			
All state waters	N/A	**No legal harvest or possession**	Atlantic Sturgeon
OTHER FRESHWATER GAME FISH			
All state waters	None	No limit	Bluegill Redear Sunfish Spotted Gar Alligator Gar

[1]*LA/TX Boundary Waters are described as Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sabine River and Caddo Lake.*

Yellow Bass: Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Gizzard Shad: NOAA; All other images by Duane Raver

SHARED LA/TX BOUNDARY WATERS REGULATIONS

2013 SHARED LA/TX WATERS REGULATIONS			
	Caddo Lake	**Sabine River***	**Toledo Bend Reservoir**
Channel Catfish	No minimum length limit (MLL) Only 5 fish over 20” 50 fish bag limit in aggregate of Blue & Channel Catfish		
Blue Catfish			
Flathead Catfish	18” MLL 10 fish bag limit		
Striped Bass	N/A	No MLL Only 2 fish over 30” 5 fish bag limit	
White Bass	No MLL 25 fish bag limit		
Yellow Bass	No MLL No bag limit		
Largemouth Bass	14-18” protected slot limit 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with Spotted Bass Only 4 fish over 18”	14” MLL 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with Spotted Bass	
Spotted Bass	No MLL 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with Largemouth Bass		
Black & White Crappie	No MLL 25 fish bag limit		

**River Proper from the Toledo Bend Dam to the I-10 bridge. River Proper upstream from Toledo Bend Reservoir to the point at which the entire river enters TX (state line is marked with a sign).*

ADDITIONAL FRESHWATER FISHING INFORMATION

No fish of any species from outside of the state of Louisiana shall be liberated within the state except upon written permission of the Secretary of LDWF. No fish of any species shall be liberated into the state of Louisiana without written permission of the Secretary of LDWF.

DAILY BAG LIMIT

All recreational anglers must not exceed the daily bag limit for any species.

POSSESSION LIMITS

No recreational anglers can have in their possession more than twice the daily bag limit of any kind of freshwater recreational fish. For example, anglers may have one day's bag limit of black bass in their possession while on the water. On Toledo Bend Reservoir, an angler may only have one day's bag limit of any and all species of fish. A separate possession limit is detailed under the creel limits for catfish in the chart on page 23. Also, anglers may only possess one day's bag limit of crappie while on the water at Poverty Point.

All freshwater game fish caught in any type of recreational or commercial net or trap must be returned immediately to the water from which taken without avoidable injury. See page 16 for best practices for releasing fish.

All regulations regarding these species apply whether caught in saltwater or freshwater areas.

SALE OF RECREATIONAL FISH PROHIBITED

It is illegal to purchase, sell, exchange or offer for sale or exchange, or to possess or import with intent to sell or exchange any freshwater or saltwater recreationally caught fish, or any fish taken recreationally or taken with any recreational gear.

PROHIBITED FRESHWATER FISH

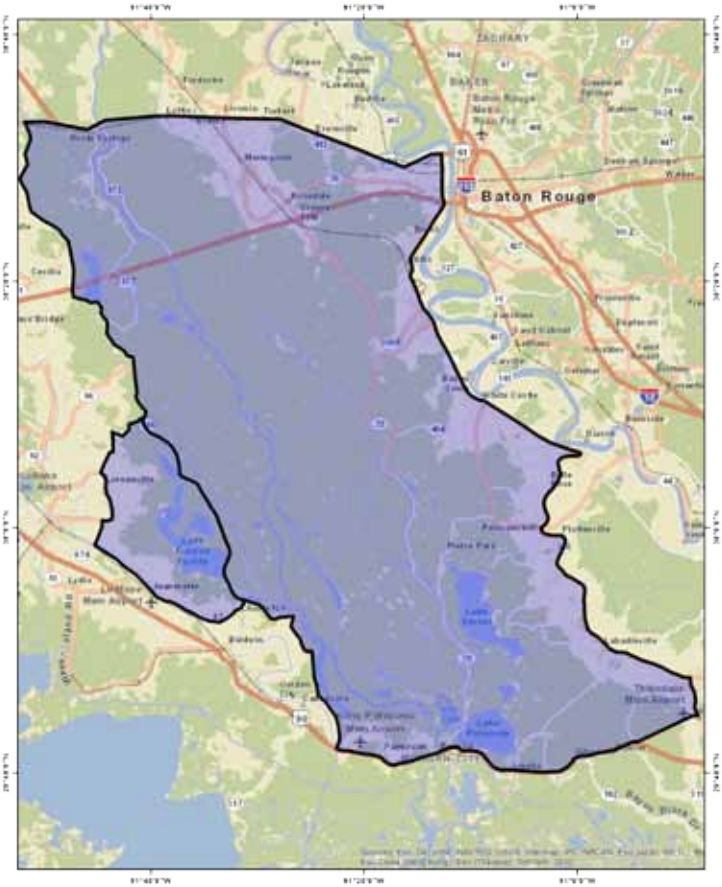
No person, firm, or corporation shall at any time possess, sell, or cause to be transported into this state by any other person, firm, or corporation, without first obtaining the written permission of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, any of the following species of fish:

- All species of tilapia
- Carp [except koi or common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)]
- Freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus sp.*)
- Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)
- All members of the families *Synbranchidae* (Asian swamp eels), *Channidae* (snakeheads), *Clariidae* (walking catfishes), and *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes)

Exotic species of Asian carp (silver, bighead, black and grass) taken recreationally from state waters must not be returned to the water and may not be possessed alive.

No person shall have in possession or sell in this state a piranha or Rio Grand cichlid

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN, LAKE VERRET-PALOURDE AREA & LAKE FAUSSE POINT-DAUTERIVE AREA



The area south of U.S. 190 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee (WABPL) to the intersection of LA 1 and U.S. 190 due north of Port Allen, west of LA 1 from U.S. 190 to LA 20 in Thibodaux, north and west of LA 20 from LA 1 to U.S. 90, north of U.S. 90 from LA 20 to the WABPL, east of the WABPL from U.S. 90 to the Corps of Engineers (USACE) Locks on the WABPL at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal (CDNC), north of and including the CDNC from the USACE Locks on the WABPL to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the CDNC to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, south and east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083, south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the WABPL and east of the WABPL from Highway 3083 to U.S. 190.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Catching reptiles and amphibians is a popular recreational sport in Louisiana. Regulations for reptiles and amphibians apply to all frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, turtles and related species. These regulations do not include alligators. For alligator regulations, please visit *www.wlf.louisiana.gov*.

ABOUT COLLECTING OR CATCHING THESE SPECIES

GENERAL

- Individuals must possess a basic resident or non-resident fishing license.
- Reptiles and amphibians caught are for personal (non-commercial) use only.
- Removal of nesting or nest-tending animals 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.

TURTLE TRAPS

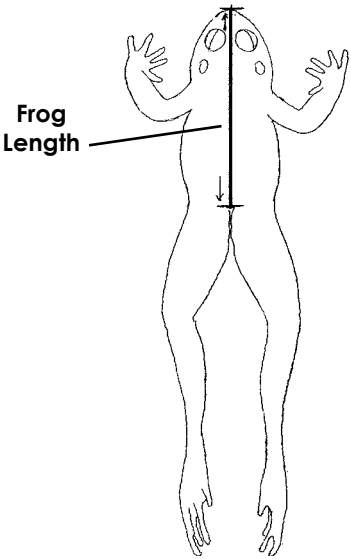
- Traps must be checked daily.
- Must be open above water to allow breathing.
- Must be marked as "turtle trap."
- Must be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.
- No additional gear license is required for a turtle trap.
- Possession of finfish while turtle trapping is prohibited.

ABOUT TAKING FROGS

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

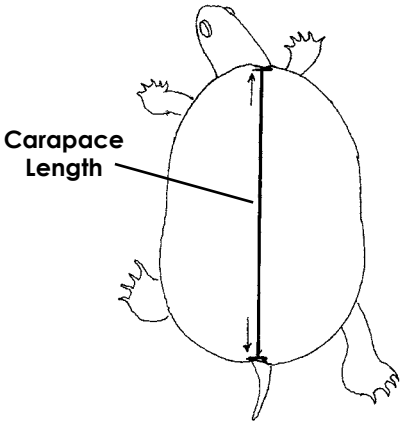
BULLFROGS (*Rana catesbeiana*) & PIG FROGS (*Rana grylio*)

- Legal during all months except April and May.
- Length requirements (measured from tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs):
  - Bullfogs harvested must be 5" or larger.
  - Pig frogs harvested must be 3" or larger.
  - Frogs harvested on private lands, ponds or waters where the individual is an authorized representative are not limited by length requirements.



ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES (*Macroclemys temminckii*)

- No size limit.
- Take is limited to one snapping turtle per day per person per vehicle/vessel.



Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*)

- May not be taken by trap of any kind.
- Legal during all months except between the dates of April 15 and June 15.
- Must measure 6 inches or more carapace length.

TURTLE EGGS

No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*).

BOX TURTLES

- Possession is limited to four box turtles of the genus *Terrapene* at any time.
- Only two box turtles may be taken per day.

SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

- Tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)
- Southern red backed salamander (*Plethodon serratus*)
- Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*)
- Mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*)
- Red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*)
- ***Threatened or Endangered Species:***
  - Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
  - Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
  - Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
  - Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
  - Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
  - Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)
  - Ringed map turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*)
  - Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*)

RECREATIONAL CRAWFISHING

CRAWFISH TRAP

A crawfish trap is defined as any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding two inches, and which is used for the express use of taking crawfish. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow style or cone style with minimum mesh size no smaller than 3/4 inches by 11/16 inches. No more than 35 traps may be used per person while fishing recreationally for crawfish. Crawfish traps shall be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag. Traps must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of one inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire.

CRAWFISH NET

A crawfish net is defined as 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 the purpose of taking crawfish.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to a recreational basic fishing license, a recreational crawfish trap gear license is required to use crawfish traps in public waters.

Any person using crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines for taking crawfish recreationally shall not be required to purchase or possess a basic recreational fishing license or be required to purchase a gear license. However, persons using crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines on LDWF wildlife management areas (WMAs) or refuges must possess a basic recreational fishing license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.

METHODS OF TAKE

Crawfish may be taken with any legal crawfish trap, crawfish net, hoop net, wire net, handline, bushline, bait seine, dip net or cast net (not to exceed 8.5 feet in radius).

SEASONS

There is no closed season for wild crawfish harvest EXCEPT for certain areas.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

There is no minimum size for crawfish. The bag and possession limit for crawfish is 150 pounds daily per person in state waters.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE REFUGES & FEDERAL REFUGES

WMAs, state refuges and federal refuges may have specific regulations regarding open seasons, harvest and gear restrictions. For state-regulated areas refer to the WMA and Refuge Regulation section of this pamphlet on page 49.

What Makes My Seafood Dish So Exceptional? Consider the Source.

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La Thai Uptown - New Orleans

FISHERMAN JEREMY DUCROS
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A seafood dish worthy of a chef's signature touch demands the world's finest seafood ingredients. That means Louisiana seafood from a local harvester. Culinary experts choose Louisiana seafood for its superior taste and quality. When dining out or cooking a delicious family meal, demand Louisiana seafood – served by the people who know great food. Get fresh with us.

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GENERAL SALTWATER FISHING INFORMATION

NOTICE TO OFFSHORE FISHERMEN

Louisiana recreational and commercial anglers 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council toll free at 1-888-833-1844, e-mail a request for regulations to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org or visit *www.gulfcouncil.org*. All persons possessing fish in Louisiana waters must be in possession of applicable basic and saltwater license. Contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Office for specific information (*numbers listed on page 3*).

Want to check the weather and river stages before you leave shore? Call the National Weather Service's *Dial A Forecast* for regularly updated marine forecasts.

- Lake Charles 337-439-0000
- New Orleans 504-522-7330

Also stay tuned to the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) for up to the minute broadcasts.

NMFS has a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Weather Service for the broadcast of unanticipated and time-critical fishery regulatory actions where there is minimal opportunity for advance public notice. These broadcasts are provided on a short-term basis (typically 4-5 days), 24 hours a day, by selected NWR coastal stations. (VHF frequencies in MHz)

- 162.400
- 162.525
- 162.550
- 162.425
- 162.450
- 162.475

GENERAL NOTES

All finfish caught in saltwater areas of the state, except tuna and swordfish, and possessed by a recreational angler shall have the head and caudal fin intact until on shore. Garfish may have the head and caudal fin removed prior to the fish being on shore as long as a sufficient patch of skin, that clearly identifies the fish, is retained on the fish.

Tuna, swordfish and shark possessed by a recreational angler shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore. Tuna meeting minimum size requirements may have the head removed if the carcass length is in excess of the minimum total length.

Fillets may not be possessed on the water, except for the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the harvesting vessel. An individual shall not have more than two pounds of finfish parts per person in state waters, or more than 1.5 pounds of finfish parts per person in federal waters, on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook finfish and that the finfish does not exceed applicable bag limits. These provisions do not apply to bait species.

Saltwater finfish caught or transported by a recreational fisherman are presumed to have been caught in Louisiana waters, for license requirements.

All regulations regarding these species apply whether caught in freshwater or saltwater areas.

For a person onboard a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the vessel must possess onboard and such person must use the gear as specified below. Louisiana state waters extend out 9 nautical miles from the nearest land, but in some cases extend further. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is described as waters that extend from that point out to 200 miles from the coast. The devices listed below are required because they reduce mortality on released fish.

- **Non-stainless Steel Circle Hooks:** Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish.
- **Dehooking Device:** At least one dehooking device is required and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage. The hook removal device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without reengaging during the removal process. The dehooking end must be blunt and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery.
- **Venting Tool:** At least one venting tool is required and must be used to deflate the abdominal cavity of Gulf reef fish to release the fish with minimum damage. This tool must be a sharpened, hollow instrument, such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed, or a 16-gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel. A tool such as a knife or an ice pick may not be used. The venting tool must be inserted into the fish at a 45-degree angle approximately 1 to 2 inches (2.54 to 5.08 cm) from the base of the pectoral fin. The tool must be inserted just deep enough to release the gases, so that the fish may be released with minimum damage.

OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT

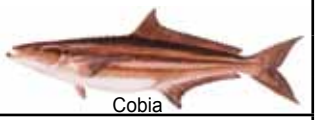
Both non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains are required to obtain this permit (free of charge) to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except for grey snapper). Anglers wishing to obtain a permit must register at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp*. More details on this program are also available on this site.

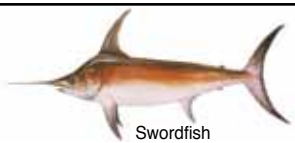
SALE OF RECREATIONAL FISH PROHIBITED

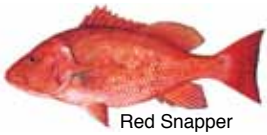
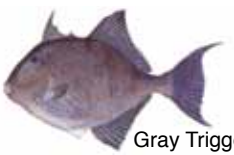
It is illegal to purchase, sell, exchange or offer for sale or exchange, or to possess or import with intent to sell or exchange any freshwater or saltwater recreationally caught fish, or any fish taken recreationally or taken with any recreational gear.

SALTWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

Unless otherwise established, there are no size limits on species not listed and unless otherwise noted, possession limits for saltwater fish are the same as the daily bag limit.

COMMON COASTAL SPECIES		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
COBIA (Ling or Lemonfish)		 Cobia
33” min fork length	2 daily per person	
DRUM		Black Drum Red Drum
16” min total length	**BLACK DRUM:** 5 daily per person - bag and possession No more than one over 27” max total length	
	RED DRUM (Redfish)[1]: 5 daily per person - bag[2] No more than one over 27” max total length	
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER		Southern Flounder
No Size Limit	10 daily per person (for each consecutive day on the water)	
MACKEREL		King Mackerel Spanish Mackerel
KING MACKEREL[3]: 24” min fork length	2 daily per person	
SPANISH MACKEREL[3]: 12” min fork length	15 daily per person	
STRIPED MULLET		Striped Mullet
No Size Limit	100 lbs. daily	
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)[4]		Spotted Seatrout
12” min total length	25 daily per person - bag[2]; 15 daily per person with no more than two over 25” (in specified areas)	

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES[5]		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
MARLIN[6]		
BLUE MARLIN: 99” min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	Blue Marlin
WHITE MARLIN: 66” min lower jaw fork length		White Marlin
SAILFISH[6]		
63” min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	Sailfish
SHARK[7]		
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE & BONNETHEAD SHARK[7]: None	1 daily per person - possession	Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
OTHER SHARKS (EXCEPT Prohibited silky and sandbar)[7]: 54” min fork length	1 in aggregate per vessel per trip - possession. No silky or sandbar sharks. No prohibited species. (*See complete list of Prohibited Sharks on page 39*)	
SWORDFISH[8]		
29” min carcass length or 33 lbs. min dressed weight	1 per person Not more than 5 per vessel per trip	 Swordfish
TUNA[8]		
BLUEFIN TUNA[9]: 73” min curved fork length	1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season	Bluefin Tuna
BIGEYE TUNA[9]: 27” min curved fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	Bigeye Tuna
YELLOWFIN TUNA[9]: 27” min curved fork length	3 daily per person	Yellowfin Tuna

REEF FISH[3]		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
GROUPER[10,11]		
BLACK & GAG[10]: 22” min total length	4 daily in aggregate No more than one speckled hind and one Warsaw grouper per vessel and not more than 4 red grouper per person and not more than 2 gag per person included in the bag limit	Gag Grouper
RED & YELLOWFIN[10]: 20” min total length		
SCAMP[10]: 16” min total length		
GOLIATH & NASSAU: Take Prohibited	**Take/Possession Prohibited**	
SNAPPER[12]		
RED[11,13]: 16” min total length	2 daily per person[2]	 Red Snapper
MUTTON: 16” min total length	10 daily per person in aggregate[3]	
QUEEN, BLACKFIN, SILK & WENCHMAN: None		Gray Snapper
SCHOOLMASTER, CUBERA, GRAY (mangrove), YELLOWTAIL, DOG & MAHOGANY: 12” min total length		
LANE: 8” min total length	20 daily per person in aggregate[3]	Lane Snapper
VERMILION: 10” min total length		
ALMACO JACK		
No Size Limit	20 daily per person in aggregate	Almaco Jack
GRAY TRIGGERFISH		
14” min fork length	20 daily per person in aggregate[3]	 Gray Triggerfish
TILEFISH (Goldface, Blackline, Anchor & Blueline)		
No Size Limit	20 daily per person	

REEF FISH[3]		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
AMBERJACK		
GREATER[11,14]: 30” min fork length	1 daily per person[3]	Greater Amberjack
LESSER & BANDED RUDDERFISH[14]: 14” - 22” fork length slot limit	5 daily per person in aggregate	
HOGFISH		
12” min fork length	5 daily per person	
BLACK SEABASS		
8” min total length	No Bag or Possession Limit	Black Seabass

Black Seabass: US Government; All other images by Duane Raver

EXPLANATION OF SALTWATER CREEL & SIZE LIMITS

[1]RED DRUM (REDFISH) AND SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

Recreational saltwater anglers may possess a two days’ bag limit on land; however, no person shall be in possession of fish over the daily bag limit in any one day or while fishing or while on the water, unless that recreational saltwater angler is aboard a trawler engaged in commercial fishing for a consecutive period of longer than 25 hours. Take or possession of red drum in federal waters is prohibited.

[2]OFF-WATER BAG LIMIT

Two days’ bag limit allowed in possession off of the water, not while fishing or in a boat.

[3]CHARTER VESSELS & HEADBOATS

Two day limit allowed in possession only on charter vessels and headboats on multi day trips, if the vessels have two licensed operators, as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips more than 12 hours, and if each angler has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel verifying the length of the trip.

[4]SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

12” minimum total length, 25 fish per person daily bag limit. EXCEPT: 15 fish daily bag and possession limit, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25” total length, regardless of where taken in a defined area of Cameron and Calcasieu parishes located in

southwestern Louisiana. The defined area, including coastal territorial waters, is as follows: south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove, then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea. Under the authority of the provisions of R. S. 56:325.1(A), the daily bag and possession limit shall be 15 fish, regardless of where taken, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length. Those spotted seatrout exceeding 25" in length shall be considered as part of the daily recreational bag and possession limit.

[5]HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permit. Similar to Atlantic Tunas Permits, 2013 Atlantic HMS Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2013.

Federal regulations currently require a federal HMS Angling Permit for all owners/operators of recreational vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Federal regulations also require an Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permit for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

For information contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Permitting Office at 1-888-872-8862 or 727-824-5399 or visit the NMFS Permit Shop at *www.nmfspermits.com/initialapp.asp*. For complete HMS regulations, contact the HMS Management Division at 301-713-2347 or visit the website at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/information.* See page 12 for a complete listing of Highly Migratory Species contact information.

RECREATIONAL SALTWATER TOURNAMENT OPERATORS

Federal regulations require all persons conducting a fishing tournament involving the catch and/or landing of any Highly Migrating Species (HMS) in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico to register with the HMS Management Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service at least four weeks prior to start of the tournament. Highly Migratory Species include Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish and sharks. Visit the NMFS website at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/tournaments/index.htm* for additional information or call 727-824-5399. An Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form [pdf] is available on the website.

To register a tournament, an Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Atlantic HMS Management Division via one of the following:

- E-mail: HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov
- Fax: 727-824-5398
- Mailing Address:
  HMS Tournament Registration
  National Marine Fisheries Service
  263 13th Avenue S.
  St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Upon receiving and processing the registration form, a unique Atlantic HMS Tournament Confirmation Number will be produced and provided to the tournament operator. Please note that registration is not complete unless the tournament operator has received a confirmation number from the HMS Management Division of NMFS.

[6]MARLIN AND SAILFISH

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses billfish (*see page 33 for more details*).

[7]SHARKS

CLOSED SEASON

All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the recreational and commercial harvest and possession of all sharks between April 1 and June 30 of each year.

SMALL COASTAL SHARKS

Atlantic sharpnose shark; bonnethead shark; blacknose shark; finetooth shark

LARGE COASTAL SHARKS

Blacktip shark; nurse shark; smooth hammerhead; bull shark; sandbar shark*; spinner shark; great hammerhead; scalloped hammerhead; tiger shark; lemon shark; silky shark*

***NOTE:** Recreational harvest of sandbar and silky sharks (ridgeback sharks) is not allowed.

PELAGIC SHARKS

Blue shark; porbeagle shark; thresher shark; oceanic whitetip shark; shortfin mako

***NOTE:** A person subject to a bag limit shall not possess at any time, regardless of the number of trips or the duration of a trip, any shark in excess of the bag limits listed under Highly Migratory Species on illustrated chart (*page 35*). The practice of "finning," that is, removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea, is prohibited within and without Louisiana waters. Notwithstanding other provisions of this part, a person may fish for, but not retain, white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) with rod and reel only under a catch-and-release program, provided the person releases and returns such fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury (*see Best Practices for Releasing Fish on page 16*).

PROHIBITED SHARKS

The following is a list of shark species that are prohibited: Atlantic angel shark, sand tiger shark, dusky shark, bigeye sand tiger shark, sixgill shark, largetooth sawfish, bigeye thresher shark, smalltooth sawfish, narrowtooth shark, Caribbean reef shark, white shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, basking shark, sevengill shark, Galapagos shark, bigeye sixgill shark, smalltail shark, longfin mako, bignose shark, whale shark and night shark. No sandbar or silky sharks may be retained under a recreational bag limit.

[8]SWORDFISH

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses swordfish (*see page 33 for more details*).

Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than five swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters.

[9]TUNA

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses tuna (*see page 33 for more details*).

Anglers fishing for tunas within or without Louisiana state waters are subject to both state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Federal regulations regarding the recreational harvest of tunas change often, especially for bluefin tuna. Prior to angling for or harvest of tuna, be aware of the most current federal regulations for or the harvest, including sizes, bag limits and closed seasons. For updates on tuna quota monitoring and tuna retention limit adjustments, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at 888-872-8862. The "Atlantic Tunas Regulations Brochure" is available at *http://hmspermits.noaa.gov/library.asp* and announcements of changes may be accessed via the web at *http://hmspermits.noaa.gov/news.asp*.

Permanent Louisiana regulations on tuna harvest may be superseded by seasonal changes within the federal regulatory system. See websites referenced above for current federal regulations. State requirements regarding tuna regulations may also be subject to change, please refer to the LDWF website for current information: *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons* and *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.*

BLUEFIN TUNA

All bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing to NMFS by calling 888-872-8862 or visiting *www.hmspermits.noaa.gov*. For further information regarding angling category permits please call the NMFS HMS Division at 888-872-8862 or 301-713-2347.

[10]GROUPER

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses grouper (*see page 33 for more details*).

There is a closed season for the recreational harvest of gag from Nov. 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year. A closed season for the recreational harvest of black, red, yellowfin and yellowmouth groupers as well as rock hind, red hind and scamp has also been established from February 1 through March 31 of each year.

As of the publication date of this pamphlet, modified rules on bag limits were being considered. Please refer to the LDWF website for current information: *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons* and *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.*

Other seasons and rules are currently in place in Federal waters off of Louisiana. Please check those rules at *www.gulfcouncil.org* under "Fishing Regulations."

[11]CHARTER CAPTAIN & CREW

No harvest of red snapper, greater amberjack or grouper of any species is allowed for the captain and crew of vessel under charter (their creel limit/bag limit is zero).

Charter captains and non-charter recreational anglers must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except for grey snapper). *See page 33 for more details*.

[12]SNAPPER

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses snapper, EXCEPT gray snapper (*see page 33 for more details*).

[13]RED SNAPPER

A federal recreational quota for red snapper is in effect. The recreational season for harvest of red snapper is scheduled to open June 1. As of publication of this regulations pamphlet, modified regulations were being considered for the recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters. For current red snapper season, bag limit and possession-information check the LDWF website at: *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons* and *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.*

[14]AMBERJACK

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses amberjack (*see page 33 for more details*).

A closed season for the recreational harvest of greater amberjack has been established from June 1 through July 31 of each year. For amberjack season information, check the LDWF website at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons* and *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.*

CLEAN WATER - DO YOUR PART
Be part of the solution

- Use shore-side toilet facilities before going out on the water.
- Dispose of waste from portable toilets or on-board sewage holding tanks properly.
- Don't throw anything overboard.
- Bring cut fishing line ashore.
- Avoid discharging bilge waste into the water.
- Be careful when fueling; try to prevent spills.
- For more information on boat sewage disposal facilities or the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program, please contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at (225) 765-2864, or visit the Louisiana CVA web page at *www.wlf.louisiana.gov* (click on "Boating," click on "Programs" then click on "Clean Vessel Program").

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING

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 inside waters from outside territorial waters generally follows the coastline, although there are some exceptions. For specific boundary locations check with your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Office or visit the LDWF Website at *http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/insideoutside-shrimp-line* for a description.

Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of $10 per map by writing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 220, New Orleans, La., 70122 or by calling 504-284-5272. Please specify which area of the coast in which you are interested. The line that separates state territorial waters from the EEZ extends out 9 nautical miles from the nearest land.

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

NOTE: Restricted areas exist within wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges and other areas may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement Agent and the WMA and Refuge section of this pamphlet.

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 in the Atchafalaya Bay, from the western shore of Vermilion Bay to the western shore of the Atchafalaya River and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island as described by the inside-outside line in R.S. 56:495.

Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1 through September 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.

TRAWLING

No person shall trawl over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place that is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation.

Trawling is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1.25 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to the eastern shore of 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 Interstate 10 in Lake Pontchartrain.

Trawling at night is prohibited in Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, the Black Lake Bayou System, Grand Bayou and Little Burten's Ditch. Trawling at night is prohibited in Grand Lake and White Lake.

Trawls are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage)

from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately one mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.

Trawling north of the LA Highway 631 Bridge at Des Allemands, Louisiana, and in Lac Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries, is prohibited.

Trawling is prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremort Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremort Point to the shoreline.

SEASONS

Trawls cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during closed season. Shrimp seasons are flexible and are determined 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 early to mid May and may extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins near mid-August and typically extends into December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's outside territorial waters is generally open year round EXCEPT for a closed season in portions of state outside waters, which may be set during the late winter to early spring months, usually beginning in December or January and extending into March or April. 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. A federal shrimp vessel permit is required for all vessels fishing shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ.

Information concerning federal shrimp vessel permits, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) requirements and exemptions can be obtained by contacting the NOAA Fisheries Service at 727-824-5312 for TEDs or 727-824-5305 for BRDs or at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov*. Detailed information on TEDs may be found at the following link to the NOAA Fisheries website *http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/labs/mississippi/ted/regulations.htm*.

SIZE LIMIT

There is no size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season nor is there a size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season in Louisiana. There is, however, a minimum possession count on 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 white shrimp taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the 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 shrimp taken or possessed.

METHODS OF TAKE

During open seasons, saltwater shrimp may be taken with trawls 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 3 feet, and bait seines less than 30 feet with a maximum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar, 1/2 inch stretched mesh that are manually operated on foot only.

CAST NETS, DIP NETS & BAIT SEINES

A recreational fisherman may use dip nets, bait seines, and cast nets not to exceed 8-1/2 feet in radius, but shall not take at anytime more than 50 pounds of shrimp during closed season and 100 pounds of shrimp per day during the open season, in the aggregate, per day per boat or vehicle, regardless of the number of persons thereon, provided the shrimp taken are used for bait or for the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter into commerce. Certain WMAs and state or federal refuges may have different rules; consult local LDWF or Enforcement Office for specifics.

TRAWLS

Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched. In that portion of state inside waters from the western shore of the Atchafalaya River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size must not be less than 3/4-inch bar or 1-1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season. No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended, as defined in R.S. 56:8(102) except such legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a camp and which are tagged with an LDWF tag issued in conjunction with the gear being used.

During the open shrimping seasons, trawls 25 feet and less may be used for recreational purposes. Recreational shrimpers using trawls 16 feet in length or less are limited to 100 pounds (heads on) of shrimp per boat per day, and recreational shrimpers using trawls between 16 and 25 feet in length are limited to no more than 250 pounds of (heads-on) shrimp per day per boat per day, provided the shrimp taken are used for bait or the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter commerce. A recreational trawl license is required.

RECREATIONAL OYSTERING

REQUIRED LICENSES & METHODS OF TAKING

Recreational oyster fishermen are required to possess a basic and saltwater fishing license, in addition to a recreational tonging license for each tong in use.

Recreational oyster harvest for home consumption is limited to tonging or gathering by hand. Any resident who turned 60 years of age on or after June 1, 2000 shall be required to purchase a senior fishing license to take oysters.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

- All oysters taken from public oyster areas must be three inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster areas may be permitted to take undersized oysters from public areas for bedding purposes only.
- Size restrictions do not apply to oysters taken from a private lease.
- Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters from a lease only with the written permission of the leaseholder or in public oyster areas open for the harvesting of oysters. Recreational oyster harvesters are limited to two sacks per person per day for personal consumption, except in the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area where the limit is set at one sack per person per day.

SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission determines the public oyster areas to be opened for oyster fishing by opening and closing the seasons as biological and technical data indicates. The owner of an oyster lease or his designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease.

NOTE: Areas opened by the Commission may, however, be closed by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) for public health reasons. Information on LDHH closed areas is available at *www.dhh.la.gov*.

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 LDWF. Applications must be submitted to the LDWF Oyster Lease Survey Section located in New Orleans. For more information visit *oysterlease.wlf.la/oyster* or call (504) 284-5279.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 220
New Orleans, LA 70122

RESTRICTIONS

- Culling oysters, the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shell, shall be performed only on the open designated public areas 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 oyster harvest.
- The harvest or take of oysters during the period of one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.
- Oysters taken from the reefs of Louisiana either for sale or consumption shall be landed in Louisiana, except with an out-of-state oyster-landing permit and with the fisherman being in compliance with all other rules and regulations.

RECREATIONAL CRABBING

A recreational basic fishing and saltwater license, in addition to a recreational crab trap gear license, are required to use crab traps, with a limit of 10 traps per licensed fisherman.

METHODS OF TAKE

- Crabs or stone crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab drop net, trawl, hoop net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs.
- The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with legal mesh sizes. For legal mesh sizes refer to the section about trawls listed under Recreational Shrimping.
- No person shall possess 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 must be returned immediately to the waters.
- Gear restrictions may exist within certain wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges or other areas. Consult your local LDWF or Enforcement Office with any questions.

ABOUT CRAB TRAPS

- A crab trap is a cube-shaped device, constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches on any side, and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than 7 inches into the inside of the trap, with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
- Certain traps advertised by retail outlets as crab/fish/crawfish traps may not be legal. If unsure that the trap you purchased or plan to use is legal, please consult your local Enforcement Agent.
- The baiting, tending, checking or removing of serviceable crab traps in use, the contents of such 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.
- No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. Traps must be placed so vessels can safely navigate.
- Crab traps that are no longer serviceable or no longer in use must be removed by the owner and properly disposed of or stored.
- No person other than the licensee or his agent shall intentionally damage or destroy serviceable crab traps or the floats or lines to which they are attached, nor shall they remove the contents thereof.
- Each crab trap shall be marked with a 2-inch stainless steel self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Tags shall be supplied by the fishermen and shall have the recreational crab trap gear license number printed thereon. Crabbers are allowed to use a durable plastic bait box marker as an alternate means of tagging crab taps. Crab traps may be attached to a trotline 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 two-gallon volume size. Crab traps located in areas designated as freshwater north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway and west of Louisiana Highway 70 and those areas located on the eastern side of the Mississippi River and inland from the saltwater line are not required to be marked with a float and float line, unless the trap is placed in a lake. Each crab trap on a trotline shall be registered with LDWF and shall have attached to it a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number. This is the LDWF number located at the top of your license.

- All crab traps are required to be marked with a solid float at least six inches in diameter. The float must be attached to the trap with a non-floating line at least 1/4 inch in diameter. West of Louisiana Highway 70, there is no mark required.
- Each crab trap shall have a minimum of two escape rings. All escape rings shall 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. The minimum sizes of the rings shall be 2 and 5/16 inches in inside diameter, not including the ring material. Rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of a smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Escape ring openings may be obstructed with material that prevents or hampers exit of crabs from April 1 through June 30 and from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31.
- 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.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMIT

- There is no minimum recreational size limit for blue crabs. The limit is 12 dozen per person, daily and in possession.
- There is no minimum recreational size limit for stone crabs or stone crab claws. Certain WMAs and state and federal refuges may have different possession limits. Consult a local LDWF or Enforcement Office for specifics (*see WMA and Refuge Regulations on page 49*).
- Any person using crab nets or crab lines for the purpose of taking crabs for recreational purposes shall not be required to purchase or possess a basic recreational fishing license or be required to purchase a gear license. However, persons using crab nets or crab lines on LDWF WMAs or refuges must possess a basic and saltwater recreational fishing license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.

WANTED!

2013 CRAB TRAP RODEO VOLUNTEERS

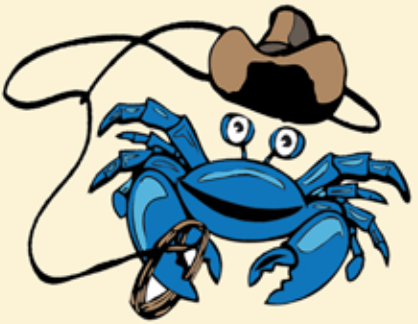
Would you like to help the environment while spending a day on the water? Three derelict trap collection days are planned and will feature free food, T-shirts and door prizes for volunteers.

Plaquemines Parish
- Saturday, Feb. 16
- Saturday, Feb. 23

Collection site TBA

St. Bernard Parish
- Saturday, March 9

Collection site TBA



Visit **www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps** to register and to view maps of the areas to be cleaned. Volunteers with boats are especially needed.

For more information, contact Julie Anderson at JAnderson@agcenter.lsu.edu or (225) 578-0771 or Marty Bourgeois at mbourgeois@wlf.la.gov or (985) 594-4130.

This project is funded with grants from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.

FISHING REGULATIONS ON WMAs & REFUGES

A Wild Louisiana Stamp, hunting license or fishing license, depending on activities in which an individual is engaged, is required for use of department-administered lands, including wildlife refuges, wildlife management and habitat conservation areas. Persons under 16 years of age and over 60 years of age or older are exempt from this requirement. Persons attending official functions of private, non-profit and charitable organizations recognized as tax-exempt under the provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code shall also be exempted from this requirement.

The operation of boats with internal combustion engines within designated limited access areas (LAAs), on some coastal wildlife management areas (WMAs) is restricted during waterfowl hunting season from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Limited access areas exist within the Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs.

LAAs are posted with signage at access points around the perimeter. Any vessel with a movable outdrive system may enter an LAA as long as the boat's internal combustion engine is trimmed up out of the water in an inoperable position. Vessels with fixed props must adhere to the "no operation" rule. Trolling motors may be used to access and navigate within an LAA while hunting or fishing.

Additional restrictions may apply at some WMAs. Below are specific restrictions by WMA. For additional information, contact your local Enforcement Office.

For National Wildlife Refuges, please contact the area offices as follows:

- North Louisiana Complex - 318-726-4222
- Central Louisiana Complex - 318-253-4238
- Southeast Louisiana Complex - 985-882-2000
- Southwest Louisiana Complex - 337-598-2216

For fishing information on the Indian Bayou Recreational Area within the Atchafalaya Basin or the Bonne Carre Spillway contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 337-585-0853.

ATCHAFALAYA

Camping and houseboat mooring is allowed only in designated areas.

ELMER'S ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Commercial fishing, including guide service, is CLOSED.
- Access and use of Elmer's Island is only permitted 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset seven days a week. However, the Secretary of LDWF may restrict any portion of Elmer's Island whenever circumstances exist such that restrictions are necessary to protect the Refuge or to protect the public from harm.
- Camping or overnight activities are not permitted.
- No glass containers are permitted on Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge.
- The discharge of firearms, including muzzleloaders, bows and arrows, or crossbows are not permitted.
- Maximum speed limit on the Island is 5 MPH.

DEWEY W. WILLS

Crawfish catch is limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

FORT POLK

Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes at the Fort Polk WMA.

GRASSY LAKE

- Sport fishing is permitted only after 2 p.m., during the waterfowl season in Smith and Red River bays, and in Grassy Lake proper.
- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 through July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per boat or group daily.

LAKE BOEUF

All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging.

MANCHAC

Crab traps are prohibited. Attended lift nets are allowed.

OUACHITA

- 100 pounds of crawfish per person per day.
- No traps or nets may be left overnight.
- The waterfowl refuge north of LA Hwy. 15 is closed to all fishing during duck season, including early teal season.

PASS-A-LOUTRE

- Oyster harvesting is prohibited.
- Camping and houseboating is allowed only in designated areas.

POINTE-AUX-CHENES

- All nighttime activities prohibited.
- The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish is for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited.

SHRIMPING

- Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only.
- During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count must conform to open season requirements.
- During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) may be taken for bait.

OYSTERS

- Oyster harvesting is prohibited.

FINFISH

- Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or by hand lines for recreational purposes only.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight.
- Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day.

CRAWFISHING

- Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 per boat or group.
- Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- All boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 hp., are not allowed in the Grand Bayou, Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes water management units. The public is permitted to travel anytime through the WMA for access purposes only, in the waterways known as Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue and Grand Bayou Blue. All other motorized vehicles, as well as horses and mules, are prohibited unless authorized by LDWF.

POMME DE TERRE

- Sport Fishing regulations are the same as outside. ***NOTE:*** Allowed only after 2 p.m., during waterfowl season.
- Recreational crawfishing is allowed from March 15 through July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per boat or group daily.

RED RIVER

YAKEY FARMS ONLY

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted on Yakey Farms wetland restoration projects from March 15 through July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per vehicle or group per day. A maximum of five wire traps per person is permitted. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.
- No motorized watercraft are allowed on farms.

RUSSEL SAGE

Crawfishing is permitted, but is limited to 100 pounds per person per day limit.

SALVADOR/TIMKEN

- All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging.
- The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited.

SHRIMPING

- Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only.
- During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted.
- Size count shall conform with any open season requirements.
- During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum may be taken for bait.

FINFISH

- Fish may be taken only by rod and reel, or by hand lines for recreational purposes.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight.

- Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day.

CRAWFISHING

- Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- Boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 hp., are permitted only in oil company access canals listed here: Louisiana Cypress Canal, the Netherlands Pond including the West Canal, Lakes "Baie Des Chactas" and "Baie Du Cabanage" and the Rathborne Access Ditch.
- Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with four cylinders or less is permitted in interior ditches from Sept. 4 through Feb. 1 only.
- Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities that may cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited.

SHERBURNE

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 through July 31 with a limit of 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.
- No motorized watercrafts are allowed on the farm complex.

SODA LAKE

Sport Fishing is permitted from April 1 through Aug. 31.

SPRING BAYOU

- Sport fishing is permitted. ***NOTE:*** Allowed only after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season.
- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 through July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person or group daily.

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE, STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE (Vermilion) & MARSH ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Trawling is prohibited.
- Trotlines, jug lines, trammel and gill nets, and traps are prohibited.

SHRIMPING

- Twenty-five pounds of shrimp (heads on) per boat or vehicle per day is allowed during the inside open shrimp season as established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.
- Ten pounds of shrimp (heads on) for bait purposes may be caught during the closed season.
- Shrimp may be harvested only by cast net on the refuge and only for sport fishing or home consumption use. When harvesting shrimp with a cast net, contents shall be dumped in a container and not on the ground.

CRAWFISHING

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted in the open portion of the refuge with a limit of 100 pounds per boat or vehicle per day.
- Set nets may be used but must be attended and removed from the refuge daily. No commercial harvest is allowed.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be harvested from the open portion of the refuge with a limit of 12 dozen crabs per boat or vehicle per day.
- ***NOTE:*** No commercial harvest is allowed on Marsh Island, State Wildlife and Rockefeller refuges.

OYSTERS

- Oysters may be harvested by tonging (properly licensed) or by hand collection from the natural reefs.
- One gallon per boat or vehicle per day is allowed and oysters must be opened at the reef and the shells returned to the reef.
- Taking of oysters on the reef is dependent upon Department of Health and Hospitals' approval and may be closed at any time by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- Speedboat racing and water skiing are prohibited.
- All boat traffic shall honor no wake zones and shall keep wave wash to a minimum.
- Pulling boats over or around levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities that may cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited.
- Jet skis and airboats are prohibited.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - INDIAN BAYOU AREA

Recreational crawfishing is permitted from Feb. 1 through Aug. 31 with an additional permit required. The permit is available Jan. 1.

LDWF's WMAs offer over 1.5 million acres of public recreation

Fishing - Hunting - Camping - Hiking - Bird Watching - Photography

For more information, call your local LDWF Office or go to *www.wlf.la.gov*

LOUISIANA REQUIRED BOATING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

	PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	BOATS LESS THAN 16 FEET	BOATS 16 FEET TO LESS THAN 26 FEET
Registration on Board	✓	✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓
PFDs: Type I, II or III	✓ 1	✓ 2,3,4	✓ 2,4
PFDs: Type IV			✓
Engine Cut Off Device	✓	5	5
Type B Fire Extinguishers	✓	✓	✓
Navigation Lights	6	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle or Bell			✓
Daytime Visual Distress Signals			✓ 7
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	6	7	7
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	8	8
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler/Underwater Exhaust	✓	✓	✓

1. Those on personal watercraft (PWC) must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.
2. Children 16 years of age and younger must wear a USCG approved Type I, II or III PFD while underway on a vessel less than 26 feet long.
3. All persons onboard a motorboat less than 16 feet which is being propelled by a hand tiller outboard motor are required to wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V PFD while the motorboat is underway.
4. Persons engaged in water sports, which includes but is not limited to water skiing, being towed on a tube, wake boarding, wake surfing, etc. must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V PFD. An inflatable PFD does not meet the requirements.
5. A motorboat less than 26 feet with a hand tiller outboard motor in excess of 10 horsepower designed to have or having an engine cut-off switch must have the engine cut-off switch link attached to the operator, the operator's clothing, or the operator's PFD, if worn, while the motor is running and the vessel is underway.
6. Certain items are not applicable to PWCs because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise.
7. Required on federally controlled waters (offshore, tidal coastal areas).
8. Required for inboards and stern drivers only.

All boaters are encouraged to ensure their vessels are in good working condition and all required safety equipment is on board.

BOATER EDUCATION

All persons born after Jan. 1, 1984 are required to complete a NASBLA approved boating education course to operate a motorboat over 10 horsepower and must carry proof of such when operating the motorboat. A motorboat may be operated if any person on board or participating in any boating activity from the motorboat is over the age of 18, and if required to have completed a boating course, has completed the required boating safety course.

LDWF offers Boating Classes in every region of the state, free of charge to the public.

For those who cannot attend a classroom setting an online boating class is available, however, it is not administered by LDWF and a fee is assessed. Visit *www.wlf.louisiana.gov* for more information about Boater Education.

TO REPORT MISSING/OVERDUE BOATERS, REPORT A BOAT CRASH INCIDENT OR REPORT VIOLATIONS, PLEASE CALL 1-800-442-2511.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Fish are a lean and nutritious source of protein. However, some fish may contain chemicals that could pose health risks. Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month (a meal is considered to be six ounces of fish for adults and children). If you or your family members eat more than four meals of fish a month from local water bodies, you might increase your health risks. For current advisories call the Department of Environmental Health at 888-293-7020, 504-568-8156 or visit *www.dhh.state.la.us* for more information about eating fish that may contain chemicals.

CONSUMPTION ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT, NURSING OR MIGHT BECOME PREGNANT & FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

By following these three recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women and young children will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury. Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish or shellfish to a young child, but serve smaller portions.

- Do not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel or tilefish, as these contain high levels of mercury.
- Eat up to 12 ounces a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury. The five most commonly eaten species that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock and catfish.
- Up to six ounces a week of albacore ("white") tuna may be consumed since this variety may contain more mercury than light tuna.
- Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to six ounces per week of fish caught in local waters. Do not consume any other fish that week.

LOUISIANA

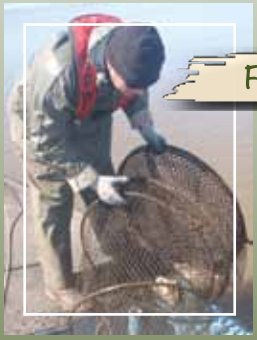
SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a "user pays, user benefits" system of resource management. The federal and state governments, the sport fishing industry, anglers, and boaters formed the cooperative effort to increase boating and sport fishing opportunities.

The cycle of funding (illustrated above) shows how Louisiana anglers and outdoor enthusiasts support the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the benefits they receive in return.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROJECTS

SPORT FISH TAGGING



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

HATCHERIES

HABITAT & AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT

BOATING AND FISHING ACCESS

AQUATIC OUTREACH

Invest in the Future... Geaux Fish Louisiana!

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES