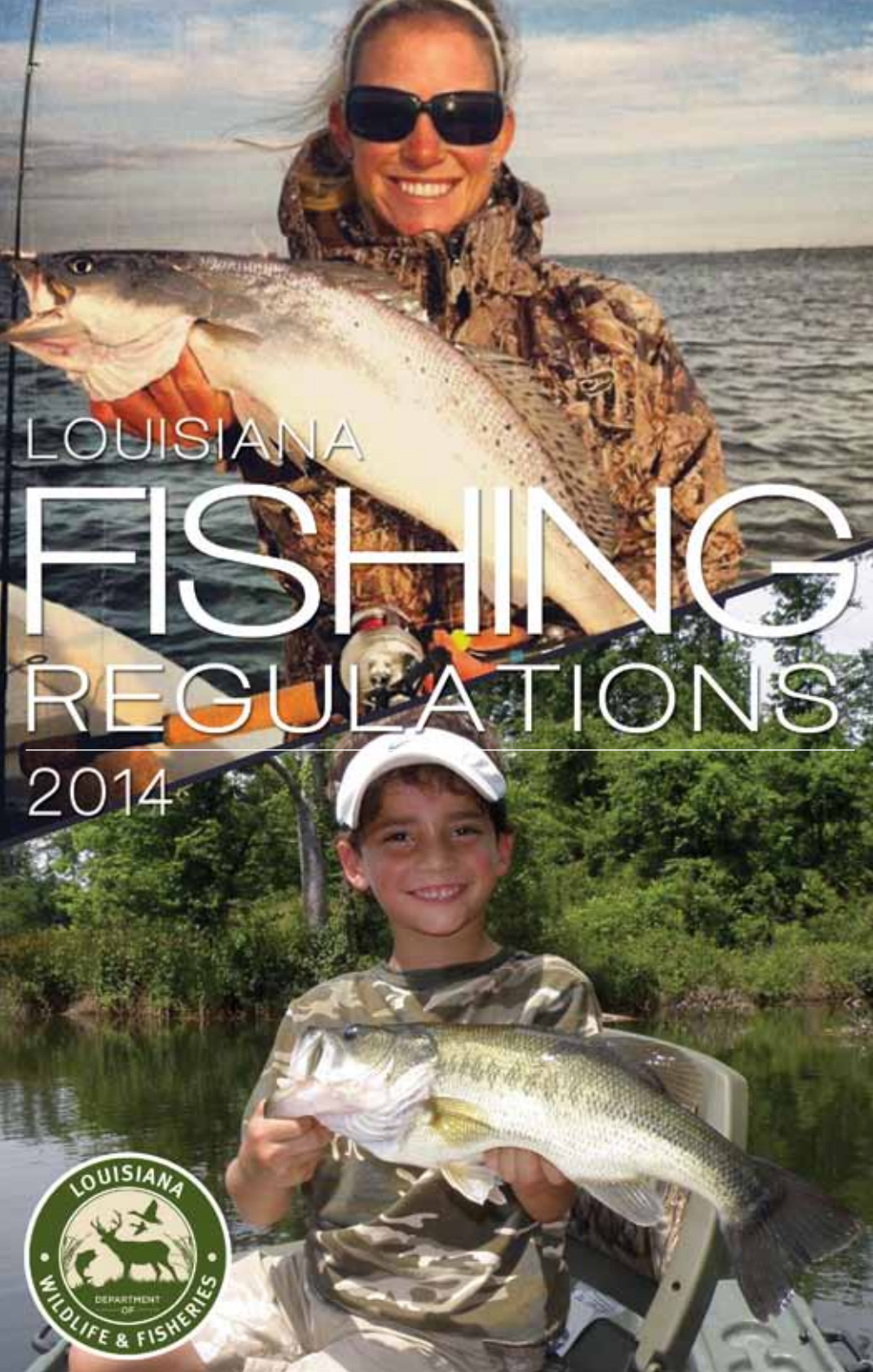

# LOUISIANA FISHING REGULATIONS

2014

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES**

2000 Quail Drive
Mailing:
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
225-765-2800



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**Cover photos:** Top Photo - Captain Eric Newman; Bottom Photo - Frank Sullivan

**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**

*New regulations appear in red text throughout the pamphlet.*

# 2014 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS
# MAJOR CHANGES

## FRESHWATER FINFISH

- Changes in black bass size and creel limit in the Atchafalaya Basin, Lakes Verret/Palourde, Fausse Point/Dauterive Areas
- Change in possession limit for crappie on Toledo Bend Reservoir from 50 to 100
- Change in daily creel limit for crappie on D'Arbonne Lake from 25 to 50
- No person shall possess filleted fish while aboard a vessel on freshwater. However, for the purpose of consumption, a person shall have no more than 2 pounds of filleted finfish per person on board a vessel in freshwater.

## MARINE FINFISH

**UPDATED 04/21/2014**

***Please refer to these LDWF websites for current information:***
***www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons and***
***www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations***

- The closed season for gag grouper is Jan. 1 - June 30 of each year (*see page 36*).
- The closed season for the harvest of black grouper, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, red hind and scamp is Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year seaward of the 20 fathom (120 feet) curve (*see update on page 36*).
- The closed season for the harvest of gray triggerfish is from June 1 - June 30 (*see update on page 36*).
- The vermilion snapper recreational bag limit is not more than 10 fish per person within the current 20 fish aggregate (*see update on page 32*).
- The gray triggerfish recreational limit is not more than 2 per person within the current 20 fish aggregate (*see update on page 32*).
- The recreational bag and size limit of tripletail is 5 fish per person per day at 18 inches minimum total length (*see update on page 33*).
- Gray snapper, dolphinfish, wahoo and cobia have been added to the list of species requiring a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit. Permit must be obtained at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp* (*see update on pages 6 and 25*).
- The requirement for anglers on a for hire trip to have the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit permit has been removed, instead only requiring the charter captain to have the permit in possession (*see update on page 6*).
- The requirement for the possession of and the use of a venting tool when fishing for reef fish has been removed (*see update on page 29*).

This public document was published at a total cost of $8500.00. 250,000 copies of this public document were published in the first printing at a cost of $8500.00. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents as to the rules and regulations governing the fishing resources of the State of Louisiana. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

# LDWF FISHERIES CONTACT INFORMATION

## FRESHWATER OFFICES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Minden** | 318.371.3050 |
| **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 |
| **Grand Isle** | 504.284.2030 |
| | 985.787.2163 |
| **New Orleans** | 504.284.2030 |
| **Bourg** | 985.594.4139 |
| **New Iberia** | 337.373.0032 |
| **Lake Charles** | 337.491.2579 |

## 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 | | |

***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.*

| 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] | $10.00 | $10.00 |
| **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** | | |
| **Active Military Basic Fishing** | $9.50 | $9.50 |
| **Active 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, university or high school 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 page 6.*

[8] *Recreational wire and hoop nets shall be used only in the geographical areas of the state designated as freshwater (see page 16).*

## 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 SALTWATER

Title 56, Section 302.1.C.(1) requires that all recreational anglers fishing south of the "saltwater line" (*see page 16*) 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, snappers, dolphinfish, wahoo and cobia. 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. The requirement for anglers on a for hire trip to have the permit has been removed, instead only requiring the charter captain to have the permit in possession.

### ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A LICENSE

A valid Basic Fishing License is required to possess fish in Louisiana waters OR to use the following gears in pursuit of fish:

- Bow and arrow
- A barbed or barbless spear
- Frog gig/catcher
- Scuba gear
- Hook and 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

# DEFINITIONS

1. **Angling:** 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 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.
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 3 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 Game Fish:** see "Game Fish" definition.
18. **Freshwater Recreational Fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
19. **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.
20. **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 (*Istiophorus 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*).
21. **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.
22. **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.
23. **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.
24. **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.
25. **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).
26. **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.
27. **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.
28. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
29. **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*).
30. **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.

31. **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.
32. **Reptiles and Amphibians:** native frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.
33. **Saltwater Fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
34. **Saltwater Game Fish:** see "Game Fish" definition.
35. **Saltwater Recreational Fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
36. **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.
37. **Slat Trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular, or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least 1 inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than 6 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone-shaped throats, flues or entrances.
38. **Slot Limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
39. **Snagging Device:** a method of hooking fish without the fish taking the bait with their mouth. The angler jerks the fishing line out of the water as soon as any movement is felt on the line.
40. **Stupefying Substances or Devices:** the use of explosives or chemicals or comparable destructive fishing practices as a capture technique.
41. **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.
42. **Test Trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the headline or headrope.
43. **Total Length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
44. **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.
45. **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.
46. **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.
47. **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."
48. **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.
49. **Wing Net:** see Lead Net on page 10.
50. **Wire Net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable (cotton, flax, burlap) or synthetic materials (nylon, polypropylene, plastic), 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.

***SALE OF RECREATIONAL FISH PROHIBITED***

***All aquatic species caught must be for personal use only and are not to be sold or used for commercial purposes. It is illegal to buy, sell or trade any game fish.***

# GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FRESHWATER & SALTWATER ANGLERS

Louisiana is known around the world as a premier sport fishing destination. The Office of Fisheries uses scientific management methods to protect and enhance fish environments, habitats and other populations of aquatic species. As an angler, the decisions you make and your catch help us sustain the fisheries for present and future generations.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Want to check the weather and river stages before you leave on your next fishing trip? 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.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING

*Catch and Release* is a proven conservation method of safely releasing the fish you don't want to keep. Whether you are fishing for food or fun, returning the fish to water with care will improve the survival of the released fish, and help preserve the fisheries.

- Never play the fish to exhaustion.
- Handle the fish as little as possible and use wet hands, wet towel or wet glove.
- Avoid any contact with the gills.
- Keep the fish in the water as much as possible. Do not let the fish flop on a deck or beach.
- If you must remove the fish from the water, keep air exposure to a minimum.
- Use a landing net only when necessary. A soft knotless mesh or rubber net is less damaging to the fish's eyes, fins and mucus coating (slime).
- Circle hooks, barbless hooks or hooks with crimped barb make removal easier.
- If the hook is deeply buried, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Return the fish to water as quickly as possible. If it is sluggish, gently hold it and move it forward and back to get water moving across the gills.

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

## CARING FOR YOUR CATCH

You can never be too careful when preserving your catch for later consumption. The fish must be iced down to remain fresh. A fish that feels mushy and has cloudy eyes may have spoiled and can make you sick.

- Be sure you have plenty of ice on hand. Place the fish on ice as soon as you remove the hook.
- Pour the ice out of the bag into your ice chest and place a layer of ice above and below the fish.
- Another technique 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.
- Anglers using baskets and live wells should be aware that overcrowded fish die quickly. If using a stringer, put the stringer through the jaw tissue and not the gills. Anglers using live wells on their vessel should also be aware of this danger.
- Cleaning your fish at the end of the fishing day is recommended. If you stored your fish on ice, use fresh ice for the newly cleaned fish.
- Keep the fish as cold as possible and refrigerate them as quickly as possible.

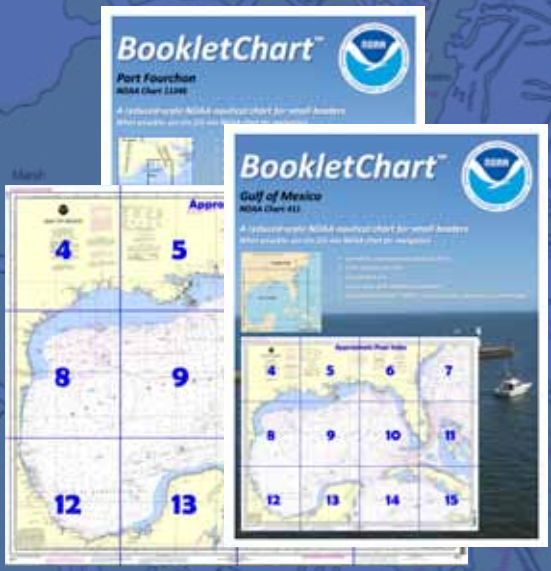
# NOAA BookletCharts

## Free Nautical Charts to Print at Home

The Office of Coast Survey has created BookletCharts™ to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water.

The BookletChart™ contains all the information of the full-scale National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) nautical chart, but is reduced in scale. It is available to print at home in a 8 ½" x 11" PDF version.

BookletCharts™ are updated every week with Notices to Mariners.




**www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html**

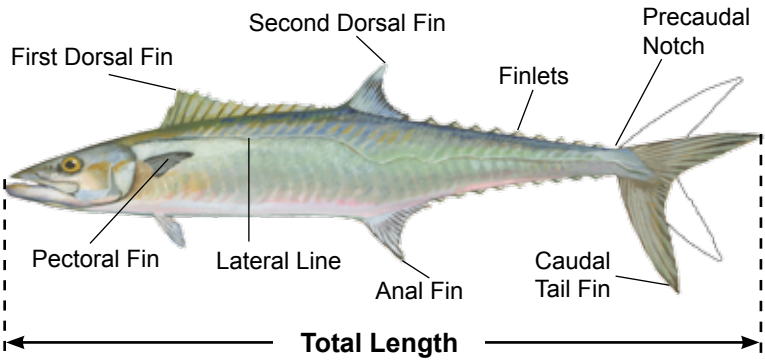
# HOW TO MEASURE YOUR FISH

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

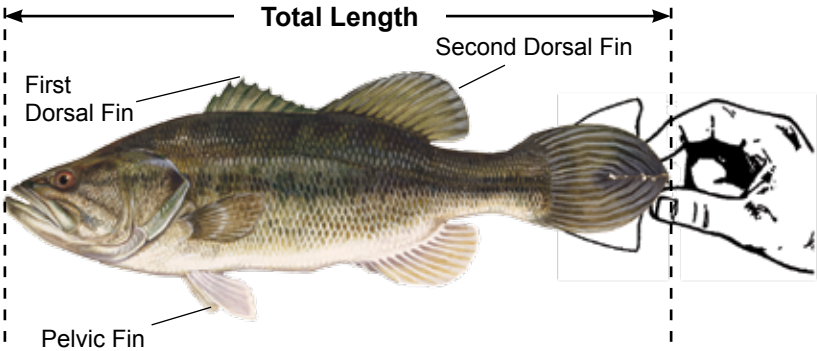


**Illustration 2**

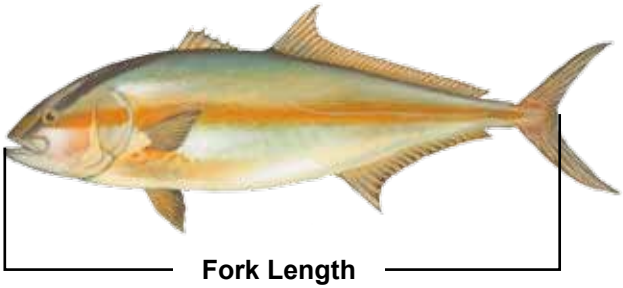



**Illustration 3**

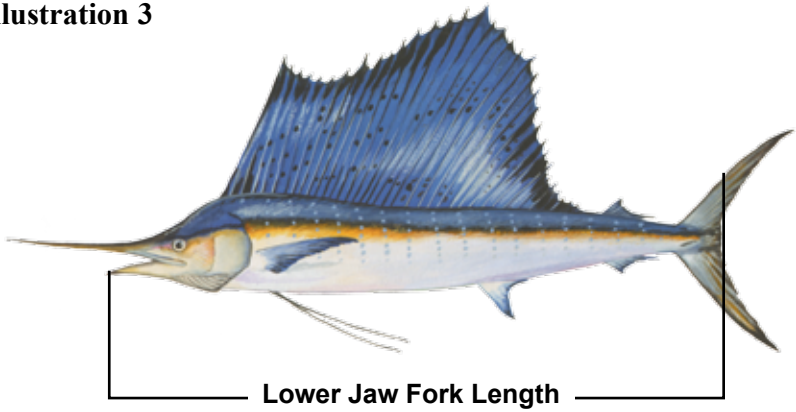
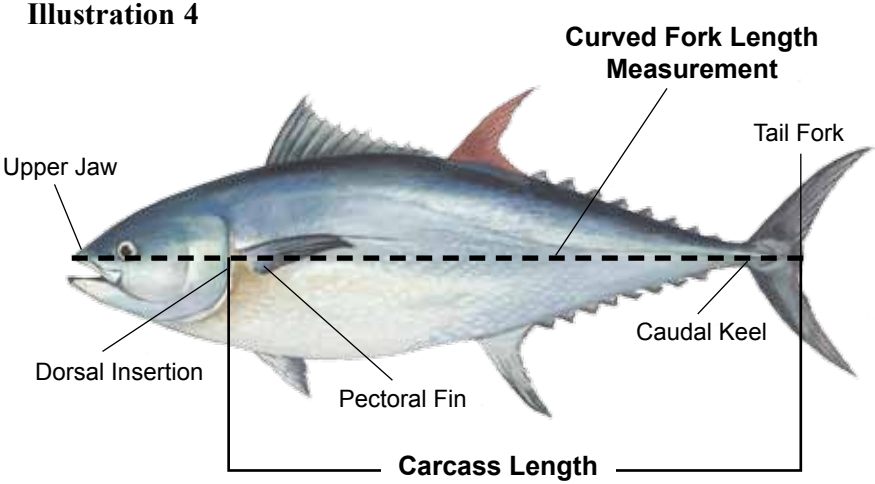



**Illustration 4**




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*).

**NOTE:** 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. Persons fishing for and/or possessing freshwater fish in saltwater areas are not required to hold a saltwater license.

## 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 7/10 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.

***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.***

# FRESHWATER FISHING IN LOUISIANA

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All anglers fishing in freshwater must possess a valid **Basic Fishing License**.

A **Basic Fishing License** is also required to use the following gear:

- Bow and arrow
- Barbed or barbless spear
- Frog gig/catcher
- Scuba gear
- Hook and Line
- Cast net (radius not to exceed 8 feet, 6 inches)

All applicable licenses must be in possession of the fisherman.

## FRESHWATER SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

The federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species listed below are off limits for recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species.

**Mussels**

- Louisiana pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera hembeli*)
- Inflated heelsplitter mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*)
- Fat pocketbook mussel (*Potamilus capax*)
- Pink mucket mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*)
- Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*)
- Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
- Shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platorynchus*)

## PROHIBITED FRESHWATER FISH

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to possess, sell, or transport any of the following species of fish into Louisiana without first obtaining the written permission of the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

- All species of tilapia
- Carp (except koi or common carp) and Goldfish
- Freshwater electric eel
- Rudd
- All members of the families of Asian swamp eels, snakeheads, walking catfishes, and pencil catfishes .

Exotic species of Asian carp (silver, bighead, black and grass) taken 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 Grande cichlid. If an angler catches a Rio Grande cichlid using legal methods, the fish shall not be returned to the water or kept alive while in the possession of the angler

## DAILY BAG LIMIT

Recreational anglers must not exceed the daily bag limit for any species while on the water.

## POSSESSION LIMIT

No recreational anglers can have in their possession more than twice the daily bag limit of any species of freshwater recreational fish.

All freshwater game fish caught in any type of recreational or commercial net or trap must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken without injury. See tips for safely releasing fish on page 12.

No person shall possess filleted fish while aboard a vessel in freshwater. However, for the purpose of consumption, a person shall have no more than 2 pounds of filleted finfish per person on board a vessel in freshwater.

# METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING FRESHWATER FISH

There are many ways to catch fish and other aquatic species in Louisiana's beautiful rivers, lakes, bayous, ponds and streams. The headings below define the legal methods and illegal methods of take, and certain exceptions that are allowable by species, methods and locations.

Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions. See page 3 for contact information.

## LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE (not for all fish)

- Hook and Line
- Bow and Arrow
- Yo-yos or Trigger Devices
- Recreational Slat Traps
- 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 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire)
- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by recreational skin divers submerged in water when sport fishing)
- Barbed Gig (allowed in saltwater for taking flounder ONLY)
- Recreational Hoop Nets*
- Recreational Wire Nets*

** Allowed only in the geographical areas of the state designated as Freshwater (see map and definition on page 16).*

## ILLEGAL METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING ALL FISH

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

- Crossbows
- Spears (see garfish, silver carp and bighead carp exception listed in "Gear Restrictions by Species" section)

- Poisons
- Stupefying Substances or Devices
- Explosives
- Guns
- Any instrument or device capable of producing electric current to shock fish
- Snagging Devices (see catfish, silver carp, and big head carp exceptions listed below)

## GEAR RESTRICTIONS BY SPECIES

Some alternative methods are allowed for catching/taking specific aquatic species.

### FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Game fish are defined as largemouth bass, spotted bass, shadow bass, yellow bass, white bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, black crappie, white crappie, bream

**LEGAL**

- Bream (*Lepomis ssp.*) may not be taken as bait for sportfishing purposes in any form of trap **EXCEPT** at Toledo Bend Reservoir, where a minnow trap not exceeding 24 inches in length and having a throat no larger than 1 inch by 3 inches may be used to take bream for non-commercial bait purposes

**NOT LEGAL**

- Standard Spearing Equipment used by recreational skin divers is prohibited.
- Bow and Arrow
- Possession of game fish 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

### GARFISH

**LEGAL**

- Spears
- Bows and arrows

### LEGAL BAIT SPECIES

Including minnows, crawfish and shrimp (does not include game fish)

**LEGAL**

- Cast nets
- Minnow traps
- Recreational Trawls
- 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)

### SILVER CARP & BIGHEAD CARP

**LEGAL**

- Boats
- Dip nets
- Spears
- Snagging

## RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS BY METHOD

### DIVERS

**LEGAL**

- Standard spearing equipment is the only legal method of take for non-game species that can be used by a skin diver submerged in water

**NOT LEGAL**

- The taking of gamefish with standard spearing equipment is prohibited.

### MOBILITY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

As defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), mobility impaired persons who 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.

## RESTRICTIONS BY LOCATION

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***

- The placement of any artificial object to anchor a yo-yo or trigger device is prohibited.
- No more than 50 yo-yos or trigger devices allowed per person.
- Each yo-yo or trigger device must be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner/user.
- All fish or any other animals caught or hooked must 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 is allowed to be attached to any metallic object.
- Except for an object used strictly in the construction of a pier, boathouse, seawall, or dock, no object which is driven into the lake bottom, a stump, tree, or the shoreline shall be used to anchor a yo-yo or trigger device. "Object" means rebar or other metal material, cane, PVC tubing, construction material, or any other type of material.

***Trotline Restrictions***

- All trotlines must be marked, tagged, and dated with the owner/user's name, address, phone number and date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible.
- No person is allowed to 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 - Oct. 31 of each year.
- These devices must be removed from the lakes prior to March 1 of each year.

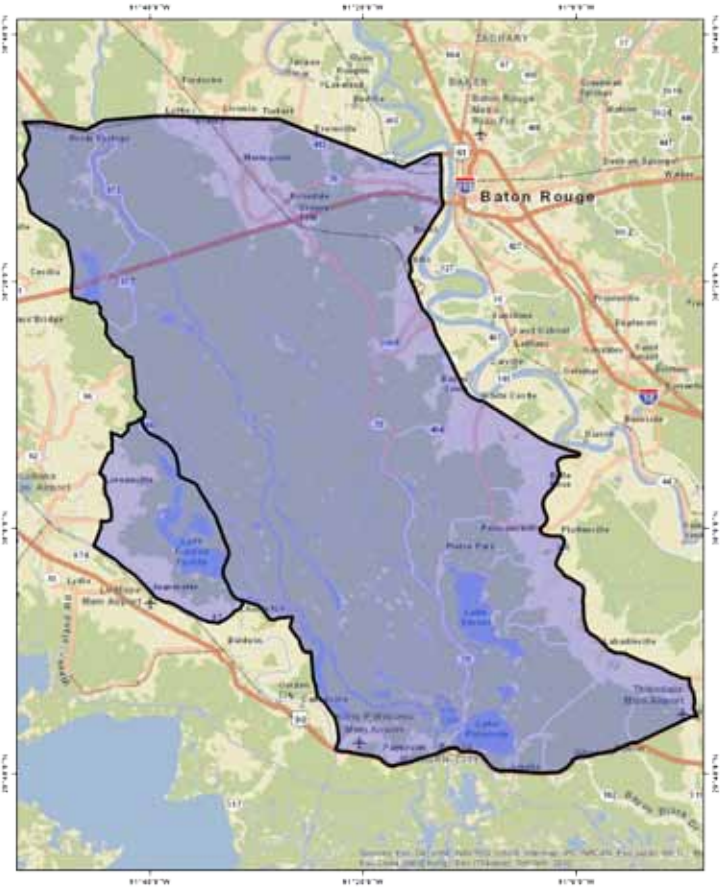
### POVERTY POINT

No person is allowed to possess, set or use any recreational hoop nets, recreational wire nets, yo-yos, trotlines or slat traps at this location.

### 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.

# 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.

# FRESHWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

**KEY**
**MLL** - Minimum Length Limit **SL** - Slot Limit
**Possession Limit is TWICE the daily creel limit unless otherwise stated.**

## FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Largemouth Bass

Spotted Bass

### BLACK BASS (Largemouth & Spotted)[1]

| Location | Size Limit | Daily Creel Limit |
|---|---|---|
| All state waters EXCEPT as follows: | None | 10 daily |
| Atchafalaya Basin, Lakes Verret/ Palourde, Fausse Point/Dauterive Areas[2] | None | 7 daily |
| Eagle Lake | 16” MLL | 10 daily |
| Poverty Point Reservoir | 15-19” protected SL[3] | 8 daily<br>No more than one over 19” total length |
| Caney Creek Lake (Jackson Parish) | 15-19” protected SL[3] | 8 daily<br>No more than two over 19” total length |
| False River (Pointe Coupee Parish) | 14” MLL | 5 daily |
| John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish) | 14-17” protected SL[3] | 8 daily<br>No more than four over 17” total length |
| Caddo Lake | 14-18” protected SL[3] for Largemouth Bass<br>No length restriction for spotted bass | 8 daily<br>No more than 4 Largemouth Bass over 18” total length |
| Sabine River[4] and Toledo Bend Reservoir | 14” MLL for Largemouth Bass<br>No MLL for spotted bass | 8 daily |

*[1] NOTE: For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass is defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on the tongue.*
*[2] See page 21 for area descriptions.*
*[3] Fish falling within a protected slot limit must be immediately released.*
*[4] 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).*

## FRESHWATER GAME FISH

| Location | Size Limit | Daily Creel Limit | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **STRIPED OR HYBRID STRIPED BASS** (or any combination thereof) | | | Striped Bass |
| All state waters | None | 5 daily<br>No more than two over 30" total length | |
| **WHITE BASS** | | | White Bass |
| All state waters EXCEPT as follows: | None | 50 daily | |
| Caddo Lake, Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir | None | 25 daily | |
| **CRAPPIE** | | | Black Crappie<br> White Crappie |
| All state waters EXCEPT as follows: | None | 50 daily<br>100 fish possession limit | |
| Poverty Point, Caddo Lake and Sabine River | None | 25 daily<br>50 fish possession limit | |
| Toledo Bend Reservoir | None | 25 daily<br>100 fish possession limit | |
| **YELLOW BASS** | | | Yellow Bass |
| All state waters EXCEPT as follows: | None | 50 daily | |
| Caddo Lake, Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir | None | No limit | |

## FRESHWATER NONGAME FISH

| Location | Size Limit | Daily Creel Limit | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **BOWFIN** (Choupique) | | | Bowfin |
| All state waters | 16" MLL | No limit | |
| **BUFFALO FISH** (or their hybrids) | | | Smallmouth Buffalo<br> Bigmouth Buffalo |
| All state waters | 16" MLL | 25 daily | |

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

## FRESHWATER NONGAME FISH

| Location | Size Limit | Daily Creel Limit |
|---|---|---|
| **CATFISH** | | |
| All state waters EXCEPT as follows: | **Blue Catfish:** 12” MLL | 100 daily in the aggregate. A fisherman may possess up to 25 undersized catfish of the three species combined. |
| | **Channel Catfish:** 11” MLL | |
| | **Flathead Catfish:** 14” MLL | |
| Caddo Lake, Sabine River, Toledo Bend Reservoir | **Blue & Channel Catfish:** None | 50 daily in the aggregate No more than 5 over 30” total length |
| | **Flathead Catfish:** 18” MLL | 10 daily |
| **FRESHWATER DRUM** (Gaspergou) | | |
| All state waters | 12” MLL | 25 daily |
| **PADDLEFISH** | | |
| No open season in boundary waters with TX or below the saltwater line | 30” max lower jaw fork length | 2 daily (fish cannot be retained alive & cannot be harvested by snagging methods) |
| **SHAD** | | |
| All state waters | None | 50 pounds daily |
| **STURGEON** | | |
| All state waters | N/A | **No legal harvest or possession** |
| **OTHER FRESHWATER FISH** | | |
| All state waters | None | No limit |
| **CRAWFISH** | | |
| All state waters | None | 150 pounds daily |

Blue Catfish

Channel Catfish

Flathead Catfish

Freshwater Drum

Paddlefish

Gizzard Shad

Sturgeon

Bluegill

Redear Sunfish

Spotted Gar

Yellow Bullhead

# SALTWATER FISHING IN LOUISIANA

## STATE AND FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

### STATE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Basic Fishing License**
2. **Saltwater Fishing License**

An **Offshore Landing Permit** is required of all anglers (free of charge) including those not normally required to have a fishing license to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, snappers, dolphinfish, wahoo and cobia.

   i. The Offshore Landing Permit can be found on the LDWF website at *www.wlf.la.gov/rolp* or through Smartphone applications. The iPhone app can be downloaded free of charge from the App Store by searching for the Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permits App. The Android app can also be downloaded free of charge from the Google Play Store by searching for LDWF Recreational Offshore Landing Permits App.

All applicable licenses must be in possession of the fisherman.

### FEDERAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

1. A **Federal Recreational Fishing Permit** is required for vessels fishing for tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks. You may apply for an initial or renewal permit in one of several ways. The permit fee is $20.
   i. To apply for an initial or renewal permit online visit the NMFS Permit Shop at *www.hmspermits.noaa.gov.*
   ii. An initial or renewal application package can be downloaded from the NMFS Permit Shop or mailed by calling the NMFS at 888-872-8862.
   iii. Renew permits by calling the automated voice response system at 888-872-8862. Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2014
2. An **Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permit** is required for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico The permit fee is $20. HMS Charter/Headboat Permit will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2014.
3. A **Federal Shrimp Vessel Permit** is required for all vessels fishing shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ.

Information about obtaining HMS permits and regulations are available at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/information* or by calling 888-872-8862.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The National Marine Fisheries Service has a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Weather Service to broadcast unanticipated and time-critical fishery regulatory actions where there is minimal opportunity for advance public notice. These broadcasts are issued for four or five 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

## SALTWATER SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

### THREATENED OR ENDANGERED AND PROHIBITED SPECIES

The federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species listed below are off limits for fishing or recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species. If any of these protected species are incidentally caught, they must be released immediately unharmed. See page 12 for tips on safely releasing fish.

- All Whales
- Dolphin (mammal)
- Goliath Grouper
- Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*)
- Largetooth Sawfish
- Nassau Grouper
- Sea Turtles
- Smalltooth Sawfish
- West Indian Manatee

### SHARKS

- Atlantic Angel Shark
- Basking Shark
- Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark
- Bigeye Sixgill Shark
- Bigeye Thresher Shark
- Bignose Shark
- Caribbean Reef Shark
- Caribbean Sharpnose Shark
- Dusky Shark
- Galapagos Shark
- Longfin Mako Shark
- Narrowtooth Shark
- Night Shark
- Sand tiger Shark
- Sevengill Shark
- Sixgill Shark
- Smalltail Shark
- Whale Shark
- White Shark

## RECREATIONAL SALTWATER TOURNAMENT OPERATORS

Federal regulations require any person conducting a fishing tournament in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico involving the catch and/or landing of any HMS regulated species to register with the HMS Management Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service at least four weeks prior to start of the tournament. A Tournament Registration Form [PDF] is available on the NMFS website at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/tournaments/index.html.*

To register a tournament, an Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Atlantic HMS Management Division by mail or fax.
Fax: 727-824-5398
Mailing Address:
HMS Tournament Registration
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Once the registration form has been processed an Atlantic HMS Tournament Confirmation Number will be produced and provided to the tournament operator.

**NOTE:** Registration is not complete unless the tournament operator has received a confirmation number from the HMS Management Division of NMFS. For more information call 727-824-5399; *www.hmspermits.noaa.gov.*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages federal waters from where the Louisiana gulfward boundary ends and extends 200 miles seaward into the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana recreational and commercial anglers fishing beyond the 9 nautical-mile (10.357 statute miles or 3 marine leagues) Louisiana gulfward boundary are in federal waters.

These waters are also known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Federal fishing regulations are not always the same as state fishing regulations. To make sure that you are in complete compliance with federal regulations call the Gulf Council at 888-833-1844, or e-mail gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Visit gulfcouncil.org for information about federal fishing regulations, measurement guidelines, sanctuaries & closures and fish identification charts.

Apps for iPhone and Android available free of charge.

# METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING SALTWATER FISH

There are many ways to catch fish and other aquatic species in Louisiana's beautiful coastal waters. The headings below define the legal methods and illegal methods of take, plus certain exceptions that are allowed by species, methods and locations.

Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

## LEGAL METHODS (not for all fish)

- Some species of gamefish may not be taken with the gear listed below.
- 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 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire)
- Yo-yos or Trigger Devices
- Bow and Arrow
- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by a skin diver sport fishing in saltwater or freshwater when submerged in the water)
- Barbless Spear or Multi-pronged Barbed Gig (may be used in saltwater for taking flounder ONLY)
- Dip Nets

## EXCEPTIONS TO METHODS OF TAKE BY SPECIES

An alternative method is allowed for taking the aquatic species listed below. Harvest of any other saltwater species by this method is prohibited.

### RED DRUM

**LEGAL**

- Bow and Arrows
- Standard Spearing Equipment used by a skin divers submerged in water when sport fishing

## SALTWATER RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS BY METHOD

### SKIN DIVERS

With the exception of game fish, the only legal method for a skin diver to take fish is when submerged in water using standard spearing equipment. See page 30 for a complete listing of game fish.

### MOBILITY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

As defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), mobility impaired persons who 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.

## ILLEGAL METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING ALL FISH

It is 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

## 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 (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, only allowed in state waters when and where shrimp season is open.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BRINGING YOUR SALTWATER CATCH TO SHORE

All saltwater finfish caught in possession of a recreational angler must have the head and caudal fin intact until set 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 remains on the fish.

**EXCEPTION:** Tuna, swordfish and shark possessed by a recreational angler must not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore. Tuna that meet minimum size requirements may have the head removed if the carcass length is in excess of the minimum total length. **See Lengths on page 14**.

Fillets may not be possessed on the water, except for the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the harvesting vessel. An individual must not have more than 2 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.

## REQUIRED ONBOARD GEAR FOR FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

Louisiana state waters extend 9 nautical miles (10.357 statute miles or 3 marine leagues) seaward from the nearest land, but in some cases extend further. The EEZ is described as waters that extend seaward from that point out to 200 miles from the coast.

Recreational anglers onboard a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ must possess onboard and use the required gear as specified below. These devices are required because they reduce mortality on released fish. See page 12 for tips on safely releasing fish.

### NON-STAINLESS STEEL CIRCLE HOOKS

Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish.

### DEHOOKING DEVICE

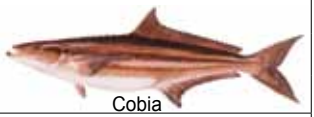
At least one dehooking device is required on board and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage. The device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without reengaging during the removal process. The dehooking end must be blunt and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fishery.

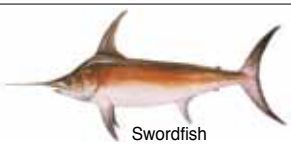
### VENTING TOOL

The requirement for the possession of and the use of a venting tool when fishing for reef fish has been removed.

# SALTWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

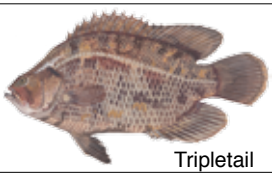
***Unless otherwise established, there are no size limits on species not listed and unless otherwise noted, possession limits for saltwater fish are the same as the daily bag limit.***

| 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<br>27” max total length | **BLACK DRUM:**<br>5 daily per person - bag and possession<br>No more than one over 27” max total length | |
| | **RED DRUM (Redfish)[1]:**<br>5 daily per person - bag[2]<br>No more than one over 27” max total length | |
| **SOUTHERN FLOUNDER** | | Southern Flounder |
| No Size Limit | 10 daily per person | |
| **MACKEREL** | | King Mackerel Spanish Mackerel |
| **KING MACKEREL[3]:**<br>24” min fork length | 2 daily per person | |
| **SPANISH MACKEREL[3]:**<br>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. All shark harvest prohibited from April 1 - June 30 | 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. All shark harvest prohibited from April 1 - June 30. (*See complete list of Prohibited Sharks on page 26*) | |
| **SWORDFISH[8]** | | |
| 29” min carcass length or 33 lbs. min dressed weight | 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 |

***NOTE:***
- ***Species within the 20 fish aggregate bag limit are Vermilion Snapper, Lane Snapper, Almaco Jack, Gray Triggerfish, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, and Blueline Tilefish.***
- ***Species within the 10 fish aggregate bag limit are all snappers (Gray, Mutton, Yellowtail, Cubera, Queen, Blackfin, Silk and Wenchman) except Red, Vermilion and Lane.***

| 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 1 speckled hind and 1 Warsaw grouper per vessel, 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 **VERMILION:** 10" min total length | | |
| **LANE:** 8" min total length | 20 daily per person in aggregate[3]* | Lane Snapper |
| **ALMACO JACK** | | |
| No Size Limit | 20 daily per person in aggregate* | Almaco Jack |
| **GRAY TRIGGERFISH[14]** | | |
| 14" min fork length | 2 daily per person in aggregate[3]* | Gray Triggerfish |

| REEF FISH AND OTHER[3] | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Size Limit** | **Bag & Possession Limit** | |
| **TILEFISH (Goldface, Blackline, Anchor & Blueline)** | | |
| No Size Limit | 20 daily per person in aggregate* | |
| **AMBERJACK** | | Greater Amberjack |
| **GREATER[11,15]:** 30" min fork length | 1 daily per person[3] | |
| **LESSER & BANDED RUDDERFISH[15]:** 14-22" fork length slot limit | 5 daily per person in aggregate | |
| **HOGFISH** | | |
| 12" min fork length | 5 daily per person | |
| **BLACK SEABASS** | | Black Seabass |
| 8" min total length | No Bag or Possession Limit | |
| **TRIPLETAIL** | |  Tripletail |
| 18" min total length | 5 daily per person | |

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

A **HMS Permit** is required for all owners/operator of vessels in the Gulf of Mexico fishing for and/or retaining the HMS regulated species of tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks. The Atlantic HMS Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2014. The permit fee is $20.

An **Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permit** is required for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The HMS Charter/Headboat Permit will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2014. The permit fee is $20.

For information about 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.hmspermits.noaa.gov.*. 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 25 for a complete listing of Highly Migratory Species contact information

## [6]MARLIN AND SAILFISH

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to possess billfish (*see page 25 for more details*).

## [7]SHARKS

### CLOSED SEASON

All Louisiana state waters seaward to the gulfward 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 31*). 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 tips on safely releasing fish on page 12*).

### 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

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to possess swordfish (*see page 25 for 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

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to possess tuna (*see page 25 for details*).

Anglers fishing for tunas within or outside 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 fishing or 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 about angling category permits call the NMFS HMS Division at 888-872-8862 or 301-713-2347.

## [10]GROUPER

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to possess grouper (*see page 25 for details*).

There is a closed season for the recreational harvest of gag from Jan. 1 through June 30 of each 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 Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year seaward of the 20 fathom (120 feet) curve.

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).

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (*see page 25 for details)*.

## [12]SNAPPER

Non-charter recreational anglers and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to posses snapper (*see page 25 for more details*).

## [13]RED SNAPPER

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*.

- As our department continues to fight the battle for regional management of our fisheries, regulations may have the potential to change throughout the season. We urge anglers to visit our webpage or our online fishing regulations pamphlet prior to your trip to ensure you are compliant.
- Currently open in state waters and closed in federal waters.
- State waters only season is weekends only (weekends are defined as Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) where the Monday of Memorial Day (May 26, 2014) and Labor Day (September 1, 2014) are included as weekend days.

## [14]GRAY TRIGGERFISH

There is a closed season for the harvest of gray triggerfish from June 1 through June 30.

## [15]AMBERJACK

All recreational anglers, including those not normally required to have a fishing license, and charter captains must obtain an Offshore Landing Permit to possess amberjack (*see page 25 for details*).

A closed season for the recreational harvest of greater amberjack has been established from June 1 - 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*.

# RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

### CAST NET LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License

### TRAWL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. Trawl License
3. Federal Shrimp Vessel Permit required for vessels fishing shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (EEZ)

* No license required for use of bait seines and dip nets.

## AREAS

Shrimping in Louisiana is divided into three distinct areas, the inshore waters, the offshore territorial sea and the federal EEZ.

The line (shrimp line) that separates inside waters from outside territorial waters generally follows the coastline, however there are some exceptions. For a description of the specific boundary locations check with your local LDWF Enforcement Office or visit *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/inside-outside-shrimp-line.*

Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of $10 per map by writing the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 220
New Orleans, La., 70122
504-284-5272.

Please specify which area of the coast in which you are interested. Louisiana state waters extend 9 nautical miles (10.357 statute miles or 3 marine leagues) seaward from the nearest land, but in some cases extend further, particularly in the Grand Isle, Marsh Island and East Cote Blanche Bay area. The EEZ is described as waters that extend seaward from the Louisiana gulfward boundary out to 200 miles from the coast. For specific boundary locations, contact your local LDWF Enforcement Office.

## SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

No size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season in Louisiana. No size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season.

There is a minimum possession of 100 count (whole shrimp per pound) on white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana. This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel.

**EXCEPTION:** There is no possession count on white shrimp taken or possessed from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December. When more than 50 percent by weight of the shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, 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.

## SEASONS

Trawls cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during the closed shrimp season. Shrimp seasons are flexible and are determined by the LWFC based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations. The spring inshore season usually begins 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 EEZ is usually open year-round.

**NOTE:** Restricted areas exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas and may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Check with your local LDWF Office or refer to the WMA and Refuge section of this pamphlet.

## CAST NETS, DIP NETS AND BAIT SEINES

A recreational fisherman is allowed to use dip nets, bait seines, and cast nets not to exceed 8 and 1/2 feet in radius. Recreational fishermen shall not take at anytime more than 50 pounds of shrimp during closed shrimp season and 100 pounds of shrimp per day during the open season, in the aggregate, per boat or vehicle, regardless of the number of persons thereon. Shrimp taken are to be 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. Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

## RESTRICTIONS ON NIGHT SHRIMPING

Night shrimping is prohibited between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise in the following areas: Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche bays, and in 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

## TRAWLS

Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8-inch bar or 1 and 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 and 1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season.

### TRAWLING DURING OPEN SEASON AND POSSESSION LIMITS

During the open shrimping seasons trawls 25 feet and less are allowed 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.

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, if the shrimp taken are used for bait or the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter commerce.

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*.

## TRAWLING RESTRICTIONS

- No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state is allowed to be left unattended.
- Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1 - Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish; from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Trawls cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during the closed shrimp season.
- No person is allowed to 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, Little Burton's Ditch, 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 1 mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.
- Trawling is prohibited north of the LA Highway 631 Bridge at Des Allemands, Louisiana, and in Lac Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries.
- Trawling is also prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremort Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremort Point to the shoreline.

## 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 OYSTERING

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. Saltwater Fishing License
3. A Recreational Tonging License is required for each tong in use.
4. A Senior Fishing License is required of residents who turned 60 years of age on or after June 1, 2000, to take oysters.

## METHODS OF TAKE

Recreational oyster harvest for home consumption is limited to tonging or gathering by hand.

### RESTRICTIONS ON METHODS OF TAKE

- Culling oysters, the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shell, is allowed only on the open designated public areas or on private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. At no time will is 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 must be landed in Louisiana, except with a valid out-of-state oyster-landing permit and with the fisherman being in compliance with all other rules and regulations.

## SEASONS

The LWFC 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.

**EXCEPTION:** Areas opened by the LWFC may, however, be closed by the LDHH for public health reasons. Information on LDHH closed areas is available at *www.dhh.la.gov.*

## SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- All oysters taken from public oyster areas must be 3 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.

## LEASES

For information on Oyster Leases 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

# RECREATIONAL CRABBING

## REQUIRED LICENSES

1. No license is required for any person using crab nets or crab lines for the purpose of taking crabs.
2. Persons harvesting crabs on LDWF WMAs or refuges must possess a basic recreational fishing license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.
3. A Recreational Crab Trap Gear License is required to use crab traps. There is a limit of 10 traps per licensed fisherman. Use of crab traps is prohibited on LDWF WMAs and refuges.

## METHODS OF TAKE

- Crabs or stone crabs can be taken with any legal crab trap, crab drop net, trawl, hoop net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net.
- 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.
- Gear restrictions may exist within certain wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges or other areas.

### RESTRICTIONS ON METHODS OF TAKE

- Dredges are not allowed for the intentional taking of crabs.
- No person may possess adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs taken in the berry stage by any means must be returned immediately to the waters.
- No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. Traps must be placed so vessels can safely navigate.
- 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 1 mile offshore to Blue Point.
- Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.

## 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.
- 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 2-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 6 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 - June 30 and from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31. Any crab trap constructed of wire mesh 2 and 5/16 square or greater or any crab trap placed in Lake Pontchartrain is exempt from escape ring requirements.

## SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- There is no minimum recreational size limit for blue crabs. The limit is 12 dozen per person, daily and in possession.
- 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 46*).
- There is no minimum recreational size limit for stone crabs or stone crab claws.

# RECREATIONAL CRAWFISHING

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. A Recreational Crawfish Trap Gear License is required to use crawfish traps in public waters.

### EXCEPTIONS

- A Basic Recreational Fishing License or a Wild Louisiana Stamp is required to use crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines on LDWF WMAs or refuges.
- A Basic Recreational Fishing License or a gear license is not required to use crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines for taking crawfish recreationally.

## METHODS OF TAKE

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

### CRAWFISH TRAP

A crawfish trap is defined as 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 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. Traps must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire.

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.

### 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.

## SEASONS

There is no closed season for wild crawfish harvest EXCEPT for some wildlife management areas and state and federal refuges (*see WMAs and Refuges on page 46*).

## SIZE AND 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.
- No more than 35 traps may be used per person while fishing recreationally for crawfish.

# REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Resident or Non-Resident Fishing License.

## METHODS FOR COLLECTING OR CATCHING THESE SPECIES

The regulations listed below apply to all frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, turtles and related species. All reptiles and amphibians caught are for personal (non-commercial) use only. These regulations do not include alligators. For alligator regulations visit *www.wlf.louisiana.gov.* Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

### ILLEGAL METHODS OF TAKE FOR ALL REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- 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.
- ***Additional illegal methods of take are species specific and are grouped accordingly.***

## SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

- Tiger salamander
- Southern red backed salamander
- Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*)
- Mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*)
- Red salamander

### THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The following federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species are off limits for recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species. If any of these protected species are incidentally caught, they must be released unharmed immediately:

- 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*)

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND STATE AND 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 on page 46.

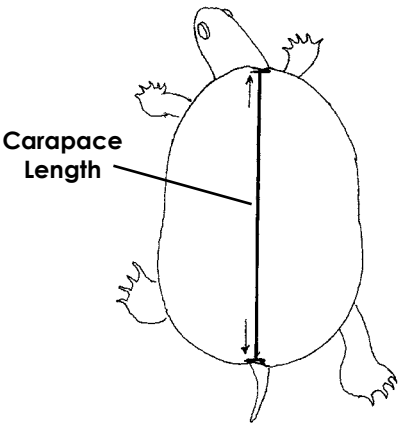
## TURTLES

### ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES

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

### DIAMONDBACK TERRAPINS

- Must measure 6 inches or more carapace length.
- Legal during all months except between the dates of April 15 - June 15.
- ***It is illegal to take this species by a trap of any kind.***




### BOX TURTLES

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

### TURTLE EGGS

No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red eared slider.

### TURTLE TRAPS

- Traps must be checked daily.
- Must be marked as "turtle trap."
- Must be open above water to allow breathing.
- Must be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.
- ***It is illegal to possess finfish while turtle trapping.***

## FROGS

### LEGAL METHOD OF TAKE

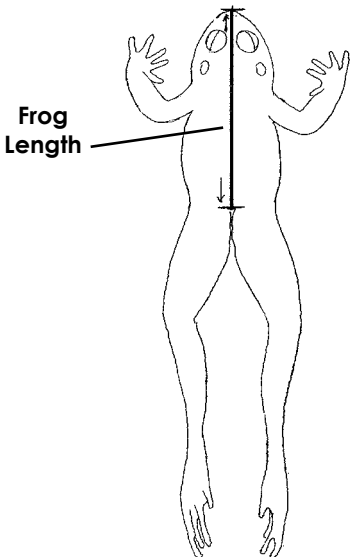
Frogs may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin, such as gigs or spears.

### ILLEGAL METHOD OF TAKE

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

### BULLFROGS AND PIG FROGS

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



# FISHING REGULATIONS ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, REFUGES & FEDERAL LANDS

Wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges and certain federal lands may have special fishing seasons and bag and possession limits, size limits or closures that differ from general regulations.

## REQUIRED LICENSES

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, WMAs 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.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The operation of boats with internal combustion engines within designated limited access areas (LAAs), on some coastal WMAs is restricted during waterfowl hunting season from Sept. 1 - Jan. 31. Limited access areas exist within the Atchafalaya Delta, Joyce, Manchac, 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 LDWF 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.
- **Vessels/Vehicles:** Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.
- **Limited Access Area:** No internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

## BILOXI

- **Vessels/Vehicles:** Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA

## CAMP BEAUREGARD

- Special regulations to be posted at Twin Lakes.

## DEWEY W. WILLS

- Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

## 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 prohibited. not permitted.
- No glass containers are allowed.
- The discharge of firearms, including muzzleloaders, bows and arrows, or crossbows is prohibited.
- Maximum speed limit on the island is 5 MPH.

## FORT POLK-VERNON

Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

## GRASSY LAKE

- Recreational 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 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

## ISLE DERNIERES BARRIER ISLANDS REFUGE

### WINE ISLAND, EAST ISLAND, WHISKEY ISLAND AND RACCOON ISLAND

- Public access by any means to the exposed land areas, wetlands, and interior waterways of these islands is prohibited without a permit.
- Disturbing, injuring, or collecting flora, fauna, or other property is prohibited without a permit.

- Boat traffic is allowed adjacent to the islands in open water (Gulf and bays).
- Boat traffic is prohibited in waterways extending into the interior of the islands or within any land-locked open waters or wetlands of the islands.
- Fishing from boats along the shore and wade fishing in the surf areas of the islands is allowed.
- Littering is prohibited.

### TRINITY ISLAND

- Public access is allowed in a designated public use area.
- The area is approximately 3,000 linear feet by 500 linear feet and it borders the western end of the man-made canal commonly known as California Canal. It is accessible via California Canal or the Gulf of Mexico. The boundaries are marked and maintained by LDWF.
- Public recreation such as bird-watching, picnicking, fishing, and overnight camping is allowed in this area.
- Travel on or across this area shall be limited to foot or bicycle traffic only. No use of ATVs or other vehicles powered by internal combustion engines or electric motors shall be allowed.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, or explosives in the designated public use area is prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited.
- Disturbing, injuring, or collecting flora, fauna, or other property is prohibited without a permit.
- Any member of the public utilizing the public use area must have a portable waste disposal container to collect all human waste and to remove it upon leaving the island.
- Public access outside of the public use area is prohibited without a permit.
- Boat traffic is allowed adjacent to the island in open water (Gulf and bays) and within the man-made canal commonly known as California Canal.
- No boat traffic is allowed in other man-made or natural waterways extending into the interior of the island or in any land-locked open waters or wetlands of the island.

## JOYCE

- **Limited Access Area:** Internal combustion engines **prohibited** year-round. See WMA map for specific location.

## KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST- NATIONAL CATAHOULA AND NATIONAL RED DIRT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESERVES

- Preserves will be closed to fishing during deer gun hunts. Consult hunting regulations for dates.

## LAKE BOEUF

- All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging.

## MANCHAC

- Crab traps are prohibited. Attended lift nets are allowed.

## OUACHITA

- Recreational crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds 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, **EXCEPT** allowed during the "Falconry for Ducks" portion of the waterfowl season.

## PASS-A-LOUTRE

- Oyster harvesting is prohibited.
- Camping is allowed only in designated areas.
- **Vessels/Vehicles:** Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.
- **Limited Access Area:** No internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

## 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.
- All castnet contents shall be contained and bycatch returned to the water immediately.

### 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 allowed. 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 pounds per person per day.
- Fishing gear used to catch crawfish must 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 Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes, Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue, St. Louis Canal, and Grand Bayou Blue. All other motorized vehicles, as well as horses and mules, are prohibited unless authorized by LDWF.
- Type A personal watercraft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are 8 or more feet in length may be operated on Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA from April 1 until the Monday after Labor Day Weekend, from sunrise to sunset only. No person shall operate such watercraft at a speed greater than "slow/no wake" within 100 feet of any anchored

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

### LIMITED ACCESS AREA

- No internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific locations.

## POMME DE TERRE

- Recreational fishing regulations are the same as outside. ***NOTE:*** Allowed only after 2 p.m., during waterfowl season.
- Recreational crawfishing is allowed from March 15 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

## RICHARD K. YANCEY

### YAKEY FARMS ONLY

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person 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 limited to 100 pounds per person per day limit.

## SALVADOR/TIMKEN

- All nighttime activities prohibited, **EXCEPT** during the Exerimental Nightime Activity Season.
- Self-Clearing Permit required for all activities permitted during the Experimental Nighttime Activity Season.
- 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.
- All castnet contents shall be contained and bycatch returned to the water immediately.

### 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 person per day. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight.

### VESSELS & VEHICLES

- Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with more than four cylinders is prohibited.
- 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.

### LIMITED ACCESS AREA

- No internal combustion engines allowed from September through January. See WMA map for specific location.

### EXPERIMENTAL NIGHTTIME ACTIVITY SEASON

- Self-clearing Permit required
- 12 a.m., June 1, 2014 through official sunset Aug. 15, 2014. Nighttime activities LIMITED to the take of frogs and fishing with a rod and reel. All other nighttime activities prohibited. Daily limit of 50 frogs per vessel in aggregate (bull frogs/pig frogs). If engaged in frogging on or while traversing the WMA, all frogs in possession will be deemed to have been taken from the WMA. At no time may anyone possess more than on daily limit of frogs while on the water.
- **Size Limit:** (Measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs). Bull frogs harvested must be 5 inches or larger. Pig frogs harvested must be 3 inches or larger.
- Check out portion of self-clearing permit must include boat registration number under the comments section. Possession of firearms while participation in any experimental nighttime activity is prohibited.

## SHERBURNE

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

## SODA LAKE

Recreational fishing is permitted from April 1 - Aug. 31.

**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*

## SPRING BAYOU

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

## 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.
- Use of the refuges is permitted from official sunrise to official sunset. This includes access routes through the refuge. Overnight camping is prohibited.
- Firearms are prohibited. Littering is prohibited. Damage to or removal of trees, shrubs, and wild plants without prior approval is prohibited.

### SHRIMPING

- 25 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.
- 10 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, but only in waters approved (open) for harvest by the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- 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 from the natural reefs 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 - Aug. 31 with an additional permit required. The permit is available Jan. 1.

# 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 6 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 6 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 6 ounces per week of fish caught in local waters. Do not consume any other fish that week.

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

# 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. A wearable USCG approved Type I, II or III PFD must be readily available for each of the other passengers onboard.
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.

## LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

***Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) 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*.

**CONSUMER ALERT:** Choosing the correct Personal Flotation Device (PFD) can be the difference between life and death when on the water. Make sure the PFD is U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved. A USCG approved PFD will have an approval number on the label usually on the inside part of the PFD. A PFD that is not USCG approved is illegal and unsafe. More and more non-approved PFDs are showing up in the marketplace and are being sold at larger retailers where most customers assume it is an approved version

## 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.**

**LADWF TIPS APP now available from the Apple Store and Google Play**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**