

POTPOURRI

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Public Hearing—Substantive Change to Notice of Intent Red Drum—Harvest Regulations (LAC 76:VII.363)

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission published a notice of intent to amend its rules in the August 20, 2023 and December 20, 2023 editions of the Louisiana Register. The commission previously amended the original Notice of Intent to modify the proposed statewide daily size, bag, and possession limits for red drum. The previously amended Notice of Intent proposed a statewide 18 inch minimum and a 27 inch maximum length limit with a bag and possession limit of three fish per day. The commission proposes to further amend the Notice of Intent to establish a four fish bag limit. These changes are based upon public comment provided during the comment period for the original Notice of Intent, during the Legislative Oversight hearing held on November 7, 2023, and during a Potpourri hearing held on January 22, 2024.

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this amended Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the amended Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the amended proposed rule, the secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§363. Red Drum—Harvest Regulations

A. Recreational Regulations.

1. The daily take and possession limit for red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) caught recreationally within or without Louisiana waters shall be four fish per day.

2. The minimum legal size for the recreational taking of red drum shall be 18 inches total length with the mouth closed. The maximum legal size for the taking of red drum shall be 27 inches total length with the mouth closed. Possession of red drum over the prescribed maximum size of 27 inches total length, when measured with the mouth closed, is prohibited.

3. Captain and crew members shall not retain a bag limit of red drum while operating or representing themselves as a charter vessel or headboat. Captain and crew may engage in fishing activity to assist passengers to catch, retrieve, or land red drum, or to demonstrate to passengers how to catch red drum.

B. No person who, pursuant to state or federal law, is subject to the jurisdiction of the state shall violate any federal law, rule or regulation particularly those rules and regulations enacted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and published in the Code of Federal Regulations as amended Title 50 and 15, for red drum while fishing in the EEZ, or possess, purchase, sell, barter, trade, or exchange red drum within or without the territorial boundaries of Louisiana in violation of any state or federal law, rule or regulation particularly those rules and regulations enacted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and published in the Code of Federal Regulations as amended Title 50 and 15 law.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:320.2(C), R.S. 56:325.1, R.S. 56: 325.1(A)(2), and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 27:2266 (December 2001), LR 49:

Public Hearing

In accordance with R.S. 49:966(H)(2), a public hearing on proposed substantive changes will be held by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on April 29, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments.

Brandon J. DeCuir

Chairman