

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Chronic Wasting Disease Control Zone and Associated Regulations

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and 116, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) hereby adopt the following emergency rule to amend the prior emergency rule adopted on August 3, 2022 prohibiting export of cervids and establishing a supplemental feed ban, as it relates to Tensas and Madison Parishes and portions of Franklin Parish.

On January 28, 2022, the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at LSU detected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a sample submitted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) from a hunter-harvested adult buck in Tensas Parish. The sample was submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. NVSL confirmed the detection of CWD in the sample submitted.

In response to receiving a positive CWD test result on a deer harvested in Louisiana, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took emergency action on February 3, 2022 to prohibit the export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within Franklin, Madison, and Tensas Parishes, establish a supplemental feeding ban in those three parishes and authorize the secretary to extend, modify, or rescind the emergency rule. That emergency rule was extended and modified to exclude portions of Franklin Parish by the secretary on August 3, 2022. The secretary now seeks to modify the current emergency rule to provide that the designated CWD Control Area will be defined by publication on LDWF's website and to amend the supplemental feed ban to be consistent with the proposed Rules and Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas.

Therefore, the export of any cervid, cervid carcass, or part of a cervid carcass originating within the CWD Control Area is prohibited, except for: meat that is cut and wrapped; meat that has been boned out; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, clean skull plates with antlers, cleaned skulls without tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy mounts and cleaned cervid teeth.

Baiting, placement of bait, or hunting over bait is prohibited within a LDWF designated CWD Control Area. It is the responsibility of hunters to check their hunting area for bait prior to each hunt. A baited area is an area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attractant for wild quadrupeds or wild birds via ingestion. The use of approved bait not normally ingested by deer for feral hog trapping will still be allowed.

The CWD Control Area for purposes of this emergency rule is defined as LDWF designated area consisting of the CWD infectious zone and buffer zone where mitigation measures and regulations are applied to curb further spread of the disease. The Control Area shall be listed on the LDWF website.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective August 10, 2022, and will supersede the existing emergency rule and any other rule or regulation that may conflict with the substance of this emergency rule. It will remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act unless rescinded or modified by the Secretary. 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 Declaration of Emergency, and to modify, rescind, or extend it upon notification of the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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