

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas (LAC 76:V.135)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends the Rules and Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease (“CWD”) Control Areas by reducing the portions of the existing Control Area where supplemental feeding and baiting is prohibited and adding new areas to the Control Area due to a recent CWD confirmed case found in a harvested white-tailed deer in Catahoula Parish.

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 Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the 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 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.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§137. Rules and Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas

A. Definitions

Cervid—any animal of the family *Cervidae* including, but not limited to, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, caribou “reindeer”, fallow deer, axis deer, sika deer, and red deer.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)—Neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer, moose, and caribou. It is infectious, always fatal, and has no treatment. CWD is part of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) and is similar to BSE (mad cow disease) in cattle and scrapie in sheep. These diseases cause irreversible damage to brain tissue, which leads to excessive salivation, neurological symptoms, emaciation, and death of the animal.

Control Area—A 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 is established and defined by the map below:

C. The export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within a designated 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.

D. Approved parts transported out of the CWD Control Area must be legally possessed. Approved parts must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, address, LDWF license number, parish of harvest, date of harvest, and sex of deer. All cervid parts transported out of the Control Area that are in violation of the provisions of this ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance with the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries rules.

E. LDWF shall establish a permitting system to allow for uncleaned cervid heads to be transported out of the Control Area solely for taxidermy purposes by waiver.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:1, R.S. 56:5, R.S. 56:6(10), (13) and (15), R.S. 56:20, R.S. 56:112, R.S. 56:116.1 and R.S. 56:171 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 48:2190 (August 2022), amended LR.

Family Impact Statement

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

Poverty Impact Statement

This proposed Rule will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This proposed Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Small Business Analysis

This proposed Rule may have a negative effect on some small businesses that sell deer feed, bait, and other attractants and related gear and equipment.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule until Thursday, August 5, 2025, to Johnathan Bordelon, Deer Program Manager, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1995 Shreveport Highway, Pineville, LA 71360, phone 318-487-5334 or via e-mail to jbordelon@wlf.la.gov.

Kevin Sagrera

Chairman