



LOUISIANA'S ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Presented to
**The House Committee on Natural Resources
and Environment &
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

Prepared by
**Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Office of Wildlife**

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The charge of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources, wildlife and aquatic life of the state.



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LDWF ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
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INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) manages the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) as a commercial, renewable natural resource. LDWF's sustained use program is one of the world's most recognizable examples of a wildlife conservation success story. Louisiana's program has been used as a model for managing various crocodylian species throughout the world. Since the inception of LDWF's program in 1972, over 1.2 million wild alligators have been harvested, over 13.25 million alligator eggs have been collected, and over 9 million farm-raised alligators have been sold bringing in millions of dollars of revenue to landowners, trappers and farmers. Conservative estimates have valued these resources at over \$250 million annually, providing significant, direct economic benefit to Louisiana. This report, per R.S. 56:279 (E), provides a historical perspective, outlines the basis and philosophy of LDWF's management program, reviews the federal government's oversight and approval role for management of the alligator in the United States, discusses wild, farm and nuisance alligator programs, lists research activities, and reviews the revenue and expenditure information associated with the management program and the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund. A separate report, furnished by LDWF, details the activities and expenditures of the Alligator Advisory Council.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Alligators have been used commercially for their valuable leather since the 1800s. This harvest was generally unregulated throughout the 1900s, until a gradual population decline resulted in severely reduced harvests in the early 1950s. In 1962, the alligator season in Louisiana was closed, and research studies focusing on basic life history factors were undertaken which led to development of a biologically sound management program. Of tremendous importance was the establishment of a rigorous survey method to estimate and monitor population trends.

From 1962 through August 1972, alligators were totally protected. During this time a myr-

riad of state and federal laws regulating harvest distribution and allocation of take, methods of harvest and possession, transportation and export of live alligators, alligator skins and their products was enacted. Similarly, in 1970 the Louisiana Legislature recognized that the alligator's value, age at sexual maturity, and vulnerability to hunting required unique consideration and passed legislation providing for a closely regulated experimental commercial harvest.

The goals of LDWF's alligator program are to manage and conserve Louisiana's alligators as part of the state's wetland ecosystem, provide benefits to the species, its habitat and the other species of fish and wildlife associated with

alligators. The basic philosophy was to develop a sustained use management program, which, through regulated harvest, would provide long-term benefits to the survival of the species, maintain its habitats, and provide significant economic benefits to the citizens of the state. Since Louisiana's coastal alligator habitats are primarily privately owned (approximately 81%), our sustained use management program provides direct economic benefit and incentive to private landowners, and alligator hunters who lease land, to protect the alligator and to protect, maintain, and enhance the alligator's wetland habitats. One of the most critical components of the management program was to develop the complex set of regulations, which required individual applications for each property to be considered for tag allocation, landowner permission, proof of ownership and detailed review of habitat quality related to alligator abundance, all of which combined to equitably distribute the harvest in relation to population levels.

During the period of total protection (1962-1971), alligator populations increased quickly and by 1972, LDWF was ready to initiate its new sustained use management program. On Sept. 5, 1972, the alligator season was reopened in Cameron Parish and a total of 59 hunters harvested 1,350 alligators. The season was expanded to include Vermilion Parish in 1973, Calcasieu Parish in 1975, an additional nine coastal parishes in 1979 and statewide in 1981 (*Table 1*).



TABLE 1. Louisiana Alligator Season Dates, Area Open, Harvest Level and Tag Cost, 1972-2024

| YEAR | SEASON DATES | # OF DAYS | PARISHES | TAG FEE | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | AMOUNT | PAID BY |
| 1972 | Sept. 5-17 | 13 | Cameron | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1973 | Sept. 10-28 | 19 | Added Vermilion | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1975 | Sept. 20 - Oct. 19 | 30 | Added Calcasieu | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1976 | Sept. 9 - Oct. 8 | 30 | No Change | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1977 | Sept. 1-30 | 30 | No Change | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1979 | Sept. 7 - Oct. 7 | 31 | Coastwide ¹ | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1980 | Sept. 4 - Oct. 4 | 31 | No Change | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1981 | Aug. 31 - Sept. 30 | 31 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1982 | Sept. 4 - Oct. 3 | 30 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1983 | Sept. 10 - Oct. 9 | 30 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1984 | Sept. 8 - Oct. 7 | 30 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1985 | Aug. 31 - Sept. 30 | 31 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1986 | Sept. 6 - Oct. 6 | 31 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1987 | Sept. 5 - Oct. 5 | 31 | Statewide | \$5.00 ² | hunter/farmer |
| 1988 | Sept. 10 - Oct. 10 | 31 | Statewide | \$2.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1989 | Sept. 9 - Oct. 8 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1990 | Sept. 1-30 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1991 | Aug. 31 - Sept. 29 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1992 | Sept. 10 - Oct. 4 | 25 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1993 | Sept. 11 - Oct. 10 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | hunter/farmer |
| 1994 | Sept. 3 - Oct. 2 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 1995 | Sept. 2 - Oct. 1 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 1996 | Sept. 7 - Oct. 6 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 1997 | Sept. 6 - Oct. 5 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 1998 | Sept. 2 - Oct. 1 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 1999 | Sept. 1-30 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2000 | Aug. 30 - Sept. 30 | 32 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2001 | Aug. 29 - Sept. 30 | 33 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2002 | Aug. 28 - Sept. 30 | 34 | Statewide | \$2.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2003 | Sept. 3 - Oct. 2 | 30 | Statewide | \$2.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2004 | Sept. 1 - 30 | 30 | Statewide | \$3.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2005 ³ | Sept. 14 - Oct. 30 | 46 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2006 | Sept. 6 - Oct. 5 | 30 | Statewide | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| 2007 ⁴ | Aug. 29 - Sept. 27 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 5 - Oct. 4 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2008 ⁵ | Aug. 27 - Oct. 19 | 54 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 3 - Oct. 19 | 47 | West Zone | | |
| 2009 | Aug. 26 - Sept. 24 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 2 - Oct. 1 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2010 | Aug. 25 - Sept. 23 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 1-30 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2011 | Aug. 31 - Sept. 29 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 7 - Oct. 6 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2012 ⁶ | Sept. 1 - Oct. 4 | 34 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 5 - Oct. 4 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2013 | Aug. 28 - Sept. 26 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 4 - Oct. 3 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2014 | Aug. 27 - Sept. 25 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 3 - Oct. 2 | 30 | West Zone | | |

| YEAR | SEASON DATES | # OF DAYS | PARISHES | TAG FEE | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| | | | | AMOUNT | PAID BY |
| 2015 | Aug. 26 - Sept. 24 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 2 - Oct. 1 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2016 | Aug. 31 - Sept. 29 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 7 - Oct. 6 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2017 | Aug. 30 - Sept. 28 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 6 - Oct. 5 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2018 | Aug. 29 - Sept. 27 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 5 - Oct. 4 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2019 | Aug. 28 - Sept. 26 | 30 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 4 - Oct. 3 | 30 | West Zone | | |
| 2020 ⁷ | Aug. 26 - Oct. 24 | 60 | East Zone | \$3.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 2 - Oct. 31 | 60 | West Zone | | |
| 2021 ⁸ | Aug. 25 - Oct. 23 | 60 | East Zone | \$3.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 1 - Oct. 30 | 60 | West Zone | | |
| 2022 | Aug. 31 - Oct. 29 | 60 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 7 - Nov. 5 | 60 | West Zone | | |
| 2023 | Aug. 30 - Oct. 28 | 60 | East Zone | \$3.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 6 - Nov. 4 | 60 | West Zone | | |
| 2024 | Aug. 28 - Oct. 26 | 60 | East Zone | \$4.00/tag | fur dealer/shipper |
| | Sept. 4 - Nov. 2 | 60 | West Zone | | |

1. Added Iberia, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany
2. Per issuance, regardless of number
3. Opening date was postponed and season was extended due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
4. State was divided into alligator hunting zones (east and west) from 2007 to present
5. Season was extended due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike
6. East Zone season was postponed and extended due to Tropical Storm Isaac
7. Tag issuing schedule for West Zone altered by impacts of Hurricanes Laura and Delta
8. Harvest in the East Zone impacted by Hurricane Ida.



OVERSIGHT BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Five years after Louisiana closed the alligator harvest season, the alligator was listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1967. At this time, the alligator was considered an endangered species throughout its range. In March of 1974, Louisiana petitioned the Secretary of the Interior, requesting that populations of the alligator in Louisiana be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu Parishes. In subsequent years, similar petitions sought to reclassify the alligator, first in nine additional coastal parishes in 1978 and then statewide in 1981. Each of these petitions was based on results of detailed scientific study and the demonstrated success of the early harvest programs.

Export of alligator skins and products out of the United States is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Spe-

cies of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This treaty, which became effective in 1975, regulates the international trade in protected species; its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers CITES requirements and controls for the United States. The species covered by CITES are listed on one of three Appendices, according to the degree of protection needed. Currently, the alligator is listed on Appendix II of CITES, because of their similarity of appearance to other crocodylians that are truly endangered or threatened.

In order to fulfill CITES requirements, the USFWS through a series of rule-makings, has developed a complex set of requirements with which the individual states, including Louisiana, must comply in order to be granted export approval for harvested alligator skins and

products. The most critical component in these requirements is that LDWF must certify, on an annual basis, that the harvest programs we administer will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. The "no detriment" finding is predicated on our assessment of the current condition of the alligator population, including trends, population estimates or indices, data on total harvest, harvest distribution and habitat suitability evaluation. Additionally, the management program must provide for a rigorously controlled harvest with calculated harvest level objectives. All alligators and eggs harvested must be taken from specifically identified properties and all hides individually tagged (with approved, serially marked CITES export tags furnished by the USFWS). The USFWS requires strict accountability for each tag allocated to the harvester, requiring all unused tags be returned at the close of the season.

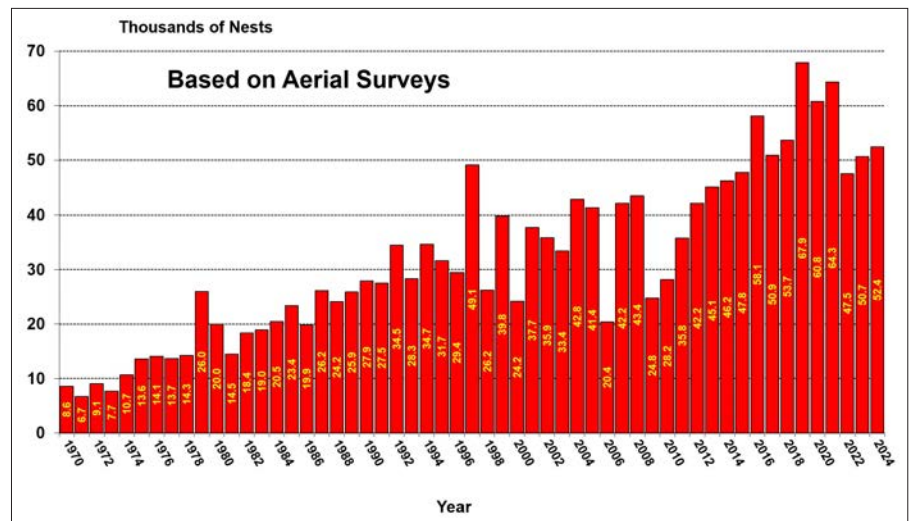
WILD ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In 1970, the Louisiana State Legislature (Act 550) gave LDWF full authority to regulate alligator season in Louisiana. Since that time, LDWF has annually inventoried alligator nest production throughout coastal Louisiana in order to assess the status of alligator populations. Results of annual alligator nest surveys are compiled to provide estimates of nest density (acres per nest) by parish and by habitat type (brackish, intermediate, or fresh marshes). Private and publicly owned lands (state and federal refuges, and wildlife management areas) are compiled separately.

In June/July 2024, over 2,800 miles of transects were flown, surveying 135,000 acres of wetland habitat. The sampling intensity covers approximately 3.4% of 2.3 million acres of private coastal wetlands, and 3.4-10% of some 622,000 acres of public coastal wetlands. During the summer of 2024, we estimated that 52,420 alligator nests were present in coastal marsh habitats (a 3% increase from 2023) (Figure 1).

Nest density and alligator population estimates are combined with a detailed review of harvest parameters and a general assessment of environmental factors observed during each survey to determine final harvest level objectives. Over 50 individual alligator harvest quotas are developed annually in order to distribute the harvest in relation to alliga-

FIGURE 1. LOUISIANA COASTAL MARSH ALLIGATOR NEST PRODUCTION (1970-2024)



tor abundance in the various habitats across the state. A listing of the 2024 wild alligator harvest quotas is appended as Exhibit 1. In the best habitat, one alligator is harvested per 55 acres, while in the poorer habitats one alligator is harvested per 300 acres.

Alligator hunters annually submit a description of the property on which they have permission to hunt. LDWF assesses the habitat quantity and quality and determines the number of al-

ligators that can be harvested by each hunter. This methodology ensures that alligators are harvested in proportion to their population levels and that the harvest will not negatively impact populations at any location. The currently approved quota system represents an allowable wild alligator harvest, which coupled with the state authorized wild alligator egg harvest program represents a level of population utilization currently unparalleled in the world of crocodylian management.

Under this sustained use alligator program, over 1.2 million wild alligators have been harvested since 1972 (Table 2). The annual harvest takes place in September and October to specifically target the adult males and immature segments of the alligator population. Adult females, which typically inhabit interior marshes in September, would be more susceptible to harvest if the season was scheduled during the spring or summer. During the 2024 wild season, a total of 33,363 alligators were harvested by 4,304 licensed alligator hunters. Alligators harvested averaged 7.7 feet in length (Figure 2), with an estimated value of nearly \$8.5 million. LDWF is currently contracting LSU AgCenter to evaluate meat yield and value for both farm and wild alligator harvest. Current calculations are derived from research done more than 30 years ago and should be viewed as conservative values of meat yield and value. The 2024 harvest represents the highest harvest since 2016.

Each year the alligator program staff works closely with landowners and alligator hunters to provide assistance regarding alligator management on their respective properties. We have provided numerous habitat base maps to landowners for their use in participation in both the wild and alligator egg harvest programs. Harvest reports summarizing average lengths and size class frequency distribution of harvested alligators are available upon request.

FIGURE 2. LOUISIANA WILD ALLIGATORS HARVESTED (2024 REGULAR HARVEST SKIN LENGTHS)

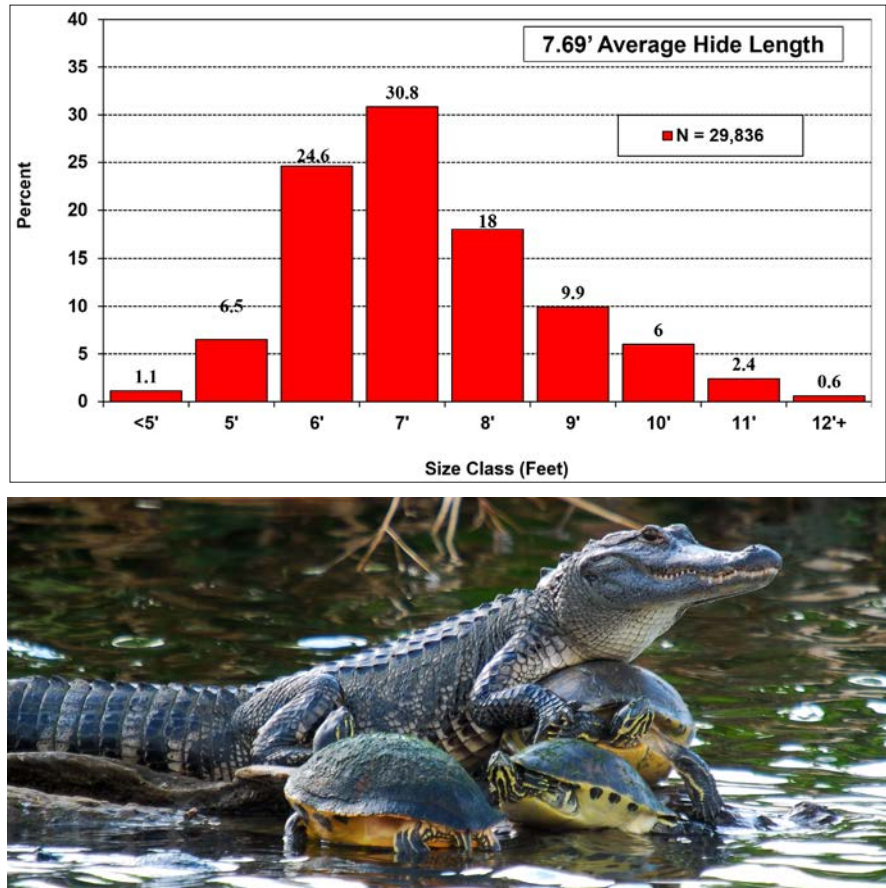


TABLE 2. September Wild Alligator Harvest in Louisiana, 1972-2024^{1,8}

| YEAR ² | COMMERCIAL HUNTERS | TAGS ISSUED | # TAKEN | % SUCCESS | AVG. TOTAL LENGTH IN FT. | SKIN VALUE | | MEAT ⁴ | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | AVG./FOOT | TOTAL | AMOUNT (LBS) | VALUE |
| 1972 | 59 | 1,961 | 1,350 | 68.8 | 6.92 | \$8.10 | \$75,670 | 3 | 3 |
| 1973 | 107 | 3,243 | 2,921 | 90.1 | 7.58 | \$13.13 | \$290,714 | 3 | 3 |
| 1975 | 191 | 4,645 | 4,420 | 95.2 | 7.51 | \$7.88 | \$261,570 | 3 | 3 |
| 1976 | 198 | 4,767 | 4,389 | 92.1 | 7.09 | \$16.55 | \$515,003 | 3 | 3 |
| 1977 | 236 | 5,760 | 5,474 | 95 | 7.35 | \$12.23 | \$492,061 | 3 | 3 |
| 1979 | 708 | 17,516 | 16,300 | 93 | 6.92 | \$15.00 | \$1,691,940 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1980 | 796 | 19,134 | 17,692 | 92.5 | 6.59 | \$13.00 | \$1,515,674 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1981 | 913 | 15,534 | 14,870 | 95.7 | 6.92 | \$17.50 | \$1,800,757 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1982 | 1,184 | 18,188 | 17,142 | 94.2 | 6.82 | \$13.50 | \$1,578,264 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1983 | 945 | 17,130 | 16,154 | 94.3 | 6.92 | \$13.00 | \$1,453,214 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1984 | 1,104 | 18,386 | 17,389 | 94.6 | 6.99 | \$21.00 | \$2,552,531 | 100,089 | \$125,000 |
| 1985 | 1,076 | 17,466 | 16,691 | 95.6 | 7.09 | \$21.00 | \$2,485,123 | 150,133 | \$675,000 |
| 1986 | 1,207 | 23,267 | 22,429 | 96 | 6.92 | \$23.00 | \$3,569,800 | 310,275 | \$1,395,000 |
| 1987 | 1,370 | 24,635 | 23,892 | 97 | 7.09 | \$40.00 | \$6,775,771 | 500,444 | \$2,250,000 |
| 1988 | 1,545 | 24,111 | 23,526 | 98 | 7.25 | \$48.00 | \$8,187,048 | 600,533 | \$3,000,000 |
| 1989 | 1,769 | 25,492 | 24,846 | 97.4 | 7.25 | \$50.00 | \$9,006,675 | 747,448 | \$3,000,000 |
| 1990 | 1,916 | 25,920 | 25,644 | 98.9 | 7.25 | \$57.00 | \$10,597,383 | 701,063 | \$3,000,000 |
| 1991 | 2,001 | 24,646 | 24,011 | 97.4 | 7.45 | \$32.00 | \$5,724,222 | 684,109 | \$2,935,000 |
| 1992 | 1,696 | 25,551 | 24,313 | 95.2 | 7.25 | \$23.00 | \$4,054,193 | 687,835 | \$2,951,520 |
| 1993 | 1,702 | 24,805 | 23,991 | 96.7 | 7.25 | \$23.00 | \$4,000,499 | 687,615 | \$2,889,000 |
| 1994 | 1,774 | 27,694 | 27,120 | 97.9 | 7.35 | \$37.00 | \$7,375,284 | 771,610 | \$3,243,000 |
| 1995 | 1,877 | 28,931 | 28,442 | 98.3 | 7.35 | \$41.00 | \$8,570,997 | 809,088 | \$3,400,000 |
| 1996 | 1,947 | 26,578 | 25,793 | 97.0 | 7.41 | \$25.00 | \$4,778,153 | 734,793 | \$3,967,800 |
| 1997 | 1,973 | 29,900 | 29,085 | 97.3 | 7.08 | \$18.00 | \$3,706,592 | 828,423 | \$4,473,000 |
| 1998 | 1,888 | 30,198 | 28,639 | 94.8 | 7.08 | \$15.00 | \$3,041,462 | 804,679 | \$4,350,000 |

TABLE 2 (cont.).

| YEAR ² | COMMERCIAL HUNTERS | TAGS ISSUED | # TAKEN | % SUCCESS | AVG. TOTAL LENGTH IN FT. | SKIN VALUE | | MEAT ⁴ | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | AVG./FOOT | TOTAL | AMOUNT (LBS) | VALUE |
| 1999 regular | 1,902 | 33,239 | 32,064 | 96.5 | 7.17 | \$22.00 | \$5,057,775 | 909,398 | \$4,881,000 |
| 1999 bonus | | 3,348 | 3,206 | 95.8 | 5.75 | \$15.50 | \$285,735 | 44,335 | \$237,250 |
| 2000 regular | 1,941 | 31,999 | 30,532 | 95.4 | 7.17 | \$27.00 | \$5,910,690 | 1,061,903 | \$5,702,419 |
| 2000 bonus | | 3,299 | 3,146 | 95.4 | 5.75 | \$23.00 | \$416,059 | 56,785 | \$303,801 |
| 2001 regular | 1,916 | 32,669 | 31,867 | 97.5 | 7.33 | \$22.00 | \$5,138,872 | 732,941 | \$3,298,235 |
| 2001 bonus | | 3,402 | 3,281 | 96.4 | 5.83 | \$20.00 | \$382,565 | 75,463 | \$339,584 |
| 2002 regular | 1,955 | 31,757 | 30,451 | 95.9 | 7.25 | \$16.00 | \$3,532,316 | 700,373 | \$3,151,679 |
| 2002 bonus | | 3,370 | 2,932 | 87.0 | 5.83 | \$16.00 | \$273,497 | 67,436 | \$303,462 |
| 2003 regular | 1,873 | 30,513 | 28,555 | 93.6 | 7.17 | \$13.00 | \$2,661,612 | 656,765 | \$2,955,443 |
| 2003 bonus | | 3,290 | 3,026 | 92.0 | 5.83 | \$13.00 | \$229,341 | 69,598 | \$313,191 |
| 2004 regular | 1,859 | 31,530 | 30,406 | 96.4 | 7.17 | \$22.50 | \$4,905,248 | 699,338 | \$3,147,021 |
| 2004 bonus | | 3,705 | 3,518 | 95.0 | 5.83 | \$22.50 | \$461,474 | 80,914 | \$364,113 |
| 2005 regular | 1,933 | 32,487 | 27,668 | 85.2 | 7.25 | \$34.50 | \$6,920,459 | 636,364 | \$2,863,638 |
| 2005 bonus | | 4,078 | 3,507 | 86.0 | 5.83 | \$34.50 | \$705,380 | 80,661 | \$362,975 |
| 2006 regular | 1,872 | 28,501 | 27,319 | 95.9 | 7.42 | \$39.00 | \$7,905,572 | 628,337 | \$2,827,517 |
| 2006 bonus | | 3,710 | 3,538 | 95.4 | 6.00 | \$39.00 | \$827,892 | 81,374 | \$366,183 |
| 2007 regular | 2,051 | 33,498 | 31,127 | 92.9 | 7.50 | \$38.50 | \$8,987,921 | 715,921 | \$3,221,645 |
| 2007 bonus | | 4,226 | 3,884 | 91.9 | 6.00 | \$38.50 | \$897,204 | 89,332 | \$401,994 |
| 2008 regular | 2,222 | 36,299 | 31,774 | 87.5 | 7.50 | \$34.50 | \$8,221,523 | 730,802 | \$3,288,609 |
| 2008 bonus | | 4,425 | 3,851 | 87.0 | 6.00 | \$34.50 | \$797,157 | 88,573 | \$398,579 |
| 2009 ⁵ | 1,687 | 24,427 | 9,143 | 37.4 | 7.42 | \$7.50 | \$508,808 | 210,289 | \$946,301 |
| 2010 | 2,052 | 31,881 | 26,536 | 83.2 | 7.50 | \$13.00 | \$2,587,260 | 610,328 | \$2,746,476 |
| 2011 | 2,593 | 35,749 | 32,745 | 91.6 | 7.42 | \$17.00 | \$4,130,454 | 753,135 | \$3,389,108 |
| 2012 | 2,959 | 37,431 | 34,444 | 92.0 | 7.53 | \$23.50 | \$6,095,038 | 792,212 | \$5,545,484 |
| 2013 | 3,193 | 38,027 | 35,592 | 93.6 | 7.52 | \$29.00 | \$7,761,903 | 818,616 | \$5,730,312 |
| 2014 | 3,288 | 38,491 | 36,301 | 94.3 | 7.6 | \$29.00 | \$8,000,740 | 834,923 | \$5,844,461 |
| 2015 | 3,361 | 38,666 | 35,540 | 91.9 | 7.44 | \$23.50 | \$6,213,814 | 817,420 | \$5,721,940 |
| 2016 | 3,281 | 38,261 | 34,237 | 89.5 | 7.51 | \$17.00 | \$4,371,038 | 787,451 | \$5,512,157 |
| 2017 | 2,608 | 25,502 | 15,103 | 59.2 | 7.55 | \$7.50 | \$855,207 | 347,369 | \$2,431,583 |
| 2018 | 2,773 | 27,834 | 20,171 | 72.5 | 7.52 | \$7.50 | \$1,137,644 | 463,933 | \$3,247,531 |
| 2019 | 2,861 | 31,255 | 24,024 | 76.9 | 7.44 | \$7.50 | \$1,340,539 | 552,552 | \$3,867,864 |
| 2020 ⁶ | 2,568 | 23,550 | 15,442 | 65.6 | 7.5 | \$7.50 | \$868,613 | 355,166 | \$2,486,162 |
| 2021 ⁷ | 3,059 | 29,786 | 18,004 | 60.4 | 7.63 | \$7.50 | \$1,030,279 | 414,092 | \$2,898,644 |
| 2022 | 3,428 | 32,952 | 25,166 | 76.4 | 7.55 | \$10.00 | \$1,900,033 | 578,818 | \$4,051,726 |
| 2023 | 3,706 | 37,859 | 29,686 | 78.4 | 7.47 | \$10.00 | \$2,217,544 | 682,778 | \$4,779,446 |
| 2024 | 4,304 | 42,035 | 33,363 | 79.4 | 7.7 | \$12.00 | \$3,082,741 | 767,349 | \$5,371,443 |

1. Does not include Salvador WMA harvests from 1972-2003 and Marsh Island experimental, nuisance, and farm harvests from 1972-present.
2. The bonus tag program was initiated in 1999 to increase the overall number of wild alligators harvested without putting any additional pressure on the 6 feet and over portion of the wild population. The bonus tag program was suspended in 2009.
3. Sale of meat not permitted; La. Health Department regulations first allowed meat sales in 1979.
4. Bone in from 1979-1984, deboned from 1985-present.
5. Worldwide economic recession caused alligator hide demand to decline dramatically.
6. Worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Laura and Delta in West Zone
7. Worldwide COVID -19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida in East Zone
8. LDWF is currently contracting LSU AgCenter to evaluate meat yield and value for both farm and wild alligator harvest. Current calculations are derived from research done more than 30 years ago and should be viewed as conservative values of meat yield and value.

NOTE: Subject to change, numbers updated October 8, 2025.



FARMING/RANCHING PROGRAM

Early alligator farms in Louisiana were generally small, family owned operations; and often run more as a hobby/curiosity than a commercial enterprise. Extensive studies done by LDWF biologists showed alligators could be efficiently cultured and grown in captivity. Egg ranching (collection of alligator eggs from the wild) proved more economical and successful than captive breeding; private egg collections were first permitted, on a limited basis, in 1986.

Louisiana's alligator ranching program increased dramatically between 1986 and 1990. To ensure wild alligators were not depleted as a result of egg collections, and to ensure future recruitment of sub-adult alligators to the breeding population, LDWF currently requires a quantity of juvenile alligators equal to 5% of the eggs hatched by the rancher be returned to the wild within two years of hatching.

A variable return rate was established based on the estimated survival rates for wild juvenile alligators. Using the relationship of survival between size classes, we extrapolated return rates based on expected survival rates for alligators from 36 to 60 inches. More alligators must be returned if the average total length is smaller, and fewer animals are required if the average length is larger. Close monitoring of the survival of these alligators will continue for many years.

Enormous effort has been made by LDWF to monitor the fate of the alligators released to the wild. In 2024, we released a total of 15,994 farm-raised alligators into the wild to maintain wild alligator populations. Each alligator released is measured, sexed, tail-notched, tagged and recorded prior to release to the same area where the farmers had originally harvested the eggs. Although it is costly to the ranchers to fulfill the "returns to the wild" obligation, it is an integral necessity of the program, considering the large number of eggs collected. In 2024, a total of 300,482 wild alligator eggs were collected producing 262,586 hatchling alligators (Table 3).

As of December 2024, there were 55 licensed farmers in Louisiana with on farm inventories totaling 523,776 alligators (Figure 3). During the 2024 tag year (January 2024 through December 2024) an estimated 300,935 farm-raised alligators were harvested, averaging 28.82 cm belly width (Figure 4). The total estimated value of these alligators was nearly \$62.7 million (Table 4).

FIGURE 3. LOUISIANA ALLIGATOR FARM INVENTORIES AND DENSITIES BY PARISH (DECEMBER 2024)

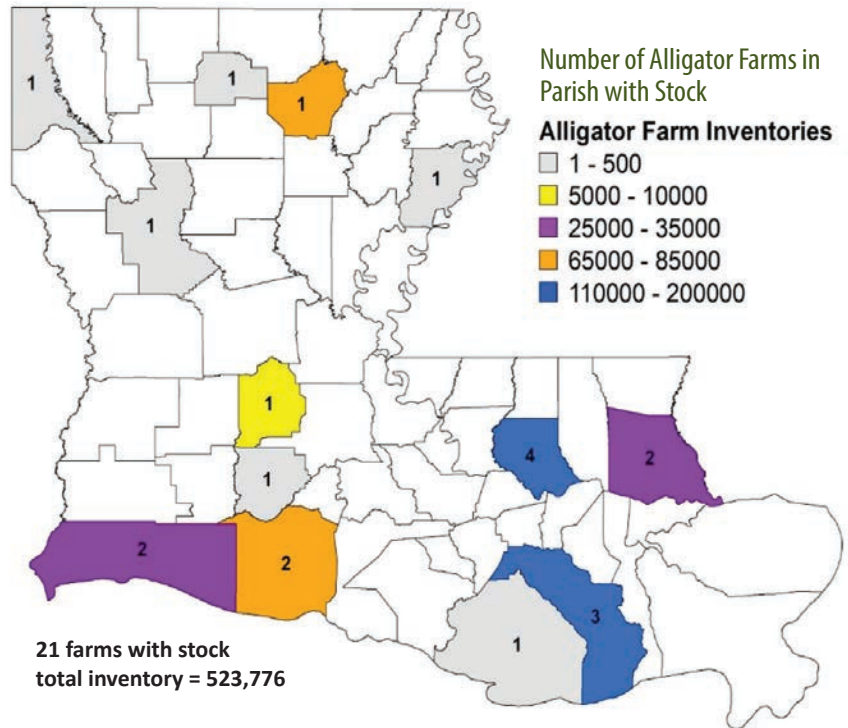
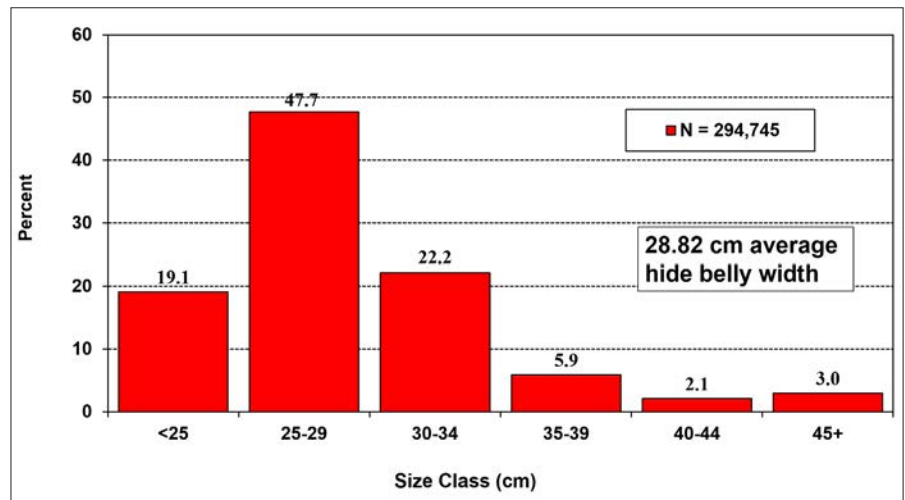


FIGURE 4. LOUISIANA FARM ALLIGATORS HARVESTED (2024 SKIN BELLY WIDTHS)



Beginning late winter and continuing into spring and summer of 2009, the worldwide economic recession significantly impacted world trade in raw and tanned alligator skins and manufactured products. Egg harvest numbers rebounded in 2011 and 2012, although some eggs were lost to coastal flooding in June 2012. Since early 2010, price and demand for

farm-raised alligators has continued to recover. The estimated nest count of 52,420 was a 3% increase from the 50,699 estimated nests in 2023, and the 2024 nest estimate remains relatively high compared to historic surveys. Alligator farm inventories have remained above pre-recession numbers since late 2016.

TABLE 3. Louisiana Alligator Ranching (1986-2024)

| YEAR | # OF PERMITS | EGGS COLLECTED | EGGS HATCHED | HATCH RATE | ALLIGATORS RETURNED TO WILD |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1986 | 3 | 2,903 | 1,985 | 68.4% | none |
| 1987 | 19 | 18,041 | 13,782 | 76.4% | none |
| 1988 | 60 | 64,887 | 50,394 | 77.7% | 1,680 |
| 1989 | 139 | 181,819 | 137,323 | 75.5% | 7,078 |
| 1990 | 233 | 293,412 | 231,434 | 78.9% | 6,088 |
| 1991 | 225 | 198,089 | 165,054 | 83.3% | 44,415 |
| 1992 | 172 | 164,892 | 133,463 | 80.9% | 35,230 |
| 1993 | 140 | 155,891 | 123,666 | 79.3% | 29,015 |
| 1994 | 158 | 266,408 | 223,011 | 83.7% | 21,632 |
| 1995 | 226 | 314,371 | 261,428 | 83.2% | 20,795 |
| 1996 | 273 | 279,237 | 233,076 | 83.5% | 40,919 |
| 1997 | 266 | 377,636 | 321,641 | 85.2% | 48,171 |
| 1998 | 281 | 280,870 | 240,118 | 85.5% | 36,732 |
| 1999 | 288 | 382,611 | 332,428 | 86.9% | 44,171 |
| 2000 | 322 | 279,217 | 236,313 | 84.6% | 39,559 |
| 2001 | 322 | 354,636 | 294,405 | 83.0% | 48,288 |
| 2002 | 353 | 354,523 | 304,448 | 85.9% | 32,716 |
| 2003 | 376 | 357,757 | 307,805 | 86.0% | 50,417 |
| 2004 | 397 | 397,569 | 350,661 | 88.2% | 47,431 |
| 2005 | 440 | 507,315 | 441,298 | 87.0% | 35,992 |
| 2006 | 483 | 271,790 | 224,724 | 82.7% | 40,694 |
| 2007 | 508 | 501,075 | 426,385 | 85.1% | 61,913 |
| 2008 | 552 | 529,527 | 459,928 | 86.9% | 48,578 |
| 2009 * | 253 | 29,822 | 25,077 | 84.1% | 54,391 |
| 2010 | 454 | 205,261 | 173,483 | 84.5% | 27,121 |
| 2011 | 531 | 353,176 | 300,546 | 85.1% | 14,357 |
| 2012 | 526 | 413,648 | 349,514 | 84.5% | 24,489 |
| 2013 | 560 | 498,285 | 432,386 | 86.8% | 38,349 |
| 2014 | 593 | 528,719 | 468,142 | 88.5% | 46,794 |
| 2015 | 651 | 465,100 | 394,231 | 84.8% | 51,316 |
| 2016 | 685 | 616,546 | 548,416 | 88.9% | 58,106 |
| 2017 | 680 | 387,373 | 332,711 | 85.9% | 49,112 |
| 2018 | 713 | 587,776 | 536,361 | 91.3% | 52,850 |
| 2019 | 699 | 650,878 | 579,008 | 89.0% | 38,598 |
| 2020 | 621 | 303,883 | 260,192 | 85.6% | 55,366 |
| 2021 | 484 | 462,537 | 406,208 | 87.8% | 35,803 |
| 2022 | 507 | 473,417 | 414,041 | 87.5% | 19,255 |
| 2023 | 529 | 453,827 | 380,057 | 83.7% | 19,225 |
| 2024 | 508 | 300,482 | 262,586 | 87.4% | 15,994 |
| Total | 15,230 | 13,265,206 | 11,377,729 | 85.8% | 1,342,640 |

*Worldwide economic recession caused alligator hide demand to decline dramatically.
Updated Oct. 2, 2025.

TABLE 4. Farm Alligator Harvest in Louisiana, 1972-2024^{1,8}

| YEAR ¹ | # OF FARMS | | # SKINS SOLD | AVG. TOTAL LENGTH IN FT. | SKIN VALUE | | MEAT ³ | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | LICENSED | SOLD SKINS | | | AVG./FOOT | TOTAL | AMOUNT (LBS) | VALUE |
| 1972 | 8 | 3 | 35 | 5 | \$8.10 | \$1,418 | 2 | 2 |
| 1973 | 8 | 5 | 103 | 6.33 | \$13.13 | \$8,561 | 2 | 2 |
| 1975 | 8 | 3 | 83 | 5.5 | \$7.88 | \$3,597 | 2 | 2 |
| 1976 | 8 | 3 | 360 | 5.75 | \$16.55 | \$34,259 | 2 | 2 |
| 1977 | 8 | 4 | 376 | 5.25 | \$12.23 | \$24,142 | 2 | 2 |
| 1980 | 8 | 1 | 191 | 4.67 | \$13.00 | \$11,596 | 957 | \$3,342 |
| 1981 | 8 | 3 | 360 | 4.67 | \$17.50 | \$29,421 | 1,801 | \$6,300 |
| 1982 | 8 | 1 | 113 | 4 | \$13.50 | \$6,102 | 452 | \$1,582 |
| 1983 | 14 | 6 | 1,449 | 4.58 | \$13.00 | \$86,273 | 7,253 | \$25,357 |
| 1984 | 12 | 7 | 2,836 | 4.25 | \$21.00 | \$253,113 | 11,354 | \$39,704 |
| 1985 | 15 | 12 | 4,430 | 4.25 | \$21.00 | \$395,378 | 17,736 | \$79,740 |
| 1986 | 22 | 15 | 5,925 | 4.5 | \$23.00 | \$613,238 | 26,687 | \$119,983 |
| 1987 | 30 | 23 | 10,670 | 4.42 | \$24.00 | \$1,131,874 | 48,060 | \$216,067 |
| 1988 | 47 | 38 | 27,749 | 4.25 | \$36.00 | \$4,245,597 | 111,094 | \$554,980 |
| 1989 | 83 | 68 | 66,737 | 3.98 | \$32.00 | \$8,499,624 | 300,877 | \$1,202,362 |
| 1990 | 123 | 80 | 88,424 | 4.03 | \$24.00 | \$8,552,369 | 397,732 | \$1,786,059 |
| 1991 | 134 | 91 | 118,976 | 4.13 | \$15.00 | \$7,370,563 | 536,379 | \$2,380,000 |
| 1992 | 125 | 85 | 128,026 | 4.04 | \$12.00 | \$6,206,700 | 578,289 | \$2,566,000 |
| 1993 | 101 | 70 | 121,700 | 3.87 | \$17.00 | \$8,006,643 | 388,010 | \$1,720,000 |
| 1994 | 89 | 62 | 136,126 | 3.67 | \$20.00 | \$9,991,648 | 277,780 | \$1,197,000 |
| 1995 | 83 | 50 | 125,460 | 3.88 | \$20.00 | \$9,735,696 | 331,395 | \$1,323,000 |
| 1996 | 81 | 51 | 161,845 | 3.91 | \$15.50 | \$9,808,616 | 511,668 | \$2,297,900 |
| 1997 | 75 | 36 | 169,988 | 3.74 | \$16.75 | \$10,648,898 | 542,332 | \$2,435,700 |
| 1998 | 73 | 38 | 154,399 | 3.79 | \$17.00 | \$9,947,928 | 490,990 | \$2,209,455 |
| 1999 | 66 | 35 | 187,570 | 3.64 | \$17.00 | \$11,606,832 | 552,693 | \$2,487,119 |
| 2000 | 66 | 35 | 219,827 | 3.81 | \$20.50 | \$17,169,588 | 659,481 | \$2,967,665 |
| 2001 | 63 | 32 | 180,391 | 3.79 | \$20.50 | \$14,015,479 | 541,173 | \$2,435,279 |
| 2002 | 61 | 32 | 237,808 | 3.73 | \$23.50 | \$20,845,060 | 713,424 | \$3,210,408 |
| 2003 | 57 | 32 | 277,604 | 3.81 | \$24.00 | \$25,384,110 | 832,812 | \$3,747,654 |
| 2004 | 55 | 32 | 297,376 | 3.87 | \$26.00 | \$29,921,973 | 892,128 | \$4,014,576 |
| 2005 | 57 | 31 | 256,446 | 3.91 | \$38.00 | \$38,102,747 | 769,338 | \$3,462,021 |
| 2006 | 58 | 29 | 272,570 | 4.05 | \$42.50 | \$46,916,111 | 817,710 | \$3,679,695 |

| YEAR ¹ | # OF FARMS | | # SKINS SOLD | BELLY WIDTH IN CM ⁴ | SKIN VALUE | | MEAT ³ | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | LICENSED | SOLD SKINS | | | AVG./CM | TOTAL | AMOUNT (LBS) | VALUE |
| 2007 | 63 | 29 | 305,176 | 24.79 | \$7.25 | \$54,848,520 | 915,528 | \$4,119,876 |
| 2008 ⁵ | 60 | 31 | 290,267 | 26.41 | \$5.50 | \$42,162,733 | 870,801 | \$3,918,605 |
| 2009 | 59 | 28 | 304,196 | 28.64 | \$5.00 | \$43,560,867 | 912,588 | \$4,106,646 |
| 2010 ⁶ | 57 | 22 | 161,937 | 27.50 | \$6.50 | \$28,946,239 | 485,811 | \$2,186,150 |
| 2011 | 56 | 18 | 244,670 | 26.26 | \$8.00 | \$51,400,274 | 734,010 | \$5,138,070 |
| 2012 | 59 | 22 | 293,590 | 25.92 | \$8.50 | \$64,683,749 | 880,770 | \$6,165,390 |
| 2013 ⁷ | 53 | 15 | 100,669 | 25.45 | \$8.50 | \$21,777,221 | 302,007 | \$2,114,049 |
| 2014 | 54 | 21 | 341,888 | 25.77 | \$8.50 | \$74,888,857 | 1,025,664 | \$7,179,648 |
| 2015 | 56 | 19 | 328,964 | 26.19 | \$7.50 | \$64,616,754 | 986,892 | \$6,908,244 |
| 2016 | 57 | 20 | 394,050 | 26.60 | \$6.50 | \$68,131,245 | 1,182,150 | \$8,275,050 |
| 2017 | 57 | 20 | 382,041 | 27.31 | \$7.50 | \$78,251,548 | 1,146,123 | \$8,022,861 |
| 2018 | 56 | 23 | 450,221 | 28.07 | \$7.50 | \$94,782,776 | 1,350,663 | \$9,454,641 |
| 2019 | 58 | 22 | 439,245 | 27.00 | \$6.50 | \$77,087,498 | 1,317,735 | \$9,224,145 |
| 2020 | 59 | 23 | 390,717 | 27.45 | \$6.50 | \$69,713,681 | 1,172,151 | \$8,205,057 |
| 2021 | 55 | 21 | 399,713 | 28.88 | \$6.50 | \$75,034,124 | 1,199,139 | \$8,393,973 |
| 2022 | 56 | 19 | 320,804 | 28.67 | \$6.50 | \$59,783,429 | 962,412 | \$6,736,884 |
| 2023 | 58 | 17 | 371,926 | 28.34 | \$6.50 | \$68,512,488 | 1,115,778 | \$7,810,446 |
| 2024 | 56 | 14 | 300,935 | 28.82 | \$6.50 | \$56,374,154 | 902,805 | \$6,319,635 |

1. Tag year extends from September of the year designated to the next September (example: 1997 = 9/97 to 8/98).
2. Sale of meat not permitted; La. Health Department regulations first allowed meat sales in 1979.
3. Deboned from 1980-present.
4. Average total length for 2007 is 4.08', 2008 is 4.25', 2009 is 4.58', 2010 is 4.42', 2011 is 4.25' and 2012 is 4.25'.
5. Worldwide economic recession caused alligator skin price to decline dramatically.
6. Low harvest resulted from reduced egg collections in 2009 due to worldwide economic recession.
7. 2013 was transition year to tag year coinciding with calendar year. 2013 tag year only represents 9/1 to 12/31 (4 months).
8. LDWF is currently contracting LSU AgCenter to evaluate meat yield and value for both farm and wild alligator harvest. Current calculations are derived from research done more than 30 years ago and should be viewed as conservative values of meat yield and value.

NOTE: Subject to change numbers updated Oct. 8, 2025.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

In order to better meet the needs of the alligator industry, LDWF sponsors meetings for all segments of the industry (farmers, hunters and landowners) which gives the industry participants an opportunity to prioritize and discuss the current issues facing the state's alligator industry. LDWF also created specific e-mail (LAalligatorprogram@wfla.gov) and website (www.lagatorprogram.com) addresses for the alligator program to provide additional and easier methods for alligator industry participants and the general public to ask questions and acquire information. Alligator program staff members continue to compile and update contact information, including e-mail addresses, which are used to promptly notify participants of available and arising program information. In addition to the on-site visits, the staff communicates with farmers on a regular basis to schedule releases, hide inspections, live animal inspections, coordinate farm transfers, alligator egg collection permits, and to issue and follow up on CITES harvest tags.

Numerous wildlife groups, including university faculty and students, were hosted at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge for educational purposes; as were professional representatives from domestic and international organizations. Presentations were made at various civic organizations and captive alligators were often loaned out for educational purposes.

LDWF, along with 10 other alligator range states, has launched the GatorWise website. The site is a collaborative effort from all Southeastern states with alligator populations to educate the general public on the basics of coexisting safely with alligators. The site can be reached at www.Gatorwise.org. The goal of this site is to promote realistic public perceptions about alligators and assist the public in taking appropriate action to minimize conflict. LDWF recently rented space on 16 billboards statewide to promote GatorWise.



NUISANCE ALLIGATOR PROGRAM

LDWF manages a statewide nuisance alligator control program. The nuisance program is designed to remove problem alligators in order to avoid potential human/alligator conflicts. Through the process of nuisance alligator hunter appointments and annual renewals, LDWF maintains a statewide network of qualified nuisance alligator hunters. Nuisance alligator complaints are phoned into various LDWF offices, where complaints are recorded and then forwarded to a nuisance alligator hunter in the vicinity of the complaint. Nuisance hunters respond promptly and catch and remove the alligator as deemed necessary. Hunters are allowed to harvest the nuisance alligator and to process the meat and skin of the alligator for commercial sale. This process provides for immediate response to problem alligators and for payment to the nuisance alligator hunter, thereby minimizing the program operating costs to LDWF. In 2024, low hide prices presented challenges to retention of nuisance trappers, despite LDWF authorizing incentive payments to participating nuisance hunters beginning in 2018.

During 2024-2025, approximately 58 nuisance alligator hunters were enrolled in the program; annually the nuisance hunters respond to several thousand complaints and harvest more than a 1,000 alligators.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The following list provides a summary of the various research and monitoring projects that the alligator program staff conducted and/or participated in during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

MONITORING

1. Evaluation of Survival, Growth and Reproduction in Farm Released Alligators

This activity involves numerous projects related to survival analysis, growth, and reproductive success (farm-released vs. native wild). Information on size class frequency distribution of wild alligator populations and susceptibility to harvest is provided annually to enhance survival estimates. We now have

"re-traps" that were captured over 21 years since release, and this is undoubtedly one of the largest mark-recapture projects currently in progress. Following the survival, growth and dispersal of farm-released alligators is a key component to our management, monitoring and research programs that will continue for many years to come.

2. Coast-wide Nest Survey

The annual coastal nesting survey is essential for monitoring our alligator population, and is used annually to determine wild alligator and wild alligator egg harvest quotas (for the adult harvest each September as well as egg ranching quotas). This is an integral part of our required "finding of no detriment" needed to achieve export authorization by the USFWS.

3. Evaluation of Statewide Harvest Program

We continue to analyze size class frequency distribution, average size, sex ratios, etc. for alligators harvested each year. This project, coupled with the coast wide nest survey provides critical information regarding the status of the wild alligator population. Data generated from these projects provides the basis for evaluating the impact of our current harvest strategies and for establishment of annual wild harvest quotas.

4. Evaluation of Alligator Nest Density

LDWF biologists work with cooperating alligator farmers to gain access to their GPS data from annual egg collections. This data will fa-

cilitate comparisons between our coast-wide nest survey and estimates of nest density as recorded by the farmer during egg collections. Some farmers have advised staff of notable changes in nest production on selected wetlands; close review of this nesting production data will allow us to evaluate nest distribution and density changes over time.

5. Alligator Disease Monitoring

LDWF, in conjunction with LSU School of Veterinary Medicine (LSUSVM), continues to monitor the occurrence of WNV on alligator farms in Louisiana. Initial mortality related to WNV occurred in fall/winter 2003. Aggressive mosquito control on farms has reduced on-farm mosquito populations and seems to have reduced the incidence of WNV in recent years. During fiscal year 2023-2024, LDWF was able to secure a \$500,000 APHIS grant to monitor WNV and other infectious diseases to alligators. A research program was developed to monitor the transfer of WNV antibodies from adult breeding females directly to their eggs and newly hatched offspring. Another aspect of the grant was used to identify Chlamydia sp. strains that are prevalent in alligator farms in Louisiana. Approximately 3,000 liver samples were collected from harvested alligators at various farms across the state. The LSUSVM prescreened each sample for the presence of Chlamydia sp. and all positive samples were shipped to the University of Georgia (UGA) for additional DNA sequencing. A new unidentified strain of Chlamydia has been discovered as a result of the DNA sequencing.

An additional \$500,000 grant was secured from APHIS during fiscal year 2024-2025. The funds from this grant are being used to fund two separate alligator disease projects in the state of Louisiana. One research project is being conducted by the LSUSVM to study the longevity of West Nile Virus antibodies of hatchling alligators vaccinated with the West Nile Virus vaccine and also collect data to determine the extent and prevalence of naturally occurring West Nile Virus antibodies in wild alligators.

The second project is being conducted by Murray Biological Solutions to study the prevalence of other alligator diseases in the wild alligator and to determine if farming and ranching activities have any impacts on distribution of alligator diseases.

We continued to have expertise from staff at LSUSVM available if needed to collect samples from farm alligators to monitor for any health concerns, provide diagnostics as needed, and assist with other health surveillance parameters.

6. Best Management Practices

LDWF and LSUSVM, in conjunction with the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association, developed a document entitled "Best Management Practices for Louisiana Alligator Farming." The document was first distributed in June 2011 and details recommended practices to ensure animal welfare of captive-reared alligators in Louisiana, including egg collection, hatching, rearing, release to the wild and euthanasia. This document continues being updated (most recently in January 2022) as new information pertinent to alligator farming becomes available. The intent of this document is to ensure that licensed alligator farms/ranches are employing humane methods of working with alligators. Through industry contributions, Dr. Javier Nevarez at LSUSVM has continued to work with LDWF staff to update Best Management Practices as needed. This has been even more important recently with international recognition of animal welfare concerns on crocodilian farms worldwide.

7. Night Count Surveys

Due to increasing public demand for alligator harvest opportunities, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Alligator Management Program has been tasked with developing and implementing more intensive alligator population survey methodologies outside of the state's coastal zone. Prior research has shown that habitats in Louisiana's riparian zones support fewer alligators than coastal marsh habitats. Since July 2023, LDWF staff have been developing a modern nightlight survey protocol to begin collecting better population data in central and north Louisiana. May 15 – June 30 of 2025, LDWF staff ran 20 survey routes across the state's riparian zone. These surveys were conducted on private and public waterbodies throughout the area of interest. The information gathered from these surveys will enhance the Department's understanding of alligator population dynamics outside of coastal marsh habitats and therefore assist in developing management goals and objectives.

CONTRACTS

1. Diagnostic Services - LSUSVM (Dr. Javier Nevarez)

Dr. Javier Nevarez is contracted to provide diagnostic services as needed for the alligator industry. Farmers may consult with Dr. Nevarez at any time for assistance with any alligator husbandry or disease issue. Our staff often assists with logistics and transport of alligators/samples to LSUSVM in Baton Rouge for evaluation. Periodic health surveillance of farm released alligators is conducted to monitor health status of farm

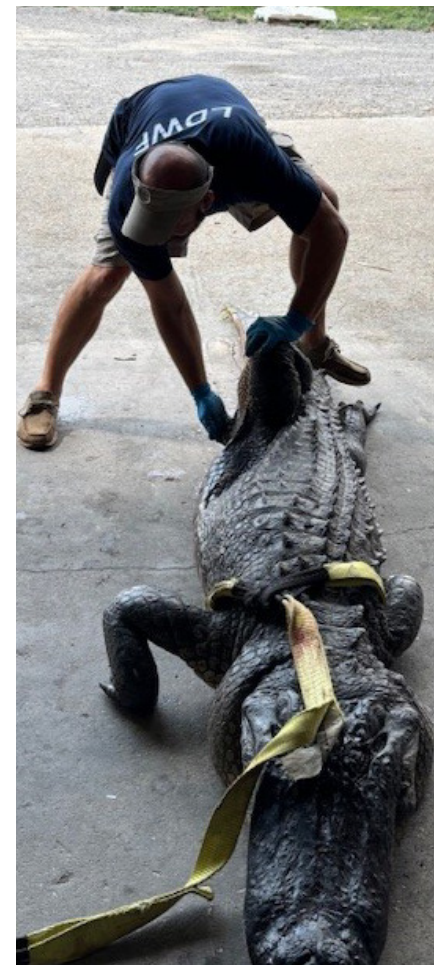
alligators released to the wild. Dr. Nevarez and colleagues continued working with LDWF to evaluate possible culture of Chlamydia and Mycoplasma from wild and captive (farm-released) alligators in 2024-2025.

2. Health Monitoring - LSUSVM (Dr. Javier Nevarez)

Dr. Javier Nevarez has been instrumental in providing guidance in evaluating concerns over possible disease introduction from alligators (predominantly hatchlings) imported from other southeastern states. Concerns are focused on Mycoplasma and Chlamydia. In 2024-2025, we contracted with him to collect and analyze samples from imported hatchlings and additional wild alligators to survey for prevalence of these microorganisms, if present.

OTHER RESEARCH

In addition to LDWF research studies, we continued to support and collaborate with graduate students, post-doctoral research associates, and university faculty with their research studies on numerous projects. Associates from several universities were hosted at Rockefeller in 2024-2025 to collect data on alligator behavior, eggs, or alligator specimens for several studies.



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE INFORMATION

The Louisiana alligator industry is a vital aspect of Louisiana's economy. The Louisiana Legislature recognized that there were many national and international impediments to the industry's development, and that there was a need to develop and maintain a comprehensive alligator conservation program. In 1991, the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund was established by the legislature to address this need (R.S. 56:279). This Act established a dedicated source of revenue intended to help defray the costs of the alligator program within the Office of Wildlife of LDWF. The specific goals of the legislation are:

1. To provide salaries and financial support including associated indirect costs for the following positions, to provide a minimum of six full-time technical positions (biologists) and eight nontechnical positions such as computer operators, secretaries, and wildlife specialists existing within the Office of Wildlife of LDWF.
2. To assist with funding for law enforcement activities associated with the alligator farm and wild industry when surplus funds are available and recommended by the Louisiana Alligator Advisory Council.

3. To assist with funding marketing programs recommended by the Louisiana Alligator Advisory Council when surplus funds are available.
4. To actively fund research on all aspects involved with alligator conservation and to develop the techniques needed to enhance the commercial alligator industry.
5. To assist in funding management of the alligator population through proper management, harvest and farm facility management.

This legislation provides all the enabling language required to establish the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund including sources of income, investing of the fund, and expenditures from the fund. Further R.S. 56: 253 establishes the alligator hide tag fee and the alligator shipping label fee, specifies the details of collection of these fees, and establishes that these fees shall be no more than \$4.00 per hide or live alligator. R.S. 56:279 C (1) provides that all revenues received by the state from tag fees and alligator shipping label fees on alligator skins shall be credited to the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund. During the 2012 legislative

session, R.S.56:279 was amended to provide that monies from various additional alligator revenue sources are deposited in to the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund. House Bill 643 (ACT 131) provided that "all revenues derived from the sale of alligators, alligator skins, or alligator eggs harvested from department administered lands, all fees derived from alligator lottery harvest programs on department administered lands and public waters and all revenues derived from any other alligator related fee," be credited to the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund. The bill also provided that the Office of Wildlife may expend funds from the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund for alligator program administration. This change resulted in additional revenue for the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund.

During FY 2024-2025, \$2,522,454 was deposited into the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund, an increase in revenue of \$226,142 from the previous year. Harvest and value of farm-raised alligators remained fairly consistent this fiscal year, however wild hide prices remained low. Annual income and expenditure data for the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund is reported in *Table 5*.

TABLE 5. Alligator Resource Fund Income, Expenditures, and Balance, FY 2019-2025

| | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Severance | 97,643 | 115,782 | 94,096 | 31,467 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Interest | 115,283 | 65,828 | 1,540 | 3,859 | 8,243 | 11,018 | 90,630 |
| Shipping Label Fees | 241,192 | 168,308 | 58,784 | 204,696 | 183,400 | 239,696 | 209,596 |
| Collection Permit Fees | 5,625 | 4,500 | 4,700 | 5,350 | 5,475 | 5,050 | 5,575 |
| Hide Tag Fees | 1,562,285 | 1,739,462 | 1,131,532 | 1,158,297 | 1,370,071 | 1,045,973 | 1,241,981 |
| Res. Alligator Hunter Licenses | 70,325 | 87,975 | 79,250 | 95,875 | 111,275 | 118,625 | 140,030 |
| N/R Alligator Hunter Licenses | 94,800 | 138,900 | 132,750 | 175,800 | 276,450 | 307,650 | 326,400 |
| Misc Income | 399 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 8,420 | 0 |
| Industry Generated Revenue | 2,187,552 | 2,320,755 | 1,502,652 | 1,675,380 | 1,954,914 | 1,736,432 | 2,014,212 |
| Hides/ Harvest | 83,470 | 106,875 | 50,008 | 53,211 | 119,180 | 147,640 | 153,652 |
| Egg Harvest | 381,737 | 87,480 | 157,624 | 209,870 | 317,505 | 237,465 | 181,755 |
| Lottery | 2,710 | 15,190 | 65,730 | 88,302 | 94,350 | 174,775 | 172,835 |
| WMA Generated Revenue | 467,917 | 209,545 | 273,362 | 351,383 | 531,035 | 559,880 | 508,242 |
| Total Revenue | 2,655,469 | 2,530,300 | 1,776,014 | 2,026,763 | 2,485,949 | 2,296,312 | 2,522,454 |
| Less Expenditures | 1,854,170 | 2,466,482 | 2,065,273 | 2,381,682 | 1,986,649 | 2,267,974 | 2,266,548 |
| Capital Outlay-FPC (T130) | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Add balance from prior year | 5,285,002 | 4,586,301 | 4,650,119 | 4,360,858 | 4,005,939 | 4,505,239 | 4,533,577 |
| YEAR END BALANCE | 4,586,301 | 4,650,119 | 4,360,860 | 4,005,939 | 4,505,239 | 4,533,577 | 4,789,483 |

Table 6 summarizes the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund expenditures by the alligator management program for FY 2023, 2024 and 2025. Expenditures by the alligator management program totaled \$2,266,548 in 2024-2025. This is reflective of the stability in program activities associated with stabilized harvests levels (wild alligators, wild alligator eggs, and farm-raised alligators). Currently the alligator program staff consists of six biologists, three wildlife technicians, two administrative coordinators, one data manager, and two to four seasonal WAE technicians.

All expenditures from the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund are provided for in R.S. 56:279. LDWF carefully approves and monitors all expenditures to ensure compliance with all legal requirements. LDWF's fiscal office can produce a variety of expenditure and budget reports upon request.

TABLE 6. Alligator Management Program Expenditures For Fiscal Years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

| BUDGET CATEGORY | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Services | \$1,129,670 | \$1,270,235 | \$1,235,386 |
| Travel | \$24,593 | \$32,031 | \$27,317 |
| Operating Services | \$74,357 | \$46,357 | \$162,971 |
| Supplies | \$77,317 | \$68,159 | \$69,669 |
| Professional Services | \$403,585 | \$486,259 | \$87,687 |
| Other Charges | \$222,421 | \$238,947 | \$524,770 |
| Acquisitions | \$0 | \$92,304 | \$86,607 |
| Major Repairs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Interagency Billings | \$54,705 | \$33,682 | \$72,141 |
| TOTALS | \$1,986,648 | \$2,267,974 | \$2,266,548 |

HABITAT CONCERNS

One threat or potential limiting factor to Louisiana's alligator population is habitat loss. Because the vast majority of Louisiana's alligators are in the coastal parishes, saltwater intrusion and wetlands/marsh deterioration from numerous causes are very real threats. Additionally, the combined impact of recent hurricanes will likely result in long-term reduction of alligator habitat quality in coastal Louisiana.

Vast resources by numerous state and federal agencies have been expended to attempt to limit these losses. Projects to restore/enhance marshes include construction of earthen terraces (to reduce wave action and turbidity), "breakwaters" and protection levees along coastlines, vegetative plantings, marsh restoration, and freshwater diversions. Alligators benefit directly from these efforts to maintain/enhance wetlands. The freshwater diversion projects (Davis Pond and Caernarvon) shift water from the Mississippi River in hopes of re-establishing more favorable salinity conditions for numerous fish and wildlife species. Some preliminary data suggests alligator nesting has improved in the areas enhanced by lower marsh salinity levels. It is critical that habitat changes are monitored, mapped and incorporated periodically into the alligator program. This will ensure that our harvest programs are adjusted accordingly for corresponding alligator population and habitat changes.

SUMMARY

Louisiana's alligator management program has clearly illustrated that controlled sustained use of the species is successful. The wild harvest has been in place for 53 years and the egg ranching program for 39 years and may appear to operate unchanged every year. However, constant adaptations are made to try to improve both programs. Requests by user groups (farmers, egg ranchers, trappers, landowners, buyers, dealers and other industry personnel) are received and considered as LDWF strives to safely manage the alligator resource to the benefit of many user groups with varied interests.

Louisiana's alligator industry is unique. It has recognized the importance of establishing a self-generated revenue source to provide the necessary regulatory and management efforts required to effectively manage the alligator resource. LDWF will continue to protect the alligator as a resource while striving to ensure long-term, sustainable harvest programs. During FY 2024-2025, LDWF, through the use of the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund, has worked toward achievement of the goals established by the Louisiana Legislature.



EXHIBIT 1

2024 MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY PARISH

| | Tag Allotment/Marsh Type | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | Brackish | Intermediate | Fresh |
| (A)Cameron East | 1:225 | 1:100 | 1:100 |
| (A)Cameron Central | 1:300 | 1:225 | 1:115 |
| (A)Cameron West | 1:225 | 1:100 | 1:130 |
| Calcasieu | 1:250 | 1:110 | 1:80 |
| Jeff Davis | | | 1:90 |
| (B)Vermilion West | 1:85 | 1:80 | 1:115 |
| (B)Vermilion East | 1:140 | 1:140 | 1:75 |
| Iberia | | 1:120 | 1:120 |
| St. Mary | | 1:65 | 1:65 |
| Terrebonne | 1:125 | 1:55 | 1:55 |
| Lafourche | 1:140 | 1:55 | 1:90 |
| St. Charles | 1:75 | 1:65 | 1:65 |
| St. John the Baptist | | 1:55 | 1:55 |
| Jefferson | 1:200 | 1:55 | 1:55 |
| Orleans | 1:300 | 1:300 | |
| (C) Plaquemines West | 1:250 | 1:150 | 1:55 |
| (D)Plaquemines East | 1:300 | 1:80 | 1:55 |
| Plaquemines Delta | 1:225 | 1:175 | 1:160 |
| St. Bernard | 1:300 | 1:80 | |
| St. Tammany | 1:125 | 1:55 | 1:55 |
| Tangipahoa | | 1:55 | 1:120 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Cypress-Tupelo Swamp | 1:100 |
| Dewatered Marsh | 1:300 |
| (E)Transitional Marsh | 1:300 |

(A)The dividing line for Cameron East and Central is the Mermentau River, the dividing line for Cameron Central and West is the Calcasieu River/Calcasieu Lake.

(B)The dividing line for Vermilion East and West is the Vermilion River Cutoff (4-mile cut).

(C)Marsh west of Mississippi River.

(D)Marsh east of Mississippi River.

(E)Marsh areas which are characterized by a generally declining alligator population caused by degradation of habitat.

**2024 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY OFFICE AND PARISH
LAKE REGION**

| OFFICE | PARISH | HABITAT | ACRES OF HABITAT | TAG ALLOTMENT | REMARKS | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minden | Bienville/ Bossier/ Webster | Lake Bistineau | 1,720 | 57 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Caddo | Wallace Lake | 2,000 | 39 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Bossier | Cypress/Black Bayou LK | 400 | 57 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Caddo | Cross Lake | 500 | 57 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Caddo | Caddo Lake | 1,800 | 21 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Bienville | Kepler Lake | 250 | 39 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Jackson | Caney Lake | 5,000 | 15 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Bossier | Ivan Lake (Bodcau) | 520 | 9 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Claiborne | Corney Lake | 1,600 | 9 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Claiborne | Lake Claiborne | 6,400 | 9 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| SUB TOTAL | Bossier, Webster | Bodcau WMA (excluding Lake Ivan) | 3,160 | 6 | WMA Lottery Harvest | |
| | | | 23,350 | 318 | | |
| Pineville | Rapides | Kincaid Lake | 1,000 | 15 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Rapides | Indian Creek | 500 | 15 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Rapides | Cotile Lake | 400 | 15 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Grant | Nantachie Lake | 800 | 21 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Winn | Saline Lake | 3,000 | 36 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Natchitoches | Black Lake | 1,000 | 36 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | Sabine, DeSoto | Toledo Bend | 4,000 | 60 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | SUB TOTAL | | | 10,700 | 198 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Monroe | Ouachita | Bayou Desaird North | 580 | 18 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest |
| Ouachita/ Morehouse | | Bartholomew Lake | 405 | 18 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| Tensas | | Big Lake WMA | 1,000 | 42 | WMA Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Buckhorn WMA | 300 | 36 | WMA Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Lake St. Joseph | 800 | 84 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Lake Bruin | 2,800 | 27 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Lake St. John | 200 | 60 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Beouf WMA | 2,200 | 81 | WMA Lottery Harvest | |
| | | Lake Concordia | 800 | 60 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| | | D'Arbonne Lake | 1800 | 30 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest | |
| SUB TOTAL | | Russell Sage WMA | 4300 | 45 | WMA Lottery Harvest | |
| | | | 15,185 | 501 | | |

**2024 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY OFFICE AND PARISH
LAKE REGION**

| OFFICE | PARISH | HABITAT | ACRES OF HABITAT | TAG ALLOTMENT | REMARKS |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------|---|
| Lake Charles | Evangeline Beauregard | Chicot Lake Bundicks Lake | 1,625 | 30 | State Parks (Experimental Harvest) Public Lake Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 400 | 12 | |
| | Vernon | Anacoco Lake Vernon Lake Sabine Island WMA | 1,000 | 18 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 4,600 | 15 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 3,085 | 15 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| SUB TOTAL | | | 10,710 | 90 | |
| Lafayette (Opelousas Zone) | Avoyelles | Grassy Lake WMA Grassy Lake WMA Spring Bayou WMA Spring Bayou WMA Pomme-de-Terre WMA | 1,000 | 45 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | | | | 30 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | | | 5,000 | 120 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 800 | 90 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | | | | 12 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | Iberia/St. Martin | Attakapas WMA | 26,300 | 30 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | | | | 35 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | Assumption | Elm Hall WMA | 2,843 | 60 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | Iberville, Pt. Coupee | Sherburne COE Lands | 3,300 | 33 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | Iberville, St. Martin, Pt. Coupee | Sherburne WMA | 11,780 | 36 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | St. Landry, St. Martin | Indian Bayou COE Lands | 2,878 | 30 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | Concordia | Richard K Yancey WMA | 8,000 | 20 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | La Salle La Salle Point Coupee | Dewey Wills WMA Dewey Wills WMA False River | 8,000 | 255 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 8,000 | 75 | WMA Lottery Harvest |
| | | | 3,000 | 30 | Highest Bidder Basis |
| | | | | 9 | Public Lake Lottery Harvest |
| SUB TOTAL | | | 72,901 | 910 | |
| LAKE REGION TOTALS | | | 132,846 | 2,017 | Experimental Harvests |

**2024 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY OFFICE AND PARISH
CYPRESS-TUPELO SWAMP REGION**

| OFFICE | PARISH | ACRES OF HABITAT | TAG ALLOTMENT | ACRES/TAG | REMARKS |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Lafayette (Opelousas Zone) | Iberville | 29,880 | 299 | 100 | Tag allotment based upon review of prior years harvest statistics, night counts and alligator model. |
| | Lafayette | 1,200 | 12 | 100 | |
| | Pointe Coupee | 1,000 | 10 | 100 | |
| | W. Baton Rouge | 7,040 | 71 | 100 | |
| SUB TOTAL | | 39,120 | 392 | 100 | |
| Baton Rouge | Ascension | 40,320 | 404 | 100 | Tag allotment based upon review of prior years harvest statistics, night counts and alligator model. |
| | E. Baton Rouge | 2,000 | 20 | 100 | |
| | Livingston | 66,720 | 668 | 100 | |
| | Tangipahoa | 36,181 | 362 | 100 | |
| SUB TOTAL | | 145,221 | 1,454 | 100 | |
| New Orleans | St. Charles | 39,340 | 394 | 100 | Tag allotment based upon review of prior years harvest statistics, night counts and alligator model. |
| | St. James | 76,960 | 770 | 100 | |
| | St. John | 104,320 | 1,044 | 100 | |
| | | | | | |
| SUB TOTAL | | 220,620 | 2,208 | 100 | |
| Lafayette (New Iberia – Bourg Zone) | Assumption | 98,560 | 986 | 100 | Tag allotment based upon review of prior years harvest statistics, night counts and alligator model. |
| | Iberia | 31,550 | 316 | 100 | |
| | Lafourche | 112,350 | 1,124 | 100 | |
| | St. Mary | 60,190 | 602 | 100 | |
| | Terrebonne | 43,014 | 431 | 100 | |
| | | | | | |
| SUB TOTAL | | 345,664 | 3,459 | 100 | |
| SWAMP TOTAL | | 750,625 | 7,513 | 100 | |

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ALLIGATOR HABITAT

| REGION | ACREAGE | DESCRIPTION |
|--|---------|--|
| A. Henderson Lake | 15,000 | Bounded on the west by the West Guide Levee, on the North by Little Fardoche Bayou, on the east by the Haha Bay and Gim Slough and on the south by La. Hwy. 3177. |
| B. Crook Chen Cove- Buffalo Cove | 32,000 | Beginning at the northwest corner of Attakapas W.M.A.: A line north along Lake Fausse Point Cut to Bayou Benoit; west to the West Guide Levee, north to the East-West Canal located approximately 3 miles south of Catahoula, La.: East approximately 2 miles to canal; southeast on the same canal to Bayou Crook Chene; east to the main channel of the Atchafalaya River; south to the north boundary of Attakapas W.M.A.; west to point of beginning. |
| C. Spike Bay-Berry Lake | 8,000 | Beginning at a point 1-1/2 miles northwest of Bayou Sorrel Landing; west along canal 5 miles; south along Spike Bay for 2 miles; east to intersect Bayou Sorrel then continue east along Bayou Sorrel to East Guide Levee; north to point of beginning. |
| D. Upper Grand River Flats | 12,000 | Beginning at Upper Grand River Landing: north along East Guide Levee approximately 9 miles to a canal running northwest; northwest along that canal 2-1/2 miles to King's Ditch; south approximately 5 miles to include Billy Little Lakes; southeast approximately 4 miles to intersection of Upper Grand River and Little Tensas Bayou, east along Upper Grand River to point of beginning. |
| E. Bayou Pigeon-Belle River-Flat Lake | 140,000 | Beginning at Bayou Pigeon Landing; south along East Guide Levee to Morgan City (excluding Flat Lake); north-northwest along east side of the main channel of Six Mile Lake approximately 10 miles to 21-Inch Canal; northeast on 21-Inch Canal to Bayou Boutte; north on Bayou Boutte to the east boundary line of Attakapas W.M.A.; then north along its east boundary to Grand Lake; north along the east bank of Grand Lake to Keelboat Pass; northeast along Keelboat Pass and Flat Lake Pass to intersection of Williams Canal and a canal running southwest-northeast; northeast along that canal to intersection of Intracoastal Canal (East Guide Levee); south to Bayou Pigeon Landing. |
| TOTAL ALLIGATOR HABITAT WITHIN BASIN TYPE | 207,000 | Tags may be issued at the rate of one tag per 200 acres of habitat. |

2024 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY REGIONS

| REGION | ACRES OF HABITAT | ALLOTMENT | ACRES/TAG | REMARKS |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|---|
| Public Lakes/Non-Coastal WMAs | 140,901 | 2,017 | | Includes public lakes and non-coastal Wildlife Management Areas. Tag allotment may vary depending on alligator populations. |
| Cypress-Tupelo Swamp | 750,625 | 7,513 | 100 | Swamp habitat outside the Atchafalaya Basin. |
| Atchafalaya Basin | 207,000 | 1,035 | 200 | That portion of the Atchafalaya Basin determined to be Cypress-Tupelo swamp containing permanent water as determined by aerial observations as well as approximately 400 miles of travel by boat during April-June, 1985. |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1,084,226 | 10,565 | | |

Additionally: Any private cypress-lake region habitat or coastal marsh alligator habitat determined by Department personnel to have a reproducing population may be issued tags at the rate of one tag per 80 acres of habitat; exceptionally dense alligator populations on a localized area may be issued tags at the rate of 1 tag per 25 acres of habitat (requires coordination and annual evaluation with Coastal and Nongame Resources or Wildlife Division personnel). Tags may be issued on the following waterways at a rate of one tag per 500 yards of frontage: Red River within the 3 main management units; Ouachita River from the Arkansas line to the Catahoula Parish line; Boeuf River from the Arkansas line to where the Boeuf River completely crosses into Catahoula Parish near Deer Creek; Tensas River from the East Carroll Parish line to the Concordia Parish line; Lafourche Drainage Canal from south of LA 134 at the Morehouse and Richland Parish line to the Boeuf River at the Fort Necessity Recreation Area. In areas containing minimal acreage of isolated parcels of non-contiguous wetland habitat, an individual landowner may apply for an alligator harvest tag to remove an alligator from his property during the open alligator season. Such habitats include fresh marsh, cypress-tupelo swamp, lake habitat, ponds/borrow pits.

All allotments may be altered pending habitat and biological assessment.

Approved by:



Madison D. Sheahan, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

8-9-2024

DATE



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