

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 7, 2022**

**Joe McPherson  
Chairman**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Joe McPherson', written over a horizontal line.

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not verbatim transcripts of the proceedings.

Audio files of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 763-5775

**AGENDA**  
**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
**April 7, 2022 – 9:30 AM**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of March 3, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of April 7, 2022 Agenda
6. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
7. Receive a Review of the 2021 Recreational Red Snapper Season and Consider the 2022 Recreational Season
8. Enforcement Report, March 2022
9. Receive Public Comments for the Notice of Intent on Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Bird Rules and Regulations, including General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2022-2023
10. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
11. Receive a Report on the 2022 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments
12. Receive Public Comments
13. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on April 7, 2022, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room by **Chairman McPherson**.

**Commissioner Sunseri** led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Chairman McPherson** asked for the **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Andrew Blanchard  
Bill Hogan  
Joe McPherson  
Gene Reynolds  
Kevin Sagrera  
Al Sunseri

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

**Commissioner Brandon DeCuir** was absent from the meeting.

Next, **Chairman McPherson** called for **Adoption of March 3, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to adopt the March 3, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Sagrera**. The motion passed with no opposition.

**Chairman McPherson** asked for **Approval of April 7, 2022 Agenda**. General Counsel Cole Garrett requested that item 10 on red snapper follow Commission Special Announcements and there was no objection to that change. **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to approve the April 7, 2022 amended Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and unanimously approved.

Under **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, Secretary Montoucet provided to the Commissioners a new brochure noting key people in the Department; he then thanked Mr. Ed Pratt and his staff for putting this together. The Secretary added that this would be handed out also to all legislators for their use. **Chairman McPherson** also thanked Mr. Pratt.

Then **Chairman McPherson** stated there needed to be something done with IT in the Louisiana Room as they cannot respond to text messages or answer calls. The **Chairman** requested an agenda item to explain the issues with OTS and see if the Commission can help the Department with this problem to get out from under this problem. **Chairman McPherson** further asked that the Department fully document the problems had with OTS. Secretary Montoucet stated they would get that information together.

**Chairman McPherson** asked Mr. Jason Adriance, Marine Fisheries Biologist, to come for his agenda item, **Receive a Review of the 2021 Recreational Red Snapper Season and Consider the 2022 Recreational Season**. Mr. Adriance began talking about the 2021 recreational red snapper season noting the allocation was to be 832,493 pounds but the Gulf Council reverted that back to 816,233 pounds. The 2021 season began on Friday, May 28, weekends only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day, the July 4, 2021 holiday fell on the weekend). The bag limit was a 2-fish limit at 16-inch total length limit. The season closed the Tuesday following Labor Day but because of Hurricane Ida, there were no landings for the prior two weekends. After staff reanalyzed the data, the season reopened on September 23, 2021 with a daily season and 4-fish bag limit. The season ran through the end of the year with a slight overage of 6,918 pounds that will be paid back with the 2022 season (final landings totaled 823,151 pounds). Federal charter landings (which does not count against Louisiana's allocation) was about 106,000 pounds, which amounts to about one-third of what they have historically landed. A chart of monthly average weights for private recreational and state charters was shown. A graph was shown of how the season started, the impacts from the hurricane and how it ended slightly over the limit of 816,233. A chart of weekly landings showed the biggest weekend was the week of June 7 with landings about 170,000 pounds. Mr. Adriance then showed a chart of the season structure for the last 4 years which were highly variable, concerns with socioeconomic factors, hurricane impacts and infrastructure (2021 season was the longest at 146 days). The 2022 allocation was to increase but will not happen probably until 2023, so the allocation will be 816,233 minus the payback which results in 809,315 pounds. The season as set in Rule will open on Friday, May 27 and set as 2-fish weekends only (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, including the Mondays of Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day). Mr. Adriance felt the Commission might want to consider other options for this upcoming season or stay with what is in Rule. If a change was considered, Mr. Adriance noted things to consider such as the harvest was increased last year to reach the allocation on a daily basis (4-fish season and fishermen can choose which day they prefer to fish) which could lead to reaching the allocation faster. If a 3-fish weekends only season was chosen, limits fishing to weekends only, weather needs to be considered and the high cost of fuel may make this a desirable option. Over the last four years, the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend has averaged 61,000 pounds, however, Labor Day only averaged 34,000 pounds (biggest weekends are usually in early June or late July). The Department recommended opening as a daily season on Friday, May 27 with a 2-fish limit. Additional slides in the presentation were projection that were based on what angler behavior has been, but cannot project fuel prices, weather, inflation, lodging impacts, vessel parts or any other such factors. The charts showed projections based on 2-fish, 3-fish or 4-fish options, the rough date of when season would close based on date closest to reaching the allocation without going over. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner Sgrera** asked if a 3-fish per day limit was used and wanting to preserve enough to fish Labor Day weekend, when would you stop the season and Mr. Adriance noted staff would need two weeks for data to come in once a decision was reached to close the season. Also, he stated that Labor Day has seen roughly 35,000 pounds caught, but it could create a “mini-derby” which could lead to allocation overages again. Mr. Adriance suggested monitoring the season, see how it is going and then shut it down at an appropriate time. The **Commissioner** asked if a buffer was kept and not caught, then the season could be extended to reach the quota; Mr. Adriance felt the best case was to have more and use it up as opposed to cutting the season short. **Chairman McPherson** asked how would the language be framed to allow that to happen to which Mr. Adriance thought the Secretarial authority to close and reopen would work. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked for help in understanding the chart on the 2-fish, 3-fish and 4-fish options chart; Mr. Adriance noted they use the effort shown in the past 3 seasons to gauge the number of fish landed and last year’s weight. The **Commissioner** then asked if he understood that they would get more fish by fishing all week to which Mr. Adriance commented it was the same amount of fish but it was how it was being projected (every season was unique). Mr. Adriance added that he hears from anglers they would rather pick their days to fish instead of confined to a weekend. **Chairman McPherson** asked **Commissioner Sgrera** if he wanted to see a Friday, Saturday, Sunday weekend season with 3-fish and have enough allocation held to cover Labor Day. **Commissioner Sgrera** mentioned he has received emails and with the price of fuel and wanting to have more fish to catch on their trips, that was what he wanted to see happen. **Commissioner Hogan** then made a motion to have a 3-fish limit, three-day weekends including Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and end the season in time to have a Labor Day 4-day weekend and this motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sgrera**. **Chairman McPherson** asked about July 4 and Mr. Adriance stated July 4, no matter what day it falls on, would be open. Mr. Adriance then added that the Finfish Task Force recommended the weekends only with a 3-fish limit. Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

2022 Private Recreational and State Charter Red Snapper Season  
April 7, 2022

Louisiana’s private recreational and state charter season for the harvest of red snapper in Louisiana and federal waters, previously scheduled to open on Friday, May 27, 2022 on weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day and July 4 on whatever day it may fall, is being modified. Under the provisions of state management, NOAA Fisheries has delegated season and bag limit authority as well as allocated a quota to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In order to maximize opportunity for Louisiana anglers to harvest Louisiana’s allotted portion of the private

recreational red snapper quota, the department is modifying the recreational red snapper season to allow for additional daily harvest.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.1, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3, which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the commission hereby declares:

The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper in state waters and federal waters off Louisiana shall be weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Mondays of Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day), beginning on Friday, May 27, 2022 until further notice. The secretary shall monitor landings and close the season when appropriate to allow for the season to reopen during the Labor Day weekend (September 2, 2022 through September 5, 2022). The bag and possession limit shall be 3 fish per person per day. Size limits shall remain at the currently established minimum size limit in LAC 76:VII.335 of 16 inches total length. The season shall remain open as described until further notice.

The Commission further authorizes the secretary of the department to modify the recreational season for the harvest of red snapper when monitoring data warrant a modification to ensure compliance with the allocation of red snapper for Louisiana.

Joe McPherson  
Chairman

Major Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for March 2022** stating there were 8 boating incidents with 8 injuries and 4 fatalities. A total of 344 written citations and 229 written warnings were issued and agents responded to 16 public assists in March. News Releases reviewed included agents citing two Pitkin men for illegally transporting live feral hogs and releasing them in Vernon Parish and not possessing proper permit to transport live feral hogs. Three men were cited in Concordia Parish for hunting without a basic license and violating outlaw quadruped night hunting regulations, one of the three subjects was also cited for a number of deer hunting citations (harvested 3 antlered and 3 antlerless deer during 2021-2022 season) while another was charged with possession of a firearm by convicted felon and drug charges. Agents cited an Alabama man in Plaquemines Parish for fishing without a commercial gear license and using shrimp trawls exceeding the size requirements in Louisiana waters with the 6,455 pounds of shrimp onboard seized and sold to the highest bidder.

**Chairman McPherson** then asked Mr. Tommy Tuma, Biologist Director, to proceed with his agenda item, **Receive Public Comments for the Notice of Intent on Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Bird Rules and Regulations, including General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2022-2023**. Mr. Tuma stated the Department received 49 comments on the proposed changes with an additional 12 general hunting season comments. He added that only three comments were received since the last Commission Meeting. A list of topics for the 49 comments related to the proposed Notice of

Intent was shown as well as for the 12 general comments received. Mr. Tuma reminded everyone of the public hearing on April 21, 2022 at 10 AM in Baton Rouge on the two regulations (Pomme de Terre WMA and Soda Lake WMA) amended at the February 2022 meeting. (A copy of Mr. Tuma's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Mr. Johnathan Bordelon, Deer Program Manager, came next for his agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**. Mr. Bordelon stated his presentation would be for a Notice of Intent specific to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) control area in northeast Louisiana. First, he showed a slide on the winners (a hunter and a taxidermist) of the CWD sampling promotion sponsored by the South Louisiana Branch of the National Deer Association. The winning hunter was Mrs. Evelyn Lindow, Richland Parish and the taxidermist winner was Mr. Frank Gates from Natchitoches Parish. Mr. Bordelon then noted the proposed rule would be specific not to the state but to the parishes of Franklin, Tensas and Madison as a CWD control area based on a CWD positive deer in Tensas Parish. In the Notice of Intent, definitions included cervid, chronic wasting disease, the control area and LDWF (a map and proposed regulations would be available on the Department's website for the public's review). In following the USDA Guidelines, the control area was where mitigation practices would occur and the area outside the control area was considered the surveillance zone (an area where you conduct a heightened surveillance). Next in the Notice of Intent, Mr. Bordelon talked on baiting that included language that was already used federally and on Department WMAs (the baiting regulation was read). He added that baiting could be utilized in feral hog traps as long as the bait was not normally ingested by deer. Since CWD was transmissible from deer to deer, the disease could be shed into the environment at which time the environment could be a source of infection which baiting could amplify the exposure. As the deer congregate over time, more animals become positive and the disease moves rapidly through them. A second part of the Notice of Intent involves the export of any carcass parts since a certain part of the deer poses a high risk that could become a source of infection. These regulations are not novel to Louisiana as there are more than 40 states with import or export restrictions due to threat of disease spread through carcass parts. The exceptions to the export of carcass parts from the CWD control area was read by Mr. Bordelon that are the same as in the CWD import regulations that affect hunters hunting outside of Louisiana. He then talked about the CWD control area noting it covered three parishes of which a minimum of 6100 deer were reported harvested from the area (3-year average). Also, he mentioned containers were planned to be placed within the three parishes so hunters that harvest a deer and wants it sampled for CWD can place their deer heads in that container for testing (there are no field offices in these parishes, so this is a mechanism to have a deer sampled without leaving the zone). There are six Hunters for the Hungry that operate in those three parishes that provides skinning, quartering and processing of a deer; however, a hunter can export a quartered deer with back straps (not a whole carcass) in an ice chest to another Hunters for the Hungry processor in another parish. Staff found four taxidermists that live in the control area. The control area has three public areas (Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, Buckhorn and Big Lake WMAs) and Mr. Bordelon commented Buckhorn and Big Lake WMAs might be a source for samples to be dropped off at a collection area. Also, Buckhorn and Big Lake WMAs have managed deer hunts and if a hunter harvests a deer, it would be brought to a check station that could be a source of CWD sampling. In the control area, there are 77 DMAP Cooperators (only about one-third of the area is forested landscape) in which the Department has



access to the landowners. Public comments can be sent to Mr. Bordelon on this proposed Notice of Intent; he also mentioned two public hearings would be held within the CWD control area in Winnsboro and St. Joseph. Other opportunities to provide information at meetings were expected to happen, added Mr. Bordelon. (A copy of Mr. Bordelon's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner Hogan** stated that a feeding ban was used and then suspended in Union and Morehouse Parishes and wondered what was the timeline for this Notice of Intent; Mr. Bordelon stated this would be a permanent prohibition but changes to the control area could be considered over time based on what may be detected on the landscape. This instance is related to a known detected CWD case whereas the other ban was for a CWD case in another state. He mentioned the Department's focus would be to increase sampling within the control area without a sunset provision. Mr. Bordelon added that he has had discussions with people from states that have had CWD in their state all of their career and they suggest doing as much as possible early on as any mitigation measures at that time will provide the best results. The goal of the mitigation practices was to hopefully never detect CWD on a landscape and the goal for the export restriction was to prevent the movement of contaminated parts outside of the control area. Mr. Bordelon then relayed what he has heard occurred in Mississippi – one property owner had 6 out of 9 harvested deer test positive for CWD while his neighbor harvested 17 deer with only one positive case. The **Commissioner** wondered how many of the 6,000 deer harvested were trophy deer that would have been mounted and then he also mentioned he did not think four taxidermists would not be able to handle the volume. Mr. Bordelon added that the 6,100 deer harvested was a known average and that the ratio of male to female harvests was about 50% (about 3,000 would be bucks). In this part of the state, staff was seeing a very old age structure of which was the desire of property owners, hunters and managers. Of the bucks taken on DMAP property, approximately 2,000 of those 3,000 deer were 4-1/2 years or older but Mr. Bordelon could not say for certain how many of those would be taxidermy and shoulder mounted. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if all states were requiring harvested mounts remain within a specific area or was there other methods to transport a deer to another place to have it tested and taxidermied. Mr. Bordelon explained Texas has had an exemption for taxidermy parts based on a permit, Mississippi adopted a similar permit this past year that will allow a hunter out of a CWD Management Zone and Arkansas does not have anything because a large portion of their state was CWD positive. He added that states with many positive cases do not address the same exceptions as states with fewer cases, but staff knows that the highest risked parts are those going to a taxidermists and the highest group of deer to be positive are adult bucks. Then the **Commissioner** asked if the taxidermists has a testing mechanism to which Mr. Bordelon stated that there are no field or rapid tests, there are only two approved tests that require laboratory analysis and preparation of the sample with only a limited number of labs. He further explained that early on in the season, the turn around on testing could be one week but as the season progresses, you could have a 2-3 week turn around. Louisiana has an in-state lab at LSU with diagnostic capabilities for this disease that opened in 2018. **Commissioner Hogan** asked how much of a burden would it be on the Department to have a permit system to transport trophy mounts to a taxidermist outside of the control area; Mr. Bordelon felt it would depend on how elaborate and extensive tracking would be required, it could be passive or more aggressive. **Chairman McPherson** asked if there were additional processors open 7 days a week other than the Hunters for the Hungry mentioned in the presentation; Mr. Bordelon knew there are some but

could not say for sure how many. He added that some of the Hunters for the Hungry processors were open year round by selling other products and offering butchering services outside of deer (meat markets). The **Chairman** felt hunters would be looking for a processor that could cape a deer to which Mr. Bordelon thought that was right and those Hunters for the Hungry mentioned offered that service. **Chairman McPherson** then asked if the results from the DNA sample taken from the CWD positive deer came back yet and Dr. Jim LaCour answered no, not yet. Next, the **Chairman** wondered how many samples did the Department want to collect and Mr. Bordelon knew they wanted a few hundred but anticipated many more than that through drop off locations and interests from hunters. He added that in talking with DMAP Cooperators in the control area, many of them want all of their deer sampled but could not say for sure that would happen. Based on what has been seen in neighboring states, Mr. Bordelon stated that once CWD was found in a particular location, there was a certain percentage of hunters that may want their deer tested prior to consuming the meat. To reiterate what was said, **Chairman McPherson** did not think the Department would have to hustle to get samples due to the DMAP Cooperators and WMA managed hunts and Mr. Bordelon felt that was correct. The **Chairman** thought when the Department looked at the processors and taxidermists, there was no indication they could handle the heads that would be skulled or caped mounts and Mr. Bordelon felt that the four taxidermists could handle 500 or less mounts but he could not say how many of those bucks would be taxidermied. **Chairman McPherson** suggested 4-1/2 year old bucks would have mass or some sort of characteristic that a hunter would want to be preserved as a skull or cape mount; he added that no has been able to give him a clear answer on what happens on a Sunday afternoon when a hunter wants to find someone to cape a deer or accept it for taxidermy purposes. The **Chairman** suggested amending the Notice of Intent to have a permit system developed and ready (paper form) for the next season. He wanted to see if staff could develop a capacity between capping and skull mounting to have the deer contained but if that could not be demonstrated, then he wanted to have a permit system in place. **Chairman McPherson** did not know if that would be a Commission or Department decision but asked that something be drafted that everyone can agree on may work. The **Chairman** relayed a conversation he had with his taxidermist and the problems with removing brain tissue to which Mr. Bordelon added that all soft tissue would need to be removed (skinned and boiled). Not finding a taxidermist to do capping or skull mounts was a problem **Chairman McPherson** felt was a reason to have a permit system in place, but wanted to give the Department the opportunity to know if there could be a business to drop off deer to be caped. Secretary Montoucet suggested another alternative would be to set up freezer capacities to hold those deer until the time they could be processed; the **Chairman** stated DMAP Clubs may have cooler space but his taxidermist told him he wanted them all frozen so he does not have to deal with ticks from the deer. He then asked if the permit system could include the situation where a deer was in a freezer and a sample was sent to be tested that came back negative, could the hunter then have a permit to export the deer, Mr. Bordelon answered staff could discuss this situation as an option and determine if possible to do. **Chairman McPherson** then asked General Counsel Cole Garrett how would the Notice of Intent be amended to include a demonstrated capacity or develop a permit system and have it in place and General Counsel Garrett stated the Department could develop generic language for a permit system to allow taxidermy mounts to leave the control area or have the Department develop a permit system that could be presented to the Commission at the May meeting which would have a final publication date in August, before hunting season begins. **Chairman McPherson** did not think the general language on the permit system was a problem, he thought it may be that a permit system was not

needed as there is the needed capacity in the control area to which General Counsel Garrett suggested having a month to identify whether the capacity exists. **Chairman McPherson** felt Mr. Bordelon has made his best effort and mentioned the processors was asked if they could open a sideline business to cape a deer to which they did not seem to want to do. Mr. Bordelon stated the four taxidermists were asked if they would be willing to provide the service of capping the hide (removing it from the head) so a hunter could transport it legally to another taxidermy and two stated they would not entertain that option and the other two are already doing a few now since some hunters reside in other states. The question on whether anyone could come in the area and provide that service has not been looked into at all. **Chairman McPherson** explained to General Counsel Garrett that what he was suggesting has already been done by Mr. Bordelon and has done a good job on ascertaining the availability. The **Chairman** again suggested having a determination of capacity within the control area or have a permit system in place, General Counsel Garrett offered authorizing the Department to develop a permit system to allow for taxidermied animals to leave the control area should they make a determination there is not capacity to keep them within the area. **Chairman McPherson** requested the Department present that to the Commission, whether formally or informally; General Counsel Garrett stated the Department could informally present the processes for the system and continue to go forward with the investigation of determining if it was needed or not. If a problem does arise prior to hunting system, the hunting regulations can be amended through a quicker process (Declaration of Emergency), commented General Counsel Garrett. **Chairman McPherson** suggested taking a vote on this proposal and let the Department craft the requested language. **Commissioner Hogan** made a motion to accept the amendment to the proposed Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and unanimously approved; then **Commissioner Hogan** made a motion to adopt the amended Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and approved with no opposition. Before leaving this agenda item, **Commissioner Sagraera** asked if freezing the head and then thawing for testing was an option to which Mr. Bordelon answered yes but preferably if the heads were not frozen, then the samples could be immediately extracted. He added that a frozen sample could present two issues: first – those samples cannot be immediately extracted and secondly, the test being used requires the sample to be fixed in formalin.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to establish Rules and Regulations for Cervid Carcass Exportation and Baiting Regulations within Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) designated Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Control Areas. On February 2, 2022, the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at LSU detected CWD in a sample submitted by LDWF from a hunter harvested adult buck in Tensas Parish. The sample was subsequently confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. Upon detection, LDWF has implemented its CWD Response Plan to

curb the spread of CWD in Louisiana. The action is intended to reduce further spread of the disease through anthropogenic pathways.

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*-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.

*LDWF*-The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. 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.

C. The export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within a LDWF 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 and regulations.

E. Prior to the 2022-23 deer hunting season, LDWF is directed to determine whether there is sufficient capacity to perform taxidermy services for cervids taken within the Control Area and report those findings to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. If it is determined that there is insufficient capacity to provide adequate taxidermy services for cervids harvested within the Control Area, LDWF shall establish a permitting system to be in effect no later than the opening of the 2022-23 deer hunting season to allow for uncleaned cervid heads to be transported out of the Control Area solely for taxidermy purposes.

**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

### **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.

### **Small Business Analysis**

This proposed Rule has no known impact on small businesses as described in R.S. 49:965.2 through R.S. 49:965.8. The proposed prohibition on the export of cervid carcasses and certain parts of cervid carcasses from the Control Area may reduce revenues for small

businesses, particularly taxidermists, outside those parishes but increase potential earnings for businesses within the area. It may also negatively affect small retailers that sell bait and supplements.

### **Provider Impact Statement**

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

### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until Wednesday, July 6, 2022 to Johnathan Bordelon, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov).

### **Public Hearings**

Public hearings will be held Friday, May 27, 2022 at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Louisiana Research Station, St. Joseph, LA and Saturday, May 28, 2022 at the LSU Ag Center Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA. These public hearings are held for informational purposes. For more information, contact Johnathan Bordelon, LDWF Deer Program Manager (318) 487-5334 or [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov).

Joe McPherson  
Chairman

Moving on, **Chairman McPherson** asked Mr. Cole Garrett, General Counsel, to come with his agenda item, **Receive a Report on the 2022 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments**. General Counsel Garrett stated this agenda item was listed as a potential action item in order to give the Commissioners a chance to take a position on bills. Before beginning his presentation, he mentioned this was a Regular Legislative Session which meant there was no limit on the number of bills that could be prefiled. Beginning with Licensing Bills, General Counsel Garrett talked on House Bill 338, Representative Coussan, Removes the Freshwater Charter Fishing Guide License, would remove the Freshwater Charter Guide License however, an amendment may be presented during the Natural Resources Committee Meeting to remove the U.S. Coast Guard Captain License requirement; House Bill 718, Representative Owen, Licenses for Nonresident Veterans, Retired Military Personnel and Purple Heart Recipients; and House Bill 762, Representative Zeringue, Creates the Louisiana Outdoor Forever Fund, creates a fund to exist for both public and private entities to make grant applications as long as there are some conservational or recreational component to it. **Chairman McPherson** as where would the funding come from on House Bill 762 and General Counsel Garrett stated it was federal funds primarily. Undersecretary Bryan McClinton explained that \$10 million of General Fund monies will be set as a subaccount within the Conservation Fund for these grants; and noted that Minnesota, Oregon, Colorado, Georgia and Mississippi just passed legislation for their program. The **Chairman** asked if the \$10 million would be used for the application and match and Undersecretary McClinton answered yes, to provide matching component. **Chairman McPherson** felt this bill should be supported and wondered how the

Department wanted to handle that, General Counsel Garrett stated that at the end of the presentation a motion to support or oppose bills could be made.

Wildlife Bills included: House Bill 422, Representative Stefanski and House Bill 635, Representative Schamerhorn, Pneumatic Air Guns, were identical and will provide that an air rifle can be used during deer season (not for archery season, only available during modern firearm season). House Bill 541, Representative Hilferty, Prohibits Feeding of Wild Alligators, is part of the Department legislative package and aimed to keep wildlife wild. After talking with the author on House Bill 683, Representative Crews, Exempts Royalties for Dredge/Fill Materials, General Counsel Garrett stated the goal was to wave royalty if commercial dredging provides ancillary navigation benefit to which the Department felt would impact royalties from any dredging practices. **Chairman McPherson** wondered who would determine if the dredging would benefit navigation, General Counsel Garrett stated it depended upon how the legislation was drafted. He added that the Red River, Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya River are obligated to be maintained by the Corps of Engineers. **Commissioner Sunseri** felt House Bill 683 was a bad bill, but agreed that the State should not give up any royalties; he added however that it would be different if the dredged materials were put on a barge and sent to the coast to rebuild the marsh structure. **Commissioner Reynolds** felt having this bill as a placeholder scared him and stated he did not care for the bill as it was written. General Counsel Garrett then talked on House Bill 857, Representative Horton, Wild Turkey Federation License Plate. House Bill 1046, Representative Mike Johnson, Catahoula Game and Fish Preserve/Commission was not a prefiled bill that had some concerning aspects. He then thought the bill would create this Fish and Game Preserve as a local independent body and they would buy up the new private water bottoms and govern it independently. General Counsel Garrett also mentioned House Bill 1046 could prevent the Department from expanding its claim as a riparian landowner beyond 34 feet that may cause issues with an independent Preserve and Commission having their own hunting and fishing regulations. **Chairman McPherson** asked if this bill has an expropriation authority and he was told yes; the **Chairman** then wondered if the only way they could have the authority was if they expropriate it to which General Counsel Garrett answered no, it was extremely broad in what it grants. **Chairman McPherson** then asked if it was a “taking without compensation”; General Counsel Garrett did not think that was the case as they would need to go through expropriation proceedings and pay a fair market value. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if Catahoula had a river that flows into and goes out of it to which General Counsel Garrett answered Little River comes into and goes out at some point. The **Commissioner** next wondered if the State owns the River, General Counsel Garrett stated the State does have ownership of Little River. **Commissioner Sunseri** stated that if this affects the State’s ownership, the Commission should oppose this bill. **Chairman McPherson** asked General Counsel Garrett if his advice was this bill could infringe upon the Commission’s ability as a riparian owner to have the benefit of where the Little River boundary may be and he was told that was his interpretation of the bill. The **Chairman** stated he has heard that a group such as The Nature Conservancy was trying to buy Catahoula Lake to preserve its natural heritage that would not make it public and General Counsel Garrett knew the Department has had trouble insuring true public access to Catahoula Lake. Senate Bill 86, Senator Cathey, Provides for a Bear Hunting Season, mandates for a bear hunting season be established in 2023 and every year after that; General Counsel Garrett noted the black bear was delisted and has been going through post-delisting monitoring phase and looking at the population dynamics. **Chairman McPherson**

stated he had three comment cards on Senate Bill 86 and would allow them to speak following the presentation. The **Chairman** knew there had been conversations with Senator Cathey and his co-authors and further mentioned that Senator Luneau and Representative Riser have removed themselves from co-authoring this bill following some of those conversations. If the bill passes, **Chairman McPherson** asked would the Commission accomplish this if it does not create a Constitutional dilemma between the Legislature and Commission. **Commissioner Sunseri** suggested mentioning those thoughts if the bill does come before the Committee; General Counsel Garrett understood that the bill was “parked” for now. Other wildlife bills reviewed was Senate Bill 93, Senator Cathey, Designates the Gulf Fritillary as the State Butterfly and Senate Bill 279, Senator Fred Mills, Names the Rockefeller Office Building the “J. Burton Angelle Building”. **Chairman McPherson** asked if the Department had any problems with Senate Bill 279 and Secretary Montoucet answered no. House Current Resolution 18, Representative McFarland, Recreates the Feral Hog Task Force, was a recreation of a task force that previously existed and provided recommendations on how to control feral hog populations, joint enforcement mechanisms with Department of Agriculture and Forestry, as these animals continue to be a problem for landowners within the State.

Next reviewed were Fisheries Bills and General Counsel Garrett began with House Bill 61, Representative Kerner, Fisherman’s Gear Compensation Fund combines the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund and Fisherman’s Gear Compensation Fund into one fund and extends it to 2026 (fund is handled by Department of Natural Resources). House Bill 324, Representative Orgeron, Oyster Task Force Composition, retains five members from the Dealers and Growers Association but removes mandate one member be from Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes. **Commissioner Sunseri** knew that for the past 20 years, there were four members and that number would be increased and taking away parish designation would not allow for cross representation on the Task Force. The **Commissioner** wondered who the additional member would be to which General Counsel Garrett stated he may have made a mistake in the numbers, the bill was to remove the two parish designation, just have at-large members. House Bill 332, Representative Bourriaque, Mullet Stock Assessment, was a Department bill to change the frequency of the mullet stock assessment from annually to every 5 years. Another Department bill, House Bill 419, Representative McFarland, Catfish Noodling and Bream for Bait, will allow noodling as a legal method to take catfish and allow people for non-commercial purposes to catch bream and use it for bait. House Bill 689, Representative Schamerhorn, Reestablishes the Retail Seafood Dealer’s License, which General Counsel Garrett understood the reason for the bill but did not agree the license should be reintroduced at the previous fee of \$100. **Commissioner Sunseri** suggested this was a bad bill as he felt people could process food that could interfere with health codes and such and knew the consolidated licenses was one way to get rid of those going under the radar. House Bill 791, Representative Kerner, Unlicensed Charter Fishing Guide Penalties, may be amended to have harsher penalties than currently filed. House Bill 1033, Representative Orgeron, Establishes a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Menhaden in Louisiana Waters, allows for a TAC in state waters and where the menhaden can be taken (bill was filed at the last minute). **Chairman McPherson** asked what is the total harvest for menhaden; Mr. Jason Adriance stated Gulfwide, total harvest was 1 billion pounds with Louisiana landings being 70-80% (close to 300,000 metric tons). The **Chairman** then asked if the intent was to reduce harvest from Louisiana waters and Mr. Adriance thought it could be reduction from those zones. General Counsel Garrett stated House Bill 1033 and



Senate Bill 447, Senator Hensgen, Commercial Menhaden Harvest Reporting, came from conversations between the industry and recreational community. Both House Bill 1033 and Senate Bill 447 have reporting requirements with House Bill 1033 providing for a total allowable catch. **Commissioner Sunseri** did not feel the menhaden fishery was in jeopardy of being overfished but he was concerned that there may be a limit imposed when the biology does not think is needed. **Chairman McPherson** recognized the Legislature's authority but asked General Counsel Garrett to explain they recognize the Commission's constitutional authority and the resources provided by the Department. **Commissioner Blanchard** asked if menhaden was a sustainable fishery in Louisiana to which General Counsel Garrett stated it was a Gulfwide certification. **Chairman McPherson** asked what does the language "end product disposition to LDWF" mean and he was told it was whether it was reduced to fish oil or ground into fish meal. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if trip tickets were filled out and was it done monthly and Mr. Adriance answered yes; General Counsel Garrett reminded the Commission of the confidentiality aspect. The **Chairman** wondered if this reporting could be handled by trip tickets and General Counsel Garrett stated these bills would require separate reporting with confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements associated. Mr. Adriance stated one difference in the bill was it requires the release of the individual set GPS points and individual set catch estimates that was not received with trip tickets, it goes directly to NOAA which they hold in confidence. **Chairman McPherson** asked how would these two bills affect the Department and Commission and was there a reason to weigh in on them; General Counsel Garrett stated it may be staff time to gather the information and the Commission's authority to regulate species. Going on, the next fisheries bill was Senate Bill 123, Senator Abraham, Cameron Parish Oyster Aquaculture Park, would remove a certain portion of a public harvest area and provide for growing off-bottom oyster culture (passed through Senate Natural Resources). Senate Bill 153, Senator Robert Mills, Commercial Use of Surface Water, was a problematic bill (paying for surface water in Louisiana was voluntary) by which General Counsel Garrett noted the Department of Natural Resources was over this program. The bill will make it mandatory to pay for surface water for certain commercial uses and makes sure the Mineral Board reviews what is fair market value for surface water. **Commissioner Reynolds** stated this was a Lake Bistineau issue and was told the Bienville Parish Police Jury has made deals with the oil companies and were being compensated. General Counsel Garrett stated a good thing from Senate Bill 153 was proceeds would go to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund. **Commissioner Sagraera** asked if this applies to drainage to which General Counsel Garrett commented all surface waters of the state are subject to this with many exemptions being allowed (agriculture, general riparian use).

Enforcement bills reviewed include House Bill 43, Representative Frieman, Louisiana Firearm Protection Act; House Bill 69, Representative Devillier, Photographic Evidence of Litter; and House Bill 702, Representative Jordan, Liability for Certain Actions by Peace Officers. Another Department bill House Bill 750, Representative Bishop, Prosecution of Litter Citations by LDWF, to which the Department was not getting the dispositions on how litter cases were being assessed from District Attorney Offices so this bill would allow the Department to prosecute civil litter citations (current law requires 25% of fines collected will go to the Litter Abatement Account). Senate Bill 424, Senator Stine, Exempts Boater Safety Education for Motorboat Rentals, was filed at the last minute and General Counsel Garrett thought this bill was not in the best interest of the public. **Chairman McPherson** asked Colonel Chad Hebert if he had an opinion on Senate Bill 424 and just briefly looking at it, the Colonel did not think it was a good

idea adding that anyone that operates a rented boat should have Boater's Safety but would look further into this bill. Senate Bill 448, Senator Luneau, Collection of Civil Restitution Judgements, another Department bill would make judgements for civil restitution final for purposes of debt collection.

There were two policy bills General Counsel Garrett wanted to mention, House Bill 390, Representative Wright, APA Rulemaking, would make rules any agency makes have a one-year effective period and unless the Legislature meets on these rules and codifies them, those rules would fail to be effective after that one year period. He stated he testified before the Committee expressing concerns on regulatory consistency and how this would create a duplication of effort. **Chairman McPherson** asked what was the status of the bill; General Counsel Garrett stated it was voluntarily deferred after numerous state agencies testified against it. The other bill by Representative Wright was House Bill 666 would take judicial review of the Administrative Procedure Act and makes them de novo (no expertise can be taken into account when reviewed by a judge and allows the judge to decide whether a proposed rule is good or not). General Counsel Garrett thought this bill could be potentially problematic for rulemaking bodies such as the Commission. (A copy of Mr. Garrett's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Secretary Montoucet explained that the money for overtime hours for enforcement agents doing littering work goes into the Conservation Fund, there was no specific account dedicated from that littering fund. **Chairman McPherson** thought General Counsel Garrett stated that money was dedicated to overtime and Secretary Montoucet felt it was part of the money for the litter abatement account that furnishes \$100,000 to do litter abatement with the fines going into the Conservation Fund.

**Chairman McPherson** then stated that he heard support from the Commission for House Bill 762, House Bill 857, Senate Bill 279, House Concurrent Resolution 18, and House Bill 419. General Counsel Garrett stated the Department bills he wished the Commission would support included House Bill 718, House Bill 541, House Bill 332, Senate Bill 270, and House Bill 750. **Commissioner Blanchard** suggested the Commission should also support House Bill 61. **Commissioner Hogan** wanted the Commission to support Senate Bill 153 and General Counsel Garrett also asked that Senate Bill 448 be supported as well. **Commissioner Hogan** made a motion to support the bills listed, seconded by **Commissioner Blanchard** and unanimously approved. **Chairman McPherson** then offered the Commission should oppose House Bill 683, Senate Bill 86, House Bill 689, House Bill 1033 (General Counsel Garrett stated the menhaden issue was controversial and both bills were recently filed, to which **Chairman McPherson** asked that be removed from the list), House Bill 390, House Bill 666 and House Bill 1046. The **Chairman** asked, the reason to oppose House Bill 1046 was it would infringe upon the Commission's ability to gain additional property and General Counsel Garrett mentioned this was a late bill that was filed and he thought it would give broad expropriation authority that was within the 34 foot contour. **Chairman McPherson** then asked who would appoint the members to which General Counsel Garrett answered it was the Parish Governments of LaSalle, Catahoula and Rapides Parishes. The **Chairman** knew that was already in law and wondered if the bill would expand the Commission's authority; General Counsel Garrett stated there were questions on whether that Commission is active and even in existence. **Chairman McPherson** knew that

the Commission was reappointed by the Parish Governments and again asked would this bill recreate the Commission with broader authority. General Counsel Garrett answered it would absolutely give them broader authority and absolutely recreate them in statute and stated another concern was having an independent entity regulating game and fish regulations. **Commissioner Reynolds** asked if Senate Bill 424 would exempt boater safety education and Colonel Hebert read from the bill and felt a 5-minute lesson on operating a boat was not sufficient when the Department's boater safety card was issued after an 8-hour course. **Chairman McPherson** asked if all states have a boating safety requirement and Colonel Hebert answered yes, and added that Louisiana has had an uptick in boating accidents and fatalities. **Chairman McPherson** commented that Senate Bill 424 should be added to the list of bills to oppose. He then open the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Woody Martin, Sierra Club, stated Sierra Club was a nationwide conservation and environmental organization here in Louisiana that has had a long time interest in the black bear. Sierra Club was involved, along with other clubs, in obtaining the threatened and endangered status for the Louisiana black bear in 1982, filed suit in 2009 asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for the black bear and currently involved in a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's delisting of the black bear. This last lawsuit was based on inadequate and incorrect information and Mr. Martin commented they were opposed to Senate Bill 86 that would force the Commission and Department to initiate a black bear hunting season without adequate information. **Chairman McPherson** noted the Commission wanted to oppose the bill and added that the Department was not ready to have a black bear season now. The **Chairman** stated that the bill was premature, as the Department has not done what was required to accomplish having a black bear season.

Mr. Dean Wilson, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, stated his group consists of over 1600 members and their goal was to protect the Atchafalaya Basin. On the alligator bill (House Bill 541), his company does not feed the alligators, but he knew that an alligator ate a person during Hurricane Ida and he felt that alligator was fed somewhere. Mr. Wilson noted they were in favor of the alligator bill. Then he commented on Chronic Wasting Disease and stated that the introduction of predators would help control the populations of deer and help with the disease. The main reason for his commenting was on the black bear bill (Senate Bill 86). Louisiana has a minimum increase in the black bear population; right now there are two populations of the bear with one being in the Tensas River Basin area consisting of 296 bears and the other was in the lower Atchafalaya Basin area. Mr. Wilson did not think the coastal black bear population had a future as they could not expand in the Basin. He added that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not take protecting the black bear seriously, even though they were listed after being sued. Mr. Wilson knew that the black bears needed to fatten up before the winter and depended on acorns and hickory nuts; he then talked about the forests being clear-cut (such as Three Rivers and Red River WMAs) and how that was not healthy for the bear population. After 15-20 years of protection, he stated there were only 500 bears in the entire state of Louisiana, but noted several thousand bears was needed to have a hunting season. Mr. Wilson hoped the Department would help to connect the two populations so that one day there could possibly be a hunting season. He concluded mentioning that everything we own, we borrow from our children and grandchildren. **Chairman McPherson** stated this was not a discussion on establishing a black bear season, but supporting or opposing legislative instruments.

Mr. Michael Caire stated he was pleased to hear the Commission's feelings on opposing the black bear bill and not playing politics. He then talked about his meetings with former Department employee Joe L. Herring and discussed how they wanted to restore the Louisiana bear. Mr. Caire added that his name was personally on the lawsuit and noted the lawsuit was not with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries but with the Federal Government. He felt Louisiana has led the nation in restoration of endangered species such as the alligator, but mentioned there was a legal question on the status that the black bear was legally restored. Mr. Caire then talked about not knowing the genetics of the black bear and critical habitat would not be declared. He felt everyone should go back to working together but he did not want the Federal Government lying about basic science (genetics). **Chairman McPherson** appreciated Mr. Caire's comments and knew the Commission would rely on the science when or if the biologists feel there could be a black bear season.

Hearing no further comments, **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to oppose the enumerated bills, seconded by **Commissioner Sagrera** and passed with no opposition.

There were no **Public Comments** for this month.

Before adjourning, **Commissioner Sunseri** requested having the August 2022 Commission Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana; **Chairman McPherson** mentioned the Secretary and Chairman could approve any requests to change the meeting time and place of Commission Meetings.

There being no further business, the Commissioners unanimously made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting.

## **APPENDICES**



## 2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER UPDATE AND 2022 SEASON

Jason Adriance | LWFC Meeting | April 7, 2022

### ***2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER***

- 2021 allocation for private recreational and state charter harvest was 832,493 pounds based upon new Gulf wide quota but reverted to 816,233 pounds due to inaction on new quota.
- The private recreational red snapper season began May 28 in both state and federal waters as a weekends only season (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day).
- Opened at a daily bag limit of 2 fish per person and a 16-inch total length minimum size limit.



## 2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER

- Season closed on the Tuesday after Labor Day, however Hurricane Ida impacted last two weekends.
- Season re-opened on September 23, 2021 on a daily basis with a 4 fish per person bag limit at 16 inches minimum length.
- Season closed on December 31, 2021 with a total of 823,151 pounds harvested by private and state charter anglers.
- 2021 season incurred a payback of pounds that will be deducted from the 2022 season.



## 2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER

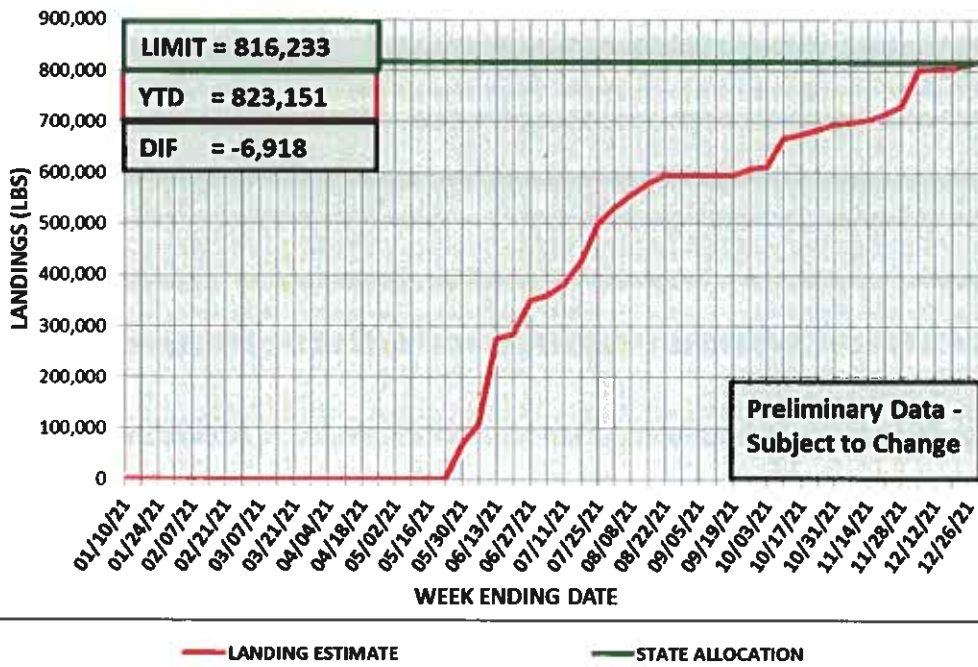
- Estimate of Federal Charter landings in Louisiana for 2021 was 106,192 pounds.
- Monthly average weights (in pounds) for private recreational and state charter were:

Weeks	Month	Charter	Private
21	May	7.78	6.90
22 - 25	June	7.78	6.90
26 - 30	July	7.26	5.76
31 - 33	August	6.33	6.04
38 - 39	September	6.82	6.56
40 - 43	October	6.82	6.57
44 - 47	November	5.97	5.94
48 - 52	December	5.72	10.18



# 2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER

## LOUISIANA'S 2021 RED SNAPPER LANDING ESTIMATES (LA CREEL - PRIVATE ANGLER + STATE CHARTER)



2021 Red Snapper Weekly Landing Estimates

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Landings (lbs)			Weeks % of Allocation	Running Total	Running % of Allocation
			State Charter	Private Angler	Total			
21	5/24/2021	5/30/2021	161	67,470	67,631	8%	67,631	8%
22	5/31/2021	6/6/2021	742	40,106	40,848	5%	108,479	13%
23	6/7/2021	6/13/2021	7,504	159,877	167,381	21%	275,859	34%
24	6/14/2021	6/20/2021	348	8,279	8,627	1%	284,487	35%
25	6/21/2021	6/27/2021	1,506	62,970	64,476	8%	348,963	43%
26	6/28/2021	7/4/2021	795	10,214	11,009	1%	359,972	44%
27	7/5/2021	7/11/2021	1,103	18,589	19,692	2%	379,663	47%
28	7/12/2021	7/18/2021	428	46,781	47,209	6%	426,872	52%
29	7/19/2021	7/25/2021	339	72,045	72,384	9%	499,256	61%
30	7/26/2021	8/1/2021	880	31,968	32,848	4%	532,104	65%
31	8/2/2021	8/8/2021	0	25,006	25,006	3%	557,110	68%
32	8/9/2021	8/15/2021	0	22,072	22,072	3%	579,182	71%
33	8/16/2021	8/22/2021	6,968	8,589	15,557	2%	594,739	73%
34	8/23/2021	8/29/2021	0	0	0	0%	594,739	73%
35	8/30/2021	9/5/2021	0	0	0	0%	594,739	73%
36	9/6/2021	9/12/2021	0	0	0	0%	594,739	73%
37	9/13/2021	9/19/2021	0	0	0	0%	594,739	73%
38	9/20/2021	9/26/2021	519	12,993	13,512	1%	608,251	75%
39	9/27/2021	10/3/2021	126	2,704	2,830	0%	611,081	75%
40	10/4/2021	10/10/2021	4,870	52,208	57,078	6%	668,159	82%
41	10/11/2021	10/17/2021	1,753	5,118	6,871	1%	675,030	83%
42	10/18/2021	10/24/2021	130	9,092	9,222	1%	684,252	84%
43	10/25/2021	10/31/2021	0	10,551	10,551	1%	694,803	85%
44	11/1/2021	11/7/2021	72	2,418	2,490	<1%	697,292	85%
45	11/8/2021	11/14/2021	943	6,030	6,973	1%	704,265	86%
46	11/15/2021	11/21/2021	1,605	9,791	11,396	2%	715,661	88%
47	11/22/2021	11/28/2021	0	15,429	15,429	2%	731,090	90%
48	11/29/2021	12/5/2021	2,645	68,018	70,663	9%	801,753	98%
49	12/6/2021	12/12/2021	779	122	901	<1%	802,654	98%
50	12/13/2021	12/19/2021	0	2,179	2,179	<1%	804,833	99%
51	12/20/2021	12/26/2021	0	8,553	8,553	1%	813,386	99%
52	12/27/2021	1/2/2022	0	9,765	9,765	1%	823,151	101%
Average Weekly Landing			1,222	28,176	29,398	4%		





## LA RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASONS HISTORY

Year	Open Date	Close Date	Structure	Re-Open Date	Re-Close Date	Structure	Total Days
2018	May 25	July 8	Daily - 2 fish	July 13	August 12	Weekends - 2 fish	60
2019	May 24	September 3	Weekends - 2 fish	September 27 November 28	November 24 December 31	Weekends - 2 fish Daily - 2 fish	109
2020	May 22	August 10	Weekends - 2 fish	September 4	September 7	Daily - 2 fish	41
2021	May 28	September 6	Weekends - 2 fish	September 24	December 31	Daily - 4 fish	146

- Weekend seasons are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday including the Mondays of Memorial and Labor Day and July 4 if not on a weekend.



## 2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER

- 2022 allocation for private recreational and state charter harvest could potentially increase to approximately 881,685 pounds based upon tentative new Gulf wide quota minus our payback for a total of **874,767 pounds**. Likely will not happen in time and the allocation will be 809,315 lbs.
- The private recreational red snapper season is set to begin on May 27 in both state and federal waters as a weekends only season (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Mondays of Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day).
- Would the LWFC like to consider other season structures (Daily, Weekends with different bag limit, etc.)?



## **2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER**

- A daily season opening May 27 with a 2 fish bag limit at the 16 inch minimum total length.
  - We had to increase harvest last year to use allocation
  - More opportunity outside of just weekends and allows anglers to pick days that better fit schedules and weather
  - May go through our allocation faster
- A weekends only season opening May 27 with a 3 fish bag limit at the 16 inch minimum total length.
  - High cost of fuel may make this a desirable option as it maximizes fish per trip



## **2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER**

- July 4th weekend has averaged 60,915 pounds and Labor Day weekend averaged 34,329 pounds in last four years. Biggest weekends (100k+) are usually early June and late July.
- Department recommends a daily season opening May 27 with a 2 fish bag limit at the 16 inch minimum total length (DE in packet).



# Questions ?

Jason Adriance  
LDWF  
Biologist DCL-B  
jadriance@wlf.la.gov



## 2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON PROJECTIONS

- Projections make some assumptions that need to be accurate. (Proportion of anglers achieving a bag limit, average weights, and comparable effort)
- Some things we can't project are fuel prices, weather, inflation impacts, lodging availability in hurricane impacted zones, availability of vessel parts, and a host of other socio-economic drivers of effort.

	2 Fish Date	2 Fish Days	3 Fish Date	3 Fish Days	4 Fish Date	4 Fish Days
<b>Weekends (Fri - Sun)</b>	Sept. 25	57	Aug. 14	41	Aug. 7	35
<b>Weekends (Thur - Sun)</b>	Aug. 28	58	Aug. 21	50	Jul. 24	38
<b>Weekends (Fri - Mon)</b>	Sept. 11	64	Aug. 21	52	Aug. 31	40
<b>All Week</b>	Aug. 21	91	Aug. 7	77	Jul. 24	63



2022 PROJECTION - 2 Fish Bag						
Private Angler + Non-Permitted Charter						
Period	Beg Date	End Date	Average 2022			
			Fri - Sun	Thu - Sun	Mon - Sun	Fri - Mon
21	5/23/2022	5/29/2022	48,234	54,504	57,880	50,163
22	5/30/2022	6/5/2022	96,467	109,008	115,761	100,326
23	6/6/2022	6/12/2022	144,701	163,512	173,641	150,489
24	6/13/2022	6/19/2022	192,934	218,016	231,521	200,652
25	6/20/2022	6/26/2022	241,168	272,520	289,401	250,815
26	6/27/2022	7/3/2022	289,401	327,024	347,282	300,978
27	7/4/2022	7/10/2022	337,635	381,528	405,162	351,140
28	7/11/2022	7/17/2022	385,869	436,032	463,042	401,303
29	7/18/2022	7/24/2022	434,102	490,536	520,923	451,466
30	7/25/2022	7/31/2022	482,336	545,039	578,803	501,629
31	8/1/2022	8/7/2022	530,569	599,543	636,683	551,792
32	8/8/2022	8/14/2022	578,803	654,047	694,564	601,955
33	8/15/2022	8/21/2022	627,037	708,551	752,444	652,118
34	8/22/2022	8/28/2022	675,270	763,055	810,324	702,281
35	8/29/2022	9/4/2022	723,504	817,559	868,204	752,444
36	9/5/2022	9/11/2022	771,737	872,063	926,085	802,507
37	9/12/2022	9/18/2022	785,310	887,400	942,372	816,723
38	9/19/2022	9/25/2022	798,883	902,738	958,660	830,838
39	9/26/2022	10/2/2022	812,456	918,075	974,947	844,954
40	10/3/2022	10/9/2022	826,029	933,412	991,234	859,070
41	10/10/2022	10/16/2022	839,602	948,750	1,007,522	873,186
42	10/17/2022	10/23/2022	853,174	964,087	1,023,809	887,301
43	10/24/2022	10/30/2022	866,747	979,424	1,040,097	901,417
44	10/31/2022	11/6/2022	880,320	994,762	1,056,384	915,533
45	11/7/2022	11/13/2022	893,893	1,010,099	1,072,672	929,649
46	11/14/2022	11/20/2022	907,466	1,025,436	1,088,959	943,765
47	11/21/2022	11/27/2022	921,039	1,040,774	1,105,246	957,880
48	11/28/2022	12/4/2022	934,612	1,056,111	1,121,534	971,996
49	12/5/2022	12/11/2022	948,184	1,071,448	1,137,821	986,112
50	12/12/2022	12/18/2022	961,757	1,086,786	1,154,109	1,000,228
51	12/19/2022	12/25/2022	975,330	1,102,123	1,170,396	1,014,343
52	12/26/2022	1/1/2023	988,903	1,117,460	1,186,684	1,028,459
# Weeks Season Open			18	14	13	16
# Days Season Open			57	58	91	64



2022 PROJECTION - 3 Fish Bag						
Private Angler + Non-Permitted Charter						
Period	Beg Date	End Date	Average 2022			
			Fri - Sun	Thu - Sun	Mon - Sun	Fri - Mon
21	5/23/2022	5/29/2022	57,880	65,405	69,456	60,196
22	5/30/2022	6/5/2022	115,761	130,809	138,913	120,391
23	6/6/2022	6/12/2022	173,641	196,214	208,369	180,587
24	6/13/2022	6/19/2022	231,521	261,619	277,825	240,782
25	6/20/2022	6/26/2022	289,401	327,024	347,282	300,978
26	6/27/2022	7/3/2022	347,282	392,428	416,738	361,173
27	7/4/2022	7/10/2022	405,162	457,833	486,194	421,369
28	7/11/2022	7/17/2022	463,042	523,238	555,651	481,564
29	7/18/2022	7/24/2022	520,923	588,643	625,107	541,760
30	7/25/2022	7/31/2022	578,803	654,047	694,564	601,955
31	8/1/2022	8/7/2022	636,683	719,452	764,020	662,151
32	8/8/2022	8/14/2022	694,564	784,857	833,476	722,346
33	8/15/2022	8/21/2022	752,444	850,262	902,933	782,542
34	8/22/2022	8/28/2022	810,324	915,666	972,389	842,737
35	8/29/2022	9/4/2022	868,204	981,071	1,041,845	902,933
36	9/5/2022	9/11/2022	926,085	1,046,476	1,111,302	963,128
37	9/12/2022	9/18/2022	942,372	1,064,881	1,130,847	980,067
38	9/19/2022	9/25/2022	958,660	1,083,285	1,150,392	997,006
39	9/26/2022	10/2/2022	974,947	1,101,690	1,169,936	1,013,945
40	10/3/2022	10/9/2022	991,234	1,120,095	1,189,481	1,030,884
41	10/10/2022	10/16/2022	1,007,522	1,138,500	1,209,026	1,047,823
42	10/17/2022	10/23/2022	1,023,809	1,156,905	1,228,571	1,064,762
43	10/24/2022	10/30/2022	1,040,097	1,175,309	1,248,116	1,081,701
44	10/31/2022	11/6/2022	1,056,384	1,193,714	1,267,661	1,098,640
45	11/7/2022	11/13/2022	1,072,672	1,212,119	1,287,206	1,115,578
46	11/14/2022	11/20/2022	1,088,959	1,230,524	1,306,751	1,132,517
47	11/21/2022	11/27/2022	1,105,246	1,248,929	1,326,296	1,149,456
48	11/28/2022	12/4/2022	1,121,534	1,267,333	1,345,841	1,166,395
49	12/5/2022	12/11/2022	1,137,821	1,285,738	1,365,386	1,183,334
50	12/12/2022	12/18/2022	1,154,109	1,304,143	1,384,931	1,200,273
51	12/19/2022	12/25/2022	1,170,396	1,322,548	1,404,475	1,217,212
52	12/26/2022	1/1/2023	1,186,684	1,340,952	1,424,020	1,234,151
# Weeks Season Open			13	12	11	13
# Days Season Open			41	50	77	52



**2022 PROJECTION - 4 Fish Bag**

**Private Angler + Non-Permitted Charter**

Period	Beg Date	End Date	Average 2022			
			Fri - Sun	Thu - Sun	Mon - Sun	Fri - Mon
21	5/23/2022	5/29/2022	72,350	81,756	86,820	75,244
22	5/30/2022	6/5/2022	144,701	163,512	173,641	150,489
23	6/6/2022	6/12/2022	217,051	245,268	260,461	225,733
24	6/13/2022	6/19/2022	289,401	327,024	347,282	300,978
25	6/20/2022	6/26/2022	361,752	408,780	434,102	376,222
26	6/27/2022	7/3/2022	434,102	490,536	520,923	451,466
27	7/4/2022	7/10/2022	506,453	572,291	607,743	526,711
28	7/11/2022	7/17/2022	578,803	654,047	694,564	601,955
29	7/18/2022	7/24/2022	651,153	735,803	781,384	677,199
30	7/25/2022	7/31/2022	723,504	817,559	868,204	751,444
31	8/1/2022	8/7/2022	795,854	899,315	955,025	827,688
32	8/8/2022	8/14/2022	868,204	981,071	1,041,845	902,933
33	8/15/2022	8/21/2022	940,555	1,062,827	1,128,666	978,177
34	8/22/2022	8/28/2022	1,012,905	1,144,583	1,215,486	1,053,421
35	8/29/2022	9/4/2022	1,085,256	1,226,339	1,302,307	1,128,666
36	9/5/2022	9/11/2022	1,157,606	1,308,095	1,389,127	1,203,910
37	9/12/2022	9/18/2022	1,177,965	1,331,101	1,413,558	1,225,084
38	9/19/2022	9/25/2022	1,198,325	1,354,107	1,437,989	1,246,257
39	9/26/2022	10/2/2022	1,218,684	1,377,113	1,462,421	1,267,431
40	10/3/2022	10/9/2022	1,239,043	1,400,119	1,486,852	1,288,605
41	10/10/2022	10/16/2022	1,259,402	1,423,125	1,511,283	1,309,778
42	10/17/2022	10/23/2022	1,279,762	1,446,131	1,535,714	1,330,952
43	10/24/2022	10/30/2022	1,300,121	1,469,137	1,560,145	1,352,126
44	10/31/2022	11/6/2022	1,320,480	1,492,143	1,584,576	1,373,299
45	11/7/2022	11/13/2022	1,340,840	1,515,149	1,609,007	1,394,473
46	11/14/2022	11/20/2022	1,361,199	1,538,155	1,633,439	1,415,647
47	11/21/2022	11/27/2022	1,381,558	1,561,161	1,657,870	1,436,820
48	11/28/2022	12/4/2022	1,401,917	1,584,167	1,682,301	1,457,994
49	12/5/2022	12/11/2022	1,422,277	1,607,173	1,706,732	1,479,168
50	12/12/2022	12/18/2022	1,442,636	1,630,179	1,731,163	1,500,341
51	12/19/2022	12/25/2022	1,462,995	1,653,185	1,755,594	1,521,515
52	12/26/2022	1/1/2023	1,483,355	1,676,191	1,780,025	1,542,689
<b># Weeks Season Open</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b># Days Season Open</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>40</b>





## 2022 Summary of Public Comment for Conditionally Approved Hunting Season(s) NOI

Tommy Tuma | Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting | 04/07/2022

### Public Comment received

- January 6 – April 6, 2022
- **Comments related to proposed changes to NOI**
  - 49 comments related to proposed changes (email)
- **General Hunting Season and regulation comments**
  - 12 comments received (email, phone, letter)



# Public Comments related to proposed NOI since March LWFC meeting

<u>Proposed Regulation</u>	<u># COMMENTS RECEIVED</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
Deer limit	1		1



# General Public Comments received since March LWFC meeting

<u>General comments received</u>	<u># Comments</u>
NOI	2



# Total Public Comments related to proposed NOI

<u>Proposed Regulation</u>	<u># COMMENTS RECEIVED</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
Area 1 deer regulations	2		2
Area 4 deer limit	2		2
Area 4 season structure	1		1
Area 5 deer season	1		1
Area 6 deer season	1		1
Area 9 deer season	2		2
Boeuf WMA primitive season	1		1
Owey Wills archery season	1		1
Pomme De Terre deer season	4	2	2
Richard K Yancey deer season	5		5
Sherburne WMA deer season	1		1
Youth license requirement	4		4
Maurepas Swamp deer season	2	1	1
West Zone Waterfowl Season	5		5
WMA waterfowl season	1		1
WMA camping permit	1		1
Pointe-Aux-Chenes	7		7
Spring Bayou WMA waterfowl hunting	1		1
Deer Baiting	1		1
Lands within WMA regulation	1		1
Tunica Hills WMA deer season	1		1
Deer limit	1		1
White-fronted geese bag limit	1		1
PALWMA surface drive restrictions	2		2
<b><u>Total comments related to Proposed changes to NOI</u></b>	<b><u>49</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>46</u></b>



# Total General Public Comments received

Air rifles	2
Arrow shooting guns	1
Buck harvest restrictions	2
Antler restrictions	1
Pomme de Terre	1
CWD	1
Turkey	1
Waterfowl	1
NOI	2
<b><u>Total general comments received</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>





# Public Hearing

A public hearing on proposed substantive changes will be held by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on April 21, 2022 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.



## LAC 76.XIX.111.G.17.jj.i.(e) Pomme de Terre WMA

01 Primitive Firearms Day after firearms ban only season ends for 2 days 20 Sunday

Dec 10 2 day



LAC 76.XIX.111.G.17.rr  
Soda Lake WMA

rr. Soda Lake. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Questions?





## Chronic Wasting Disease Control Area Notice Of Intent

Johnathan Bordelon | Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting | 4/07/2022

## LDWF CWD Sampling Promotion Sponsored by the South Louisiana Branch of NDA

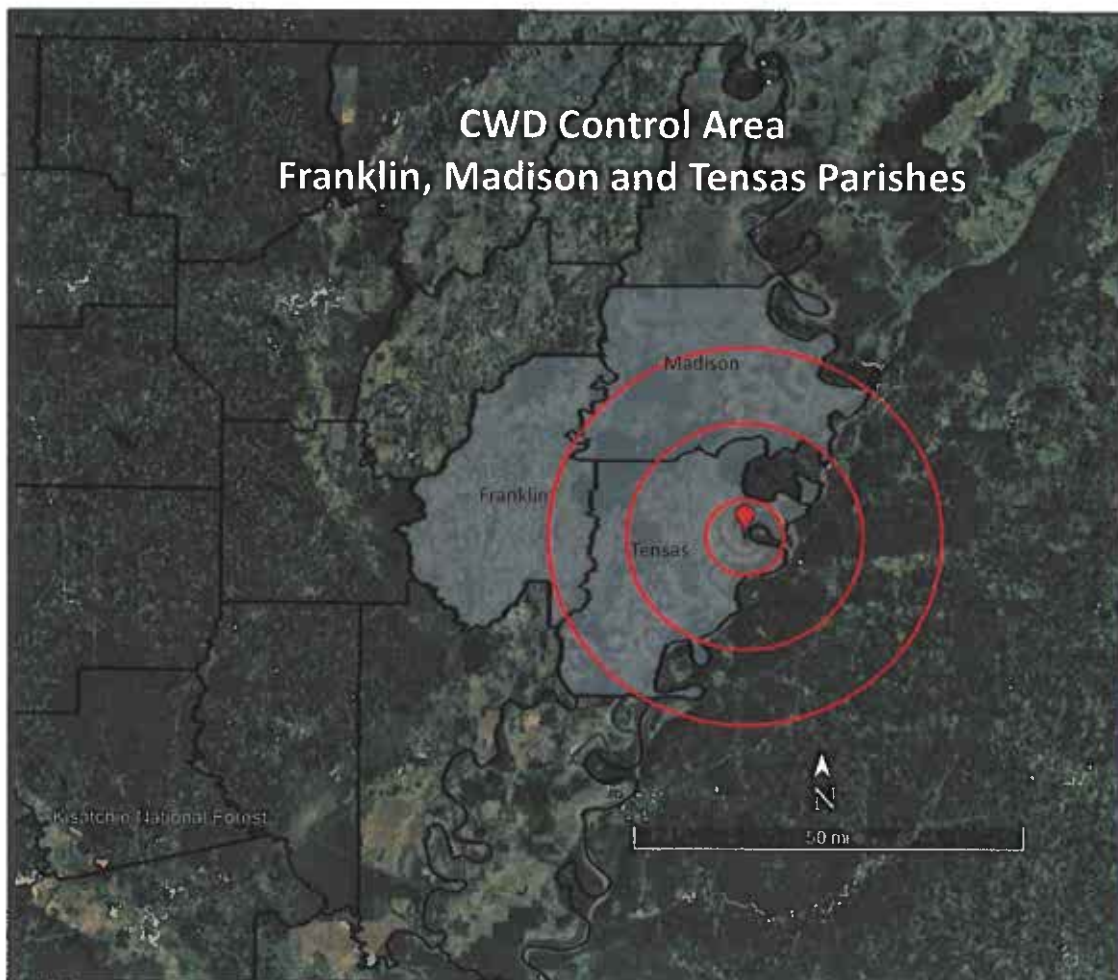


Ms. Evelyn Priddy



Mr. Frank Gates





## §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.

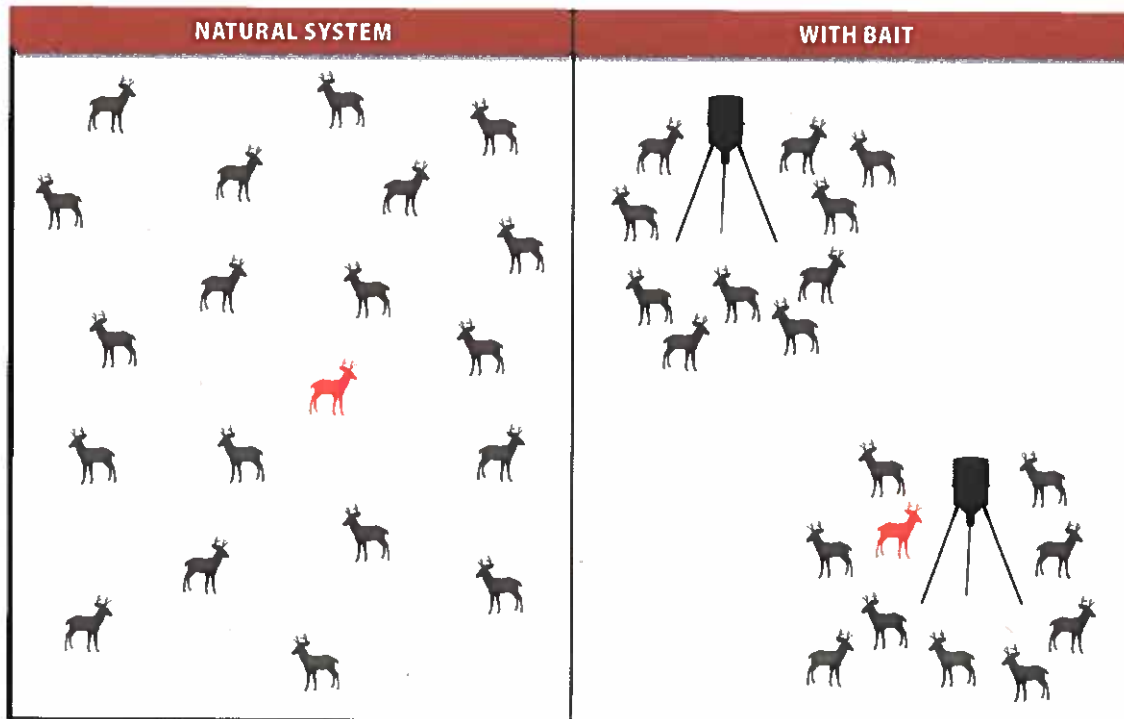
*Control Area*-LDWF designated area consisting of the CWD infectious zone and buffer zone where mitigation measures and regulations are applied to curb further spread of the disease. The Control Area shall be listed on the LDWF website.

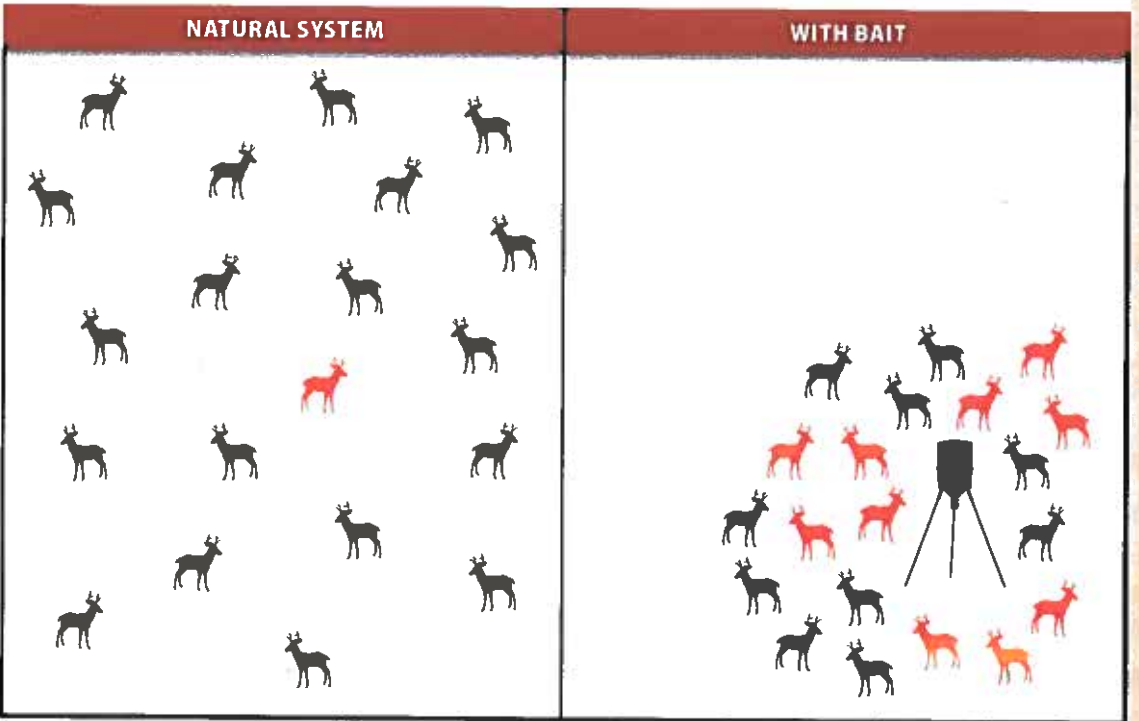
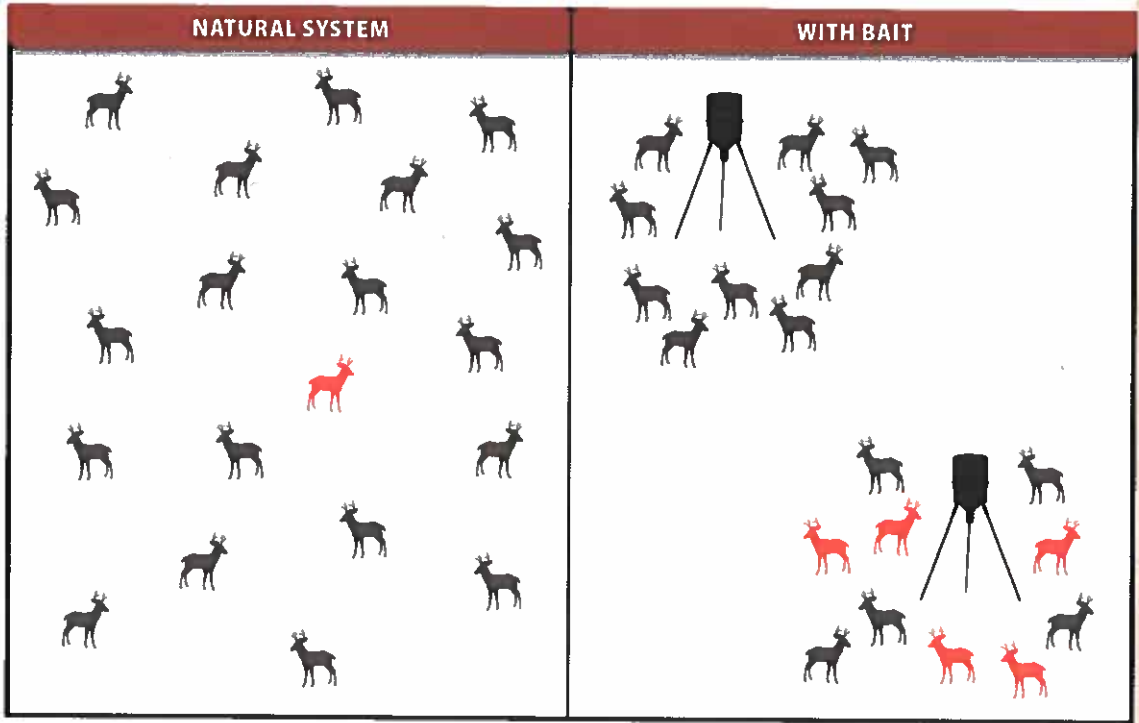
*LDWF*-The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



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

- B. 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.





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

- C. The export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within a LDWF 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 and regulations.



## CWD Control Area

- Reported Harvest 6,107 deer (3 year avg.)
- CWD sample drop off locations within each parish.
- Hunters for the Hungry participating processors (6)
- Taxidermists (4)
- Public Areas: Buckhorn WMA, Big Lake WMA and Tensas NWR (Samples collected during managed hunts)
- DMAP Cooperators (77)



## **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until Thursday, June 2, 2022 to Johnathan Bordelon, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov).

## **Public Hearings**

Public hearings will be held Friday, May 27, 2022 at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Louisiana Research Station, St. Joseph, LA and Saturday, May 28, 2022 at the LSU Ag Center Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA. These public hearings are held for informational purposes. For more information, contact Johnathan Bordelon, LDWF Deer Program Manager (318) 487-5334 or [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov).





# WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2022 REGULAR SESSION



## OMF/Licensing Bills



- **HB 338 – Removes the Freshwater Charter Fishing Guide License**
  - New license in effect for calendar year 2022
  - Requires Charter Guide License, Basic Fishing License, USCG Captain's license, and proof of insurance to operate within Louisiana
  - Expect an amendment to remove USCG captain license requirements
  - Pending HNRC - Likely next Wednesday AM
- **HB 718 – Licenses for Nonresident Veterans, Retired Military Personnel, and Purple Heart Recipients**
  - Nonresident veterans who enrolled or discharged in Louisiana are eligible for resident rates
  - Corrects an error from license restructure regarding retired military personnel
  - Grants resident rates for any Purple Heart recipient
  - Pending HNRC - Likely next Wednesday AM
- **HB 762 – Creates the Louisiana Outdoor Forever Fund**
  - Creates the fund within the Conservation Fund
  - Establishes the Program for the purpose of providing funding to outdoor conservation projects
  - Establishes a project selection board and technical advisory board
  - Land/habitat conservation, water quality, agriculture and silviculture, public recreation, historic properties
  - Sunsets in 2033
  - Passed House Floor (Vote Y:90/N:7)



## Wildlife Bills

- **HB 422/635 – Pneumatic Air Guns**

- Bills are identical
- Allow for deer to be taken with pre-charged pneumatic devices only during modern firearm season
- 30 caliber projectiles, or arrows/bolts conforming with current archery or crossbow requirements
- Pending HNRC – Likely next Wednesday AM

- **HB 541 – Prohibits Feeding of Wild Alligators**

- Statewide prohibition on the intentional feeding of wild gators
- Some exemptions including:
  - Alligator farms, zoos, or licensed exhibitor
  - LDWF personnel
  - Licensed alligator trapper
- Class 2 violation
- Similar SB was filed in 2007, failed passage in the House
- Pending HNRC – Likely next Wednesday AM

- **HB 683 – Exempts Royalties for Dredge/Fill Materials**

- Current posture is a place holder
- Seeks to exempt all royalties when commercial dredging activity has ancillary navigation benefit – Red River focus
- Pending HNRC – Likely next Wednesday AM

- **HB 857 – Wild Turkey Federation License Plate**

- \$25 annual fee (minus \$3.50 for OMV admin fee)
- Disbursed to NWTf for conservation of wild turkey
- Pending House Transportation Committee

- **HB 1046 – Catahoula Game and Fish Preserve/Commission**

- Reestablishes the Catahoula Game and Fish Preserve
- Defines territorial limits of the preserve – 34' contour
- Establishes a commission to administer and govern the preserve
- Provides powers, duties and responsibilities of the commission
- Provides for acquisition of property/expropriation powers
- Excludes WMA and Wildlife Reserve
- Pending HNRC



## Wildlife Bills

- **SB 86 – Provides for a Bear Hunting Season**

- Mandates the WLF Commission establish a bear season in 2023 and every year after.
- Commission to define dates, times, and areas
- Commission may restrict harvest based on number and sex of bears, use of bait or dogs, by lottery and tags, any other means the Commission deems necessary or useful
- Requires an annual report to the legislature on number of tags issued, number of bears taken, and state's bear population
- Pending SNRC

- **SB 93 – Designates the Gulf Fritillary as the State Butterfly**

- Pending SNRC



- **SB 279 – Names the Rockefeller Office Building the "J. Burton Angelle Building"**

- State Rep 1964-72
- LDWF Secretary 1973-80 and 1984-88
- Pending House Transportation Committee

- **HCR 18 – Recreates the Feral Hog Task Force**

- Estimate feral hog population
- Analyze economic impact and impacts to human health
- Identify control methods and funding sources
- Coordinate enforcement and tracking of movement
- Make a Final Report by 2/1/2027
- 5 year sunset
- Reported Favorable out of HNRC



## Fisheries Bills

- **HB 61 – Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund**
  - Extends \$250K annual payments into the "Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund" through 2026
  - Extends the existence of the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to June 30, 2026
  - Originally scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2022
  - Expect amendments to require annual payments and to consolidate the two funds and allow for it to be used for the two programs
  - Pending HNRC
- **HB 324 – Oyster Task Force Composition**
  - Allows for 5 members to be appointed by the LA Dealers and Growers Association
  - Removes the requirement that 2 of those be from Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes respectively
  - Pending HNRC
- **HB 332 – Mullet Stock Assessments**
  - Changes frequency of mullet stock assessments from annual to every five years
  - Pending HNRC
- **HB 419 – Catfish Noodling and Bream for Bait**
  - Catfish hand-grabbing "noodling" is popular, but not explicitly legal method of take
  - Small bream are a logical and ecologically safe non-commercial baitfish choice in our inland waterbodies
  - Bream can currently be caught in minnow traps for bait on Texas/LA border waters, this expands it to all inland waters
  - Reported favorable out of HNRC
- **HB 689 – Reestablishes the retail seafood dealers license**
  - This license was combined with the Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License in last year's license restructure
  - The goal was to have a single license to sell seafood regardless of where one exists in the supply chain
  - Is being reintroduced at the old fee of \$100, and not adjusted to recognize the commercial increase from last year
  - Pending HNRC
- **HB 791 – Unlicensed Charter Fishing Guide Penalties**
  - Current posture allows for revocation and suspension of recreational fishing privileges for a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense
  - Expect much harsher penalties to be introduced via an amendment in committee, including major fines and VMS requirements
  - Pending HNRC

## Fisheries Bills

- **HB 1033 – Establishes a Total Allowable Catch for Menhaden in Louisiana Waters**
  - TAC = 260,000 Metric Tons
    - 52,000 metric tons within 1-mile of the shore
    - 104,000 metric tons between 1 and 2 miles off the shore
    - Requires daily reporting of daily set locations via GPS, length of catch, estimated tonnage per set, end product disposition to LDWF
    - LDWF is authorized to close zones when sets reach limits
  - Pending HNRC
- **SB 123 – Cameron Parish Oyster Aquaculture Park**
  - Designates a geographic area and establishes an exclusive zone for the purpose of growing off-bottom oyster culture
  - Cameron Port Commission
  - Similar to the one in Grand Isle
  - Assigned to Senate Natural Resources – on today's agenda
- **SB 153 – Commercial Use of Surface Water**
  - Removes a loophole that allows for uncompensated commercial use of surface water
  - Mineral Board establishes the fair market value for surface water
  - Proceeds go to the Aquatic Plant and Invasive Species Control Fund
  - Assigned to Senate Natural Resources
- **SB 270 – Netting Near Water Control Structures**
  - Allows for netting of certain species within 500 feet of a water control structure or mouth of any inlet or pass
  - Only applies to non-game species and invasive fish
  - Nets are restricted to a mesh no smaller than four inches
  - Passed Senate (Vote Y:37/N:0)
- **SB 447 – Commercial Menhaden Harvest Reporting**
  - Requires monthly reporting to the WLF Commission of:
    - GPS location of sets
    - Estimated weight of harvest
    - Length of menhaden in the set
  - LDWF must report aggregate data to the Natural Resource Committees annually
  - Pending SNRC



## Enforcement Bills



### • HB 43 – La. Firearm Protection Act

- Prohibits federal law that taxes, registers, tracks, or curtails possession of firearms
  - EXEMPTS PITTMAN-ROBERTSON EXCISE TAXES
- Prohibits enforcement of federal law or regulation that's inconsistent with state law
- Pending House ACJ

### • HB 69 – Photographic Evidence of Litter

- Inference of guilt of the registered vehicle owner when photographic evidence is produced with a license plate of a vehicle from which litter is disposed.
- Reported favorably from HNRC

### • HB 702 – Liability for Certain Actions by Peace Officers

- Removes qualified immunity defense
- Employer is responsible for civil liability unless the officer did not act in good faith
- Pending House Civil Law

### • HB 750 – Prosecution of Litter Citations by LDWF

- Authorizes LDWF to prosecute civil penalties associated with simple or commercial litter citations written by LDWF agents
- Does not apply to any criminal litter violations or citations written by other LEOs
- Reported favorably from HNRC

### • SB 424 – Exempts Boater Safety Education for Motorboat Rentals

- 18 years old and rented from a boat livery, rental specifies that the operator was instructed on proper and safe operation, and rental is signed and operator avers they are not under suspension of license
- Pending House Civil Law

### • SB 448 – Collection of Civil Restitution Judgments

- Makes judgments of Administrative Law Judge regarding civil restitution of wildlife final for purposes of debt collection
- This is already the case for lower class wildlife violations
- Pending SNRC

## Questions?

