

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2022

**Joe McPherson
Chairman**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe McPherson', is written over the printed name and title.

New Orleans, Louisiana

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
August 4, 2022 – 9:30 AM
New Orleans, Louisiana

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of July 7, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of August 4, 2022 Agenda
6. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
7. Enforcement Report, July 2022
8. Presentation of LDWF Budget
9. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend the Alligator Regulations License Fees, Hide Tag Fees and Severance Tax
10. Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Set the Opening Date for the 2022 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season
11. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Establishing Closures of Certain Waters Associated with the 2023 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program
12. Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Temporarily Reduce the Recreational Daily Creel Limits on Freshwater Fish During a Scheduled Drawdown on Spring Bayou, Avoyelles Parish
13. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Regulations Regarding Swordfish and Roundscale Spearfish
14. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify the Regulations Regarding the Closed Season for Harvest of Sharks
15. Receive Public Comments
16. Consider Holding an Executive Session, Pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(2), to Discuss Prospective Litigation Regarding Damages to Certain LDWF Property in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes
17. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 4, 2022

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on August 4, 2022, at the Double Tree Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana by **Chairman McPherson**.

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

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

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

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

Next, **Chairman McPherson** called for **Adoption of July 7, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to adopt the July 7, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Blanchard**. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman McPherson asked for **Approval of August 4, 2022 Agenda**. **Commissioner Reynolds** made a motion to approve the August 4, 2022 Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Sagrera** and unanimously approved.

There were no **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month.

Major Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for July 2022** stating there were 17 boating incidents with 13 injuries and 3 fatalities. A total of 770 written citations and 608 written warnings were issued and agents responded to 36 public assists in July. News Releases reviewed included agents citing three men in Plaquemines Parish for oyster violations near Buras, Louisiana and their 25 sacks of oysters returned to the private lease water bottoms. In support of Operation Dry Water, 12 boaters were arrested statewide for driving while intoxicated from July 2 through July 4, 2022. Agents collaborated with Venice Marina and the non-profit

Hunters for the Hungry to donate seized fish to the New Orleans Mission; a total of 800 pounds of fish were donated to the Mission with over 400 pounds coming from Enforcement seizures.

Next agenda item as noted by **Chairman McPherson** was the **Presentation of LDWF Budget** by Mr. Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary. Undersecretary McClinton began the presentation showing the monies that goes into the Conservation Fund (General Fund for the Department). A recent uptick was due to the price of natural gas production however, there was a down tick in boat registrations due to moving money from the Conservation Fund to Aquatic Plant Control Fund. An increase in the commercial licenses was due to the increase in costs of licenses that became effective November 15, 2021. A comparison of basic fishing and hunting licenses compared to lifetime and senior license holders showed that more and more people are qualifying for a senior license. Then Undersecretary McClinton spoke on “Where Are We Now” and mentioned that the Department was solid through 2024 with a possibility of there being a \$4 million deficit in 2025. He did feel comfortable in predicting the Department would be funded through 2026. **Chairman McPherson** asked, when the Department went to the Legislature on the fee increase, was it projected to the Legislature the Department would be in the hole in five years: Undersecretary McClinton answered yes, adding that the bill passed before there was an uptick in natural gas (beginning in August and September 2021, the Department received \$1 million and for the last 6 months, the Department has received almost \$2 million). Following the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, \$214 million will go to the Department (largest budget since Undersecretary McClinton was with the Department) and accounts for \$20 million from federal monies and another \$5 million from dedicated monies for debris removal from Hurricane Ida. The next slide showed the breakdown of the \$214 million budget, such as \$50 million for salaries. Then he spoke on Capital Outlay Changes that will include Phase 3 of the Enforcement Academy (\$2,250,000); money for Wildlife Land Acquisition (\$800,000); and \$950,000 in cash for the potential purchase of a Hammond Headquarters (current office is being rented). The next two slides showed the existing Capital Outlay projects. (A copy of Mr. McClinton’s presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Following the presentation, **Chairman McPherson** asked about the Pineville Office project and wondered if the bids were over budgeted; Undersecretary McClinton stated the bids were slightly over budget, the Department was able to work with Facility Planning and Control to change their contingencies and the bid has been awarded. Secretary Montoucet added that the Department has received a lot of Capital Outlay over the last several years (Pineville, Lake Charles and Hammond offices) and he commended the Legislators from the affected areas in getting the money for the Department. The Secretary then stated the Department would look at the Monroe Office, as it was getting old and needs remodeling or have a new office built. **Chairman McPherson** stated the reason for the presentation was the Commission had never received such and wanted it to become an annual presentation prior to the Legislative Session so the Commission can provide an opportunity for continuity. The **Chairman** then stated there would be a White Lake presentation at the next meeting and felt there were not a lot of projects listed in the Capital Outlay that was for White Lake. Secretary Montoucet agreed with the Chairman on updating the Commission regularly in order for the Commission to know where the Department was headed; he added that he would visit White Lake soon to see what their needs were and how it can be funded. Then Secretary Montoucet talked about \$4 million that will be used to get four houseboats (Marsh Island, Pointe-aux-Chenes, Rockefeller and White Lake) that would be self-

contained and able to be moved to a safe location in the event of a hurricane. The bid for the houseboats came in over budget but the Department will revisit this project and see if it can be scaled down. **Chairman McPherson** asked if the Department looked into quarter boats that could be moved with a push boat instead of having to maintain a motorized vehicle; Secretary Montoucet added that his background was mechanics and automobiles and he did not want an inboard engine but would fit the boats with outboard engines that could be exchanged in order to make the facilities more user friendly and easier to maintain. Undersecretary McClinton mentioned there were projects listed for White Lake in the existing Capital Outlay projects such as the Florence Canal Water Control Structure that was funded through Ducks Unlimited and private donors and was nearly complete. White Lake was operating through the funds it was generating but not to the point where there was enough excess to cover some projects. On another note, Undersecretary McClinton explained that the \$26 million in General Fund was just a one-time money and would be used for improving technology for Enforcement, Wildlife Division and License Section. **Commissioner Sagraera** asked if there was a timeline on the White Lake Guillotine Gate and Assistant Secretary Randy Myers stated a designer has been hired to design the structure and the money was available based on the design right now but would not know for sure until the design was completed and sent out for bid. He then thought it would be another two months before the design was completed while the Department was seeking the permits needed for soil boring and whatever else might be needed for the operation of the structure. Assistant Secretary Myers then felt it might take another 6 months to a year to get the permits from the Corps of Engineers based on the design. **Chairman McPherson** asked if that was a replacement control structure and Assistant Secretary Myers answered yes. Then the **Chairman** wondered how long it had been out and he was told several years because of the funding. **Chairman McPherson** commented that if something was broken for several years with no available funding, then help should be sought to get that funding. He felt the way normal Capital Outlay projects work was to seek funding for the design first and then have an anticipation cost. Secretary Montoucet mentioned that often times the Department was waiting for the Federal Government to send funding from FEMA and other hurricane related sources. The Secretary added that when he was appointed, the Department was still working on projects from Hurricane Katrina as the funding process is just so slow and horrible. **Chairman McPherson** asked why NAWCA Grants were not used to help with duck habitat projects on White Lake; Assistant Secretary Myers stated that the Department takes every opportunity possible to apply for those Grants as well as work with Ducks Unlimited. Assistant Secretary Myers further commented that he was working with Ducks Unlimited for a one-time allocation for the White Lake pumps that are fully funded. Undersecretary McClinton noted that an amendment to the budget was \$640,000 in General Fund for the pump at White Lake, a pump at Rockefeller and a waterfowl research project. Secretary Montoucet stated that the Department hired a Grants Specialist to look at all of the possible opportunities there are and make application for those Grants to help the Department. **Chairman McPherson** requested the Grants Specialist be at the next meeting for the White Lake presentation to learn of various sources of funding needed to get White Lake back where it needed to be. Secretary Montoucet commented that he hoped to give the Grants Specialist some time to research all of the possible funding sources and then provide an update to the Commission. Undersecretary McClinton knew that the Grants Specialist was working on a shoreline stabilization project on the Intracoastal Waterway and White Lake levee but also knew that he was working on projects with a timeline (marine debris removal project). He concluded stating his intent is to come back

before the Commission once the upcoming budget was submitted to the Office of Planning and Budget along with the Capital Outlay budget.

Before going on, Secretary Montoucet stated Department staff attended an Oversight Hearing that was very successful, thanks in part to **Chairman McPherson's** work with Legislators in upholding the Notice of Intent for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The work involved identifying the 25-mile radius as requested and Secretary Montoucet expressed his appreciation for all of the Chairman and Commission's efforts. **Chairman McPherson** thanked Secretary Montoucet for his words and added that it was gratifying to have the support and understanding of the Legislature. The **Chairman** also complimented the Office of Wildlife staff for all of their work and efforts.

Chairman McPherson then asked Mr. Jeb Linscombe, Program Manager, to come forward for the next agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend the Alligator Regulations License Fees, Hide Tag Fees and Severance Tax**. Mr. Linscombe stated the proposed action was due to the Department's license fee restructure which has already been made in statute and reducing the tag fee for one year from \$4 to \$3. This reduction was done previously in 2019 and was in effect for two years. The first change was removing severance taxes from all Department-wide licenses. Mr. Linscombe then went through the price changes in the licenses which are staggered in nature with the final amount occurring in 2024. He then stated that the request for a reduction in the alligator hide tag fee was made by the Louisiana Alligators Farmers and Ranchers Association (LAFRA) and was made for two years.

Mr. Stephen Sagraera stated there were a couple of changes from the slide titled LAFRA & PEACH Contributions, Expenses and Liabilities as of 03/21/22. The Producer Contributions Gulf Coast Bank Loan was down to \$176,000 and the PEACH Gulf Coast Bank Loan was down to \$250,000. The LAFRA requested the two-year reduction in the alligator hide tag fee, but also asked the Department to check the health of the fund to which Mr. Sagraera felt the Department could handle a one-year reduction. During the last time a reduction in the hide tag fee was made, a Commissioner asked what was the guarantee that this money would not be directed into someone's pocket and Mr. Sagraera answered there were no guarantees, this was an honor system. He added that there was evidence all of the funds were collected and it worked as hoped; Mr. Sagraera then thanked the Commissioners for their help.

Mr. Linscombe stated that the LAFRA Tag Fee Contributions of \$587,000 were what were collected on a voluntary basis and he also felt it worked. Going on with the presentation, Mr. Linscombe showed a slide with the budget going back to Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. He noted for FY 2018, the balance was over \$5 million that prompted the request to reduce the tag fees; FY 2022 budget shows that the reduction was sustained. Mr. Linscombe then stated that in 2019, there was not only an overstock issue with alligator hides in Louisiana, but crocodilian hides worldwide. Then he noted these are unstable times right now (Corona Virus and war in Ukraine) and there are not that many animals being shipped. The last slide showed the budget from FY 2019 through FY 2023 and Mr. Linscombe stated the balance could sustain the program for a one-year surplus. Mr. Sagraera stated he failed to mention that aside from the \$587,000 collected, farmers and the industry was matching another dollar. (A copy of Mr. Linscombe's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chairman McPherson asked what the long-term future may be for the alligator hides or would it be rebound; Mr. Stephen Sagrera stated they certainly hope for a rebound but there are lots of pressures against animal use. He added that major brands are dedicating a lot of resources to fight this issue. Mr. Sagrera felt it was a matter of settling the war in Ukraine and solving problems for Covid with hopes the rebound will come but not sure when. The **Chairman** thought the true luxury market was not concerned with inflation and budgeting, but for those to whom this would be a luxury item was a discretionary spending on their part. Mr. Sagrera added that for the alligator industry to be successful, they need the people that cannot afford it right now to come back. Hearing no further comments, **Commissioner Hogan** made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and the motion passed with no opposition.

(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

Alligators
(LAC 76:V.701)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend the alligator regulations governing alligator hide tag fees. The action suspends the alligator hide tag fee by \$1.00, thereby reducing the tag fee from \$4.00 per tag to \$3.00 per tag for license year 2023. The purpose of this change is to provide temporary relief to the alligator industry in a time of suppressed market conditions. This temporary reduction will automatically end December 31, 2023. Further, this notice of intent removes the requirement for payment of severance taxes and adjusts the following licenses to be consistent with fees established by Act No. 356 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature: resident fur buyer's license, nonresident fur buyer's license, resident fur dealer's license, nonresident fur dealer's license, nongame quadruped exhibitor's license, nongame quadruped breeder's license, alligator parts dealer license, and alligator parts retailer license.

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 7. Alligators

§701. Alligator Regulations

A.-A.3.k. ...

A. 3. l. There is levied a severance tax of \$0.25 on each alligator hide taken from within the state, payable to the state through the department by the alligator hunter or alligator farmer shipping or taking his own catch out of state, or shipping to an instate taxidermist, or by the dealer shipping skins or hides out of state or tanning alligator skins in Louisiana. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class two violation as described in R.S. title 56.

m l. An alligator hunter or alligator farmer may give alligator parts to anyone for personal use. Any part of an alligator shall have affixed thereto the name, address, date, hide tag number, and the license number of the person donating the alligator part(s). This information shall be legibly written in pen or pencil on any piece of paper or cardboard or any material which is attached to the part(s) or to the container enclosing the part or parts. This information must remain affixed until the part(s) has been stored at the domicile of the possessor. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class two violation as described in R.S. title 56.

n m. i. R.S. 56:280, passed in the Regular Session of the 1992 Louisiana Legislature established a state policy which protects white or albino alligators and except under department permit prohibits the taking of white or albino alligators from the wild.

ii. Conditions under which any alligator that is white or albino may be taken from the wild and under official department permit include:

(a). landowners or licensed alligator farmers or ranching operators may capture live and unharmed a white or albino alligator for its own protection. All such instances of possession shall be reported immediately to the department;

(b). any white or albino alligator hatchling produced from wild collected eggs authorized by a department alligator egg collection permit will remain in the possession of such licensed operators. Any white or albino hatchling must be reported immediately upon hatching to the department on a standard activity report form;

(c). any person who intentionally takes from the wild any alligator that is white or albino by hook and line shall immediately report its presence and location to the department. Department personnel of the Coastal and Nongame Resources Division will on a case by case basis determine the disposition of any such white or albino alligator which is unintentionally hooked.

iii. Any white or albino hatchling produced from a licensed breeding pen will remain in the possession of such licensed operators but must be reported immediately upon hatching to the department on a standard activity report.

iv. It shall be a violation if any person intentionally takes from the wild any alligator that is white or albino by any means.

v. Violation of R.S. 56:280 shall subject the violator to a fine of not less than \$10,000 and imprisonment for not less than 6 months or more than 12 months, or both.

e n. Alligator meat and parts may be shipped in containers that are sealed and the parts identified to the CITES tag of origin. A fully executed alligator hunter, farmer, or parts dealer alligator parts sale or transaction form and shipping manifest shall meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service parts identification requirements, provided such form(s) is/are prominently attached to the outside of each shipping container. Alligator meat/parts shipped to another state must meet applicable state/federal requirements of the receiving state. Alligator meat/parts exported from the United States must meet the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as those of the receiving country. Alligator skulls being exported shall carry a "tag" containing the CITES tag number and the hunter's name and license number. The skull must also be physically marked with the number of the original CITES tag used for the hide of the individual alligator. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class three violation as described in R.S. title 56.

p o. For the purpose of bona fide educational or promotional functions, including but not limited to school activities, civic groups, fairs and festivals within the state of Louisiana, an alligator farmer/rancher or his designee may transport his own live farm alligators or alligator eggs to such function without the need for a special permit from the department while in possession of a valid nongame quadruped breeder's or exhibitor's license or copy thereof. Such farmer/rancher shall not barter, trade, exchange or attempt to barter, trade or exchange live alligator(s) or alligator eggs while transporting to/or attending such function.

4. Licenses, Permits and Fees

a. i. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of R.S. title 56, or as prescribed in these regulations, and are:

(a) Resident Alligator Hunter's License (including commercial, helper, sport and nuisance classes) - \$25; for a resident alligator hunter's license; including commercial, helper, sport and nuisance classes;

(b) Nonresident Alligator Hunter's License (including landowner and sport classes) - \$150; for a nonresident alligator hunter's license; including landowner and sport classes;

- (c). Resident Fur Buyer's License - ~~\$25~~ \$55 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$40); for a resident fur buyer's license;
- (d). Nonresident Fur Buyer's License - ~~\$100~~ \$215 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$157.50); for a nonresident fur buyer's license;
- (e). Resident Fur Dealer's License - ~~\$150~~ \$400 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$275; for a resident fur dealer's license (\$500 deposit required));
- (f). Nonresident Fur Dealer's License - ~~\$300~~ \$800 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$550); for a nonresident fur dealer's license (\$1,000 deposit required);
- (g). Nongame Quadruped Exhibitor's License - ~~\$10~~ \$20 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$15) for a nongame quadruped exhibitor's license;
- (h). Nongame Quadruped Breeder's License - ~~\$25~~ \$50 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$37.50); for a nongame quadruped breeder's license;
- (i). Alligator Parts Dealer License - ~~\$50~~ \$105 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$77.50; for an alligator parts dealer license;
- (j). Alligator Parts Retailer License - ~~\$5~~ \$10 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$7.50); for an alligator parts retailer license;
- (k). Alligator Hide Tag Fee - \$4 for each alligator hide tag, except for license years 2020 and 2021 year 2023, in which the fee for each alligator hide tag shall be \$3;
- (l). \$4 for each whole alligator leaving the state as alligator shipping label fee;
- (m). ~~\$0.25 severance tax for each alligator hide taken from within the state;~~
- (n m). \$25 for a designated agent collection permit.

A.4.a.ii.–A.4.j. ...

k. Every alligator hunter or alligator farmer shipping or transporting his own catch of alligator skins out of state is liable for the alligator hide tag fee ~~and the severance tax thereon~~, and shall apply for an official out of state shipping tag to be attached to the shipment and shall pay the alligator hide tag fee ~~and the severance tax prior to shipment~~. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class two violation as described in R.S. title 56.

A.4.l.-A.11.b.vi. ...

vii. The alligator hide tag fee ~~and severance tax~~ shall be collected by the department from the alligator hunter who is shipping his own alligators or raw alligator skins, or who intends to custom tan, or use for taxidermy, the alligators or raw skins.

A.11.b.viii.-A.11.d.vii. ...

viii. The alligator shipping label fee or the alligator hide tag fee ~~and the severance tax~~ shall be collected by the department from the alligator farmer who is shipping alligators or raw alligator skins, or who intends to custom tan, or use for taxidermy, the alligators or raw skins.

A.11.e.i.-A.11.e.ii.(c). ...

(d). ~~severance tax and~~ alligator hide tag fees owed by alligator hunter, alligator farmer or fur dealer.

A.11.e.iii. ...

iv. Every fur dealer, alligator farmer or alligator hunter prior to shipping out of state or prior to tanning in state, partial alligator skins (flanks, bellies or chalecos) must provide an official shipping manifest listing a description of the partial alligator skins in the shipment along with the CITES tag number for each partial skin piece, referenced to the original CITES tag number that was placed on the wild alligator or farm raised alligator when harvested. Department personnel will review the manifest for accuracy and determine the number of original CITES tags referenced for the first time in order to assess the ~~amount of severance tax and~~ alligator hide tag fees owed by the shipper. Shipper will be thus informed by the department within 10 working days of receiving the official shipping manifest.

v. At the time of shipment or prior to tanning, department personnel will inspect alligator skin pieces and replace any broken or reattached tags. Department personnel will issue the appropriate number of yellow shipping tags, one for each shipment. At that time, department personnel will affix a seal or locking device to each container. It shall be a violation of this Subparagraph for any person other than department personnel or federal personnel to reopen any sealed or locked container. In conjunction with the inspection and prior to department issuance of shipping tag(s) and seal(s) or locking device(s), department personnel must collect:

- shipment;
- (a). all completed buyer/dealer records for skins in each
- filled-out;
- (b). stub portion of yellow shipping tag completely
- (c). **severance tax and** alligator hide tag fees owed by alligator hunter, alligator farmer or fur dealer for partial alligator skin pieces being shipped as referenced in Clause A.11.e.iv.

vi. If any of the above requirements are not satisfied, the shipment will not be authorized. Violation of this Clause is a class three violation as described in R.S. title 56.

f. Fur dealers engaged in the business of buying and selling alligator hides must maintain complete records of alligator hides purchased inside and outside the state as described in R.S. Title 56. Fur dealers in the business of tanning alligator hides must provide a monthly report, on forms provided by or approved by the department, of all alligator hides being held in inventory. Failure to maintain complete records and to pay the required **severance tax and** alligator hide tag fees subjects any dealer to the full penalties provided and the immediate revocation of his license by the department. No license shall be issued to a dealer who has not paid the tax and alligator hide tag fees for the preceding year. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class three violation as described in R.S. title 56.

A.11.g.–A.18.c. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, **R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.** and Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, Chapter 1, Part V, Subpart A.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991), LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28:1996 (September 2002), LR 30:2338 (October 2004), LR 30:2878 (December 2004), LR 31:2267 (September 2005), LR 33:677 (April 2007), LR 35:690 (April 2009), LR 37:2421 (August 2011), LR 39:2291 (August 2013), LR 42:909 (June 2016), LR 43:90 (January 2017), LR46:50 (January 2020), LR46:1398 (October 2020), LR 48:508 (March 2022), 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

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

Provider Impact Statement

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

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.

Public Comments

Written comments may be addressed to Jeb Linscombe, Program Manager, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 200 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA, 70506 or via email to jlinscomb@wlf.la.gov, no later than 4:30 PM on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

Joe McPherson
Chairman

Mr. Peyton Cagle, Marine Fisheries Biologist, came forward for the first of his two agenda items, **Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Set the Opening Date for the 2022 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season**. Mr. Cagle began his presentation showing recent trend data. Louisiana Annual Shrimp Landings and Value from 2012 through 2021 showed from the years 2012 through 2018, over 90 million pounds were landed per year, flooding occurred in 2019, Covid occurred as well as 3 hurricanes in 2020 and in 2021, Covid was still around along with spring historical rainfall and Hurricane Ida. Louisiana White Shrimp Only Annual Landings and Value from 2012 through 2021 fluctuates each year (60-70 million pounds each year) but dips occurred in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid and hurricanes. The value dropped in 2020 as restaurants closed and there was no demand for the product. Next slide was 2021 White Shrimp Landings and Value by month compared with 10-year average (landings were above the 10-year average only for three months – January, June and December). The value of white shrimp for 2021 showed it was greater than the 10-year average. Slides on White Shrimp Landings by Count Size and the White Shrimp Value by Count Size for 2019, 2020, 2021 was compared with the 10-year average. White Shrimp Price per Pound by Count Size for 2019, 2020, and 2021 compared with the 10-year average showed that in 2020 overall, the average price per pound was greater than the 10-year average and the previous two years. Then Mr. Cagle talked on current data (collected the week of July 25-29, 2022), but first showed a map of the different Coastal Study Areas (CSA 1 – Pontchartrain or Shrimp Management Zone 1; CSA 3 – Barataria, CSA 5 – Terrebonne and CSA 6 – Vermilion and these are referred to as Shrimp Management Zone 2; and CSA 7 – Calcasieu, Mermentau and Sabine or Shrimp Management Zone 3). Staff was looking for at least 50% of the resource at a marketable size (statute stipulates that anything bigger in size than 100 count was deemed legal and marketable). The open waters of Zone 1 showed very diverse group but looking at the Biloxi Marsh of Zone 1, the majority of the counts are in 300-400-500 counts. Projected date for the open waters of Zone 1 showed it was past time to open the season but the Biloxi Marsh of Zone 1 crossover date was August 15. Zone 2

without Vermilion-Teche waters, showed larger shrimp and a good number of medium shrimp with positive recruit signs; crossover date has already past. Vermilion-Teche area showed lots of mid-size shrimp and should pick up bigger shrimp as the season progresses; crossover date was August 5. Zone 3 without Mermentau River showed Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers with larger shrimp but the Mermentau had smaller shrimp in high numbers. The crossover date for the Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers of Zone 3 was at the end of July and for the Mermentau River, it was August 13. The next slide shown was of the predicted August 2022 tidal range. Mr. Cagle then noted the Department's recommendations for the 2022 fall inshore shrimp season would be to open the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to Southwest Pass on August 8, 2022 at 6 a.m. except for the Biloxi Marsh area that would open on August 15 at 6 a.m. Then the area from Southwest Pass westward to the Atchafalaya Ship Channel would also open August 8 but at 6 p.m.; then the area from the Atchafalaya Ship Channel westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line would open on August 8 at 6 a.m. except the Mermentau River that would open on August 15 at 6 a.m. Lastly, a map of the Louisiana coast showed the shrimp openings. (A copy of Mr. Cagle's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Blanchard asked Mr. Cagle to let everyone know of the action by the Shrimp Task Force; Mr. Cagle stated he presented this data to the Task Force, received very good debate and conversation and they made a motion to support the Department's recommendation. **Chairman McPherson** noted this was the first time since being on the Commission that there was no one wanting to speak on this issue. **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to accept the Department's recommendations in the Declaration of Emergency and was seconded by **Commissioner Sagraera**. 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

Fall Inshore Shrimp Season Opening Dates
August 4, 2022

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission received information regarding biological sampling for white shrimp in state inshore waters. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provided the Commission with data that projected the date when white shrimp will reach marketable size. After considering biological information and public input, the Commission took action to set the fall shrimp season within state inshore waters. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries

Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters and to increase the minimum mesh size provided in R.S. 56:499 for any trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net for the duration of any special shrimp season or regular shrimp season extension, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2022 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters to open as follows:

That portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6:00 a.m., August 8, 2022 except for the area as described below which will open at 6:00 a.m., August 15, 2022:

- From a point at the intersection of the eastern shore of the MRGO and the Shell Beach Cut at 29 degrees 51 minutes 29.40 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 37.99 seconds west longitude; thence northerly to a point where Shell Beach Cut and the south shore of Lake Borgne intersect (29 degrees 52 minutes 00.35 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 25.33 seconds west longitude); thence easterly and northerly following the southern shore of Lake Borgne and the western shore of the Biloxi Marsh to Pointe Aux Marchettes (29 degrees 59 minutes 26.87 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 44.91 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to Malheureax Point (30 degrees 04 minutes 40.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 28 minutes 46.59 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly to a point on the western shore of Three-Mile Pass (30 degrees 03 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 22 minutes 23.00 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to a point on Isle Au Pitre (30 degrees 09 minutes 20.50 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 11 minutes 15.50 seconds west longitude), which is a point on the double-rig line as described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2; thence southerly following the double-rig line to where it intersects with the MRGO (29 degrees 40 minutes 40.11 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 23 minutes 07.71 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the eastern shore of the MRGO to the point of origin.

That portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00 p.m., August 8, 2022; and,

That portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6:00 a.m., August 8, 2022 except for the area as described below which will open at 6:00 a.m., August 15, 2022:

- From a point on the shrimp inside/outside line and the western shore of the Mermentau River at 29 degrees 43 minutes 46.14 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 00 minutes 40.50 seconds west longitude; thence northerly following the western shore of the Mermentau River to its intersection with Catfish Locks 29 degrees 52 minutes 47.31 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 50 minutes 57.25 seconds west longitude; thence southeasterly following Catfish Locks to its

intersection with the eastern shore of the Mermentau River (29 degrees 51 minutes 44.20 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 50 minutes 52.98 seconds west longitude); thence southerly following the eastern shore of the Mermentau River to the point where it intersects the shrimp inside/outside line (29 degrees 43 minutes 46.33 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 00 minutes 31.71 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the shrimp inside/outside line to the point of origin.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the secretary of LDWF to delay or advance these opening dates if biological and/or technical data indicate the need to do so, and; to close any portion of Louisiana's inside or outside waters to protect small juvenile white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

The secretary is further granted the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, and to open and close special shrimp seasons in any portion of state waters.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Joe McPherson
Chairman

The second agenda item for Mr. Peyton Cagle, Marine Fisheries Biologist, was to **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Establishing Closures of Certain Waters Associated with the 2023 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program**. Mr. Cagle's presentation would be on the results from the 2022 derelict crab trap efforts and the proposed 2023 closure areas. In 2022, there were four closures in February (Calcasieu, Vermilion, Terrebonne and Barataria) which allows the season to reopen in time for Mardi Gras and Lent. There were just over 700 traps removed for 2022; then Mr. Cagle showed a slide of program results from 2004 when the program began (total – 52 closure areas with an average 4,000 traps picked up per year). Before reviewing the proposed 2023 areas, Mr. Cagle reviewed the statute for this program (the Commission can designate area trap closures, who can collect, disposal locations, date of trap closures and the disposition of the traps and giving the Secretary authority to dispose these traps). He then further stated the Department has been trying to develop a pilot program to find a way to give serviceable traps back but the industry was not cooperating on this issue. **Chairman McPherson** asked that Mr. Cagle explain further what he just presented. Mr. Cagle noted the Department was trying to find a way to reduce the waste that once a trap was removed from the waters and are serviceable be returned to the fishery or user and not put them in a waste facility. The **Chairman** wondered how are the traps distinguished as abandoned or displaced by a storm; Mr. Cagle noted any trap within a closure area was deemed abandoned or lost and becomes property of the State if collected by the State. **Chairman McPherson** next asked what was the current disposition of traps that are picked up and Mr. Cagle stated that those traps are brought to a disposal site and disposed as waste (smashed or put into a dumpster and hauled to a landfill or recycle facility if one was available). He added that the Department wanted to reduce the waste by giving serviceable traps back to the fishermen but a plan has yet to be worked out. The **Chairman** felt there was contradiction in someone abandoning their traps, the Department

picking them up and then giving them back to that person; Mr. Cagle stated that has been discussed, but noted it was not a perfect scenario for the Department as there was no commitment from the industry. **Chairman McPherson** asked why not sell the traps and Mr. Cagle stated that was an Enforcement concern expressed during the development of the pilot program as well as with the industry since the traps are designed based on a person's choice of color or where they put their rings and could result in user conflicts on the water.

Commissioner Blanchard asked who picks up the traps and Mr. Cagle stated it was Department staff and possibly even host volunteer events. Then the **Commissioner** asked how the traps are collected to which Mr. Cagle explained in February and March there are lower tides which increases the ability for traps to be found. Traps cut that are on the water bottom are more difficult to pick up (side scan sonar studies have been done in the past but the results do not show it was efficient). Most of the retrieved traps are abandoned or lost if found in the waters with a float or they are considered derelict when found on shore. **Chairman McPherson** felt it did not make sense to expend the time and money to do these closures; and he added that there should be a way to recycle the traps but not to those that abandoned them. The **Chairman** asked that the next time this was brought before the Commission, discussion be held to find clear answers on what to do with the traps; he then asked if it was all volunteers originally doing the pickups. Mr. Cagle answered yes, it was Department staff and volunteers and in 2016-2017 there was a Grant that paid the Basin Foundation and BTNEP to pick up traps and from 2018-2020 the Department funded the Pontchartrain Conservancy to remove traps. He then noted this program was generated through license sales. **Chairman McPherson** stated that those license sales could go back to Conservation Funds to be used for something other than derelict crab traps; then he asked how much was being spent on this program. Mr. Cagle explained that since the license restructure, license sales do not go into the Conservation Fund but into the Crab Management Fund and the annual amount spent for four closures with no contractors was \$60,000-\$70,000 but \$90,000-\$100,000 for years contractors are used. **Commissioner Sunseri** wondered how much money could be made from 3,000 crab traps and Mr. Cagle explained that a lot of the fishermen are good stewards but they still loose traps because of storms and the Department did not want to punish the fishermen for wanting their traps back and the plan was to return the traps at a reduced cost but it was never agreed on from the industry. The **Commissioner** then suggested offering all of the traps to the highest bidder which would alleviate the Department having to destroy the traps. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks stated the closures are scheduled for February through March 2023 which gives the Department some time to work on how to reuse the traps that are serviceable by putting together a list of pros and cons and get feedback from the Commission. The proposed action allows the Department to do this if a good option was developed that the industry could support and not just throw the traps away. **Chairman McPherson** asked if there was a requirement that traps must be tagged and wondered if the tags were missing when the traps were picked up and Mr. Cagle commented that the traps are very fouled with barnacle algae which leads to the tags not readable and also the Department does not have the facilities to store these traps to clean at a later time. **Commissioner Blanchard** felt, with the price of traps today being \$70-\$90, there may be a group of fishermen that would want to bid on the traps; he added that he likes Assistant Secretary Banks' idea of providing options to the Commission. Mr. Cagle again mentioned that the buy back, resell or give away options were an Enforcement concern and was frowned upon by the industry. He then stated they talked with St. Bernard Parish a few years ago to possibly sell all of the traps to them and it would be their responsibility to identify the traps and give them back to the users. **Chairman McPherson**

commented that the Commission seemed to have a lot of interest in refining this process and disposition of the traps to which Mr. Cagle stated that there was not the same interest from the industry. The **Chairman** thought if the Department was spending dollars and there was a value to those traps, it was the responsibility of the Commission to come up with something the industry could help work through.

At this point, Mr. Cagle continued with the presentation by noting the authorized dates for the closures (up to 16 days between February 1 and March 31, up to 14 days in conjunction with the spring shrimp season and anytime crab harvest was closed due to biological or technical reasons). **Chairman McPherson** suggested that this agenda item be brought back before the Commission before February 2023 to discuss and provide for public input if they desire and Assistant Secretary Banks stated that was possible. Mr. Cagle then stated the first proposed closure was for the Pontchartrain Basin from February 1-February 14, 2023. The next closure would be in Barataria Basin also from February 1-February 14, 2023 and would allow the traps to be reset in time for Mardi Gras. Another closure will be in Terrebonne Basin from February 1-February 14, 2023 noting the area was just south of the Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA. The last closure was in Sabine Basin from February 17-February 26, 2023 which was in conjunction with Texas's closure of Sabine. Lastly, Mr. Cagle went through "Things to Remember" such as traps can be removed between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and traps must be brought to designated disposal sites. (A copy of Mr. Cagle's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Following the presentation, **Commissioner Blanchard** asked if there was a closure in the Pontchartrain area in 2022 to which Mr. Cagle stated there was no closure in that area as there have been two to three closures per year over the last 4 years. The Department did not want to continue to negatively impact the same group of fishermen, which was why there are different closures. **Chairman McPherson** asked if there was a question on how to dispose of the traps if the traps became property of the Department; General Counsel Cole Garrett stated there might be a legal mechanism to accomplish the disposition of the traps assuming it worked programmatically. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Reynolds** and unanimously approved.

(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

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program (LAC 76:VII.367)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:961 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:332(N), that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to amend LAC 76:VII.367 to temporarily close a portion of state inside

waters to the use of crab traps in order to facilitate the removal of abandoned crab traps in these waters.

These abandoned crab traps can cause navigational hazards, user-group conflicts, and cause stress on the state blue crab stock by continuing to fish after being abandoned or displaced. Traps are often displaced or abandoned due to storm and tidal movements, theft, captured in another fisherman's gear, or from having the floats cut by propellers. The removal of these traps is necessary to keep Louisiana's coast pristine and to facilitate improvement in the blue crab stock.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has amended the provisions in LAC 76:VII.367 governing the locations of temporary crab trap closures to address problems in portions of state waters resulting from large numbers of abandoned and derelict crab traps (*Louisiana Register, Volume 30, Number 1; Volume 31, Number 1; Volume 32, Number 2; Volume 33, Number 1; Volume 34, Number 1; Volume 36, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 12; Volume 40, Number 1; Volume 41, Number 1; Volume 42, Number 1; Volume 42, Number 12; Volume 44, Number 1; Volume 45, Number 2; Volume 45, Number 12; Volume 46, Number 11; Volume 47, Number 11*). The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took action on August 5 ~~4~~, ~~2022~~ to describe a new portion of state waters to be temporarily closed to the use of crab traps for the purpose of conducting a crab trap cleanup.

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 VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life
Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery
§367. Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2023 within portions of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes as described below:

1. from a point originating at the intersection of the western shoreline of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs and the western shoreline of Bayou Gentilly (29 degrees 45 minutes 39.81 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 47 minutes 30.29 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shoreline of Bayou Gentilly to its intersection with Petit Lake (29 degrees 43 minutes 45.19 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 48 minutes 02.37 seconds west longitude); thence westerly following the northern and western shorelines of Petit Lake to its

intersection with Alligator Pass (29 degrees 43 minutes 26.65 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 48 minutes 39.16 seconds west longitude); thence westerly following the northern shoreline of Alligator Pass into Grand Lake; thence westerly and southerly along the northern and western shorelines of Grand Lake to its intersection with the western shoreline of Orange Bayou (29 degrees 41 minutes 58.25 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 51 minutes 30.88 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shoreline of Orange Bayou to its intersection with the eastern shoreline of River Aux Chenes (29 degrees 40 minutes 57.53 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 51 minutes 43.98 seconds west longitude); thence southerly to the western shoreline of River Aux Chenes (29 degrees 40 minutes 54.79 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 51 minutes 43.98 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly along the western shoreline of River Aux Chenes to its intersection with Bay of River Aux Chenes (29 degrees 38 minutes 12.97 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 39 minutes 39.14 seconds west longitude); thence northerly and easterly along the northern shoreline of Bay of River Aux Chenes to its intersection with the western shoreline of Lake Campo Pass (29 degrees 38 minutes 47.55 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 38 minutes 36.47 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western shoreline of Lake Campo Pass to its intersection with Lake Campo (29 degrees 39 minutes 19.10 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 38 minutes 47.40 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the western, northern, and eastern shorelines of Lake Campo to its intersection with the northern shoreline of Dead Duck Pass (29 degrees 39 minutes 33.15 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 37 minutes 14.78 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly along the marsh shoreline of Dead Duck Pass and the marsh shoreline along the western shoreline of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs to Mozambique Point (29 degrees 38 minutes 04.25 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 30 minutes 03.70 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the marsh shoreline along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs and the marsh islands surrounding Drum Bay to its intersection with the eastern shoreline of Pumpkin Bay (29 degrees 40 minutes 34.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 33 minutes 30.96 seconds west longitude); thence southerly and westerly along the eastern and southern shorelines of Pumpkin Bay and the southern marsh of Bayou Grande to its intersection with Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs (29 degrees 41 minutes 02.81 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 37 minutes 50.39 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs to 29 degrees 45 minutes 41.88 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 47 minutes 28.65 seconds west longitude; thence southwesterly to the point of origin.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2023 within portions of Plaquemines Parish as described below:

1. from a point originating on the south bound lane of Highway 23 (29 degrees 28 minutes 35.89 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 41 minutes 25.88 seconds west longitude), approximately 0.15 miles south of the Plaquemines Parish Office; thence southerly along Highway 23 to its intersection with eastern shoreline of Doullut Canal (29 degrees 23 minutes 00.06 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 36 minutes 08.94 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Long to its intersection with Bayou Fontanelle (29 degrees 18 minutes 29.29 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 36 minutes 03.72 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Fontanelle to its intersection with a point along the inside-outside shrimp line as defined in LAC 76:VII.370 (29

degrees 15 minutes 28.28 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 36 minutes 14.79 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the inside-outside shrimp line to 29 degrees 18 minutes 39.23 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 46 minutes 00.00 seconds west longitude, to a point on the inside-outside shrimp line; thence due north on longitude 89 degrees 46 minutes 00.00 seconds west longitude to a point on the southern shoreline of the Freeport Sulphur Canal (29 degrees 24 minutes 21.24 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 46 minutes 00.00 seconds west longitude); thence northerly to the northern shoreline of the Freeport Sulphur Canal (29 degrees 24 minutes 36.94 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 46 minutes 00.02 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly along the northerly shoreline of the Freeport Sulphur Canal to the point of origin.

C. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2023 within portions of Terrebonne Parish as described below:

1. from a point originating along the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes (29 degrees 25 minutes 59.26 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 27 minutes 31.39 seconds west longitude) near the intersection of Lower U.S. Highway 665 and Island Road; thence westerly to the south bound lane of Island Road; thence southerly along the south bound lane of Island Road to its intersection with the western boundary of the Pointe Aux Chenes Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area (29 degrees 24 minutes 25.77 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 29 minutes 28.43 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western boundary of the Pointe Aux Chenes Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area to its intersection with the southern boundary of the Montegut Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area (29 degrees 25 minutes 20.38 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 29 minutes 58.29 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the southern boundary of the Montegut Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area to its southwestern most point located on the eastern shore of the Humble Canal (29 degrees 25 minutes 51.12 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 33 minutes 31.88 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shore of the Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne (29 degrees 26 minutes 17.70 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 34 minutes 00.19 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to a point located on the western shore of Bayou Terrebonne at 29 degrees 26 minutes 17.66 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 34 minutes 02.75 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal (29 degrees 22 minutes 07.16 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 36 minutes 05.44 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shore of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou (29 degrees 22 minutes 52.50 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 37 minutes 14.93 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Little Caillou to 29 degrees 17 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 38 minutes 41.40 seconds west longitude; thence east along 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes (29 degrees 17 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 23 minutes 00.51 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes to the origin.

D. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 10-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 17, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. February 26, 2023 within portions of Cameron Parish as described below:

1. from a point originating at the Louisiana/Texas state line at 29 degrees 57 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 48 minutes 29.67 seconds west longitude; thence northerly along the Louisiana/Texas state line to its intersection with the southernmost east bound lane on Interstate 10; thence northeasterly along the southernmost east bound lane on Interstate 10 to its intersection at 30 degrees 11 minutes 15.16 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 33 minutes 18.00 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along 93 degrees 33 minutes 18.00 seconds west longitude to its intersection at 29 degrees 57 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 33 minutes 18.00 seconds west longitude; thence westerly along 29 degrees 57 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude to its point of origin.

A. ~~The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2022 within portions of Terrebonne Parish as described below:~~

~~1. from a point originating at the intersection of the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and the southern shoreline of Falgout Canal (29 degrees 24 minutes 42.57 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 46 minutes 59.40 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the southern shoreline of Falgout Canal to its intersection with Lake de Cade (29 degrees 24 minutes 51.57 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 49 minutes 55.05 seconds west longitude); thence southwesterly along the eastern and southern shorelines of Lake de Cade to the northern shoreline of Bayou de Cade; thence southwesterly along the northern shoreline of Bayou de Cade to its intersection with Lost Lake; thence westerly and southerly along the northern and western shorelines of Lost Lake to its intersection with the western shoreline of Rice Bayou; thence southerly along the western shoreline of Rice Bayou to its intersection with Blue Hammock Bayou (29 degrees 18 minutes 19.26 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 05 minutes 05.33 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shore of Blue Hammock Bayou to Four League Bay (29 degrees 17 minutes 43.49 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 07 minutes 26.81 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Four League Bay to the mouth of Oyster Bayou; thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Oyster Bayou to a point along the inside-outside shrimp line as defined in LAC 76:VII.370 (29 degrees 13 minutes 17.52 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 07 minutes 45.76 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the inside-outside shrimp line to the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou; thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou to its intersection with the southern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (29 degrees 14 minutes 56.52 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 48 minutes 17.97 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly across Bayou Grand Caillou to the western shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou (29 degrees 15 minutes 4.23 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 48 minutes 27.57 seconds west longitude); thence northerly to the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Canal (29 degrees 15 minutes 5.55 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 48 minutes 26.46 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Canal to the eastern shore of Bayou Dularge (29 degrees 17 minutes 48.98 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 52 minutes 23.57 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and terminating at its origin.~~

——— B. ——— The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2022 within portions of Iberia, St. Mary, and Vermilion Parishes as described below:

——— 1. ——— originating ——— from a point on the northern shoreline of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway where it intersects the Acadiana Navigational Channel (29 degrees 50 minutes 37.17 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 50 minutes 32.40 seconds west longitude); thence to a point on the southern shoreline of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (29 degrees 50 minutes 28.22 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 50 minutes 35.30 seconds west longitude); thence southwesterly along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass (29 degrees 36 minutes 10.81 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 17.16 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the northern shoreline of Marsh Island to 29 degrees 33 minutes 51.30 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 43 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; thence north along 91 degrees 43 minutes 00 seconds west longitude to the northern shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay (29 degrees 44 minutes 21.17 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 43 minutes 00 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay to its intersection with the Ivanhoe Canal (29 degrees 45 minutes 03.58 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 44 minutes 15.16 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of the Ivanhoe Canal to its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (29 degrees 45 minutes 45.92 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 44 minutes 20.76 seconds west longitude); thence north to the northern shoreline of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (29 degrees 45 minutes 52.14 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 44 minutes 23.78 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shoreline of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and terminating at the origin.

——— C. ——— The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 7, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. February 20, 2022 within portions of Jefferson, Lafourche, and Plaquemines Parishes as described below:

——— 1. ——— from a point originating at the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the northern shore of Hero Canal (29 degrees 48 minutes 12.73 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 04 minutes 09.21 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to a point along the western shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at 29 degrees 48 minutes 15.14 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 04 minutes 18.67 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to a point opposite the western shore of Bayou Perot (29 degrees 40 minutes 56.67 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 11 minutes 36.79 seconds west longitude); thence easterly to a point on the western shore of Bayou Perot at 29 degrees 40 minutes 50.66 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 11 minutes 25.48 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Perot and Little Lake to Bay L'Ours; thence westerly and southerly around the shoreline of Bay L'Ours to Brusle Lake; thence southerly and easterly following the shoreline of Brusle Lake to a point on the southern shoreline of Bayou De Chene at 29 degrees 29 minutes 14.83 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 12 minutes 02.02 seconds west longitude; thence easterly along the southern shoreline of Bayou De Chene to Round Lake (29 degrees 29 minutes 10.15 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 11 minutes 38.40 seconds west longitude); thence southerly and easterly along the shoreline of Round Lake to a

point on the western shoreline of East Fork Bayou L'Ours (29 degrees 28 minutes 52.30 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 09 minutes 32.60 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shoreline of East Fork Bayou L'Ours to a point at 29 degrees 27 minutes 35.00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 08 minutes 48.23 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 27 minutes 35.00 seconds north latitude to the eastern shore of Wilkinson Canal (29 degrees 27 minutes 35.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 57 minutes 04.11 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shore of Wilkinson Canal to its termination; thence northerly to the western shore of the Mississippi River at 29 degrees 38 minutes 24.94 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 57 minutes 01.21 seconds west longitude; thence northerly along the western shore of the Mississippi River to a point easterly of the northern shoreline of Hero Canal (29 degrees 47 minutes 09.60 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 01 minutes 17.77 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to the northern shore of Hero Canal; thence westerly along the northern shore of Hero Canal and terminating at the origin.

~~_____ D. _____~~ The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 6-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 18, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. February 23, 2022 within portions of Cameron Parish as described below:

~~_____ 1. _____~~ from a point located where the north bound lane of Highway 27 intersects the northern shoreline of West Cove Canal at 29 degrees 52 minutes 00.52 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 27 minutes 13.66 seconds west longitude; thence southwesterly along the north bound lane of Highway 27 to its intersection with the southern shoreline of West Cove Canal (29 degrees 52 minutes 00.17 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 27 minutes 14.29 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly along the southern shoreline of West Cove Canal to its intersection with the Calcasieu Lake West Cove (henceforth known as West Cove) at 29 minutes 51 degrees 44.10 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 26 minutes 36.26 seconds west longitude; thence southeasterly following the western and southern shorelines of West Cove to its intersection with the southern shoreline of the Calcasieu Pass West Fork (29 degrees 49 minutes 54.53 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 23 minutes 15.81 seconds west longitude); thence southerly and easterly along southern shoreline of the Calcasieu Pass West Fork to its intersection with the Calcasieu Lake Ship Channel (29 degrees 49 minutes 13.82 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 21 minutes 01.03 seconds west longitude); thence northerly to a point on the northern shoreline of the Calcasieu Lake West Fork (29 degrees 49 minutes 27.26 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 20 minutes 59.79 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the northern shoreline of the Calcasieu Lake West Fork to its intersection with West Cove (29 degrees 49 minutes 45.45 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 22 minutes 56.75 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the southern shoreline of West Cove to the eastern shoreline of West Cove; thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of West Cove to the northern shoreline of West Cove; thence westerly and southerly along the northern and western shorelines of West Cove to its intersection with the northern shoreline of West Cove Canal (29 degrees 51 minutes 46.11 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 26 minutes 35.43 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the northern shoreline of West Cove Canal and terminating at the origin.

E. All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period shall be considered abandoned. Crab trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property; authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual

landowners. Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel or its designees are authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps within the closed area. All traps removed during a closed area are to be brought to the designated disposal area. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate disposal sites and determine the final disposition of crab traps removed from the closure areas, including but not limited to disposal, buy-back, recycling, or returned to industry members participating in the retrieval of crab traps from within a closure area.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332(N).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 30:101 (January 2004), amended LR 31:108 (January 2005), LR 32:266 (February 2006), LR 33:113 (January 2007), LR 34:97 (January 2008), LR 36:77 (January 2010), LR 38:146 (January 2012), LR 38:3250 (December 2012), LR 40:96 (January 2014), LR 41:155 (January 2015), LR 42:70 (January 2016), amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 42:2196 (December 2016), LR 44:100 (January 2018), LR 45:78 (January 2019), repromulgated LR 45:282 (February 2019), amended LR 45:1815 (December 2019), LR 46:1613 (November 2020), LR 47:1649 (November 2021), 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

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

Provider Impact Statement

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

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.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule to Mr. Peyton Cagle, Marine Fisheries Biologist DCL-B, Marine Fisheries Section, 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70611, or via email to pcagle@wlf.la.gov prior to October 5, 2022.

Joe McPherson

Chairman

Chairman McPherson announced the next agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Temporarily Reduce the Recreational Daily Creel Limits on Freshwater Fish During a Scheduled Drawdown on Spring Bayou, Avoyelles Parish** and asked Mr. Daniel Hill, Fisheries Biologist, to come forward. Mr. Hill stated this request came from the Avoyelles Parish. He mentioned Spring Bayou is in Avoyelles Parish comprising of about 2700 acres within Spring Bayou WMA. The drawdown is scheduled from September 6 through December 31, 2022 to combat Giant Salvinia. Mr. Hill stated the Department was proposing to cut the creel limits in half from state regulations for just the drawdown period. He added that the Avoyelles Parish had concerns that the fish stocks would decrease during the drawdown. (A copy of Mr. Hill's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chairman McPherson asked who was requesting this change and Mr. Hill stated the Police Jury requested the creel change during the drawdown and staff sees it as a no-harm issue. He added that hunting season will be open during the drawdown period and fishermen will not be allowed to begin fishing until 2 p.m. The **Chairman** then asked if there was any biological rationale behind the proposal other than doing what was requested and Mr. Hill answered no, it was just a good faith effort with the Police Jury. **Commissioner Reynolds** stated he has heard that due to drawdowns on Lake Bistineau that was in his area, there are people who catch lots of fish and this does not harm the lake but allows the fish population to become better than before. Mr. Hill stated that was one aspect of a drawdown. The **Commissioner** stated his concern was what was good for one area may be good for Lake Bistineau and he was hesitant to set a precedent people can follow behind. Mr. Hill again stated that he was here on behalf of the Police Jury after having several conversations with multiple members on the biology aspect. **Commissioner Reynolds** then asked how many lakes have drawdowns right now and Mr. Hill was not sure but noted drawdowns are done regularly every year. **Chairman McPherson** felt the public needed to be educated on what is good science, especially if this request was approved. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks felt the **Chairman** and **Commissioner Reynolds** made good points and added that he had concerns on how many other lakes will ask for this type of change. He noted Mr. Hill advised the Police Jury there was no biological reason for the proposed change however, staff did know that a drawdown was needed. The Police Jury agreed with the drawdown if a change such as those presented would be considered. Assistant Secretary Banks added that this would not be proposed for Lake Bistineau or Spring Bayou by the Department, but was requested as a good faith effort for the Police Jury to get the lake drawn down. **Chairman McPherson** urged the Department that in the future if there is such a request, to go back to the public body making the request and be timely in their request, as the science does not support what was being requested. Secretary Montoucet felt the Commission was opening "a can of worms" and has preached to the Governor if the Department follows the science, we stay out of trouble. He felt this was a typical example and with the possibility of receiving many other requests for other lakes, he cautioned the Commission as there was no science that supports this request. **Chairman McPherson** stated he would talk with Mr. Kirby Roy, a Police Jury member, and see how adamant they are with this request and how much pressure they are getting. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if Spring Bayou would be drawn down no matter what the Commission decides and Mr. Hill stated it was approved. The **Commissioner** agreed with the **Chairman** that this would be an opportunity to discuss the

concerns of the Commission and Department noting what lasting effects this could have on other resources in the State. **Commissioner Sunseri** suggested revisiting this issue at the next meeting and take no action at this time. Secretary Montoucet commented he would instruct staff to attend the next Police Jury Meeting to educate them on what the science says and inform them this could create massive problems with other lakes the Department manages. **Chairman McPherson** felt a drawdown was a slow fall and asked if this was good for fishing and Mr. Hill answered yes. The **Chairman** thought Spring Bayou was a eutrophic lake system that could replenish its fish but knew that the Giant Salvinia needed to be removed since it shades out the beneficial aquatic vegetation; he then wondered if there would be any negative impacts to continuing with the current creel limits. Mr. Hill stated the predatory fish enjoy themselves during a drawdown and he thought it would be better to allow the fishermen to take more fish by maintaining the current regulations. Assistant Secretary Banks stated that a drawdown was good for the fish and added that Mr. Hill did have these discussions with the Police Jury and having them again may be helpful. **Commissioner Reynolds** suggested using Lake Bistineau as a model and put the facts in front of them and Mr. Hill commented he has seen the numbers of fishermen that goes to that lake during a drawdown and noted that to the Police Jury. **Commissioner DeCuir** noted the Police Jury letter requested the action only if necessary and felt this was not necessary. **Commissioner Blanchard** thought a good faith by the Police Jury would be to tell the fishermen they can take what they think should be taken during the drawdown and Mr. Hill stated the people of Avoyelles Parish were concerned with getting what was theirs. **Commissioner Reynolds** made a motion to delay acting on this agenda item until the September meeting to allow for data processing for the people using Spring Bayou. **Commissioner Sunseri** seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Chairman McPherson asked Mr. Jason Adriance, Marine Fisheries Biologist, to come forward for the first of his two agenda items, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Regulations Regarding Swordfish and Roundscale Spearfish**. Mr. Adriance stated this action would modify the billfishes regulation, specifically swordfish which were somewhat outdated compared with newer federal regulations. Also, a new species similar to the white marlin, the roundscale spearfish, was now separate and would be added to these regulations. The federal regulations came about from better analysis of weights with the old regulations using a dressed carcass weight or carcass length. New federal possession limits distinguish between private, charter and headboats. The new measurements will be Lower Jaw Fork Length or the Cleithrum (back of gill plate) to the front of the Caudal Keel Length. The proposed changes include: adding roundscale spearfish to these regulations with a 66 Lower Jaw Fork Length, the swordfish regulations would change to 25 inch Cleithrum to Caudal Keel Length or 47 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length without the head removed, and the possession limits would be one per person but the vessel limits were different (private-4 per vessel trip, charter-6 per vessel trip and headboat-15 per vessel trip. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Sagrera asked if these changes would mirror current Federal regulations so there are no issues for the fishermen and Mr. Adriance answered yes. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Hogan** made a motion to adopt the proposed changes, seconded by **Commissioner Sagrera** and passed with no opposition.

(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

Harvest Regulations – Billfishes (LAC 76:VII.355)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.355) by modifying the recreational size and possession limits for swordfish, adding roundscale spearfish within billfish harvest regulations, and adding the definition of a Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK) measurement. Proposed modifications are a result of adjustments to federal regulations for swordfish and roundscale spearfish. Modifications are being made to maintain continuity of harvest regulations for swordfish and roundscale spearfish in state and federal waters. The authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:961 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:326.1, and R.S. 56:326.3 to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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 VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§355. Harvest Regulations – Billfishes

A. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of billfishes including marlins, roundscale spearfish, sailfish and swordfish within and without Louisiana's territorial waters. For purposes of this Section, the following words and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, unless the context clearly shows a different meaning.

Carcass Length—curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK) – measurement along the curved body contour used if the head is removed/not naturally attached from the point on the cleithrum that provides the shortest possible measurement along the body contour to the anterior portion of the caudal keel. The cleithrum is the semicircular bony structure at the posterior edge of the gill opening.

Dressed Weight—the weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed, and finned.

Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) – straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

Trip – a fishing trip, regardless of the number of days duration, that begins with departure from a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp and that terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp.

B. Minimum Size Limits – no person shall possess any fish smaller than the minimum size limit.

Species	Minimum Size Limit
1.Blue Marlin	99 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
2.White Marlin	66 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
3.Roundscale Spearfish	66 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
34.Sailfish	63 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
45.Swordfish	47 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) or 25 inches Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK). 29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight

C. Recreational Creel Limit. Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than ~~five~~ one swordfish per person with a maximum of four swordfish per vessel per trip, whichever is less. Charter vessels may not possess more than one swordfish per paying passenger with a maximum of up to six per vessel per trip, whichever is less. Headboat vessels may not possess more than one swordfish per paying passenger with a maximum of up to fifteen per vessel per trip, whichever is less. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged, or bartered.

D.-J. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:326.1, and R.S. 56:326.3, and R.S. 56:320.2(C).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:542 (March 1999), amended LR 26:1676 (August 2000), LR 27:2266 (December 2001), LR .

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issue 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

The proposed rulemaking 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.

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 comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to noon on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Joe McPherson
Chair

The second item for Mr. Jason Adriance, Marine Fisheries Biologist, was to **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify the Regulations Regarding the Closed Season for Harvest of Sharks**. Mr. Adriance began stating this proposed action would modify the closed season for sharks, which is an April through June closure for all possession of sharks, recreationally and commercially. This rule became effective in the early 1990's when shark populations were not good with the idea of protecting the pupping sharks. There has been issues in recent years in fully utilizing the commercial quota as the season opens in January and was really popular during Lent. The current closure would end the fishery even if the quota was not met and this proposed change (leaving the season open in April) would allow utilizing the quota more and allowing recreational fishermen to keep sharks in April and not having to worry about possession. Staff looked at different scenarios such as having different recreational bag and size limits but that could result in inconsistencies with federal regulations, there are no other states along the Gulf with a closed season nor is there a closed season in federal waters. Mr. Adriance added that biologically this proposed change does not cause any issues and neither was their concern from federal regulators in making this change. The Department went to the Finfish Task Force asking for the removal of the entire closed season (April through June) but they chose

endorsing just removing April. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Mr. Richard Fischer, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, stated his Association was in support of opening the shark season in April as well as being in support of opening shark season year round. He added that the shark population has rebuilt since the 1990's and that it was a problem when a fisherman lands a fish with only a head. Mr. Fischer mentioned having anything to help harvest more sharks would be a request from the Association.

Commissioner Sgrera made a motion to open shark season year round to which **Chairman McPherson** asked if there would be a problem. Mr. Adriance stated there was no problem as it was what he originally asked the Finfish Task Force to endorse. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and approved with no opposition. Then **Commissioner Blanchard** made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent as amended, seconded by **Commissioner Reynolds** and unanimously approved. Assistant Secretary Banks stated he has heard from fishermen that once regulations are put into place, they are there forever, but this change proved to the public that regulations will be removed when no longer necessary. **Chairman McPherson** asked Assistant Secretary Banks if there will be a need to revisit this issue and he was told only if biologically necessary.

(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

Sharks and Sawfishes – Harvest Regulations (LAC 76:VII.357)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.357) by modifying the closed season for the recreational and commercial harvest of sharks. Currently, the recreational and commercial harvest of all sharks is prohibited from April 1 through June 30 of each year and this proposed rule modifies that prohibition by removing the closed season from Rule. This change is being made to allow more opportunity for both recreational and commercial fishers to harvest those sharks whose populations are healthy and abundant during that time of year. The authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:961 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(34) to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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 VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§357. Sharks and Sawfishes – Harvest Regulations

A.-L. ...

M. Seasonal Closures

~~1. All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana territorial sea shall be closed to the recreational and commercial harvest of all sharks between April 1 and June 30 of each year. A holder of a federal commercial directed or incidental limited access shark permit or federal shark research permit may legally harvest sharks from federal waters beyond the Louisiana territorial sea and bring those sharks into Louisiana waters for sale within the provisions of that federal shark permit. Effective with this closure, no person shall commercially harvest, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell sharks from the closed area. Effective with the closure, no person shall retain or possess any sharks in the closed area. Sharks taken incidental to shrimp or menhaden fishing in the closed area, that are retained on the vessel as part of the harvest, may be retained only as a mixed part of the total harvest, and shall not be retained, held, purchased, bartered, traded, exchanged, sold or attempted to be purchased, bartered, traded, exchanged or sold.~~

1 2. The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close any recreational or commercial fishery for sharks, within and without Louisiana's territorial waters, when the secretary is notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the seasonal quota for that species group and fishery has been met. The closure order shall close the fishery until the date projected for the reopening of that fishery in the adjacent federal waters. The secretary is also hereby authorized to modify any such closure order to maintain consistency with reopening dates in the adjacent federal waters, should the federal closure dates be modified.

N.-O. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(10), R.S. 56:326(E)(2), R.S. 56:326.1, R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:320.2(C), and R.S. 325.2(A).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:543 (March 1999), amended LR 27:2267 (December

2001), LR 30:1507 (July 2004), LR 35:705 (April 2009), LR 39:1062 (April 2013), LR 43:1188 (June 2017), LR 46:50 (January 2020), and LR .

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issue 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

The proposed rulemaking 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.

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 comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Joe McPherson
Chair

Receive Public Comments was the next agenda item announced by **Chairman McPherson** and none were heard.

Commissioner Sunseri made a motion for the Commission to **Consider Holding an Executive Session, Pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(2), to Discuss Prospective Litigation Regarding Damages to Certain LDWF Property in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes** and it was seconded by **Commissioner Hogan**. A roll call vote resulted in the motion passing with no opposition.

Commissioner Sunseri made a motion to reconvene from the Executive Session, seconded by **Commissioner Hogan** and passed with no opposition. **Chairman McPherson** asked if there was a motion. **Commissioner DeCuir** made a motion to authorize the Commission through the Department to demand restoration against parties for damage to the Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA

and to file suit against these parties if necessary, **Commissioner Sunseri** seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

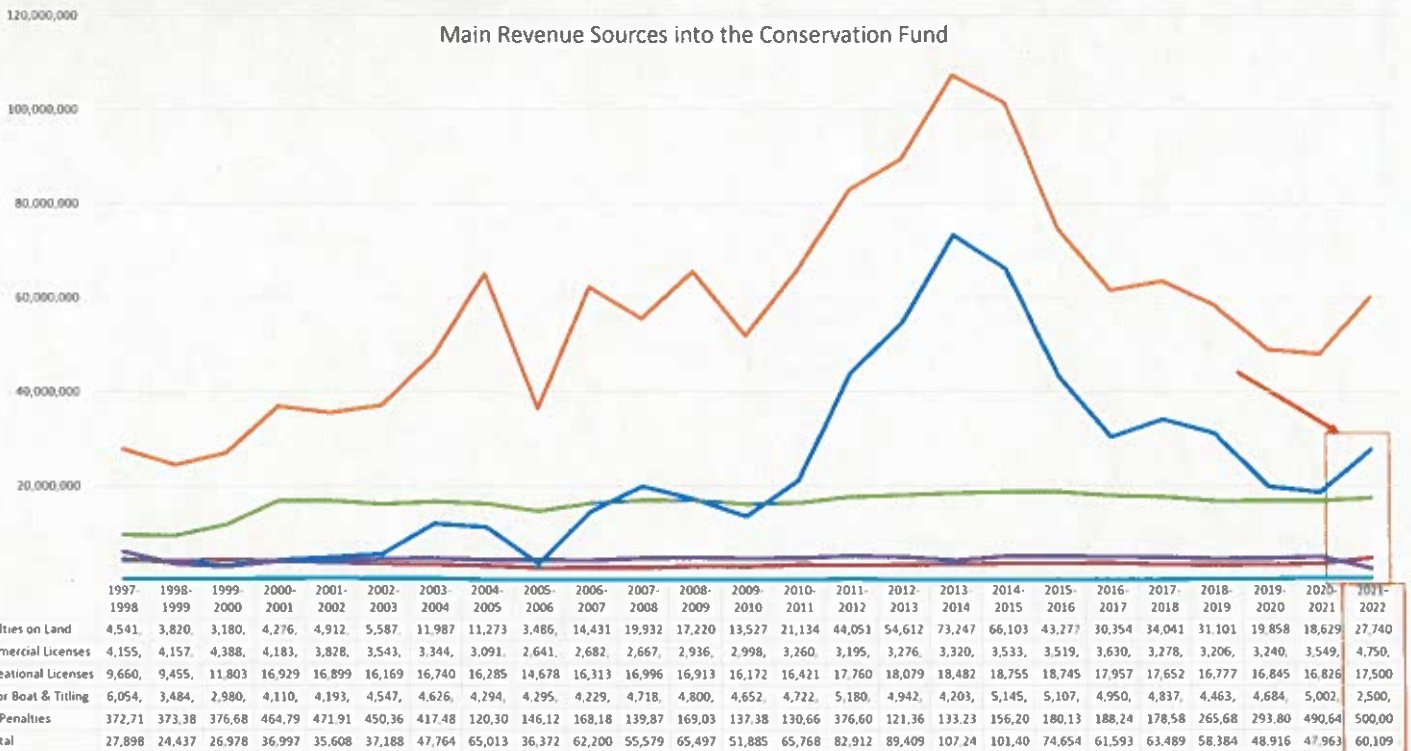
There being no further business, **Commissioner Sagrera** made a motion for **Adjournment** of the meeting, seconded by **Commissioner Blanchard** and unanimously approved.

APPENDICES



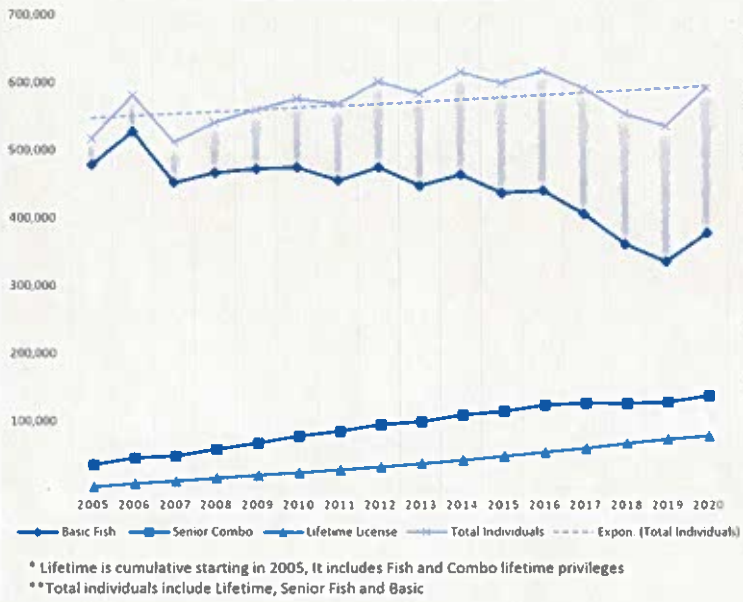
Fiscal Status Update & FY2023 Budget

Where are we now

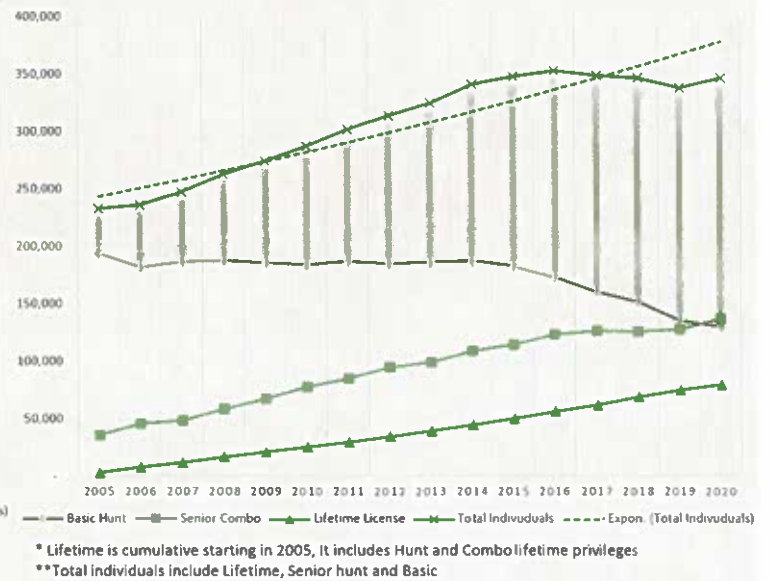


Comparison of Basic License to Senior and Lifetime

BASIC FISHING LICENSE TRENDS COMPARED TO LIFETIME AND SENIOR



BASIC HUNTING LICENSE TRENDS COMPARED TO LIFETIME AND SENIOR



Where are we now

CONSERVATION FUND PROJECTIONS

8/2/2022

	<u>FY 16-17</u>	<u>FY 17-18</u>	<u>FY 18-19</u>	<u>FY 19-20</u>	<u>FY 20-21</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 21-22</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 22-23</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 23-24</u>
Carryforward from prior	120,333,087	105,237,223	83,934,097	79,544,997	56,453,577	52,864,351	44,202,761	31,462,083
Revenue	61,593,605	63,489,480	58,384,837	48,916,685	47,963,517	60,109,837	64,159,434	64,083,090
Expenditures	(76,925,207)	(76,038,172)	(69,500,452)	(70,527,590)	(66,923,100)	(70,545,427)	(75,600,112)	(75,600,112)
Other transfers in/out	235,739	(8,754,433)	6,726,515	(1,480,516)	(15,370,357)	(1,774,000)	1,300,000	1,300,000
Year-end Balance	105,237,223	83,934,097	79,544,997	56,453,577	52,864,351	44,202,761	31,462,083	18,645,061



FY 23 Regular Session

Statutory Dedications	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB 1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
Conservation	\$ 76,025,666	\$ 76,569,904	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,569,904
Oyster Sanitation	\$ 332,730	\$ 319,940	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 319,940
Rockefeller	\$ 5,836,483	\$ 7,076,684	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,076,684
Rockefeller Trust	\$ 538,050	\$ 605,150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 605,150
Marsh Island	\$ 139,808	\$ 167,808	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 167,808
Russell Sage Special Fund #2	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	\$ 302,000	\$ 302,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 302,000
Seafood Promo	\$ 23,209	\$ 23,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,209
LA Fur Public Ed	\$ 70,000	\$ 64,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,500
Artificial Reef	\$ 6,043,207	\$ 5,998,187	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,998,187
WHNHFF	\$ 917,304	\$ 998,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 998,553
Scenic Rivers	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Duck Stamp	\$ 1,412,990	\$ 2,583,838	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,583,838
Natural Heritage	\$ 40,050	\$ 22,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,500
Wild Turkey Stamp	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Oyster Development	\$ 149,989	\$ 149,989	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,989
Waterfowl	\$ 88,972	\$ 188,972	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 188,972
Shrimp Marketing	\$ 70,331	\$ 220,331	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 270,331
Black Bear	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 205,000
Owl	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,900
White Tail Deer	\$ 42,582	\$ 18,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,262
Aquatic Plant Control	\$ 1,403,211	\$ 4,981,811	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,981,811
Public Oyster Seed Ground	\$ 2,439,224	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
White Lake	\$ 1,084,000	\$ 1,397,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,397,500
Crab Promotion	\$ 97,958	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Derelict Crab Trap	\$ 80,371	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Later Abatement & Education	\$ 99,800	\$ 99,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,800
MC Davis	\$ 39,650	\$ 34,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,900
Atchafalaya Delta WMA Mooring	\$ 295,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Saltwater Research and Fisheries Conservation	\$ 1,339,016	\$ 1,442,891	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,442,891
Oyster Resource Management	\$ -	\$ 2,934,324	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,934,324
Crab Development, Management and Derelict Crab	\$ -	\$ 479,948	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 479,948
Trap Removal Account	\$ -	\$ 479,948	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 479,948
Shrimp Development and Management Account	\$ -	\$ 189,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 189,900
Alligator Resource	\$ 668,782	\$ 2,642,782	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,642,782
Louisiana Rescue Plan	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000
LAT	\$ 39,983,291	\$ 14,527,538	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,527,538
Self Gen	\$ 339,576	\$ 414,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 414,000
Federal Funds	\$ 35,234,224	\$ 35,476,821	\$ 20,000,000	\$ -	\$ 55,476,821
State General Funds	\$ 18,315,000	\$ 8,350,000	\$ -	\$ 17,964,289	\$ 26,314,289
Total	\$ 192,327,448	\$ 171,023,423	\$ 25,050,000	\$ 17,964,289	\$ 214,037,712

Both Amendments in HB 1 were in the Office of Fisheries

Payable out of Statutory Dedications out of the Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Fund to the Louisiana Shrimp Association for marketing and promotion of the shrimp industry **\$50,000**
 Fisheries Program for boat and debris cleanup from Hurricane Ida damage
 Payable out of Statutory Dedications out of the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund **\$5,000,000** & Federal Funds **\$20,000,000**
Total Appropriation \$25,000,000

512 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Enforcement Program for body cameras for enforcement officers and related software **\$300,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Enforcement Program for a mobile command unit **\$1,300,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Enforcement Program for laptop computers **\$115,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Enforcement Program for a data service network for handheld devices **\$165,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Enforcement Program for purchase of an airplane **\$1,900,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Office of the Secretary for the acquisition of approximately two thousand (2,000) acres of land from Bayou Chevreuil Land Company, LLC located in St. James and Lafourche Parishes to be owned by the University of Louisiana -Lafayette and used for collaborations on wetland assimilation, mitigation, as well as ecological, environmental, and carbon capture research and operations **\$9,000,000**

513 OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Wildlife Program for three houseboats to replace structures damaged by hurricanes **\$4,000,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Wildlife Program for feral hog management, education, research, and control **\$250,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Office of Wildlife for the acquisition of two (2) 36-inch hydraulic pumps and to fund a waterfowl research project through the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Research program **\$640,000**

514 OFFICE OF FISHERIES

Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Fisheries Program for the removal of abandoned structures at the Larto-Saline complex **\$100,000**
 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Office of Fisheries for the Atchafalaya Basin Welcome Center Boat Launch Mooring Dock **\$250,000**

FY 23 Regular Session Changes

	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023
SALARIES	\$ 48,242,296	\$ 49,943,323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,592,730
OTHER_COMP	\$ 1,864,576	\$ 1,865,024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,864,430
RELATED_BENEFITS	\$ 33,837,213	\$ 35,866,643	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,217,831
TRAVEL	\$ 445,748	\$ 538,374	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 562,374
OPERATING_SERVICES	\$ 19,230,304	\$ 10,828,828	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,904,828
SUPPLIES	\$ 10,456,076	\$ 8,153,996	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 8,278,996
PROF_SERVICES	\$ 4,699,392	\$ 3,969,011	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,969,011
OTHER_CHARGES	\$ 26,223,330	\$ 17,850,813	\$ 25,050,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 43,275,813
INTER-AGENCY TRANS	\$ 23,133,487	\$ 21,835,938	\$ -	\$ 9,524,289	\$ 31,360,227
ACQUISITIONS	\$ 13,446,516	\$ 6,759,386	\$ -	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 13,959,387
MAJOR REPAIRS	\$ 10,748,502	\$ 13,412,087	\$ -	\$ 640,000	\$ 14,052,086
Total	\$ 192,327,448	\$ 171,023,423	\$ 25,050,000	\$ 17,964,289	\$ 214,037,712

Capital Outlay

HB 2 Capital Outlay Changes

512 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Academy and Emergency Facility (Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Training Complex) (East Baton Rouge)
 Payable from General Obligation Bonds Priority 1—**\$2,250,000** (This is the phase three to the Enforcement Training Academy project listed in the first line of the existing Capital Outlay below)

513 OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

Wildlife Land Acquisition (Statewide) Payable from La. Wild Turkey Stamp Fund **\$800,000**

Hammond Headquarters, Planning and Construction (Tangipahoa) Payable from General Obligation Bonds Priority \$4,476,000 Payable from State General Fund (Direct) Non-Recurring Revenues **\$950,000**
 Total \$5,426,000

Capital Outlay, Existing Projects

Enforcement	Wildlife & Fisheries Enforcement Training Academy and Emergency Facility Complex (Natatorium and Physical Conditioning Building)	Conservation & Federal	\$2,187,600	Construction is complete on the Training academy and Natatorium. In HB2 of the r2022 regular session LDWF secured the funding for phase III. This is the Cafeteria and administrative offices. We intend to go out to bid this fall.
Wildlife	Pineville Office / Region 3	General Obligation Bonds	\$3,608,900	Bids have been received, FP&C is working with the low bidder and looking at contingencies in order to see if they can award the contact at the low bid amount. All funding is priority 1
Wildlife	Region 5/Lake Charles Office	General Obligation Bonds	\$3,326,300	Construction is nearly complete and we anticipate occupying the building sometime in august. All funding is priority 1
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge Emergency Generator for West End Dorm	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$250,000	Under design and project exceeds allocated costs so letter requesting increase has been sent to JLCCB.
Wildlife	HQ7 Headquarters Building - Replace Existing HVAC Equipment	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$878,400	No bids were received. We are currently working with the designer to rebid this project
Wildlife	White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area Boat Shop	White Lake	\$735,153	Design has been produced and is under review. FP&C will then put it out for bid, they control the process.
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge Office Replacement	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$8,194,400	Under construction
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge Water Control Structure Replacement	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$2,880,000	Plans are being are being developed and integrated with multiple storm-recovery efforts
Wildlife	White Lake WCA Unit 1 Guillotine Gate Replacement	White Lake Property Fund	\$325,000	A Designer has been assigned, who needs geo-tech data to continue. Cost is expected to be at least \$600,000.
Wildlife	White Lake WCA Unit 1 Florence Canal Water Control Structure	White Lake Property Fund	\$750,000	Funded by DU and private donors. Construction is nearly complete.
Wildlife	White Lake WCA Unit 2 Water Control Improvement Project	White Lake Property Fund	\$3,000,000	Not been approved to design/engineer refurbishing and building levees, which require contractor and larger equipment than we have. Requires reliable pumping first.
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge Price Lake Shoreline Protection	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$10,000,800	Needed for shoreline protection projects and maintenance that thus far have been initiated with outside funding.
Wildlife	Hydro-Marsh Creation 107 Acre Mitigation Bank	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1) & Rockefeller Trust (RK2)	\$4,560,000	Project has been completed and FP&C has remaining funds, about \$800,000, to be used to design another marsh creation mitigation bank
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge East End Lock Replacement	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$6,000,000	In design consideration in conjunction with outside considerations and funding.

Capital Outlay, Existing Projects

Wildlife	New Water Control Structure #1 at Marsh Island Refuge	Russell Sage Fund #2	\$4,500,000	This is the West Impoundment structure, the structure is completed and we have had our 1-year warranty review w/ issues addressed. The only outstanding issue w/ this project is the breaches that were made in the impoundment levee in order to access the project site are still open and need to be closed
Wildlife	Joe Aucoin Water Control Structure Replacement at Marsh Island Refuge	Russell Sage or Marsh Island Capital Improvement Funds	\$1,830,000	This project is to replace 2 structures influencing the Northeast Unit. Project bids (only received one bid) were opened in March 2022. The only bid received was for \$2.6 million. We currently plan to re-bid once construction prices come down.
Wildlife	Rockefeller Refuge Unit 10 Habitat Enhancement	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$960,000	Project was funded through NAWCA and completed in May. No money was used
Wildlife	Replace Unit 4 Southwest Water Control Structure at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1)	\$1,800,000	Project is completed, funded by NAWCA and we may have used \$200,000.
Wildlife	Marsh Island Water Control Structure Repair or Replace	Russell Sage or Marsh Island Capital Improvement Funds	\$510,000	This project is pending FEMA coverage from hurricane damages as well as funding outcome of other projects.
Wildlife	Two Water Control Structures Replacement at State Wildlife Refuge	Russell Sage Fund #2	\$1,920,000	This project is pending FEMA coverage from hurricane damages as well as funding outcome of other projects.
Wildlife	Additions and Renovations to Headquarters/Home Building & Office/Dormitory at Pointe Aux Chenes WMA	Conservation	\$1,460,000	This project has been put on hold due to damages sustained from Hurricanes Zeta and Ida creating the possibility of relocating these facilities
Wildlife	Replace Two Water Control Structures at Pointe Aux Chenes Unit at Pointe Aux Chenes WMA	Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (RK1) & Rockefeller Trust (RK2)	\$2,880,000	This project is currently under construction, one structure is 99% complete (only needs some final grading), the second structure is currently under construction w/ an anticipated completion in late August or early September.
Wildlife	Replace Two Water Control Structures at Marsh Island Refuge	Russell Sage Fund #2	\$3,504,000	This project is pending FEMA coverage from hurricane damages as well as funding outcome of other projects.
Wildlife	Office and Equipment Shed at Sandy Hollow WMA to replace structures damaged by Hurricane	Conservation	\$926,980	Existing damaged structures were demolished and removed. Plans for new structures are being developed in-house. Procurement and construction to follow development of plans.

Questions?



FY 22 Regular Session**Changes 511 OMF**

	FY 2022 Total		FY2023		HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB	
Rockefeller	\$	24,040	\$	24,040	\$	-	\$	24,040
Marsh Island	\$	6,200	\$	6,200	\$	-	\$	6,200
Conservation	\$	13,477,781	\$	12,332,525	\$	-	\$	12,332,525
Seafood Promo	\$	23,209	\$	23,209	\$	-	\$	23,209
Duck stamp	\$	10,450			\$	-	\$	-
Total Statutory Dedications	\$	13,541,680	\$	12,385,974	\$	-	\$	12,385,974
IAT	\$	19,500	\$	19,500	\$	-	\$	19,500
SELF-GEN	\$	-			\$	-	\$	-
Duck stamp			\$	10,450	\$	-	\$	10,450
Total Self Gen			\$	10,450	\$	-	\$	10,450
FED	\$	229,315	\$	229,315	\$	-	\$	229,315
State General Fund			\$	3,850,000	\$	-	\$	3,850,000
Total	\$	13,790,495	\$	16,495,239	\$	-	\$	16,495,239

Expenditure Categories 511**OMF**

	FY 2022 Total		FY2023		HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB	
SALARIES	\$	2,495,190	\$	2,855,559	\$	-	\$	2,855,559
OTHER_COMP	\$	162,376	\$	161,924	\$	-	\$	161,924
RELATED_BENEFITS	\$	2,073,250	\$	1,903,706	\$	-	\$	1,903,706
TRAVEL	\$	32,155	\$	39,155	\$	-	\$	39,155
OPERATING_SERVICES	\$	1,514,926	\$	1,468,426	\$	-	\$	1,468,426
SUPPLIES	\$	79,147	\$	96,147	\$	-	\$	96,147
PROF_SERVICES	\$	72,767	\$	47,767	\$	-	\$	47,767
OTHER_CHARGES	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
INTER-AGENCY TRANS	\$	7,358,184	\$	9,922,555	\$	-	\$	9,922,555
ACQUISITIONS	\$	2,500	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
MAJOR REPAIRS	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
TOTAL	\$	13,790,495	\$	16,495,239	\$	-	\$	16,495,239

FY 22 Regular Session
Changes 512 Admin

	FY 2022 Total	FY2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
Conservation	\$ 2,773,057	\$ 2,935,106	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,935,106
WHNHTF	\$ 106,299	\$ 106,299	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106,299
Total Statutory					
Dedications	\$ 2,879,356	\$ 3,041,405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,041,405
IAT	\$ 134,304	\$ 134,304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,304
SELF-GEN	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
FED	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
State General Fund	\$ 9,125,000			\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000
			\$		
Total	\$ 12,138,660	\$ 3,175,709	-	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 12,175,709

Expenditure
Categories 512 Admin

	FY 2022 Total	FY2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
SALARIES	\$ 1,822,648	\$ 1,893,460	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,893,460
OTH_COMP	\$ 67,902	\$ 67,902	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,902
REL_BEN	\$ 805,297	\$ 893,976	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 893,976
TRAVEL	\$ 23,030	\$ 23,030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,030
OP_SERV	\$ 78,163	\$ 78,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,163
SUPPLIES	\$ 79,474	\$ 79,474	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,474
PROF_SERV	\$ 10,530	\$ 10,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,530
OTH_CHARGE	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IAT_EXPEN	\$ 9,115,570	\$ 115,630	\$ -	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,115,630
ACQU	\$ 11,046	\$ 13,544	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,544
MAJ_REP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,138,660	\$ 3,175,709	\$ -	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 12,175,709

FY 22 Regular Session
Changes 512 Enforcement

	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
Statutory Dedications					
Conservation	\$33,655,265	\$34,879,533	\$0	\$0	\$34,879,533
Oyster Sanitation Fund	\$255,771		\$0	\$0	
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund	\$116,846	\$116,846	\$0	\$0	\$116,846
Marsh Island Operating Fund	\$32,038	\$32,038	\$0	\$0	\$32,038
Oyster Resource Management	\$0	\$262,000	\$0	\$0	\$262,000
Litter Abatement and Education Account	\$99,800	\$99,800	\$0	\$0	\$99,800
Crab Development, Management and Derelict crab Trap Removal Account	\$0	\$113,000	\$0	\$0	\$113,000
Shrimp Development and Management Account	\$0	\$70,900	\$0	\$0	\$70,900
Total Statutory Dedications	\$34,159,720	\$35,574,117	\$0	\$0	\$35,574,117
IAT	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$0	\$180,000
SELF-GEN					
Self Gen Regular	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account	\$0	\$221,975	\$0	\$0	\$221,975
Total Self Gen	\$20,000	\$241,975	\$0	\$0	\$241,975
Federal	\$3,161,278	\$3,003,051	\$0	\$0	\$3,003,051
State General Fund	\$3,780,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$3,724,289	\$4,224,289
Total	\$41,300,998	\$39,499,143	\$0	\$3,724,289	\$43,223,432

Expenditure Categories
512 Enforcement

	FY 2022 Total	FY2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
SALARIES	\$17,447,314	\$18,315,554	\$0	\$0	\$18,315,554
OTH_COMP	\$13,260	\$13,260	\$0	\$0	\$13,260
REL_BEN	\$13,209,624	\$13,835,955	\$0	\$0	\$13,835,955
TRAVEL	\$69,973	\$159,973	\$0	\$0	\$159,973
OP_SERV	\$1,059,616	\$1,059,616	\$0	\$0	\$1,059,616
SUPPLIES	\$1,813,975	\$1,335,457	\$0	\$0	\$1,335,457
PROF_SERV	\$93,798	\$127,798	\$0	\$0	\$127,798
OTH_CHARGE	\$0	\$51,465	\$0	\$0	\$51,465
IAT_EXPEN	\$3,323,585	\$3,595,253	\$0	\$524,289	\$4,119,542
ACQU	\$4,027,076	\$871,000	\$0	\$3,200,000	\$4,071,000
MAJ_REP	\$242,777	\$133,812	\$0	\$0	\$133,812
Total	\$41,300,998	\$39,499,143	\$0	\$3,724,289	\$43,223,432

FY 22 Regular Session Changes
513 Wildlife

	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
Conservation	\$12,709,615	\$14,636,046	\$0	\$0	\$14,636,046
Rockefeller	\$5,495,577	\$6,935,778	\$0	\$0	\$6,935,778
Rockefeller Trust	\$538,050	\$605,150	\$0	\$0	\$605,150
Marsh Island	\$101,570	\$129,570	\$0	\$0	\$129,570
Russell Sage Fund #2	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	\$302,000	\$302,000	\$0	\$0	\$302,000
LA Fur Public Ed	\$70,000	\$64,500	\$0	\$0	\$64,500
WHNHTF	\$811,005	\$892,254	\$0	\$0	\$892,254
Scenic Rivers Fund	\$35,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Duck stamp	\$1,402,540		\$0	\$0	\$0
Natural Heritage	\$40,050	\$22,500	\$0	\$0	\$22,500
Wild Turkey Stamp	\$10,000		\$0	\$0	\$0
Waterfowl Account	\$88,972	\$188,972	\$0	\$0	\$188,972
Black Bear	\$205,000	\$205,000	\$0	\$0	\$205,000
Quail	\$25,000	\$24,900	\$0	\$0	\$24,900
White-Tail Deer Fund	\$42,562	\$18,262	\$0	\$0	\$18,262
White Lake	\$1,084,000	\$1,397,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,397,500
MC Davis Fund	\$39,650	\$34,900	\$0	\$0	\$34,900
Atchafalaya Delta WMA Mooring	\$295,000		\$0	\$0	
Total Statutory Dedications	\$25,795,591	\$27,958,832	\$0	\$0	\$27,958,832
IAT	\$6,079,590	\$4,895,363			\$4,895,363
SELF-GEN					
Self Gem	\$202,600	\$244,000	\$0	\$0	\$244,000
Duck stamp	\$0	\$2,553,388	\$0	\$0	\$2,553,388
Wild Turkey Stamp	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Alligator Resource	\$3,068,782	\$2,642,782	\$0	\$0	\$2,642,782
Total Self Gen.	\$3,271,382	\$5,470,170	\$0	\$0	\$5,470,170
Federal Funds	\$21,536,910	\$21,692,708	\$0	\$0	\$21,692,708
State General Funds	\$5,060,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$4,890,000	\$6,890,000
Total	\$61,743,473	\$62,017,073	\$0	\$4,890,000	\$66,907,073

Expenditure Categories
513 Wildlife

	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
SALARIES	\$12,986,157	\$13,520,689	\$0		\$13,520,689
OTH_COMP	\$1,139,286	\$1,139,286	\$0		\$1,139,286
REL_BEN	\$8,940,930	\$9,295,743	\$0		\$9,295,743
TRAVEL	\$178,804	\$204,804	\$0		\$204,804
OP_SERV	\$2,416,763	\$2,471,763	\$0		\$2,471,763
SUPPLIES	\$3,220,807	\$3,173,807	\$0	\$125,000	\$3,298,807
PROF_SERV	\$2,073,959	\$2,273,959	\$0		\$2,273,959
OTH_CHARGE	\$11,262,838	\$8,531,856	\$0	\$125,000	\$8,656,856
IAT_EXPEN	\$2,283,719	\$4,741,016	\$0		\$4,741,016
ACQU	\$7,737,960	\$4,289,350	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$8,289,350
MAJ_REP	\$9,502,250	\$12,374,800	\$0	\$640,000	\$13,014,800
Total	\$61,743,473	\$62,017,073	\$0	\$4,890,000	\$66,907,073

FY 22 Regular Session Changes**514 Fisheries**

	FY 2022 Total	FY2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
Conservation	\$14,309,948	\$11,786,694	\$0	\$0	\$11,786,694
Oyster Sanitation	\$76,965	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Artificial Reef	\$8,043,207	\$5,998,187	\$0	\$0	\$5,998,187
Oyster Development	\$149,989	\$149,989	\$0	\$0	\$149,989
Shrimp Marketing	\$70,331	\$220,331	\$50,000	\$0	\$270,331
Aquatic Plant Control	\$1,403,211	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Oyster Seed Ground	\$2,439,224	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Crab Promotion	\$97,958	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Derelict Crab Trap Removal	\$80,371	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Saltwater Research & Fisheries	\$1,339,016	\$1,442,891	\$0	\$0	\$1,442,891
Ouster Resource Management Account	\$0	\$2,672,324	\$0	\$0	\$2,672,324
Crab Devlp, Mgmt & Derelict Crab Trap	\$0	\$366,948	\$0	\$0	\$366,948
Shrimp Devlp & Mgmt Account	\$0	\$119,000	\$0	\$0	\$119,000
Louisiana Rescue Plan	\$0		\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Total Statutory Dedications	\$28,010,220	\$22,756,364	\$5,050,000	\$0	\$27,806,364
IAT	\$24,569,897	\$9,298,372	\$0	\$0	\$9,298,372
Self Gen	\$116,976	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
Aquatic Plant Control	\$0	\$4,981,811	\$0	\$0	\$4,981,811
Oyster Sanitation	\$0	\$97,965	\$0	\$0	\$97,965
Total Self Gen.	\$116,976	\$5,229,776	\$0	\$0	\$5,229,776
Federal Funds	\$10,306,721	\$10,551,747	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$30,551,747
State General Funds	\$350,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$2,350,000
Total	\$63,353,814	\$49,836,259	\$25,050,000	\$350,000	\$75,236,259

Expenditure Categories**514 Fisheries**

	FY 2022 Total	FY 2023	HB1 Amendments	Supplement Carryforward	Total FY 2023 EOB
SALARIES	\$13,490,987	\$13,618,473	\$388,995		\$14,007,468
OTH_COMP	\$481,752	\$482,200	-\$142		\$482,058
REL_BEN	\$8,808,112	\$9,677,303	-\$388,853		\$9,288,451
TRAVEL	\$141,786	\$135,412	\$0		\$135,412
OP_SERV	\$14,160,836	\$5,726,860	\$0	\$100,000	\$5,826,860
SUPPLIES	\$5,262,673	\$3,469,111	\$0		\$3,469,111
PROF_SERV	\$2,448,338	\$1,508,957	\$0		\$1,508,957
OTH_CHARGE	\$14,835,492	\$9,267,492	\$25,050,000	\$250,000	\$34,567,492
IAT_EXPEN	\$1,052,429	\$3,461,484	\$0		\$3,461,484
ACQU	\$1,667,934	\$1,585,492	\$1		\$1,585,493
MAJ_REP	\$1,003,475	\$903,475	-\$1		\$903,474
Total	\$63,353,814	\$49,836,259	\$25,050,000	\$350,000	\$75,236,259



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Jeb Linscombe | August 4, 2022

Regulation Changes

- **License Fee Restructure**
- **Tag Fee (Shipping Fee) One Year Reduction
From \$4 to \$3**

A. 3. 1. There is levied a severance tax of \$0.25 on each alligator hide taken from within the state, payable to the state through the department by the alligator hunter or alligator farmer shipping or taking his own catch out of state, or shipping to an in-state taxidermist, or by the dealer shipping skins or hides out of state or tanning alligator skins in Louisiana. Violation of this Subparagraph is a class two violation as described in R.S. title 56.

(a). Resident Alligator Hunter's

License (including commercial, helper, sport and nuisance classes) - \$25; for a resident alligator hunter's license; including commercial, helper, sport and nuisance classes;

(b). Nonresident Alligator

Hunter's License (including landowner and sport classes) - \$150; for a nonresident alligator hunter's license; including landowner and sport classes;

(c). Resident Fur Buyer's License - ~~\$25~~ \$55

(except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$40); for a resident fur buyer's license;

(d). Nonresident Fur Buyer's License - ~~\$100~~

\$215 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$157.50); for a nonresident fur buyer's license;

(e). Resident Fur Dealer's License -

\$150 ~~\$400~~ (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$275; for a resident fur dealer's license (\$500 deposit required));

(f). Nonresident Fur Dealer's License -

\$300 ~~\$800~~ (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$550); for a nonresident fur dealer's license (\$1,000 deposit required);

(g). Nongame Quadruped Exhibitor's

License - ~~\$10~~ \$20 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$15) for a nongame quadruped exhibitor's license;

(h). Nongame Quadruped Breeder's

License - ~~\$25~~ \$50 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$37.50); for a nongame quadruped breeder's license;

(i). Alligator Parts Dealer License - ~~\$50~~

\$105 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$77.50); for an alligator parts dealer license;

(j). Alligator Parts Retailer License -

~~\$5~~ \$10 (except for license years 2022 and 2023, in which the fee will be \$7.50); for an alligator parts retailer license;

(k). Alligator Hide Tag Fee - \$4 for each alligator hide tag, except for license years 2020 and 2021 year 2023, in which the fee for each alligator hide tag shall be \$3;

(l). \$4 for each whole alligator leaving the state as alligator shipping label fee;

(m). \$0.25 severance tax for each alligator hide taken from within the state;

LAFRA & PEACH Contributions, Expenses, and Liabilities as of 03/21/22			
Producer Contributions direct to KDW	\$ 206,750.00	PEACH Contributions	\$ 1,533,278.00
LAFRA Tag Fee Contributions	\$ 587,870.25		\$ -
Donations to LAFRA	\$ 26,200.00		\$ -
Total	\$ 820,820.25	Total	\$ 1,533,278.00
Legal Fees & Public Info Campaign	\$ 1,049,747.82	Expenses (2019-present)	\$ 1,444,001.16
<small>*Does not include March 2022 legal services</small>			
Liabilities (Gulf Coast Bank Loan)	\$ 205,969.17	Liabilities (Gulf Coast Bank Loan)	\$ 306,744.84

Alligator Resource Fund History

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Severance	102,921	100,049	120,069	97,643	115,782	94,096	32,124
Interest	8,516	22,238	58,579	115,283	65,828	1,540	525
Hides/Harvest	214,560	143,589	63,996	83,470	106,875	50,008	42,972
Shipping Label Fees	138,360	171,788	147,848	241,192	168,308	58,784	204,696
Egg Harvest	326,860	299,320	327,280	381,737	87,480	157,624	30,670
DACP	5,925	5,775	5,751	5,625	4,500	4,700	325
Hide tag fees	1,646,729	1,600,790	1,921,097	1,562,285	1,739,462	1,131,532	549,933
Res. Alligator Hunter Licenses	84,925	83,600	66,325	70,325	87,975	79,250	93,625
N/R Alligator Hunter Licenses	76,800	73,500	70,050	94,800	138,900	132,750	175,200
Lottery	12,485	9,160	11,805	2,710	15,190	65,730	67,905
Misc income	-	-	-	399	-	-	775
Total Revenue	2,618,081	2,509,809	2,792,800	2,655,469	2,530,300	1,776,013	1,198,751
Less Expenditures	(2,013,715)	(1,536,310)	(1,463,477)	(1,854,170)	(2,466,482)	(2,065,273)	(1,219,703)
Capital Outlay-FPC (T130)		(1,100,000)		(1,500,000)			
Add balance from prior year	3,477,814	4,082,180	3,955,679	5,285,002	4,586,301	4,650,118	4,360,858
YEAREND BALANCE	4,082,180	3,955,679	5,285,002	4,586,301	4,650,118	4,360,858	4,339,906

Alligator Resource Fund (W09)

					Highlighted Cells are averaged to estimate the FY 23 figure			
Source	Description	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22 (YTD)	FY 23
T190	Beginning Fund Balance	\$4,082,179.86	\$3,955,679.70	\$5,285,002.10	\$4,586,300.50	\$4,650,117.63	\$4,360,857.60	\$3,269,823.26
1240-11	Alligator Severance Tax	\$100,049.34	\$120,068.50	\$97,642.80	\$115,782.04	\$94,095.56	\$31,467.09	\$0.00
1435	Interest	\$22,238.00	\$58,579.00	\$115,283.00	\$65,828.00	\$1,540.00	\$670.00	\$1,000.00
1510-07	Alligator hides/harvest	\$143,589.49	\$63,996.46	\$83,469.93	\$106,874.60	\$50,008.13	\$48,139.91	\$49,074.02
1510-12	Alligator Shipping Label Fees	\$171,788.00	\$147,848.00	\$241,192.00	\$168,308.00	\$58,784.00	\$204,696.00	\$131,740.00
1510-15	Alligator Egg Harvest	\$299,320.00	\$327,280.00	\$381,737.14	\$87,480.00	\$157,624.00	\$22,370.00	\$89,997.00
1690-13	Alligator Tag Fees	\$1,600,789.51	\$1,921,096.93	\$1,562,284.95	\$1,739,461.96	\$1,131,531.69	\$803,292.66	\$967,412.18
1690-19	Alligator Licenses (Resident)	\$83,600.00	\$66,325.00	\$70,325.00	\$87,975.00	\$79,250.03	\$93,850.00	\$86,550.02
1690-20	Alligator Licenses (Non-resident)	\$73,500.00	\$70,050.00	\$94,800.00	\$138,900.00	\$132,750.00	\$175,200.00	\$153,975.00
1690-92	Alligator Egg Collecting Permit--coding error should have been coded to 1510-15 (Allig Egg Harvest)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1690-95	Designated Agent Collection Permit	\$5,775.00	\$5,751.00	\$5,625.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,700.00	\$325.00	\$325.00
1690-86	Alligator Lottery	\$9,160.00	\$11,805.00	\$2,710.00	\$15,190.00	\$65,730.00	\$67,905.00	\$66,817.50
1690-86	Charter boat (Coding Error)--emailed Andrew to correct 4-19-22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$775.00	\$0.00
1795	Surplus property	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$0.00
1805	Misc Receipts from private sources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$399.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Revenue	\$2,509,809.34	\$2,792,799.89	\$2,655,468.82	\$2,530,299.60	\$1,776,013.41	\$1,448,726.66	\$1,546,890.71
T130	Capital Outlay Project	-\$1,100,000.00	\$0.00	-\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
T180	Expenses	-\$1,536,309.50	-\$1,463,477.49	-\$1,854,170.42	-\$2,466,482.47	-\$2,065,273.44	-\$2,539,781.00	-\$2,357,172.30
T200	Ending Fund Balance	\$3,955,679.70	\$5,285,002.10	\$4,586,300.50	\$4,650,117.63	\$4,360,857.60	\$3,269,823.26	\$2,459,541.67

Revenue - Expenditures \$973,499.84 \$1,329,322.40 \$801,298.40 \$63,817.13 -\$289,260.03 -\$1,091,034.34 -\$810,281.59

Alligator Resource Fund (W09)

		Highlighted Cells are averaged to estimate the FY 23 figure				
Source	Description	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22 (YTD)	FY 23
T190	Beginning Fund Balance	\$5,285,002.10	\$4,586,300.50	\$4,650,117.63	\$4,360,857.60	\$3,269,823.26
1240-11	Alligator Severance Tax	\$97,642.80	\$115,782.04	\$94,095.56	\$31,467.09	\$0.00
1435	Interest	\$115,283.00	\$65,828.00	\$1,540.00	\$670.00	\$1,000.00
1510-07	Alligator hides/harvest	\$83,469.93	\$106,874.60	\$50,008.13	\$48,139.91	\$49,074.02
1510-12	Alligaor Shipping Label Fees	\$241,192.00	\$168,308.00	\$58,784.00	\$204,696.00	\$131,740.00
1510-15	Alligator Egg Harvest	\$381,737.14	\$87,480.00	\$157,624.00	\$22,370.00	\$89,997.00
1690-13	Alligator Tag Fees	\$1,562,284.95	\$1,739,461.96	\$1,131,531.69	\$803,292.66	\$967,412.18
1690-19	Alligaor Licenses (Resident)	\$70,325.00	\$87,975.00	\$79,250.03	\$93,850.00	\$86,550.02
1690-20	Alligator Licenses (Non-resident)	\$94,800.00	\$138,900.00	\$132,750.00	\$175,200.00	\$153,975.00
1690-92	Alligator Egg Collecting Permit--coding error should have been coded to 1510-15 (Allig Egg Harvest)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1690-95	Designated Agent Collection Permit	\$5,625.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,700.00	\$325.00	\$325.00
1690-86	Alligator Lottery	\$2,710.00	\$15,190.00	\$65,730.00	\$67,905.00	\$66,817.50
1690-86	Charter boat (Coding Error)--emailed Andrew to correct 4-19-22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$775.00	\$0.00
1795	Surplus property	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$0.00
1805	Misc Receipts from private sources	\$399.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Revenue	\$2,655,468.82	\$2,530,299.60	\$1,776,013.41	\$1,448,726.66	\$1,546,890.71
T130	Capital Outlay Project	-\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
T180	Expenses	-\$1,854,170.42	-\$2,466,482.47	-\$2,065,273.44	-\$2,539,761.00	-\$2,357,172.30
T200	Ending Fund Balance	\$4,586,300.50	\$4,650,117.63	\$4,360,857.60	\$3,269,823.26	\$2,459,541.67

Revenue - Expenditures \$801,298.40 \$63,817.13 -\$289,260.03 -\$1,091,034.34 -\$810,281.59



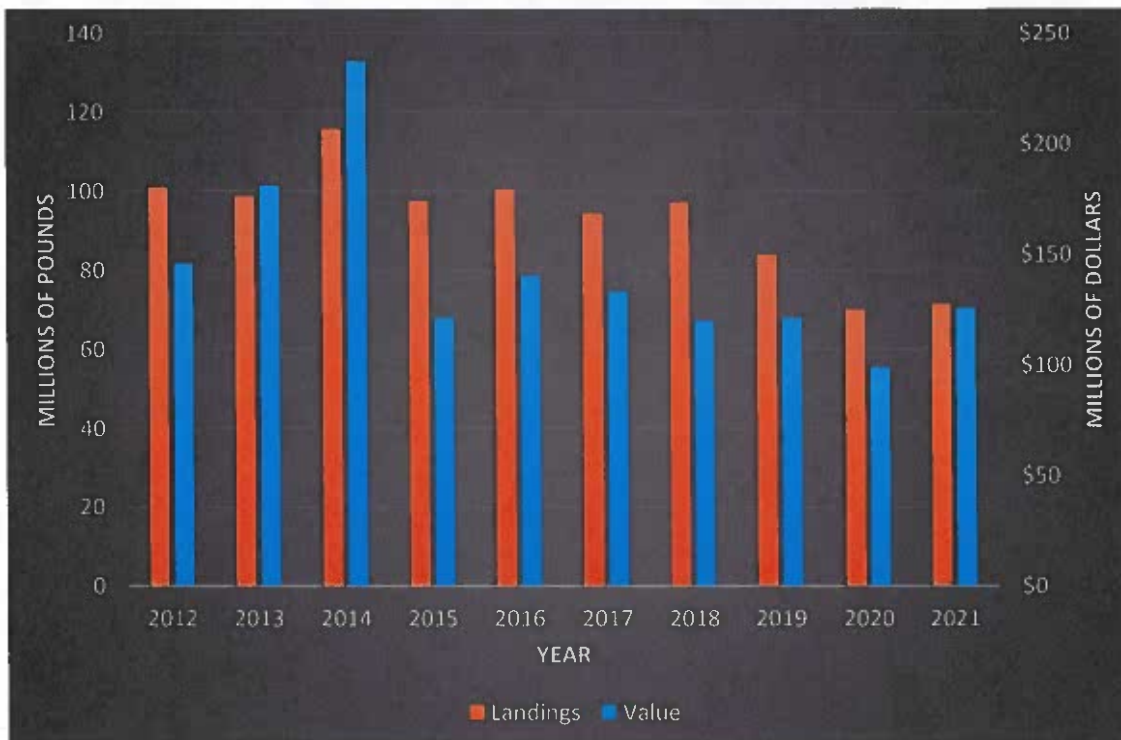
2022 Fall Shrimp Season

Peyton Cagle | LWFC Meeting | August 4, 2022

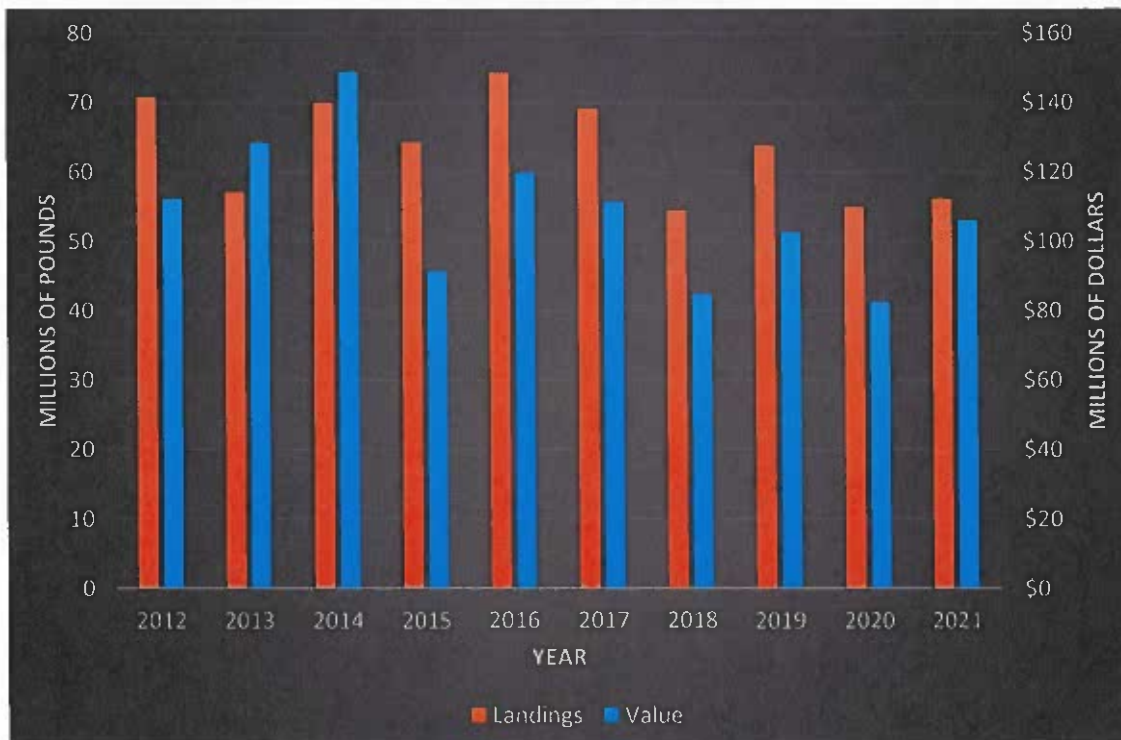
Recent Shrimp Data and Trends



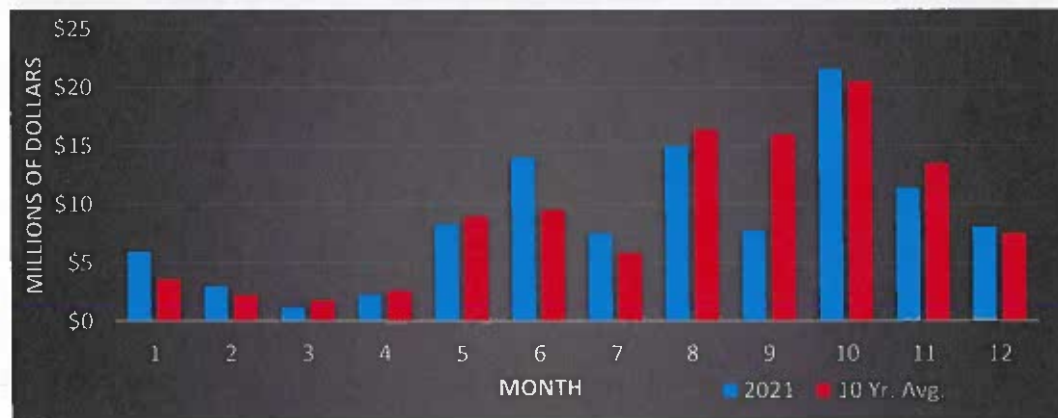
Louisiana Annual Shrimp Landings and Value (All Species, Whole Weight)



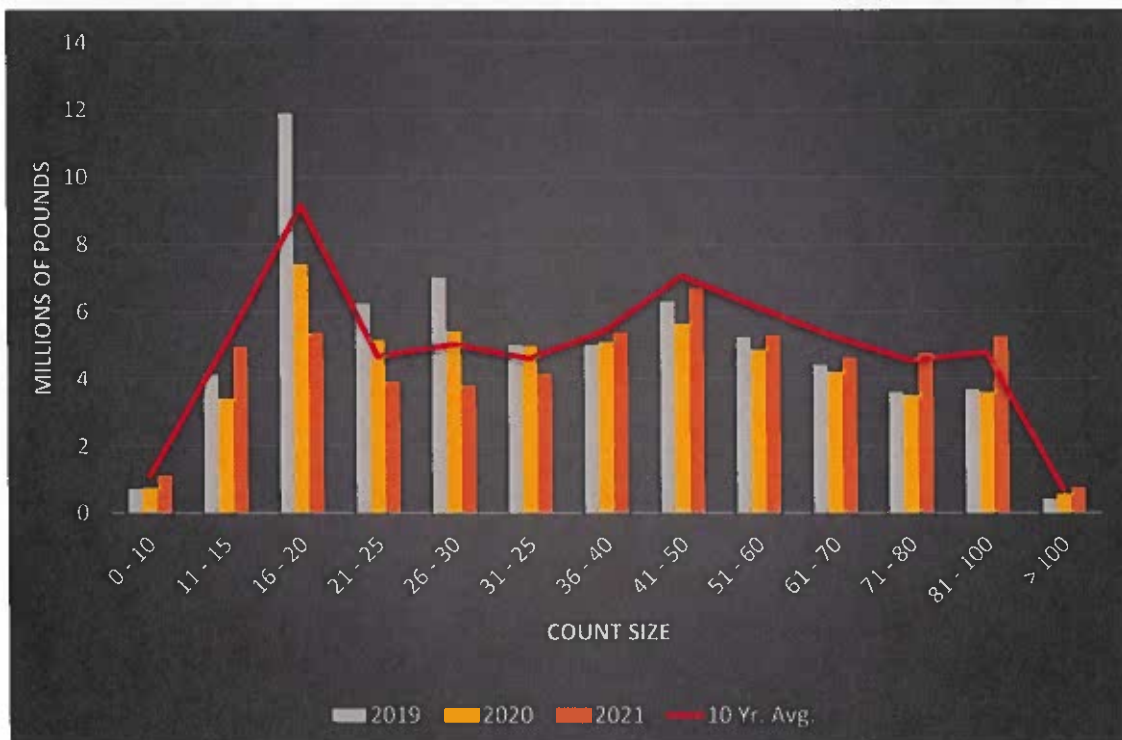
Louisiana White Shrimp Annual Landings and Value (Whole Weight)



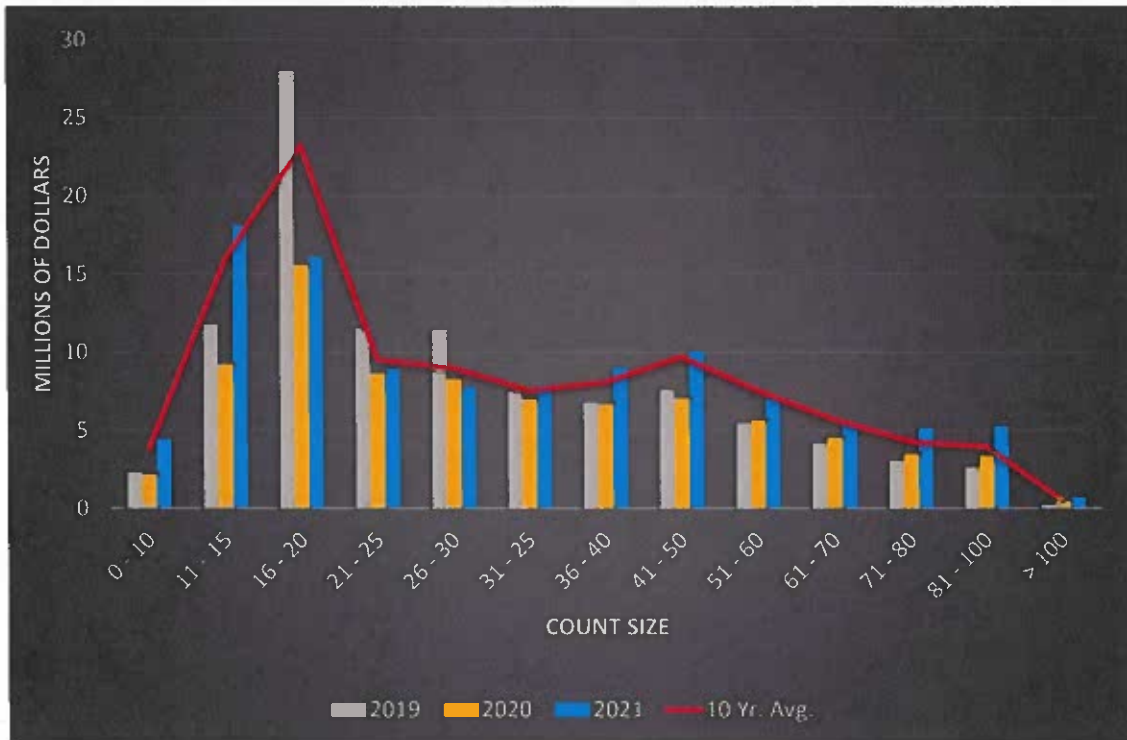
2021 White Shrimp Landings and Value by Month



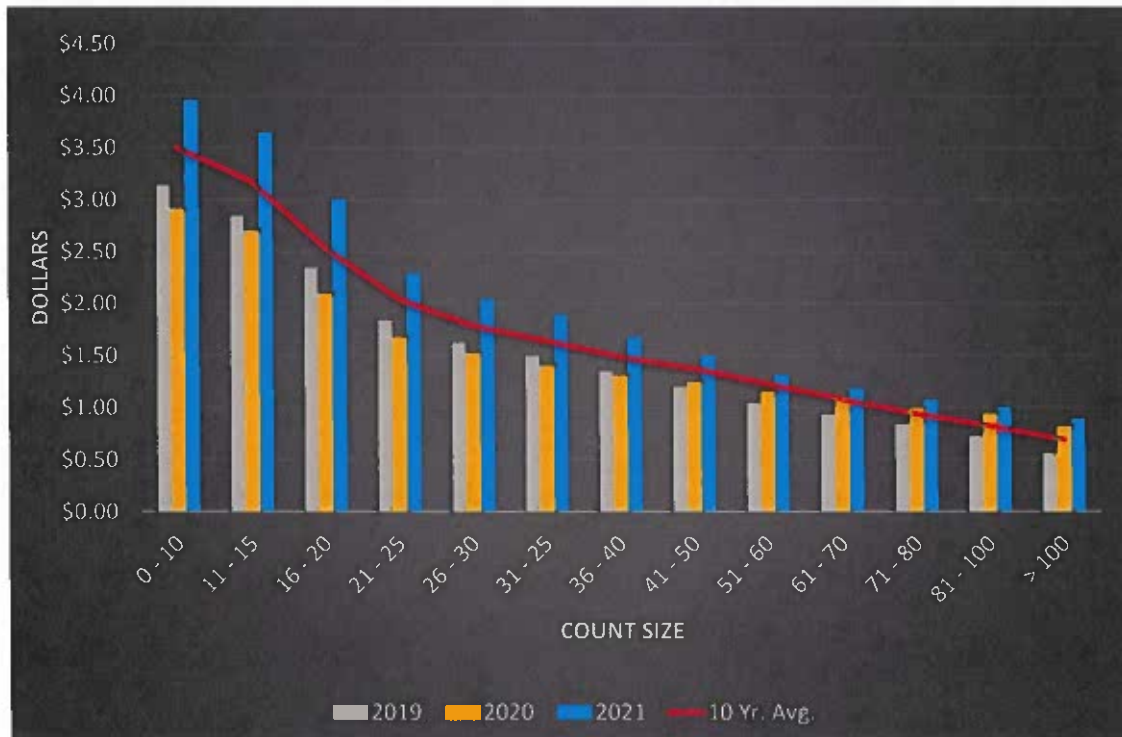
White Shrimp Landings by Count Size



White Shrimp Value by Count Size



White Shrimp Price per Pound by Count Size



Current Data (July 25-29)



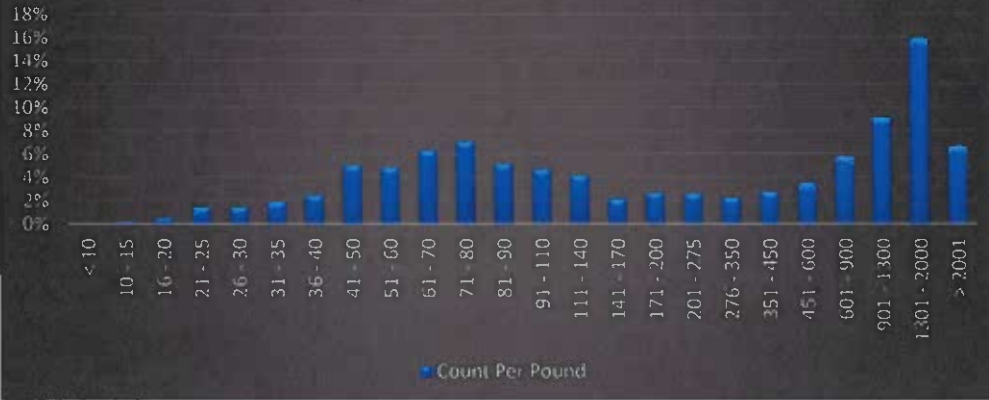
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Map produced December 27, 2018

Division of Coastal Services, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2200 Northshore Boulevard, Suite 100, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-2400



Zone 2 without Vermilion-Teche



Zone 2 without Vermilion-Teche



Vermilion-Teche



Vermilion-Teche



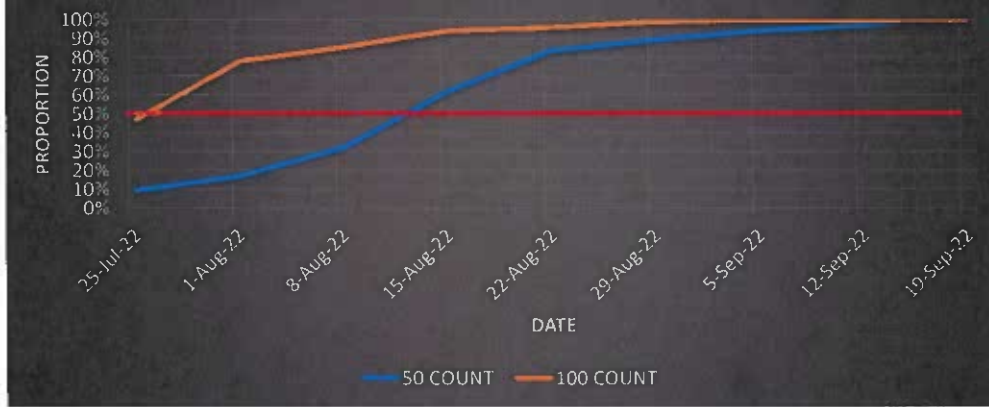
Zone 3 without Mermentau River



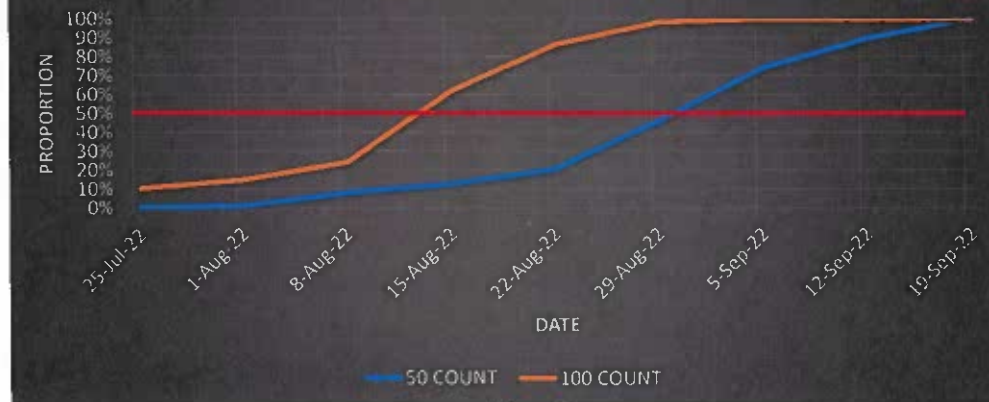
Mermentau River

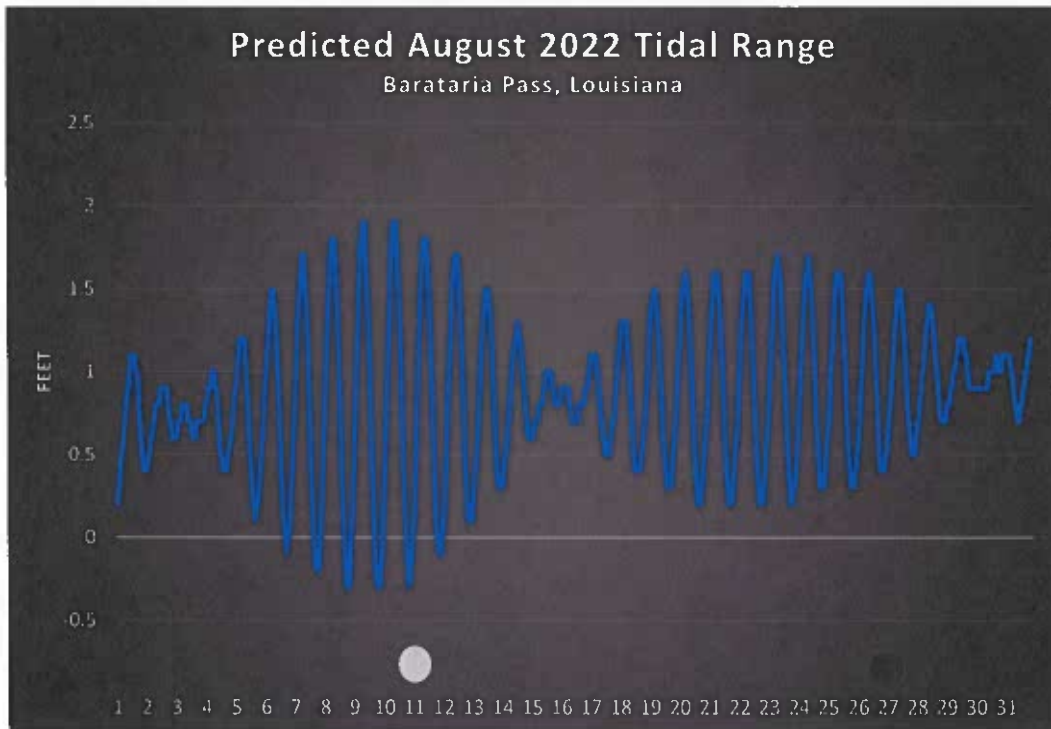


Zone 3 without Mermentau River



Mermentau River





Recommendations

- From the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6:00 a.m. August 8, 2022 **except** for the Biloxi Marsh which will open at 6:00 a.m. August 15, 2022.
- From the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00 p.m. August 8, 2022.
- From the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6:00 a.m. August 8, 2022 **except** for the Mermentau River which will open at 6:00 a.m. August 15, 2022.





2022 Derelict Crab Trap Overview and the 2023 Proposed Cleanup Areas

Peyton Cagle | LWFC Meeting | August 4, 2022

2022 DCTR Results





2022 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Results

Area	Date	Traps Collected
Terrebonne Basin	2/1 - 2/14	112
Vermilion-Teche Basin	2/1 - 2/14	179
Barataria Basin	2/7 - 2/20	281
Calcasieu Basin	2/18 - 2/23	136
Total		708



Program Results

Year	Area(s)	Avg. Traps
2004-2005	6	5,759
2006-2016	16	1,441
2017-2022	30	3,973
Total	52	51,201



2023 Proposed Cleanup Areas



Barataria Basin

February 1 - 14, 2023



Terrebonne Basin

February 1 - 14, 2023



Sabine Basin

February 17 - 26, 2023



Things To Remember

- Remaining traps are considered abandoned
- LDWF or those designated may retrieve traps
- Traps may be removed between ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset
- Traps must be brought to designated disposal sites
- Traps removed from within a closure area shall be considered abandoned and are property of the Department. Such traps shall not be possessed outside of that area, unless specifically distributed by the Department.



QUESTIONS?

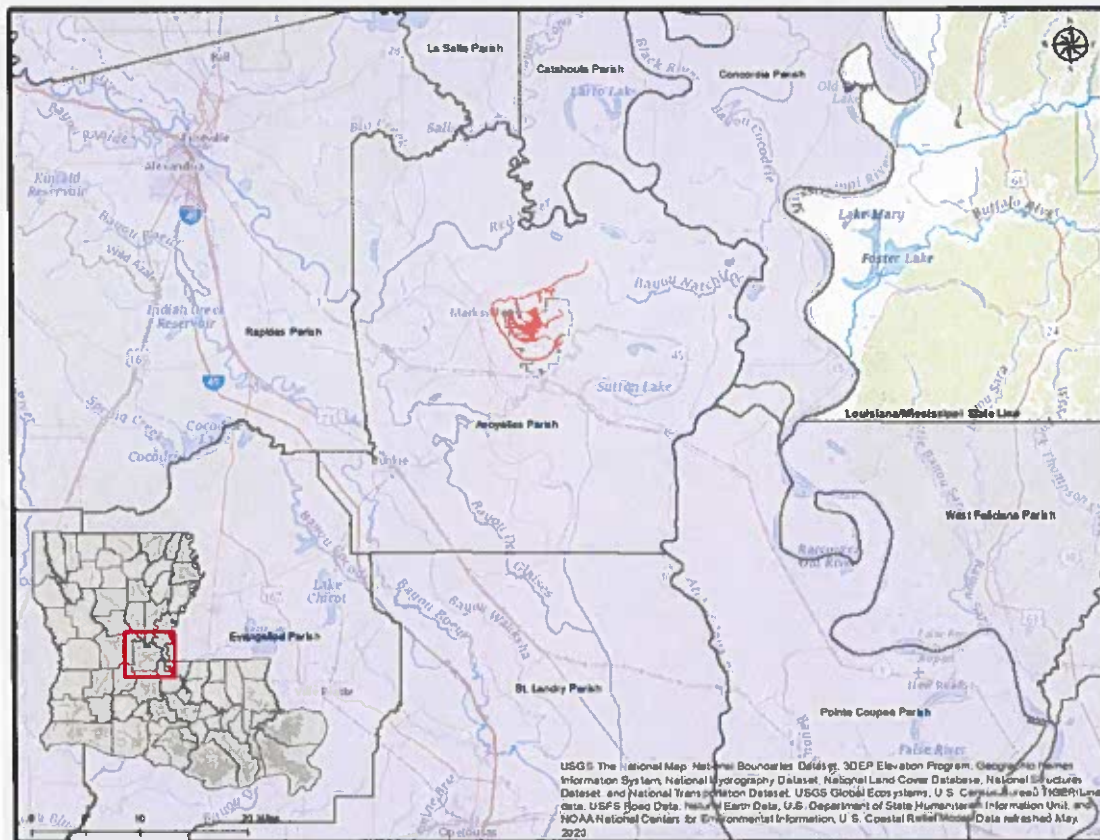
Peyton Cagle
Crustacean Program Manager
(337)491-2575 ext. 3017
peyton.cagle@la.gov

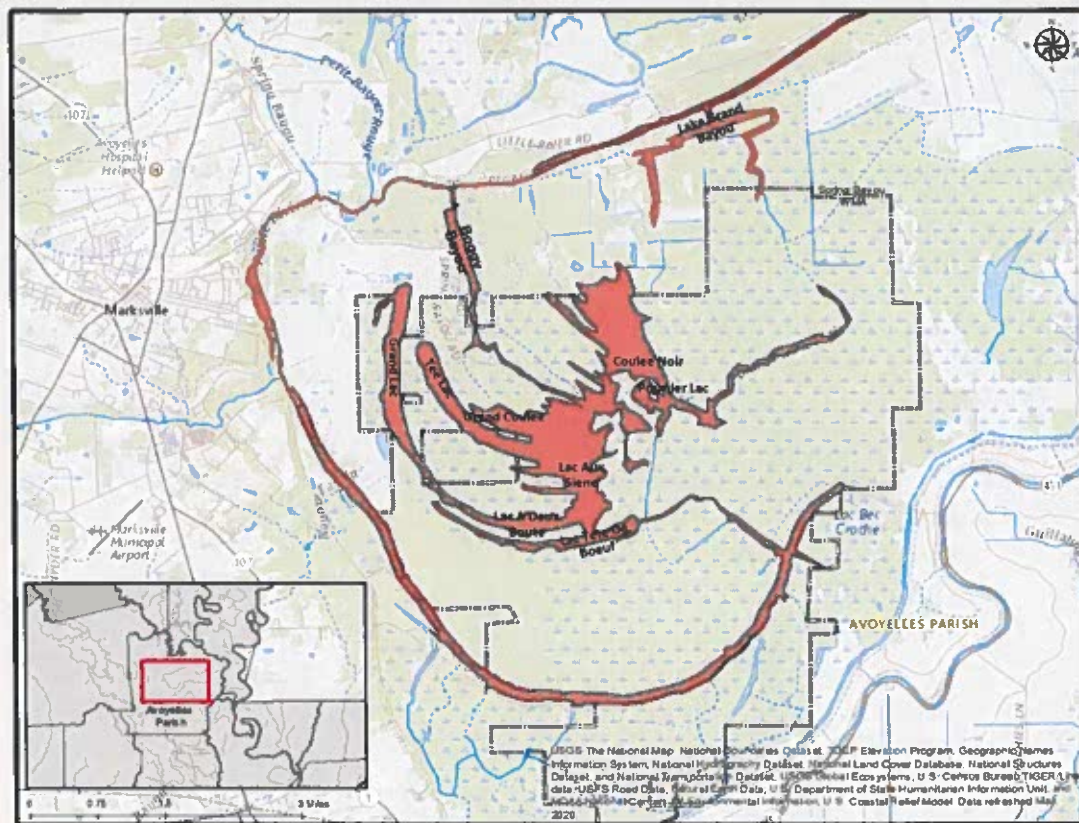




Spring Bayou Declaration of Emergency

Daniel C. Hill | LDWF Commission Meeting | August 4, 2022





Proposed Creel Limit Changes

- **Black Bass (Largemouth and Spotted):** no size limit, five fish per day
- **Striped and hybrid Striped Bass:** no size limit, three fish per day with no more than one over 30 inches total length
- **White Bass:** no size limit, 25 fish per day
- **Black and White Crappie:** no size limit, 25 fish per day in the aggregate
- **Yellow Bass:** no size limit, 25 fish per day
- **Bowfin (Choupique):** 16 inches minimum length, no creel limit
- **Buffalofish:** 16 inches minimum length, 15 fish per day
- **Catfish (Blue, Channel, and Flathead):** Blue – 12 inches minimum length, Channel: 11 inches minimum length, Flathead: 14 inches minimum length; 50 fish per day in aggregate with up to 15 undersized catfish of the three species combined
- **Freshwater Drum (Gaspeigou):** 12 inches minimum length, 15 fish per day
- **Paddlefish:** 30 inches maximum lower jaw fork length, 1 fish per day; fish must not be alive and must not be harvested by snagging
- **Shad:** no size limit, 25 pounds per day



Questions?

Daniel Hill
Biologist Manager
Inland Fisheries – District 6
dhill@wlf.la.gov





SWORDFISH AND BILLFISH REGULATIONS NOI

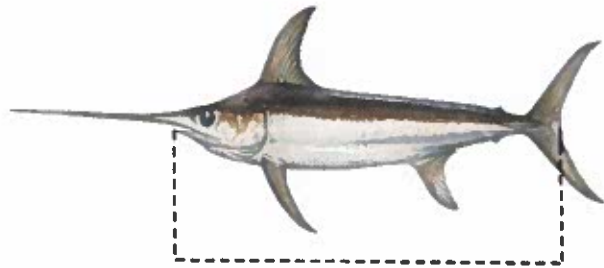
Jason Adriance | LWFC Meeting | August 4, 2022

Need for N.O.I.

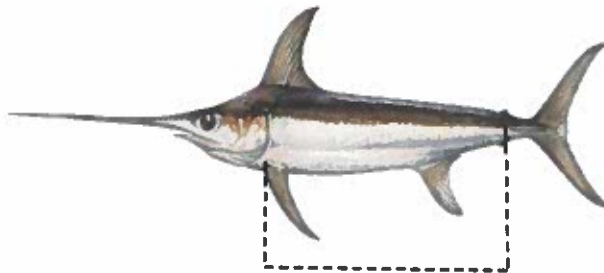
- Current LDWF regulations are not consistent with new federal regulations.
- Federal regulations are based on new marlin data analysis.
- Federal regulations account for better size analysis of headed swordfish and a discontinued use of dressed weight for swordfish due to high variability in weights, in particular when predators remove a portion of the swordfish prior to landing.
- Federal possession limits vary among private, charter, and headboat vessels.



Measurements



Lower Jaw Fork Length



Cleithrum to Caudal Keel Length

*Images from <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/atlantic-swordfish-commercial-minimum-sizes-and-retention-limits>

Proposed Changes

- Addition of Roundscale Spearfish with a 66 inch Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) size limit, this species has been recognized as a distinct species from White Marlin and added to federal regulations.
- Current regulations stipulate a carcass length (29 inches) or dressed weight (33 pounds) as a measure for swordfish when the head is removed as opposed to the 25 inch Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK) length or 47 inches LJFL without the head removed as in federal regulations.
- Possession limits:
 - Private = 1 per person or 4 per vessel trip
 - Charter = 1 per person or 6 per vessel trip
 - Headboat = 1 per person or 15 per vessel trip



Questions ?

Jason Adriance
LDWF Biologist DCL-B
504-284-2032
jadriance@wlf.la.gov





ADJUSTMENT TO CLOSED SHARK SEASON NOI

Jason Adriance | LWFC Meeting | August 4, 2022

Background and Need

- Full utilization of commercial quotas has not been achieved in recent years and a shorter closed season may help meet quotas.
- Shorter closed seasons in state waters may allow for more harvest of recovering shark populations as interactions have increased in recent years, especially bull and blacktip sharks.
- State waters closed season for commercial and recreational possession (April through June) can be altered without creating inconsistencies with federal regulations as no such closed season exists in federal waters.



Background and Need

- Recreational bag and size limit changes in state waters could be altered for some species (blacktip and bull), but result in inconsistencies with federal regulations.
- Quotas are set by NOAA Highly Migratory Species Division and those cannot be adjusted.
- Federally permitted commercial shark fisherman can still harvest sharks in federal waters during the state closure, but state shark fishermen cannot possess sharks during that time.



Notice of Intent

- Recommend changing closed season May through June of each year in state waters to allow for more opportunity to harvest.
- Finfish Task Force endorsed the removal of April from the closed season after being asked to consider elimination of the entire closed season.
- Could help extend the commercial shark season within allotted quotas and allow for more recreational harvest.



Questions?

Jason Adriance
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504-284-2032
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