


**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 6, 2023**

**Andrew J. Blanchard  
Chairman**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

**Baton Rouge, 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  
April 6, 2023 – 9:30 AM  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of March 2, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of April 6, 2023 Agenda
6. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
7. Enforcement Report, March 2023
8. Receive Public Comments on the Notice of Intent for Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds Rules and Regulations, Including General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2023-2024
9. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease
10. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Amending Trapping and Handling Regulations in Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserves, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes, Permitting Year-Round Coyote Trapping
11. Receive an Overview of the new Department Target Range Grant Program
12. Receive a Review of the 2022 Recreational Red Snapper Season and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify the 2023 Recreational Season
13. Receive a Report on the 2023 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments
14. Receive Public Comments
15. Adjournment

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

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on April 6, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room by **Chairman Blanchard**.

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

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

Andrew Blanchard  
Andy Brister  
Joe McPherson  
Gene Reynolds  
Kevin Sagrera  
Al Sunseri

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

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

Next, **Chairman Blanchard** called for **Adoption of March 2, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to adopt the March 2, 2023 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Sagrera**. The motion passed with no opposition.

On the next agenda item, the **Chairman** asked for **Approval of April 6, 2023 Agenda**. **Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to approve the April 6, 2023 Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Reynolds** and unanimously approved.

Under **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, **Chairman Blanchard** stated he attended an American Shrimp Processors Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi and thanked Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks and his staff that attended. The **Chairman** then expressed appreciation for the information provided to the industry.

**Commissioner Brister** introduced his wife, Laurie Brister, who was in attendance at the meeting and noted she was from Metairie. **Chairman Blanchard** stated it was good to meet Mrs. Brister.

Major Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for March 2023** stating there were 4 boating incidents with 3 injuries and no fatalities. A total of 579 written citations and 514 written warnings were issued, and agents responded to 10 public assists in March. News Releases reviewed included agents cited two men in LaSalle Parish, one for hunting turkey during closed season and the second for criminal conspiracy. The turkey was seized and donated to a local charity and Civil Restitution fines could total \$1,539 for the replacement value of the turkey. Two subjects were cited in Terrebonne Parish for using skimmers during a closed season and using over-sized skimmer nets; 1,453 pounds of shrimp were seized and sold to the highest bidder and the illegal nets were also seized. Four subjects were cited in two different cases for multiple deer hunting violations in LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes. These individuals were all cited for taking over the seasonal limit of deer and two were also cited for taking over the daily limit of deer. Civil Restitution could total over \$20,000 for the replacement value of all of the deer taken over the limit.

Following the report, **Commissioner McPherson** asked for an update on the Civil Restitution fines and then asked if enforcement cases are tracked to know which go to court and which are nolle pros in order to learn what may be included from Civil Restitutions. Major Skena stated Civil Restitution are tracked and the Department can provide how much is collected, but the Department does not have a master list on the criminal cases. The **Commissioner** understood that when a case is not criminally prosecuted, then the Civil Restitution fines are not collected to which General Counsel Cole Garrett mentioned that the Department decoupled the Civil Restitution from prosecuting a criminal case. The Civil Restitution is administered in-house through the Division of Administrative Law and the only time Civil Restitution was not sought after was when a person was found not guilty in open court. **Commissioner McPherson** added that an Enforcement Captain gave him that information and he was glad that was not correct.

**Chairman Blanchard** announced the next agenda item, **Receive Public Comments on the Notice of Intent for Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds Rules and Regulations, Including General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2023-2024** and asked Mr. Tommy Tuma, Biologist Director, to come forward. Mr. Tuma began his presentation stating he did not receive any comments on the original proposal since the last meeting, but would review the comments he received on the conditionally approved amendments. The amendments included limiting the use of deer and turkey tags to only the person they were issued to (no comments received) and changed the West Zone waterfowl dates but not the youth and veterans only weekend. The changes to the West Zone waterfowl dates also changed the dates for the light geese and Conservation Order seasons. Fifty-eight comments were received on the waterfowl change from 38 individuals (38 comments were opposed to West Zone waterfowl season with 31 wanting to go back to the originally proposed dates and 7 supported the change in the dates). An additional 20 comments received requested separating the youth and Veteran's weekend to have the youth weekend before the season and the Veteran's weekend after the season. A public hearing will be held on the amendments on April 20, 2023 at 10 AM. (A copy of Mr. Tuma's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Chairman Blanchard** stated the only comments he received were on the waterfowl season change with some wanting it to stay as amended and others wanting to go back to the originally proposed dates. The **Chairman** added that the comments centered on the time the youth are out of school and having separate youth and Veteran's weekends. **Chairman Blanchard** then asked if that would be voted on at the next meeting and Mr. Tuma stated the Commission would vote at the next meeting whether to include the amendments into the original Notice of Intent and then take a final vote on the Notice of Intent. **Commissioner Sagrera** knew that the State was divided into two waterfowl zones and asked if this was set on a 5-year rotation and Mr. Tuma stated that was correct and this was year 3 of 5. The **Commissioner** suggested looking at the zones if there are problems with the west zone. Mr. Tuma added that he would accept public comments until May 3, 2023.

The next agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease** would be presented by Mr. Johnathan Bordelon, Deer Program Manager. Mr. Bordelon began stating this proposed action would amend the DMAP eligibility requirements for participants within 5 miles of a CWD detection. He provided background information the Department took in response to CWD such as the CWD Response Plan that mirrored the AFWA's Best Management Practices. The first step established was to prohibit the movement of live animals, and then followed were the cervid carcass importation, restricting the use of deer urine and prohibiting the use of baiting. Also used were surveillance of initial detection and then once found, monitoring of CWD. Following the initial detection of CWD in January 2022 in Tensas Parish, Louisiana, a new phase of managing a disease on the landscape kicked off. A map of CWD samples taken during the 2022-2023 hunting season was shown with a map showing a closer look of the CWD Control Area established last year in order to determine how widespread the disease may be from the initial positive. Based on what was found, the disease was definitely within close proximity to the initial positive case (all CWD positive cases have been found within 5 miles of the initial case from 2022). Mr. Bordelon then talked about the next step in managing CWD was by targeting animals in known CWD locations (population management by keeping herd numbers below carrying capacity). The way to target those animals was by adjusting bag limits and season limits either independently or simultaneously. The proposal was to utilize the DMAP program that has certain eligibility requirements and was a voluntary program. There are more than 700 cooperators in the program on almost 1.5 million acres with Tensas Parish having one of the highest DMAP participation in the program. Tier 1 DMAP provides for antlered and antlerless tags be placed on the animals, allows a club to exceed the daily and season bag limits and provides an extra 15 days to the season. From participation in this program, the Department will get biological data, habitat indices (relationship between deer and its environment) and continues with an existing data management system. Alternatives used by other states such as Mississippi provides for a Special Use Permit that includes special tags and additional days to hunt and sharpshooting which is very contentious in states this is practiced. The activity of sharpshooting allows biologists to go out to areas within close proximity to CWD positives (usually 1-3 miles of a positive) and harvest as many deer as possible to reduce that population whereas Louisiana prefers to allow hunters to harvest their deer recreationally on property they have access to at a rate and number staff works on with them. Mr. Bordelon reviewed the proposed changes in the DMAP program. In Tier 1 DMAP, there will be an exception to allow lands within 5 miles of a CWD detection to enroll at any time of the season and not have to wait for enrollment period to

take action to manage and respond to the disease. The next change was reducing the required 1,000 acres or more to enroll property of 40 acres or more within 5 miles of a CWD detection. Other changes include collecting biological data and not charging a fee. At this point, Mr. Bordelon gave justification for each of the proposed DMAP changes, beginning with why 5 miles and he stated that all lands within that area has been identified as an infectious zone (5 mile radius covers approximately 50,000 acres). Next, why no fee – extra restrictions have already been implemented and the Department wants the clubs continued cooperation in achieving disease management. Why voluntary versus mandatory testing – the disease has already been found within this 5 mile radius and staff does not need 100% samples from the area to monitor or track prevalence. Another change was to amend the date all data and unused tags are to be submitted from March 1 to 30 days after the close of the season and this will allow for consistency for every DMAP participant. Concluding Mr. Bordelon stated, “Tier 1 DMAP will provide an avenue for season and bag limit liberalization for hunters within close proximity to CWD detections while collecting biological data and disease surveillance samples”. (A copy of Mr. Bordelon’s presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Hearing no questions on the proposal, **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent, **Commissioner Reynolds** seconded the motion and it 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**

#### **Participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program (LAC 76:V.111)**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) regulations in an effort to change eligibility requirements for program participants within 5 miles of a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) detection. While participation is voluntary, DMAP tier 1 participants within 5 miles of a CWD positive detection will no longer be required to meet the 1,000 acre minimum. In addition, enrollment fees will be waived and enrollment may occur at any point during the current deer season due to a CWD detection. Participants will still be required to collect required biological data and may be required to submit CWD samples. Tier 1 DMAP will provide an avenue for season and bag limit liberalization while collecting biological data and disease surveillance samples. Also changed was the timeframe for submission of all DMAP harvest records and unused tags.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the

filing of the Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the proposed rule, the Secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

## Title 76

### WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

#### Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

##### Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

#### **§111. Rules and Regulations for Participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program**

A. The following rules and regulations shall govern the Deer Management Assistance Program.

1. Application Procedure

a. Application for enrollment of a new cooperator in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by August 1. Application for the renewal enrollment of an active cooperator must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries annually by September 1. Except lands enrolling in Tier 1 DMAP within 5 miles of a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) detection may enroll at any time during the current season.

b. Applicants will select from 1 of 4 levels of DMAP participation. Level 1 participation is limited to qualifying clubs of 1000 acres or more, unless the property is 40 acres or more and located within 5 miles of a CWD detection, and will require collection of complete harvest data, including jaw bone removal, weights, antler measurements, and checking females for lactation. Level 1 participation may require the submission of CWD samples, per the Department's discretion, for properties within 5 miles of a CWD detection. Issuance of both antlered and antlerless tags will be mandatory. Level 2 participation is limited to clubs with 500 acres or more and will also require collection of complete harvest data. Antlerless tags only will be issued unless antlered tags are specifically requested and needed to meet harvest objectives. Level 3 participation will be for tracts of 40 acres or larger, and only require recording the total number of male and female deer harvested. Only antlerless tags are available. Licensed deer farmers authorized to hunt deer by Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are eligible to participate in this level. Level 4 participation will only require recording the total number of male and female deer harvested and is only available for nuisance deer issues such as crop or lawn depredation. Only antlerless tags will be issued. There is no acreage minimum for level 4.



c. Each application for a new cooperator must be accompanied by a legal description of lands to be enrolled and a map of the property. Renewal applications must be accompanied by a legal description and map only if the boundaries of the enrolled property have changed from records on file from the previous hunting season. This information will remain on file in the appropriate ecoregion field office.

d. Fee schedule:

i. tier 1—fee dependent on acreage and distance to a CWD  
detection:

- (a). 1,000-1,500 acres—\$250;
- (b). 1,501-10,000 acres—\$300;
- (c). 10,001-20,000 acres—\$500;
- (d). 20,001-50,000 acres—\$1,500;
- (e). 50,001-75,000 acres—\$2,500;
- (f). >75,000 acres—\$3,750 minimum, to be negotiated;
- (g). >40 acres or more and within 5 miles of a CWD

detection—no fee:

ii. tier 2—fee dependent on acreage:

- (a). 500-1,500 acres—\$150;
- (b). 1,501-10,000 acres—\$200;
- (c). 10,001-20,000 acres—\$500;
- (d). 20,001-50,000 acres—\$1,500;
- (e). 50,001-75,000 acres—\$2,500;
- (f). >75,000 acres—\$3,750 minimum, to be negotiated;

iii. tier 3—fee dependent on acreage:

- (a). 40-500 acres—\$100;
- (b). 501-1,500 acres—\$150;
- (c). 1,501-10,000 acres—\$200;
- (d). 10,001-20,000 acres—\$500;
- (e). 20,001-50,000 acres—\$1,500;
- (f). 50,001-75,000 acres—\$2,500;
- (g). >75,000 acres—\$3,750 minimum, to be negotiated;

iv. tier 4—no acreage minimum, no fee.

e. DMAP fees must be paid to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fiscal Section prior to September 15.

f. An agreement must be completed and signed by the official representative of the cooperator and submitted to the appropriate ecoregion field office for approval. This agreement must be completed and signed annually.

g. Entrances and public road frontage of lands enrolled in DMAP shall be clearly marked and posted with DMAP signs in compliance with R.S. 56:110 and the provisions of R.S. 56:110 are only applicable to property enrolled in DMAP. DMAP signs shall be removed if the land is no longer enrolled in DMAP. Rules and regulations for compliance with R.S. 56:110 are as follows.

i. The color of DMAP signs shall be orange. The words "DMAP" and "posted" shall be printed on the sign in letters no less than four inches in height. Signs may be constructed of any material and minimum size is 11¼ inches x 11¼ inches.

ii. Signs will be placed at 1000-foot intervals along any public road frontage and at all points of ingress and egress used by motorized vehicles to access the property.

h. By enrolling in the DMAP, cooperators agree to allow department personnel access to their lands for management surveys, investigation of violations and other inspections deemed appropriate by the department. The person listed on the DMAP application as the contact person will serve as the liaison between the DMAP cooperator and the department.

i. Each cooperator that enrolls in DMAP is strongly encouraged to provide keys or lock combinations annually to the enforcement division of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for access to main entrances of the DMAP property. Provision of keys is voluntary. However, the cooperator's compliance will ensure that DMAP enrolled properties will be properly and regularly patrolled.

j. Large acreage ownerships (>10,000 acres) may further act as cooperators and enroll additional non-contiguous tracts of land deemed sub-cooperators. Sub-cooperators shall be defined by the large acreage ownerships lease agreements. Non-contiguous sub-cooperator lands enrolled by large acreage ownerships will have the legal description and a map included for those parcels enrolled as sub-cooperators. Sub-cooperators shall be subject to the same requirements, rules and regulations as cooperators.

k. The department may grant season extensions to hunt deer with any legal weapon, up to either 15 days prior to or after the established season framework for the regular deer area season, if requested by the DMAP level 1 cooperator in order to fulfill property-specific objectives and goals if biological reasons and limitations exist that support such extensions. Additionally, the department may grant season extensions to hunt rabbits and squirrels by any legal means for up to 10 days after the established rabbit and squirrel season framework, if requested by the DMAP level 1 cooperator in order to fulfill property-specific objectives and goals if biological reasons and limitations exist that support such extensions.

## 2. Tags

a. A prescribed ~~fixed~~ number of special tags will be provided by the department to each cooperator/sub-cooperator in DMAP to affix to deer taken as specified by the program participation level. These tags shall be used during all seasons. Tags are only authorized on DMAP lands for which the tags were issued.

b. Each hunter must have a tag in his possession while hunting on DMAP land in order to harvest an antlerless deer (or antlered deer if antlered deer tags are issued). Antlerless deer may be harvested any day of the deer season on property enrolled in DMAP provided a DMAP tag is possessed by the hunter at time of harvest. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported. The DMAP tag will remain with the deer so long as the deer is kept in the camp or field, is enroute to the domicile of its possessor, or until it has been stored at the domicile of its possessor, or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game. The DMAP number shall be recorded on the possession tag of the deer or any part of the animal when divided and properly tagged.

c. DMAP tagged antlered or antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP do not count in the daily or season bag limit.

d. All unused tags shall be returned ~~by March 1~~ 30 days after the close of the season to the ecoregion field office which issued the tags.

### 3. Records

a. Cooperators/sub-cooperators are responsible for keeping accurate records on forms provided by the department for all deer harvested on lands enrolled in the program. Mandatory information includes tag number, sex of deer, date of kill, name of person taking the deer, LDWF i.d. number and biological data (age, weight, antler measurements, lactation) as deemed essential by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Deer Section. Biological data collection must meet quality standards established by the Deer Section. Documentation of mandatory information shall be kept daily by the cooperator/sub-cooperator. Additional information may be requested depending on management goals of the cooperator/sub-cooperator.

b. Information on deer harvested shall be submitted ~~by March 1~~ 30 days after the close of the season to the ecoregion field office handling the particular cooperator/sub-cooperator.

c. The contact person shall provide this documentation of harvested deer to the department upon request. Cooperators/sub-cooperators who do not have a field camp will be given 48 hours to provide this requested documentation.

### B. Suspension and cancellation of DMAP Cooperators/Sub-Cooperators

1. Failure of the cooperator/sub-cooperator to follow these rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved. Failure to make a good faith attempt to follow harvest recommendations may also result in suspension and cancellation of the program.

a. Suspension of cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP. Suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, including forfeiture of unused tags, will occur immediately for any misuse of tags, failure to tag any antlerless deer, or failure to submit records to the department for examination in a timely fashion. Suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator, including forfeiture of unused tags, may also occur immediately if other DMAP rules or wildlife regulations are violated. Upon suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, the contact person may request a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hearing within 10 working days to appeal said suspension. Cooperation by the DMAP cooperator/sub-cooperator with the investigation of the violation will be taken into account by the department when considering cancellation of the program following a suspension for any of the above listed reasons. The cooperator/sub-cooperator may be allowed to continue with the program on a probational status if, in the judgment of the department, the facts relevant to a suspension do not warrant cancellation.

b. Cancellation of cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP. Cancellation of a cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP may occur following a guilty plea or conviction for a DMAP rule or regulation violation by any individual or member hunting on the land enrolled in DMAP. The cooperator/sub-cooperator may not be allowed to participate in DMAP for one year following the cancellation for such guilty pleas or conviction. Upon cancellation of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, the contact person may request an administrative hearing within 10 working days to appeal said cancellation.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:110.1 and R.S. 56:115.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:204 (February 1991), amended LR 25:1656 (September 1999), LR 26:2011 (September 2000), LR 30:2496 (November 2004), LR 34:1427 (July 2008), LR 35:1910 (September 2009), LR 37:2187 (July 2011), repromulgated LR 37:2753 (September 2011), amended LR 39:2292 (August 2013), LR 41:1123 (June 2015), LR 46:704 (May 2020), LR 47:605 (May 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**

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

## Provider Impact Statement

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

## Small Business Analysis

This proposed Rule 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 until to Johnathan Bordelon, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov) until July 6, 2023.

Andrew J. Blanchard  
Chairman

Ms. Melissa Collins, Wildlife Biologist, handled the next agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Amending Trapping and Handling Regulations in Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserves, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes, Permitting Year-Round Coyote Trapping**. Ms. Collins began by introducing herself stating she manages the captive wildlife and nuisance wildlife programs and then introduced Ms. Jennifer Hogue-Manual, Furbearer Biologist who oversees the trapping program. The proposed action was to amend the coyote/fox pen regulations along with the sale or purchase of coyotes or foxes and the year-round trapping of coyotes. A coyote/fox pen was a fenced property typically 10-1,000 acres where the coyotes or foxes are contained (wooded areas with 4-5 foot high 4 x 2 welded wire with hot wires at the top and bottom). The first proposed change was to update the definition of a Licensee requiring a resident to be bona fide and removing a nonresident licensee since coyotes and foxes are not allowed to be imported or exported into or out of the state. Next change was reinserting verbiage that was taken out when the Department updated the regulations to fit within the new licensing fee restructure. Only the cost for each of those permits was to be removed but not the verbiage that allows for the trapping of coyotes outside of the trapping season (April 1-November 19). Reference to the hunting preserve owners was removed to require the licensee to provide food or water to the animals; reason for the change was to require the person with the license be held accountable or responsible for the activities in the pen and taking care of the animals in the pen. Traps used on coyotes was expanded to mirror AFWA's Best Management Practices and includes options that will be better for those that trap during the off-season. The Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association requested this particular change in the regulations and a letter of support was provided to the Commissioners. A chart of various coyote trap sizes and types available was shown. Other changes would require any licensee to euthanize any sick or neurologic animal to prevent the spread of diseases and not allow non-game quadruped breeders, exhibitors or licensees to physically alter an animal unless it is being treated or having surgery performed by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian. The last proposed change in the presentation was to update the Penalty for Violation section. Ms. Collins then mentioned she

had one other change not included in the presentation, the definition of LDWF-Approved Applicant currently reads as “a person who has had no major wildlife or fish violations during the past 3 years who has a minimum of 2 years of trapping experience and who is at least 15 years old”. She noted Enforcement has asked that the word “major” be removed from the definition and replaced with ...no Class 3 or greater wildlife or fish violations... (A copy of Ms. Collins’ presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to amend the definition to LDWF-Approved Applicant and include it in the Notice of Intent, **Commissioner Sunseri** seconded the motion and unanimously approved. **Commissioner McPherson** stated that slide 10 read differently than what was in the presentation and Ms. Collins noted the words may or may not be the licensee were added to the first bullet since the licensee may or may not be the pen owners or the lessees. Ms. Collins further explained that the licensee could be someone that was not the landowner or the lessee and the Department wants the licensee responsible for the activities and animals within the pens. The **Commissioner** still did not understand why it was not made clear that the licensee was responsible and take out the language about the landowner; Assistant Secretary Randy Myers stated Ms. Collins was giving the reasons why and added that “licensee” was in the regulation. He added that sometimes what occurs in the field was when an inspection of a pen happens, you may not be dealing with a landowner and if a landowner has leased that land, then the landowner may not apply for the license. **Commissioner McPherson** wondered if the regulations state that a landowner may or may not be the licensee; General Counsel Cole Garrett stated that in the proposed for D.5., it stated that the owners of fox/coyote hunting preserves was marked through and replaced with the word licensee. The **Commissioner** then stated that the person that owns the land has nothing to do with these animals but the licensee for the pens was responsible and Ms. Collins noted that was correct. Assistant Secretary Myers added that was the reason for adding the words may not into the presentation. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked when was the language in C.1.- C.3. taken out; General Counsel Garrett explained there was a holistic clean up rule that followed the change to the license fee framework in 2021 and this was ratified as a final rule in March 2023. **Commissioner McPherson** asked how does cutting off a tail make a dog cold; Ms. Collins stated she asked licensees why they cut the animals tails off and she was only told because it makes them cold. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Sagraera** and approved 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

Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserve, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes  
and Coyotes, Permitting Year-Round Coyote Trapping  
(LAC 76:V.113)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend §113. Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserve, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes, Permitting Year Round Coyote Trapping regulations relative to coyote/fox pens and associated activity definitions, permitting, licensee responsibilities, trap sizes, disease prevention and humane treatment of coyotes and foxes in the pens.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the proposed rule, the Secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

## Title 76

### WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

#### Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

##### Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

#### §113. Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserve, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes, Permitting Year Round Coyote Trapping

- A. ...
- B. Definitions

\* \* \*

*LDWF-Approved Applicant*—a person who has no ~~major~~ Class 3 or greater wildlife or fish violations during the past three years, who has a minimum of two years of trapping experience and who is at least 15 years old.

\* \* \*

*Licensee*—any bona fide resident ~~or nonresident~~ and lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.

\* \* \*

- C. Licenses, Permits and Fees. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of Title 56.

1. An annual special permit may be issued to a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries approved applicant [authority granted by Louisiana laws pertaining to Wildlife and Fisheries, R.S. 56:123(C)] for the trapping of coyotes only, outside of the annual trapping season. In order for the permittee to sell live coyotes, he must also possess a nongame quadruped breeder's license (R.S. 56:262.1) and a valid trapping license;

2. A nongame quadruped exhibitor's license may be issued permitting the applicant to breed and/or exhibit such animals provided he meets the rules and regulations of the department;

3. A nongame quadruped breeder license may be issued permitting the applicant to breed, propagate, exhibit, and sell such animals alive.

D. General Rules

D.1.-D.4. ...

5. ~~The owners of fox/coyote hunting preserves~~ Licenseses shall be required to make available to the game:

a. food that is palatable, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate to ensure normal growth and maintenance;

b. water which is fresh, uncontaminated and available at all times.

D.6.-D.10. ...

11. Permittees (trapping coyotes during the closed trapping season) will be required to use only the ~~"soft catch" type trap not to exceed a size number 1 1/2~~ either a padded (4 9/16-6 1/2 inch inside jaw width at hinge posts), offset, laminated or wide (4 5/8-6 3/8 inch inside jaw width at hinge posts) or unmodified (5 inch inside jaw width at hinge posts) foot-hold trap, or a box-type trap, or a snare cable restraint with a relaxing lock.

D.12.-D.20. ...

21. Neurological or sick animals shall be humanely euthanized and shall not be moved or sold in an effort to prevent the spread of disease. ~~The owners of fox/coyote hunting preserves~~ Licenseses shall be required to immediately report to the department the occurrence of any disease contracted by captive fox or coyotes. These diseases include but are not limited to rabies, canine distemper, sarcoptic mange or Echinococcus infections.

22. Animals held under any non-game quadruped breeder, non-game quadruped exhibitor, or coyote trapping license shall not be physically altered, except for medical treatment by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian, or mutilated in any way.

E.-E.3. ...



F. Penalty for Violation. Violation of these regulations will be a Class 2 violation with the following exceptions.

1. Violation of the license requirements for nongame quadruped breeders and nongame quadruped exhibitors shall be a Class 3 violation (see §113.C.1, 2, 3 and D.2).
2. Violation of the reporting requirements shall be a Class 3 violation (see §113E.1-3).
3. Violation of the regulations pertaining to import of foxes and/or coyotes into the state or export of foxes and/or coyotes from the state shall be a Class 4 violation (see §113.D.6-7).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:262.  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:205 (February 1991), amended LR 49:512 (March 2023), 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 Melissa Collins, LDWF Wildlife Biologist, Permits Coordinator, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 42371 Phyllis Ann Drive, Hammond, LA 70403, or via email to [mcollins@wlf.la.gov](mailto:mcollins@wlf.la.gov) prior to Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Andrew J. Blanchard  
Chairman

**Chairman Blanchard** asked Mr. Eric Shanks, Biologist Program Manager, to come forward for his agenda item, **Receive an Overview of the new Department Target Range Grant Program**. Mr. Shanks began his presentation by providing background information on how this program came about and why the Department was participating. In 2019, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Act passed into law and the intent of the law was to make it easier for agencies to construct shooting ranges for the public. The Wildlife Restoration Act was amended to include what is a public target range, will allow grants to run for 5 years as opposed to 2 years, the 75%/25% match was changed to 90%/10% match and allows 10% of the Wildlife Restoration funds for range activities (gives more flexibility and time extensions to build ranges). Mr. Shanks emphasized this program does not provide for any additional funds. In an effort to accomplish the law, any activities using this funding source must increase user capacity at ranges through adding to an existing facility or constructing a new facility. The Department's objective for this program was to have more ranges in Louisiana, do it as efficiently as possible utilizing existing funds, and make sure any range meets modern industry standards (good quality range). The long-term goal was to have a public use shooting range for every citizen in Louisiana within a reasonable driving distance. In response to the question of why should the Department be involved in shooting ranges, Mr. Shanks answered that the Department has been involved for a long time noting there are four shooting ranges and an air and rifle range run through the Hunter Education Program to promote safe use of firearms for hunting and recreational shooting sports. He added that, as of 2020, 74% of firearms and ammunitions sold in the U.S. were not purchased for hunting purposes; and, gun ownership was growing in the U.S. (approximately 5 million per year over the last several years) with less than 10% of the firearms purchased for hunting. Another reason for the Department to be involved in this program was roughly 56 million Americans participate in shooting sports. In response to the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports survey, participants were asked what makes it difficult to use your firearm safely and the answers were access to and overcrowding at shooting ranges. By addressing those needs will help increase the Department's relevancy and serve existing and new customers, but if the Department would take no action could result in negative consequences (reduce the excise taxes that are collected and helps support the Department). The program process will be a "pass-through" grant system by utilizing existing Fish and Wildlife funds and sub-award them to local sponsors with the sponsors being responsible for actually doing the design, construction, operation and maintaining the facility. The funds will come in the form of a one-time grant on a cost reimbursement basis by conducting the work and then being reimbursed on the 90%/10% basis (10% match must be provided by the local sponsor, not the Department). Mr. Shanks then talked about the two types of grants – planning and development (\$250,000 maximum to get all of the legwork done prior to construction begins) and then construction and equipment (\$1,500,000 maximum) to construct the facility designed under the first step. The program will be open for public and private sponsors and Mr. Shanks noted these sponsors would have to comply with all Federal and State laws. A slide of the timeline for the process showed that this was on a project-by-project basis; once the project was completed, the sponsor must operate the range based on the terms of the agreement made for public access. The Department will monitor the sponsors to make sure they are complying with the agreements and doing what was agreed. The desired results was to provide additional opportunity for shooting sports and shooters

without utilizing additional state resources, increased recreational shooting and shooting sports participation and long-term sustainability by seeing values realized for 20, 25 or 30 years and not close after 3-5 years. (A copy of Mr. Shanks' presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner McPherson** asked how much money would be utilized for this program and Mr. Shanks stated that varies each year and depends on the Federal funds from firearm and ammunition sales. He added that it depends on the funds to know how many projects the Department can fund, but would come from funds not already allocated for another project. The **Commissioner** wondered where the additional funds as the excise taxes increase could be utilized; Undersecretary Bryan McClinton stated this year's apportionment was \$24 million with the previous two year's being \$23 million and \$15 million. The Undersecretary added that the increase from \$15 million to \$24 million was significant funds going into the Wildlife Restoration fund (a portion comes to the Department that was based on the number of hunters and acreage in the state). He added that these spikes in funds was a great opportunity to use these one-time projects to benefit the State. Again, **Commissioner McPherson** wanted to know what that number could be potentially; Undersecretary McClinton replied that in 2022 that number was \$23 million. The **Commissioner** felt that money was currently being used and wondered what were they currently being utilized for and Undersecretary McClinton could not answer that question. Not receiving an answer, **Commissioner McPherson** asked for a follow-up presentation on what was the money currently, what the money was anticipated to be and what was the money currently being utilized and what would be taken from other projects to do these grants. Mr. Shanks stated the monies utilized for this program would not be taken from any existing programs supported by the Wildlife Restoration funds and there would be no increase in staff. The **Commissioner** asked if any monies have been reverted for not being used and he was told no. Undersecretary McClinton added that last year when the funds increased, staff did not apply for the full amount but instead set aside funds anticipating this new program going through. He further explained that once grants are written for this program, there was not a 2-year limit but grants could be multi-year. **Commissioner McPherson** felt money was left on the table since not all of the funds were requested to which Undersecretary McClinton stated the Department has two years to obligate money. Mr. Shanks stated he spent the last 9 months developing regulations on how the program would operate before knowing how much money to put into the program. In response to the **Commissioner's** question on how much money would be allocated to this program, Ms. Thyme Medlen, Wildlife Restoration Coordinator, stated this money was two-year money and if not obligated one year, it can be obligated the next year and when the money was obligated, the old money was used first. Last year \$1.5 million was set aside and the Department hopes to add another \$1 million this year. Then **Commissioner McPherson** asked if he understood correctly that there could be one grant per year and Ms. Medlen stated the cap was set at \$1.5 million per grant but the Department could get smaller grants to help expand the capacity of grants. Next asked by the **Commissioner** was if there are any prohibitions for the State to utilize this money to build traditional ranges as done in the past; Ms. Medlen answered that it could be utilized by the Department to build ranges but they would have to be manned, managed and maintained by staff. She added that the Department was trying to get the money to an outsider to manage those ranges and take the financial burden off the agency down the road. The **Commissioner** thought Woodworth and Bodcau were manned ranges and Sherburne and one other was not manned; Mr. Shanks responded that Pearl River was

not manned by the Department but through a Cooperative Agreement. In response to **Commissioner McPherson**'s question on why some ranges needed to be manned versus unmanned, Mr. Shanks stated all ranges were staffed, but it was a matter of whether a RSO was on the line to detail the operations of the ranges. In the presentation, Mr. Shanks used the terminology "modern industry standard", unmanned ranges creates more problems than what the actual ranges are worth to the agency and users. Another good point for this program was not limiting to land already owned or on Department property, but could target areas where shooting ranges are needed in proximity to the populations. The **Commissioner** did not think shooting ranges needed to be in a metropolitan area but in a rural area to which Mr. Shanks stated there could be indoor target ranges in a city, which this program could fund. **Commissioner McPherson** asked about guidelines or award system for these grants and Mr. Shanks stated the ranking and scoring matrix were established knowing these matrixes may need adjusting after the initial year. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if the Department has already had discussions with any sponsors and Mr. Shanks noted he has reached out to his contacts to let them know of this program. In addition, he stated he has a list of potential contacts that he wants to make aware this program was available. The **Commissioner** then wondered if there are any parishes considering this program; Mr. Shanks stated there are no parishes lined up specifically but one of his contacts was the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Range that may want to expand in the future. Secretary Montoucet thanked Mr. Shanks for the hard work in getting this program that may provide more opportunity to the citizens to take part in, but also this program shows the people that spends money on ammunition that the Department was doing something for them. The Secretary then stated he appreciated and wanted to recognize Mr. Shanks for his efforts.

The next agenda item, **Receive a Review of the 2022 Recreational Red Snapper Season and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify the 2023 Recreational Season** was handled by Mr. Jason Adriance, Marine Fisheries Biologist. Mr. Adriance began stating the 2022 red snapper allocation was about 809,000 pounds, having to payback an overage from the 2021 season. The 2022 season opened on the Friday before Memorial Day for weekends only with a three fish limit and closed on September 18. Having a 39,000-pound allocation remaining, the season reopened for an 8-day season with a four fish bag limit. A slight error was recently discovered in calculations between state harvest and federal harvest and after the correction was made, the state ended with an under harvest of 7,000 pounds (private recreationals landed about 748,000 pounds, about 53,000 pounds by state charter and about 62,000 pounds by federal charter). A graph and a table of how the season went were shown. Staff looked at the data to determine weights, lengths and ages since 2015 (weights and lengths have trended down but the ages have remained stable). The data showed that anglers are harvesting a consistent age fish in this group. History of the 2018-2022 red snapper seasons was shown. Next Mr. Adriance talked about the 2023 season stating the allocation has increased to 934,000 pounds. The season is currently set to open on the Friday before Memorial Day as a weekends only season (Friday, Saturday, Sunday and include Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4). A table of the projected 2023 season gave a rough idea of how long a season may last but does not include considerations for fuel, weather, lodging availability and others. The proposed action through a Declaration of Emergency was to open the season on the Friday before Memorial Day with a three fish bag limit at the current 16-inch minimum size but run as a daily season hoping to get through Labor Day weekend. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner Sagraera** asked if the under harvested amount from the 2022 allocation cannot be given for this year, it is a use it or lose it deal and Mr. Adriance stated that was correct. The **Commissioner** then stated comments he received were good with the weekend openings and a three fish bag and staff should look at the numbers and close the season in order to have a Labor Day weekend opening. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if the Department's suggestion was for a 7-day week season and Mr. Adriance answered yes. The **Commissioner** asked if the Secretary would have the ability to limit the season if certain numbers are reached; Mr. Adriance stated the Declaration of Emergency would give the Secretary authority to open or close a season as staff monitors the season. Mr. Adriance added that there was a 20% increase in effort going from a 3-day per week to 7-day per week season. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Sagraera** made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency and seconded by **Commissioner McPherson**. There being no public comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

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

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

2023 Private Recreational and State Charter Red Snapper Season  
April 6, 2023

Under the provisions of state management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has delegated season and bag limit authority and an allocated quota to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the management of Red Snapper. Louisiana's private recreational and state charter season for the harvest of Red Snapper in Louisiana and federal waters is currently scheduled to open on Friday, May 26, 2023 on weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) including Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4. In order to maximize opportunity for Louisiana anglers to harvest the allotted portion of the private recreational Red Snapper quota, the department is modifying the 2023 Red Snapper season to allow for daily harvest.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3, which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the commission hereby declares:

The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of Red Snapper in state waters and federal waters off Louisiana shall be open daily beginning on Friday, May 26, 2023. The secretary shall monitor landings and close the season when appropriate to allow for the season to reopen during the Labor Day weekend (September 1, 2023 through September 4, 2023). The bag and possession limit shall be 3 fish per person per day. Size limits shall remain

at the currently established minimum size limit in LAC 76:VII.335 of 16 inches total length. The season shall remain open as described until further notice.

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

Andrew J. Blanchard  
Chairman

Moving on, Mr. Cole Garrett, General Counsel, came for the agenda item, **Receive a Report on the 2023 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments**. General Counsel Garrett stated the 2023 Regular Legislative Session convenes on Monday, April 10, 2023 as a fiscal session (taxes and fiscal bills) and adjourns June 8, 2023. General bills relating to the Commission and licensing were reviewed first. House Bill 221, Restrictions on Rulemaking and Establishment of Select Oversight Committee by Representative Mark Wright, would require that for every rule promulgated by the Commission, two must be repealed whether they are necessary or not. House Bill 503, Removes Mandate on Issuance of LAZ Hull ID Numbers, by Representative Cox was the only Department initiative. The Commission was familiar with this issue of Louisiana hull ID numbers for vessels that do not qualify for U.S. Coast Guard hull ID's; action has already been taken to allow surface shallow water vessels to continue to do this activity through 2024. General Counsel noted this was a good bill from the agency's perspective and would get in compliance with Federal regulations. Senate Bill 119, Repeals the Youth Hunting License Requirement, by Senator Cathey was problematic for the Department as a comprehensive license restructure occurred in 2021 and a youth hunting license was created and set at \$5 and only required for deer and turkey hunting. This bill could cost the Department \$800,000 (\$100,000 received from direct license sales and \$700,000 from federal monies). **Commissioner McPherson** asked if a position by the Commission on these bills could be taken as each bill was discussed; General Counsel Garrett stated it could be done as the bills are discussed or in globo at the end of the presentation. **Commissioner Sunseri** suggested going to the beginning and decide on each bill. **Commissioner Sagraera** asked General Counsel Garrett for his opinion on these bills or whether they should be monitored until the next meeting. General Counsel Garrett stated he could provide the impacts to the agency but as a classified employee, he could not take a position on legislation. Of the first three bills, House Bill 221 and Senate Bill 119 may have negative impacts for the agency, but House Bill 503 is a Department bill and was worthy of support. **Commissioner McPherson** did not think House Bill 221 would advance but felt it was worthy of monitoring, support should be given on House Bill 503 and opposition for Senate Bill 119. Senate Bill 201, Electronic Meetings for Boards and Commissions, by Senator Hewitt would allow for one-third of meetings held by statewide bodies to be held by electronic means. **Chairman Blanchard** wondered if the Commission would support Senate Bill 201 and **Commissioner McPherson** suggested it be monitored.

Moving on to Wildlife Bills, General Counsel Garrett talked on House Bill 448, Pays Judgement for Crooks vs. State, by Representative Riser, and noted it was mineral royalties and expert witness fees incurred during litigation (no fiscal effect on this Department). House Bill 465,

Exempts Livingston Parish from Scenic Rivers Act, by Representative Hodges would affect the Tickfaw and Blind Rivers within Livingston Parish and could be problematic from a policy standpoint if exemptions are granted for a statewide program. Another bill that could also be problematic was House Bill 570, Monetary Reward for Feral Hog Tails by Representative Seabaugh and could authorize the Commission and Department to establish a \$5 bounty on feral hog tails. General Counsel Garrett felt anytime a monetary incentive was given on a species, there would be no way to get rid of that species; also, he noted this could potentially have a \$2 million hit to the Conservation Fund annually. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if there was a lot of fraud that could occur with this type program and General Counsel Garrett explained of such a program in Georgia. The **Commissioner** suggested the Commission should oppose House Bill 570. Undersecretary Bryan McClinton stated the \$2 million hit to the Conservation Fund was based on existing hog harvest the Department estimates and would just be the floor amount and not the cap amount. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the \$2 million was the floor amount and not the cap amount and Undersecretary McClinton answered yes. General Counsel Garrett added it was based on the amount of harvest; Assistant Secretary Randy Myers stated this number was based on a 5-year average and could result in more monies being paid out. The Assistant Secretary mentioned this may be modeled after the nutria program but he noted that was a federal fund provided to the agency and a private entity would be needed to administer the program (\$200,000-\$300,000). **Commissioner McPherson** asked if there was a funding source for processing for Hunters for the Hungry and Undersecretary McClinton stated now there is an escrow account for people willing to make donations to the group, then that money goes to the Department of Treasury and given to the Hunters for the Hungry through an escrow account. The **Commissioner** then wondered if he was correct in saying that those monies fully fund their processing costs and General Counsel Garrett did not believe it was fully funded adding he thinks processors may donate time and effort. Undersecretary McClinton noted that before the escrow account was established, the money would be collected by the Department and then issued to Hunters for the Hungry through a contract of about \$90,000 per year. **Commissioner McPherson** felt a good amendment for this bill would be donating the hog to the Hunters for the Hungry program. **Chairman Blanchard** asked what would stop someone from bringing in tails from another state and claiming they were killed in Louisiana and General Counsel Garrett knew fraud was a big concern. Continuing on, General Counsel Garrett spoke on House Concurrent Resolution 3, Self-Clearing Permits on Refuges, by Representative Beaulieu would amend Title 76 by exempting Rockefeller Refuge and Marsh Island Refuge from self-clearing permit requirements. General Counsel Garrett stated he worked with Representative Beaulieu on this proposal and got it converted from a bill to a House Concurrent Resolution as a means of compromise. **Commissioner Sunseri** explained he was concerned with this Concurrent Resolution and the compromise made but felt it could be shifted back to a bill; General Counsel Garrett explained that it cannot be shifted to a bill, as all general bills had to be filed before the prefile deadline. The General Counsel noted all of the bills would be monitored and the Commission would receive updates on these bills monthly.

The next group of bills dealt with carbon capture and sequestration and General Counsel Garrett mentioned that the Department holds 1.5 million acres of property and many could provide the opportunity to capture and sequester carbon. Currently there are two operating agreements on Maurepas WMA and another one on Sherburne WMA of which the Department receives rentals and could provide additional monies once injection begins. The regulatory agency for these bills

is the Department of Natural Resources and the Federal EPA. The Department will monitor these bills. House Bill 10, Removes Eminent Domain Authority, by Representative Robby Carter, removes eminent domain for operators. On House Bill 35 by Representative Robby Carter, Prohibits CCS Projects in St. Helena Parish, it was noted the Department owns 129 acres in the parish but was another bill that would take a parish out of a statewide program. House Bill 120, Prohibits Permitting CCS Wells in Lake Maurepas, by Representative Muscarello, if passed, any wells trying to inject carbon into certain formations would have to be forced onto wildlife property and General Counsel Garrett felt there was negative impacts to the wildlife resources of the state. House Bill 267, Moratorium on CCS Projects on Lake Maurepas and Maurepas Swamp WMAs, by Representative Wheat, was asking for a pause on these projects that may delay injection if it occurs. Representative Wheat also has House Bill 308, EIS as a Permitting Requirement for CCS, and this bill would require an environmental impact statement be performed for carbon storage that may impact the Department as a landowner. House Bill 312, Liability and Damage from CCS Projects, by Representative Robby Carter, removes limitations of liability by CCS operators. A bill that could be detrimental to the Department as landowners was House Bill 453, CCS Injection in the Gulf of Mexico, by Representative Mack, and said that any injections of carbon would have to occur beneath the Gulf of Mexico. This bill could take the 1.5 million acres that Department owns out of play and could result in a loss of revenue stream. House Bill 454, Parish Approval of CCS, by Representative Mack, would require parish approval (parish-wide election) before any carbon storage project begins. Last carbon bill was House Bill 571, Notice, Distribution of Funds, Liability, Trust Fund, Recordation and Extraction Tax, by Speaker Schexnayder, dealt with any revenue the State receives from water bottoms or state lands, the parish may receive 30% for their use.

Then General Counsel Garrett spoke on fisheries bills beginning with House Bill 161, Tax Exemptions for Commercial Fishermen and Processors, by Representative Kenner that would change a local sales tax exemption from optional to mandatory. House Bill 255, Tax Credit for Oyster Shell Recycling, by Representative Landry, creates up to a \$2,000 credit for restaurants that serve oysters that returns them to the water as cultch plants. House Bill 438, Public Oyster Seed Ground Gear License, by Representative Owen, is an Oyster Task Force initiative. This bill reunites the oyster gear license with the oyster gear permit and allows vessel owners to use resident and non-resident captains under the permit. House Bill 528, Shrimp/Crawfish Labeling Penalties, by Representative Cormier, will authorize the Department to assist the Department of Health in enforcing mislabeling of shrimp or crawfish and increases associated civil penalties. House Bill 600, Mislabeling of Imported Seafood, by Representative Kerner, is a similar bill as House Bill 528 but there would be a \$100 civil fine after correcting the error. House Bill 576, Menhaden Exclusion Zone and Quota, by Representative Orgeron, creates exclusion zones coastwide for most of the year, establishes buffer zones around Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, Caminada to Barataria, Timbalier to Grand Terre and establishes a quota for harvesting of menhaden. **Commissioner McPherson** asked what the current annual harvest for menhaden was and Mr. Jason Adriance first stated he thought the quota was 266 thousand metric tons and not 266 million metric tons and harvest averaged 400,000 metric tons. **Chairman Blanchard** asked if the buffer zone currently was one-half mile and General Counsel Garrett responded it was one-quarter mile with larger exclusion zones around Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, Grand Isle and Timbalier. The **Chairman** then wondered if they were trying to push that buffer zone to one mile and he was told it was to one-half mile for the majority of the year and a full mile



between August 1 through October 31. Continuing on, General Counsel Garrett spoke on Senate Bill 90, Commercial Use of Surface Water, by Senator Robert Mills relates that any compensation for the use of surface water would be mandatory with the revenue going towards the Aquatic Plant and Invasive Species Fund. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if there was an exemption for agriculture and General Counsel Garrett stated there was an exemption for riparian landowners including agricultural use. Senate Bill 99, Red Snapper Possession Limit in State Waters, by Senator Lambert adds red snapper to the three-day possession limit for people with camps on the water. Senate Bill 133, Provides for the Menhaden Fishery, by Senator Hensgens, appeared to be a placeholder bill in case needed. Senate Bill 161, Louisiana Small Wild Catfish Processor's Act, by Senator Lambert exempts wild catfish processors that sell 400 pounds or less in a month from the Sanitary Code. **Commissioner Sunseri** felt Senate Bill 161 was a terrible bill and suggested people eating from these processors be told about the possibility of unsanitary conditions. **Commissioner McPherson** wondered if these processors would have a fresh catch license from the Department, General Counsel Garrett commented that the Fresh Products license was for the fishermen to sell their catch directly, but this bill refers to the Wholesale Retail Dealer's license and would be exempt from the sanitary code as they are selling directly to consumers. The Fresh Products license allows fishermen, not processors, to sell their catch directly to consumers. The **Commissioner** stated General Counsel Garrett said processors are not retailers and wondered if that was because they do not have a retail license; General Counsel Garrett understood that individuals subject to this bill would hold the Wholesale Retail Dealer's License, as they are not commercial fishermen selling directly to the consumer. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks mentioned that these processors are also subject to USDA regulations but felt nothing in the bill looked to him that it would make these people blind to what the processors were doing.

Review of Enforcement bills began with House Bill 4, Criminal Trespass on Running Waters, by Representative Bacala, would not apply criminal trespass to any person operating a vessel on running waters of the state. General Counsel Garrett felt this was an interesting bill and there may be a good amount of discussion on House Bill 4. House Bill 59, Operation of Personal Watercraft at Night, by Representative DuBuisson, would allow the operation of a jet ski or sea doo at night if properly equipped with U.S. Coast Guard lighting standards. Enforcement's initial response to House Bill 59 was not to be concerned with this bill as long as U.S. Coast Guard lighting was on the watercraft. House Bill 207, Unlawful Swimming; Minors, by Representative Schamerhorn, would prohibit minors from swimming in any river that generates hydroelectric power without having a PFD. House Bill 297, Prescription for Litter Violations, by Representative DeVillier, will affect the Department in a positive manner as it creates a 2-year prescriptive period to prosecute litter violations. House Bill 299, Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws, by Representative McCormick, would prohibit the enforcement of federal firearm laws that may interfere with an individual's Second Amendment Rights to own a firearm. General Counsel Garrett restated that the Department received \$24 million in Federal Funds last year from excise tax of gun sales and ammunition and if this bill passes, it could potentially affect those Federal Funds moving forward. Another concern for House Bill 299 was that agents are dually commissioned and enforce federal fish and game laws and this bill may affect agents from upholding federal laws. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if a felon in possession of a firearm was a state or federal violation and General Counsel Garrett answered it was both as there are federal and state regulations for that violation. House Bill 543, Vehicular

Pursuits, by Representative Jordan, relates to vehicular pursuits, however, the Enforcement Division recently adopted new vehicular pursuit policy that would address what this bill already addresses. House Bill 563, Law Enforcement Recruitment Incentive Fund, by Speaker Schexnayder, may offer an incentive to Sheriff's, Municipal Police and State Police. Even though the Department is a statewide law agency, it is not specifically included in House Bill 563. **Commissioner Brister** asked what appellate court was held in House Bill 4 and General Counsel Garrett stated it was First Circuit. The **Commissioner** felt this bill was huge and could be a big change in law for the Mississippi River and its bature lands; General Counsel Garrett noted the First Circuit felt that was not criminal trespass. **Commissioner Brister** also felt this could hamper the ability to prosecute hunters that takes their boats during high water periods to ridges to kill deer. **Chairman Blanchard** asked why the Department was not included in House Bill 563 and General Counsel Garrett was not sure and did not know what the Speaker's goal was for the bill. Secretary Montoucet noted staff would approach Speaker Schexnayder on this bill and make an effort to include the Department in House Bill 563. **Commissioner McPherson** agreed with the Secretary but wondered if the Department really has a recruitment problem and Secretary Montoucet noted adjustments were made in the past but nothing has been done to upgrade the starting salary (\$46,000). The **Commissioner** then asked if this bill was for salary or recruiting applicants to attend the academy; Secretary Montoucet thought it may be similar to a sign-up bonus that is offered for the Sheriff's Office. **Commissioner McPherson** did not think there was a problem in getting qualified applicants for the Department or State Police when the process opens and Secretary Montoucet explained that the numbers in the most recent academy versus several years ago have substantially dropped. The Secretary added that he felt the Department had a responsibility to afford these agents a good salary to take care of their families. **Chairman Blanchard** agreed that an incentive was needed for the younger recruits no matter what branch of law enforcement adding that he has 3 children in law enforcement that was pushed to go in that direction by an incentive. (A copy of Mr. Garrett's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

General Counsel Garrett told the Commissioners they were not obligated to take any position on bills but he went through certain bills again. House Bill 503 was an agency bill and would be good to support; Senate Bill 119 could potentially reduce funds by \$800,000 a year and could have a negative impact to the Department. House Bill 465 could be a bad policy bill. House Bill 570 could cost the Department \$2 million a year and has historically not shown to be a good way to manage. It may be too soon to weigh in on the carbon capture/sequestration bills but General Counsel Garrett noted they would be monitored. House Bill 255 could provide more cultch returned to the waters for oysters and House Bill 438 was an Oyster Task Force initiative and would be good to support. **Chairman Blanchard** felt the two fisheries bills that deals with mislabeling of shrimp or crawfish should be recognized as good bills; General Counsel Garrett thought House Bill 528 was better to support than House Bill 600. **Commissioner McPherson** then made a motion to support House Bill 255, House Bill 297, House Bill 438, House Bill 503, House Bill 528 and House Bill 600 and then to oppose House Bill 221, House Bill 453, House Bill 465, House Bill 570 and Senate Bill 119. **Commissioner Sagraera** seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

**Chairman Blanchard** then **Adjourned** the meeting.

## APPENDICES



## 2023 Summary of Public Comment for Conditionally Potpourri Amendments to Hunting Season(s) NOI

Tommy Tuma | Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting | 04/06/2023

### LAC 76.XIX.111.E.1

#### E. General Deer Hunting Regulations

1. Prior to hunting deer, all deer hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain carcass or electronic deer tags and have in possession when hunting deer. Immediately upon harvesting a deer, the hunter must tag the deer with the appropriate carcass or electronic tag. **Deer tags may only be used by the hunter to whom they are issued. Hunters who allow their deer tags to be used by another person, or who use tags issued to another person, are in violation of this Rule and are subject to fines and other administrative penalties, including but not limited to, the automatic forfeiture of any remaining deer tags for the season for which they are issued.** If using physical tag, the parish and date of kill must be documented on the deer tag and the hunter must validate the harvest by calling the validation toll free number or by utilizing the department's website within 72 hours of the kill. Hunters utilizing electronic tags shall electronically tag and validate their harvest before moving the deer. Hunters harvesting deer on DMAP lands can validate deer per instructions by LDWF using the DMAP harvest data sheets.



# LAC 76.XIX.113.B.1

## B. Tags

1. Prior to hunting turkeys, all turkey hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain turkey tags and have them in their possession while turkey hunting. Turkey tags may only be used by the hunter to whom the tag was issued. Hunters who allow their turkey tags to be used by another person, or who use tags issued to another person, are in violation of the Rule and are subject to fines and other administrative penalties, including but not limited to, the automatic forfeiture of any remaining turkey tags for the season for which they are issued. Immediately upon killing a turkey, hunters must attach a carcass tag to or electronically tag the turkey before it is moved from the site of the kill and must document the kill on the turkey harvest report card. If using carcass tags, the date of kill and parish of kill must be recorded on the carcass tag, and the tag must remain attached to the turkey while kept at camp or while it is transported to the domicile of the hunter or to a cold storage facility. Hunters who keep the carcass or meat at a camp must also comply with game possession tag regulations. Within 72 hours of the kill, the hunter must report the kill. Hunters may report turkeys electronically, calling the validation phone number, or using the validation website.

## West Zone waterfowl dates

Ducks, Coots and Mergansers

West Zone:

Nov. 4-Nov. 5

(youth and veterans

only)

Nov. 11-Dec. 1

Dec. 11-Jan. 1

Jan. 11-Jan. 21



## West Zone waterfowl dates

Light Geese (Snow, Blue, and Ross') and White-  
Fronted Geese

West Zone:

Nov. 4 – Dec.

Dec. 14 – Jan.

Jan. 13 – Jan. 23



## Public Comment received since February 2023 LWFC meeting

- March 3, – April 6, 2023
- **Comments related to proposed potpourri amendments**
  - 58 comments
  - 38 individuals



# Public Comment received

Proposed Regulation

# COMMENTS RECEIVED   SUPPORT   OPPOSED

|                                   |    |   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|
| West Zone waterfowl season        | 38 | 7 | 31 |
| Youth/Veterans waterfowl weekends | 20 | 0 | 20 |



## Public Hearing

A public hearing on proposed substantive changes will be held by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on April 20, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808.





## Questions?



## Public Comments

- Public Comments will be accepted through 4:00 pm, May 3, 2023 and may be submitted directly to Tommy Tuma, LDWF Wildlife Division, PO Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, phone 225-765-2349 or via email [ttuma@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ttuma@wlf.la.gov)





## **Notice of Intent to Amend DMAP Eligibility Requirements for Program Participants within 5 miles of a CWD Detection**

Johnathan Bordelon | Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting | 4/6/2023

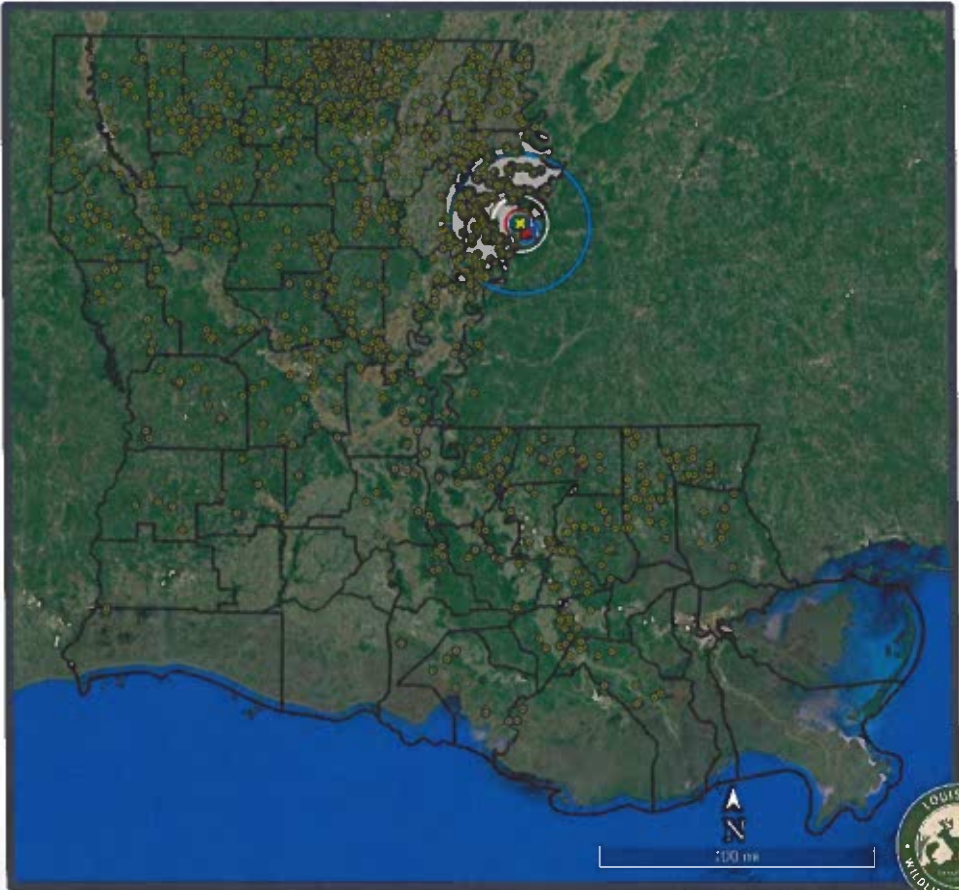
### **LDWF Response to CWD (background)**

#### **Adherence to LDWF CWD Response Plan and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Management Practices**

- Prevention of CWD Introduction and Establishment
  - Prohibit Live Animal Movement
  - Cervid Carcass Importation
  - Products of Cervid Origin (deer urine restrictions)
  - Unnatural Concentration of Cervids (baiting)
- Surveillance for Initial Detection of CWD
- Surveillance to “Monitor” CWD
- Management
  - CWD Response Plans / Response to First Detection
  - Managing CWD Prevalence (Mitigation)



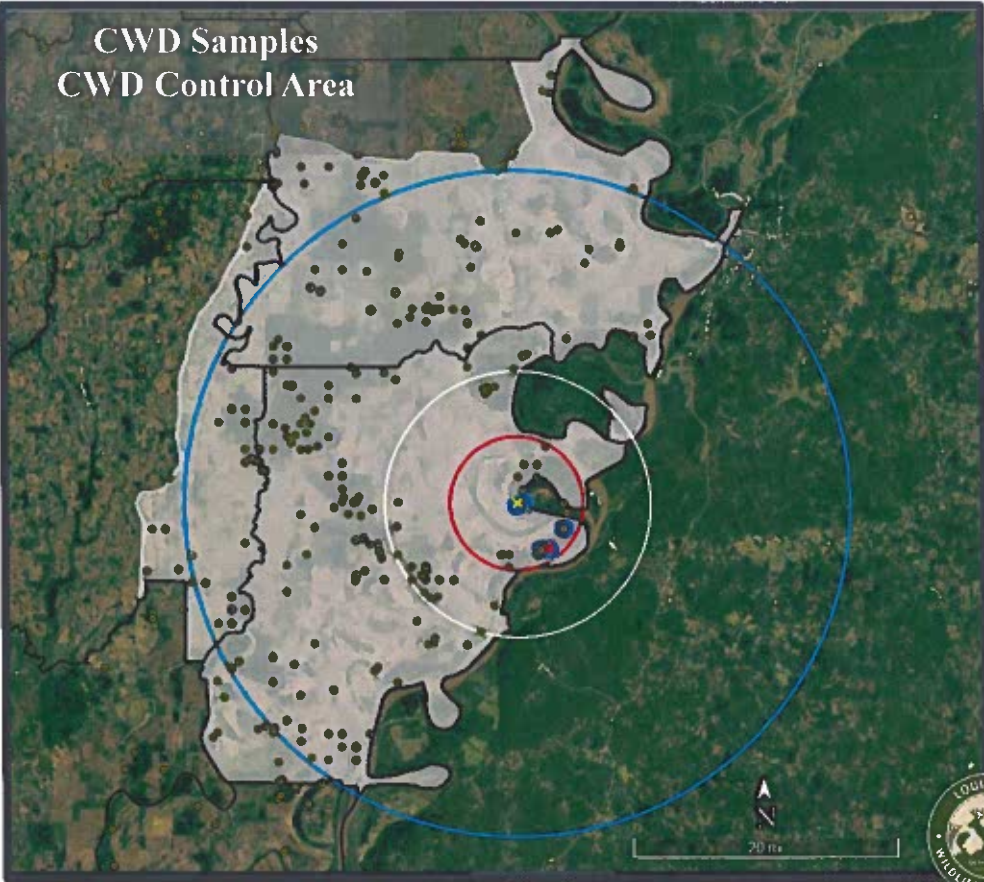
**CWD Samples  
2022-2023  
Hunting Season**



**Statewide  
n= 2,370**



✕ 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Positive   
 ✕ 2023 Positives   
 ○ Suspects   
 ● 5 mile radius   
 ○ 10 mile radius   
 ● 25 mile radius



Intended to provide scale to proposal.

**Franklin  
n=87**

**Madison  
n=178**

**Tensas  
n=473**



✕ 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Positive   
 ✕ 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Positive   
 ● Positives   
 ● 5 mile radius   
 ○ 10 mile radius   
 ● 25 mile radius

## Managing CWD (Proposed)

Adherence to LDWF CWD Response Plan and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Management Practices cont.

- Restrict intact carcass and high risk material transport out of the CWD control area.
- Eliminate practices that promote artificial congregation.
- Target animals in known CWD locations.
- Reduce cervid density in CWD-detected areas with high deer density.
  - Bag limit and season liberalization in close proximity to CWD detections.



5

## Managing CWD

Amend Current DMAP Regulations to Liberalize Bag Limits and Season Length in Areas of CWD Detection (Reduce density of high density herds)

- Tier 1 DMAP – Antlered and antlerless tags, no daily and season bag limit, 15 day season extension, collection of known age biological data, habitat indices, existing data management system for staff.
- Alternatives used by some states – Special Use Permits & Sharpshooting



6



## Tier 1 DMAP Recommended Changes

- a. Application for enrollment of a new cooperator in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by August 1. Application for the renewal enrollment of an active cooperator must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries annually by September 1. Except lands enrolling in Tier 1 DMAP within 5 miles of a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) detection may enroll at any time during the current season.
- b. Applicants will select from 1 of 4 levels of DMAP participation. Level 1 participation is limited to qualifying clubs of 1000 acres or more, unless the property is 40 acres or more and located within 5 miles of a CWD detection, and will require collection of complete harvest data, including jaw bone removal, weights, antler measurements, and checking females for lactation. Level 1 participation may require the submission of CWD samples, per the Department's discretion, for properties within 5 miles of a CWD detection. Issuance of both antlered and antlerless tags will be mandatory.....
- (g). ≥40 acres or more and within 5 miles of a CWD detection—no fee;



## DMAP Recommended Changes

- Why 5 miles? Consistent with current CWD response language that identifies a 5 mile radius as the infectious zone. Targeting herd reduction where it is needed most. 5 mile radius of a detection covers 50,266 acres.
- Why no fee? These hunters already face added restrictions, their cooperation and application of mitigation measures is key to combatting CWD. The data and surveillance is of great value to LDWF. Foster communication and cooperation.
- Why voluntary vs. mandatory testing? *May* allows us to request samples to support surveillance goals. Mandatory could exceed capacity depending on size and number of locations.
- Amend March 1<sup>st</sup> to 30 days after the close of season for submission of all DMAP harvest records and unused tags.



## Closing Remarks

*Tier 1 DMAP will provide an avenue for season and bag limit liberalization for hunters within close proximity to CWD detections while collecting biological data and disease surveillance samples.*

Questions?

Johnathan Bordelon  
LDW Deer Program Manager  
[jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov)  
(318) 487-5334





## **NOTICE OF INTENT: Amendments to the Fox/Coyote Hunting Preserve, Purchase and Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes, Permitting Year-Round Coyote Trapping Regulations**

Melissa Collins, LDWF Wildlife Biologist  
Jennifer Hogue-Manuel, LDWF Furbearer Biologist  
April 6, 2023

### **What is a coyote/fox preserve/pen?**

- Fenced properties, typically 10-1,000 acres, where coyotes/foxes are contained
- the sport of hunting/chasing foxes/coyotes with dogs within enclosed areas

### **Purpose**

- NOI amends regulations relative to coyote/fox pens and associated activity definitions, permitting, licensee responsibilities, trap sizes, disease prevention, and humane treatment of game in the pens.



# AMENDMENTS TO THE COYOTE/FOX PRESERVE...: DEFINITIONS



3

## Definitions

### B. Definitions

*Licensee-any bona fide resident ~~or nonresident~~ and lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.*

- NON-Residents do not qualify for a coyote/fox pen license
- Coyotes/foxes cannot be imported/exported into/out of the state of LA.



4



## AMENDMENTS TO THE COYOTE/FOX PRESERVE....: LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES



5

### Licenses, Permits and Fees

C. Licenses, Permits and Fees. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of Title 56.

1. an annual special permit may be issued to a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries approved applicant [authority granted by Louisiana laws pertaining to Wildlife and Fisheries, R.S. 56:123(C)] for the trapping of coyotes only, outside of the annual trapping season. In order for the permittee to sell live coyotes, he must also possess a nongame quadruped breeder's license (R.S. 56:262.1) and a valid trapping license;



6

## Licenses, Permits and Fees

2. a nongame quadruped exhibitor's license may be issued permitting the applicant to breed and/or exhibit such animals provided he meets the rules and regulations of the department;

3. a nongame quadruped breeder license may be issued permitting the applicant to breed, propagate, exhibit, and sell such animals alive.

- All regulations where license fees were explicitly listed were removed/amended to reflect new license fee structure
- Added verbiage is identical to previously listed verbiage
- Re-establishes required permits/licenses for trapping coyotes outside of the regular trapping season and possessing and selling coyotes/foxes in/to a coyote/fox preserve/pen



## AMENDMENTS TO THE COYOTE/FOX PRESERVE....: GENERAL RULES



## General Rules

### D. General Rules

#### D.1.-D.4.

5. ~~The owners of fox/coyote hunting preserves~~  
Licensees shall be required to make available to the game:

- a. food that is palatable, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate to ensure normal growth and maintenance;
- b. water which is fresh, uncontaminated and available at all times.



9

## General Rules

- Pen owners/landowners may or may NOT be the licensee and may NOT be involved in pen activities
- Pen owners may NOT be the lessee
- Some licensees have handshake deals with the landowner/lessee
- Licensees should be held responsible for the pen activities, not the landowner/pen owner



*Hunting Preserve Owner:  
anyone who legally has  
possession or has legally leased  
property on which the enclosure  
is established.*



10

## General Rules

### D. General Rules

D.6.-D.10. ...

*11. Permittees (trapping coyotes during the closed trapping season) will be required to use only the "soft catch" type trap not to exceed a size number  $4\frac{1}{2}$  either a padded (4  $\frac{9}{16}$  -6  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch inside jaw width at hinge posts), offset, laminated or wide (4  $\frac{5}{8}$  -6  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch inside jaw width at hinge posts) or unmodified (5 inch inside jaw width at hinge posts) foot-hold trap, or a box-type trap, or a snare cable restraint with a relaxing lock.*

- Updates size and type of coyote trap allowed
- Mirrors AFWA BMPs for coyotes:

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/1716/3726/1202/EasternCoyote BMP 2021 draft.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/1716/3726/1202/EasternCoyote_BMP_2021_draft.pdf)

## General Rules

- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Furbearer Management & Best Management Practices (BMPs) serves to improve regulated trapping:
  - Evaluate trapping devices and techniques
  - Educate trappers on the most humane, safe, selective, efficient and practical devices
  - Began in 1997
  - Evaluated >600 trap types for 23 species
- Requested by trappers and the LA Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association



11



12

## General Rules

### General Overview of Traps Meeting BMP Criteria for Coyotes in the Eastern United States

Two basic types of traps were tested for coyotes: foothold restraining traps and cable devices (Table EC2). Examples, brief descriptions, and mechanical details of the various makes and models that meet BMP criteria are given in the next section.

**Table EC2.** Overview of traps meeting BMP criteria for coyotes in the eastern United States.

| Trap Category             | Jaw/Frame Characteristics                                     | Inside Jaw/Frame Spread at Dog* | Inside Width at Jaw/Frame Hinge Posts* |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Coil-spring               | Padded  | 4 1/2 - 5 1/2                   | 4 9/16 - 6 1/2                         |
|                           | Unmodified  | 5 - 5 1/4                       | 5                                      |
|                           | Offset, laminated and/or wide                                 | 4 3/8 - 5 1/2                   | 4 5/8 - 6 3/8                          |
| Powered Cable Device      | Smooth, round rod, 1/8 inch cable                             | 6 3/8                           | 6                                      |
|                           | <b>Cable Characteristics</b>                                  | <b>Loop Diameter</b>            | <b>Locks</b>                           |
| Non-Powered Cable Devices | 48 - 72 inches<br>3/32 or 1/8 inch diameter<br>stranded cable | 10 - 12 inches                  | Relaxing locks                         |

\* Inches



13

## General Rules

### D. General Rules

#### D.12.-D.20. ...

21. Neurological or sick animals shall be humanely euthanized and shall not be moved or sold in an effort to prevent the spread of disease. The owners of fox/coyote hunting preserves Licensees shall be required to immediately report to the department the occurrence of any disease contracted by captive fox or coyotes. These diseases include but are not limited to rabies, canine distemper, sarcoptic mange or Echinococcus infections.

22. Animals held under any non-game quadruped breeder, non-game quadruped exhibitor, or coyote trapping license shall not be physically altered, except for medical treatment by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian, or mutilated in any way.



14



## General Rules

- Pen owners/landowner may or may NOT be the licensee and may NOT be involved in pen activities
- Licensees should be held responsible for the pen activities, not the landowner/pen owner
- Euthanizing sick or neurological animals will prevent the spread of diseases
  - Game will inherently escape
  - Dogs and game will share areas/feeding stations and may come into direct contact



15

## General Rules

- Coyotes with partial or completely amputated tails and/or neutered males observed during inspections
- Licensees have provided the following explanations for testicle and tail removal:
  - 1) aids in coyote identification
  - 2) *'the tails make coyotes cold'*
  - 3) removing tails reduces odds dogs catch game
- Surgeries/treatments, etc. must be performed by a LA licensed Veterinarian
- Humane treatment of game



16

## AMENDMENTS TO THE COYOTE/FOX PRESERVE....: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION



17

### Penalty for Violation

F. Penalty for Violation. Violation of these regulations will be a Class 2 violation with the following exceptions.

*1. Violation of the license requirements for nongame quadruped breeders and nongame quadruped exhibitors shall be a Class 3 violation (see §113.C.1, 2, 3 and D.2).*

- Section C was mistakenly deleted to reflect new fee structure
- Section F requires updating so that the referenced regulation corresponds to the respective section



18



## QUESTIONS?

Melissa Collins | LDWF Wildlife Biologist | [mcollins@wlf.la.gov](mailto:mcollins@wlf.la.gov)





## **LDWF TARGET RANGE GRANT PROGRAM**

Eric Shanks | Wildlife and Fisheries Commission | April 6, 2023

Background



# TARMARK

- Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Act (Pub. L. 116-17)
  - Signed into law May 2019
  - Purpose: “To facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges.....”
  - Amended the Wildlife Restoration (WR) Act to:
    - Define public target range
    - Allow 5 years for range construction
    - Allow up to 90% federal funding for range projects
    - Use up to 10% of WR funds for range development
  - Does NOT provide any additional funding
  - Activities must increase range user capacity



## LDWF Objectives

- Build new target ranges in Louisiana
  - As efficiently as possible
  - Modern industry standards
- Public use shooting range within reasonable driving distance of every citizen of Louisiana



# Why is this important to LDWF?

- LDWF promotes safe firearm hunting and target shooting through HE program
- 74% of Firearms and Ammunition sold are purchased for non-hunting use
- 5.4 million new gun owners in 2021
- Roughly 56 million Americans participate in shooting sports



| WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO TARGET SHOOT WITH A FIREARM IN YOUR AREA? | 2021 |
|--|------|
| High cost of equipment/ammunition                                    | 54%  |
| Access to shooting ranges  | 39%  |
| Overcrowding at shooting ranges                                      | 29%  |
| No difficulties in my area   | 25%  |
| Local/state regulations  | 22%  |

- Increased shooting range access:
  - Increases agency relevancy
  - Serves existing and new constituents
- Failing to do so may have negative consequences



## Program Summary



## Process

- “Pass-through” grant system
  - Utilize existing USFWS grant funds
  - Local Sponsors will design, construct, operate, and maintain
- One time grant:
  - Cost reimbursement basis
  - 90% federal funds
  - 10% matching funds (provided by Sponsor)
  - One year for planning, three years for construction





# Process

- **Two Grant Types:**
  - **Planning and Development**
    - Design, engineering, impact assessments, etc.
    - Max: \$250,000
  - **Construction and Equipment**
    - New ranges or expansion of existing facilities
    - Must have ownership or legal control of property
    - Max: \$1,500,000
- **Public or Private Sponsors**



# Process

- **Steps:**
  1. Application (April 1<sup>st</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>)
  2. Selection Committee reviews and recommends (July—August)
  3. Awards announced (September 15<sup>th</sup>)
  4. USFWS project grant application and approval (Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>)
  5. Agreement (upon grant approval)
  6. Complete Project (1 year or 3 years)
  7. Grant close out (upon completion)
  8. Long term monitoring (for useful life)



# Desired Results

- Additional shooting opportunities for the public without utilizing state resources
- Increased recreational shooting and shooting sports participation
- Long-term sustainability



# Questions?

## Contact Information:

Eric Shanks  
Range Enhancement  
Coordinator  
337-491-2201  
[wfrangegrants@wlf.la.gov](mailto:wfrangegrants@wlf.la.gov)

Website:  
[wlf.louisiana.gov/page/target-range-grant-program](http://wlf.louisiana.gov/page/target-range-grant-program)





## 2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER UPDATE AND 2023 SEASON

Jason Adriance | LWFC Meeting | April 6, 2023

### *2022 Red Snapper Season*

- 2022 allocation for private recreational and state charter harvest was 809,315 lbs (816,233 lbs minus 6,918 lbs payback from 2021).
- The private recreational red snapper season opened on May 27 in both state and federal waters as a weekends only season (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day) with a 3 fish bag limit and closed on September 18.
- Season reopened daily on October 7 for eight days through October 14 with a 4 fish bag limit to utilize the remaining 39,087 pounds after September 18 closure.



## 2022 Recreational Red Snapper

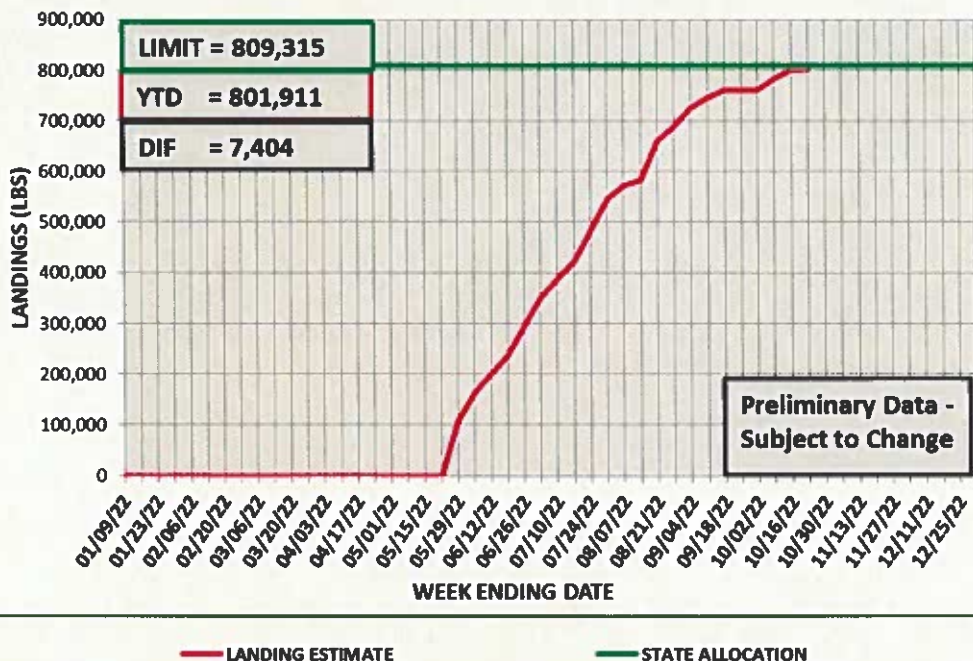
- A total of 801,911 pounds were landed by private (748,358 pounds) and state charter (53,553 pounds) anglers.
- 2022 season incurred an under harvest of pounds. No payback will be needed in 2023.
- Estimate of Federal Charter landings in Louisiana for 2022 was 62,121 pounds, which is not counted towards LA allocation.



3

## 2022 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER

**LOUISIANA'S 2022 RED SNAPPER LANDING ESTIMATES  
(LA CREEL - PRIVATE ANGLER + STATE CHARTER)**



4

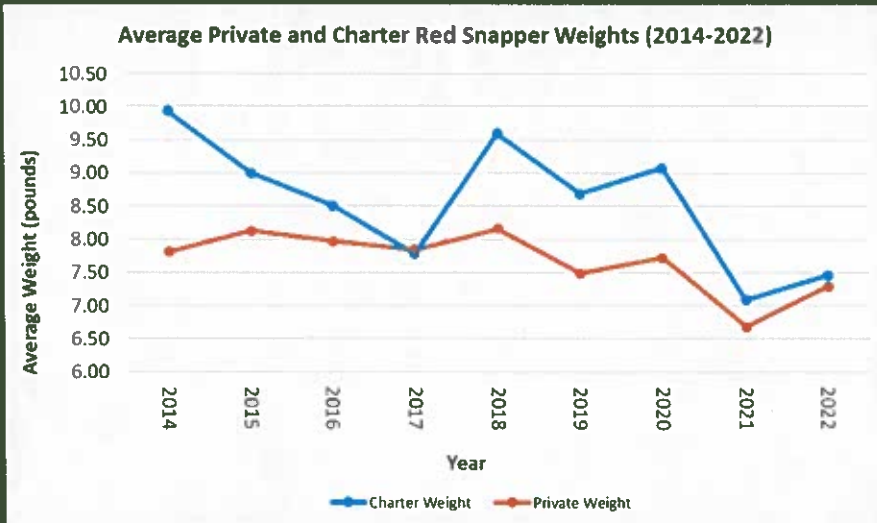


# 2022 Recreational Red Snapper

| 2022 Red Snapper Weekly Landing Estimates |            |            |                |                |         |                       |               |                         |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Week                                      | Begin Date | End Date   | Landings (lbs) |                |         |                       |               |                         |
|   |            |            | State Charter  | Private Angler | Total   | Weeks % of Allocation | Running Total | Running % of Allocation |
| 21  | 5/23/2022  | 5/29/2022  | 5,536          | 103,761        | 109,297 | 14%                   | 109,297       | 14%                     |
| 22  | 5/30/2022  | 6/5/2022   | 12,659         | 40,176         | 52,835  | 6%                    | 162,132       | 20%                     |
| 23  | 6/6/2022   | 6/12/2022  | 10,752         | 26,946         | 37,698  | 5%                    | 199,830       | 25%                     |
| 24  | 6/13/2022  | 6/19/2022  | 1,468          | 35,592         | 37,060  | 4%                    | 236,890       | 29%                     |
| 25  | 6/20/2022  | 6/26/2022  | 6,971          | 49,805         | 56,776  | 7%                    | 293,665       | 36%                     |
| 26  | 6/27/2022  | 7/3/2022   | 704            | 55,298         | 56,002  | 7%                    | 349,667       | 43%                     |
| 27  | 7/4/2022   | 7/10/2022  | 424            | 36,396         | 36,820  | 5%                    | 386,487       | 48%                     |
| 28  | 7/11/2022  | 7/17/2022  | 634            | 36,256         | 36,890  | 5%                    | 423,378       | 52%                     |
| 29  | 7/18/2022  | 7/24/2022  | 185            | 59,719         | 59,904  | 8%                    | 483,281       | 60%                     |
| 30  | 7/25/2022  | 7/31/2022  | 900            | 60,729         | 61,629  | 7%                    | 544,910       | 67%                     |
| 31  | 8/1/2022   | 8/7/2022   | 597            | 27,220         | 27,817  | 4%                    | 572,727       | 71%                     |
| 32  | 8/8/2022   | 8/14/2022  | 0              | 11,241         | 11,241  | 1%                    | 583,968       | 72%                     |
| 33  | 8/15/2022  | 8/21/2022  | 457            | 75,368         | 75,825  | 10%                   | 659,793       | 82%                     |
| 34  | 8/22/2022  | 8/28/2022  | 2,764          | 26,311         | 29,075  | 3%                    | 688,868       | 85%                     |
| 35  | 8/29/2022  | 9/4/2022   | 1,951          | 33,867         | 35,818  | 5%                    | 724,686       | 90%                     |
| 36  | 9/5/2022   | 9/11/2022  | 1,388          | 20,043         | 21,431  | 2%                    | 746,117       | 92%                     |
| 37  | 9/12/2022  | 9/18/2022  | 4,833          | 9,527          | 14,360  | 2%                    | 760,477       | 94%                     |
| 38  | 9/19/2022  | 9/25/2022  | 0              | 0              | 0       | 0%                    | 760,477       | 94%                     |
| 39  | 9/26/2022  | 10/2/2022  | 0              | 0              | 0       | 0%                    | 760,477       | 94%                     |
| 40  | 10/3/2022  | 10/9/2022  | 0              | 21,768         | 21,768  | 3%                    | 782,245       | 97%                     |
| 41  | 10/10/2022 | 10/16/2022 | 1,331          | 17,763         | 19,094  | 2%                    | 801,339       | 99%                     |
| 42  | 10/17/2022 | 10/23/2022 | 0              | 572            | 572     | <1%                   | 801,911       | 99%                     |
| Average Weekly Landing                    |            |            | 2,819          | 39,357         | 42,176  | 5%                    |               |                         |



## Red Snapper Weights (2014-2022)



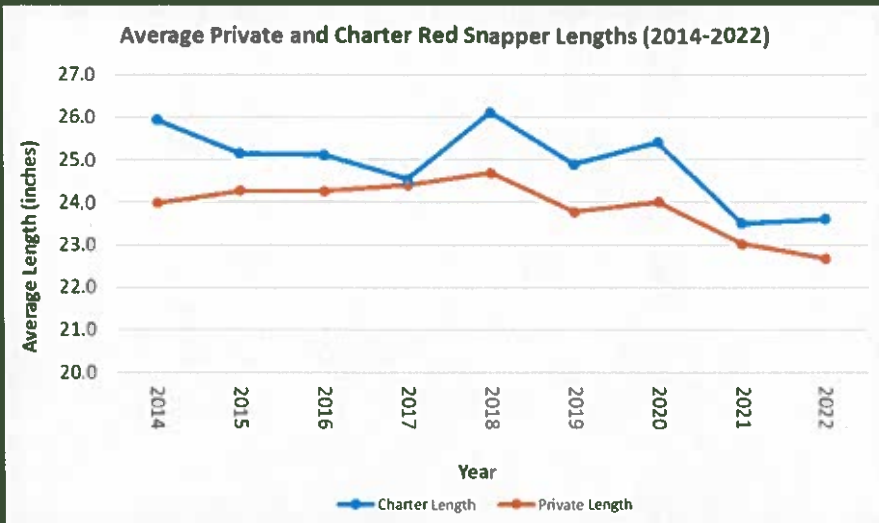
|         | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private | 7.81 | 8.13 | 7.97 | 7.85 | 8.16 | 7.49 | 7.72 | 6.68 | 7.29 |
| Charter | 9.94 | 9.00 | 8.51 | 7.78 | 9.60 | 8.69 | 9.08 | 7.09 | 7.46 |

\*Weights are in pounds

† 2022 data through end of Red Snapper season



# Red Snapper Lengths (2014-2022)



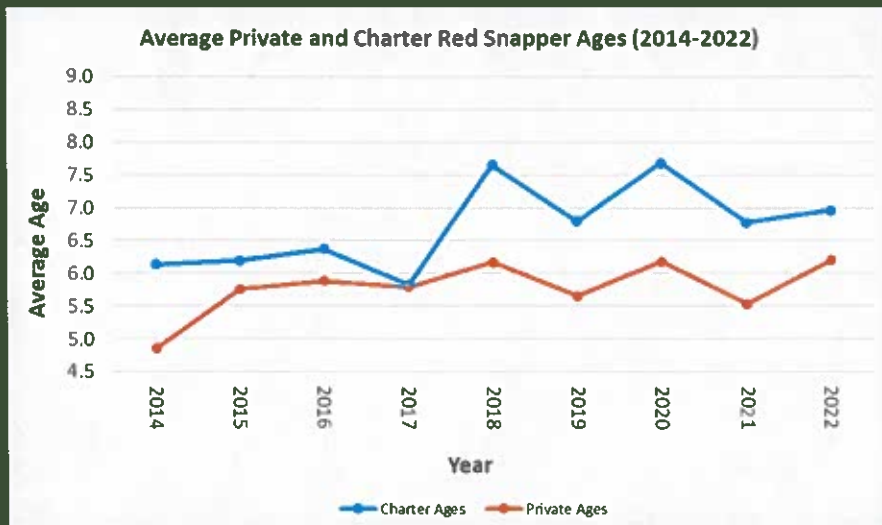
|                | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Private</b> | 24.0 | 24.3 | 24.3 | 24.4 | 24.7 | 23.8 | 24.0 | 23.0 | 23.3 |
| <b>Charter</b> | 25.9 | 25.1 | 25.1 | 24.5 | 26.1 | 24.9 | 25.4 | 23.5 | 23.6 |

\* Lengths are in inches Total Length

\* 2022 data through end of Red Snapper season



# Red Snapper Ages (2014-2022)



|                | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Private</b> | 4.9  | 5.8  | 5.9  | 5.8  | 6.2  | 5.7  | 6.2  | 5.5  | 6.2  |
| <b>Charter</b> | 6.1  | 6.2  | 6.4  | 5.8  | 7.6  | 6.8  | 7.7  | 6.8  | 6.9  |

\* June 1 used as birthday and fractional ages calculated based upon edge codes

\* 2022 ages are still being processed and table currently includes 207 charter age samples and 439 private samples



## LA Recreational Red Snapper Seasons History

| Year | Open Date | Close Date   | Structure         | Re-Open Date                | Re-Close Date              | Structure                           | Total Days |
|------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 2018 | May 25    | July 8       | Daily - 2 fish    | July 13                     | August 12                  | Weekends - 2 fish                   | 60         |
| 2019 | May 24    | September 3  | Weekends - 2 fish | September 27<br>November 28 | November 24<br>December 31 | Weekends - 2 fish<br>Daily - 2 fish | 109        |
| 2020 | May 22    | August 10    | Weekends - 2 fish | September 4                 | September 7                | Daily - 2 fish                      | 41         |
| 2021 | May 28    | September 6  | Weekends - 2 fish | September 24                | December 31                | Daily - 4 fish                      | 146        |
| 2022 | May 27    | September 18 | Weekends - 3 fish | October 7                   | October 14                 | Daily - 4 fish                      | 62         |

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



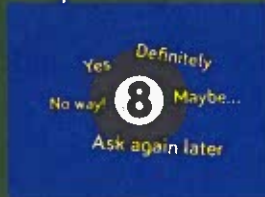
## 2023 Recreational Red Snapper

- 2023 allocation for private recreational and state charter harvest increases to **934,587** pounds.
- The private recreational Red Snapper season is set to open on May 26 in both state and federal waters as a weekends only season (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4) with a 2 fish bag limit.
- Would the LWFC like to consider other season structures (daily, weekends with different bag limit, etc.)?



## 2023 Recreational Red Snapper Season Projections

- Some assumptions are made when calculating projections (e.g., the proportion of anglers achieving a bag limit, average weights, and comparable effort)
- Some things we cannot project are fuel prices, weather, inflation impacts, lodging availability, availability of vessel parts and a host of other socio-economic drivers



|                              | 2 Fish<br>Date | 2 Fish<br>Days | 3 Fish<br>Date | 3 Fish<br>Days | 4 Fish<br>Date | 4 Fish<br>Days |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Weekends (Fri - Sun)</b>  | Oct. 23        | 68             | Sept. 1        | 47             | Aug. 13        | 40             |
| <b>Weekends (Thur - Sun)</b> | Sept. 9        | 66             | Aug. 25        | 57             | Aug. 4         | 45             |
| <b>Weekends (Fri - Mon)</b>  | Oct. 9         | 80             | Sept. 1        | 60             | Aug. 11        | 48             |
| <b>All Week</b>              | Sept. 1        | 101            | Aug. 18        | 88             | Jul. 28        | 67             |



12

## 2023 Recreational Red Snapper

- LDWF recommends a daily season opening May 26 with a 3 fish bag limit at the 16 inch minimum total length (DE in packet) with the consideration of getting through Labor Day weekend.



14



# Questions?

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# WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2023 REGULAR SESSION



## Commission/Licensing Bills



- **HB 221 – Restrictions on Rulemaking and Establishment of Select Oversight Committee**
  - For every rule that is promulgated, two must be repealed
  - Allows the Speaker or the President to establish select oversight committees
  - Referred to House and Governmental Affairs
- **HB 503 – Removes Mandate on Issuance of LAZ Hull ID Numbers**
  - Current law requires LDWF to issue HINs on vessels not eligible for USCG HINs
  - State law is in conflict with federal regulations
  - Allows vessel manufacturers an avenue to build boats below USCG standards
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **SB 119 – Repeals the Youth Hunting License Requirement**
  - Established by the comprehensive license restructure of 2021
  - LDWF collects \$100K from licenses and \$750K in federal money from selling this privilege
  - \$5 youth license only for deer and turkey and serves as lottery hunt application on LDWF properties
  - Creates an instrument to potentially amend other aspects of our licensing framework
  - Referred to Senate Natural Resources Committee
- **SB 201 – Electronic Meetings for Boards and Commissions**
  - Current law requires a state of emergency to have a meeting via electronic means
  - Provides that statewide bodies may conduct 1/3 of its meetings via electronic means
  - Referred to Senate and Governmental Affairs





## Wildlife Bills



- **HB 448 – Pays Judgement for Crooks v. State**
  - Catahoula basin mineral royalties
  - \$9.38 Million payable from the State General Fund
  - Referred to House Appropriations
- **HB 465 – Exempts Livingston Parish from Scenic Rivers Act**
  - Tickfaw and Blind Rivers
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee

- **HB 570 – Monetary Reward for Feral Hog Tails**
  - LDWF may establish a \$5 bounty on feral hog tails
  - LDWF may adopt rules and regulations governing the program
  - \$2 Million per year from the Conservation Fund
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HCR 3 – Self Clearing Permits on Refuges**
  - Exempts Rockefeller and Marsh Island Refuges from self-clearing permit requirements
  - Disbursed to NWTf for conservation of wild turkey
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee

## Carbon Capture and Sequestration

- **HB 10 – Removes Eminent Domain Authority**
  - Removes eminent domain authority for CCS operators to acquire property or rights without landowner consent
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 35 – Prohibits CCS Projects in St. Helena Parish**
  - LDWF has 129 acres in St. Helena Parish
  - Removes a bundle of rights from the landowner
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 120 – Prohibits Permitting CCS Wells in Lake Maurepas**
  - May limit injection to certain formations
  - May result in injection occurring on LDWF WMA property
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 267 – Moratorium on CCS Projects on Lake Maurepas and Maurepas Swamp WMA**
  - LDWF has two operating agreements on the WMA
  - May result delayed injection or kill the projects
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee

- **HB 308 – EIS as a Permitting Requirement for CCS**
  - Requires an environmental impact statement for carbon storage projects on Lake Maurepas and the WMA
  - May result delayed injection or kill the projects
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 312 – Liability and Damage from CCS Projects**
  - Removes limitations of liability for CCS operators
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 453 – CCS Injection in the Gulf of Mexico**
  - Limits carbon injection and transport to geologic formations beneath the Gulf of Mexico
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 454 – Parish Approval of CCS**
  - Requires a parish-wide election ballot before any carbon storage project may commence
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 571 – Notice, Distribution of Funds, Liability, Trust Fund, Recordation and Extraction Tax**
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee





## Fisheries Bills



- **HB 161 – Tax Exemptions for Commercial Fishermen and Processors**
  - Changes local sales tax **exemptions** from optional to mandatory
  - Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means
- **HB 255 – Tax Credit for Oyster Shell Recycling**
  - **\$1 tax credit per 50 pounds of shell recycled up to \$2000 credit**
  - Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means
- **HB 438 – Public Oyster Seed Ground Gear Licenses**
  - Changes the **POSG Gear License to the POSG Gear Permit and makes it extension of the POSG Vessel Permit**
  - Allows for a vessel owner to use resident or non-resident captains under the permit
  - Referred to House Natural Resource Committee



- **HB 528 – Shrimp Crawfish Labeling Penalties**
  - **Authorized LDWF to enforce shrimp/crawfish domestic product labeling requirements**
  - Increases civil fines associated with violations
  - Authorizes LDWF to recover civil penalties and deposit them **into the Conservation Fund**
  - Referred to House Natural Resource Committee
- **HB 576 – Menhaden Exclusion Zone and Quota**
  - Establishes a quota of 266 million metric tons
  - Creates a ½ mile exclusion zone coastwise, which extends to 1-mile from August 1 through October 31 each year
  - Establishes ½ mile exclusion zone in Breton and Chandeluer
  - Establishes 3-mile exclusion zone from Caminada to Barataria
  - Establishes a 1-mile exclusion zone from Timbalier to Grand Terre
  - Referred to House Natural Resource Committee
- **HB 600 – Mislabeling of Imported Seafood**
  - Allows a restaurant an opportunity to correct deficiency in their notice before receiving a **\$100 civil fine**
  - Referred to House Natural Resource Committee

## Fisheries Bills

- **SB 90 – Commercial Use of Surface Water**
  - Removes a loophole that allows for uncompensated commercial use of surface water
  - Mineral Board establishes the fair market value for surface water
  - Proceeds go to the Aquatic Plant and Invasive Species Control Fund
  - Referred to Senate Natural Resources



- **SB 99 – Red Snapper Possession Limit in State Water**
  - **Adds red snapper to speckled trout and redfish for species with a three day possession limit on the water under certain conditions**
  - Referred to Senate Natural Resources
- **SB 133 – Provides for the Menhaden Fishery**
  - Does nothing as written
  - Placeholder bill
  - Referred to Senate Natural Resources
- **SB 161 – La. Small Wild Catfish Processor's Act**
  - Exempts wild catfish processors selling directly to the consuming public from the Sanitary Code
  - Limits exemption to processors who sell 400 pounds or less per month
  - Referred to Senate Health and Welfare





# Enforcement Bills



- **HB 4 – Criminal Trespass on Running Waters**
  - Criminal trespass shall not apply to any person operating a vessel on running waters of the state
  - Referred to House Admin. of Crim. Justice
- **HB 59 – Operation of Personal Watercraft at Night**
  - Makes it legal to operate a PWC at night if equipped with lights that meet USCG standards
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **HB 207 – Unlawful Swimming; Minors**
  - Prohibits minors from swimming without a PFD in any river that generates hydroelectric power
  - Establishes penalties
- **HB 297 – Prescription for Litter Violations**
  - Creates a 2-year prescriptive period to prosecute simple or intentional litter violations
  - Referred to House Natural Resources Committee

- **HB 299 – Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws**
  - Prevents collection of taxes on firearms prospectively
  - Prohibits and penalizes the enforcement of federal gun laws
  - Could impact LDWF's wildlife restoration funding derived from sales of guns and ammo
  - Could prevent federally commissioned LDWF enforcement agents from upholding federal laws
  - Referred to House Admin. of Crim. Justice
- **HB 543 – Vehicular Pursuits**
  - Establishes a uniform LEO vehicular pursuit policy
  - Provides for strict liability for an agency
  - Referred to House Civil Law
- **HB 563 – Law Enforcement Recruitment Incentive Fund**
  - Eligible agencies – Sheriffs, Municipal Police, and State Police
  - Referred to House Appropriations

# Questions?

