2023 LOUISIANA
RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

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CONTENTS

5. LICENSING INFORMATION

8. DEFINITIONS

10. GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION
Contact Information.....10
General Regulations.....11
Saltwater/Freshwater Line.....11

12. FRESHWATER FISHING
General Information.....12
Freshwater State Creel & Size Limits.....15

17. SALTWATER FISHING
General Information.....17
Saltwater State Creel & Size Limits.....20

25. OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Recreational Shrimping.....25
Recreational Oystering.....26
Recreational Crabbing.....27
Recreational Crawfishing.....28
Reptiles & Amphibians.....29

31. WMA & REFUGE REGULATIONS

37. BOATING SAFETY

40. FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Cover photo by Major Dean Aucoin II

DON'T LITTER

SPORTSMEN ARE REMINDED TO:

- Clean out truck beds and refrain from throwing cigarette butts or other trash out of the car or watercraft.
- Carry a trash bag in your car or boat.
- Securely cover trash containers to prevent animals from spreading litter.

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REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS

Operation Game Thief
1-800-442-2511
24 hours a day - 7 days a week

LDWF MISSION STATEMENT

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education for the social and economic benefit of current and future generations; to provide opportunities for knowledge of and use and enjoyment of these resources; and to promote a safe and healthy environment for the users of the resources

New regulations appear in red text throughout the pamphlet.

MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2023

Please refer to the LDWF website for current information: www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/recreational-fishing

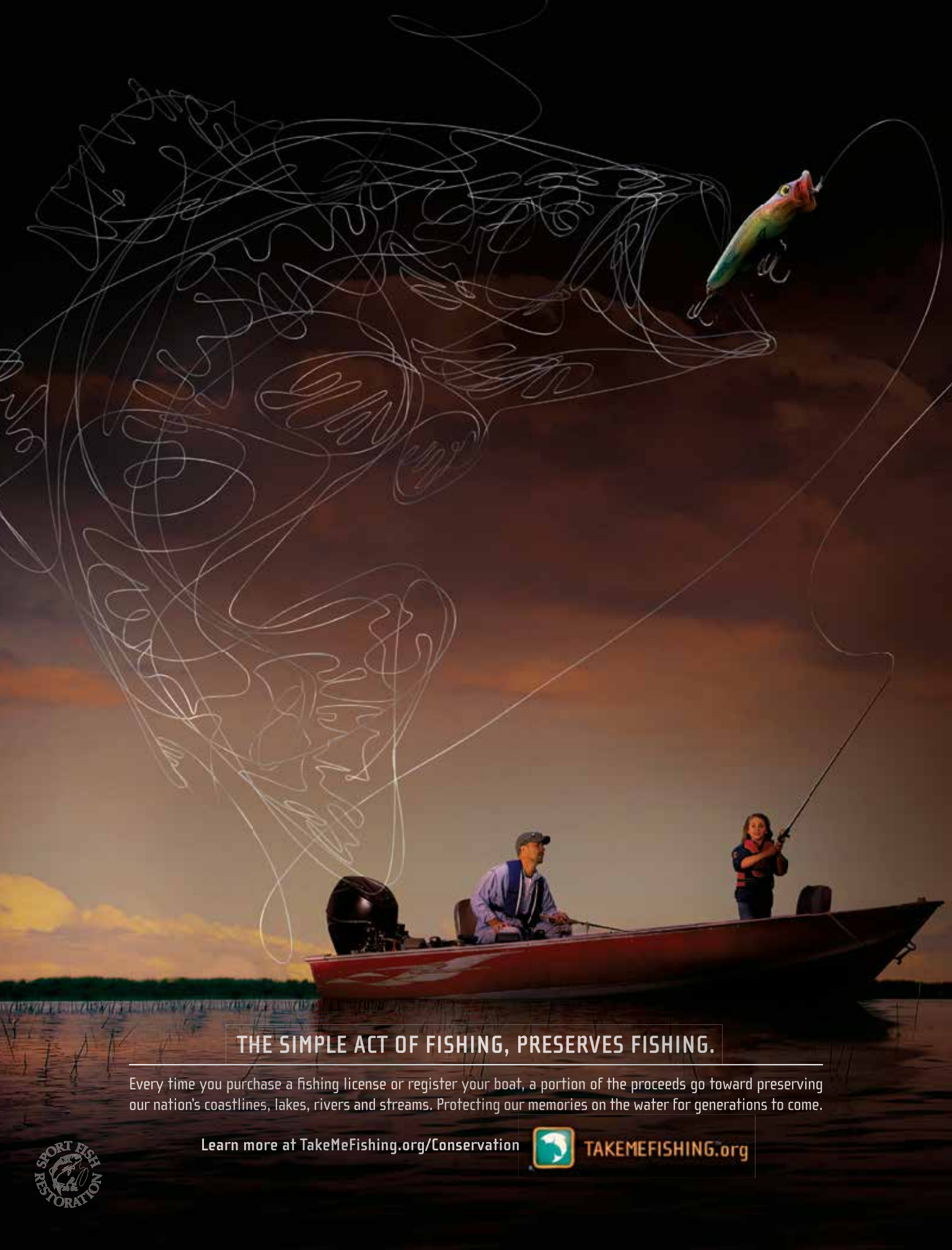
1. Dip nets, landing nets, minnow traps, crab nets or crab lines all require a minimum of a Hook and Line License; if you do not already possess a basic fishing license and saltwater license (if applicable).

MARINE FISHERIES

1. A Notice of Intent to change the ROLP age to 18 and older will go before the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in December 2021. Please check our website for updates to this rule: *www.wlf.la.gov/page/rolp*.
2. During 2023, the use of recreational crab traps will be prohibited in designated derelict crab trap cleanup areas. Please check our website for the most recent information.
3. Beginning on Oct. 15, 2022, the recreational and commercial harvest and possession of southern flounder by any gear will be prohibited from Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 of each year
4. The LWFC is considering rule changes to adjust the size and possession limits of swordfish to a minimum of 25 inches Cleithrum to Caudal Keel Length or 47 inches Lower Jaw to Fork Length from a 33 pounds dressed weight or 29 inches carcass length. Further rule changes considered would limit swordfish possession to 1 per person or 4 per vessel on private recreational vessels, 1 per person or 6 per vessel on charter vessels, and 1 per person or 15 per vessel on head boats from the previous 1 per person or 5 per vessel for all vessels.
5. The LWFC is considering rule changes to add roundscale spearfish with a 66 inch Lower Jaw to Fork Length minimum size limit to current billfish regulations as this is a distinct species from white marlin.
6. The LWFC is considering rule changes to remove the recreational and commercial closed season for the harvest of sharks, which is currently April 1 - June 30 of each year.
7. NOAA has established regulations in federal waters that require a descending device or venting tool be set up and ready for use on a vessel, when fishing for Gulf reef fish in the Gulf EEZ, through Jan. 14, 2026.
8. As of July 1, 2022, all escape rings on a crab trap must be no more than one mesh length from a corner.

INLAND FISHERIES

1. During the 2022 legislative session, trapping bream (*Lepomis spp.*) for use as bait using traps no larger than 24 inches in length with throats no larger than one by three inches was made legal, statewide.
2. During the 2022 legislative session, hand-grabbing (noodling) was made a legal form of take.
3. Hoop nets, wire nets, and slat traps must be marked with user's name and fishing license number attached directly to the device.
4. New rules regarding the marking, tending, and limits of yo-yos, trigger devices, trotlines, limb lines, jugs, and all passive devices containing a hook or hooks were enacted.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SPORT FISH RESTORATION

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Licenses will be valid for one year from the day of purchase

RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES	Resident, Military, & Student[10]	Non-Resident	Non-Resident Native 10-day	Non-Resident 5-day
Basic Fishing Season (includes all legal recreational freshwater gear)	$17.00	$68.00	$17.00	$30.00
Saltwater License (Basic Fishing required; includes all legal recreational saltwater gear)	$15.00	$60.00	$15.00	$30.00
Hook and Line[1]	$5.00		$5.00	
Charter Passenger Saltwater License (3-day)[2]	$20.00	$20.00		
Charter Passenger Freshwater License (3-day)	$10.00	$10.00		
LA Sportsman's Paradise License[3]	$100.00	$400.00	$100.00	$120.00
Senior Hunt/Fish (born before June 1, 1940)[4]	FREE			
Senior Fish/Hunt (born between June 1, 1940 and May 31, 1962)[5]	$5.00			
Disabled/Special Needs Hunting/Fish[6]	$4.00			
Disabled Veterans[6]	No cost to customer			
Offshore Landing Permit[7]	Free			
RECREATION ON LDWF ADMINISTERED LANDS				
WMA Access Annual Permit (*this permit is included in the Sportsman's Paradise License, Senior Hunt/Fish License and all lifetime licenses; not required for youths 17 and under*)[8]	$20.00/year			
WMA Access 5-Day Permit (*valid for a five-consecutive-day period*)[8]	$5.00			
WMA Camping Permit (*required for each camping party of up to five adults camping together. Youths 17 and under are not required to have a camping permit.*)[9]	$7.00/day			

NOTE: ***Either a WMA Access Annual or 5-day Permit is required for all users of LDWF administered lands, including wildlife management areas, refuges and wetlands conservation areas. Persons 17 and under are not required to purchase WMA permits.***

1 Allows using a pole or hook and line without a reel and without artificial bait or any of the following: dip nets, landing nets, minnow traps, crab nets or crab lines
2 Valid to fish from a charter vessel in saltwater areas of the state, with a licensed guide on board at all times.
3 ***Sportsman's Paradise License:*** *Includes Basic and Saltwater Fishing, Deer License, Turkey, LA Duck and WMA Access Permit, and all recreational gear licenses (EXCEPT recreational trawls no greater than 25 feet in length).*
4 ***Resident No-Charge Senior Hunt/Fish:*** *For those born prior to June 1, 1940, a Resident No-charge Senior Hunt/Fish License is required. It is for residents only and is FREE, but is required have in possession when hunting or fishing.*
5 ***Senior Fish/Hunt License:*** *Any resident who reached age 60 on June 1, 2000 or later must obtain a Senior Hunt/Fish License to hunt or fish. This license is in lieu of Basic and Saltwater Fishing, Deer License, LA Duck License, Turkey Stamp and WMA Access Permit. It includes all gear.*
6 ***Disabled/Special Needs and Disabled Veterans:*** *See page 7.*
7 ***Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP):*** *See page 6.*
8 ***WMA Access:*** *Either a WMA Access Annual or 5-Day Permit is required for all users of LDWF administered lands, including wildlife management areas, refuges, and wetlands conservation areas. Persons 17 and under are not required to purchase WMA permits.*
9 ***WMA Camping Permit:*** *A WMA Camping Permit is required for each camping party utilizing a LDWF-operated campground on a WMA. A camping party is defined as one to five individuals 18 or older. If any camping group is over five individuals 18 or older, then multiple WMA Camping Permits are required. Youths 17 and younger are exempt from the WMA Camping Permit requirement. The WMA Camping Permit(s) or camping permit number shall be displayed at each camping party's campsite. A campsite is defined as any tent, RV, camper, vehicle or site occupied within a campground or vessel/houseboat moored adjacent to a campground.*
10 ***Student:*** *Applies to a nonresident who is enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college, university or high school that has a physical campus in Louisiana. Verification of full-time status on the Department form available at www.wlf.la.gov/page/forms. Any person fishing under a "student license" must carry valid student ID card indicating current full time status while hunting or fishing.*

LIFETIME LICENSES

Lifetime fishing licenses include both freshwater and saltwater fishing.

Lifetime licenses are available from Baton Rouge office only. Allow three weeks processing time. Applicants are required to have lived in Louisiana for the immediate **6 months** prior to making application to qualify for resident rates. Mandatory documents required for applicants age 18 and older are a valid LA driver's license issued a minimum of **6 months** and one of the following:

1. Louisiana voter's registration card
2. Louisiana vehicle registration or
3. Two previous year's state tax filing, stamped by Department of Revenue and Taxation.

(Applications available at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/forms* or by calling 225-765-2887)

Mandatory paperwork for applicants age 17 and under is the following:

- Copy of the birth certificate
- Copy of both parents' driver's licenses

LIFETIME LICENSE FEES	
Lifetime Hunt/Fish (0-17 years old)	$500
Lifetime Hunt/Fish (18 years and older)	$500
Non-Resident Lifetime Hunt/Fish	$4,000
Lifetime Resident Senior Hunt/Fish (65 or older)	$100

Recreational Fishing and Hunting Licenses and WMA Access and Camping Permits may be purchased online at LouisianaOutdoors.com. The license can be printed using your home printer for immediate use or saved to a mobile friendly device. Methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, Discover. A convenience fee is assessed. Durable, waterproof paper is no longer available. All licenses will be on 8.5 x 11 paper and will be available in the LA Wallet App (may not be applicable for some permits).

RECREATIONAL LICENSES

ABOUT THE LICENSE

- ***All licenses are valid for one year from the day of purchase.***
- To obtain licenses at resident rates, proof of residency is required. Valid forms of I.D. include (***NOTE:** valid ID must be held for 6 months before buying license):
  - Louisiana driver's license
  - Louisiana ID card (issued by the Department of Public Safety)
- Recreational Licenses that are purchased at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/recreational-fishing-licenses-and-permits* via mobile device (smart phone, laptop, tablet, etc.) will not receive a license in the mail. You can choose to receive an email with the license attached that can be saved and/or printed.
- Effective Aug. 1, 2019, a Louisiana Resident who was honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard, for the purposes of purchasing a fishing/hunting license will be considered a bona fide resident of Louisiana once he/she possess a Louisiana driver's license, or, if not licensed to drive, is in possession of a special identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections under the provisions of R.S. 40:1321

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE

Anglers 18 years of age or older who take or possess fish in Louisiana waters must possess a fishing license.

WHO DOES NOT NEED A LICENSE

Children under the age of 18 do not need a fishing license (17 and under).

FISHING IN SALTWATER

Title 56 requires that all recreational anglers fishing south of the "saltwater line" (*see page 11*) for saltwater species have in their possession a Louisiana saltwater angler's license IN ADDITION TO a basic Louisiana fishing license EXCEPT those persons otherwise exempted. All regulations apply regardless of where the fish is taken.

RECREATIONAL OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT (ROLP)

Recreational anglers who are 18 years of age or older and charter captains are required to obtain this permit (free of charge) to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, hinds, snappers, dolphinfish, wahoo, cobia and gray triggerfish. Anglers wishing to obtain or renew a permit must register or login at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/rolp*. More details on this program are also available on this site. Anglers going on a charter trip are not required to have a ROLP; instead, it is required that the charter captain have a valid Charter Recreational Offshore Landing Permit in his/her possession.

ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A LICENSE

A valid Basic Fishing License is required to possess fish in Louisiana waters OR to use the following gears in pursuit of fish:

- Bow and arrow
- A barbed or barbless spear
- Frog gig/catcher
- Scuba gear
- Hook and Line
- Cast net with a radius not to exceed 8 feet, 6 inches
- Crabbing on a state refuge or wildlife management area (WMA)
- Crab Traps[1,2]
- Trawl[1]
- Oyster tongs (must have a tonging permit to fish oysters by hand)

[1] ***A Basic Fishing License includes crab traps, trawls and/or oyster tongs.*** *If a person wishes to utilize these gear types in the defined saltwater area, one must also possess a Saltwater License.*

[2] *Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Canal in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal, or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.*

MILITARY RECREATIONAL LICENSES

- Active-duty members of the United States armed forces, including National Guard, are eligible to purchase annual licenses for the same fee that Louisiana residents pay for annual licenses.
- An active-duty military member's spouse and/or any dependents may obtain any recreational license at the Louisiana resident rate.
- In order to obtain Louisiana resident rate licenses the active-duty member of the military, spouse or dependents must present a valid active duty military ID card at the time of the license purchase.
- A Louisiana resident or native born retired member of the United States armed forces, including Louisiana National Guard, is eligible to purchase a combination license to hunt and fish for $20. (Application for this license can be mailed to the Baton Rouge office or presented to the Baton Rouge office in person).
- A Louisiana resident who is a surviving spouse of a member of the United States armed forces, including Louisiana National Guard, who was killed in action while in a combat zone, is eligible to purchase a recreational fishing license for $4. (Application for this license can be mailed to the Baton Rouge office or presented to the Baton Rouge office in person).

TEXAS/LOUISIANA RECIPROCAL

- Louisiana and Texas residents who hold resident licenses from their resident state or who are exempted from holding resident licenses in their state may fish the border waters between Texas and Louisiana without additional licenses. Boundary waters include:
  - Caddo Lake
  - Toledo Bend Reservoir
  - Sabine River
  - Sabine Lake
  - Sabine Pass
- Louisiana residents who are 65 years old or older may fish in Texas public waters (both freshwater and saltwater) as long as they possess valid Louisiana resident licenses and comply with Texas law.
- Louisiana residents born prior to June 1, 1940 will now require a Resident No-charge Senior Hunt/Fish License to fish border waters. It is for residents only and is FREE, but is required have in possession when hunting or fishing.
- Louisiana residents who are 17 to 64 years of age must purchase Texas non-resident fishing license(s) when fishing in Texas, except when fishing in border waters.
- Texas residents who are 65 years old or older may fish in Louisiana public waters (both freshwater and saltwater) as long as they possess valid Texas resident license(s) and comply with Louisiana law.
- Texas residents born before Sept. 1, 1930 must possess Texas resident fishing license(s) when fishing in Louisiana, except in the border waters.

DISABILITY LICENSES

- Resident veterans who have a permanent service-connected disability classification of 50% or more can be issued recreational basic and saltwater fishing license(s) for free.
- Residents who are blind, paraplegic or multiple amputee must purchase a recreational fishing license for $4.
- Residents who are totally and permanently disabled and receiving federal social security disability benefits or disability retirement income from a retirement system whose members are exempt from social security pursuant to the Railroad Retirement Insurance Act or employees of the state or a political subdivision of the state that has not voluntarily agreed to participate in federal social security may qualify for reduced rate basic and saltwater fishing licenses. ***The fee is $4.*** (This exemption does not apply to Supplemental Security Income benefits).
- Residents required to use one or more artificial limbs or permanent braces for mobility or a single amputee must purchase a recreational fishing license for $4.
- Mobility impaired persons that are bona fide residents of Louisiana in possession of valid identification, and over 60 years of age, must purchase the applicable license.
- Applications for these licenses can be mailed to the Baton Rouge office or presented to the Baton Rouge office in person.
- Application forms are available at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/forms*. For more information contact Sports License at 225-765-2887.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Angling:** to fish with rod, fishing pole or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bag Limit/Creel Limit:** the maximum number of a species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day.
3. **Bait or Fish Seine:** a net measuring no more than 30 feet in length with a mesh size not exceeding 1/4-inch mesh bar, 1/2-inch mesh stretched, and operated solely on foot and solely by hand, without any mechanical device, pulley or mechanical assistance whatsoever.
4. **Bait Species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
5. **Bandit Gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved with rods and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels. (Use prohibited in state waters)
6. **Bona Fide Resident:**
   A. any person who has resided in this state continuously during the **six months** immediately prior to the date on which he/she applies for any license and who has manifested his/her intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his/her legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable.
      - If registered to vote, he/she is registered to vote in Louisiana.
      - If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he/she is in possession of a valid Louisiana driver's license.
      - If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he/she is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
      - If earning an income, he/she has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

   B. Effective Aug. 1, 2019, a Louisiana resident who was honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including National Guard, for the purpose of purchasing a fishing/hunting license will be considered a bona fide resident of Louisiana once he/she possesses a Louisiana driver's license, or, if not licensed to drive, is in possession of a special identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections under the provisions of R.S. 40:1321.

   C. any person who possesses a resident license from any other state shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.
7. **Bream Trap:** a recreational trap that is no longer than 24 inches with a throat no greater than 1 by 3 inches used to capture bream (Lepomis spp.) for use as recreational bait.
8. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55-gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
9. **Cast Net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials that is weighted around its perimeter and is thrown by hand over the water.
10. **Crab Dropnet:** any device constructed with vegetable, synthetic, or metal fibers and without flues or throat, attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be operated solely by hand and fished in a stationary, passive manner.
11. **Crab Trap:** a cube-shaped, device constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches on any side, and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than 7 inches into the inside of the trap, with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
12. **Crawfish Net:** any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crawfish.
13. **Crawfish Trap:** any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding 2 inches and which is used for the express purpose of taking crawfish.
14. **Dip Net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame not to exceed 3 feet in diameter attached to a handle that is held and worked solely by hand by no more than one individual, and without any mechanical assistance.
15. **Finfish:** (*noun*) any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills and are covered with skin or scales.
16. **Fish:** (*noun*) all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans and all other species of aquatic life.
17. **Fork Length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
18. **Freshwater Game Fish:** see "Game Fish" definition.
19. **Freshwater Recreational Fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
20. **Fyke Net:** any cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic fibers having throats or flues which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing, with vertical panels of net wings set obliquely on one or both sides of the mouth of the cone-shaped net.
21. **Game Fish:** all of the following species of freshwater and saltwater fish.
    A. ***Freshwater Game Fish:*** largemouth bass *(Micropterus salmoides),* spotted bass *(Micropterus punctulatus),* shadow bass *(Ambloplites ariommus),* black and white crappie *(Pomoxis nigromaculatus, P. annularis),* white bass *(Morone chrysops),* yellow bass *(Morone mississippiensis),* striped bass *(Morone saxatilis),* hybrid striped bass *(striped bass-white bass cross or striped bass-yellow bass cross),* and any species of bream *(Lepomis sp.).*

    B. ***Saltwater Game Fish:*** any sailfish *(Istiophorus platypterus),* blue marlin *(Makaira indica),* black marlin *(Makaira nigricans),* striped marlin *(Tetrapturus audax),* hatchet marlin *(Tetrapturus spp.),* white marlin *(Tetrapturus albidus),* and red drum *(Sciaenops ocellatus).*
22. **Gill Net/Trammel Net/Flag Webbing:** any passive netting that is hung vertically in flat panels and meant to ensnare fish.
23. **Hand Grabbing/Noodling:** the act of capturing catfish with the hands.
24. **Hook:** any curved or bent device attached to a line for the purpose of taking fish or alligator and consisting of not more than one eye and one shank with no more than three barbs.
25. **Hoop Net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials having throats or flues and which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing.
26. **Jugs/Floats/Noodles:** a passive method of fishing using a hook and line attached to a floating object.
27. **Landing Net:** means a net, usually a mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic material on a fixed frame attached to a handle held and operated by hand for the sole purpose of assisting in the landing of fish legally caught by other legal gear.
28. **Lead or Wing Net:** a panel of netting of any mesh size or length, with or without weights and floats, attached to one or both sides of the mouth of a cone-shaped net having flues or throats, and set so as to deflect or guide fish toward the mouth of the net.
29. **Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).
30. **Limb Line:** a passive method of fishing consisting of a hook and line attached to a stationary object.
31. **Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin, swordfish and paddlefish.
32. **Mesh Size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows:
    A. ***Bar measure*** is the length of the full bar stretched from the near side of one knot to the far side of the other after being tarred, treated or otherwise processed.

    B. ***Stretched measure*** is the full stretched distance from the near side of one knot to the far side of the opposite knot diagonally across the mesh. This measurement shall not be applicable to weaved or woven nets commonly used for menhaden fishing. In woven nets, stretched measure is the full stretched distance of the opening of the mesh; bar measure is one-half of stretched measure.
33. **Maximum Length Limit:** denotes that fish above the stated measurements must be returned to the water immediately.
34. **Minimum Length Limit (MLL):** denotes that fish below the stated measurements must be returned to the water immediately.
35. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.

36. **Nonresident:** any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8(69) (*See Bona Fide Resident definition*).
37. **Oyster Tongs:** Oyster tongs shall be made as a grasping device consisting of two pieces joined by a pivot or hinged like scissors used for picking up objects. A single rake is not considered a tong.
38. **Passive Gear or Device:** lines, nets, or other fishing gears that are set and left unattended for a period of time with the intention of capturing fish.
39. **Possess:** in its different tenses, the act of having in possession or control, keeping, detaining, restraining or holding as owner, or as agent, bailee or custodian for another. When possession of fish or other wildlife is prohibited, reference is made equally to such fish or other wildlife coming from without the state as to those taken within the state.
40. **Recreational Purposes:** a purpose other than deriving or attempting to derive an income of any kind from the harvest of fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament.
41. **Reptiles and Amphibians:** native frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.
42. **Saltwater Fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
43. **Saltwater Game Fish:** see "Game Fish" definition.
44. **Saltwater Recreational Fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
45. **Shellfish:** an aquatic invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans.
46. **Slat Trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular, or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least 1 inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than 6 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone-shaped throats, flues or entrances.
47. **Slot Limit (SL):** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
48. **Snagging:** a method of hooking fish without the fish taking the bait with their mouth. The angler jerks the fishing line out of the water as soon as any movement is felt on the line.
49. **Stupefying Substances or Devices:** explosives or chemicals or comparable destructive fishing practices as a capture technique.
50. **Take:** in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing, netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding or killing by any means or device.
51. **Test Trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the headline or headrope.
52. **Total Length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
53. **Transport:** in its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying or exporting by air, land or water, or by any means whatsoever.
54. **Trawl:** any net, generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, and that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam, and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is under way. Trawls are only allowed to be used in state waters when and where the shrimp season is open.
55. **Trigger:** any tension-loaded device that contains several feet of line and a hook or hooks, which is baited and set, and which automatically hooks and plays a fish.
56. **Turtle Trap:** any device designed to attract and/or capture turtles in aquatic habitats. It must be open above water to allow respiration of air-breathing animals and clearly marked "turtle trap."
57. **Venting Tool:** a device intended to deflate the abdominal cavity of a fish to release the gases so the fish may be released with minimum damage.
58. **Wing Net:** see Lead Net on page 8.
59. **Wire Net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable (cotton, flax, burlap) or synthetic materials (nylon, polypropylene, plastic), with a mesh no less than 1-inch square or 2 inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of 5-inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.
60. **Yo-Yo:** a spring loaded reel with line and a hook that is baited, set, and left in place as a passive gear.

LDWF GET OUT & FISH! COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM

FIND MORE PLACES TO FISH WITH THE LDWF COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM!

In an effort to increase easy access to fishing, LDWF is partnering with local government or community organizations to stock adult size channel catfish or rainbow trout in community ponds throughout the state.

For Get Out & Fish! locations and stocking information visit: *www.wlf.la.gov/gof* or email us at GOF@wlf.la.gov

Find us on Social Media

LDWFGetOutandFish

LDWF FISHERIES CONTACT INFORMATION

FRESHWATER OFFICES

Minden	318-371-3050
Monroe	318-343-4044
Pineville	318-487-5885
Lake Charles	337-491-2219
Lafayette	337-262-2080
Baton Rouge	225-765-2337
Lacombe	985-882-5228
Natchitoches	318-357-3214

SALTWATER OFFICES

Lacombe	985-882-0027
Grand Isle	985-787-2163
New Orleans	504-284-2030
Bourg	985-594-4139
Lafayette	337-262-2080
Lake Charles	337-491-2579

LICENSING / BOAT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

225-765-2887 or 225-765-2898

For specific information on boat registration, please visit

www.wlf.la.gov/boat-registration-boat-and-motor-titles

LDWF ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Have a specific question that you don't see answered here?
Call an Enforcement Office to speak with someone directly.

Baton Rouge	225-765-2999
Lafayette	337-262-2080
Lake Charles	337-491-2580
Minden	318-371-3049
Monroe	318-343-2417
New Orleans	504-284-2023
Pineville	318-487-5634
Thibodaux	985-447-0821

SALE OF RECREATIONAL FISH PROHIBITED
All aquatic species caught must be for personal use only and are not to be sold or used for commercial purposes.
It is illegal to buy, sell or trade any game fish.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FRESHWATER & SALTWATER ANGLERS

Louisiana is known around the world as a premier sport fishing destination. The Office of Fisheries uses scientific management methods to protect and enhance fish environments, habitats and other populations of aquatic species. As an angler, the decisions you make and your catch help us sustain the fisheries for present and future generations.

BEST FISHING PRACTICES

For detailed information about best fishing practices, please visit *www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices.* Information includes:

- Special tools or equipment requirements for certain species
- Appropriate gear needed for fishing
- Proper fish handling techniques
- How to measure a fish diagram
- Signs of barotrauma in fish and how to reverse it

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Want to check the weather and river stages before you leave on your next fishing trip? Call the National Weather Service's Dial A Forecast for regularly updated marine forecasts.

Also stay tuned to the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) for up to the minute broadcasts.

Shreveport: 318-635-7575 or *www.weather.gov/shv*

Lake Charles: 337-439-0000 or *www.weather.gov/lch*

New Orleans: 504-522-7330 or *www.weather.gov/lix*

SALTWATER - FRESHWATER LINE

The saltwater-freshwater line in Louisiana extends easterly from the Texas state line all the way to the Mississippi state line. The areas north of this saltwater-freshwater line are deemed freshwater. The areas south of the described line, including a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, are legally considered saltwater. Although the actual levels of salt in the water may differ from day to day due to tides and shifts in wind and currents, in most cases, the flora and fauna found on either side of the line differ dramatically. A detailed description of the saltwater-freshwater line can be found below. As with any regulation issue, please contact your local LDWF Enforcement Office with any questions you may have (*see page 10*).

NOTE: *Persons fishing and/or possessing saltwater fish in these areas are required to have a saltwater fishing license in addition to the basic fishing license. Persons fishing for and/or possessing freshwater fish in saltwater areas are not required to hold a saltwater license.*

LOUISIANA SALTWATER LINE DEFINITION

The Intracoastal waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, south along Louisiana Highway 82, east to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.

All the areas south of the saltwater line described above, plus the saltwater lakes known as Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except that 7/10 of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intracoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, Intracoastal, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

No fish of any species from outside of the state of Louisiana shall be liberated within the state except upon written permission of the Secretary of LDWF.

FRESHWATER FISHING IN LOUISIANA

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All anglers fishing in freshwater must possess a valid Basic Recreational Fishing License.

A **Basic Recreational Fishing License** is also required to use the following gear:

- Bow and arrow
- Barbed or barbless spear
- Frog gig/catcher
- Scuba gear
- Hook and Line
- Cast net (radius not to exceed 8 feet, 6 inches)
- Hoop nets
- Slat traps
- Wire nets
- Minnow/bream traps
- Hand-grabbing

All applicable licenses must be in possession of the fisherman.

FRESHWATER SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

The federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species listed below are off limits for recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species.

- Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel (*Margaritifera hembeli*)
- Inflated Heelsplitter Mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*)
- Fat Pocketbook Mussel (*Potamilus capax*)
- Pink Mucket Mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*)
- Rabbitsfoot Mussel (*Theliderma cylindrica*)
- Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*)
- Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
- Shovelnose Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platorynchus*)

PROHIBITED FRESHWATER SPECIES

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to possess, sell, or transport any of the following species of fish into Louisiana without first obtaining the written permission of the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

- All species of tilapia
- Carp (except koi, common carp and goldfish)
- Freshwater electric eel
- Rudd
- All members of the families of Asian swamp eels, snakeheads, walking catfishes, and pencil catfishes

Exotic species of Asian carp (silver, bighead, black and grass) taken from state waters must not be returned to the water alive and may not be possessed alive.

No person shall have in possession or sell in this state a piranha, Rio Grande cichlid or apple snail. If an angler catches a Rio Grande cichlid using legal methods, the fish shall not be returned to the water or kept alive while in the possession of the angler.

AQUATIC PLANTS

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to possess, import, or transport any of the following species of aquatic plants into Louisiana without first obtaining the written permission of the secretary of LDWF.

- African Elodea
- Aquatic Soda Apple
- Asian Marshweed
- Australian Pine
- Brazilian Elodea
- Crested Floating Heart
- Duck Lettuce
- Elodea
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- False Pickerelweeds
- Giant Duckweed
- Giant Sensitive Fern
- Hydrilla
- Indian Swampweed
- Kapok Tree
- Marine Naiad and Slender Naiad
- Paragrass
- Purple Loosestrife
- Roundleaf Toothcup
- Salvinia species
- Torpedograss
- Water Chestnut
- Water Clovers
- Water Hyacinth
- Water Lettuce
- Water Snowflake
- Water Spinach
- Yellow Floating Heart

DAILY BAG LIMIT

Recreational anglers must not exceed the daily bag limit for any species while on the water.

POSSESSION LIMIT

No recreational anglers can have in their possession more than twice the daily bag limit of any species of freshwater fish. Exceptions to this rule include

1. Anglers below US Highway 90 in coastal Louisiana, who must also
   a. possess a landing receipt from a public boat landing located south of U.S. Highway 90 that demonstrates the number of consecutive days the fisherman has been on the water or at a remote camp that can only be accessed by water
   b. keep the fish whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each daily take limit, where the bags are marked with the date fish were taken, the species and number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and recreational fishing license number of the person taking the fish; and
   c. possess only his or her fish and shall not transport fish taken by another person back to the boat landing.
2. Anglers at Toledo Bend Reservoir may possess of up to 100 crappie.

All freshwater game fish caught in any type of recreational or commercial net or trap must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken without injury. See tips for safely releasing fish at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices*.

No person shall possess filleted fish while aboard a vessel in freshwater. However, for the purpose of consumption, a person shall have no more than 2 pounds of filleted finfish per person on board a vessel in freshwater, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish and such finfish does not exceed the applicable take limit.

METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING FRESHWATER FISH

There are many ways to catch fish and other aquatic species in Louisiana's beautiful rivers, lakes, bayous, ponds and streams. The headings below define the legal methods and illegal methods of take, and certain exceptions that are allowable by species, methods and locations.

Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions. See page 10 for contact information.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE

- Hook and line
- Bow and arrow
- Yo-yos or trigger devices
- Recreational slat traps
- Recreational crawfish traps (must be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag, and must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire).
- Standard spearing equipment (used by recreational skin divers submerged in water when sport fishing)
- Barbed gig (allowed in saltwater for taking flounder ONLY)
- Recreational hoop nets[1]
- Recreational wire nets[1]
- Hand-grabbing (noodling)[2]
- Bream traps[3]

[1] Allowed only in the geographical areas of the state designated as Freshwater (see map and definition on page 11).
[2] Allowed for catfish
[3] Must be no longer that 24 inches with a throat no greater than 1 by 3 inches

ILLEGAL METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING ALL FISH

It is unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices described below with the intent to take fish.

- Crossbows
- Poisons
- Spears (see garfish, silver carp and bighead carp exception listed in "Gear Restrictions by Species" section)
- Stupefying substances or devices
- Explosives
- Guns
- Any instrument or device capable of producing electric current to shock fish
- Snagging devices (see catfish, silver carp, and big head carp exceptions listed below)

You may not use any aircraft including fixed-wing, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance to assist in harvesting finfish, except menhaden and herring-like fish.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS BY SPECIES

Some alternative methods are allowed for catching/taking specific aquatic species.

FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Game fish are defined as largemouth bass, spotted bass, shadow bass, yellow bass, white bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, black crappie, white crappie, and bream.

LEGAL

- Bream (*Lepomis spp.*) may be taken as bait for sportfishing purposes (non-commercial bait) using a trap not exceeding 24 inches in length and having a throat no larger than 1 inch by 3 inches.

NOT LEGAL

- Standard spearing equipment used by recreational skin divers is prohibited.
- Bow and arrow
- Possession of game fish with nets or traps including recreational hoop nets, slat traps, pipes, buckets, drums, tires or cans including those licensed for recreational purposes.

CATFISH

LEGAL

- Snagging devices
- Hand-grabbing (noodling)

PADDLEFISH (commonly called "spoonbill catfish," but are not catfish)
NOT LEGAL - snagging devices

GARFISH

LEGAL

- Spears
- Bows and arrows

LEGAL BAIT SPECIES

Including minnows, crawfish and shrimp (does not include game fish)

LEGAL

- Cast nets
- Minnow traps
- Recreational trawls
- Dip nets (net must be on a fixed frame no larger than 3 feet in diameter worked exclusively by hand, by no more than one person, without any mechanical assistance)
- Bait seines (with a maximum mesh size not exceeding 1/4 inch bar, 1/2 inch stretched and 30 feet in length; must be operated solely on foot and by hand, without any pulley, mechanical device or assistance whatsoever)

SILVER CARP & BIGHEAD CARP

LEGAL

- Boats
- Dip nets
- Spears
- Snagging

RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS BY METHOD

HOOP NETS, WIRE NETS AND SLAT TRAPS

- Must be marked with user's full name and fishing license number on a waterproof tag attached directly to the device

YO-YOS, TRIGGER DEVICES, TROTLINES, LIMB LINES, JUG LINES AND ALL PASSIVE DEVICES CONTAINING A HOOK OR HOOKS

- No more than 50 yo-yos, trigger devices, limb lines, or floating devices containing a hook or hooks are allowed per person
- At any given time, no person shall set more than 150 hooks on all trotlines, combined.
- All passive hooked gear shall be clearly tagged with the name and telephone number, and fishing license number of the owner or user. Information must be attached with a waterproof tag or written directly on the device in indelible ink.
- Each hook shall be rebaited at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught, entangled, ensnared or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device.
- Except for those devices that are attached to a privately owned pier, boathouse, seawall or dock, gear must be removed from the waterbody immediately by the owner or user when not in use.

- Where allowed and when not in use, objects sourced from another location used to anchor passive hooked gear which are driven into or attached to the lake bottom, a stump, tree, or the shoreline must be removed from the waterbody along with the passive devices by the user.
- No driven or attached objects used to attach passive hooked gear shall be larger than 2 inches by 2 inches or two inches in diameter.
- No metal object which is driven into or attached to the lake bottom, a stump, tree, or the shoreline shall be used to anchor a passive hooked gear, except for a metal object used strictly in the construction of a pier, boathouse, seawall, dock or a retrievable anchor not attached to the bottom.
- All trotlines shall have a cotton leader on each end of the trotline.

DIVERS

LEGAL

- Standard spearing equipment is the only legal method of take for non-game species that can be used by a skin diver submerged in water

NOT LEGAL

- The taking of gamefish with standard spearing equipment is prohibited.

MOBILITY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

Mobility impaired persons that are bona fide residents of Louisiana in possession of valid identification, and over 60 years of age, must purchase the applicable license.

RESTRICTIONS BY LOCATION

Some Louisiana waterbodies have specific gear restrictions and are listed below.

TROTLINES AND YO-YOS	
Black Lake, Clear Lake and Prairie Lake (Natchitoches Parish), Caddo Lake (Caddo Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), D'Arbonne Lake (Union Parish), Lake St. Joseph (Tensas Parish), and Lake Bruin, including the portion known as Brushy Lake (Tensas Parish)	Except for an object used strictly in the construction of a pier, boathouse, seawall, or dock, no object which is driven into the lake bottom, a stump, tree, or the shoreline shall be used to anchor a yo-yo or trigger device.
Poverty Point Lake and Bussey Brake Reservoir	No trotlines or yo-yos.
NETS	
Anacoco Lake, Lake Vernon and the portion of Anacoco Bayou between the lakes, Lake Bistineau, Bundick Lake, Caney Creek Reservoir, Cross Lake, and Chicot Lake	No fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets or trammel nets.
Lake Bartholomew, Caddo Lake, Lake Claiborne, Lake Concordia, and D'Arbonne Lake	No fish seines, gill nets or trammel nets.
Bogue Chitto River	• No seines, nets or webbing in the Bogue Chitto River from where it enters the state in northern Washington Parish to where it enters the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish. • No hand grabbing to take fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums or natural or artificial nesting areas.
Lake Charles, Moss Lake, and Prien Lake	No butterfly nets or shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet, fish seines, gill nets, strike nets or trammel nets.
Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir	• No fish seines, gill nets or trammel nets. • No hoop nets, slat traps or wire nets from March 1 - Oct. 31.
False River Lake, Lake Bruin, Lake Providence, and Poverty Point Lake	You may only use gill and trammel nets from Oct. 1 through sunset on the last day of February of the following year. Net mesh must be at least 3.5 inches square (7 inches stretched). You may leave gear overnight but may only remove fish during daylight hours.
Fool River	No fish seines.
John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir	No fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, trammel nets or wire nets.
Lacassine Bayou	No gill nets, hoop nets or trammel nets from March 1 - Nov. 30 (in the portion that flows through Lacassine National Refuge).
Nantachie Lake and Bussey Brake Reservoir	No nets allowed.
Tchefuncte River	No seines, nets or webbing in this river or its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish.
Toledo Bend Reservoir	No gill nets, trammel nets, flag webbing or fish seines. No hoop nets from March 1 to May 15 (only in that portion of the reservoir from a point north of Logansport where the lake enters Texas and south to a point on the lake where the Texas Duck Refuge Canal intersects the Old Channel of the Sabine River).
TRAPS	
Lake Bruin	Slat traps are allowed from Oct. 1 through sunset on the last day of February of the following year. You may leave gear overnight but may only remove fish during daylight hours.
Poverty Point Lake	No slat traps.
Tchefuncte River	No traps in this river or its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish.

FRESHWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

MLL - Minimum Length Limit **SL** - Slot Limit
Possession Limit is TWICE the daily creel limit unless otherwise stated.[4]

FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Largemouth Bass

Spotted Bass

BLACK BASS (Largemouth & Spotted)[1]

Location	Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	None	10 daily
Eagle Lake	16" MLL	10 daily
Poverty Point Reservoir	15-19" protected SL[2]	8 daily No more than one over 19" total length
False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)	14" MLL	5 daily
John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish)	14-17" protected SL[2]	8 daily No more than four over 17" total length
Caddo Lake	14-18" protected SL[2] for Largemouth Bass No length restriction for Spotted Bass	8 daily No more than four Largemouth Bass over 18" total length
Toledo Bend Reservoir and the Sabine River[3] above Toledo Bend	14" MLL for Largemouth Bass No MLL for Spotted Bass	8 daily in combination or aggregate
Sabine River from Toledo Bend dam to I-10	12" MLL for Largemouth Bass No MLL for Spotted Bass	8 daily in combination or aggregate
Sabine River south of I-10 (Louisiana waters only)	Statewide regulations apply	10 daily
Bussey Brake	16" maximum total length limit, EXCEPT one fish over 16 inches may be kept	5 daily, in the aggregate 5 fish while on water and 10 fish while off water possession limit, in the aggregate

[1] *NOTE: For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass is defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on the tongue.*
[2] *Fish falling within a protected slot limit must be immediately released.*
[3] *Sabine River upstream from Toledo Bend Reservoir to the point at which the entire river enters TX (state line is marked with a sign).*
[4] *Anglers may have up to three times the daily bag limit of black bass (Micropterus spp.) below U.S. Highway 90 in coastal Louisiana providing the fish are kept whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each daily take limit. The bags must be marked with the date fish were taken, the species and number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and recreational fishing license number of the person taking the fish.*

FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Location	Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit
STRIPED OR HYBRID STRIPED BASS (or any combination thereof)		
All state waters	None	5 daily No more than two over 30" total length
WHITE BASS		
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	None	50 daily
Caddo Lake, Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir	None	25 daily
CRAPPIE		
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	None	50 daily; 100 fish possession limit
Poverty Point, Caddo Lake and Sabine River	None	25 daily; 50 fish possession limit
Toledo Bend Reservoir	None	25 daily; 100 fish possession limit
Eagle Lake (Madison Parish)	11" MLL	30 daily; 30 fish possession limit
Bussey Brake	10" MLL	25 daily, in the aggregate 25 fish while on water and 50 fish while off water possession limit, in the aggregate
D'Arbonne Lake		50 daily, in the aggregate, of which no more than 7 may exceed 12" in length; 50 fish while on water and 100 fish while off water possession limit, in the aggregate

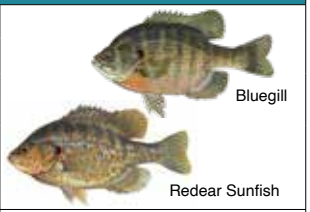
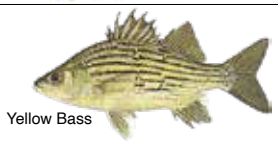
Striped Bass

White Bass

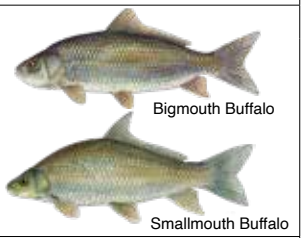
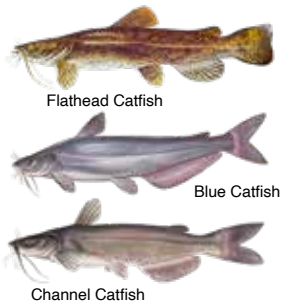
Black Crappie

White Crappie

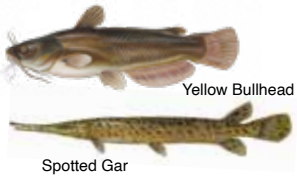
FRESHWATER GAME FISH CONTINUED

Location	Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit	
SUNFISH (Bream)			 Bluegill Redear Sunfish
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	None	None	
Bussey Brake	None	50 daily, in the aggregate 50 fish while on the water and 100 fish while off the water possession limit, in the aggregate	
YELLOW BASS			 Yellow Bass
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	None	50 daily	
Caddo Lake, Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir	None	No limit	

FRESHWATER NONGAME FISH

Location	Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit	
BOWFIN (Choupique)			Bowfin
All state waters	16″ MLL	No limit	
BUFFALO FISH (or their hybrids)			 Bigmouth Buffalo Smallmouth Buffalo
All state waters	16″ MLL	25 daily	
CATFISH			 Flathead Catfish Blue Catfish Channel Catfish
All state waters EXCEPT as follows:	**Blue Catfish:** 12″ MLL	100 daily in the aggregate. A fisherman may possess up to 25 undersized catfish of the three species combined.	
	Channel Catfish: 11″ MLL		
	Flathead Catfish: 14″ MLL		
Caddo Lake, Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir	**Blue & Channel Catfish:** None	50 daily in the aggregate No more than five over 30″ total length	
	Flathead Catfish: 18″ MLL	10 daily	
FRESHWATER DRUM (Gaspergou)			Freshwater Drum
All state waters	12″ MLL	25 daily	
PADDLEFISH			Paddlefish
Statewide	30″ max lower jaw fork length	2 daily (fish cannot be retained alive & cannot be harvested by snagging methods)	
Boundary waters with Texas and below the saltwater line	no legal harvest or possession		
SHAD			Gizzard Shad
All state waters	None	50 pounds daily	
STURGEON			Sturgeon
All state waters	N/A	**No legal harvest or possession**	

OTHER FRESHWATER FISH

Location	Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit	
All state waters	None	No limit	 Yellow Bullhead Spotted Gar

CRAWFISH

All state waters	None	150 pounds daily	

Yellow Bass: Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Gizzard Shad: NOAA; All other images by Duane Raver

SALTWATER FISHING IN LOUISIANA

STATE AND FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

STATE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Basic Fishing License**
2. **Saltwater Fishing License**
3. A **Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP)**, free of charge, is required of all anglers to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, hinds, snappers, dolphinfish, wahoo, cobia and gray triggerfish, EXCEPT those anglers on a paid for-hire trip where the captain possesses a valid Charter Recreational Offshore Landing Permit, or those anglers that are under the age of 18, not normally required to have a fishing license.
   - The Recreational Offshore Landing Permit can be found on the LDWF website at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/rolp.*

All applicable licenses must be in possession of the fisherman.

FEDERAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

1. An **Atlantic HMS Angling Permit** is required for vessels fishing for tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks. You may apply for an initial or renewal permit in one of several ways. The permit fee is $20.
   - To apply for an initial or renewal permit online visit the NMFS Permit Shop at *hmspermits.noaa.gov.*
   - An initial or renewal application package can be downloaded from the NMFS Permit Shop or mailed by calling the NMFS at 888-872-8862.
   - Renew permits by calling the automated voice response system at 888-872-8862. Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2023.
   - A shark endorsement is required when targeting or possessing sharks under this permit. See *hmspermits.noaa.gov* for more details.
2. An **Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permit** is required for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico The permit fee is $20. HMS Charter/Headboat Permit will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2023.

Information about obtaining HMS permits and regulations are available at *hmspermits.noaa.gov* or by calling 888-872-8862.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The National Marine Fisheries Service has a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Weather Service to broadcast unanticipated and time-critical fishery regulatory actions where there is minimal opportunity for advance public notice. These broadcasts are issued for four or five days, 24 hours a day, by selected NWR coastal stations. (VHF frequencies in MHz)

- 162.400
- 162.525
- 162.550
- 162.425
- 162.450
- 162.475

SALTWATER SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED AND PROHIBITED SPECIES

The federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species listed below are off limits for fishing or recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species. If any of these protected species are incidentally caught, they must be released immediately unharmed. For information on safely releasing fish, visit *www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices*.

- All Whales
- Dolphin (mammal)
- Goliath Grouper
- Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*)
- Largetooth Sawfish
- Nassau Grouper
- Sea Turtles
- Smalltooth Sawfish
- West Indian Manatee

SHARKS

- Atlantic Angel Shark
- Basking Shark
- Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark
- Bigeye Sixgill Shark
- Bigeye Thresher Shark
- Bignose Shark
- Caribbean Reef Shark
- Caribbean Sharpnose Shark
- Dusky Shark
- Galapagos Shark
- Longfin Mako Shark
- Narrowtooth Shark
- Night Shark
- Sand Tiger Shark
- Sevengill Shark
- Sixgill Shark
- Smalltail Shark
- Whale Shark
- White Shark

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages federal waters from where the Louisiana gulfward boundary ends and extends 200 miles seaward into the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana recreational and commercial anglers fishing beyond the 3 nautical-mile Louisiana gulfward boundary are in federal waters.

***NOTE:** The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a resolution to clarify the effects of the extension of the state water boundary from three to nine nautical miles for reef fish management purposes, as established by the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The resolution clearly states that fishing gear used by the reef fish fishermen in the commercial and recreational sectors will not change within these new boundary waters. The fishermen of Louisiana will have the benefit of Louisiana's reef fish management to 9 nautical miles, but there will be no change to the method of take or gear restrictions. Please also note that red drum are not considered reef fish; therefore, there is no change to regulations impacting this species.*

LDWF reminds charter fishermen with federal reef fish permits that they are only allowed to fish these new boundary waters when the federal recreational reef fish season is open. Federal reef fish permit regulations restrict the permit holder to the most restrictive season.

These waters are also known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Federal fishing regulations are not always the same as state fishing regulations. To make sure that you are in complete compliance with federal regulations call the Gulf Council at 888-833-1844, or e-mail gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Visit *www.gulfcouncil.org* for information about federal fishing regulations, measurement guidelines, sanctuaries & closures and fish identification charts.

RECREATIONAL SALTWATER TOURNAMENT OPERATORS

Federal regulations require any person conducting a fishing tournament in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico involving the catch and/or landing of any HMS regulated species to register with the HMS Management Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service at least four weeks prior to start of the tournament. A Tournament Registration Form and more information is available on the NMFS website at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/tournaments/registration.html.*

To register a tournament, an Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Atlantic HMS Management Division by mail or fax.
Fax: 727-824-5398

Mailing Address:
HMS Tournament Registration
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Once the registration form has been processed an Atlantic HMS Tournament Confirmation Number will be produced and provided to the tournament operator.

NOTE: Registration is not complete unless the tournament operator has received a confirmation number from the HMS Management Division of NMFS. For more information call 727-824-5399; *hmspermits.noaa.gov.*

METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING SALTWATER FISH

There are many ways to catch fish and other aquatic species in Louisiana's beautiful coastal waters. The headings below define the legal methods and illegal methods of take, plus certain exceptions that are allowed by species, methods and locations.

Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

LEGAL METHODS

Some species of gamefish may not be taken with the gear listed below.

- Hook and Line
- Trolling Line
- Handline
- Bait Casting
- Yo-yos or Trigger Devices
- Bow and Arrow
- Dip Nets
- Fly Casting Apparatus
- Recreational Crawfish Traps (must be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag, and must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire)
- Standard Spearing Equipment (used by a skin diver sport fishing in saltwater or freshwater when submerged in the water)
- Barbless Spear or Multi-pronged Barbed Gig (may be used in saltwater for taking flounder ONLY)

EXCEPTIONS TO METHODS OF TAKE BY SPECIES

An alternative method is allowed for taking red drum. Harvest of any other saltwater species by this method is prohibited.

RED DRUM

LEGAL

- Bow and Arrows
- Standard Spearing Equipment used by a skin diver submerged in water when sport fishing

SALTWATER RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS BY METHOD

SKIN DIVERS

With the exception of freshwater game fish, the only legal method for a skin diver to take fish is when submerged in water using standard spearing equipment. See page 8 for definition of game fish.

MOBILITY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

Mobility impaired persons that are bona fide residents of Louisiana in possession of valid identification, and over 60 years of age, must purchase the applicable license.

ILLEGAL METHODS FOR FISHING OR TAKING ALL FISH

It is unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices described below with the intent to take fish.

- Crossbows
- Gill Nets (freshwater and saltwater)
- Spears
- Poisons
- Stupefying Substances or Devices
- Explosives
- Guns
- Tree-topping Devices
- Any instrument or device capable of producing electric current to shock fish
- Snagging Devices

You may not use any aircraft including fixed-wing, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance to assist in harvesting finfish, except menhaden and herring-like fish.

LEGAL BAIT SPECIES

INCLUDING MINNOWS, CRAWFISH AND SHRIMP (not including game fish)

LEGAL

- Cast nets
- Minnow traps
- Dip Nets(net must be on a fixed frame no larger than 3 feet in diameter worked exclusively by hand, by no more than one person, without any mechanical assistance)
- Bait Seines (a maximum mesh size not exceeding 1/4-inch bar, 1/2 inch stretched and 30 feet in length; must be operated solely on foot and by hand, without any pulley, mechanical device or assistance whatsoever)
- Recreational Trawls, only allowed in state waters when and where shrimp season is open (*see Recreational Shrimping on page 25*).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BRINGING YOUR SALTWATER CATCH TO SHORE

All saltwater finfish in the possession of a recreational angler must have the head and caudal fin intact until set on shore. Garfish may have the head and caudal fin removed prior to the fish being on shore as long as a sufficient patch of skin that clearly identifies the fish remains on the fish.

EXCEPTION: Tuna, swordfish and shark possessed by a recreational angler must not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore. Tuna that meet minimum size requirements may have the head removed if the carcass length is in excess of the minimum total length. **For more information on Lengths, visit *www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices*.**

Fillets may not be possessed on the water, except for the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the harvesting vessel. An individual must not have more than 2 pounds of finfish parts per person in state waters, or more than 1.5 pounds of finfish parts per person in federal waters, on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook finfish and that the finfish does not exceed applicable bag limits. These provisions do not apply to bait species.

Saltwater finfish caught or transported by a recreational fisherman are presumed to have been caught in Louisiana waters, for license requirements.

All regulations regarding these species apply whether caught in freshwater or saltwater areas.

FILLETS EXCEPTION:

A fisherman who holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can demonstrate to the department's satisfaction use of a boat launch located south of U.S. Hwy 90 and that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more may possess up to the possession limit of filleted red drum, spotted seatrout, and southern flounder. The filleted fish shall have sufficient skin remaining on the fillet to allow for identification of the species and shall be segregated by species into plastic bags or plastic containers that are marked by species to allow for easy identification, the date caught, and the name and license number of the person who took the fish. The spotted seatrout fillets shall be no less than 10 inches in length and the red drum fillets shall be no less than 14 inches in length. The fish shall be in possession only of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

REQUIRED ONBOARD GEAR FOR FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

Louisiana state waters extend 9 nautical miles (10.357 statute miles or 3 marine leagues) seaward from the nearest land, but in some cases extend further. The EEZ is described as waters that extend seaward from that point out to 200 miles from the coast.

Recreational anglers onboard a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ must possess onboard and use the required gear as specified below. These devices are required because they reduce mortality on released fish. For more information on safely releasing fish, visit *www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices*.

NON-STAINLESS STEEL CIRCLE HOOKS

Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish.

DEHOOKING DEVICE

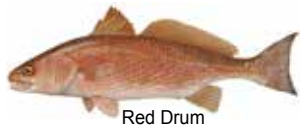
At least one dehooking device is required on board and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage. The device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without reengaging during the removal process. The dehooking end must be blunt and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fishery.

DESCENDING DEVICE OR VENTING TOOL

A descending device or venting tool that is rigged and ready for use, while fishing is occurring for Gulf reef fish in the Gulf EEZ, is required. This requirement is effective until Jan. 14, 2026.

Unless otherwise established, there are no size limits on species not listed and unless otherwise noted, possession limits for saltwater fish are the same as the daily bag limit.

SALTWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

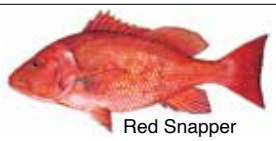
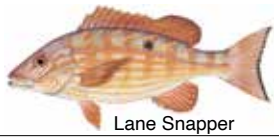
COMMON COASTAL SPECIES		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
COBIA[14] (Ling or Lemonfish)		Cobia
36″ min fork length	2 daily per person	
DRUM		Black Drum  Red Drum
16″ min total length 27″ max total length	**BLACK DRUM:** 5 daily per person - bag and possession No more than one over 27″ max total length	
	RED DRUM (Redfish)[1]: 5 daily per person - bag[2] No more than one over 27″ max total length	
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER		Southern Flounder
No Size Limit	10 daily per person **No possession allowed from Oct. 15 - Nov. 30**	
MACKEREL		King Mackerel Spanish Mackerel
KING MACKEREL[3]: 24″ min fork length	3 daily per person	
SPANISH MACKEREL[3]: 12″ min fork length	15 daily per person	
STRIPED MULLET		Striped Mullet
No Size Limit	100 lbs. daily	
SPOTTED SEATROUT[4] (Speckled Trout)		Spotted Seatrout
12″ min total length	25 daily per person - bag[2]; 15 daily per person with no more than two over 25″ (in specified areas)	
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES[5]		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
MARLIN[14]		Blue Marlin White Marlin
BLUE MARLIN: 99″ min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	
WHITE MARLIN: 66″ min lower jaw fork length		
SAILFISH[14]		Sailfish
63″ min lower jaw fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	

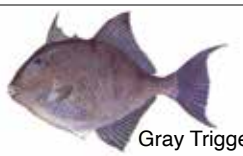
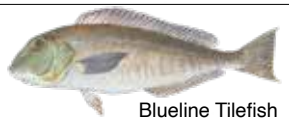
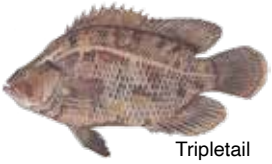
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES[5]

Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
SHARK[6]		Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE & BONNETHEAD SHARK[6]: None	1 daily per person - possession. All shark harvest prohibited from April 1 - June 30	Blacktip Shark
SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK[6]: Males: 71″ min fork length Females: 83″ min fork length	1 in aggregate per vessel per trip - possession. No silky or sandbar sharks. No prohibited species. All shark harvest prohibited from April 1 - June 30. (See complete list of Prohibited Sharks on page 23)	Shortfin Mako Shark
OTHER SHARKS (EXCEPT Prohibited silky and sandbar)[6]: 54″ min fork length		
SWORDFISH[7,14]		Swordfish
29″ min carcass length or 33 lbs. min dressed weight	Not more than 5 per vessel per trip	
TUNA[8,14]		Bluefin Tuna
BLUEFIN TUNA[8]: 73″ min curved fork length	1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season	
BIGEYE TUNA[8]: 27″ min curved fork length	No Bag or Possession Limit	Bigeye Tuna
YELLOWFIN TUNA[8]: 27″ min curved fork length	3 daily per person	Yellowfin Tuna

REEF FISH[3]

NOTE:
- ***Species within the 20 fish aggregate bag limit are Vermilion Snapper, Lane Snapper, Almaco Jack, Gray Triggerfish, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, and Blueline Tilefish.***
- ***Species within the 10 fish aggregate bag limit are all snappers (Gray, Mutton, Yellowtail, Cubera, Queen, Blackfin, Silk and Wenchman) except Red, Vermilion and Lane.***

Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit	
GROUPER[9,10,14]		Gag Grouper
BLACK & GAG[9]: 24″ min total length	4 daily in aggregate No more than 1 speckled hind and 1 Warsaw grouper per vessel, not more than 2 red grouper per person, and not more than 2 gag per person included in the bag limit	
RED & YELLOWFIN[9]: 20″ min total length		
SCAMP[9]: 16″ min total length		
GOLIATH & NASSAU: Take Prohibited	Take/Possession Prohibited	
SNAPPER[14]		 Red Snapper
RED[10,11]: 16″ min total length	2 daily per person[10 & 11]	
MUTTON: 18″ min total length	10 daily per person in aggregate with no more than 5 mutton snapper[3*]	
QUEEN, BLACKFIN, SILK & WENCHMAN: None		
CUBERA, GRAY (mangrove) & YELLOWTAIL: 12″ min total length		Gray Snapper
LANE: 8″ min total length	20 daily per person in aggregate, with no more than 1 gray triggerfish and not more than 10 vermilion snapper per person included in the bag limit[3*]	
VERMILION: 10″ min total length		 Lane Snapper

REEF FISH AND OTHER[3]		
Size Limit	**Bag & Possession Limit**	
ALMACO JACK		Almaco Jack
No Size Limit	20 daily per person in aggregate*	
GRAY TRIGGERFISH[12]		 Gray Triggerfish
15″ min fork length	1 daily per person in aggregate[3]*	
TILEFISH (Goldface & Blueline)		 Blueline Tilefish
No Size Limit	20 daily per person in aggregate*	
AMBERJACK[13]		Greater Amberjack
GREATER[10,13]: 34″ min fork length	1 daily per person[3]	
LESSER & BANDED RUDDERFISH[13]: 14-22″ fork length slot limit	5 daily per person in aggregate	
HOGFISH		Hogfish
14″ min fork length	5 daily per person	
TRIPLETAIL		 Tripletail
18″ min total length	5 daily per person	

Images by Duane Raver

EXPLANATION OF SALTWATER CREEL & SIZE LIMITS

[1]RED DRUM (REDFISH) AND SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

Recreational saltwater anglers may possess a two days' bag limit on land; however, no person shall be in possession of fish over the daily bag limit in any one day or while fishing or while on the water, unless that recreational saltwater angler is aboard a trawler engaged in commercial fishing for a consecutive period of longer than 25 hours. Take or possession of red drum in federal waters is prohibited.

The possession limit for red drum and spotted seatrout taken south of U.S. Hwy 90 shall be three times the daily take limit when the fisherman holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can show a landing receipt from a public boat launch located south of U.S. Hwy 90 that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The fish shall be kept whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each species of fish. The bags shall be marked with the date the fish were taken, the species, the number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and license number of the person taking the fish. The fish shall only be in the possession of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

[2]OFF-WATER BAG LIMIT

Two days' bag limit allowed in possession off of the water, not while fishing or in a boat **EXCEPT** as mentioned above in relation to south of U.S. Hwy 90.

[3]CHARTER VESSELS & HEADBOATS

Two-day limit allowed in possession only on charter vessels and headboats on multi day trips, if the vessels have two licensed operators, as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips more than 12 hours, and if each angler has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel verifying the length of the trip.

[4]SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

12-inch minimum total length, 25 fish per person daily bag limit. EXCEPT: 15 fish daily bag and possession limit, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length, regardless of where taken in a defined area of Cameron and Calcasieu parishes located in southwestern Louisiana. The defined area, including coastal territorial waters, is as follows: south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove, then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea. Under the authority of the provisions of R. S. 56:325.1(A), the daily bag and possession limit shall be 15 fish, regardless of where taken, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length. Those spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches in length shall be considered as part of the daily recreational bag and possession limit.

[5]HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

An **HMS Permit** is required for all owners/operator of vessels in the Gulf of Mexico fishing for and/or retaining the HMS regulated species of tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks. The Atlantic HMS Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2023. The permit fee is $20. **NOTE: This permit requires the reporting of all recreationally caught swordfish, billfish, and bluefin tuna within 24 hours of landing that species, please see *hmspermits.noaa.gov/catchReports* for more details.**

An **Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permit** is required for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The HMS Charter/Headboat Permit will be valid from the date of issuance through Dec. 31, 2023. The permit fee is $20.

For information about contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Permitting Office at 1-888-872-8862 or 727-824-5399 or visit the NMFS Permit Shop at *hmspermits.noaa.gov.* For complete HMS regulations, contact the HMS Management Division at 301-713-2347 or visit the website at *www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species*. See page 17 for a complete listing of Highly Migratory Species contact information.

[6]SHARKS

Other seasons and rules may be currently in place in Federal waters off Louisiana, please check those rules at *www.fisheries.noaa.gov/rules-and-regulations.*

CLOSED SEASON

All Louisiana state waters seaward to the gulfward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the recreational and commercial harvest and possession of all sharks between April 1 and June 30 of each year.

SMALL COASTAL SHARKS

Atlantic sharpnose shark; bonnethead shark; blacknose shark; finetooth shark

LARGE COASTAL SHARKS

Blacktip shark; nurse shark; smooth hammerhead; bull shark; sandbar shark*; spinner shark; great hammerhead; scalloped hammerhead; tiger shark; lemon shark; silky shark*

***NOTE:** Recreational harvest of sandbar and silky sharks (ridgeback sharks) is not allowed.

PELAGIC SHARKS

Blue shark; porbeagle shark; thresher shark; oceanic whitetip shark; shortfin mako

NOTE: A person subject to a bag limit shall not possess at any time, regardless of the number of trips or the duration of a trip, any shark in excess of the bag limits listed under Highly Migratory Species on Saltwater Creel and Size Limits chart (*page 20*). The practice of "finning," that is, removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea, is prohibited within and without Louisiana waters. Notwithstanding other provisions of this part, a person may fish for, but not retain, white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) with rod and reel only under a catch-and-release program, provided the person releases and returns such fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury (For *tips on safely releasing fish, visit www.wlf.la.gov/page/best-fishing-practices*).

PROHIBITED SHARKS

The following is a list of shark species that are prohibited: Atlantic angel shark, sand tiger shark, dusky shark, bigeye sand tiger shark, sixgill shark, largetooth sawfish, bigeye thresher shark, smalltooth sawfish, narrowtooth shark, Caribbean reef shark, white shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, basking shark, sevengill shark, Galapagos shark, bigeye sixgill shark, smalltail shark, longfin mako, bignose shark, whale shark and night shark. No sandbar or silky sharks may be retained under a recreational bag limit.

[7]SWORDFISH

Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than five swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters. **All recreationally harvested swordfish must be reported, see *hmspermits.noaa.gov/catchReports* or call (800) 894-5528.**

[8]TUNA

Anglers fishing for tunas within or outside Louisiana state waters are subject to both state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Federal regulations regarding the recreational harvest of tunas change often, especially for bluefin tuna. Prior to angling for or harvest of tuna, be aware of the most current federal regulations for fishing or harvest, including sizes, bag limits and closed seasons. For updates on tuna quota monitoring and tuna retention limit adjustments, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at 888-872-8862. The "Atlantic Tunas Regulations Brochure" is available at *hmspermits.noaa.gov/library* and announcements of changes may be accessed via the web at *www.fisheries.noaa.gov/rules-and-announcements/notices-and-rules*.

Permanent Louisiana regulations on tuna harvest may be superseded by seasonal changes within the federal regulatory system. See the following websites (*www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/tunas/index.html* and *www.fisheries.noaa.gov/rules-and-announcements/notices-and-rules*) for current federal regulations. State requirements regarding tuna regulations may also be subject to change, please refer to the LDWF website for current information: *www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/saltwater-seasons-limits* and *www.wlf.la.gov/regulations.*

BLUEFIN TUNA

All bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing to NMFS by calling 888-872-8862 or visiting *hmspermits.noaa.gov*. For further information about angling category permits call the NMFS HMS Division at 888-872-8862 or 301-713-2347. Federal quotas and regulations for bluefin tuna can change often, be aware of the most current bluefin tuna regulations and federal seasons by visiting *hmspermits.noaa.gov*.

[9]GROUPER

There is a closed season for the recreational harvest of gag from Jan. 1 through May 31 of each year. A closed season for the recreational harvest of black, red, yellowfin and yellowmouth groupers as well as scamp has also been established from Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year sea-ward of the 20 fathom (120 feet) curve.

Other seasons and rules are currently in place in Federal waters off of Louisiana. Please check those rules at *www.gulfcouncil.org* under "Fishing Regulations."

[10]CHARTER CAPTAIN & CREW

No harvest of red snapper, greater amberjack or grouper of any species is allowed for the captain and crew of vessel under charter (their creel limit/bag limit is zero).

[11]RED SNAPPER

Regulations for the recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters may change frequently. For current red snapper seasons, bag limits, and possession information check the LDWF website at: *www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/recreational-fishing*.

[12]GRAY TRIGGERFISH

There is a closed season for the recreational harvest of gray triggerfish from Jan. 1 through the end of February and from June 1 - July 31 annually.

[13]AMBERJACK

The recreational greater amberjack season is open May 1-31. There is a fixed closed season from June 1 - July 31. The season reopens Aug. 1 - Oct. 31, or until the annual quota is met or projected to be met. For more information, go to *www.wlf.la.gov/news?cat=18* OR *sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/2018/021/index.html.*

[14]RECREATIONAL OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT (ROLP)

Recreational anglers who are 18 years of age or older and charter captains are required to obtain this permit (free of charge) to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, hinds, snappers, dolphinfish, wahoo, cobia and gray triggerfish. Anglers wishing to obtain or renew a permit must register or login at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/rolp rolp.wlf.la.gov*. More details on this program are also available on this site. The requirement for anglers on a for-hire trip to have the permit has been removed; instead, it is required that the charter captain have a valid Charter Recreational Offshore Landing Permit in his/her possession (*see pages 6 & 17 for details*).

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

CAST NET LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. Saltwater Fishing License (required if fishing in the saltwater area as described in 56:322(A)&(B))
3. Only a Hook and Line License is required for anyone taking shrimp using any of the following gear: dip net, landing net, crab net, or minnow trap.

TRAWL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. Saltwater Fishing License
3. **Federal Shrimp Vessel Permit** required for vessels fishing shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (EEZ).

HARVEST AREAS

For management purposes, Louisiana's state waters are divided into inside and outside waters. The "shrimp line" separates these waters. It generally follows the coastline from the Louisiana/Texas state line to the Louisiana/Mississippi state line. Inside waters (landward of the shrimp line) are inshore waters; outside waters (seaward out to three nautical miles) are the territorial seas. Inside waters are further divided by major estuarine basin. The current shrimp line can be found in LAC 76:370 or at *www.wlf.la.gov/amended_shrimp_line*. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (Commission) may amend the shrimp line due to environmental changes. See the latest coordinates at *www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/insideoutside-shrimp-line*.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Commission, and the Louisiana Legislature are responsible for managing the shrimp fishery in inshore waters and the territorial seas. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries are responsible for federal waters.

SEASONS

Trawl, skimmer and butterfly nets cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during the closed shrimp season. Shrimp seasons are flexible and are determined by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations as well as public input. The spring inshore season usually begins in early to mid-May, and may extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins near mid-August and typically extends into December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's outside territorial waters is generally open year round EXCEPT for a closed season in portions of state outside waters, which may be set during the late winter to early spring months, usually beginning in December or January and extending into March or May. The shrimp season in the EEZ is usually open year-round.

NOTE: Restricted areas exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas and may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Check with your local LDWF Office or refer to the WMA and Refuge section of this pamphlet.

SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- No size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season in Louisiana.
- No size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season.

There is a minimum possession of 100 count (whole shrimp per pound) on white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana. This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel.

EXCEPTION: There is no possession count on white shrimp taken or possessed from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December. When more than 50 percent by weight of the shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed shall not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total shrimp taken or possessed.

CAST NETS, DIP NETS AND BAIT SEINES

A recreational fisherman is allowed to use dip nets, bait seines, and cast nets not to exceed 8.5 feet in radius. Recreational fishermen shall not take at any time more than 50 pounds of shrimp per day during closed shrimp season and 100 pounds of shrimp per day during the open season, in the aggregate, per boat or vehicle, regardless of the number of persons thereon. Shrimp taken are to be used for bait or for the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter into commerce. Certain WMAs and state or federal refuges may have different rules. Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

RESTRICTIONS ON NIGHT SHRIMPING

- Night shrimping is prohibited between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise in the following areas: Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche bays, and in Atchafalaya Bay, from the western shore of Vermilion Bay to the western shore of the Atchafalaya River and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island as described by the inside-outside line.
- Trawling at night is prohibited in Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, the Black Lake Bayou System, Grand Bayou, Little Burton's Ditch, Grand Lake, and White Lake.

TRAWLS

Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8-inch bar or 1 and 1/4 inches stretched. In that portion of state inside waters from the western shore of the Atchafalaya River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size must not be less than 3/4-inch bar or 1 and 1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season.

TRAWLING DURING OPEN SEASON AND POSSESSION LIMITS

During the open shrimping seasons trawls 25 feet and less are allowed for recreational purposes.

Recreational shrimpers using trawls 25 feet in length or less are limited to no more than 250 pounds of (heads-on) shrimp per day per boat.

Shrimp taken recreationally may only be used for bait or the fisherman's own consumption and may not be sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter commerce.

Federal Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations require any shrimp trawler in the Gulf Area to have an approved TED installed in each net that is rigged for fishing. However, certain exemptions to these requirements may apply (e.g. vessels without mechanical advantage or power net retrieval, test trawls). A net is rigged for fishing if it is in the water, or if it is shackled, tied, or otherwise connected to any trawl door or board, or to any tow rope, cable, pole or extension, either on board or attached in any manner to the shrimp trawler.

More information concerning federal shrimp vessel permits, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) requirements and exemptions can be obtained by contacting the NOAA Fisheries Service at 727-824-5312 for TEDs or 727- 824-5305 for BRDs or at *www.nmfs.noaa.gov*. Detailed information on TEDs may be found at the following link to the NOAA Fisheries website *www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/teds.html.*

TRAWLING RESTRICTIONS

- No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state is allowed to be left unattended.
- Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1 - Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish; from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Trawls cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during the closed shrimp season.
- No person is allowed to trawl over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place that is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation.
- Trawling is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1.25 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to the eastern shore of South Point, from South Point to North Shore along the railroad bridge west from North Shore to Goose Point.
- Trawling is prohibited between the railroad bridge and Interstate 10 in Lake Pontchartrain.
- Trawls are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Lake Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately 1 mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.
- Trawling is prohibited north of the LA Highway 631 Bridge at Des Allemands, Louisiana, and in Lac Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries.
- Trawling is also prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremort Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremort Point.

RECREATIONAL OYSTERING

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Fishing License
2. Saltwater Fishing License

METHODS OF TAKE

Recreational oyster harvest for home consumption is limited to tonging or gathering by hand.

RESTRICTIONS ON METHODS OF TAKE

- Recreational oyster harvest is allowed only from public oyster areas open for the harvesting of oysters or from private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters from a private lease only with the written permission of the leaseholder. At no time will the act of harvesting oysters be permitted in areas closed to oyster harvest by the Louisiana Department of Health. The culling of oysters (the act of separating undersized oysters or dead shell and returning to the water), must occur over the reefs where harvest occurred.
- The harvest or take of oysters during the period of one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.
- Oysters taken from the reefs of Louisiana for consumption must be landed in Louisiana, except with a valid out-of-state oyster-landing permit and with the fisherman being in compliance with all other rules and regulations.

SEASONS

The LWFC determines the public oyster areas to be opened for oyster fishing by opening and closing the seasons as biological and technical data indicates. The owner of an oyster lease or his/her designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease.

EXCEPTION: Public oyster areas opened by the LWFC and private leases may, however, be closed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) for public health reasons. Information on LDH closed areas is available at *ldh.la.gov*.

SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- All oysters taken from public oyster areas must be 3 inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. Size limits do not apply to oysters taken from private leases.
- Recreational oyster harvesters are limited to two sacks per person per day for personal consumption, except in the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster area where the limit is set at one sack per person per day.
- Possession limits apply to oysters taken from a private lease and public grounds.

LEASES

For information on Oyster Leases visit *www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/oyster-lease-section* or call (504) 284-5279.
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2045 Lakeshore Dr., Ste. 422
New Orleans, LA 70122

RECREATIONAL CRABBING

REQUIRED LICENSES

1. Hook and Line License
   - Allows fishers to use crab nets or crab lines in state waters.
   - A WMA Access Permit and Self-Clearing Permit* is required when on a WMA or state refuge.
2. Basic Fishing License
   - Allows fishers to use crab nets, crab lines, or crab traps within freshwater area of the state.
   - Additionally, a Hook and Line license is not required if using crab nets, crab lines, or crab traps only in the freshwater area.
3. Saltwater Fishing License
   - Allows fishers to use crab nets, crab lines, or crab traps in the saltwater area, as defined in 56:322(A)&(B). There is a limit of 10 traps per licensed fisherman. Crab traps may be prohibited on certain LDWF WMAs and refuges. Consult fishing regulations on WMAs and refuges for more details.

**Self-Clearing Permits can be obtained at all WMA and refuge facilities or can be completed via computer or mobile device (see https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wmas-refuges-and-conservation-areas for more information).*

METHODS OF TAKE

- Blue crabs or stone crabs can be taken with any legal crab trap, crab drop net, trawl, hoop net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net.
- The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with legal mesh sizes. For legal mesh sizes refer to the section about trawls listed under Recreational Shrimping.
- Gear restrictions may exist within certain wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges or other areas.

RESTRICTIONS ON METHODS OF TAKE

- Dredges are not allowed for the intentional taking of crabs.
- No person may possess adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs taken in the berry stage by any means must be returned immediately to the waters.
- No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. Traps must be placed so vessels can safely navigate.
- Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremort Point 1 mile offshore to Blue Point.
- Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.
- The use of crab traps may be prohibited for derelict crab trap removal in 2023 for portions of February and/or March. (**NOTE:** Please check our website for the most recent information).
- As of July 1, 2022 , all escape rings on a crab trap must be no more than one mesh length from a corner.

SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- There is no minimum recreational size limit for blue crabs. The limit is 12 dozen per person, daily and in possession.
- Certain WMAs and state and federal refuges may have different possession limits. Consult a local LDWF or Enforcement Office for specifics (*see WMA and Refuge Regulations on page 31*).
- There is no minimum recreational size limit for stone crabs or stone crab claws.

ABOUT CRAB TRAPS

- A crab trap is a cube-shaped device, constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches on any side, and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than 7 inches into the inside of the trap, with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
- Certain traps advertised by retail outlets as crab/fish/crawfish traps may not be legal. If unsure that the trap you purchased or plan to use is legal, please consult your local Enforcement Agent.
- The baiting, tending, checking or removing of serviceable crab traps in use, the contents of such crab traps or their lines, buoys or markers is prohibited in public waters from one-half hour after legal sunset until one-half hour before legal sunrise.
- Crab traps that are no longer serviceable or no longer in use must be removed by the owner and properly disposed of or stored.
- No person other than the licensee or his/her agent shall intentionally damage or destroy serviceable crab traps or the floats or lines to which they are attached, nor shall they remove the contents thereof.
- Each crab trap shall be marked with a 2-inch stainless steel self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Tags shall be supplied by the fishermen and shall have the recreational fishing license number printed thereon. Crabbers are allowed to use a durable plastic bait box marker as an alternate means of tagging crab taps. Crab traps may be attached to a trotline to which at least one end is attached to a non-floating line and a visible float of at least 6 inches in diameter or 2-gallon volume size. Crab traps located in areas designated as freshwater north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway and west of Louisiana Hwy 70 and those areas located on the eastern side of the Mississippi River and inland from the saltwater line are not required to be marked with a float and float line, unless the trap is placed in a lake. Each crab trap on a trotline shall be registered with LDWF and shall have attached to it a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number. This is the LDWF number located at the top of your license.
- All crab traps are required to be marked with a solid float at least 6 inches in diameter. The float must be attached to the trap with a non-floating line at least 1/4 inch in diameter. West of Louisiana Hwy 70, there is no mark required.
- Each trap shall have a minimum of three escape rings. A minimum of two escape rings shall be located in the upper chamber flush with the baffle. A minimum of one escape ring shall be located in the lower chamber no greater than one mesh length from the trap floor. As of July 1, 2022, all escape rings shall be located no greater than one mesh length from the corners. The minimum sizes of the rings shall be 2-3/8 inches in inside diameter, not including the ring material. The rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of an equal or smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Except from April 1 - June 30 and from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, escape ring openings shall not be obstructed with any material that prevents or hampers exit of crabs. However, the provisions of this shall not apply to any crab trap constructed of wire mesh 2 and 5/16 inches square or greater.
- Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Canal in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal, or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.

RECREATIONAL CRAWFISHING

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Recreational Fishing License (the Crawfish Trap Gear License is included in the Basic Recreational Fishing License.)

EXCEPTIONS

- Only a Hook and Line License is required if harvesting crawfish recreationally with crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines or bait seines.
- A WMA Access Permit is required if fishing for crawfish on an LDWF WMA or refuge.

METHODS OF TAKE

Crawfish may be taken with any legal crawfish trap, crawfish net, hoop net, wire net, handline, bushline, bait seine or dip net. A cast net must not exceed 8.5 feet in radius. Crawfish traps may be prohibited on certain LDWF WMAs and refuges. Consult fishing regulations on WMA's and Refuges for more details.

CRAWFISH TRAP

A crawfish trap is defined as any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding 2 inches, and which is used for the express use of taking crawfish. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow style or cone style with minimum mesh size no smaller than 3/4 inches by 11/16 inches. Traps must have a minimum mesh size of a hexagon of 3/4 by 11/16 of 1 inch from wire to wire not including any coating on the wire.

Crawfish traps must be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag.

CRAWFISH NET

A crawfish net is defined as any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crawfish.

SEASONS

There is no closed season for wild crawfish harvest EXCEPT for some wildlife management areas and state and federal refuges (*see WMAs and Refuges on page 31*).

SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- There is no minimum size for crawfish.
- The bag and possession limit for crawfish is 150 pounds daily per person in state waters.
- No more than 35 traps may be used per person while fishing recreationally for crawfish.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Resident or Non-Resident Fishing License.

METHODS FOR COLLECTING OR CATCHING THESE SPECIES

The regulations listed below apply to all frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, turtles and related species. All reptiles and amphibians caught are for personal (non-commercial) use only. These regulations do not include alligators. For alligator regulations visit *www.wlf.la.gov.* Always check with an LDWF Enforcement Office if you have questions.

ILLEGAL METHODS OF TAKE FOR ALL REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- Removal of nesting or nest-tending animals is prohibited.
- Use of gasoline to flush animals from hiding places is prohibited.
- Natural cover such as stumps and logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals.
- ***Additional illegal methods of take are species specific and are grouped accordingly.***

SPECIES YOU CANNOT HARVEST

- Tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)
- Southern red backed salamander (*Plethodon serratus*)
- Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*)
- Mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*)
- Red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*)

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The following federally listed threatened and endangered, or prohibited species are off limits for recreational take. Civil and criminal penalties may apply for taking the following aquatic species. If any of these protected species are incidentally caught, they must be released unharmed immediately:

- Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)
- Ringed map turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*)
- Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*)
- Eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*)
- Louisiana pinesnake (*Pituophis ruthveni*)
- Black pinesnake (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

WMAs, state refuges and federal lands may have specific regulations regarding open seasons, harvest and gear restrictions. For state or federally regulated areas refer to the "WMAs, Refuges and Federal Lands" section on page 31.

TURTLES

ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES

- No size limit.
- Take is limited to no more than one snapping turtle per day, per person, per vehicle/vessel.

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPINS

- Must measure 6 inches or more carapace length.
- Legal during all months except between the dates of April 15 - June 15.
- ***It is illegal to take this species by a trap of any kind.***

BOX TURTLES

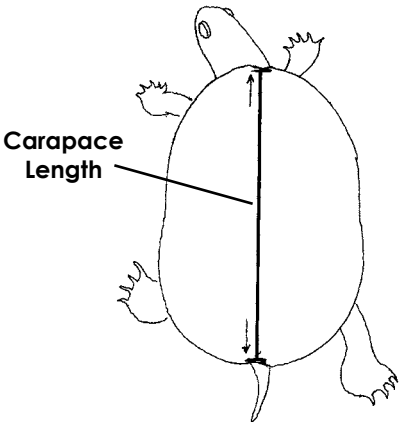
- Take is limited to two box turtles per day.
- Possession is limited to four box turtles of the genus *Terrapene* at any time.

TURTLE EGGS

- No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red eared slider.

TURTLE TRAPS

- Traps must be checked daily.
- Must be marked as "turtle trap."
- Must be open above water to allow breathing.
- Must be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.
- ***It is illegal to possess finfish while turtle trapping.***



FROGS

LEGAL METHOD OF TAKE

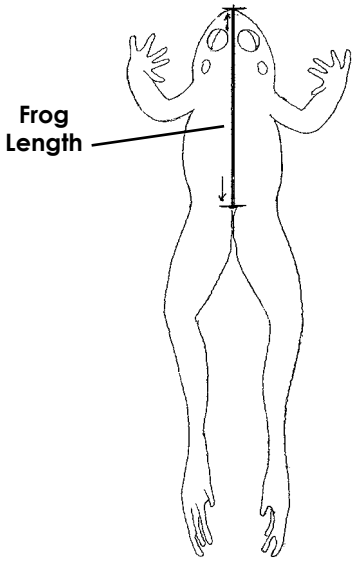
- Frogs may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin, such as gigs or spears.

ILLEGAL METHOD OF TAKE

- Possession of firearms while taking or hunting frogs at night is prohibited.

BULLFROGS AND PIG FROGS

- Length requirements (measured from tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs)
- Bullfrogs harvested must be 5 inches or larger.
- Pig frogs harvested must be 3 inches or larger.
- Frogs harvested on private lands, ponds or waters where the individual is an authorized representative are not limited by length requirements.
- Harvest is legal during all months of the year except April and May.



LOUISIANA SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a "user pays, user benefits" system of resource management. The federal and state governments, the sport fishing industry, anglers and boaters formed the cooperative effort to increase boating and sport fishing opportunities.

The cycle of funding (illustrated to the left) shows how Louisiana anglers and outdoor enthusiasts support the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the benefits they receive in return.

FISHING REGULATIONS ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, REFUGES & FEDERAL LANDS

Wildlife management areas (WMAs), refuges and certain federal lands may have special fishing seasons and bag and possession limits, size limits or closures that differ from general regulations.

REQUIRED LICENSES

Either a WMA Access Annual or 5-day Permit is required for all users of LDWF administered lands, including wildlife management areas, refuges and wetlands conservation areas. Persons 17 and under are not required to purchase WMA permits. This permit is included in the Sportsman's Paradise License, Senior Hunt/Fish License and all lifetime licenses. WMA Access and Camping Permits may be purchased at *LouisianaOutdoors.com*.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Use of airboats, aircraft, personal water craft, "mud crawling vessels" (commonly referred to as crawfish combines which use paddle wheels for locomotion) and hover craft is prohibited on WMAs, EXCEPT type A personal water craft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are eight feet in length and greater, may be operated within WMAs from April 1 until the Monday of Labor Day weekend, from sunrise to sunset only, and EXCEPT personal water craft are allowed on designated portions of Alexander State Forest WMA year around. No person shall operate such watercraft at a speed greater than "slow/no wake" within 100 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier or persons engaged in angling or any other manually powered vessel.

Operation of internal combustion powered vessels within designated Limited Access Areas (LAAs) prohibited during the months of September through January. Trolling motors may be used to access and navigate within LAAs. Vehicles prohibited November through January. LAAs are on Atchafalaya Delta, Boeuf, Dewey W. Wills, Joyce, Manchac, Pass-A-Loutre, Pointe-Aux-Chenes and Russell Sage WMAs. See WMA maps for specific locations.

Operation of vessels beyond bare steerage speed (the slowest speed a vessel can travel while maintaining directional control) in no wake zones prohibited.

A Self-Clearing Permit is required for ALL ACTIVITIES on WMAs. The Self-Clearing Permit consists of two portions: Check In and Check Out.

- All persons must obtain a WMA Self-Clearing Permit from a Self-Clearing Permit Station or check in/out electronically through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app/Internet Web portal. If checking in through a Self-Clearing Permit Station check-in portion must be completed and put in a permit box before each day's activity on the day of the activity. Users may check in one day in advance of use.
- The check-out portion must be carried by each person while on the WMA and must be completed and put in a permit box immediately upon exiting the WMA
- Self-Clearing Permits are not required of fishers and boaters who enter a WMA via watercraft from outside the WMA, provided they do not get out of the watercraft and onto WMA property.
- Self-Clearing Permits are not required for motorists traveling through the WMA provided that the most direct route is taken and no activities or stops take place.

Operating, modifying, tampering with or altering water control structures on WMAs is prohibited.

Additional restrictions may apply at some WMAs. The following information includes specific restrictions by WMA. For additional information, contact your local LDWF Office.

For National Wildlife Refuges, please contact the area offices as follows:

- North Louisiana Complex - 318-726-4222
- Central Louisiana Complex - 318-253-4238
- Southeast Louisiana Complex - 985-882-2000
- Southwest Louisiana Complex - 337-598-2216

For fishing information on the Indian Bayou Recreational Area within the Atchafalaya Basin or the Bonne Carre Spillway contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 337-585-0853.

For fishing information within the Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves, contact Kisatchie National forest 318-473-7160.

ATCHAFALAYA DELTA

- Camping and houseboat mooring is allowed only in designated areas. Houseboat mooring is allowed via permit only (through annual lottery or by a bid lease program) during hunting season and by normal means during the remainder of the year. Contact Lafayette Field Office for details.
- **Vessels/Vehicles:** Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.
- Self-Clearing Permits available from Main Delta campground, Wax Delta Campground, Cul-de-sac on Big Island, and Berwick Public Boat Launch (Jesse Fontenot Boat Launch) or through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app or internet/web portal.

BODCAU

Nets and traps prohibited in Ivan Lake.

BIG LAKE

Yoyos, limb lines and trotlines prohibited on Big Lake and Chain Lake. Commercial fishing prohibited.

BILOXI

Vessels/Vehicles: Mud boats or air-cooled propulsion vessels can only be powered by straight shaft "long tail" air-cooled mud motors that are 25 total horsepower or less on the WMA. All other types of airboats, mud boats or air cooled propulsion vessels (including "surface drive" boats) are prohibited.

- Overnight mooring of all vessels 50 feet in length or longer is prohibited.
- Camping and houseboat mooring Is allowed only in designated areas.

BUSSEY BRAKE

- Recreational fishing and all other allowed non-consumptive uses only.
- No personal watercraft or water skiing.
- No camping.
- No ATVs/UTVs or electric bicycles allowed.
- No motorized vehicles of any type allowed on reservoir levee except at boat launch for purpose of launching boat or to access fishing pier.
- Pulling boats over levees or any other activities that cause detriment to the levees is prohibited.
- Horseback riding and non-motorized bicycles are allowed only on the designated trail named levee trail (see map at boat launch kiosk). Access is granted at two marked locations, adjacent to the boat launch and just beyond the boat launch parking area.
- No tying boats to channel marker poles.
- A no-wake zone is in effect in the harbor inside the wave break.
- No boats allowed within 30 feet of fishing piers.

FISHING

- Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or cane pole for recreational purposes.
- All types of nets, including but not limited to gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, wire nets, fyke nets and fish seines are prohibited.
- Trotlines, yo-yos, limb lines, stump lines, slat traps, jugs, cans, and pipes are prohibited.
- Shoreline (non-boat) fishing only allowed at designated locations.
- No fishing or lake access from rocks along interior of reservoir levee.

BLACK BASS

- **Daily Limit:** recreational daily creel limit shall be five fish, in the aggregate.
- **Possession Limit:** possession limit shall be five fish while on water and 10 fish while off water, in the aggregate.
- **Length:** the maximum total length limit shall be 16 inches, with the exception that one fish over 16 inches may be kept.

CRAPPIE

- **Daily Limit**: recreational daily limit shall be 25 fish, in the aggregate.
- **Possession Limit:** possession limit shall be 25 fish while on water and 50 fish while off water, in the aggregate.
- **Length:** the minimum total length shall be 10 inches.

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

- **Daily Limit:** recreational daily creel limit shall be 50 fish, in the aggregate.
- **Possession Limit:** possession limit shall be 50 fish while on the water and 100 while off the water in the aggregate.
- **Length:** no minimum length.

CAMP BEAUREGARD

Special regulations to be posted at Twin Lakes.

DEWEY W. WILLS

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

ELBOW SLOUGH

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Recreational crawfishing only, no traps or nets left overnight. March 1 - July 31.

ELMER'S ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Commercial fishing, including guide service, is CLOSED.
- Access and use of Elmer's Island is only permitted 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset seven days a week. However, the secretary of LDWF may restrict any portion of Elmer's Island whenever circumstances exist such that restrictions are necessary to protect the Refuge or to protect the public from harm.
- Camping or overnight activities are prohibited.
- No glass containers are allowed.
- The discharge of firearms, including muzzleloaders, bows and arrows, or crossbows is prohibited.
- Maximum speed limit on the island is 5 MPH.
- Check for emergency closures and other information on Elmer's Island at *www.wlf.la.gov/page/elmers-island.*

FORT POLK-VERNON

Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

GRASSY LAKE

- Recreational fishing is permitted only after 2 p.m., during the waterfowl season, **EXCEPT** allowed after 10 a.m. during early teal season, in Smith and Red River bays, and in Grassy Lake proper.
- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.

ISLE DERNIERES BARRIER ISLANDS REFUGE

WINE ISLAND, EAST ISLAND, WHISKEY ISLAND AND RACCOON ISLAND

- Public access by any means to the exposed land areas, wetlands, and interior waterways of these islands is prohibited without a permit.
- Disturbing, injuring, or collecting flora, fauna, or other property is prohibited without a permit.
- Boat traffic is allowed adjacent to the islands in open water (Gulf and bays).
- Boat traffic is prohibited in waterways extending into the interior of the islands or within any land-locked open waters or wetlands of the islands.
- Fishing from boats along the shore and wade fishing in the surf areas of the islands is allowed.
- Littering is prohibited.

TRINITY ISLAND

- Public access is allowed in a designated public use area.
- The area is approximately 3,000 linear feet by 500 linear feet and it borders the western end of the man-made canal commonly known as California Canal. It is accessible via California Canal or the Gulf of Mexico. The boundaries are marked and maintained by LDWF.
- Public recreation such as bird-watching, picnicking, fishing, and overnight camping is allowed in this area.
- Travel on or across this area shall be limited to foot or bicycle traffic only. No use of ATVs or other vehicles powered by internal combustion engines or electric motors shall be allowed.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, or explosives in the designated public use area is prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited.
- Disturbing, injuring, or collecting flora, fauna, or other property is prohibited without a permit.
- Any member of the public utilizing the public use area must have a portable waste disposal container to collect all human waste and to remove it upon leaving the island.
- Public access outside of the public use area is prohibited without a permit.
- Boat traffic is allowed adjacent to the island in open water (Gulf and bays) and within the man-made canal commonly known as California Canal.
- Fishing from boats along the shore and wade fishing in the surf areas of the island is allowed.
- No boat traffic is allowed in other man-made or natural waterways extending into the interior of the island or in any land-locked open waters or wetlands of the island.

J.C. SONNY GILBERT

Fishing restricted to rod and reel, and pole fishing only. All other gear prohibited.

JOYCE

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Recreational crawfishing only.

LAKE BOEUF

- Self-Clearing Permits available at Theriot Canal Boat Landing off LA 308 or through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app or internet/web portal.
- All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging.

LITTLE RIVER

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Recreational crawfishing only, no traps or nets left overnight. March 1 - July 31.

MANCHAC

Crab traps are prohibited. Attended lift nets are allowed.

MAUREPAS SWAMP

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Recreational crawfishing only.

PASS-A-LOUTRE

- Oyster harvesting is prohibited.
- Camping is allowed only in designated areas.
- Self-Clearing Permits available at all designated camping areas, Camp Canal and at the WMA Headquarters or through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app or internet/web portal.
- **Vessels/Vehicles:** Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion vessels powered by more than 36 total horsepower are prohibited on the WMA. Operation of mud boats and air-cooled propulsion engines prohibited after 2:00 p.m. Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, **EXCEPT** allowed after 2:00 p.m. in South Pass, Pass-a-Loutre, Southeast Pass, Loomis Pass, Dennis Pass, and Cadro Pass.

PEARL RIVER

Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Recreational crawfishing only.

POMME DE TERRE

- Recreational fishing regulations are the same as outside. **NOTE:** Allowed only after 2 p.m., during waterfowl season, **EXCEPT** allowed after 10 a.m. during early teal season.
- Recreational crawfishing is allowed from March 15 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.

POINTE-AUX-CHENES

- All nighttime activities prohibited. Possession of more than one daily limit of fish/crab/shrimp while on the WMA is prohibited.
- The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish is for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited.
- Self-Clearing Permits available at Grand Bayou Boat Launch and at Point Farm gate behind Montegut Middle School or through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app or internet/web portal.

SHRIMPING

- Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only.
- During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat or vehicle per day (heads on) maximum allowed. Size count must conform to open season requirements.
- During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat or vehicle per day (heads on) may be taken for bait.
- All castnet contents shall be contained and bycatch returned to the water immediately.

OYSTERS

- Oyster harvesting is prohibited.

FINFISH

- Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or by hand lines for recreational purposes only.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight.
- No drop nets left unattended at any time. A maximum of 12 drop nets may be possessed/attended per boat or vehicle.
- Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day.

CRAWFISHING

- Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per person per day.
- Fishing gear used to catch crawfish must not remain set overnight.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- All boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 hp., are not allowed in the Grand Bayou, Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes water management units. The public is permitted to travel anytime through the WMA for access purposes only, in the waterways known as Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes, Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue, St. Louis Canal, and Grand Bayou Blue. All other motorized vehicles, as well as horses and mules, are prohibited unless authorized by LDWF.
- Type A personal watercraft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are 8 or more feet in length may be operated on Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA from April 1 until the Monday after Labor Day Weekend, from sunrise to sunset only. No person shall operate such watercraft at a speed greater than "slow/no wake" within 100 feet of any anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, persons engaged in angling or any other manually powered vessel.

QUEEN BESS ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Access is prohibited Feb. 1 - Sept. 30.
- No disturbance or removal of vegetation or natural debris from the island is allowed.
- No fishing between the breakwaters and the island from Feb. 1 - Sept. 30.
- Vehicles are prohibited.
- No nighttime activities allowed.

RICHARD K. YANCEY

- That portion West of the Mississippi River Levee, March 15 - July 31, recreational crawfishing only.
- Crawfish harvest limited to 100 pounds per person per day.
- No nets or traps may be left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed.
- Fishing closed from 30 minutes before sunrise until 2 p.m. on: Grand Bay, Silver Lake, Lower Sunk Lake, Lac A' Sostein, Moreau Lake, and Hog Pen Lake during open waterfowl seasons, EXCEPT during early Teal Season, recreational fishing allowed after 10 a.m.

RUSSELL SAGE

- Crawfishing is limited to 100 pounds per person per day limit.
- The waterfowl refuge north of LA Hwy. 15 is closed to all fishing during duck season, including early teal season, **EXCEPT** allowed during the "Falconry for Ducks" portion of the waterfowl season.

SHERBURNE

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 - July 31 with a limit of 100 pounds per person per day. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.
- No motorized watercrafts are allowed on the farm complex.

SODA LAKE

That portion west of Twelve Mile Bayou closed to fishing Oct. 1 - March 31.

SPRING BAYOU

- Recreational fishing is permitted, **EXCEPT** only after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season, **EXCEPT** during early teal season, recreational fishing allowed after 10 a.m.
- Recreational crawfishing is permitted from March 15 - July 31 and is limited to 100 pounds per person per day. No traps or nets are to be left overnight.

SALVADOR/TIMKEN

- All nighttime activities prohibited, **EXCEPT** during the Experimental Nighttime Activity Season.
- Self-Clearing Permits available at Pier 90, Bayou Gauche, Bayou Segnette State Park landings, and at Airboat Adventures in Lafitte or through the LDWF Self-Clearing Permit app or internet/web portal.
- The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited.

SHRIMPING

- Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only.
- During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count shall conform with any open season requirements.
- During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum may be taken for bait.
- All castnet contents shall be contained and bycatch returned to the water immediately.

FINFISH

- Fish may be taken only by rod and reel, or by hand lines for recreational purposes.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight.
- Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day.

CRAWFISHING

- Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per person per day. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with more than four cylinders is prohibited.
- Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities that may cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited.

EXPERIMENTAL NIGHTTIME ACTIVITY SEASON

- 12 a.m., June 1 through official sunrise Aug. 15. Nighttime activities LIMITED to the take of frogs and fishing with a rod and reel. All other nighttime activities prohibited. Daily limit of 50 frogs per vessel in aggregate (bull frogs/pig frogs). If engaged in frogging on or while traversing the WMA, all frogs in possession will be deemed to have been taken from the WMA. At no time may anyone possess more than on daily limit of frogs while on the water.
- **Size Limit:** (Measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs). Bull frogs harvested must be 5 inches or larger. Pig frogs harvested must be 3 inches or larger.
- Check out portion of Self-Clearing Permit must include boat registration number under the comments section. Possession of firearms while participation in any experimental nighttime activity is prohibited.

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE, STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE (Vermilion) & MARSH ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Trawling is prohibited.
- Trotlines, jug lines, trammel and gill nets, and traps are prohibited.
- Use of the refuges is permitted from official sunrise to official sunset. This includes access routes through the refuge. Overnight camping is prohibited.
- Firearms are prohibited. Littering is prohibited. Damage to or removal of trees, shrubs, and wild plants without prior approval is prohibited.

SHRIMPING

- 25 pounds of shrimp (heads on) per boat or vehicle per day is allowed during the inside open shrimp season as established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.
- 10 pounds of shrimp (heads on) for bait purposes may be caught during the closed season.
- Shrimp may be harvested only by cast net on the refuge and only for sport fishing or home consumption use. When harvesting shrimp with a cast net, contents shall be dumped in a container and not on the ground.

CRAWFISHING

- Recreational crawfishing is permitted in the open portion of the refuge with a limit of 100 pounds per boat or vehicle per day.
- Set nets may be used but must be attended and removed from the refuge daily. No commercial harvest is allowed.

CRABBING

- Crabs may be harvested from the open portion of the refuge with a limit of 12 dozen crabs per boat or vehicle per day.
- **NOTE:** No commercial harvest is allowed on Marsh Island, State Wildlife and Rockefeller refuges.

OYSTERS

- Oysters may be harvested by tonging (properly licensed) or by hand collection from the natural reefs, but only in waters approved (open) for harvest by the Department of Health.
- One gallon per boat or vehicle per day is allowed and oysters must be opened at the reef and the shells returned to the reef.
- Taking of oysters from the natural reefs may be closed at any time by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

VESSELS & VEHICLES

- Speedboat racing and water skiing are prohibited.
- All boat traffic shall honor no wake zones and shall keep wave wash to a minimum.
- Pulling boats over or around levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities that may cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited.
- Jet skis and airboats are prohibited.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST- NATIONAL CATAHOULA AND NATIONAL RED DIRT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESERVES

Preserves will be closed to fishing during deer gun hunts. Consult hunting regulations for dates.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - INDIAN BAYOU AREA

Commercial and recreational crawfishing is permitted from Oct. 1 - Jan. 31 starting at 12 PM each day and all day from Feb. 1 - July 31 with an additional permit required. The permit is available Jan. 1. Call USACE Port Barre Office for more details 337-585-0853 or visit *www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/AtchafalayaBasin.aspx*.

BARATARIA PRESERVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, CROWN POINT

Fishing or engaging in related activities, like crabbing or crawfish harvesting is permitted in the preserve subject to the following conditions:

- All reptile species are protected in the park and may not be harvested, collected or possessed while within the park.
- Amphibian species that are authorized by the state of Louisiana to be taken as game may be taken within the preserve.
- Anglers must otherwise comply with all State of Louisiana fishing regulations.
- Anglers may only fish from or access fishing areas from the Twin Canals trail and the Kenta Canal area. All other trails, bridges and canoe docks are closed to fishing.

Fishing is prohibited in any of the following areas of the Barataria Preserve: Visitor Center and Visitor Center Trail; Palmetto Trail; Bayou Coquille Trail; Marsh Overlook Trail; Ring Levee Trail; Pecan Grove Canoe Launch Trail; or from any vehicular bridge, sidewalks, trails, old road beds and utility access corridors.

Mooring or grounding of any watercraft over 25 feet in length is prohibited within any waters administered by Jean Lafitte NHP&P.

Operating a motorized watercraft, including electric trolling motors or airboats, is prohibited in the following areas of the Barataria Preserve: Bayou Des Famillies; Bayou Coquille; and Twin Canals

HOOP NETS

The use of a hoop net to capture fish is prohibited within all areas of the preserve.

JUG LINE FISHING

Fishing with an unattended baited line attached to a float (jug line fishing) is permitted within the preserve with the following conditions:

- The angler clearly marks the float with their name, phone number and date last set.
- Jug lines are checked at least once every 24 hours.
- Jug lines are removed when no longer tended.
- Trotlines and lines attached to anything other than a float are prohibited.

CRABBING

The taking of crabs by means of a trap is permitted within the preserve with the following conditions:

- The trapper has a valid fishing license with a recreational crab trap endorsement.
- The trapper clearly marks the float of the trap with their name, phone number and date last set.
- The trapper sets no more than 10 traps per person.
- The trapper checks the traps at least twice a week.
- The trapper removes the traps when no longer tended.
- Recreational crabbing possession limit is 12 dozen (144) crabs per person per day.

CRAWFISH

Crawfish harvesting is permitted in the preserve along road side areas and along the Wood Duck trail, subject to the following harvesting conditions:

- Crawfish harvesting occurs between March 1 and June 30.
- Conducted up to 50 feet beyond the outside toe of the roadway, or trail shoulder or embankment.
- Conducted while using baited lift type mesh nets or baited wire traps. All other types of traps are prohibited.
- Anglers are limited to 10 or fewer nets or traps. Each trap must be continuously attended.
- Anglers require a valid fishing license with a gear endorsement to harvest crawfish within the preserve if using crawfish traps.
- The use of crawfish nets does not require a fishing license.
- Anglers are limited to 150 pounds of crawfish per person.

LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) save lives. Get one and wear it when you're on the water. Remember that children 16 years old or younger must wear a properly sized and fitted, personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard at all times when a vessel is underway. Get your child fitted for a proper life vest and lead by example by wearing one too. For more information on how to find the right life vest or for more boating safety tips, visit *www.uscgboating.org* or *www.wlf.la.gov*.

CONSUMER ALERT: Choosing the correct Personal Flotation Device (PFD) can be the difference between life and death when on the water. Make sure the PFD is U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved. A USCG approved PFD will have an approval number on the label usually on the inside part of the PFD. A PFD that is not USCG approved is illegal and unsafe. More and more non-approved PFDs are showing up in the marketplace and are being sold at larger retailers where most customers assume it is an approved version.

All boaters are encouraged to ensure their vessels are in good working condition and all required safety equipment is on board.

LOUISIANA REQUIRED BOATING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

	PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	BOATS LESS THAN 16 FEET	BOATS 16 FEET TO LESS THAN 26 FEET
Registration on Board	✓	✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓
PFDs: Type I, II or III	✓ 1	✓ 2,3,4	✓ 2,4
PFDs: Type IV			✓
Engine Cut Off Device	✓	5	5
Type B Fire Extinguishers	✓	✓	✓
Navigation Lights	6	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle or Bell			✓
Daytime Visual Distress Signals			✓ 7
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	6	7	7
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	8	8
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler/Underwater Exhaust	✓	✓	✓

1. Those on personal watercraft (PWC) must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.
2. Children 16 years of age and younger must wear a USCG approved Type I, II or III PFD while underway on a vessel less than 26 feet long. A wearable USCG approved Type I, II or III PFD must be readily available for each of the other passengers onboard.
3. All persons onboard a motorboat less than 16 feet which is being propelled by a hand tiller outboard motor are required to wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V PFD while the motorboat is underway.
4. Persons engaged in water sports, which includes but is not limited to water skiing, being towed on a tube, wake boarding, wake surfing, etc. must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III or V PFD. An inflatable PFD does not meet the requirements.
5. A motorboat less than 26 feet with a hand tiller outboard motor in excess of 10 horsepower designed to have or having an engine cut-off switch must have the engine cut-off switch link attached to the operator, the operator's clothing, or the operator's PFD, if worn, while the motor is running and the vessel is underway.
6. Certain items are not applicable to PWCs because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise.
7. Required on federally controlled waters (offshore, tidal coastal areas).
8. Required for inboards and stern drivers only.

BOATER EDUCATION

All persons born after Jan. 1, 1984 are required to complete a NASBLA approved boating education course to operate a motorboat over 10 horsepower and must carry proof of such when operating the motorboat. A motorboat may be operated if any person on board or participating in any boating activity from the motorboat is over the age of 18, and if required to have completed a boating course, has completed the required boating safety course.

LDWF offers Boating Classes in every region of the state, free of charge to the public.

For those who cannot attend a classroom setting an online boating class is available, however, it is not administered by LDWF and a fee is assessed. Visit *www.wlf.la.gov* for more information about Boater Education.

TO REPORT MISSING/OVERDUE BOATERS, REPORT A BOAT CRASH INCIDENT OR REPORT VIOLATIONS, PLEASE CALL 1-800-442-2511.

LADWF TIPS APP now available from the Apple Store and Google Play

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Help Manage YOUR Fisheries!

LA Creel is LDWF's recreational saltwater landings data collection program. LA Creel uses a combination of data collected dockside and through phone and email surveys to estimate recreational saltwater fish harvests. The goal of LA Creel is to provide statistically significant recreational fishery information to aid in managing Louisiana's valuable fishery resources.

www.wlf.la.gov/page/lacreela

VIP
Aquatic
VOLUNTEER
INSTRUCTOR
PROGRAM

Become an LDWF VIP and help us increase awareness and participation in recreational fishing throughout Louisiana.

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/aquatic-vip

LOUISIANA OUTDOOR EXPLORER

Check out our easy-to-use, interactive map tool! Louisiana Outdoor Explorer puts everything you want to know about fishing Louisiana - from where to get a license and where to launch your boat to popular fishing spots and tips - right at your fingertips.

Go to wlf.la.gov and click the Outdoor Explorer Map Tool button.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Fish are a lean and nutritious source of protein. However, some fish may contain chemicals that could pose health risks. Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month (a meal is considered to be 1/2 pound of fish for adults and children). If you or your family members eat more than four meals of fish a month from local water bodies, you might increase your health risks.

The following information on fish consumption advisories has been furnished by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). LDH, Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries coordinate in the issuance of advisories.

Unless the fish species is specifically addressed in the details of these advisories, please limit consumption of all species in an advisory area to four meals per month. You can contact the Office of Public Health toll free at 1-855-229-6848 for more information about eating fish that contain chemicals.

Readers should be aware that the information provided is a summary of the information available at the time of printing. Advisories may be changed or added at any time. For current advisories call Al Hindrichs at the Department of Environmental Quality at 225-219-3189, or visit LDH at *ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/564* or more information about eating fish that may contain chemicals.

CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

Almost everywhere you look in Louisiana there is water, and where there is water, people catch and eat fish. However, in a few Louisiana waters, fish and shellfish have chemical contamination in amounts that may be harmful to your health if you were to eat too much over a long period of time.

These contaminants are in the environment because of various reasons such as natural deposition, industrial discharges, leaking landfills and misuse of pesticides. Fish take in the contaminants from water, sediments and food. Larger, older fish and fish that eat other fish tend to accumulate more contaminants than smaller, younger fish.

The Office of Public Health evaluates chemicals in fish to determine if the fish are contaminated and pose a health threat to children, pregnant women, adults or (when indicated) subsistence anglers. A fish consumption advisory is issued when unacceptable levels of chemical contaminants have been found in the fish filet.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

Fish consumption advisories in Louisiana are based on chemical levels in the fish filet. Advisories are issued at very conservative levels to insure the safety of individuals consuming fish. Advisories provide guidance regarding fish consumption for each species of fish. They do not tell you to stop fishing or to stop eating fish. Just be selective about the fish you or your family eats. None of the fish in Louisiana are contaminated enough to cause harm after a single or a few meals. The health risk comes from eating contaminated fish often and regularly over a long period of time. For information on specific waterbodies with advisories please visit *deq.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-consumption-and-swimming-advisories* for a downloadable map of advisory locations. A cell phone application is also available through Google Play and the Apple Store by entering the search term: LA Fish Advisories. More information can also be obtained by calling the Louisiana Department of Health hotline at 1-888-293-7020 or the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at 225-219-3189.

A "meal" is considered to be 1/2 pound (8 oz.) in size. Unless the fish species is specifically addressed in the details of the advisory, please limit consumption of all species in an advisory area to four meals per month. Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month. If you or your family eat more than four meals of fish a month from local water bodies, you might increase your health risks. You can contact the Office of Public Health toll free at 1-888-293-7020 for more information about eating fish that contain chemicals.

HEALTH ADVICE AND GUIDELINES

Contaminants found in Louisiana fish can be grouped into two categories: organic chemicals (HCB, HCBD, PCBs and Dioxin) and metals (mercury, lead). Organic contaminants build up in fish fat deposits and just under the skin, more than in the muscle tissue (filet). Metals are distributed evenly throughout the fish and cannot be removed from the filet by cooking or cleaning.

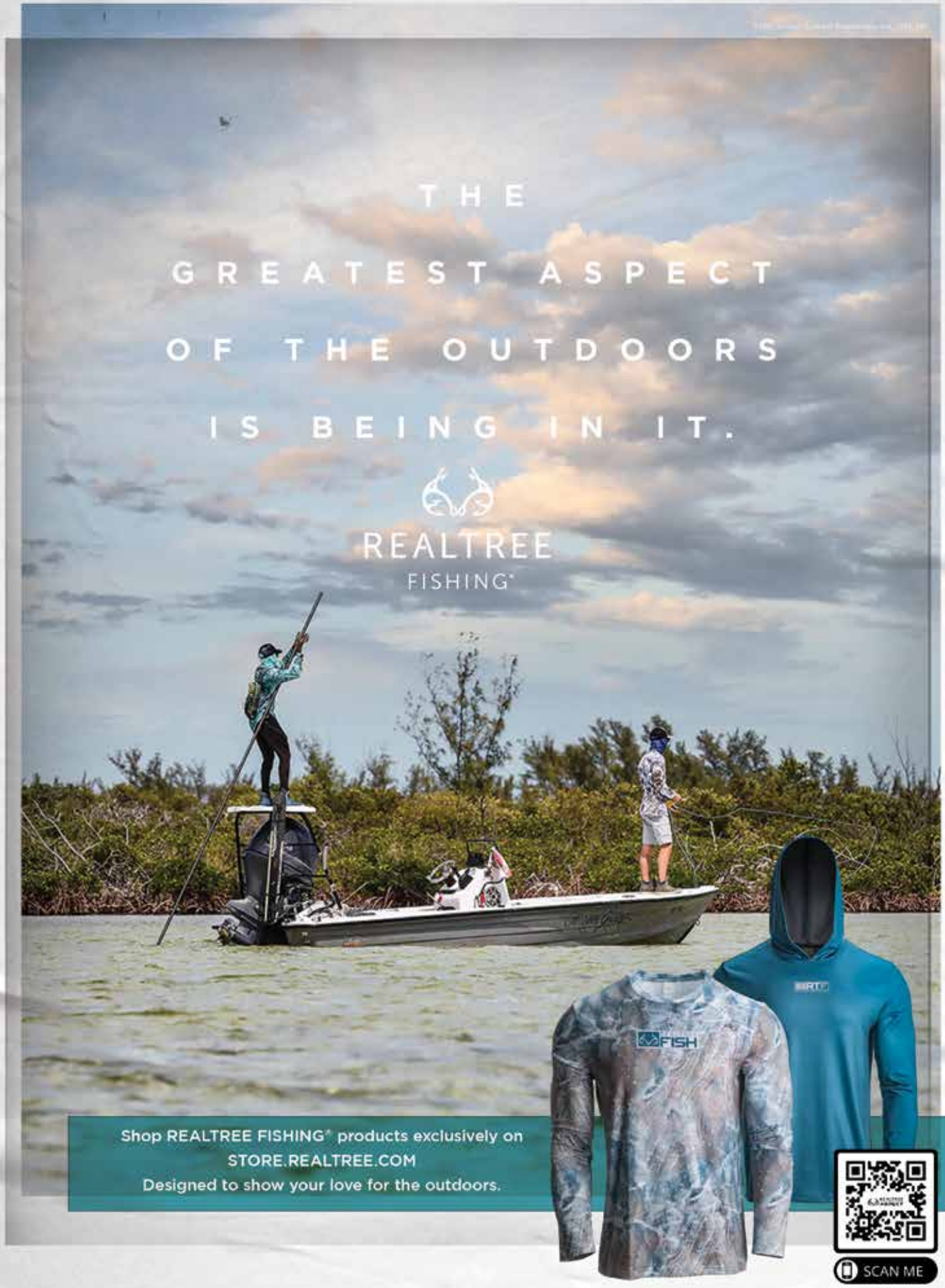
HOW TO REDUCE ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION IN FISH

- Remove all organs and skin. Organs and skin can be high in fat and organic chemicals.
- Trim off fatty areas. This includes belly fat, side fat and back fat. Organic contaminants concentrate in fat.
- Bake or broil skinned, trimmed fish on a rack or grill so fat drips off. Throw away drippings.
- When fish are poached or fried, throw away the broth or oil. Keep smaller fish to eat. Usually, younger, smaller fish are less contaminated than larger, older fish.
- Eat fewer predator fish such as bass, gar or pickerel. Contaminants bio-accumulate in predator fish.
- Vary diet by eating a variety of fish, shellfish, meat and poultry.
- Vary source of fish, seafood, meat, poultry and wild game.

CONSUMPTION ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT, NURSING OR MIGHT BECOME PREGNANT AND FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (EPA AND FDA, 2004)

By following these three recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women and young children will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury. Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish or shellfish to a young child, but serve smaller portions.

1. Do not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel or tilefish, as these contain high levels of mercury.
2. Eat up to 12 ounces a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury. The five most commonly eaten fish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock and catfish. Up to 6 ounces a week of albacore ("white") tuna may be consumed since this variety contains more mercury than light tuna.
3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to 6 ounces per week of fish caught in local waters. Do not consume any other fish that same week.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