

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Shrimp Season Closure in Portions of State Inside Waters

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been notified that recent biological sampling conducted by the department has indicated that average white shrimp size within these waters to be closed is smaller than the minimum possession count and this action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and provide opportunity for growth to larger and more valuable sizes. R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) per pound except during the time period from October 15 through the third Monday in December.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons; R.S. 56:497 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to delegate to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the powers, duties and authority to set shrimp seasons; and in accordance with a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the commission on August 3, 2023, which authorizes the secretary of the department to close the fall inshore shrimp season when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop, the secretary does hereby declare:

The 2023 fall inshore shrimp season will close on Friday, February 2, 2024, at official sunset from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, except for the following areas:

The open waters of the Louisiana portion of Mississippi Sound and the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as bounded by the double-rig line described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2. The open waters of the Louisiana portion of Mississippi Sound are defined as beginning at a point on the Mississippi/Louisiana state line at 30 degrees 10 minutes 21.95 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 26 minutes 12.99 seconds west longitude; thence southerly to a point at 30 degrees 08 minutes 03.07 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 26 minutes 27.05 seconds west longitude; thence southwesterly to a point at 30 degrees 04 minutes 40.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 28 minutes 46.59 seconds west longitude; thence southeasterly to a point on the western shore of Three-Mile Pass (30 degrees 03 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 22 minutes 23.00 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to a point on Isle Au Pitre (30 degrees 09 minutes 20.50 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 11 minutes 15.50 seconds west longitude), which is a point on the double-rig line as described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2; thence northerly along the double-rig line to the Mississippi/Louisiana state line (30 degrees 12 minutes 37.90 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 10 minutes 57.97 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the point of origin.

Existing data do not currently support shrimping closures in additional state inside waters. However, historic data suggest additional closures may be necessary and the

department will continue monitoring shrimp populations in these waters. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Madison D. Sheahan
Secretary

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