

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Fall Inshore Shrimp Season Opening Dates

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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters and to increase the minimum mesh size provided in R.S. 56:499 for any trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net for the duration of any special shrimp season or regular shrimp season extension, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2023 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters to open as follows:

That portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6 a.m., August 7, 2023 except for the area as described below which will open at 6 a.m., August 16, 2023:

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

That portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the

Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line to open at 6 p.m., August 7, 2023; and,

That portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6 a.m., August 7, 2023.

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

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

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

Andrew J. Blanchard
Chairman

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