

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Opening of Shrimp Season in a Portion of State Outside Waters

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been notified that recent biological sampling conducted by the department has indicated that small white shrimp, which have over-wintered in state outside waters from January through the present time, have reached marketable sizes and the closure is no longer necessary. Significant numbers of smaller size white shrimp still remain in the western portion of the Vermilion outside waters to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal and these waters will remain closed to shrimping until further notice. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 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, 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 have the authority to open or close outside waters by zone each year as it deems appropriate upon inspection of and based upon technical and biological data which indicate that marketable shrimp, in sufficient quantities are available for harvest; and, a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on August 3, 2023 which authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary, the secretary does hereby declare:

The portion of state outside waters between Calliou Boca and Mound Point on Marsh Island shall reopen to shrimping at 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 2024. The eastern boundary line originates on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at 29 degrees 02 minutes 46.00 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 50 minutes 27.00 seconds west longitude and ends at a point on the three-mile line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30.00 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 51 minutes 57.00 seconds west longitude. The western boundary line originates on the inside/outside line at the southernmost point of Mound Point on Marsh Island at 29 degrees 28 minutes 28.30 seconds north latitude, -91 degrees 49 minutes 19.00 seconds west longitude and ends at a point on the three-mile line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) at 29 degrees 22 minutes 01.67 seconds north latitude, -91 degrees 49 minutes 19.00 seconds west longitude.

Madison D. Sheahan
Secretary