DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2022 Recreational Greater Amberjack Season Closure

Louisiana’s recreational greater amberjack season was previously opened on May 1, 2022 and closed on June 1, 2022. The recreational greater amberjack season was scheduled to reopen on August 1, 2022 and remain open through October 31, 2022. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2022 recreational season for the harvest of greater amberjack will remain closed for the month of August and will reopen on September 1, 2022 and close on October 31, 2022 in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Data indicate that the stock is overfished and a quota reduction is necessary to avoid overfishing in the 2022/2023 fishing year. Compatible season regulations in state waters are preferable to provide effective rules and efficient enforcement for the fishery, and to prevent overfishing of the species in the long term.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the secretary by the commission in LAC 76:VII.335.G.5 to modify opening and closing dates of any commercial or recreational reef fish seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the regional administrator of NOAA fisheries that the seasons have been closed in adjacent federal waters, the secretary hereby declares:

The season for the recreational harvest of greater amberjack in Louisiana state waters shall remain closed through 11:59 p.m. on August 31, 2022. The season for the recreational harvest of greater amberjack shall reopen at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2022 and remain open until 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2022, at which time the season will close and remain closed until the scheduled reopening of the 2022/2023 season. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess greater amberjack whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary