DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Deer Carcass Export and Feeding Ban, Portions of Franklin, Madison and Tensas Parishes

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and 116, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby adopt the following emergency rule to extend the prior emergency rule adopted on February 3, 2022 establishing the cervid carcass export and supplemental feed ban as it relates to Tensas and Madison Parishes and modifying the prior rule to reduce the portion of Franklin Parish to which the rule applies:

On January 28, 2022, the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at LSU detected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a sample submitted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) from a hunter-harvested adult buck in Tensas Parish. The sample was submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. NVSL confirmed the detection of CWD in the sample submitted.

In response to receiving a positive CWD test result on a deer harvested in Louisiana, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took emergency action on February 3, 2022 to prohibit the export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within Franklin, Madison, and Tensas Parishes; establish a supplemental feeding ban in those three parishes and to direct LDWF to implement its CWD Management Plan to monitor and curb the spread of CWD in Louisiana. That emergency rule expires today and requires extension until the permanent Rules and Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas becomes final. Therefore, the export of any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating within the CWD Control Area is prohibited, except for: meat that is cut and wrapped; meat that has been boned out; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, clean skull plates with antlers, cleaned skulls without tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy mounts and cleaned cervid teeth.

All supplemental feeding, including mineral or salt licks, is prohibited in the CWD Control Areas. The purpose of this feeding ban is to reduce the potential for the spread of CWD in Louisiana by reducing the risk of exposure when deer are concentrated around feeding sites. The use of approved bait not normally ingested by deer for feral hog trapping will still be allowed. All bait must be placed and contained within the trap itself. Backyard bird feeders are also exempt from this supplemental feeding prohibition.

The CWD Control Areas for purposes of this emergency rule is defined as follows:

All of Madison and Tensas Parishes. A portion of Franklin Parish east of LA Highway 15 originating at the Franklin & Catahoula parish line to the junction with LA Highway 128, east of LA Highway 128 to its junction with LA Highway 4, east of LA Highway 4 to its junction with LA Highway 578, east of LA Highway 578 to its junction with LA Highway 17, then east of LA Highway 17 to the Franklin Parish line. The prior emergency rule is hereby rescinded for all portions of Franklin Parish that is not included within the CWD Control Areas.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective August 3, 2022, and will remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act unless rescinded or modified by the Secretary, or until the final adoption of Rules and Regulations for Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, and to modify, rescind, or extend it upon notification of the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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