

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

#### **Shrimp Season Closure in Portions of State Inshore and 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 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 fifteenth through the third Monday in December.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 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 6, 2020, which authorizes the secretary of the department to close shrimp season in all or parts of state outside waters when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop, the secretary does hereby declare:

The 2020 fall shrimp season shall close on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at official sunset in the following portions of state inside waters: Lake Pontchartrain, Chef Menteur and Rigolets Passes, Lake Borgne, Mississippi Sound, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), a section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Orleans parish from the GIWW East Closure Sector Gate westward to the GIWW intersection with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. With this declaration, all inside waters will be closed to shrimping with the exception of 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 2020 shrimp season shall close on January 24, 2021, at official sunset, in portions of state outside waters between Caillou Boca and Freshwater Bayou Canal. The eastern boundary line originates on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at 29 degrees 02 minutes 46 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 50 minutes 27 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 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 51 minutes 57 seconds west longitude. The western boundary line originates on the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at 29 degrees 32 minutes 03 seconds north latitude, -92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude and ends at a point on the three-mile line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) at 29 degrees 29 minutes 02 seconds north latitude, -92 degrees 19 minutes 34 seconds west longitude.

Existing data do not currently support shrimping closures in additional state inside and outside 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.

Jack Montoucet  
Secretary

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