

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Closure of Portions of Public Oyster Seed Grounds East of the Mississippi River

In accordance with the emergency provisions of Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:962, under the authority of R.S. 56:433, and under the authority of a Declaration of Emergency passed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on September 4, 2025, which authorized the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take emergency action if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, notice is hereby given that the secretary does hereby declare that the harvest of oysters from the following portions of the public oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Monday, December 22, 2025:

1. That portion of the public oyster seed grounds within the Drum Bay area, St. Bernard Parish, north of a line of latitude at 29 degrees 51 minutes 58 seconds N, and west of a line of longitude at 89 degrees 14 minutes 08 seconds W.

2. That portion of public oyster seed grounds known as Shell Point (2009), St. Bernard Parish, within the following coordinates:

30 degrees 1 minute 15.89 seconds N
89 degrees 21 minutes 19.51 seconds W
30 degrees 1 minute 11.42 seconds N
89 degrees 21 minutes 12.30 seconds W
30 degrees 1 minute 29.77 seconds N
89 degrees 20 minutes 52.48 seconds W
30 degrees 1 minute 34.63 seconds N
89 degrees 20 minutes 58.81 seconds W.

Recent biological sampling by the department indicates these reefs have received concentrated harvest pressure and are experiencing elevated mortality levels. Therefore, the closure is necessary to protect the remaining oyster resource, allowing conservation of that resource for future harvest opportunities. Protection of these remaining oyster resources from injury is in the best interest of these public oyster seed grounds.

Notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of an oyster season will be provided by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action, unless such closure is ordered by the Department of Health for public health concerns.

Tyler M. Bosworth
Secretary