DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2022 Commercial Bait Gulf Menhaden Season

Louisiana’s season for the harvest of bait Gulf Menhaden previously closed on December 1st, 2021 and is set to re-open on April 1st, 2022. The quota for the harvest of bait Gulf Menhaden has not been met and there is need for bait Gulf Menhaden to support other fisheries in Louisiana waters. The early re-opening of the season for bait Gulf Menhaden is not likely to be detrimental to the stock or lead to quota overages.

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953.1 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3, which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and R.S. 56:325.6, which provides for an extended bait gulf menhaden season outside of the regular commercial menhaden season, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden in Louisiana state waters.

The commercial season for the harvest of bait gulf menhaden taken within Louisiana state waters or landed in Louisiana shall open at 12:01 a.m., March 14, 2022. The harvest of bait gulf menhaden shall not exceed the established quota of 3,000 metric tons for the 2021-22 bait gulf menhaden season.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Joe McPherson
Chairman

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