

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2024 Recreational Red Grouper Season Closure

Louisiana's recreational red grouper season was previously scheduled to close on December 31, 2024. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2024 recreational season for the harvest of red grouper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico has been modified and will close on July 1, 2024 and remain closed through December 31, 2024. The most recent red grouper landings information indicates the 2024 recreational annual catch target is projected to be met by that date and NOAA Fisheries must close harvest when the catch target is met. 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 informed by the regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries that the seasons have been modified in adjacent federal waters, the secretary hereby declares:

The season for the recreational harvest of red grouper in Louisiana state waters shall close at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2024 and remain closed until 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2024. During the closure period, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess red grouper whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Madison D. Sheahan
Secretary

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