

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Suspension of In-Person Appearance Requirement for Oyster Lease Renewal Applicants

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has established by rule in LAC 76:VII.501.C.2 that all applicants must appear in person at the oyster lease section office to apply for an oyster lease renewal. Due to the current public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and in an effort to reduce the need for exposure of oyster lessees and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff to the virus, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby suspends the in-person appearance requirement for oyster lease renewal applicants for the 2020-21 renewal period and directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop an alternative method for applicants to submit oyster lease renewal applications in compliance with all other applicable laws and rules.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that imminent peril to the public welfare requires temporary suspension of a Rule due to the extremely communicable characteristics of the Novel Coronavirus and the serious health risks associated with the COVID-19 epidemic. It is necessary to adopt this Emergency Rule to temporarily suspend the requirement for in-person appearance to prevent mandated interaction for vulnerable individuals in the midst of a public health crisis.

This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall become effective on November 1, 2020. It shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act (120 days) and expire on February 28, 2021.

Jerri Smitko
Vice-Chair

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