DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation to Reopen
to Market Size Oyster Harvest

In accordance with the emergency provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953.1, 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 October 7, 2021, which authorized the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take emergency action to reopen public oyster seed grounds or reservations if sufficient quantities of oysters are available and to adjust sack limits and sacking only areas, notice is hereby given that the secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby declares that the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation as described in R.S. 56:434(E) shall reopen for the purposes of market oyster harvest at one-half hour before sunrise on March 21, 2022 and close at one-half hour after sunset on March 23, 2022, with the following conditions:

1. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed reservations described above shall be limited to a daily take not to exceed 25 whole sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this Declaration of Emergency shall be defined as the size described in R.S. 56:440. If sacks smaller than the size described in R.S. 56:440 are used, the daily harvest and possession limit shall be based on the number of sacks used, not the size of the sack or other measures.

2. This opening is limited to harvesting only market oysters for direct sale (sacking).

3. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster reservation described above, all oysters contained on that vessel will be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.

4. All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market must be uncontaminated, sealed and not gaping.

5. All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market sales must measure a minimum of 3 inches from hinge to bill.

6. Market oysters harvested from any public oyster area, seed ground or reservation must be sacked, the number of sacks recorded in a log book, and each sack properly tagged prior to leaving said public oyster area, seed ground, or reservation.

7. All vessels located in public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations during those times between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise must have all oyster scrapers unshackled.

The following areas shall remain closed for the entire 2021/2022 oyster season:

1. The 2021 Sister Lake Cultch Plant within the following coordinates:
   a. 29 degrees 14 minutes 25.211 seconds
      90 degrees 55 minutes 34.537 seconds
   b. 29 degrees 14 minutes 3.351 seconds
      90 degrees 55 minutes 34.626 seconds
   c. 29 degrees 14 minutes 25.075 seconds
      90 degrees 55 minutes 34.537 seconds
   d. 29 degrees 14 minutes 3.214 seconds
      90 degrees 55 minutes 34.626 seconds
2. The public oyster seed grounds and reservations, as described in Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 76:VII.507, LAC 76:VII.509, LAC 76:VII.511 and LAC 76:VII.513, including all areas east of Mississippi River, the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds.
4. The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.521.
5. Hackberry Bay, Bay Junop and Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservations and as described in R.S. 56:434.
6. Oyster harvest on the Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area is prohibited as described in R.S. 56:435.1.

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

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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