

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2024 Recreational Greater Amberjack Season Modification

Louisiana's recreational greater amberjack season was previously scheduled to open on August 1, 2024. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2024 recreational season for the harvest of greater amberjack in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will open from May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024, then close and reopen from September 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. 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 greater amberjack in Louisiana state waters shall open at 12:01 a.m. on May 1, 2024 and remain open until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2024, at which time it will close. The season for the recreational harvest of greater amberjack will then reopen at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2024 until 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2024, at which time it will close and remain closed until the regularly scheduled opening of the 2025 season, currently September 1, 2025. During the closure periods above, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess greater amberjack whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Madison D. Sheahan
Secretary

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