

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

2024 Recreational and Commercial Lane Snapper Season  
Closure  
December 2, 2024

Louisiana's recreational and commercial lane snapper season was previously scheduled to close on December 31, 2024. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2024 recreational and commercial seasons for the harvest of lane snapper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico have been modified and will close on November 26, 2024, and remain closed through December 31, 2024. The most recent lane snapper landings information indicates the 2024 recreational and commercial annual catch targets are 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 recreational or commercial 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 and commercial harvest of lane snapper in Louisiana state waters shall close at 12:01 a.m. on December 2, 2024 and shall remain closed until the start of the 2025 commercial and recreational seasons, currently scheduled to open on January 1, 2025. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess lane snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters. Furthermore, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, barter, trade, or sell lane snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing lane snapper taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Madison D. Sheahan  
Secretary