

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

#### Opening of 2023 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season in Remaining Waters

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission received information regarding biological sampling for brown shrimp in state inshore waters. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided the Commission with data that projected the date when brown shrimp will reach marketable size. After considering biological information and public input, the Commission took action to set the spring inshore shrimp season in remaining state inshore waters. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters and to increase the minimum mesh size provided in R.S. 56:499 for any trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net for the duration of any special shrimp season or regular shrimp season extension, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2023 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters to open as follows:

That portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

That portion of state inside waters from the western shore of the Freshwater Bayou Canal westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

The Commission hereby grants authority to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to delay or advance these opening dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, and, to close any portion of Louisiana inside waters to protect small juvenile white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Andrew J. Blanchard  
Chairman