

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Shrimp Season Closure in Portions of State Inside Waters

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been notified that recent biological sampling conducted by the department has indicated that average white shrimp size within these waters to be closed is smaller than the minimum possession count and this action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and provide opportunity for growth to larger and more valuable sizes. R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) per pound except during the time period from October 15 through the third Monday in December.

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; R.S. 56:497 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to delegate to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the powers, duties and authority to set shrimp seasons; and in accordance with a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the commission on August 3, 2023, which authorizes the secretary of the department to close the fall inshore shrimp season when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop, the secretary does hereby declare:

The 2023 Louisiana fall inshore shrimp season will close on Monday, December 18, 2023, at official sunset in all Louisiana inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line, except for the following areas:

Lake Pontchartrain, Chef Menteur and Rigolets Passes, Lake Borgne, Mississippi Sound, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, a section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Orleans parish from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway East Closure Sector Gate westward to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway intersection with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as bounded by the double-rig line described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2.

Existing data do not currently support shrimping closures in additional state inside and outside waters. However, historic data suggest additional closures may be necessary and the department will continue monitoring shrimp populations in these waters. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Robert E. Shadoin
Secretary