

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In-Person Appearance Requirement Suspension for Oyster Lease Renewal Applicants

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has established by rule in LAC 76:VII.501.C.2 that all applicants must appear in person at the oyster lease section office to apply for an oyster lease renewal. Due to the devastation in coastal communities caused by Hurricane Ida, and the continued concern over the Covid-19 pandemic, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby suspends the in-person appearance requirement for oyster lease renewal applicants for the 2021-22 renewal period and directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop an alternative method for applicants to submit oyster lease renewal applications by mail and in compliance with all other applicable laws and rules.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that the significant losses suffered by coastal communities because of Hurricane Ida has made it difficult for applicants to appear in person. It is necessary to adopt this Declaration of Emergency to suspend the requirement for in-person appearance to assist individuals who have suffered devastating losses and may not be able to appear in person at this time.

This Declaration of Emergency is promulgated in accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953.1 et seq., and shall become effective on November 5, 2021. It shall expire on March 1, 2022.

Jerri G. Smitko
Chair

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