

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

#### 2024 Recreational Red Snapper Season Modification

Louisiana's recreational red snapper season was previously set by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular March 2024 meeting to be open daily on April 15, 2024 until further notice. Under the provisions of state management, NOAA Fisheries has delegated season and bag limit authority as well as allocated a quota to Louisiana. Landings estimates generated from the LA Creel program indicate that red snapper harvest rates are such that a season structure modification is necessary. In order to avoid exceeding the established allocation, the season must be modified to a weekends-only season (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Monday of Labor Day).

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 at its regular March 2024 meeting and in LAC 76:VII.335.G.5 to modify the recreational red snapper season, size, and bag limits under the provisions of NOAA delegated state management, the secretary hereby declares:

The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters and federal waters off Louisiana shall close at 11:59 p.m. on July 7, 2024 until 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024 at which time it will reopen as a weekends-only season (weekends are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Monday of Labor Day) until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 2, 2024, at which time it shall close until further notice. The bag and possession limit (four fish per person) and the size limit (sixteen inches minimum total length) shall remain as previously established. During the closure periods above, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess red snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters. This modification does not apply to federally permitted charter boats operating under federal law during federally established seasons and under federally established rules for those vessels.

Madison D. Sheahan  
Secretary

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