

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2024 Recreational Red Snapper Season Closure

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 until further notice and subsequently modified on July 7 to a weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) only season and further modified back to a daily season on August 19. 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 the annual private recreational and state charter red snapper allocation for Louisiana has been met. In order to avoid further exceeding the established allocation, the season must be closed.

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 October 6, 2024 and shall remain closed until the start of the 2025 season, currently scheduled for May 23, 2025, unless modified. Effective with this closure, 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