

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

#### 2022 Commercial and Recreational Lane Snapper Season Closure

Louisiana's commercial and recreational lane snapper season was previously opened on January 1, 2022. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2022 commercial and recreational seasons for the harvest of lane snapper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will close November 15, 2022. Data indicate that the 2022 annual catch limit of 1,028,973 pounds has been projected to be met by that date. Compatible season regulations in state waters are preferable to provide effective rules and efficient enforcement for the fishery, and to prevent overfishing of the species in the long term.

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 in LAC 76:VII.335.G.5 to modify opening and closing dates of any commercial or recreational reef fish seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the regional administrator of NOAA fisheries that the seasons have been closed in adjacent federal waters, the secretary hereby declares:

The seasons for the commercial and recreational harvest of lane snapper in Louisiana state waters shall close at 12:01 a.m. on November 21, 2022 and shall remain closed until the start of the 2023 recreational and commercial seasons, currently scheduled to open on January 1, 2023. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess lane snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters. Furthermore, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell lane snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing lane snapper taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Jack Montoucet  
Secretary