

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

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

#### Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation to Reopen to Market Size Oyster Harvest

In accordance with the emergency provisions of Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:962, under the authority of R.S. 56:433, and under the authority of a Declaration of Emergency passed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on September 1, 2022, which authorized the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take emergency action to reopen public oyster seed grounds or reservations if sufficient quantities of oysters are available and to adjust sack limits and sacking only areas, notice is hereby given that the secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby declares that the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation as described in R.S. 56:434(E) shall open a special season for the purposes of market oyster harvest at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, February 13, 2023 and close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, February 17, 2023, with the following conditions:

1. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed reservations described above shall be limited to a daily take not to exceed 20 whole sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this Declaration of Emergency shall be defined as the size described in R.S. 56:440. If sacks smaller than the size described in R.S. 56:440 are used, the daily harvest and possession limit shall be based on the number of sacks used, not the size of the sack or other measures.

2. This opening is limited to harvesting only market oysters for direct sale (sacking).

3. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster reservation described above, all oysters contained on that vessel will be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.

4. All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market shall be uncontaminated, sealed and not gaping as described in R.S. 56:433.

5. All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of direct sale shall measure a minimum of 3 inches from hinge to bill as described in R.S. 56:433.

6. Market oysters harvested from any public oyster area, seed ground or reservation must be sacked, the number of sacks recorded in a log book, and each sack properly tagged prior to leaving said public oyster area, seed ground, or reservation.

7. All vessels located in public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations during those times between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise must have all oyster scrapers unshackled.

8. Every vessel harvesting oysters from the Public Oyster Areas for market shall report harvest information to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries before 9 p.m. each day fished. Vessels shall provide the following information: Captain's name, oyster harvester number, boat number, the total number of sacks harvested that day, and the public

oyster area fished. Call 1-800-442-2511 or send email to [oyster@wlf.la.gov](mailto:oyster@wlf.la.gov) to submit harvest reports. This reporting does not substitute for trip ticket reporting.

The following area shall remain closed for the entire 2022/2023 oyster season:

1. The 2021 Sister Lake Cultch Plant within the following coordinates:

- a. 29 degrees 14 minutes 25.211 seconds  
90 degrees 56 minutes 19.177 seconds
- b. 29 degrees 14 minutes 3.351 seconds  
90 degrees 56 minutes 19.203 seconds
- c. 29 degrees 14 minutes 25.075 seconds  
90 degrees 55 minutes 34.537 seconds
- d. 29 degrees 14 minutes 3.214 seconds  
90 degrees 55 minutes 34.626 seconds

2. The 2022 Drum Bay Cultch Plant with the following coordinates:

#### North Plant

- a. 29 degrees 53 minutes 24.837 seconds  
89 degrees 17 minutes 08.500 seconds
- b. 29 degrees 53 minutes 50.990 seconds  
89 degrees 16 minutes 30.541 seconds
- c. 29 degrees 54 minutes 12.658 seconds  
89 degrees 16 minutes 43.889 seconds
- d. 29 degrees 53 minutes 55.360 seconds  
89 degrees 17 minutes 30.601 seconds

#### South Plant

- a. 29 degrees 52 minutes 32.400 seconds  
89 degrees 19 minutes 18.340 seconds
- b. 29 degrees 52 minutes 36.238 seconds  
89 degrees 18 minutes 40.818 seconds
- c. 29 degrees 53 minutes 07.579 seconds  
89 degrees 19 minutes 36.541 seconds
- d. 29 degrees 53 minutes 18.409 seconds  
89 degrees 19 minutes 07.703 seconds

3. Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake and Barataria Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:517.

4. The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:521.

5. Oyster harvest on the Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area is prohibited as described in R.S. 56:435.1.

Notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season will be provided by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action, unless such closure is ordered by the Department of Health for public health concerns.

Jack Montoucet  
Secretary

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