

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2021 Recreational Red Grouper Season Closure

Louisiana's private recreational red grouper season was previously opened on January 1, 2021. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the recreational season for red grouper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will close at 12:01 a.m. on September 15, 2021. Data indicate that the 2021 recreational annual catch target of 1,000,000 pounds gutted weight has been projected to be met and a closure is necessary to prevent overfishing.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.1, 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 season for the recreational harvest of red grouper in Louisiana state waters shall close at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 and shall remain closed until the scheduled opening of the 2022 season on January 1, 2022. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess red grouper whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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