

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 3: Fisheries

Part 3, Chapter 1: General Fisheries rules.

Rule 1.1 Regulations Regarding Prohibited or Invasive Species. Public Notice F2 1405 is hereby amended.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to transport into the state, offer for sale or have in their possession within the state live forms of the following fishes:

Scientific names, Genus names or Family name	Common Names
<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	Walking Catfish
All species in the Genera <i>Pygocentrus</i> , <i>Pristobrycon</i> , <i>Pygopristis</i> , <i>Serrasalmus</i>	Piranhas
All species in the Family <i>Channidae</i>	Snakeheads
All species in the Family <i>Synbranchidae</i>	Swamp Eels

B. Any person or persons having these species in their possession shall immediately notify the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks of such possession.

C. Conservation Officers shall take possession of these fishes and dispose of them in any humane manner to prevent their introduction into any waters within the State of Mississippi.

D. Except for legally permitted aquaculture facilities, it shall be illegal for any person, firm, company or agency to stock, release or cause to be released into any private or public pond, lake, stream, river or any other water body within the state any nonnative aquatic species as defined in Section 49-7-1 except for common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), koi (*Cyprinus carpio*), and grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*). Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) may only be stocked in private ponds but not in any other water body unless as specified in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-80.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, 49-7-80.

Rule 1.2 SHOOTING PROHIBITED AT PUBLIC ACCESS. Public Notice 1664 is hereby amended.

BE IT ORDERED effective this date that the discharging of firearms of any type and for any purpose on the public access areas, commonly called boat launching ramps, owned or leased by the Commission, on the lakes and streams of Mississippi, is hereby prohibited.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29 and 49-4-4.

RULE 1.3 REGULATIONS REGARDING SPORT FISHING.

A. The following rules and regulations relative to sport fishing are adopted:

1. Each person with a valid sport fishing license or those exempt under 49-7-5 may fish no more than 100 single hooks (in aggregate) among the following devices as described:

a. Sport fishing trotlines, throw lines, limb lines, and set hooks may have no more than a total of 100 single hooks in aggregate and these hooks shall be spaced at least two (2) feet apart and fixed to where they cannot slip together.

b. No more than 25 yo-yos may be fished by an individual. No more than two (2) single hooks may be attached to a yo-yo. When fished on a line, yo-yo's, limb lines, and set hooks must be attached at least two (2) feet apart and fixed so that they cannot slip together.

c. No more than 25 free floating fishing devices (FFFD) (Jugs) may be fished by an individual. Also, no more than two (2) single hooks may be attached to each of these devices. In Mississippi waters that border adjacent states, the legal number of FFFDs shall be that of the adjacent state or the Mississippi limit, whichever is greater, not to exceed 50 FFFDs by any individual.

d. On Eagle Lake in Warren County, Lake Washington in Washington County, Sardis Lake in Panola, Lafayette and Marshall Counties, Enid Lake in Lafayette, Panola and Yalobusha Counties, Grenada Lake in Grenada, Calhoun and Yalobusha Counties and Arkabutla Lake in Tate and Desoto Counties, all Yo-Yos and FFFDs must be legibly marked with either waterproof ink, stamped, or tagged to display the license holders' MDWFP number. Exempt anglers shall mark these gears with their full name, residence address and zip code. Yo-Yo tags shall be attached above the water line. All tags shall be furnished by the angler.

e. Yo-Yos & FFFDs must be attended during daylight hours on borderline waters between Arkansas and Mississippi, Eagle Lake, Lake Washington, Sardis Lake, Enid Lake, Grenada Lake and Arkabutla Lake. Attended means devices (whether set, baited, or tripped) must remain in sight of the angler during daylight hours. These devices may be fished at night without attendance, except at Lake Washington where yo-yos must be attended at all times other than between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., when yo-yos may be unattended (tripped, with hook out of the water). Unattended yo-yos may be seized/confiscated by MDWFP Law Enforcement officers.

2. Legal sport fishing trotlines and/or throw lines, set hooks, limb lines, FFFDs, and yo-yos may not be fished in the waters listed below:

a. Ross Barnett Reservoir:

i. That portion of the reservoir north of the main dam and to a line between the point where Twin Harbors channel enters the main lake under the Natchez Trace in Madison County and the Fannin Landing boat launch in Rankin County;

ii. Pelahatchie Bay and Pelahatchie Creek;

iii. Any area of the main lake or river lying within 100 yards of any sandbar or any public boat launching facility;

iv. Waters within any marked navigational channel between State Highway 43 and Ratliff Ferry in Madison County.

b. Sardis Lower Lake from the outlet structure to Spaulding Creek; however, FFFDs are permitted in Sardis Lower Lake.

c. Jamie L. Whitten Lock from outlet downstream to Mississippi Hwy 4 overpass.

d. G.V. Sonny Montgomery Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 406.

e. John Rankin Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 398.

f. Fulton Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Hwy 78 overpass.

g. Glover Wilkens Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 375.

h. Amory Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Hwy 6 overpass.

i. Aberdeen Lock from spillway outlet downstream to U.S. highway 45 overpass, including the auxiliary spillway and associated bank fishing access area in the Tombigbee River cutoff below the dam.

j. John C. Stennis Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 334, including the auxiliary spillway and associated bank fishing access area in the Tombigbee River Cutoff below the dam.

k. Spillways of Ross Barnett and Okatibbee Reservoirs, Grenada, Enid, Sardis and Arkabutla Lakes from spillway outlets to the end of rip rap.

l. Bluff Lake spillway in Noxubee County

m. Lowhead dam on Ross Barnett Reservoir from the dam to the end of the Idle Speed Only/No Wake Zone area downstream of the dam.

n. On Lake Washington, limb lines and set hooks may not be fished or set; however, sport fishing trotlines, FFFDs, and Yo-Yo's may be used as described in section 1.d.

3. The following regulations (a through f) apply in the waters listed under section g (i through iv):

a. Anglers fishing these waters may *RULE 1.3 REGULATIONS REGARDING SPORT FISHING*.

A. The following rules and regulations relative to sport fishing are adopted:

1. Each person with a valid sport fishing license or those exempt under 49-7-5 may fish no more than 100 single hooks (in aggregate) among the following devices as described:

a. Sport fishing trotlines, throw lines, limb lines, and set hooks may have no more than a total of 100 single hooks in aggregate and these hooks shall be spaced at least two (2) feet apart and fixed to where they cannot slip together. It is illegal to set trotlines so that they extend more than half way across any stream, channel, drain or other body of water. A guideline without any hooks that does not impede navigation may be used.

b. No more than 25 yo-yos may be fished by an individual. No more than two (2) single hooks may be attached to a yo-yo. When fished on a line, yo-yo's, limb lines, and set hooks must be attached at least two (2) feet apart and fixed so that they cannot slip together.

c. No more than 25 free floating fishing devices (FFFD) (Jugs) may be fished by an individual. Also, no more than two (2) single hooks may be attached to each of these devices. In Mississippi waters that border adjacent states, the legal number of FFFDs shall be that of the adjacent state or the Mississippi limit, whichever is greater, not to exceed 50 FFFDs by any individual.

d. On Eagle Lake in Warren County, Lake Washington in Washington County, Sardis Lake in Panola, Lafayette and Marshall Counties, Enid Lake in Lafayette, Panola and Yalobusha Counties, Grenada Lake in Grenada, Calhoun and Yalobusha Counties and Arkabutla Lake in Tate and Desoto Counties, all Yo-Yos and FFFDs must be legibly marked with either waterproof ink, stamped, or tagged to display the license holders' MDWFP number. Exempt anglers shall mark these gears with their full name, residence address and zip code. Yo-Yo tags shall be attached above the water line. All tags shall be furnished by the angler.

e. Yo-Yos & FFFDs must be attended during daylight hours on borderline waters between Arkansas and Mississippi, Eagle Lake, Lake Washington, Sardis Lake, Enid Lake, Grenada Lake and Arkabutla Lake. Attended means devices (whether set, baited, or tripped) must remain in sight of the angler during daylight hours. These devices may be fished at night without attendance, except at Lake Washington where yo-yos must be attended at all times other than

between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., when yo-yos may be unattended (tripped, with hook out of the water). Unattended yo-yos may be seized/confiscated by MDWFP Law Enforcement officers.

2. Legal sport fishing trotlines and/or throw lines, set hooks, limb lines, FFFDs, and yo-yos may not be fished in the waters listed below:

a. Ross Barnett Reservoir:

i. That portion of the reservoir north of the main dam and to a line between the point where Twin Harbors channel enters the main lake under the Natchez Trace in Madison County and the Fannin Landing boat launch in Rankin County;

ii. Pelahatchie Bay and Pelahatchie Creek;

iii. Any area of the main lake or river lying within 100 yards of any sandbar or any public boat launching facility;

iv. Waters within any marked navigational channel between State Highway 43 and Ratliff Ferry in Madison County.

b. Sardis Lower Lake from the outlet structure to Spaulding Creek; however, FFFDs are permitted in Sardis Lower Lake.

c. Jamie L. Whitten Lock from outlet downstream to Mississippi Hwy 4 overpass.

d. G.V. Sonny Montgomery Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 406.

e. John Rankin Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 398.

f. Fulton Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Hwy 78 overpass.

g. Glover Wilkens Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 375.

h. Amory Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Hwy 6 overpass.

i. Aberdeen Lock from spillway outlet downstream to U.S. highway 45 overpass, including the auxiliary spillway and associated bank fishing access area in the Tombigbee River cutoff below the dam.

j. John C. Stennis Lock from spillway outlet downstream to Mile Marker 334, including the auxiliary spillway and associated bank fishing access area in the Tombigbee River Cutoff below the dam.

k. Spillways of Ross Barnett and Okatibbee Reservoirs, Grenada, Enid,

Sardis and Arkabutla Lakes from spillway outlets to the end of rip rap.

1. Bluff Lake spillway in Noxubee County

m. Lowhead dam on Ross Barnett Reservoir from the dam to the end of the Idle Speed Only/No Wake Zone area downstream of the dam.

n. On Lake Washington, limb lines and set hooks may not be fished or set; however, sport fishing trotlines, FFFDs, and Yo-Yo's may be used as described in section A1.d.

3. The following regulations (a through f) apply in the waters listed under section A3.g (i through iv):

a. Anglers fishing these waters may use no more than one (1) pole or rod per person except for those persons fishing in Ross Barnett Reservoir from Lowhead dam to the end of the Idle Speed Only/No Wake Zone area downstream of the dam.

b. From December 1 until the last day of February, anglers may use no more than two (2) single hooks no larger than #2. No bare or baited treble hooks are allowed.

c. From March 1 until November 30, anglers may use no more than two (2) single hooks of any size. No bare or baited treble hooks are allowed.

d. Hooks must be secured at least one inch apart.

e. Artificial lures can have no more than three (3) treble hooks and may be fished all year. No more than two (2) artificial lures may be used. Treble hooks on artificial lures cannot be larger than #2.

f. No other gear can be used in these waters except that dip or landing nets, cast nets, boat mounted scoops, wire baskets, minnow seines, and minnow traps may be used to capture shad and minnows. Anglers keeping legal fish caught with these gear types in these waters, except for Lowhead dam in Leake County on Ross Barnett Reservoir, must immediately place their catch on ice or in a dry container. All game fish caught with these gear types must be released immediately upon capture.

g. Rules 3a through 3f shall apply to the following waters:

i. Spillways of Ross Barnett and Okatibbee Reservoirs, Grenada, Enid, Sardis and Arkabutla Lakes from spillway outlets to the end of rip rap.

ii. Bluff Lake spillway in Noxubee County.

iii. Lowhead dam on Ross Barnett Reservoir from the dam to the end of the Idle Speed Only/No Wake Zone area downstream of the dam.

iv. Aberdeen and Columbus Spillways.

4. Buffalo, Common Carp, gar, catfish, shad, bowfin, Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Grass Carp, Black Carp and Snakehead may be taken throughout the year with a bow and arrow, crossbow, spear or gig. However, catfish may not be taken with spear or gig from May 1 to July 15. Persons taking fish using any of these gears must have a valid sport fishing license or be exempt under 49-7-5.

5. The taking of non-game gross fish only by hand or rope (no attachments) is legal during the statewide season from May 1 to July 15. However, it is unlawful to alter any natural areas by the placing of boards, wire or any other obstruction to said logs, holes, etc. or to take fish from such altered devices. Also, it is unlawful to raise any part of a natural or artificial device out of the water thereby aiding in the capture of enclosed fish. Only wooden containers may be used. It is unlawful to place or take fish from structures such as plastic or metal barrels, hot water tanks, concrete pipe, tires and other non-biodegradable materials in any public waters of the state. Any person grabbling for fish must have a valid sport fishing license. It shall be illegal to place any cavity-type structure, intended to be used for hand grabbling purposes, in all Mississippi waters of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

6. Persons with a sport fishing license, or those exempt by 49-7-9, may use game fish as bait as long as the fish were legally taken and the daily creel limit for each species is not exceeded.

7. Persons with a sport fishing license, or those exempt by 49-7-9, may use minnow seines and minnow traps to harvest minnows, nongame gross fish, and nongame fish for bait. A commercial fishing license is required to sell fish captured from public waters in minnow seines and minnow traps.

a. Minnow seines must be no more than 25 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.

b. Minnow traps shall be constructed of glass, plastic, nonmetallic, or wire mesh not more than 32 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter without leads or wings and having an entrance no larger than 1 inch in diameter.

B. Fish Attractors:

1. It shall be unlawful to place structures such as plastic or metal barrels, plastic or metal pipes and tubing larger than 4 inches in diameter, hot water tanks, concrete pipe and tires and any other non-biodegradable material into the public waters of the state for use as fish attractors.

2. However, wooden materials and plastic tubing and pipe materials may be used as fish attractors provided that the plastic materials are no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Concrete, rope, wire and nails may be used to construct fish attractors. It is legal to place such fish attractor materials into the public waters of the state provided written permission to do so is obtained from the federal or state agency which owns the specific water body.

3. The person placing fish attractor materials into the public waters of the state must have in their possession a copy of the written permission at all times when transporting and placing

such material.

C. Crawfish and freshwater shrimp.

1. A sport fishing license is required, unless exempt by 49-7-9, to harvest freshwater crawfish and freshwater shrimp for personal use.

2. A commercial fishing license is required to sell freshwater crawfish and freshwater shrimp harvested from public waters.

3. Crawfish and shrimp traps fished in public waters shall be marked with a waterproof tag provided by the fisherman, which contains the fisherman's MDWFP Customer ID number. Exempt anglers shall mark these gears with their full name, residence address, and zip code.

4. Legal gear:

a. Crawfish traps are any device constructed of coated wire or plastic mesh with openings of the throat or flutes not exceeding 2 inches and which are used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Any commercially available crawfish trap with openings of the throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches may be used. Commercially available "puddle nets" or "lift nets" may be used.

b. Freshwater shrimp traps: It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take Freshwater shrimp by the use of any trap which exceeds the following dimensions: 36 inches long (from rear of the heart to the leading edge of the trap), by 24 inches wide (between the leading edges of the trap, or heart opening), by 12 inches high; or has external or unattached wings, weirs, or other devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart.

c. There is no limit on the number of crawfish traps and freshwater shrimp traps a person may fish.

D. It shall be illegal to possess on the water, both commercial and sport fishing gear in the same boat.

E. Conservation officers may seize any sport fishing gear determined to be unsafe or illegal or which is not tagged as per these regulations.

F. It is unlawful to take fish, crawfish, or shrimp from, tamper with or use any sport fishing gear without the written consent of the gear's owner. Written permission to run, or take fish from, someone else's sport gear must be carried on the person running the gear and must include the full name and MDWFP number of both the gear owner and the person running the gear.

History: Updated April 2022.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-81.

RULE 1.4 STATEWIDE CREEL LIMITS.

A. The following rules and regulations relative to sport fishing are adopted:

1. Statewide creel limits (per person, per day) on game and sport fish are as follows:

Species	Creel Per Day
Black Bass (combined largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass)	10
Sauger	10
Walleye	3
Striped Bass and Hybrids with 15" minimum size	6
Crappie (combined black and white)	30
Bream (combined bluegill, redear and other sunfish)	100
Alligator Gar	2
Paddlefish – must be less than 30"	2

a. On all waters, excluding private ponds and lakes, not listed in this Rule or in 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Rule 2.2, statewide creel and length limits apply.

b. There is no daily creel limit for any game and sport fish species not listed above.

2. Creel limits for black bass, bream, crappie, striped bass, and striped bass hybrids in waters touched by the state boundary (border waters) shall be that of the adjacent state, or the Mississippi limit, whichever is greater.

3. Harvest and possession of walleye is prohibited in the Old Tombigbee River and its tributaries north of Hwy 278 (Monroe, Itawamba and Prentiss Counties).

4. Paddlefish greater than 30" must be immediately released when caught sport fishing in Mississippi. No paddlefish harvest is allowed in the Tenn-Tom Waterway, Tombigbee River or its tributaries and Pickwick Lake.

5. No Alligator Gar harvest is allowed on Bee Lake in Holmes County.

6. Violation of any of the Mississippi state laws or state regulations pertaining to paddlefish will be considered a Class I offense as specified in Section 49-7-90 of the Mississippi State Code of 1972 as amended.

7. Harvest and possession of all sturgeon species (Alabama, Atlantic, Pallid and Shovelnose) are prohibited in all Mississippi waters.

B. The correct method for measuring fish and the definitions for length limits are as follows:

1. Correct Method for Measuring Fish Length

a. Fish measurements (excluding Paddlefish) for length limit regulations shall be taken with the total length being measured using a flat board with fish mouth closed and tail squeezed together to give the maximum over-all measurement.

b. Paddlefish are measured from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail.

2. Minimum Length Limit (MLL)

a. All fish less than the regulated size length in inches must be returned to the water immediately after capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish equal to or over the minimum length limit in total length may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

3. Maximum Length Limit (MAXLL)

a. All fish on or more than the regulated size length in inches must be returned to the water immediately after capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish under the maximum length limit in total length may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

4. Slot Length Limit (SLL)

a. All fish on or between the designated range of lengths in inches must be returned to the water immediately upon capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish shorter than the lowest length limit and all fish longer than the highest length limit may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

5. Additional regulations:

a. All freshwater game fish must remain intact (with head, tail, skin and scales) while fishing lakes or waters having an established MDWFP length/slot limit in Mississippi.

b. For Grenada, Enid, Sardis, and Arkabulta lakes, fish may only be cleaned at designated fish cleaning stations if available. Fish may not be cleaned while on the water or in the parking lot.

C. Crappie Length and Creel Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for crappie (combined black and white crappie):

		Length	Creel
--	--	--------	-------

Lake	County	Limit	Limit
Arkabutla Lake	Tate, Desoto	12" MLL	10
Charlie Capps WMA lake	Bolivar	None	20
Eagle Lake	Warren; <i>includes channel to Muddy Bayou water control structure</i>	11" MLL	30
Enid Lake	Yalobusha, Lafayette, Panola	12" MLL	10
Elvis Presley Lake	Lee	None	20
Grenada Lake	Grenada, Calhoun, Yalobusha	12" MLL	10
Horseshoe Lake	Holmes	11" MLL	20
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	10" MLL	10
Lake Washington	Washington	11" MLL	20
Lake Monroe	Monroe	None	20
Lake Mary Crawford	Lawrence	None	20
Choctaw Lake	Choctaw	12" MLL	10
Moon Lake (includes part east of Hwy 1)	Coahoma	10" MLL	30
Pickwick & Tenn-Tom Waterway, including all tributaries	Pickwick Lake to Aliceville Lock & Dam	9" MLL	30
Percy Quin State Park	Pike	None	20
Sardis Lake	Lafayette, Marshall, Panola	12" MLL	10
Spillways of Arkabutla	To Prichard Road Bridge	None	10
Enid	To I-55		10
Grenada	To Hwy. 51		10
Sardis & Sardis Lower Lake	To Spaulding Creek		10
Simpson County Lake	Simpson	None	20

2. Each person with a valid sport fishing license or those exempt under 49-7-5 may fish no more than four (4) poles or rods with two (2) hooks or lures per pole while fishing on Sardis, Grenada, Arkabutla, and Enid Lakes.

3. The aggregate daily boat creel limit for all species of crappies (white crappie, black crappie and their hybrids) for boats with 3 or more licensed or exempt anglers shall be 25 legal crappie per boat on Arkabutla, Sardis, Enid and Grenada Lakes.

4. For Lake Washington in Washington County -- the possession of crappie (white crappie, black crappie and their hybrids) under 11 inches while in Paul Love Park or on the weir is prohibited.

D. Black Bass Length and Creel Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for black bass (combined largemouth, spotted and smallmouth):

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
Aberdeen Lake	Monroe	14"MLL	10
Bee Lake	Holmes	None	5
Charlie Capps WMA lake	Bolivar	None	5
Columbus Lake	Lowndes, Monroe, Clay	14"MLL	10
Choctaw Lake	Choctaw	16-20" SLL	10 (1 over 20")
Davis Lake	Chickasaw	18-22"SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Eagle Lake	Warren; <i>includes channel to Muddy Bayou water control structure</i>	16"MLL	10
Elvis Presley Lake	Lee	16-22" SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Horseshoe Lake	Holmes	None	5
Lake Bill Waller	Marion	18-24" SLL	10 (1 over 24")
Lake Bogue Homa	Jones	15" MLL	5
Lake Jackson	Washington	None	5
Lake Mary Crawford	Lawrence	16-22" SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Lake Monroe	Monroe	18-24" SLL	10 (1 over 24")
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	18-22"SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Lake Washington	Washington	15" MLL	5
Leroy Percy State Park	Washington	None	5
Moon Lake	Coahoma (includes east of Hwy 1)	None	5
Natchez State Park	Adams	18-22"SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Pascagoula River	George and Jackson Co. Merrill, MS to Hwy 90 Bridge <i>includes all connected oxbow lakes and the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the two said rivers</i>	12" MLL	10
Percy Quin State Park	Pike	16-22"SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Pickwick Lake	Tishomingo	15"MLL	10
RecCon Lake	Bolivar	None	<u>5</u>
Ross Barnett Reservoir	Madison, Rankin, Leake, Hinds, Scott	14" MLL	7
Simpson County lake	Simpson	18-24" SLL	10 (1 over 24")
Wolf/Broad Lake	Yazoo, Humphreys	12" MLL	5

2. For Lake Washington in Washington County -- the possession of black bass under 15 inches while in Paul Love Park or on the weir is prohibited.

E. Catfish Creel and Length Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for catfish:

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
------	--------	--------------	-------------

Choctaw Lake	Choctaw	None	5
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	None	5
ReCon Lake	Bolivar	None	10
All MDWFP State Fishing and Park Lakes	Statewide	None	10

2. The length limit on catfish (blue, channel and flathead) shall be no more than 1 catfish over 34 inches per person on reciprocated waters with AL and TN. There is no creel limit on catfish.

F. Bluegill and Redear Creel and Length Limits: Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Bluegill and Redear:

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
Choctaw Lake	Choctaw	None	25
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	None	50
Elvis Presley Lake	Lee	None	50
Simpson County Lake	Simpson	None	50

G. Be it further ordered that in addition to statewide regulations, persons fishing in the Pearl River from the Ross Barnett Reservoir dam to the City of Jackson water intake may take only one Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass over 24 inches.

H. No person shall take in any one calendar day, more than the daily creel or bag limit of fish. No person shall at any time, by any means, or in any manner, transport more than seven (7) daily creel or bag limits of fish for each qualified angler present in the vehicle. A single angler may only transport his or her own limit(s) of fish, not to exceed seven (7) daily limits.

I. Walleye Creel and Length Limits: Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Walleye:

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
Choctaw Lake	Choctaw	None	0
Davis Lake	Chickasaw	None	1
Lake Lamar Bruce	Lee	None	0
Lake Monroe	Monroe	None	0
Elvis Presley Lake	Lee	None	0

J. Rainbow Trout Creel and Length Limits: until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Rainbow Trout:

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
Lake Lamar Bruce	Lee	None	3

History: Updated April 2026

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-90..

RULE 1.5 NORTH MISSISSIPPI FISH HATCHERY FEES. Public Notice F2 3800 is hereby amended.

A. The following regulation(s) on the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Visitor-Education Center fees are hereby adopted.

General Entrance Permits		Rate
Adult	\$2.50	Ages 18-60
Senior	\$2.00	Ages 60 and over
Children	\$2.00	Ages 3-18
Children	Free	Under 3
Education (school) Groups	\$2.00	Per student, bus driver and chaperon free
Memberships		Rate
Individual	\$20.00	Valid one year from date of purchase
Family	\$32.50	Valid one year from date of purchase
Meeting Room Rental		Rate
	Without Food*	8 AM – 5 PM With Food*
Per 2 hour period	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Half Day	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Full Day	\$200.00	\$300.00
Meeting Room Rental		Rate
	Without Food*	After 5 PM With Food*
Per 2 hour period	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
Reception/Party		\$300.00

B. Food is not provided by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-4-37.

Part 3, Chapter 2. State Fishing lakes and Community Assistance Program lakes.

RULE 2.1 REGULATIONS REGARDING STATE FISHING LAKES.

A. The following regulations are adopted for all State Fishing Lakes owned and/or managed by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. These lakes are: Tippah County Lake, Tippah County; Lake Lamar Bruce, Lee County; Lake Monroe, Monroe County; Lake Tom Bailey, Lauderdale County; Lake Claude Bennett, Jasper County; Lake Prentiss Walker, Smith County; Simpson County Lake, Simpson County; Lake Bogue Homa, Jones County; Lake Mike Conner, Covington County; Lake Jeff Davis, Jefferson Davis County; Lake Mary Crawford, Lawrence

County; Lake Walthall, Walthall County; Lake Columbia, Marion County; Lake Perry, Perry County; Lake Bill Waller, Marion County; Neshoba County Lake, Neshoba County; Elvis Presley Lake, Lee County; and Calling Panther Lake, Copiah County.

1. In addition to any required license, all persons fishing, boating, hunting, camping or using a pavilion must also have a valid lake permit.

2. The boat operator or another person in the boat is required to purchase a combination Launching/Fishing/Skiing permit.

3. Boat Launching/Fishing/Skiing permit is valid for fishing and boating activities such as skiing, jet skis, sailing, wind surfing, canoeing or any other type of boating.

B. Daily Permits:

1. The following permits are available for the listed fee.

Permit Name	Permit Cost
Daily Fishing (No Boat Launching)*	\$5.00
Daily Boat Launching/Fishing/Boating/Skiing*	\$9.00

* Ages 16 and over; ages 15 and under no permit required.

C. Annual Permits

1. The following annual permits are available at the listed fee.

Permit Name	Permit Cost
Annual Boat Launching/Fishing/Skiing (Ages 16 – 61)	\$125.00
Annual Exempt Launching/Fishing/Skiing (Ages 62 & older or disabled)	\$100.00
Annual Fishing (No Boat Launching; Ages 16 - 61)	\$55.00
Annual Disabled/Age Exempt Fishing (No Boat Launching)	\$35.00
Duplicate copy of Annual or Lifetime Permit	\$9.00

2. All annual permits shall be honored for fishing and boat launching on all State Fishing and State Park Lakes owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

3. All annual permits will expire one year from date of purchase.

4. There are no honor box sales for these permits.

5. Annual boat launching/fishing/skiing permit includes all persons in the boat.

6. Persons desiring to purchase Senior Citizen permits must show proof of age.

7. Persons desiring to purchase Disabled permits must provide proof of 100% disability by showing one of the following:

- a. Railroad Disability Letter that states “100% Disability”
- b. Veterans Administration Letter stating the person as “100% Service Connected Disability”
- c. Updated Social Security letter listing the person as 100% disabled.

8. Veterans and Active Service Members qualify to purchase exempt permits. Proof of status is required.

D. Recreational boating and water skiing are authorized from noon to sunset on the following lakes only on the designated days in the designated areas:

Lake Bogue Homa	Everyday
Lake Claude Bennett	Wednesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Columbia	Wednesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Jeff Davis	Tuesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Lamar Bruce	Thursday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Mary Crawford	Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Mike Connor	Wednesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Perry	Friday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Prentiss Walker	Friday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Lake Tom Bailey	Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Simpson County Lake	Thursday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Tippah County Lake	Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day
Elvis Presley Lake	Everyday
Calling Panther Lake	Wednesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4 th , & Labor Day

E. Camping and Pavilion Rental Permits

1. The following camping and pavilion rental permits are available at the listed fee.

Permit Name	Permit Cost
Daily Camping (24 hour period)	\$25.00
Disabled/Senior Citizen Camping (1 day; age 62 & older)	\$22.00
Camping - 30 days	\$500.00
Disabled/Senior Citizen Camping – 30 days (age 62 & older)	\$360.00
Primitive / tent camping (1 day, no electricity)	\$20.00

Pavilion Rental (1 day)	\$53.00
-------------------------	---------

2. Daily camping rate includes fishing and boat launching. These activities are limited to the registered number of guests per campsite, not to exceed 8 people. The primitive camping rate does not include fishing and boat launching.

F. Camping Rules

1. Camping shall be confined to the designated campground or designated overflow areas. No more than one camping unit will be allowed on a camp pad without the State Lake Manager's approval.

2. Camper storage, reservations and reduced rates are not allowed at State Fishing Lakes. Camping reservations are not available at State Fishing Lakes. Reduced daily or weekly rates are not available at State Fishing Lakes.

3. No campsite can be retained without a camping unit (camper or erected tent) placed on the site. All camping fees must be paid in advance and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A camping voucher may be issued for the remaining balance if there is a death or dire illness in the customer's immediate family or other dire situations; good for 12 months from the date of the cancellation. A letter explaining the event and relation to the customer is required to be submitted to the lake manager before voucher is granted. A campsite must be occupied the moment a site is rented.

4. No permanent use of a rentable facility for residence purposes is allowed.

a. "Homesteading" or otherwise using a campground for a sole place of residence is prohibited. The act of Homesteading includes but is not limited to: erecting permanent or semi permanent structures.

b. Cluttering a rented site with garbage, storage containers, boxes, buckets, or other objects is prohibited.

c. The use of appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, or freezers outside of the camper; or parking trailers or extra vehicles is prohibited.

5. A monthly camping rate is available. Monthly camping is restricted to designated sites.

a. Ninety (90) days is the maximum allowable stay on a campsite.

b. After 90 days, a camper must leave the campground for 14 days before returning.

c. An extension may be granted with approval by the Executive Director or his designee.

d. Extensions will only be approved in ninety (90) day increments.

6. Check-out time is 2:00 P.M.; check-in time is 4:00 P.M.

7. Campgrounds and camp areas are restricted for registered campers and guests only. Guests shall leave the area prior to 10:00 P.M.

8. Camping pads will not be rented to any person under 21 years of age or anyone under the age of 21 allowed to camp without an adult 21 years or older present.

9. Campers, tents, vehicles, children and pets shall not be left unattended.

10. No person shall kindle, build, maintain or use a fire other than in the designated campground area.

11. Persons eligible for a Disabled/Senior Citizen discount may not rent a site for persons who are not eligible for the discount. Proof of eligibility will be required upon check in. An eligible person must be present for the duration of the stay to obtain a camping discount.

12. Gray water or sewage must be placed in the dump station (when provided). In no case is the discharge of gray water or sewage on the ground or campsite permitted nor is the storage of gray water or sewage in containers not manufactured specifically for this purpose. Violations are subject to criminal charges, fines, and/or the cost of the clean up.

13. Shower facilities at State Fishing Lakes are only available to those who possess a valid lake permit.

G. Boating Rules

1. Boats and jet skis must be operated at idle speed which is any speed that does not produce a wake except during skiing periods in designated ski areas.

2. No aqua-aircraft shall land on any State Fishing Lake without written permission from the Executive Director.

3. While operating a pleasure boat on State Fishing Lakes, boats shall operate in a counter clockwise manner.

4. While operating a ski boat on State Fishing Lakes, only one, skier is permitted to be pulled at a time. Only two people are permitted on a tube if the tube is certified as for such. A child under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older. Tube kites are prohibited.

5. Swimming and wading are prohibited on State Fishing Lakes except in designated ski areas while skiing or jet skiing.

H. Fishing Rules

1. Only rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed on State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes. No other gear is allowed at these lakes.

2. There shall be a FREE FISHING weekend on all State Fishing and State Park Lakes. These days will be set on the 1st weekend of National Fishing and Boating Week in June. No state fishing license or lake fishing permits will be required for residents fishing on these days.

3. Creel limit on catfish will be 10 per day in all State Fishing Lakes. Catfish limits during fishing rodeos at state lakes may be different.

4. Fishing is not allowed from courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramps. Night fishing is allowed at all State Fishing Lakes from the bank or boats which are in compliance with state and coast guard regulations with the exception of Lake Bill Waller.

I. Other Rules

1. Persons who possess a dog or other pet must restrain it on an adequate leash not more than six feet long. Exception: Squirrel hunting dogs do not have to be leashed while hunting on Calling Panther WMA.

a. Persons allowing animals to disturb other guests will be removed from the lake property.

b. No livestock or other animals, other than horses on designated bridle paths or trails, will be allowed on State Parks or State Lakes except with written permission of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks or his designee.

2. Motorized vehicles shall be allowed only in designated areas.

3. No one shall be permitted on lake property between one hour past sunset and one hour before sunrise without a valid permit.

4. The open carry of firearms may be restricted in or upon certain areas of any state fishing lake. These areas will be clearly designated by appropriate signage. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting a concealed carry permit holder from carrying his or her concealed handgun on any state fishing lake property.

5. State Lakes are state wildlife refuges. Hunting or trapping is prohibited within the confines of the state lake property, except Calling Panther Lake, Neshoba County Lake and Lake Bogue Homa. Regulations governing hunting at these three lakes are strictly enforced. Exceptions are:

a. Frog gigging is allowed during the statewide season at all State Fishing Lakes except Lake Bill Waller. Either a daily or annual boat launching/fishing/skiing permit is required in addition to a valid hunting/fishing license.

b. Waterfowl hunters on Lake Bogue Homa and Neshoba County Lake

during statewide waterfowl seasons (see Federal Regulations) must have either a daily boat launching/fishing/skiing permit or an annual boat launching/fishing/skiing permit. Waterfowl hunting is restricted to designated areas of the lake and all waterfowl hunters must launch at the boat ramp.

c. At Neshoba County Lake, waterfowl hunt days are Wednesdays and Saturdays and shooting time ends at noon. No more than six parties allowed at a time with no more than four hunters per party.

d. At Lake Bogue Homa, waterfowl hunt days are Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and shooting time ends at noon.

e. At Calling Panther Lake, hunting is subject to WMA regulations (40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.47).

6. Possession of alcohol on state lakes is prohibited.

7. No one shall construct or erect any building or structure on state land or water.

8. No person shall bring into the lake property any explosive substance, such as dynamite, firecrackers, rockets, or torpedoes without the written permission of the Executive Director or his designee.

9. A violation of a regulation of the Commission may result in a citation and prosecution in Justice Court. Such offenses are Class III offenses as defined in Miss. Code Ann. §49-7-101 and upon conviction, may be punished by a fine of \$25 to \$100. Repeat offenders or persons who flagrantly disregard the rules, resist/refuse the directives of agency lake managers or other MDWFP personnel, or threaten or abuse, whether physically or verbally, agency personnel, may be banned from the lake for a period of time to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

10. To destroy, cut, break, remove, mutilate, injure, take, or gather in any manner any tree, shrub, plant, rock, mineral, or historical artifact within lake property is prohibited unless authorized by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks or his designee. The use of metal detectors and magnet fishing on lake property is prohibited.

11. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles may not be launched from or landed on any MDWFP managed State Fishing Lake property without the written permission of the Executive Director or his designee.

12. The operation of off-road/non-titled vehicles shall be in designated areas only. Golf carts and LSMVs may be used on campground roads only and may not exceed 20 mph. (LSMV is a four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is 20mph) Sidewalk and off-road use is prohibited.

History: Updated November 2024.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29 and 49-4-4.

RULE 2.2 REGULATIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY FISHING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LAKES.

A. Only rod and reel or line and pole gear may be used in the following public waters which are open to fishing. Unless otherwise stated, all persons possessing a valid fishing license or who are legally exempt from the license requirements may fish these waters. Boating, swimming, littering and alcoholic beverages are not allowed except where noted. City or county ordinances may also regulate activities at these waters.

B. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes may be closed to public use and the use regulations may be changed for special events only upon mutual agreement by the Cooperator who owns the water body and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). Cooperators shall request such closures and use changes from the MDWFP at least thirty (30) days in advance of any special events.

1. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Poplarville

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Poplar Springs Lake, Poplarville, Pearl River County	Largemouth bass	2
	Bream	20
	Catfish	5

a. Poplar Springs Lake is open to fishing on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week.

b. Poplar Springs Lake is closed to fishing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week.

2. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Brookhaven

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Brookhaven Fishing Pond Brookhaven, Lincoln County	Largemouth bass	0
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. The Brookhaven Fishing Pond is only open for fishing to persons 14 years old or younger or handicapped persons of any age as defined in this rule.

3. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits – Olive Branch

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Olive Branch City Park Ponds Olive Branch, Desoto County	Largemouth bass - Release all bass 15 inches & under	2
	Catfish	5
	Bream	10
	Crappie	5

a. Olive Branch City Park Ponds are open to fishing each day.

4. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Carthage

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
McMillian Park Pond Carthage, Leake County	Largemouth bass	2
	All other species combined	8

a. McMillan Park Pond is open to fishing each day.

5. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Oxford

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Lake Patsy Oxford, Lafayette County	Largemouth bass	0
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. Lake Patsy is only open for fishing to persons 15 years old and younger or handicapped persons of any age, as defined in this rule.

b. Fishing hours are from sunrise to sunset each day.

6. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Tupelo

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Ballard Lake Tupelo, Lee County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	25
	Catfish	5

a. Ballard Lake is open to fishing each day from sunrise to 10:00 p.m.

7. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Hattiesburg

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Forrest County Lake Hattiesburg, Forrest County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	20
	Catfish	5

a. Forrest County Lake is open to fishing on Thursday and Friday of each week and only to persons fourteen (14) years old or younger or handicapped persons of any age as defined in this rule.

b. All minors must be accompanied by a supervising adult and handicapped persons in need of personal assistance must provide such.

c. The lake is open to the general public for fishing on Saturday of each week from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

d. The lake is closed to fishing Sunday through Wednesday and for special events at the discretion of the Forrest County Board of Supervisors.

8. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Clarksdale

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Coahoma County Lake Clarksdale, Coahoma County	Largemouth bass	2
	Bream	20
	Catfish	5

a. Coahoma County Lake is open to fishing each day from sunrise to sunset.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors for special events.

9. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits – Walnut Grove

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Willow Lake Walnut Grove, Leake County	Largemouth bass	0
	All other species combined	8

a. Willow Lake is open to fishing on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from sunrise to sunset.

10. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Hernando

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Lee's Summit Park Lake Hernando, Desoto County	Largemouth bass	0
	Bream	100
	Crappie	30

a. Lee's Summit Park Lake is open to fishing each day from sunrise to sunset.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Hernando Parks and Recreation Department for special events.

11. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Pascagoula

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Whitehead Lake Pascagoula, Jackson County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. Whitehead Lake is open to fishing each day.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department for special events.

12. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Pascagoula

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Chateau Lake Pascagoula, Jackson County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. Chateau Lake is open to fishing each day.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department for special events.

13. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Byram

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Lake Dockery Byram, Hinds County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	25
	Catfish	5

a. Lake Dockery is open to fishing each day from 30 minutes before dawn until 30 minutes before sunset.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Byram for special events.

c. See posted use rules at lake.

14. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Amory

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
McAlpine Lake Amory, Monroe County	Largemouth bass	1
	Bream	10
	Catfish	2

a. McAlpine Lake is open to fishing to persons 15 years old and younger on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. One pole per youth.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Amory for special events.

15. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Hattiesburg

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Duncan Lake Hattiesburg, Forrest County	Largemouth bass	5
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. Duncan Lake is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

b. All pets must be kept on a leash.

c. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Hattiesburg for special events.

16. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Cleveland

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Bear Pen Park Lake Cleveland, Bolivar County	Largemouth bass	0
	Bream	15
	Catfish	5

a. Bear Pen Park Lake is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

b. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the City of Cleveland for special events.

17. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits – Eupora

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
White's Creek Lake Eupora, Webster County	Largemouth bass – Release all bass 15 inches & under	5
	Bream	25
	Catfish	10
	Crappie – Release all crappie 10 inches & under	15

a. White's Creek Lake is open daily from sunrise to 9:00 pm.

b. No campfires, firearms, fireworks or explosives allowed.

c. No jug fishing.

- d. Bank fishing allowed in the park area only.
- e. Boating allowed. Launching fees may apply.
- f. Camping allowed in designated areas.
- g. See posted rules at lake.

h. No commercial activity. As defined by Eupora City Ordinance, commercial activity means, “any activity pursued in furtherance of a business, or trade, or profession, or in the employ of another.” This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, guided fishing tours or charters.

18. Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes: Creel limits - Greenwood

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Florewood River Plantation Lake, LeFlore County	Largemouth bass	2
	Bream	10
	Catfish	5

a. Florewood River Plantation Lake will open to fishing at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, 2021.

b. The lake is open to the general public for fishing on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

c. The lake will be closed to fishing at the discretion of the Leflore County Board of Supervisors for special events.

-

C. The term “handicapped persons” used in this Rule means paraplegics, hemiplegic, anyone permanently dependent upon a wheelchair for mobility, anyone who requires the permanent use of braces, full prosthesis or crutches for walking or blindness.

History: Revised April 2025

Part 3, Chapter 3: Regulations regarding commercial fishing.

Rule 3.1 REGULATIONS REGARDING COMMERCIAL FISHING.

A. The following rules, regulations and required licenses relative to freshwater commercial fishing, commercial fishing equipment tags, seines, nets and traps and wholesale minnow dealers are hereby adopted for all residents and non-residents for public waters identified in MISS. CODE ANN. §51-3-1 and Miss. Code Ann. §59-23-3(e). Nonresidents shall comply with all subsections of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1, except for the subsection which specifies the fee for a resident commercial fishing license.

B. Non-game gross fish, nonnative fish, minnows, non-game fish, crawfish, and freshwater shrimp may be taken and sold from the public freshwaters of Mississippi except for those species listed in sections G10, G11, G13 and G14, except in from those waters specifically listed in section H which are closed to freshwater commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets as stated herein. Non-game gross fish, nongame fish and non-native fish are listed or defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-1. Minnows are defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29

C. LICENSES

1. All persons (no age or disability license exemption) who engage in the following activities must have a freshwater commercial fishing license to do the following in the public freshwaters of Mississippi:

a. Fish freshwater commercial fishing equipment (hoop or barrel nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, gill or trammel nets, slat baskets or trotlines with more than 100 hooks in aggregate) as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 and in this rule.

b. Harvest, sell, resell, or purchase for re-sale non-game gross fish, nongame fish and non-native fish.

c. Sell minnows at wholesale (with the exception of those MS residents growing minnows on their own property, MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29) or sell minnows taken from the public freshwaters of Mississippi. Minnows are defined as golden shiners, fathead minnows, goldfish, emerald shiner, common carp, mosquito fish, and Gulf killifish.

d. Selling, reselling or exporting for sale across state lines crawfish or freshwater shrimp taken from the public freshwaters of Mississippi.

2. Any person using a slat basket in the public freshwaters of Mississippi waters must have a valid Mississippi Slat Basket License in addition to having a valid Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.

3. LICENSE COSTS: The following licenses are available at the listed price.

Commercial Fishing License Types	Cost
Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	\$30
Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	\$200
Slat Basket License (for each basket and in addition to freshwater commercial license and slat basket tags)	\$30

(Prices listed do not include processing fees or agent fees.)

4. A person holding a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License can be assisted by a helper who has any valid license issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Anyone in the boat with a licensed commercial fisherman is considered a helper and therefore must have valid license issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. There are no license exemptions for helpers. Helpers who do not have a Mississippi commercial fishing license cannot sell, resell, or ship for sale, nongame gross fish or nonnative fish.

5. Persons who have a freshwater commercial fishing license are allowed to fish crawfish traps and freshwater shrimp traps as described herein.

D. FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT

1. TROT LINES:

- a. Trotlines must have hooks at least 24 inches apart and tied so they cannot slip together.
- b. No trotlines or throw lines shall exceed 1,000 feet.
- c. A trotline with more than 100 hooks is considered commercial gear and requires a freshwater commercial fishing license.

2. SNAG LINES: There is no open season for the use of snag lines.

3. HOOP NETS and BARREL NETS:

- a. Hoop or barrel nets shall have hoops covered with treated mesh twine or cord number 15 or bigger; the minimum mesh size shall be two (2) inch square measure.
- b. Lead Nets are hoop nets with one or two net mesh panels called wings or hearts attached to the front hoop. No more than seven lead nets per license holder may be used, with lead mesh panels up to 35 yards in length, with the minimum mesh size being two (2) inch square measure and made of treated mesh twine or cord number 15 twine or bigger.
- c. Hearts may be used only in the Mississippi River where it is a

common boundary between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included).

d. Hoop nets or barrel nets must be set at least 100 yards apart EXCEPT nets may be fished on each end of a lead mesh panel, as such, this constitutes one set, and each set must be 100 yards apart.

e. Any person fishing barrel nets and/or hoop nets in Mississippi waters, which are common boundaries between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included), may use the same mesh size allowed in the other state; EXCEPT, leads, hearts and wings are prohibited in Mississippi waters when attached to barrel or hoop nets with minimum mesh of less than two (2) inches square measure.

f. There are no restrictions on the size of the hoops, the material used for hoop construction, the overall length of a hoop net or barrel net or the number of throats they have.

g. Hoop nets are also known as barrel nets, set nets, funnel nets or fiddler nets.

4. REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS:

a. These are similar to hoop nets but have a rigid wire frame instead of hoops. These nets may be used as long as the wire frame spacing is at least six (6) inches square measure. The wire framing must be covered with #15 or bigger twine or cord treated net mesh material which is at least the minimum mesh size (square measure) specified for hoop or barrel nets in D3a and D3e. These nets may be fished as lead nets as specified in the Hoop Net and Barrel Net section D3a – D3e.

5. SEINES: The use of seines is prohibited statewide, except for minnow seines as described elsewhere in this rule.

6. MINNOW SEINES AND MINNOW TRAPS:

a. This equipment, as described below, can be used to harvest minnows as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29, non-game fish, and non-game gross fish as defined in MISS.CODE ANN. §49-7-1. Note: A commercial fishing license is not required to fish these types of gear, but the sale of fish authorized to be harvested by means of this equipment does require a commercial fishing license.

b. Minnow Seines: These seines must be no more than 25 feet in length and four (4) feet in depth.

c. Minnow Traps: Minnow traps or jars constructed of glass, plastic, nonmetallic or wire mesh not more than 32 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter having no wings or leads and having an entrance no larger than one inch in diameter may be used.

7. CRAWFISH TRAPS AND FRESHWATER SHRIMP TRAPS:

a. Crawfish Traps: any device constructed of coated wire or plastic mesh with openings of the throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches in diameter and which is used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Any commercially available crawfish trap with openings of throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches in diameter and any lift trap may be used.

b. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow or pyramid style or lift nets.

c. Freshwater shrimp traps: traps must be no larger than 36 inches long from the rear of the heart to the leading edge of the trap, and no larger than 24 inches wide between the leading edges of the trap or heart opening and no larger than 12 inches high and be without an external or unattached wings, weirs or other guiding devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart.

8. TRAMMEL NETS and GILL NETS:

a. Gill nets and trammel nets made of any material other than mono or multi filament twine are unlawful.

b. Nets must be set at least 100 yards apart and no nearer than 20 yards to piers. Maximum length shall be 3,000 feet.

c. Nets must have a minimum mesh of three and one half (3.5) inches square measure.

d. Exception in Specified Border Line Waters:

A minimum of three (3) inch square mesh measure gill and trammel nets may be used in Pickwick Lake, the main channels of the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers along the MS/LA border, and in any streams, lakes, and portion of lakes, where the Mississippi/Louisiana state line occurs as depicted on the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

9. SLAT BASKETS are defined as commercial fishing devices used solely for the capture of catfish.

a. Pursuant to MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 and 49-7-12, ANY PERSON using a slat basket in Mississippi waters must have a valid Mississippi slat basket license for each slat basket.

b. Slat baskets fished in Mississippi waters shall:

i. Be made entirely of wood and/or plastic slats in a boxlike

or cylindrical shape, not to exceed six (6) feet in length or fifteen (15) inches in width and height or diameter.

ii. Have no more than two (2) throats, have at least four (4) slot openings of a minimum one and one quarter (1¼) inches by twenty-four (24) inches evenly spaced around the sides of the catch area on cylindrical shaped baskets and one such opening per on each side of square shaped baskets. These openings must begin at the rear (or closed end) of the basket and run twenty-four (24) inches toward the throat end (or mouth or open end) of the basket.

c. Slat baskets shall be placed at least one hundred (100) yards apart and may not be used with any form of leads, netting, or guiding devices (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1).

d. Slat Baskets must display the license holders' MDWFP Number on a waterproof tag provided by the licensed fishermen.

e. Any violation of this subsection is a violation of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 (6) and shall be a Class 1 violation, punishable as provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

E. TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:

1. All Commercial Fishing Equipment, and all Slat Baskets must display the license holders' MDWFP Number on a waterproof tag provided by the licensed fishermen. No other number will be needed.

2. Each Freshwater Commercial Fishing license holder is responsible for writing with waterproof marking or engraving their MDWFP Number on a waterproof Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag in legible numbers at least ¼" in height.

3. Commercial Fishing Equipment Tags do not expire and may be used as long as the MDWFP Number, or a Louisiana, or Arkansas resident commercial fishing license number is legible on the commercial fishing equipment tag for gear fished in Mississippi waters in border water areas.

4. A Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag shall be attached to one end of the float line of gill or trammel nets; on the front hoop of any hoop or barrel net; at the open end of any reinforcement wire catfish net; within five (5) feet of one end of the main line of each trotline; and attached to the front end of a slat basket.

5. All commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets must be tagged on those border lakes and waters that are part of the reciprocal resident license agreements between Mississippi/Louisiana 40 Mississippi Admin. Code Part 4 Rule 3.3, and between Mississippi/Arkansas 40 Mississippi Admin Code Part 4 Rule 3.2. The reciprocal agreements DO NOT give non-resident license holders authority to fish in border waters of a state of which they do not possess a license.

6. Gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, slat baskets and trotlines fished by RESIDENTS of Louisiana and Arkansas in Mississippi waters specified in those reciprocal agreements must tag their commercial fishing equipment with the type of tag specified in the state where they are licensed for that gear, or if no tagging is required by their resident state, they must put their commercial fishing license number on their commercial fishing equipment tag when commercial fishing equipment is fished in border waters, or purchase a Mississippi nonresident commercial fishing license to get an MDWFP license number to for their tags. Persons with a Louisiana resident sportfishing or a basic fishing license using “recreational hoop nets” or any other commercial fishing equipment must either purchase a Louisiana commercial fishing license or a nonresident Mississippi commercial fishing license to fish commercial fishing equipment in Mississippi waters. Louisiana residents fishing gill nets must tag their equipment using the same criteria as Mississippi residents, EXCEPT their Louisiana license number must be on their freshwater commercial fishing equipment tag while fishing their gear in Mississippi waters.

7. Crawfish traps and freshwater shrimp traps fished in public water shall be marked with a waterproof tag provided by the fishermen, with their MDWFP Number, or a Louisiana, or Arkansas resident commercial fishing license number legibly printed on the tag using the same criteria as other commercial fishing equipment when fished in Mississippi waters in border water areas.

F. FISHING RESTRICTIONS

1. No person shall possess both sport and commercial gear when engaged in fishing or out on a water body.

2. It is unlawful to set any freshwater commercial fishing equipment within 100 yards of another piece of commercial fishing equipment (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-81).
Exception:

a. Hoop nets connected by a lead as defined in D.3.d.; and

b. Minnow traps, minnow seines, crawfish traps, and shrimp traps.

3. It is unlawful to set any freshwater commercial fishing equipment so that it extends more than half way across any stream, channel, drain or other body of water (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-81). A guideline that does not impede navigation may be set.

4. Driving or attempting to drive fish (also known as whooping, whipping or striking) into any freshwater commercial fishing gear is permitted; however, it shall be unlawful to alter or destroy any natural or man-made structure in the process of fishing for non-game gross fish or non-native fish.

5. It shall be unlawful to raise or run, or tamper with, or take fish from any

legal freshwater commercial fishing equipment, crawfish traps, shrimp traps, and/or slat baskets which are not licensed and tagged in your name without written permission of the owner of the commercial fishing equipment. Written permission to run, or take fish from, someone else's commercial gear must be carried on the person running the gear and must include the full name and MDWFP number of both the gear owner and the person running the gear.

6. It is unlawful for any person to fish any equipment in the waters of the state of any size or type that is not allowed by the MDWFP (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-81). Illegal gear, untagged gear and/or improperly tagged gear may be seized by conservation officers upon discovery.

G. HARVEST SIZE AND POSSESSION RESTRICTIONS; BAIT

1. All game fish (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-1) caught in freshwater commercial fishing equipment shall be returned to the water immediately (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-83).

2. Persons with commercial fishing licenses can use bream/sunfish for bait on trotlines, as long as:

- a. these fish were legally taken; and
- b. the daily creel limit for these species (100 fish total) is not exceeded.

3. No other species of game fish can be used by commercial fisherman as bait on trotlines. Nongame gross fish, nongame fish, minnows as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29 and nonnative fish for which harvest is legal may be used as bait. Only dead nonnative fish may be used as bait.

a. The harvest, possession, or use of any freshwater mussel for bait is prohibited (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-9-5).

4. Minnows, non-game fish, nongame gross fish and DEAD nonnative fish harvested for bait from Mississippi public waters may be taken outside the state for sale.

5. It is unlawful to commercially take, to offer for sale, or to possess non-game gross fish below the following total lengths, dressed lengths, or more than the creel limits:

Species	Total Length	Dressed Length	Creel Limit
Buffalo	16 inches	12 inches	None
Flathead Catfish	16 inches	12 inches	None
Other Catfish	12 inches	9 inches	None
Sturgeon			0
Paddlefish			0
Alligator Gar			2

a. Dressed means the removal of the head and guts from a fish. Dressed fish may also have the skin, scales, and all fins removed except for the tail fin. Dressed length means the length of the fish carcass measured on a flatboard from one end of the carcass to the end of the tail squeezed together to give the maximum overall length.

6. All Buffalo, Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish, and Blue Catfish must remain intact (with head, tail, skin and scales) while fishing any waters open to commercial fishing.

7. On border waters with Tennessee and Alabama persons with commercial fishing licenses shall possess no more than one catfish (blue, channel, flathead) over 34 inches in length.

8. Total length is measured with on a flatboard from the mouth to the end of the tail with the mouth of the fish closed and tail squeezed to give the maximum overall length.

9. The minimum length on dressed length shall not apply to fish processed at a facility (retail stores and supermarkets) that complies with Federal and State Health regulations. All fish sold on a rural or urban route or on display at a commercially licensed fish market shall meet total or dressed length requirements as established except that Buffalo ribs may be removed from the body side and be displayed and sold by commercial fisherman and commercially licensed fish markets.

10. PADDLEFISH: Paddlefish (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment must be released immediately. The harvest and/or possession, sale or attempted sale of Paddlefish, or any Paddlefish part (flesh and eggs) by resident and nonresident commercial fishermen is hereby prohibited on all the lands and water of the State of Mississippi including Mississippi lands and waters in all border water areas with adjacent states. As per MISS. CODE ANN§ 49-7-90, violation of this rule section is a Class 1 offense.

11. ALL MISSISSIPPI WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF ALL STURGEON SPECIES (Alabama shovelnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Lake sturgeon, Pallid sturgeon, and Shovelnose sturgeon). The harvest and/or possession, sale or attempted sale of any Sturgeon species, or any Sturgeon part (flesh and eggs) by resident and nonresident commercial fishermen is hereby prohibited on all the lands and waters of the State of Mississippi including Mississippi lands and waters in all border water areas with adjacent states.

12. ALLIGATOR GAR: There shall be no harvest of alligator gar of any size from the following waters:

- a. Bee Lake in Holmes County; and
- b. St. Catherine Creek watershed in Adams County.

13. Per 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Part 5, Rule 2.4, persons cannot take, possess, transport, export, process or sell any species on the Official State list of Endangered Species.

14. Per 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE Part 5, Rule 2.3, Non-game wildlife, or their parts taken from wild Mississippi populations may not be bought sold, offered for sale or exported for sale. Any person who takes or possesses non-game wildlife, turtles, frogs, and snakes for personal use must comply with licensing, permitting, harvest restrictions, and reporting requirements as established in current version of 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Part 5, Rule 2.3.

15. Freshwater mussels may not be taken, caught or killed as per MISS. CODE ANN§ 49-9-5.

16. It is unlawful for a commercial fisherman to import, export, transport, receive, transfer, sell, purchase, acquire or possess by intrastate or interstate commerce, any live catfish greater than or equal to 34 inches in length.

H. AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SLAT BASKETS, SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS, AND COMMERCIAL FISHING:

a. From the outlet works in the Coldwater River of Arkabutla Dam downstream to the Corps of Engineers cable crossing, a distance of approximately one-fourth mile.

b. In the Tallahatchie River and Barrow Lake below Sardis Dam from the outlet works downstream to U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.

c. In the Yocona River from the outlet works of Enid Dam downstream to the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.

d. In the Yalobusha River from the outlet works of Grenada Dam downstream to south bound lane of the I-55 bridge crossing of said river.

e. In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) south from Hwy. 25 (Scrugg's Bridge) over the Yellow Creek embayment of Pickwick Lake in Tishomingo County to Bay Springs Lake at the Jamie Whitten Lock & Dam, including all of Bay Springs Lake.

f. Columbus Lake, in Monroe County from the Aberdeen Lock and Dam downstream to Hwy 45 overpass, locally known as "Morgan's Landing Boat Ramp",

including the river channel bendways.

g. Aliceville Lake, in Lowndes County from Columbus Lock & Dam downstream to Hwy 82 overpass at the junction of the navigation channel and the mouth of Luxapalila Creek, including the river channel bendways.

h. Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Main Dam upstream to Lowhead Dam near Ludlow, Mississippi.

i. Pearl River upstream from State Highway 15.

j. Pearl River below Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Spillway outlet to the City of Jackson's Water Works Lowhead Dam.

k. All waters of Okatibbee Reservoir.

l. Muddy Bayou in Warren County from its mouth at Eagle Lake to the Muddy Bayou structure at Steele Bayou.

m. Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Passin Coahoma County, except as specified in Section I (Special Permit).

n. All State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes owned or leased by the Department.

o. The Yockanookany River between Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 429 in Attala and Leake Counties, including Little Conehoma Creek and all creeks connecting to this river section.

p. All waters of Back Bay Biloxi north and west of a line extending across Back Bay Biloxi beginning at the Highway 90 bridge and all rivers, bayous, bays, streams, lakes, inlets, and other waters whatsoever connecting to said designated part of Back Bay Biloxi.

q. Red and Black Creeks and tributaries and water area beginning at the mouth of Dead Lake in Jackson County upstream to the origin of said creeks.

r. All waters of St. Louis Bay which are north of the Highway 90 bridge and all rivers, bayous, bays, streams, lakes, inlets, and other waters whatsoever connected to said designated part of St. Louis Bay.

s. Bouie River and all associated oxbow lakes, tributaries and water areas upstream from its confluence with the Leaf River.

t. Lake Susie, an oxbow lake of the old Tallahatchie River in Panola

County west of Batesville.

u. All waters in or on National Wildlife Refuges and National Forests in Mississippi.

v. Fosters Lake and Mud Lake in Wilkinson County.

2. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS BUT SHALL BE OPEN TO SLATBASKETS.

In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW):

a. The G. V. Sonny Montgomery Lock & Dam (Lock E) north to the Mississippi Hwy 4 overpass.

b. John Rankin Lock & Dam (Lock D) north to mile marker 406.

c. Fulton Lock & Dam (Lock C) north to mile marker 398.

d. Glover Wilkins Lock & Dam (Lock B) north to the Hwy 78 overpass.

e. Amory Lock & Dam (Lock A) north to mile marker 375.

f. Aberdeen Lock and Dam north to where the old Tombigbee River enters the TTW navigation channel at mile marker 366.3.

3. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE USE OF HOOP NETS, BARREL NETS, REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS, GILL NETS, OR TRAMMEL NETS BUT SHALL BE OPEN TO SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS, MINNOW SEINES, MINNOW TRAPS, TROT LINES, AND SLAT BASKETS.

a. Yocona River from the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing downstream to the Pope-Crowder Road Bridge.

b. Yalobusha River from south bound Interstate 55 bridge below Grenada Dam downstream to State Highway 8 and 35 bridge crossing.

c. Bull Mountain Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

d. Luxapalila Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

e. Buttahatchie River from the confluence with the Tenn-Tom Waterway navigational channel to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

4. Slat baskets are prohibited in the Old River Wildlife Management Area.

5. Commercial fishing with hoop or barrel nets and reinforcement wire catfish nets shall be closed on the Escatawpa River south of Interstate 10.

6. From April 1 to Oct. 31, commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets shall be closed in the following rivers:

a Bogue Chitto River from the confluence of the East and West Bogue Chitto Creeks west of Hartman, MS downstream to the Mississippi/LA state line.

b Chickasawhay River from Hwy 11 bridge north of Enterprise, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.

c Leaf River from I-59 bridge, west of Moselle, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.

I. REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT IN THE PASCAGOULA RIVER.

1. The use of commercial fishing equipment is allowed within the natural banks of the main channel of the Pascagoula River. Natural bank means the land that confines the entire existing river flow to within the main channel of the river covering the bed of the river. Water covering the top of the natural bank is considered floodwater that cannot be fished without permission of the landowner.

a. The use of all commercial fishing equipment is prohibited in any connected or non-connected oxbow lake or tributary stream of the Pascagoula River that is located in or on the Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or Ward Bayou WMA.

b. Commercial fishing with hoop or barrel nets and reinforcement wire catfish nets shall be prohibited from the Wade-Vancleave Road Bridge downstream to the Hwy 90 Bridge, including Little River and the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the East and West Pascagoula Rivers. Shrimp traps, crawfish traps, minnow seines, minnow traps, trotlines, and slat baskets are legal to use in this area.

c. Commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets shall be prohibited from the Pascagoula River's origin at the confluence of the Leaf and Chickasawhay Rivers north of Merrill, MS downstream to the Hwy 90 bridge from April 1 to Oct. 31. This includes the Little River, the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the East and West Pascagoula Rivers. Shrimp traps, crawfish traps, minnow seines, minnow traps,

trotlines, and slat baskets are legal to use in this area year round.

J. SPECIAL PERMIT

1. A special permit issued through the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau Director shall allow a person with a commercial fishing license to fish nets in specific waters identified in the permit.

2. The special permits shall only be issued for waters identified by the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau where control of aquatic nuisance species or nongame gross fish removal is needed.

a. Those persons issued special permits shall carry that permit on them while fishing in the water body named in that permit and persons issued special permits shall report their harvest from the nets to MDWFP on forms supplied by MDWFP. Reports for the special permits shall be received by the deadline set by MDWFP.

3. The following areas shall be open to commercial fishing with gill, trammel, and hoop nets by issuance of a special permit:

a. From October 1 to April 30, Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Pass in Coahoma County.

b. All Paddlefish (live or dead) and all species of Sturgeon (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment shall be released immediately.

c. Commercial fishing equipment shall not be run, checked, nor shall fish be removed from gear from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. However, commercial fishing equipment may be left out overnight.

K. REPORTING FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING HARVEST

1. Any person required to purchase a commercial fishing license must report their catch and other activities on forms provided by MDWFP when requested by the MDWFP.

2. Failure to submit reports or submitting reports with intentionally false information is cause for a person to be denied the privilege to purchase a Commercial Fishing License until such reports are submitted.

History: Revised April 2026

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-7-1, 49-1-29, 49-4-4, 49-7-3; 49-7-9.1; 49-7-12; 49-7-12.1; 49-7-29; 49-7-69; 49-7-81; 49-7-83; 49-7-87; 49-7-89; 49-7-90, 49-7-91, 49-9-5 49-15-77, 51-3-1 and 59-23-3(e).