

Rule 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 regulations on fishing in public waters and related matters.

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 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. 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.

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 consent of the gear's owner.

History: Updated March 2018.

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 on or 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 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. 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.

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):

Lake	County	Length Limit	Creel Limit
Arkabutla Lake	Tate, Desoto	12” MLL	15
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	15
Grenada Lake	Grenada, Calhoun, Yalobusha	12” MLL	15
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	10”MLL	10
Lake Washington	Washington	11” MLL	30
Lake Monroe	Monroe	None	20
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	15
Spillways of Arkabutla	To Prichard Road Bridge	None	15
Enid	To I-55		15
Grenada	To Hwy. 51		15
Sardis &	To Spaulding Creek		15
Sardis Lower Lake			15

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 40 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
Charlie Capps WMA lake	Bolivar	None	5

Columbus Lake	Lowndes, Monroe, Clay	14" MLL	10
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
Lake Bill Waller	Marion	18-22" SLL	15 (1 over 22")
Lake Bogue Homa	Jones	15" MLL	5
Lake Calling Panther	Copiah	20" MAXLL	10 (1 over 20")
Lake Claude Bennett	Jasper	None	30
Lake Jackson	Washington	None	5
Lake Jeff Davis	Jeff Davis	18-24" SLL	15 (1 over 24")
Lake Lamar Bruce	Lee	18-24" SLL	10 (1 over 24")
Lake Mary Crawford	Lawrence	None	Closed 30
Lake Monroe	Monroe	16-24" 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
Malmaison WMA Lakes	Grenada	15" MLL	2
Moon Lake	Coahoma (includes east of Hwy 1)	None	5
Natchez State Park	Adams	18-22" SLL	7 (1 over 22")
Neshoba Co. Lake	Neshoba	16-20" SLL	10 (1 over 20")
North Abutment Campground Lake at Grenada	Grenada	15" MLL	2
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
Paul B. Johnson State Park	Forrest	18-22" SLL	10 (1 over 22")
Percy Quin State Park	Pike	16-22" SLL	7 (1 over 22")
Pickwick Lake	Tishomingo	15" MLL	10
RecCon Lake	Bolivar	None	2
Ross Barnett Reservoir	Madison, Rankin, Leake, Hinds, Scott	14" MLL	7
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
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
Lake Okhissa	Franklin	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
Davis Lake	Chickasaw	None	1
Lake Lamar Bruce	Lee	None	0
Lake Monroe	Monroe	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 March 2019

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; Kemper County Lake, Kemper County; Elvis Presley Lake, Lee County; Calling Panther Lake, Copiah County; and Holmes County State Park Lake, Holmes 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 Type	Permit Name	Permit Cost
06	Daily Youth Fishing (under age 16)	No charge
04	Daily Fishing (No Boat Launching; Ages 16 – 64)	\$5.00
13	Daily Disability/Age exempt Fishing (age 65 & older or disabled)	\$3.00
12	Daily Boat Launching/Fishing Disabled/Age exempt	\$6.00
09	Daily Boat Launching/Fishing/Boating/Skiing	\$7.00

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

3. 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.

C. Annual Permits

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

Permit Type	Permit Name	Permit Cost
05	Annual Boat Launching/Fishing/Skiing (Ages 16 – 64)	\$102.00
36	Annual Guest Boat Launch/Fishing/Skiing (Ages 16 – 64) (includes all persons in boat)	\$150.00
14	Annual Exempt Launch/Fish/Skiing (Ages 65 & older or disabled)	\$72.00
37	Annual Guest Disabled/Age Exempt Launch/Fishing/Skiing (includes all persons in boat)	\$120.00

27	Annual Fishing (No Boat Launching; Ages 16 - 64)	\$52.00
19	Disabled/Age Exempt Annual Fishing (No Boat Launching)	\$32.00
23	Duplicate copy of Annual or Lifetime Permit	\$7.29

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.

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:

Kemper County Lake	Everyday
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, Pavilion, Cabin, and Building Rental Permits

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

Permit Type	Permit Name	Permit Cost
08	Daily Camping (24 hour period)	\$22.00
25	Disabled/Senior Citizen Camping (1 day; age 65 & older)	\$15.00
28	Camping - 30 days	\$460.00
29	Monthly Disabled/Senior Citizen Camping (30 days; age 65 & older)	\$360.00
26	Primitive / tent camping (1 day, no electricity)	\$15.00
24	Pavilion with restrooms (1 day)	\$51.00

10	Pavilion without restrooms (1 day)	\$36.00
30	Cabins without Linens (week day rate)	\$65.00
31	Cabins without Linens (weekend rate)	\$75.00
33	Multi-Purpose Building Rental (1 day)	\$130.00

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

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. On Kemper County Lake, the idle speed only regulation does not apply to fishing boats.

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 except that carp, gar, buffalo, and bowfin may be taken by use of bow and arrow at night only after purchasing a valid permit for fishing and/or boating. 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 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.

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 Neshoba County Lake and Lake Bogue Homa. Regulations governing hunting at these two 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.

6. Possession of alcohol on state lakes is prohibited.

7. Lake Mary Crawford is closed to fishing and all activities until repair and renovation operations are complete. Appropriate signage shall be placed at all access points on lake property informing the public of the closure.

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

J. Cabin Rules

1. Reservations for cabins will be made through the Lake Office. All fees must be paid in advance and are non-refundable and non-transferable.

2. Minimum length of stay from May 15th through September 15th is 3 nights on

the weekends, holidays and special events and no minimum during the week (weekend is a Friday and Saturday night stay).

3. Minimum length of stay from September 16th through May 14th is 3 nights on the holidays and special events, 2 nights on the weekends and no minimum during the week (Weekend is a Friday and Saturday night stay).

4. Cabin stay includes fishing, boat launch and skiing. These activities are limited to the registered number of guests per unit. Visitors of the guests must pay for all activities.

5. Units will not be rented to persons under the age of 21, and children will not be left unattended overnight.

6. Check-in time is 3:00 P.M. Check-out time is 11:00 A.M. All fees are payable in advance. Guests arriving after 5:00 P.M. must make prior arrangements with the lake office.

7. Unit guests will be responsible for damages to all units and equipment. No furniture or equipment shall be moved from one unit to another.

8. Certain cabins at state fishing lakes will be held for official state business for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Commission, Executive Staff, elected officials, and other state employees in the performance of their duties for the State of Mississippi and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The use of these facilities for official state business will require prior approval from the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

9. Pets are forbidden in and around the cabin areas.

History: Updated March 2019.

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.

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 be 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.

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

Water and Location	Species	Daily Creel Limit
Floewood River Plantation Lake, LeFlore County	Largemouth bass	0
	Bream	0
	Catfish	0

a. Floewood River Plantation Lake is closed to fishing until further notice.

B. 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 March 2019

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

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. 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 freshwaters of Mississippi, except in those waters specifically in section H which are closed to freshwater commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets as stated herein.

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:

a. Fish freshwater commercial fishing equipment (hoop or barrel 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.

b. Harvest, sell, resell, or purchase for re-sale non-game gross fish, or 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 or nongame fish captured from the wild. Minnows are defined as golden shiners, fathead minnows, goldfish, emerald shiner, and mosquitofish.

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

2. Any person using a slat basket in Mississippi waters must have a valid 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.)

5. 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 commercial fishing license cannot sell, resell or ship for sale nongame gross fish or nonnative fish.

6. 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.

2. SNAG LINES: There is no open season on the use of Snag lines.

3. HOOP NETS and BARREL NET:

a. Hoop or barrel nets shall be made of number 15 or bigger twine or cord and treated; the minimum mesh size shall be three (3) inch square measure.

b. Lead requirements: maximum of seven per license holder, up to 35 yards in length, three (3) inch square measure, number 15 twine or bigger and treated.

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, as such, this constitutes one set and each set must be 100 yards apart.

e. Persons with Mississippi resident commercial fishing licenses or pertinent license of border state 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 three (3) inches square measure.

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

5. 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: that a commercial fishing license is not required to fish these types of gear, but 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.

d. No minnows or non-game fish harvested from public waters may be taken outside the state for sale.

6. 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 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.

7. TRAMMEL NETS and GILL NETS:

a. Gill nets and trammel nets 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.

8. 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 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.

d. 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).

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

f. 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. After June 30, 2013, 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 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 on them is legible.

4. A Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag shall be attached to one end of the float line of gill or trammel nets; or on the front hoop of any hoop, barrel net; or within five (5) feet of one end of the main line of each trotline, or attached to the front end of a slat basket, except on border waters as defined below.

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, 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. Persons with a Louisiana resident sportfishing or a basic fishing license using "recreational hoopnets" 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 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 legibly printed on the tag using the same criteria as other commercial equipment.

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.

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

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.

4. It is unlawful to commercially take, to offer for sale, or to possess non-game gross fish below the following total lengths and 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
Alligator Gar			Quota see 5.5
Sturgeon			0
Paddlefish			Special regulations

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

9. PADDLEFISH: Regulations for the commercial harvest of paddlefish are set forth elsewhere in this chapter. Paddlefish (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment must be released immediately unless permitted for take as per the current version of the rules dealing with commercial harvest of paddlefish.

10. ALL MISSISSIPPI WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF ALL STURGEON SPECIES (Alabama shovelnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Pallid sturgeon and Shovelnose sturgeon).

11. An annual quota of 200 conservation size (CS) alligator gar is established for commercial harvest for any calendar year.

a. A conservation size alligator gar is defined as an alligator gar 16 inches or longer in length that has a short broad snout where the distance from the tip of the snout to the corner of the mouth is less than the distance from the corner of the mouth to the posterior end of the operculum (or gill cover).

b. To possess a CS alligator gar caught in commercial fishing gear, or to sell a CS alligator gar, the CS alligator gar has to be tagged. Tags will be issued from the MDWFP headquarters in Jackson.

c. CS alligator gar tags will be issued at a rate of 5 per applicant per month until enough tags are issued to meet the quota. Any one applicant can only be issued 5 tags per month. Requests by an applicant for additional tags require CS alligator gar harvest data to first be submitted to MDWFP.

d. The harvest of CS alligator gar shall be recorded on forms supplied by MDWFP. These forms are to be submitted to MDWFP no later than January 15 of the following calendar year.

e. Failure to report CS alligator gar harvest data will result in denial of requests for more Alligator Gar tags till harvest data is provided to the MDWFP.

e. There shall be no quota on harvest of alligator gar less than 16 inches in length.

f. In addition there shall be no harvest of alligator gar of any size from the following waters:

i. Bee Lake in Holmes County; and

ii. St. Catherine Creek watershed in Adams County.

12. 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.

13. 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 resident who takes or possesses non-game wildlife, turtles, frogs and snakes 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.

H. AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SLAT BASKETS, SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS, AND COMMERCIAL FISHING unless authorized by a separate rule on commercial fishing for paddlefish:

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.

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 Pass in 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 System between Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 429.

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. Any connected or non-connected oxbow lake or tributary stream of the Pascagoula River where the main channel of the Pascagoula River is bordered by the Upper Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the Lower Pascagoula River WMA or the Ward Bayou WMA.

s. All waters of Bay St. Louis 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 Bay St. Louis.

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

u. Lake Susie, an oxbow lake of the old Tallahatchie River in Panola County west of Batesville.

v. All waters of the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge.

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 the Hwy 6 overpass.

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, GILL NETS, OR TRAMMEL NETS BUT SHALL BE OPEN TO SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH 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 shall be closed in the following rivers:

a. Pascagoula River from the Wade-Vancleave 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.

b. 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.

d. Pascagoula River from its origin at the confluence of the Leaf and Chickasawhay Rivers north of Merrill, MS downstream to the Hwy 90 bridge. This includes the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the two said rivers.

I. 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 rough fish removal is needed.

3. Those persons issued the special permits shall report their harvest from the nets to MDWFP on forms supplied by MDWFP. Reports on the special permits shall be received by deadline set by MDWFP.

4. 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 February 28, Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Pass in Coahoma County.

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

ii. All access for persons fishing commercial fishing equipment shall take place at Moon Lake Landing (on the Yazoo Pass) public boat ramp.

iii. 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.

J. 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.

2. Failure to submit reports or submitting reports with intentional 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 August 2017.

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, 49-15-77, and 51-3-1.

RULE 3.2 REGULATIONS REGARDING THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PADDLEFISH AND PADDLEFISH EGGS.

A. The following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits relative to commercial harvest of the American Paddlefish (spoon bill catfish) and possession of any Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) or Bowfin, (*Amia calva*) eggs are hereby adopted.

B. The following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits do not pertain to persons engaged in sport fishing.

C. Persons permitted in another state to harvest Paddlefish accessing reciprocal border waters from their respective border state may transport their catch into and through Mississippi but no other rights are granted to them that are not specified in this rule. Such persons may fish for and harvest Paddlefish from these reciprocal border water areas when these waters are open to Paddlefish harvest as specified in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3 Rule 3.4.

D. Bowfin can be taken by persons with a Commercial Fishing License. No other permits are required to harvest Bowfin.

E. Definitions:

1. Paddlefish Harvester – Mississippi resident as set forth in MS Code Section 49-7-9 and incorporating the provisions of 49-7-3(2), who possesses a valid Paddlefish Harvester Permit that allows such person to fish for, attempt to take, possess, and transport Paddlefish to a Paddlefish Processor for documentation of harvest, after which the sale and processing including the removal of eggs may take place.

2. Paddlefish Helper – Mississippi resident as set forth in MS Code Section 49-7-9 and incorporating the provisions of 49-7-3(2), who possesses a valid Paddlefish Helper Permit who assists a person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit with the fishing for, attempting to take, and taking of Paddlefish. A Paddlefish Harvester Permit can substitute for a Paddlefish Helper permit when assisting another Paddlefish Harvester. A Paddlefish Helper can also transport Paddlefish to a Paddlefish Processor.

3. Paddlefish Processor – Person who possesses a valid Paddlefish Processor Permit which allows them to purchase, attempt to purchase, barter for, process, sell, ship, import, and export Paddlefish, Bowfin, Paddlefish eggs or Bowfin eggs, and Paddlefish or Bowfin flesh. Paddlefish Processors shall document the Paddlefish harvest of the Paddlefish Harvesters from whom they receive, acquire, and or purchase Paddlefish.

4. Paddlefish Processing Agent – Persons who possess a valid Paddlefish Processing Agent Permit to assist the Paddlefish Processor. The Paddlefish Processing Agent can document the Paddlefish harvest of Paddlefish Harvesters from whom the Paddlefish Processing Agent receives Paddlefish for transport to a processing facility.

5. Documented Paddlefish – A Paddlefish legally harvested by a Paddlefish Harvester that has been tagged, the date of harvest, the harvest location, and tag number, has been recorded by the Paddlefish Harvester on a Paddlefish Transaction Form prior to transporting the fish to a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent. Upon exchanging the fish with either a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent, documentation shall include eye to tail fork length, sex and weight of egg sacs. Copies of the original Paddlefish Transaction Form are acceptable for use.

6. Sell or Exchange or Transaction means the transfer of possession of whole Paddlefish, Paddlefish parts, and Paddlefish eggs.

7. Mutilation means cutting, puncturing, tearing or disfiguring the body portion of a Paddlefish in any way not otherwise permitted.

8. Processing means all actions, excluding blocking, to remove the eggs from the body cavity, blocking, and all actions taken to prepare a Paddlefish egg product or Paddlefish flesh ready for retail sale and/or human consumption. Blocking means removing the snout or paddle in front of the eye.

9. Paddlefish and Bowfin Labeling means that the containers or packages containing all Paddlefish products shall be identified by a lot number that lists the MDWFP Paddlefish tag number of the fish from which the product came from. Products packaged for consumption or sale shall have a label listing the product is “A Product of Mississippi, USA” and the label shall state one of the following as appropriate to the source of the product “Wild Paddlefish Eggs” or “Wild Paddlefish Caviar”; “Wild Bowfin Eggs” or “Wild Bowfin Caviar”; or “Wild Paddlefish Flesh” or Wild Bowfin Flesh”.

10. Paddlefish Net – Gear legal for the harvest of Paddlefish during the Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season is described as follows:

- a. The Paddlefish net shall be a multi-filament net, a multi-twist net or a mono-twist net with mesh of six (6) inches or larger in square measure from knot to knot.

Exception: While fishing Arkansas waters of the Mississippi River Harvest Management Unit the Paddlefish net shall be a gillnet with a mesh of 3.5 inches or larger in square measure from knot to knot.

- b. The Paddlefish net shall be marked by a floating orange colored buoy on each end of the gill net that stays floating on the surface of the water when the net is fishing. The orange colored buoys will have the Paddlefish Harvester’s MDWFP number or the Arkansas license number (for those possessing an Arkansas Roe Taker/Seller Permit) on the buoy in black letters at least ¼ inch in height. The Paddlefish net shall have attached to it both the orange buoys and a Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag.

11. Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season – September 1st through April 30th of each calendar year when Paddlefish have eggs suitable for producing caviar. Paddlefish Harvest for

eggs is only legal on Paddlefish Harvest Management Units as specified in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3 Rule 3.4.

12. Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season – May 1st through August 31st of each calendar year.

13. Paddlefish Harvest Management Unit Quota is the total number of Paddlefish that can be legally harvested from a Paddlefish Harvest Management Unit. Between November 20 and April 10 of each calendar year, when harvest reports, as required by law, indicate that the Harvest Management Unit quota has been reached, MDWFP will, within 24 hours, contact by phone or email all persons having valid Paddlefish permits and also issue a news release closing that Paddlefish Harvest Management Unit to fishing for the remainder of the Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season.

F. Paddlefish Tagging:

1. All harvested Paddlefish must be tagged with a MDWFP issued numbered tag.
2. An MDWFP Paddlefish tag shall be attached to the dorsal fin of each Paddlefish at the time of harvest (removal from a net and retained). This tag must remain on all Paddlefish including blocked Paddlefish until the flesh is placed for retail sale, at which time the packaged flesh must be labeled according to the Paddlefish Labeling definition.

G. Paddlefish Harvest:

1. The immediate release of dead Paddlefish does not constitute take unless Paddlefish were removed and released from nets that have not been checked or run at least once daily during daylight hours.
2. During the Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season, persons having a Paddlefish Harvester Permit shall document all Paddlefish harvested with a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent, and can only sell to or exchange Paddlefish eggs and Bowfin eggs with a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent working for a Paddlefish Processor.

H. Penalty for Violations.

1. Violation of any of the Mississippi state laws or this rule (40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3, Rule 3.2) pertaining to Paddlefish will be considered a Class I offense as specified in MISS. CODE ANN. §Section 49-7-90, and punishable as per the provisions of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

a. The unlawful possession of any dark colored eggs, similar to that of Paddlefish, including Bowfin eggs, shall be considered to be Paddlefish eggs, until proven by the commercial fisherman as otherwise.

b. Items in J3, K2 and K3 that do not directly apply to Paddlefish are Class III violations.

2. Failure to submit or the falsification of any required Paddlefish information submitted to the MDWFP as specified in 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Rule 3.5 (Paddlefish Reporting) may result in the revocation of Paddlefish Harvester, Paddlefish Helper, Paddlefish Processor and Paddlefish Processing Agent Permits.

I. Paddlefish Harvest During the Egg Harvest Season -- Unlawful Acts

1. It shall be unlawful for any person without a resident Mississippi Freshwater Commercial Fishing License and a Paddlefish Harvester Permit to fish for, attempt to take, take, possess, barter for, or sell Paddlefish, or to possess, receive, obtain or acquire Paddlefish eggs or Bowfin eggs, except as provided for in section D.

2. It shall be unlawful for persons with Paddlefish Harvester and Paddlefish Helper Permits to harvest, possess, sell, exchange, transport or ship Paddlefish flesh, Paddlefish parts, Paddlefish eggs or Bowfin eggs to anyone who is not a Paddlefish Processor or Paddlefish Processing Agent, except as provided for in section D.

3. It shall be unlawful for a Paddlefish Helper to fish for, take, attempt to take, or harvest or remove Paddlefish from nets when he/she is not in the immediate presence of a Paddlefish Harvester (See K4).

4. It shall be unlawful to fish for, harvest, or possess Paddlefish or Paddlefish parts from any water and at any time not designated as a Paddlefish Harvest Management Unit specified in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code, Part 3, Rule 3.4.

5. It shall be unlawful to harvest, receive, acquire, or possess any Paddlefish from any gear except for Paddlefish Nets specified in Section E10.

6. It shall be unlawful for anyone to fish for, attempt to take or take Paddlefish from 30 minutes after sunset until thirty minutes before sunrise. However, unless otherwise prohibited in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code, Part 3, Rule 3.4, Paddlefish nets may remain in the water overnight.

7. It shall be unlawful to fail to check, run or leave a Paddlefish net unattended or fail to remove Paddlefish from Paddlefish Nets at least once daily during daylight hours.

8. It shall be unlawful to harvest, take or possess Paddlefish measuring less than 37 inches eye to fork length (front of eye to curvature in fork of tail) with Paddlefish laid flat on a flat board. The measuring device will be laid on a flat surface and the Paddlefish shall be laid atop the measuring device. Measurements made by stretching a measuring tape along the side of the body, measuring in an arc are not valid measurements of Paddlefish length.

9. It shall be unlawful for anyone to knowingly possess, receive, or acquire Paddlefish taken unlawfully.

10. It shall be unlawful to harvest more Paddlefish than the established Paddlefish Harvest Quota as specified in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3 Rule 3.4.

11. It shall be unlawful to fish for, attempt to take or take Paddlefish in any Paddlefish Harvest Management Unit that has been closed by MDWFP after the Paddlefish Harvest Quota has been reached.

J. Paddlefish Tagging During the Egg Harvest Season -- Unlawful Acts

1. It shall be unlawful --- once a Paddlefish has been removed from a net and retained --- to possess, obtain or receive a Paddlefish without a MDWFP issued Paddlefish tag attached to the dorsal fin.

Exception: This tagging requirement does not apply to Paddlefish possessed by persons having Arkansas Egg Taker Permit fishing in reciprocal waters open to Paddlefish harvest.

2. It shall be unlawful to remove a MDWFP Paddlefish tag from a Paddlefish until the flesh is packaged for retail sale at which time the flesh shall be plainly marked and labeled as specified in the Paddlefish Labeling definition.

3. It shall be unlawful for Paddlefish Harvesters to possess MDWFP Paddlefish tags they have not purchased.

K. Paddlefish Handling During the Egg Harvest Season -- Unlawful Acts

1. It shall be unlawful to possess, exchange, sell or attempt to sell a Paddlefish that does not remain whole after capture with the eggs remaining entirely within the body cavity of the Paddlefish until the Paddlefish are exchanged with a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent. This regulation also applies to nonresident commercial fishermen in reciprocal waters.

2. It shall be unlawful to possess exposed Bowfin eggs while on the water.

3. It shall be unlawful --- after landing--- to possess exposed Bowfin eggs until the Bowfin has been documented by a Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent. This includes all nonresident commercial fishermen in reciprocal waters.

4. It shall be unlawful for all persons to possess harvested undocumented Paddlefish in a boat on the water unless they all have either a Paddlefish Harvester Permit or a Paddlefish Helper Permit with at least one person in the boat having a Paddlefish Harvester Permit.

5. It shall be unlawful to cut or mutilate Paddlefish or expose Paddlefish eggs, while on the water or on land until the Paddlefish has been documented at a Paddlefish Processing facility.

Exceptions:

a. A 12-gauge needle inserted into the side of a Paddlefish adjacent to the ovaries may be used to determine the presence of eggs.

b. The snout forward of the eye may be removed for transport (blocked).

c. The gill rakers inside the mouth can be cut to bleed the fish.

6. It shall be unlawful for a person to receive, acquire, or possess Paddlefish eggs that have been removed from Paddlefish, unless as legally permitted herein.

L. Paddlefish Transport, Exchange, Documentation and Sale During the Egg Harvest Season -- Unlawful Acts

1. It is unlawful for anyone to possess, buy, sell, attempt to sell, transport, exchange, barter, and/or ship or transport across the Mississippi state line Paddlefish, Paddlefish parts, Paddlefish eggs, or Bowfin eggs without a Paddlefish Processor Permit or a Paddlefish Processing Agent Permit and without a documented Paddlefish Transaction Form with the product.

Exceptions:

a. Persons who have purchased Paddlefish flesh or processed and packaged Paddlefish eggs for consumption.

b. Restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, retail fish markets, and wholesale food suppliers selling Paddlefish eggs or Paddlefish parts fully processed, packaged and ready for retail sale in sealed container.

c. Commercial shipping firms or authorized agents may possess legally taken Paddlefish and/or Paddlefish eggs or flesh shipped by persons having a Mississippi Paddlefish Processor Permit.

d. Persons with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit or a Paddlefish Helper Permit can transport and exchange legally harvested and tagged whole Paddlefish to a person with either a Paddlefish Processor Permit or a Paddlefish Processing Agent Permit for documentation of their catch. The exchange must take place within the State of Mississippi.

e. Arkansas residents permitted to harvest Paddlefish accessing reciprocal border waters may transport their catch into and through Mississippi. Such individuals must comply with all Mississippi Paddlefish rules when fishing border waters; however, harvested Paddlefish do not have to be tagged.

2. It is unlawful ---once on shore---, for Paddlefish Harvesters and Paddlefish Helpers to transport or exchange or attempt to exchange Paddlefish with a Paddlefish Processor or Paddlefish Processing Agent, unless the Paddlefish are accompanied by a Paddlefish Transaction Form containing all of the following information: the harvester's printed name, the number of nets used, the date of harvest, the capture locations, the tag numbers for the possessed Paddlefish, and the signature of the Mississippi Paddlefish Harvester to document the Paddlefish.

3. It is unlawful for Paddlefish Harvesters to fail to document their Paddlefish catch before transporting it on land to a Paddlefish Processor or Paddlefish Processing Agent.

4. It is unlawful ----except for the transport specified in L2-- for Paddlefish Helpers to exchange, sell, resell, or ship for sale Paddlefish or Paddlefish parts.

5. It is unlawful for anyone except Paddlefish Harvesters, Paddlefish Processing Agents, and Paddlefish Processors to ship and/or transport across the Mississippi state line any Paddlefish flesh which is not ready for human consumption. A documented Paddlefish Transaction Form Paddlefish must accompany the product.

M. Paddlefish Processing, Storage and Disposal During the Egg Harvest Season -- Unlawful Acts

1. It shall be unlawful to process Paddlefish at any location that does not comply with Federal and State Health Regulations.

2. It shall be unlawful for anyone to process Paddlefish unless they have a Paddlefish Processor Permit or a Paddlefish Processing Agent Permit (see E8 for definition of processing).

3. It is unlawful to dispose of Paddlefish or Paddlefish parts in violation of the applicable waste disposal regulations established by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. A copy of the Paddlefish Transaction Form that documents the harvest shall accompany Paddlefish transported for waste disposal.

4. It shall be unlawful to receive, acquire, possess, or store any fish eggs in wholesale or bulk containers that do not contain Paddlefish Labeling.

5. It shall be unlawful to possess processed Paddlefish flesh and processed Paddlefish eggs without a Paddlefish Transaction Form signed by the Paddlefish Harvester and the Paddlefish Processor or Paddlefish Processing Agent which identifies the Paddlefish products to each Paddlefish by Paddlefish Tag Number, and by lot number.

6. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, buy, sell, exchange or ship across the Mississippi state line whole Paddlefish, Paddlefish parts, and/or Paddlefish eggs without the proper Paddlefish permits and a Documented Paddlefish Transaction Form with the product. Arkansas commercial fishing license holders with a resident Roe Taker/Seller permit fishing in reciprocal border waters may transport their own catch across the Mississippi state line but the Paddlefish fish shall remain whole with eggs inside the body of the Paddlefish.

7. It shall be unlawful for any person, business, partnership, firm, or cooperation to make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of Paddlefish or Bowfin and their parts which has been or is intended to be imported, exported, transported, sold, purchased, or bartered in intrastate or interstate commerce.

N. Inspections.

1. MDWFP personnel shall be authorized to inspect without warrant, Paddlefish Transaction Forms, other required forms, processing facilities, transport vehicles and boats and may record biological data on harvested Paddlefish.

O. Paddlefish Flesh Sales

1. Paddlefish flesh documented on a Paddlefish Transaction Form by a Paddlefish Processor may be retained by anyone listed in Section L for sale, barter, consumption, donation, or disposal. Individuals selling Paddlefish flesh must have a Mississippi freshwater commercial fishing license. A copy of the Paddlefish Transaction Form that documents the harvest shall accompany the Paddlefish. The Mississippi Paddlefish Tag must remain on the fish until it is sold to a consumer or until the flesh is packaged for retail sale.

2. It is unlawful to sell Paddlefish flesh and Paddlefish eggs without complying with the freshwater commercial fishing licensing requirements in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.

3. Paddlefish flesh obtained from those with either a Paddlefish Harvester or a Paddlefish Processor permit during the Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season which is packaged and ready for human consumption may be sold by licensed Mississippi freshwater commercial fisherman and licensed Mississippi commercial fish markets. A Paddlefish Transaction Form must be with the Paddlefish flesh. See the exception in Section P11.

4. Only Paddlefish eggs, obtained from those with a Paddlefish Processor Permit which are packaged and ready for human consumption may be sold within Mississippi by licensed Mississippi commercial fisherman and licensed Mississippi commercial fish markets. A Paddlefish Transaction Form must be with the Paddlefish eggs.

P. Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season.

1. Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season is the months of May through August when Paddlefish eggs are not generally acceptable for producing caviar.

2. It shall be unlawful for any person to receive, acquire, or possess eggs from Paddlefish harvested during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season.

3. It shall be unlawful for any person to attempt to take or take a Paddlefish during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season without having a valid Mississippi Resident Commercial Fishing License in his/her immediate possession.

4. It shall also be unlawful for any person to harvest, receive, acquire, or possess a Paddlefish during the Summer Harvest Season unless it is tagged with a Mississippi Summer Paddlefish Harvest Tag, issued by MDWFP.

5. Paddlefish tagging requirements apply to Paddlefish taken during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season. Summer Paddlefish tags must remain on all Paddlefish including blocked Paddlefish until the flesh is placed for retail sale, at which time the packaged flesh must be labeling according to the Paddlefish Labeling definition.

6. The signature of the Paddlefish Processor is not required on a Paddlefish Transaction Form for Paddlefish taken during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season.

7. During the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season, it shall be unlawful to take Paddlefish from any waters not open to commercial fishing as listed in current version of 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3, Rule 3.1 and harvest from the following waters is also unlawful:

a. Any waters part of, or tributaries to the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River or the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

b. Any waters part of, or tributaries in the Pascagoula River watershed.

8. The immediate release of dead Paddlefish does not constitute take.

9. It shall be unlawful during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season to take or possess more than five (5) Paddlefish per person per day.

History: Revised August 2018.

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

Rule 3.3 COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF MUSSELS PROHIBITED. Public Notice 3361 is hereby amended.

A. For the purpose of this Rule, "Mussel" means and embraces the pearly freshwater mussel, clam or naiad and the shell thereof.

B. Be it ordered that all waters in the State of Mississippi are closed to commercial harvest of mussels.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-9-1 through 49-9-17.

RULE 3.4 REGULATIONS REGARDING PADDLEFISH HARVEST MANAGEMENT UNITS, OPEN HARVEST PERIODS AND HARVEST QUOTAS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PADDLEFISH

A. This rule delineates the waters of the state into Harvest Management Units (HMU) for the conservation of Paddlefish and defines the period when the Harvest Management Units are open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish. Harvest quotas are established for each Paddlefish HMU.

B. Any restrictions listed in this Rule do not pertain to persons engaged in sport fishing.

C. The gear and hours that are legal to harvest Paddlefish are defined in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.2 (see E10, I6, I7).

D. The harvest of Paddlefish from streams not part of a public waterway or from lakes without public access in any open HMU shall require that the harvester obtain from a riparian or adjacent landowner written permission to cross their property for access to that body of water.

E. The following Harvest Management Units shall be open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish only during the dates listed or until the quota for that HMU is reached:

1. Yazoo River Basin HUM: November 20, 2018 – April 10, 2019

2. Mississippi River North HMU: November 20, 2018 – April 10, 2019
3. Mississippi River South HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
4. Big Black River HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
5. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: May 1 – August 31, 2019

F. The following Paddlefish HMU Quotas are established for the Harvest Management Unit dates listed above:

1. Yazoo River Basin HMU: 800
2. Mississippi River North HMU: no harvest quota
3. Mississippi River South HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
4. Big Black River HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
5. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: no harvest quota

G. The harvest of Paddlefish will be prohibited in each HMU once the HMU quota has been reached and notification of such has been made to all Paddlefish permittees.

H. Descriptions of Paddlefish Harvest Management Units:

1. Yazoo River Basin HMU: the public waters of the Yazoo River Basin, which include Bear Creek, the Sunflower, Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo Rivers, **except** for the following waters: Tippo Bayou, Six Mile Lake (Leflore Co.), Moon Lake (Coahoma Co.), Four Mile Lake (Humphreys Co.), Wolf Lake, Broad Lake, Roebuck Lake, Sardis, Enid, Grenada, and Arkabutla Reservoirs, and all waters closed to use of commercial gears as specified in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.1.

2. Mississippi River North HMU: the border waters with Arkansas along the Mississippi River as delineated in the reciprocal agreement with Arkansas in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 4, Rule 3.2 to include: Mississippi River from the Tennessee-Mississippi state line south to a point due west of the Corregidor Light near Mile marker 507, including all waters within the mainline levees of the Mississippi River in Desoto, Tunica, Coahoma, Bolivar and Washington Counties.

3. Mississippi River South HMU: the border waters with Louisiana along the Mississippi River as delineated in the reciprocal agreement with Louisiana in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 4, Rule 3.3 to include: Mississippi River from Mile Marker 507 south to Mile Marker 305, including all waters within the mainline levees of the Mississippi River in Warren, Jefferson, Claiborne, Adams, Wilkinson, as well as public waters in Amite, Franklin, Lincoln, Copiah, and Hinds Counties.

4. Big Black River HMU: the public waters of the Big Black River Basin, which includes public waters in Warren, Claiborne, Hinds, Yazoo, Madison, Holmes, Attala, Carroll, Montgomery, and Choctaw Counties, except for all waters closed to the use of commercial gears as specified in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.1.

5. Paddlefish Summer HMU: any waters open to commercial fishing as listed in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.1, except for the following waters:

a. Any waters part of, or tributaries to the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River or the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

b. Any waters part of, or tributaries in the Pascagoula River watershed.

I. Penalty for Violations

1. Violation of any of the Mississippi state laws or state regulations pertaining to the take of paddlefish will be considered a Class I offense as specified in MISS. CODE ANN. §Section 49-7-90, and punishable as per the provisions of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

2. Failure to submit or the falsification of any required paddlefish information to the MDWFP on the specified forms by the specified time or date will result in the revocation of Paddlefish Harvester, Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter and Paddlefish Processor Permits.

History: Revised August 2018.

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

RULE 3.5 PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING PADDLEFISH PERMITS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PADDLEFISH AND PADDLEFISH EGGS; AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PADDLEFISH HARVEST.

A. This rule outlines the requirements and procedures for obtaining permits required for the commercial harvest of Paddlefish (spoonbill catfish) and possession of any Paddlefish or Paddlefish eggs and the reporting of these activities.

B. This rule also outlines the requirements and procedures for obtaining the permits to acquire Paddlefish for processing and distribution.

C. Definitions:

1. Paddlefish Harvester – Mississippi resident as set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9, and incorporating the provisions of §49-7-3(2), who possesses a valid Paddlefish Harvester Permit that allows such person to fish for, attempt to take, possess, and transport Paddlefish to a Paddlefish Processor for documentation of harvest, after which the sale and processing including the removal of eggs may take place.

2. Paddlefish Helper – Mississippi resident as set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9, and incorporating the provisions of §49-7-3(2), who possesses a valid Paddlefish Helper Permit who assists a person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit with the fishing for, attempting to take, and taking of Paddlefish. A Paddlefish Harvester permit can substitute for a Paddlefish Helper permit when assisting a Paddlefish Harvester.

3. Paddlefish Processor – Persons who possess a valid Paddlefish Processor Permit which allows them to purchase, attempt to purchase, barter for, process, sell, ship, import, and export Paddlefish, Bowfin, Paddlefish eggs or Bowfin eggs. The Paddlefish Processor shall document the Paddlefish harvest of the Paddlefish Harvester from whom he/she receives, acquires, and or purchases Paddlefish.

4. Paddlefish Processing Agent – Persons who possess a valid Paddlefish Processor Agent Permit to assist a Paddlefish Processor. The Paddlefish Processing Agent can document the Paddlefish harvest of Paddlefish Harvesters from whom the Paddlefish Processing Agent receives Paddlefish for transport to a processing facility

5. Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season – September 1st through April 30th of each calendar year when paddlefish have eggs suitable for producing caviar. Paddlefish harvest for eggs is only legal on Paddlefish Harvest Management Units as specified in 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.4.

6. Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season – May 1st through August 31st of each calendar year.

D. Permits and Tag Fees.

1. An individual can purchase more than one type of Mississippi Paddlefish permit. Only Mississippi Paddlefish Harvesters can purchase MDWFP Paddlefish tags.

2. The permits required to participate in the Paddlefish egg harvest season, as per the definitions presented and harvest rules delineated in 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 3, Rule 3.2 are listed below with the permit fees. A valid Freshwater Commercial Fishing License is needed to purchase the permits.

Paddlefish/Roe Permits and Tags	Cost*
Paddlefish Harvester Permit	\$1,000
Paddlefish Helper Permit	\$200
Paddlefish tags (for each paddlefish harvested)	\$3 per bundle of 20 tags
Resident Paddlefish Processor Permit	\$1,000
Non-resident Paddlefish Processor Permit	\$2,000
Paddlefish Processing Agent Permit	\$200

*Prices listed do not include processing or agent fees.

3. During the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License and Paddlefish summer harvest tags are needed to possess Paddlefish per rules in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.2.

E. Application for Permits.

1. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age, domiciled in Mississippi, and possess a valid Mississippi Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License to apply for a Paddlefish Harvester Permit or a Paddlefish Helper Permit. Applicants for a Mississippi Paddlefish Processor permit must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid Mississippi Resident or Non-resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.

2. Applications for Paddlefish Harvester Permits will be accepted from October 1 to October 15 for the upcoming Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season. Only applications received during this period will be eligible.

3. Applications for any Paddlefish permit must be submitted electronically through the MDWFP website at www.mdwfp.com (not through license system as in past).

4. The MDWFP reserves the right to limit the number of Mississippi Paddlefish Harvester Permits to 16 people. When requests exceed available permits, selection of applicants will be by random drawing.

5. Selected applicants must validate their intentions by notifying the MDWFP by November 1 that they intend to purchase a Paddlefish Harvester Permit.

6. Persons failing to validate by November 1 will be replaced with substitute applicants.

7. Validation instructions will be included in the notification sent to all selected applicants.

8. Those applicants that intend to purchase a Paddlefish Harvester Permit and/or a Paddlefish Processor Permit must attend a mandatory meeting to be held at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery in Enid Mississippi on a date specified in the mailing notification. Failure to attend the mandatory meeting will render a person ineligible to purchase those Paddlefish permits.

9. Applications for Paddlefish Helper Permits, Paddlefish Processor Permits, and Paddlefish Processing Agent Permits will be accepted online from October 1 until April 10, or by calling the MDWFP Fisheries Office in Jackson, Mississippi, 601-432-2200.

10. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks has the right to issue the number of Mississippi Paddlefish Harvester and Mississippi Paddlefish Processor Permits as it deems necessary and advantageous for the state.

11. All applicants will be notified by mail whether or not they are approved to purchase Mississippi Paddlefish permits.

12. The purchase of any Paddlefish permit is contingent on the condition that permit applicants have not been convicted, within the last three (3) years, of any violations of any state or federal fish and wildlife laws or regulations pertaining to the management of Paddlefish nor have a fish/wildlife violation equivalent to a Class 1 Mississippi violation.

13. Mississippi Paddlefish Harvester Permits and Mississippi Paddlefish Helper Permits will expire April 10, 2019. Mississippi Paddlefish Processor and Paddlefish Processing Agent Permits expire on October 30, 2019.

F. Paddlefish Processor Selection Process. The MDWFP may grant a statewide Mississippi Paddlefish Egg Processor(s) concession for the paddlefish egg harvest season. If so, the selection process will be a competitive process of soliciting and evaluating proposals from qualified applicants.

G. Mississippi Paddlefish Processor Requirements

1. Person(s) selected to be a Paddlefish Processor must purchase a Paddlefish Processor Permit.

2. The Paddlefish Processor agrees to comply with all state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding the harvest and processing of Paddlefish.

3. All Paddlefish flesh and Paddlefish eggs harvested in Mississippi by Paddlefish Harvesters will be processed (and Paddlefish eggs will be screened) at a Paddlefish processing facility located in the state of Mississippi.

4. The Paddlefish Processor will have an approved HACCP plan, the processing facility will be registered with USFDA and possess any required federal and state health regulation permit(s) prior to the opening of their Paddlefish processing facility. The Paddlefish processing facility can be a mobile unit. Copies of federal and state health regulation permits must be provided to the MDWFP prior to the purchase of Paddlefish Processor permits.

5. The Paddlefish Processor must inform the MDWFP of the physical location of their Paddlefish processing facility prior to any processing of Paddlefish. The notification must be made to the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau between 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday. This reporting requirement is in addition to any HACCP processing facility reporting requirements. The MDWFP must be notified each time the Paddlefish processing facility is moved to a different location.

6. Any violation of these laws, rules and regulations may result in termination by the MDWFP of the right to be a Paddlefish Processor.

7. The Paddlefish Processor agrees to allow employees of the MDWFP, at any time, to inspect their Paddlefish processing facility and to review Paddlefish transaction records. The inspection can involve the recording of biological information on any Paddlefish received at the processing facility

H. Reporting Requirements for Harvest

1. The harvest of a Paddlefish shall be documented on a Paddlefish Transaction Form.

a. Stage 1: The following information must be recorded prior to transporting the fish on land to the Paddlefish Processor: The harvester's printed name, Paddlefish tag number(s), number of nets used, date of harvest, and capture location. The Paddlefish Harvester will sign the Paddlefish Transaction Form.

b. Stage 2: Upon exchange of Paddlefish with the Paddlefish Processor or a Paddlefish Processing Agent, a Paddlefish Transaction Form will have the following recorded: Paddlefish harvester's name, Paddlefish tag number(s), Paddlefish eye to fork length(s) in inches, raw egg weight, number of nets used, date of harvest, capture location, and time of exchange. Both the Paddlefish Harvester and the Paddlefish Processor, or Paddlefish Processing Agent, will sign the Paddlefish Transaction Form. If the exchange is done in the field, the raw egg weight will be added immediately after the removal of eggs at the processing facility.

c. Stage 3: After the final screening of Paddlefish eggs, the screened egg weight will be recorded on the Paddlefish Transaction Form along with the distribution destination for flesh and eggs.

2. Any distribution or export of Paddlefish, Paddlefish parts, Paddlefish eggs, Paddlefish caviar, or Bowfin eggs, or Bowfin caviar must be accompanied by a Paddlefish Transaction Form that contains the signature of the Paddlefish Processor.

3. The Paddlefish Harvester and Paddlefish Processor shall retain a copy of each Paddlefish Transaction Form, and the Paddlefish Harvester shall submit the original, either Stage 2 or Stage 3, to the MDWFP on a monthly basis by the 15th of each month following the month of harvest. If no Paddlefish were harvested or handled in a month, a Paddlefish Transaction Form shall be submitted indicating such. Paddlefish Transaction Forms for the month of April will be submitted by April 25.

4. The Paddlefish Processor shall, within 24 hours of a receipt of a Paddlefish(s), submit an electronic copy of the Stage 3 of the Paddlefish Transaction Form by internet, email, or fax to the designated person in the MDWFP Jackson Office. If no Paddlefish were harvested or handled in a month, a Paddlefish Transaction Form shall still be submitted indicating such.

5. The sale of Bowfin eggs shall also be documented on a Paddlefish Transaction Form, on a separate form from any documentation of Paddlefish, with "Paddlefish" in the form title crossed out and "Bowfin" written in its place. Total length shall be recorded in place of eye to tail fork length.

6. During the Summer Paddlefish Harvest Season, the harvest of Paddlefish shall be recorded on forms supplied by MDWFP. These forms are to be submitted to MDWFP no later than September 15th.

7. The Paddlefish Processor shall submit Paddlefish Transaction Forms to MDWFP each month listing the pounds of eggs processed and distribution of products.

a. The Monthly Processor Form and Paddlefish Transaction Forms will be submitted by the Paddlefish Processor by the 15th of the month following the month of harvest, except that these forms for the month of April shall be submitted by April 25. A Monthly Processor Form must be submitted each month by the 15th day as long as the Paddlefish Processor has possession of Paddlefish eggs. If no Paddlefish eggs are sold in that month this form shall still be submitted indicating such.

History: Revised August 2018.

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