

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS
P.O. BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W2-3758

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at a meeting in New Albany, Mississippi on April 12, 2007, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent and thirty days thereafter did adopt the following **2007 Alligator Hunting Seasons**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29 and 49-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered Public Notice W1-3758 is hereby amended as follows:

An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) hunting season will be opened in the State of Mississippi and is hereby referred to as the following with described restrictions:

The **“Pearl River/Ross Barnett Reservoir - Alligator Hunting Season (Zone A - public),”** will be opened in Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties in the public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. The hunting zone boundaries are described as only within the area north of a line from Fannin Landing to Channel Marker “A” to the Natchez Trace Overlook on the main lake of Ross Barnett Reservoir, and south of the Coal Bluff Park boat ramp on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, ie. North Bay and Twin Harbors), according to restrictions below (*see BASIC REGULATIONS below and Pearl River/Ross Barnett Reservoir Alligator Hunting Season, p. 2-4*).

An alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the **“Private Lands - Alligator Hunting Season (Zone A - private),”** will be opened on private lands in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties, according to restrictions below (*see BASIC REGULATIONS below and Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season, p. 4-7*).

In addition, an alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the **“Pascagoula River - Alligator Hunting Season (Zone B)”** will be opened in Jackson County. The hunting zone is restricted to the public waters of the Pascagoula River and its tributaries only within Jackson County, excluding areas south of Hwy 90 according to restrictions below (*see BASIC REGULATIONS below and Pascagoula River Alligator Hunting Season, p. 8-10*).

BASIC REGULATIONS: (All Zones)

Persons eligible: Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Permit (*see License Requirements*).

Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).

Bag limit: Each person receiving an Alligator Possession Permit will be allowed to harvest two (2) alligators four (4) feet in length or longer, only one (1) may exceed seven (7) feet in length.

Capture and Dispatch Methods: Alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the neck or leg in a manner that the alligator is controlled. Restraining methods are restricted to hand-held snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/bouy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/bouy).

All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture. Any alligator that is captured with a harpoon or bowfishing equipment must be reduced to the bag and may not be released. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator are restricted to shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator. No other firearm or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting party. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 100 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite.

License Requirements:

Alligator Hunting Permittee: All alligator hunting permittees must purchase and have on their person a combination resident hunting/fishing license. In addition, an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit is required for each permittee prior to being issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars (\$25). The cost of the Alligator Possession Permit is one hundred dollars (\$100). A "WMA User Permit" is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are hunting or accessing any

MDWFP operated Wildlife Management Area. *All licenses are non-refundable.*

Alligator Hunting Assistant: All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a NR-All Game License and an Alligator Hunting License. A "WMA User Permit" is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are hunting or accessing any MDWFP operated Wildlife Management Area. *All licenses are non-refundable.*

Applications: *(See specific information for each Zone).*

Mandatory Training Course: *(See specific information for each Zone).*

Mandatory Check Station: *(See specific information for each Zone).*

Harvest Reporting: *(See specific information for each Zone).*

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:

Pearl River/Ross Barnett Reservoir-Alligator Hunting Season (Zone A Public)

Location: The hunting zone includes the public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District in Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties only within the area north of a line from Fannin Landing to Channel Marker "A" to the Natchez Trace Overlook on the main lake of Ross Barnett Reservoir and south of the Coal Bluff Park boat ramp on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, ie. North Bay and Twin Harbors)

Dates: September 7-9, 2007
September 14-16, 2007

Hunting Hours: 6:00 PM till 12:00 Midnight CST

Permits: One hundred twenty (120) persons will be randomly drawn by computer to be eligible for a Alligator Possession Permit. Possession permits are not transferrable.

Applications: Applications for permits will be accepted from July 16-August 1, 2007. Application must be submitted electronically through a POS license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold). A non-refundable application fee of \$5 will be charged. Only applications received on or before August 1 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail.

Mandatory training course: All drawn applicants will be required to attend and complete the Alligator Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Pearl River/Ross Barnett Alligator Training Course will be held August 25 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS. Upon completion of the course, drawn applicants will be eligible to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit.

Mandatory Check Station: All participating permittees must check in prior to hunting and check out upon completion of the hunt each day at the checking station. All permittees must purchase an Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License prior to registering at the check station. Each permittee in possession of an Alligator Possession Permit will be issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag(s) upon checking in. The check station will be open from 5:00 pm till 1:00 am.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: All harvested alligators must be validated at the designated check station on the day of harvest. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. Upon validation at the check station, a federal CITES tag will be attached to the alligator.

Private Lands-Alligator Hunting Season (Zone A - Private)

Location: Private lands of Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties.

Dates: September 7-9, 2007
September 14-16, 2007

Hunting Hours:

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on September 7 till 12:00 Midnight CST on September 9.

AND

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on September 14 till 12:00 Midnight CST on September 16.

Permits:

Hinds Co.	20 permits
Madison Co.	30 permits
Rankin Co.	40 permits

All permits will be randomly drawn by computer. Possession permits are not transferrable.

Applicant restrictions and requirements:

Only one (1) application may be submitted per person. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail. Applicants are not required to be landowners. Applicants must obtain and submit with the application the following information and documentation from a landowner in Hinds, Madison, or Rankin Co. who owns at least ten (10) continuous acres of property:

- signed agreement form from permitting landowner (*included in the application form*)
- proof of ownership by providing a copy of the permitting landowners 2006 property tax receipt (if the tax receipt does not document total acreage, then additional documents with acreage total are required, ie. property deed, property appraisal, or a signed letter from the appropriate county tax assessor's office)
- all required information is available through the appropriate county tax assessor's office

Applications & fees: Applications will be received July 16-August 1, 2007. Applicants must submit a properly completed application by 5:00 pm August 1, 2007. Incomplete or non-legible applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. Applications are available on line at www.mdwfp.com, or they may be obtained in person at any Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) District Office or the MDWFP Jackson Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

A non-refundable application fee of \$5 is required for each application submitted. Payment must be submitted with the application. Only checks or money orders will be accepted. Make them payable to: MDWFP- Alligator Hunt Application.

Mail completed applications to: MDWFP - Wildlife Division
Attn: PL-Alligator Possession Permit
1505 Eastover Dr.
Jackson, MS 39211-6374

Mandatory training course: All drawn applicants will be required to attend and complete the Alligator Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Private Lands (Zone A) Alligator Training Course will be held on August 25 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS. Upon completion of the course, drawn applicants will be eligible to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. The Alligator Harvest Card must be filled-out, dated, and signed prior to transporting or processing. Upon harvest validation, a federal CITES tag will be attached to the alligator. All participating Private Lands Alligator Permittees must validate their harvest. There are two methods of validation available to Private Lands Alligator Hunt Permittees:

- (1) Transport the whole carcass to the checking station during station hours (5:00 pm till 1:00 am, September 7-9, and 14-16).
- (2) Transport the whole carcass or complete hide and head to any MDWFP District Office or the MDWFP Jackson Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

The deadline for validation is 5:00 pm on September 28.

All un-used Temporary Alligator Possession Tags along with a completed Alligator Harvest Card must be returned by September 28, 2007. . Failure to meet the deadline may result in revocation of the permittees hunting/fishing license and appropriate citations.

Pascagoula River-Alligator Hunting Season (Zone B)

Location: The hunting zone is restricted to the public waters of the Pascagoula River and its tributaries only within Jackson County, excluding all areas south of Hwy 90. No hunting is allowed in any public water that is landlocked (lakes, sloughs, ponds, etc.).

Dates: September 28-30, 2007
October 5-7, 2007

Hunting Hours: 6:00 PM till 12:00 Midnight CST

Permits: Eighty (80) persons will be randomly drawn by computer to be eligible for a Alligator Possession Permit. *Possession permits are not transferrable.*

Applications: Applications for permits will be accepted from July 16-August 1, 2007. Application must be submitted electronically through a POS license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold). A non-refundable application fee of \$5 will be charged. Only applications received on or before August 1 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail.

Mandatory training course: All drawn applicants will be required to attend and complete the Alligator Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Cuntly Alligator Training Course will be disclosed as soon as possible (*visit our website www.mdwfp.com or call 601-928-3720 or 601-432-2199 for updated training coarse location, date, and time information*). Upon completion of the course, drawn applicants will be eligible to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit.

Mandatory Check Station: All participating permittees must check in prior to hunting and check out upon completion of the hunt each day at the checking station.

All permittees must purchase an Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License prior to registering at the check station. Each permittee in possession of an Alligator Possession Permit will be issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag(s) upon checking in. The check station will be open from 5:00 pm till 1:00 am.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: All harvested alligators must be validated at the designated check station on the day of harvest. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. Upon validation at the check station, a federal CITES tag will be attached to the alligator.

Any person violating the regulations set forth in this document is guilty, upon conviction, of a Class I offense and is punishable as provided in MS CODE §49-7-141.

This adopted public notice will become effective June 12, 2007. Witness my hand and seal this the 23rd day of May 2007.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: 
William C. Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: 
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director

I certify this to be a true and correct copy.


Executive Director


Notary

