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

PUBLIC NOTICE W-3799 (Intent)

TO: The Honorable Eric Clark
Secretary of State
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
AND
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, at a meeting in Jackson, Mississippi on July 23, 2008, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following **2008 Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29 and 49-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.

An alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the **"2008 Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season,"** will be opened on private lands in Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Warren, and Yazoo Counties, according to restrictions below:

Location: Private lands only of Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Warren, and Yazoo Counties.

Dates: September 26 – October 4, 2008

Applicant restrictions and requirements:

Only one (1) application may be submitted per property. Applicants must own property in an open county. The applicant's property must contain a minimum of 20 acres of permanent surface water to qualify for an Alligator Harvest Voucher. Alligator Harvest Vouchers will be issued at the rate of one (1) voucher for the first 20 acres of surface water and one (1) additional voucher are available for each additional 100 acres of surface water in contiguous ownership by the applicant. Upon receipt of the application, surface water acreage of the applicant's property will be interpreted by the MDWFP.

Applicants must obtain and submit an application with the following information by August 15, 2008:

- A private lands alligator hunting permit application.

- Proof of ownership by providing a copy of the landowners 2007 property tax receipt for the property for which the applicant is submitting.

- A copy of the property deed with a complete property description.

- A legible map or aerial photo of the property labeled with property boundaries.

(OR)

- A county map indicating the general location of the applicant's property.

(AND)

- A $5 check or money order payable to MDWFP.

Obtaining Applications: Applications are available on-line at www.mdwfp.com/alligator. They may also be obtained at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) Jackson Office, or at any MDWFP District Office M-F, 8 AM – 5 PM. Completed applications must be received at the MDWFP Jackson Office by August 15, 2008. Incomplete or non-legible applications will not be considered.

Applications Fees: 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 payable to: MDWFP. Mail completed applications and payments to:

MDWFP - Wildlife Bureau
Attention: Private Lands - Alligator
1505 Eastover Dr.
Jackson, MS 39211-6374

Private Lands Alligator Harvest Voucher: Qualifying landowner applicants will be mailed a Private Lands Alligator Harvest Voucher (PLAHV) for each alligator hunting tag allowed for each property along with alligator hunting regulations and instructions. The landowner may transfer the PLAHV to anyone (Resident or Non-resident) 16 years of age or older. Each PLAHV must be signed by the landowner and the transferee and completely filled-out with the transferee's personal information.

Mandatory Training Course: Each possessor of a PLAHV will be required to attend and complete the Private Lands Alligator Hunting Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Private Lands Alligator Training Course will be held on September 6, 2008, from 9 AM until 12 Noon at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks Central Office in Jackson, MS. Upon completion, the holder of the PLAHV will be eligible to purchase a Private Lands Alligator Hunting Permit (PLAHP).

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: A Temporary Alligator Possession Tag(s) (TAPT) will be issued and registered with the possessor of the PLAHP. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag (TAPT) must be attached to each alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. Only damaged or broken TAPT's will be replaced at the discretion of the MDWFP. An Alligator Harvest Report Card must be completely filled-out, dated, and signed prior to processing. The Alligator Harvest Report Card and any un-used temporary tags must be returned/mailed to the MDWFP Alligator Program Coordinator no later than October 11, 2008. Upon harvest validation, a federal CITES tag will be mailed to the hunter. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must remain attached to the alligator until the CITES tag is attached. No alligator, alligator hide, or parts may be transported across state lines without an attached CITES tag. No alligator hide, meat, or parts may be transported within the state without a completely filled-out associated Alligator Parts Tag. *Violations of alligator tagging regulations may include federal violations.*

Bag limit: Each person possessing a Private Lands Alligator Harvest Permit will be allowed to harvest one (1) alligator per tag issued, four (4) feet in length or longer. All alligator(s) must be pursued/hunted/taken from the property registered by the permitted landowner. No alligator(s) may be pursued/hunted/taken from public waters.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

Daylight Hours: During daylight hours (from ½ hour prior to sunrise till ½ hour after sunset) alligators may only be taken with center-fire rifles chambered in 0.277 in./7.035mm (.270/7mm) or larger and shotguns (12 or 10 gauge only) with slugs only. Bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger may be used. No firearm may be discharged across or into any public waters. Any dead or wounded alligators must be retrieved immediately. Hunters must make a reasonable prudent effort to retrieve any wounded alligator. Failure to do so is illegal. No other shotgun ammunition other than slugs and #6 shot or smaller may be in possession of the hunting party.

Nighttime capture methods are also legal during daylight hours.

Nighttime Hours: During nighttime hours (from ½ hour after sunset till ½ hour before sunrise) 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/buoy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/buoy).

Nighttime Hours (cont.): 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:

No one may pursue/hunt alligators on any private property unless the property is permitted by the MDWFP. Anyone hunting alligators on property permitted by the MDWFP must be in the immediate vicinity of a holder of a Private Lands Alligator Hunting Permit.

Private Lands Alligator Hunting Permit (PLAHP): The cost of the PLAHP is $100 for residents and $200 for non-residents. PLAHP's are available only at the MDWFP Jackson Office. A holder of a PLAHP must also purchase and have on their person a combination-type resident or nonresident hunting/fishing license (see MISS CODE §49-7-47). In addition, an Alligator Hunting License is required for each permittee. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars ($25). To possess a PLAHP you must be a qualifying landowner with a PLAHV or have a PLAHV transferred to your name by a qualifying landowner (*see Private Lands Alligator Hunting Voucher*).

Resident 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-type hunting/fishing license (see MISS CODE §49-7-47) and an Alligator Hunting License ($25).

Non-resident Alligator Hunting Assistant: 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 Non-resident All Game-type Hunting License (see MISS CODE §49-7-47) and an Alligator Hunting License ($25).

Any holder of a valid Alligator Hunting License may partake in any part of the alligator hunting process while in the immediate vicinity of a holder of a PLAHP on permitted property.

All licenses are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Anyone wishing to comment on the above proposed action may do so in writing to the Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, P. O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205, no later than July 23, 2008.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: _____
John C Stanley IV, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

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