MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS
Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

PUBLIC NOTICE F5-2999

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at a meeting in McComb, Mississippi on August 27, 2008, under authority of Section 25-43-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, make known it's intent to, and thirty days thereafter did, adopt the following regulations on commercial fishing under authority of Sections 49-1-29; 49-7-9; 49-7-12; 49-7-29; 49-7-69; 49-7-81; 49-7-83; 49-7-87; 49-7-89; 49-7-90 and 49-7-91.

Be it ordered that Public Notice F4-2999 is hereby amended and the following rules, regulations and required licenses relative to freshwater commercial fishing and commercial fishing equipment tags be adopted for all residents and non-residents.

Non-game gross fish and non-native fish (Section 49-7-1; 49-7-90) may be taken with commercial equipment and sold from freshwaters of Mississippi, except in those waters specifically closed to freshwater commercial fishing gear. (Paddlefish Laws PN 3798)

1. LICENSES

Persons who:

- fish freshwater legal commercial fishing gear (hoop or barrel nets, gill or trammel nets, slat baskets or trotlines with more than 100 hooks in aggregate)
- sell or resell non-game gross fish or non-native fish
- sell minnows at wholesale (with the exception of those Miss. residents growing minnows on their own property, Section 49-7-29) or sell minnows captured from the wild
- harvest common snapping turtles (PN. M4-3201)

must have a freshwater commercial fishing license. Persons who use freshwater commercial fishing gear must have a commercial fishing equipment tag for each piece of commercial fishing gear.

Persons who fish a slat basket must have one commercial fishing license and a slat basket license and slat basket tag for each slat basket.

Commercial Fishing License Types	Cost
Resident freshwater	$30
Nonresident freshwater	$200
Commercial Fishing Equipment tag (for each piece of gear)	$3
Slat basket (for each basket and in addition to freshwater commercial license and slat basket tags)	$30
Slat basket tag (for each basket)	$3

(prices listed do not include processing fees or agent fees)

A person holding a freshwater commercial fishing license can be assisted by a helper who is in the boat or transporting vehicle with the commercial fishing license holder, and the helper must have any valid license issued in their name by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries & Parks. The license requirement for helpers does not apply to persons exempt under 49-7-9C. Helpers cannot sell, resell or ship for sale nongame gross fish or non native fish.

2. FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR

2.1. TROTLINES: Trotlines must have hooks at least 24 inches apart and tied so they cannot slip together. No trotlines or throw lines shall exceed 1,000 feet. Season is throughout the year in open areas. A commercial fishing equipment tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be attached within 5 feet of one end of the mainline of each trotline.

2.2. SNAG LINES: Snaglines are prohibited statewide.

2.3. HOOP NETS or BARREL NETS: Hoop or Barrel net season is throughout the year in open areas. Mesh requirements: minimum of three (3) inch square measure using twine or cord. 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. Hearts may be used only in the Mississippi River where it is a common boundary between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included). Hoop nets or barrel nets must be set at least 100 yards apart EXCEPT in areas where nets may be fished on each end of a lead, as such this constitutes one set and each set must be 100 yards apart. A commercial fishing equipment tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be attached to the front hoop (opposite from catch area) on each net.

Legally licensed residents of Mississippi fishing barrel nets and/or hoop nets in Mississippi waters, which are common boundaries between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included), may use is 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.

2.4. SEINES: The use of seines is prohibited for all non-game gross fish and shad except for:

MINNOW SEINES AND MINNOW TRAPS: These seines must be no more than 25 feet in length and four (4) feet in depth. Minnow traps or jars constructed of glass, plastic, nonmetallic or wire mesh not more than 30 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 only be used for taking minnows.

The use of minnow seines is prohibited in all public lakes in Mississippi and in all waters listed in section 6.

No minnows harvested from public waters may be taken outside the state for sale.

2.5. TRAMMEL NETS and GILL NETS: Nets must have a minimum mesh of four (4) inches square measure and may be fished statewide except where prohibited herein

- 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, including lakes and streams where the Mississippi/Louisiana state line occurs in any public waters that are within the mainline levees of the Mississippi River along the MS/LA border. Flood water which has overflowed the natural banks of a public waterway in Mississippi and Louisiana is not part of the public waterway.

- A minimum of three and one half (3.5) inch mesh square measure gill and trammel nets may be used in all public waters between the main levees of the Mississippi River where it is the state line between Arkansas and Mississippi including the main channel of the Mississippi River. (PN 3672).

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

- Nets must be set at least 100 yards apart and no nearer than 20 yards to piers. Maximum length shall be 3,000 feet. Season is throughout the year, A commercial fishing equipment tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be attached to one end of each gill or trammel net.

2.6 SLAT BASKETS are defined as commercial fishing devices used solely for the capture of catfish. Slat baskets are legal statewide except where prohibited herein Section 6.1. Season is throughout the year. Pursuant the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, Section 49-7-9, ANY PERSON using a slat basket in

Mississippi waters must purchase a slat basket license and a slat basket tag for each slat basket each year issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Slat baskets fished in Mississippi waters shall:

Be made entirely of wood and/or plastic slats in a boxlike or cylindrical shape, not exceed six (6) feet in length or fifteen (15) inches in width and height or diameter, have no more than two (2) throats, have at least four (4) slot openings of a minimum one and one-half (1½) by twenty-four (24) inches evenly spaced around the sides of the catch area which must begin at the rear of the basket and run twenty-four (24) inches toward the throat end of the basket.

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 (Section 49-7-9). Each slat basket shall have a metal slat basket tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks which is attached to the front end of the basket. Any violation of subsection 7 of 49-7-9 shall be a Class 1 violation as prescribed in section 49-7-141.

3. TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:

3.1. A commercial fishing equipment tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall be attached to one end of the float line of nets or on the front hoop of any hoop or barrel net or within five (5) feet of one end of the main line of each trotline.

All commercial fishing equipment must be tagged on those border lakes and waters that are part of the reciprocal resident license agreements between Mississippi/Louisiana (PN 2358), and between Mississippi/Arkansas (PN 3672). Commercial fishing equipment (except slat baskets) fished by residents of Louisiana and Arkansas in Mississippi waters specified in those reciprocal agreements must either tag their commercial fishing equipment with the type of tag specified in the state where they are licensed or purchase a Mississippi commercial fishing equipment tag issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

All persons with a Louisiana nonresident commercial fishing license using commercial fishing equipment [as specified in the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, Section 49-7-9 (2)] in Mississippi waters must purchase a commercial fishing equipment tag from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for each piece of commercial fishing equipment and comply with all Mississippi tagging requirements.
All persons with a Louisiana resident sportfishing or a basic fishing license using "recreational hoopnets" or any other commercial fishing equipment [as specified in the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, Section 49-7-9 (2)] in Mississippi waters must purchase a commercial fishing equipment tag from the Mississippi

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for each piece of commercial fishing equipment and comply with all Mississippi tagging requirements.

Each slat basket shall have a metal slat basket tag purchased from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks which is attached to the front end of the basket

4. FISHING RESTRICTIONS

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

4.2. 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 (Section 49-7-81).

4.3. Driving or attempting to drive fish (also known as whooping) into any freshwater commercial fishing gear by any means shall be prohibited.

4.4. Licensed commercial fishermen may fish other legal commercial gear with permission from the licensed commercial gear owner.

4.5. Illegal gear, untagged gear and/or improperly tagged gear may be seized by conservation officers upon discovery.

5. HARVEST SIZE AND POSSESSION RESTRICTIONS

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

5.2. 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	
Flathead Catfish	16 inches	12 inches	
Other Catfish	12 inches	9 inches	
Alligator Gar			2 per day
Sturgeon			0
Paddlefish			Special regulations

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

5.3. PADDLEFISH: PN 3798 contains regulations on commercial harvest of paddlefish.

- Persons must have a special permit to harvest paddlefish
- In areas closed to commercial harvest of paddlefish, it shall be illegal to take, or possess, paddlefish or paddlefish parts, including eggs.
- Paddlefish (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment must be released immediately in closed areas or in open areas by persons without paddlefish harvest permits
- During the closed season, a person may possess lawfully taken and processed paddlefish eggs obtained from a licensed wholesale or retail outlet (49-7-90).

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

5.5. BAIT: Mississippi residents may use a dip or landing nets, cast nets, boat-mounted scoop and wire baskets to harvest shad and minnows for personal use in sport fishing (49-7-81). Legally taken game fish may be used for bait on trotlines as long as the daily creel limit for these species is not exceeded.

5.6. Per Public Notice 3357 persons can not take, possess, transport, export, process or sell any species on the Official State list of Endangered Species.

5.7 Per Public Notice 3201 Non-game wildlife or their parts taken from wild Mississippi populations may not be bought, sold, offered for sale or exported for sale.

6. AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL GEAR

6.1. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR AND COMMERCIAL FISHING unless authorized by a separate Public Notice on commercial fishing for paddlefish:

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

- 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.
- In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) south from Hwy. 25 (Scrugg's Bridge) over the Yellow Creek embayment of Pickwick Lake in Tishomingo County and all impoundments (Divide Section Canal, Bay Springs Lake, Pools E, D, C, B, and A) to the confluence of the old Tombigbee River and the navigation channel at mile marker 366.3 in Aberdeen Lake southwest of Amory.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Main Dam upstream to Lowhead Dam near Ludlow, Mississippi.
- Pearl River upstream from State Highway 15.
- Pearl River below Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Spillway outlet to the City of Jackson's Water Works Lowhead Dam.
- All waters of Okatibbee Reservoir.
- Muddy Bayou in Warren County from its mouth at Eagle Lake to the Muddy Bayou structure at Steele Bayou.
- Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Pass in Coahoma County.
- All State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes owned or leased by the Department.
- the Yockanookany River System between Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 429 .
  (PN 2735)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bowie River and all associated oxbow lakes, tributaries and water areas upstream from it's confluence with the Leaf River.

6.2. The following areas shall be closed to the use of hoop nets, barrel nets, gill nets or trammel nets but shall be open to trotlines and slat baskets:

- Yocona River from the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing downstream to the Pope-Crowder Road Bridge.
- Yalobusha River from south bound Interstate 55 bridge below Grenada Dam downstream to State Highway 8 and 35 bridge crossing.
- Bull Mountain Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.
- Luxapalilia Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.
- Buttahatchie River from the confluence with the Tenn-Tom Waterway navigational channel to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

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

6.4. Commercial fishing with hoop or barrel nets shall be closed in the following rivers:

- 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.

- Escatawpa River south of Interstate 10.

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

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

- Chickasawhay River from Hwy 11 bridge north of Enterprise, MS downstream to it's confluence with the Pascagoula River.

- Leaf River from I-59 bridge west of Moselle, MS downstream to it's confluence with the Pascagoula River.

- Pascagoula River from it's 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.

7.0 Reporting Commercial Fishing Catches

Any person required to purchase a commercial license must report their catch and/or other activities on forms provided by Department Wildlife Fisheries and Parks.

Except persons who only:

- Raise nongame wildlife (PN. 3201)
- Harvest common snapping turtles

This adopted public notice will become effective September 23, 2008. Witness my hand and seal this the 27th day of August, 2008.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
John C Stanley IV, 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

SHARON S. MILLER, HINDS COUNTY, MS
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires May 15, 2010