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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT F3-3798(I)

TO: The Honorable Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State
Post Office 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 22, 2010, under authority of Section 25-43-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, make known it's intent to adopt the following regulations on commercial fishing under authority of Sections 49-1-29; 49-7-8; 49-7-9; 49-7-81; 49-7-90.

Be it ordered that the following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits relative to commercial harvest of paddlefish (spoonbill catfish) and possession of any **paddlefish or bowfin** ~~fish~~ roe be adopted.

Be it ordered that the following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits do not pertain to: persons engaged in sport fishing.~~, persons who possess a resident commercial fishing license can take one Paddlefish per day for personal consumption during the months of May thru August~~

I. Definitions

Paddlefish Harvester - Resident person that has a Paddlefish Harvester Permit that permits that person to fish for and take Paddlefish **during Paddlefish Roe Season.** Paddlefish Harvester is allowed to sell **paddlefish roe or bowfin** roe only to persons with Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit, and can sell paddlefish flesh after the paddlefish harvest has been documented by Buyer/Exporter Permit or Processor.

Paddlefish Harvester Helper – Resident person who assists all types of Paddlefish Permit holders operations. Helpers cannot sell, resell or ship for sale Paddlefish or Paddlefish parts. Helper must be in the presence of Paddlefish Permit holder when in possession of **undocumented** paddlefish or paddlefish parts. **Persons assisting in the transport of paddlefish, or paddlefish parts must be permitted.**

Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter – Persons who are permitted to buy, process, sell or ship Paddlefish roe, **or bowfin roe**. Buyer/Exporter is also permitted to buy paddlefish flesh and/or document the paddlefish harvest of person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit.

Paddlefish Processor - Persons who are permitted to buy, sells or ship Paddlefish roe with 40% of roe by weight purchased made into a retail product ready for consumption and packaged in a container that contains less than 1kilogram of paddlefish with label listing that the product is paddlefish roe or caviar and that the product is "Product of Mississippi, USA". Processor is also permitted to buy paddlefish flesh and/or document the paddlefish harvest of person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit. **Paddlefish Processor is also permitted to buy, sell, or ship bowfin roe.**

Documented Paddlefish – A paddlefish legally harvested by a Paddlefish Harvester that has been tagged~~, roe removed~~, and the harvest has been recorded by either a Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Paddlefish Processor on a **signed** Paddlefish Sale Transaction Form

Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season **– The months of September to April when paddlefish have roe that can be processed into caviar.**

Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season**- The months of May through August when paddlefish roe is not generally acceptable for producing caviar.**

II. Licenses, Permits and Tag Fees:

Persons who take paddlefish during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season must have a commercial fishing license and Paddlefish Summer Tags to possess paddlefish.

Persons, who take paddlefish **during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season**, or sell, buy, ship, or possess paddlefish roe, **or bowfin roe,** must have a commercial fishing license and one, or more, of the following permits:

~~Commercial Fishing License Types~~ **Paddlefish/Roe Fish Permits and Tags**	Cost
Resident Paddlefish Harvester Permit	$750
Resident Paddlefish Harvester Helper Permit	$100
Paddlefish tags (for each paddlefish harvested)	$3 for 20 tags
Paddlefish Processor Permit	$1,000
Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit	$3,000

Prices listed do not include processing or agent fees
Permits require appropriate commercial fishing license to purchase

Applications and Permits

1) Application for **paddlefish** permits will be accepted from October 1 October 15 for upcoming season. Application must be submitted electronically through a Point of sale (POS) license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold).). Applicant must be 16 years of age and a resident to apply for Paddlefish Harvest Permit. A non-refundable application fee of $5, plus a processing fee will be charged. Only

applications received on or before October 15, will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person. All applicants will be notified by mail whether or not they are approved to purchase permits: Those selected must attend a mandatory meeting to be held at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) North Mississippi Fish Hatchery in Enid Mississippi on a date specified in the mailing notification. In addition, Applications for Buyer/Exporters or Processors permits will be accepted in the Fisheries Office in Jackson, Mississippi until March 30.

2) Purchase of paddlefish permits is contingent on the condition that permit applicants have not been convicted, within the last 5 years, of any violations of **any state or federal** fish and wildlife laws or regulations

3) MDWFP reserves the right to limit the number of Resident Paddlefish Harvester permits to 25.Preference will be given to those in good standing, who had purchased Paddlefish permits the previous year.

4) Resident Paddlefish Harvester permits, Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter permits, Paddlefish Processor Permit and Paddlefish tags will expire August 30 of the year following issuance of the permits. Any unused Paddlefish Tags must be returned at the end of the season.

III. Paddlefish Harvest:

1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for, take and/or sell paddlefish and their parts (eggs and/or flesh) **during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season** without having a Mississippi Resident Commercial fishing license and a Mississippi Resident Paddlefish Harvester Permit. Persons having a Paddlefish Harvester permit can only sell roe to persons possessing a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit and **during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season** must document their paddlefish catch with persons holding either a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit.

2) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, a paddlefish during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season without having a valid Mississippi Resident Commercial fishing license and Paddlefish Summer Harvest tags, issued by MDWFP, to tag Paddlefish for possession.

3) It shall be unlawful for any person to take paddlefish and not report harvest to MDWFP on forms issued.

IIIa. Creel and Minimum length for commercial harvest of paddlefish

1) **During the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season.** It shall be unlawful to harvest paddlefish less than 37 inches eye to fork length (front of eye to curvature in fork in tail) with paddlefish laid flat on a flat board.

Exceptions

a) On waters that border an adjacent state, during periods when both states have open seasons for commercial harvest of paddlefish, the minimum length limit will be the lower limit between the two states

2) **During the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season the creel limit shall be one paddlefish per day.**

IV. Handling of Paddlefish during Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season

1. It shall be unlawful to possess a paddlefish without a MDWFP issued serial tag attached to the dorsal fin. The tag will be attached at capture and remain on the fish until flesh is packaged for retail sale or final retail sale is made. This includes the one paddlefish per day allowed to commercial fishermen between the months of May thru August.

2. It shall be unlawful to possess cut or mutilated paddlefish while on-the water and until the fish reach a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Mississippi Processor. Mutilation involves cutting, puncturing, tearing or disfiguring of paddlefish in any way. Paddlefish shall remain whole after capture and eggs shall remain entirely within the body cavity of the fish until the fish reach processing facility of either a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Mississippi Paddlefish Processor. This includes all nonresident commercial fishermen in reciprocal waters.

   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 and the tail past the fork may be removed for transport.

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

3. Paddlefish, including the removal of roe, shall be processed at a **location that** ~~facility with a permanent address and~~ **complies** with Federal and State Health regulations

4. Paddlefish flesh documented **on a Sale Transaction Form** by either a holder of a valid Buyer/Exporter Permit or Processor Permit may be retained by ~~a paddlefish permit holder~~ **anyone** for sale, consumption, donation, or disposal. Disposal is pursuant to regulations of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

5. Personnel of the MDWFP will be allowed to inspect processing facilities and record biological data on harvested paddlefish

6. It shall be unlawful to store any fish roe in wholesale or bulk containers that are not identified by a label on the container that identifies the roe as to species and the container **is identified by** ~~has written on the label~~ the tag number(s) of the fish from which the roe was taken.

V. Sale of Paddlefish and Paddlefish Parts:

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, or buy, or sell, or ship across the Mississippi state line whole paddlefish, paddlefish parts or paddlefish eggs or roe **or bowfin roe** without **proper permits** and a **Documented** Sale 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 roe 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 Buyer/Exporter or Processor Permit.

Documented paddlefish **flesh** may be sold or possessed for sale or consumption by any person. A copy of the Sale Transaction Form shall accompany the fish(s) and the tag shall remain on the fish until processed and packaged for retail sale. Note that this does not nullify the need for a commercial fishing license as required to sell non-game gross fish.

VI. Reporting Requirements for Harvest, Sale and Shipping

Sale Transaction Form.

The harvest of any paddlefish must be documented on a Sale Transaction Form, prior to, or at the time, any sale or processing of the fish. **A documented** ~~The~~ Sale Transaction Form will contain the tag number, paddlefish eye to fork length in inches, presence or absence of eggs, pounds of **raw** eggs purchased **processed weight of eggs, distribution of roe, and distribution of flesh, number of nets used, date of harvest, and capture locations,** ~~processed weight of eggs, number of nets used, hours fished, date of harvest, and capture locations shall be~~ recorded on the provided form with form signed by the Harvester and Buyer/Exporter or Processor. Harvester and Buyer shall retain a copy of each Sale Transaction Form and the Harvester shall submit the original to the MDWFP on a monthly basis by the 15th of the month following the month of harvest. The Buyer/Exporter or Processor is required by the end of the day to submit an electronic copy by internet, or legible fax copy to the MDWFP. If no paddlefish were harvested or handled in a month a Sale Transaction Form must still be submitted.

The sell of bowfin roe must also be documented on a Sale 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 EF length.

Monthly Processor Form

Processor will submit a form each month stating the pounds of roe processed as a retail product. The Monthly Processor Form will be submitted by the 15th of the month following the month of the report. Paddlefish Harvester Permit holders and Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit holders will retain a copy of all completed forms for a period of three years and make them available upon request by the MDWFP.

VII. Paddlefish Harvest Season, Open Areas and Quotas:

A) Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season

During the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season it shall be unlawful to take paddlefish from outside the specified seasons and from any waters except the following 5 zones listed:

1) Mississippi River Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on border waters with Arkansas along the Mississippi River.
Description of open waters for Mississippi River Zone:
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.

The Paddlefish Season for the Mississippi River Zone will be from **November 15** ~~December 1~~ – March 31

2) Mississippi Delta Zone: Paddlefish Harvest in the following areas:

In all waters of Tunica County and Quitman County.
In Tallahatchie Co., all waters north of Highway 32.

The Paddlefish Season for the Mississippi Delta Zone will be from ~~January~~ **December** 1 – February ~~28~~ **15**

3) Sunflower River Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on section of Sunflower River

In all waters of Sharkey County north of Highway 16 and the Sunflower River along the Washington-Humphreys County Line. Harvesters are allowed to access the zone via boat **from** Brumfield Landing Public Boat Ramp

The Paddlefish Season for the Sunflower River Zone is Open from January 1 – February 28

4) Bear Creek Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on lower section of Bear Creek

In waters of Bear Creek in Sunflower, Leflore and Humphreys Counties south of Macon Lake Road to Wasp Lake structure. Zone includes Wasp Lake, Four Mile lake, Three Mile Lake and (lower) Six Mile Lake.

The Paddlefish Season for the Bear Creek Zone is Open from December 1 – January 28

5) Moon Lake Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on lake in Coahoma County with access only permitted from Paradise Point Public Boat ramp.

Description of open waters for Moon Lake Zone:

Moon Lake in Coahoma County, west of Moon Lake Road bridge over Yazoo Pass; south of mouth of Phillips Bayou; east of Highway 1

To participate in this Zone a person must have a valid Paddlefish Harvester Permit that will permit the taking of paddlefish and nongame gross fish during open season. A person(s) with a Paddlefish Helpers permit can assist a permitted Paddlefish Harvester.

Harvesters must run at least 200 yards of nets with 4 inch mesh webbing and retain all carp and legal size buffalo caught

The Paddlefish Season for the Moon Lake Zone will be two 5 day seasons: 1) the third Monday in November and ending at 1400 hours the following Friday 2) the First Monday in December, ending at 1400hours the following Friday. Nets can be set the afternoon of the Sunday prior to a Monday opening of a season.

Any take of nongame gross fish must be landed at the Paradise Point Public Boat ramp between the hours of 0800 to 1400.

MDWFP personnel will be available to record harvest and to initial Sale Transaction Forms.

~~4) All other waters of the state are closed to commercial paddlefish harvest~~

B) Paddlefish Summer Harvest ~~Season~~

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 Public Notice 2999 and the following waters:

1) Any waters part of, or tributaries to the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River or the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway..
2) Any waters part of, or tributaries in the Pascagoula River watershed

VIII. Penalty for Violations

1) 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.

2) Failure to submit or falsify 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.

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, 1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson, MS 39211, no later than August 22, 2010.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____

~~Bryan Jones~~, Chairman
Charles Rigdon

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____

Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS
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The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at a meeting in Jackson, Mississippi on July 22, 2010, under authority of Section 25-43-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, make known it's intent to adopt the following regulations on commercial fishing under authority of Sections 49-1-29; 49-7-8; 49-7-9; 49-7-81; 49-7-90.

Be it ordered that the following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits relative to commercial harvest of paddlefish (spoonbill catfish) and possession of any paddlefish or bowfin roe be adopted.

Be it ordered that the following rules, regulations and required licenses and permits do not pertain to: persons engaged in sport fishing

I. Definitions

Paddlefish Harvester - Resident person that has a Paddlefish Harvester Permit that permits that person to fish for and take Paddlefish during Paddlefish Roe Season. Paddlefish Harvester is allowed to sell paddlefish roe or bow fin roe only to persons with Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit, and can sell paddlefish flesh after the paddlefish harvest has been documented by Buyer/Exporter Permit or Processor.

Paddlefish Harvester Helper – Resident person who assists all types of Paddlefish Permit holders operations. Helpers cannot sell, resell or ship for sale Paddlefish or Paddlefish parts. Helper must be in the presence of Paddlefish Permit holder when in possession of undocumented paddlefish or paddlefish parts. Persons assisting in the transport of paddlefish, or paddlefish parts must be permitted.

Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter – Persons who are permitted to buy, process, sell or ship Paddlefish roe, or bowfin roe. Buyer/Exporter is also permitted to buy paddlefish flesh and/or document the paddlefish harvest of person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit.

Paddlefish Processor - Persons who are permitted to buy, sells or ship Paddlefish roe with 40% of roe by weight purchased made into a retail product ready for consumption and packaged in a container that contains less than 1kilogram of paddlefish with label listing that the product is paddlefish roe or caviar and that the product is "Product of Mississippi, USA". Processor is also permitted to buy paddlefish flesh and/or document the paddlefish harvest of person with a Paddlefish Harvester Permit. Paddlefish Processor is also permitted to buy, sell, or ship bowfin roe.

Documented Paddlefish – A paddlefish legally harvested by a Paddlefish Harvester that has been tagged, and the harvest has been recorded by either a Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Paddlefish Processor on a signed Paddlefish Sale Transaction Form

Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season – The months of September to April when paddlefish have roe that can be processed into caviar.

Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season- The months of May through August when paddlefish roe is not generally acceptable for producing caviar.

II. Licenses, Permits and Tag Fees:

Persons who take paddlefish during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season must have a commercial fishing license and Paddlefish Summer Tags to possess paddlefish.

Persons, who take paddlefish during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season, or sell, buy, ship, or possess paddlefish roe, or bowfin roe, must have a commercial fishing license and one, or more, of the following permits:

Paddlefish/Roe Fish Permits and Tags	Cost
Resident Paddlefish Harvester Permit	$750
Resident Paddlefish Harvester Helper Permit	$100
Paddlefish tags (for each paddlefish harvested)	$3 for 20 tags
Paddlefish Processor Permit	$1,000
Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit	$3,000

Prices listed do not include processing or agent fees
Permits require appropriate commercial fishing license to purchase

Applications and Permits

1) Application for paddlefish permits will be accepted from October 1 October 15 for upcoming season. Application must be submitted electronically through a Point of sale (POS) license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold).). Applicant must be 16 years of age and a resident to apply for Paddlefish Harvest Permit. A non-refundable application fee of $5, plus a processing fee will be charged. Only applications received on or before October 15, will be eligible. Only one application

may be submitted per person. All applicants will be notified by mail whether or not they are approved to purchase permits: Those selected must attend a mandatory meeting to be held at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) North Mississippi Fish Hatchery in Enid Mississippi on a date specified in the mailing notification. In addition, Applications for Buyer/Exporters or Processors permits will be accepted in the Fisheries Office in Jackson, Mississippi until March 30.

2) Purchase of paddlefish permits is contingent on the condition that permit applicants have not been convicted, within the last 5 years, of any violations of any state or federal fish and wildlife laws or regulations

3) MDWFP reserves the right to limit the number of Resident Paddlefish Harvester permits to 25.Preference will be given to those in good standing, who had purchased Paddlefish permits the previous year.

4) Resident Paddlefish Harvester permits, Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter permits, Paddlefish Processor Permit and Paddlefish tags will expire August 30 of the year following issuance of the permits. Any unused Paddlefish Tags must be returned at the end of the season.

III. Paddlefish Harvest:

1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for, take and/or sell paddlefish and their parts (eggs and/or flesh) during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season without having a Mississippi Resident Commercial fishing license and a Mississippi Resident Paddlefish Harvester Permit. Persons having a Paddlefish Harvester permit can only sell roe to persons possessing a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit and during the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season must document their paddlefish catch with persons holding either a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit or Paddlefish Processor permit.

2) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, a paddlefish during the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season without having a valid Mississippi Resident Commercial fishing license and Paddlefish Summer Harvest tags, issued by MDWFP, to tag Paddlefish for possession.

3) It shall be unlawful for any person to take paddlefish and not report harvest to MDWFP on forms issued.

IIIa. Creel and Minimum length for commercial harvest of paddlefish

1) During the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season. It shall be unlawful to harvest paddlefish less than 37 inches eye to fork length (front of eye to curvature in fork in tail) with paddlefish laid flat on a flat board.

Exceptions

a) On waters that border an adjacent state, during periods when both states have open seasons for commercial harvest of paddlefish, the minimum length limit will be the lower limit between the two states

2) During the Paddlefish Summer Harvest Season the creel limit shall be one paddlefish per day.

IV. Handling of Paddlefish during Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season

1. It shall be unlawful to possess a paddlefish without a MDWFP issued serial tag attached to the dorsal fin. The tag will be attached at capture and remain on the fish until flesh is packaged for retail sale or final retail sale is made. This includes the one paddlefish per day allowed to commercial fishermen between the months of May thru August.

2. It shall be unlawful to possess cut or mutilated paddlefish while on the water and until the fish reach a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Mississippi Processor. Mutilation involves cutting, puncturing, tearing or disfiguring of paddlefish in any way. Paddlefish shall remain whole after capture and eggs shall remain entirely within the body cavity of the fish until the fish reach processing facility of either a Mississippi Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter or Mississippi Paddlefish Processor. This includes all nonresident commercial fishermen in reciprocal waters.

   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 and the tail past the fork may be removed for transport.

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

3. Paddlefish, including the removal of roe, shall be processed at a location that complies with Federal and State Health regulations

4. Paddlefish flesh documented on a Sale Transaction Form by either a holder of a valid Buyer/Exporter Permit or Processor Permit may be retained anyone for sale, consumption, donation, or disposal. Disposal is pursuant to regulations of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

5. Personnel of the MDWFP will be allowed to inspect processing facilities and record biological data on harvested paddlefish

6. It shall be unlawful to store any fish roe in wholesale or bulk containers that are not identified by a label on the container that identifies the roe as to species and the container is identified by the tag number(s) of the fish from which the roe was taken.

V. Sale of Paddlefish and Paddlefish Parts:

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, or buy, or sell, or ship across the Mississippi state line whole paddlefish, paddlefish parts or paddlefish eggs or roe or bowfin roe without proper permits and a Documented Sale 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 roe 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 Buyer/Exporter or Processor Permit.

Documented paddlefish flesh may be sold or possessed for sale or consumption by any person. A copy of the Sale Transaction Form shall accompany the fish(s) and the tag shall remain on the fish until processed and packaged for retail sale. Note that this does not nullify the need for a commercial fishing license as required to sell non-game gross fish.

VI. Reporting Requirements for Harvest, Sale and Shipping

Sale Transaction Form.

The harvest of any paddlefish must be documented on a Sale Transaction Form, prior to, or at the time, any sale or processing of the fish. A documented Sale Transaction Form will contain the tag number, paddlefish eye to fork length in inches, presence or absence of eggs, pounds of raw eggs purchased processed weight of eggs, distribution of roe, and distribution of flesh, number of nets used, date of harvest, and capture locations, recorded on the provided form with form signed by the Harvester and Buyer/Exporter or Processor. Harvester and Buyer shall retain a copy of each Sale Transaction Form and the Harvester shall submit the original to the MDWFP on a monthly basis by the 15th of the month following the month of harvest. The Buyer/Exporter or Processor is required by the end of the day to submit an electronic copy by internet, or legible fax copy to the MDWFP. If no paddlefish were harvested or handled in a month a Sale Transaction Form must still be submitted.

The sale of bowfin roe must also be documented on a Sale 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 EF length.

Monthly Processor Form

Processor will submit a form each month stating the pounds of roe processed as a retail product. The Monthly Processor Form will be submitted by the 15th of the month following the month of the report. Paddlefish Harvester Permit holders and Paddlefish Buyer/Exporter Permit holders will retain a copy of all completed forms for a period of three years and make them available upon request by the MDWFP.

VII. Paddlefish Harvest Season, Open Areas and Quotas:

A) Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season

During the Paddlefish Roe Harvest Season it shall be unlawful to take paddlefish from outside the specified seasons and from any waters except the following 5 zones listed:

1) Mississippi River Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on border waters with Arkansas along the Mississippi River.
Description of open waters for Mississippi River Zone:
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.

The Paddlefish Season for the Mississippi River Zone will be from November 15 – March 31

2) Mississippi Delta Zone: Paddlefish Harvest in the following areas:

In all waters of Tunica County and Quitman County.
In Tallahatchie Co., all waters north of Highway 32.

The Paddlefish Season for the Mississippi Delta Zone will be from December 1 – February 15

3) Sunflower River Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on section of Sunflower River

In all waters of Sharkey County north of Highway 16 and the Sunflower River along the Washington-Humphreys County Line. Harvesters are allowed to access the zone via boat from Brumfield Landing Public Boat Ramp

The Paddlefish Season for the Sunflower River Zone is Open from January 1 – February 28

4) Bear Creek Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on lower section of Bear Creek

In waters of Bear Creek in Sunflower, Leflore and Humphreys Counties south of Macon Lake Road to Wasp Lake structure. Zone includes Wasp Lake, Four Mile lake, Three Mile Lake and (lower) Six Mile Lake.

The Paddlefish Season for the Bear Creek Zone is Open from December 1 – January 28

5) Moon Lake Zone: Paddlefish Harvest on lake in Coahoma County with access only permitted from Paradise Point Public Boat ramp.

Description of open waters for Moon Lake Zone:

Moon Lake in Coahoma County, west of Moon Lake Road bridge over Yazoo Pass; south of mouth of Phillips Bayou; east of Highway 1

To participate in this Zone a person must have a valid Paddlefish Harvester Permit that will permit the taking of paddlefish and nongame gross fish during open season. A person(s) with a Paddlefish Helpers permit can assist a permitted Paddlefish Harvester.

Harvesters must run at least 200 yards of nets with 4 inch mesh webbing and retain all carp and legal size buffalo caught

The Paddlefish Season for the Moon Lake Zone will be two 5 day seasons: 1) the third Monday in November and ending at 1400 hours the following Friday 2) the First Monday in December, ending at 1400hours the following Friday. Nets can be set the afternoon of the Sunday prior to a Monday opening of a season.

Any take of nongame gross fish must be landed at the Paradise Point Public Boat ramp between the hours of 0800 to 1400.

MDWFP personnel will be available to record harvest and to initial Sale Transaction Forms.

B) Paddlefish Summer Harvest ~~Season~~

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 Public Notice 2999 and the following waters:

1) Any waters part of, or tributaries to the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River or the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway..
2) Any waters part of, or tributaries in the Pascagoula River watershed

VIII. Penalty for Violations

1) 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.

2) Failure to submit or falsify 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.

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, 1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson, MS 39211, no later than August 22, 2010.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY: _____
Charles Rigdon, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

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