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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE NUMBER W7 3758

TO: The Honorable Delbert Hosemann
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 May 16, 2012, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, adopted the following **2012 Public Waters 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Be it ordered Public Notice W6 3758 is hereby repealed, and the following 2012 Public Waters Alligator Hunting Seasons regulations are adopted.
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 public waterways, as designated by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), within each of the following zones will be open for alligator hunting from 12:00 noon on September 7, until 12:00 noon September 17, for persons issued special permits as described below:

PUBLIC WATERWAY HUNTING ZONE DESCRIPTIONS:

1. **Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone** - The public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District 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 Lowhead Dam on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, i.e. North Bay and Twin Harbors).

2. **Northwest Zone –** North of US Hwy. 82 and west of Interstate 55.

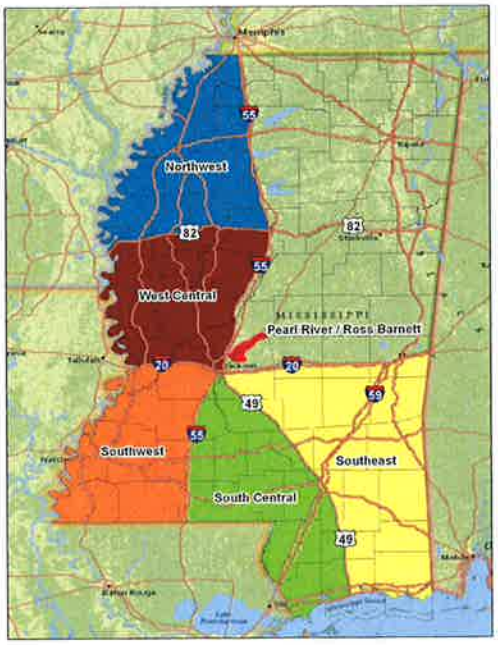
3. **West Central Zone** – South of US Hwy. 82, west of Interstate 55, and north of Interstate 20.

4. **Southwest Zone** – South of Interstate 20 and west of Interstate 55.

5. **South Central Zone** – South of Interstate 20, west of MS Hwy 49, east of Interstate 55,

and including the Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone, which

6. **Southeast Zone** – South of Interstate 20 and east of MS Hwy 49.



Alligator Hunting Zones Map

Including the following public waters of Mississippi within each of open hunting zones:

1. Lake Ferguson (Washington County) in the Northwest Zone
2. Beulah Lake (Bolivar County) in the Northwest Zone
3. Lake Whittington (Bolivar County) in the Northwest Zone
4. Eagle Lake (Warren County) in the West Central Zone
5. Chotard Lake (Warren and Issaquena Counties) in the West Central Zone
6. Albemarle Lake (Issaquena County) in the West Central Zone
7. Tennessee Lake (Issaquena County) in the West Central Zone
8. Lake Washington (Washington County) in the West Central Zone
9. Bee Lake (Humphreys County) in the West Central Zone
10. Little Eagle Lake (Humphreys County) in the West Central Zone
11. Dump Lake (Yazoo County) in the West Central Zone
12. Lake George (Yazoo County) in the West Central Zone
13. Lake Mary (Wilkinson County) in the Southwest Zone

HUNTING ZONE PERMIT ALLOCATION:

1. **Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone (60 permits)**
2. **Northwest Zone (150 permits)**
3. **West Central Zone (150 permits)**

4. **Southwest Zone (150 permits)**
5. **South Central Zone (150 permits)**
6. **Southeast Zone (150 permits)**

APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS: 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*). Applications for permits will be accepted from June 1-15,2012. NEW for 2012, all applications must be submitted electronically through the MDWFP website, www.mdwfp.com (not thru license system as in past). A non-refundable application fee of $10 per zone application will be charged. Only applications received on or before June 15, 2012 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person per zone. Any person submitting multiple applications within a zone will be disqualified from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by email. Applicants must provide an email address for notification of having been drawn.

VALIDATION OF SELECTED APPLICANTS: Upon receipt of notification of having been drawn, all selected applicants must validate their notification on-line and register for an alligator training course or verify previous attendance to a training course. Selected applicants must validate on-line by July 1, 2012. Persons failing to validate by July 1 will be replaced with substitute applicants. Validation instructions will be included in the notification email to all selected applicants.

MANDATORY TRAINING COURSE: All persons drawn for an alligator hunting permit must attend or have previously attended a Mississippi Alligator Hunting Training Course. Alligator Training Course, dates, times, and locations are limited and will be announced as soon as possible.

HUNTING 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) of which may exceed seven (7) feet in length.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

Use of bait is prohibited.

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.

Capture 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) (no broadheads).

The use of fishing lures or other devices *(with hooks attached)* for the purpose of catching alligators in the mouth is prohibited.

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 long-barreled shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. No pistols are allowed.

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.

Any person or vessel that possesses equipment used to capture or harvest an alligator must be in the immediate vicinity of a person who possesses a valid Alligator Possession Permit at any time while located in the hunting area.

The possession of alcohol or alcoholic beverages is prohibited for any person in the act of alligator hunting, nor may it be contained in any vessel

in the act of alligator hunting.

Nothing within this public notice shall supersede any other municipal laws, including discharge of firearms within a municipality.

No person may hunt alligators within any public waterway within any open alligator hunting zone that the governing entity does not specifically allow alligator hunting (i.e. state parks, state lakes, state wildlife management areas, federal refuges, municipal lakes and parks, etc.).

Harvest Reporting and Tagging:

Tagging: Two Temporary Possession Tags will be mailed to all selected applicants who validate their notification on-line by July 1, 2012. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tags are not valid without a current Alligator Possession Permit. A tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting.

On-line Reporting: Each permittee must submit an on-line harvest report and survey via www.mdwfp.com. A report must be completed within 24 hours of harvest of any and each alligator. Failure to comply will result in loss of alligator hunting privileges the following year. Federal CITES tags will be mailed to permittees upon receipt of completed Harvest Report.

License Requirements:

Alligator Hunting Permittee: All alligator hunting permittees must purchase and have on their person an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit. In addition, a combination resident hunting/fishing license is required to purchase the Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License. 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 within a hunting zone. *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 Hunting 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 within a hunting zone. *All licenses are non-refundable.*

Go to www.mdwfp.com/alligator for more information on alligators and alligator hunting in Mississippi.

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 MISS.CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

W7 3758
May 16, 2012 Commission Meeting

This adopted public notice will become effective the 23 day of June. 2012. Witness my hand and seal this the 16th day of May, 2012.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: _____
William "Billy" Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

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

_____
NOTARY

(SEAL)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI NOTARY PUBLIC ID # 93475 ANNETTE S. CLARK Commission Expires June 25, 2013 RANKIN COUNTY