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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE NUMBER W4 3799 (I)

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 Carpenter, Mississippi on May 16, 2012, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following **2012 Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29 and 49-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered Public Notice W3 3799 is hereby repealed, and the following 2012 Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season regulations are adopted.

An alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the **"2012Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season,"** will be opened on private lands, according to restrictions below:

Location: Private lands only of Adams, Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Copiah, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Marion, Pearl River, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, and Yazoo Counties.

Dates: Starting at 12:00 Noon CDT on September 7, 2012until 6:00 AM CDT on October 1, 2012.

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 privately owned 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 is 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. The rate of permit issuance may be decreased at the discretion of the MDWFP Alligator Program Coordinator.

Applicants must obtain and submit an application with the following information by July 1, 2012:

- A private lands alligator hunting permit application.
- A $10 money order or check payable to MDWFP or cash.
- Proof of ownership by providing a copy of the landowners 2011 property tax receipt for the property for which the applicant is submitting.
- A copy of the property deed with a complete property description.
- A leaseholder may submit applications signed by the landowner and must provide a copy of a current exclusive hunting rights lease agreement.
- 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.

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 Regional Office M-F, 8 AM – 5 PM. Completed applications must be received at the MDWFP Jackson Office by July 1, 2012. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered.

Applications Fees: A non-refundable application fee of $10 is required for each application submitted. Payment must be submitted with the application. Money orders, checks, or cash 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 applicants will be mailed a Private Lands Alligator Harvest Voucher (PLAHV) for each alligator hunting permit 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 or must have previously completed the Private Lands Alligator Hunting Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The course location, date, and time will be announced as soon as possible.
Upon completion of the course, the holder of the PLAHV will be eligible to purchase a Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit (PLAPP).

Harvest Reporting and Tagging: Temporary Alligator Possession Tag(s) (TAPT) will be issued and registered with the possessor of the PLAPP. The TAPT must be attached to each alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. Only damaged or broken TAPTs 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 unused temporary tags must be returned/mailed to the MDWFP Alligator Program Coordinator no later than October 8, 2012. Failure to comply will result in loss of alligator hunting privileges in 2013. Upon harvest validation, a federal CITES tag will be mailed to the hunter. The TAPT 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/reporting regulations may include federal violations.*

Bag limit: Each person possessing a Private Lands Alligator Harvest Permit will be allowed to harvest two (2) alligators four (4) feet in length or longer per permit. Only one (1) alligator may exceed seven (7) feet in total length per permit. All alligators must be pursued/hunted/taken from the property registered by the permitted landowner. No alligators may be pursued/hunted/taken from public waters.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

The use of bait or baited hooks is prohibited.

Daylight Hours: During daylight hours (from ½ hour prior to sunrise until ½ hour after sunset) unrestrained 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 until 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. Capture methods are restricted to handheld snares, snatch hooks (handheld or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/buoy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/buoy). 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 Possession Permit.

Private Lands Alligator Hunting Permit (PLAPP): The cost of the PLAPP is $100 for residents and $200 for non-residents. PLAPPs are available only at MDWFP Offices with electronic license sales systems. The holder of a PLAPP must also purchase and have on their person a combination resident or nonresident hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars ($25). To possess a PLAPP 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 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 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 PLAPP on permitted property. *All licenses are non-transferable and non-refundable.*

W4 3799
March 20, 2012 Commission Meeting

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 6, 2012.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: _____
William "Billy" Devaney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

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

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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 ~~April 20, 2012~~ July 6, 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