

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 3: Fisheries

Part 3, Chapter 3: Regulations regarding commercial fishing.

RULE 3.4 REGULATIONS REGARDING PADDLEFISH MANAGEMENT ZONES, OPEN HARVEST PERIODS AND HARVEST QUOTAS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PADDLEFISH

A. This rule delineates the waters of the state into management zones for the conservation of Paddlefish and defines the period when the zones are open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish. Some zones are managed as a group to provide refuge areas to facilitate management of Paddlefish stocks. Harvest quotas are established for each Paddlefish management zone.

B. Any restrictions listed in this Rule do not pertain to persons engaged in sport fishing.

C. The gear and hours that are legal to harvest Paddlefish are defined in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.2 (see E10, I6, I7).

D. The harvest of Paddlefish from streams not part of a public waterway or from lakes without public access shall require that the harvester obtain from a riparian or adjacent landowner written permission to cross their property for access to that body of water.

E. The following management zones shall be open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish only during the dates listed or until the quota for that zone is reached:

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| 1. Coldwater Zone: | February 1, 2016 – February 21, 2016 |
| 2. Mississippi River Zone: | November 20, 2015 – December 31, 2015
and March 1, 2016 – April 10, 2016 |
| 3. Moon Lake: | February 22, 2016 – February 26, 2016 |
| 4. Tallahatchie River Zone: | January 1, 2016 – January 31, 2016 |
| 5. Minter City Cutoff: | January 25 – January 29, 2016 |
| 6. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: | May 1 – August 31, 2015 |

F. The following Paddlefish Zone Quotas are established for the management zone dates listed above:

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|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Coldwater Zone: | 140 |
| 2. Mississippi River Zone: | no harvest quota |
| 3. Moon Lake: | 300 |

- 4. Tallahatchie River Zone: 140
- 5. Minter City Cutoff: 100
- 6. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: no harvest quota

G. The harvest of Paddlefish will be prohibited in each management zone once the zone quota has been reached and notification of such has been made to all Paddlefish permittees.

H. Descriptions of Paddlefish Harvest Zones:

1. Coldwater Zone: the public waters of Tunica County and Quitman County and all public waters north of Highway 32 in Tallahatchie County.

2. Mississippi River Zone: the border waters with Arkansas along the Mississippi River as delineated in the reciprocal agreement with Arkansas to include: 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.

3. Moon Lake Zone: Moon Lake in Coahoma County. The following special regulations will be in effect:

- a. No more than **10** Paddlefish Harvester permit holders will be allowed to fish.
- b. The maximum number of nets a Paddlefish Harvester may fish is five (5).
- c. Paddlefish nets, as described in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3 Rule 3.2, shall be set at sunrise and retrieved prior to 5:00 p.m. daily.
- d. Nets must be run at least once within a 2-hour period.
- e. All access to the lake and landing of Paddlefish must take place at the Moon Lake Landing public boat ramp.

4. Tallahatchie River Zone: public waters of the Tallahatchie River and connected oxbows in Leflore and Tallahatchie Counties that are north of Highway 82 and south of Highway 32.

5. Minter City Cutoff: Minter City Cutoff in Leflore and Tallahatchie Counties, but not to include any waters of the Tallahatchie River.

a. Paddlefish nets legal for harvest of Paddlefish during the Paddlefish Egg Harvest Season are described in 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 3, Rule 3.2.

b. Due to the narrow width of the Minter City Cut-Off channel, a Paddlefish Harvester may fish no more than 500 yards of gillnets, comprised of not more than ten (10) individual Paddlefish nets.

c. All access to the lake, and landing of Paddlefish, must take place at the Minter City Oil Mill public boat ramp.

6. Paddlefish Summer Harvest Zone: any waters open to commercial fishing as listed in Rule 3.1, except for the following waters:

a. Any waters part of, or tributaries to the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River or the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

b. Any waters part of, or tributaries in the Pascagoula River watershed.

I. Penalty for Violations

1. Violation of any of the Mississippi state laws or state regulations pertaining to the take of paddlefish will be considered a Class I offense as specified in MISS. CODE ANN. §Section 49-7-90, and punishable as per the provisions of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

2. Failure to submit or the falsification of any 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.

History: Revised August 2015.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-90.