

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

#### 2023 Recreational Red Snapper Season Closure

Louisiana's private recreational and state charter red snapper season was previously set by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular April 2023 meeting to be open daily until further notice. Under the provisions of state management, NOAA Fisheries has delegated season and bag limit authority as well as an annual quota allocation to Louisiana. In order to avoid quota deductions towards the established allocation in 2024, the season must be closed at the end of 2023.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the secretary by the commission at its regular April 2023 meeting and in LAC 76:VII.335.G.5 to modify the recreational red snapper season, size, and bag limits under the provisions of NOAA delegated state management, the secretary hereby declares:

The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters and federal waters off Louisiana shall close at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2023. The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper will then remain closed until the regularly scheduled opening of the 2024 season, currently scheduled for May 24, 2024, or until such time as adjusted by the commission or the secretary. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess red snapper whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Robert E. Shadoin  
Secretary

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