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

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and ParksPart 3. Fisheries

Part 3, Chapter 3: Regulations regarding commercial fishing.

Rule 3.1 REGULATIONS REGARDING COMMERCIAL FISHING.

A. The following rules, regulations and required licenses relative to freshwater commercial fishing, commercial fishing equipment tags, seines, nets and traps and wholesale minnow dealers are hereby adopted for all residents and non-residents for public waters identified in MISS. CODE ANN. §51-3-1 and Miss. Code Ann. §59-23-3(e). Nonresidents shall comply with all subsections of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1, except for the subsection which specifies the fee for a resident commercial fishing license.

B. Non-game gross fish, nonnative fish, minnows, non-game fish, crawfish, and freshwater shrimp may be taken and sold from the public freshwaters of Mississippi except for those species listed in sections G10, G11, G13 and G14, except in from those waters specifically listed in section H which are closed to freshwater commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets as stated herein. Non-game gross fish, nongame fish and non-native fish are listed or defined in MISS. CODE ANN.§49-7-1. Minnows are defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29

C. LICENSES

1. All persons (no age or disability license exemption) who engage in the following activities must have a freshwater commercial fishing license to do the following in the public freshwaters of Mississippi:

a. Fish freshwater commercial fishing equipment (hoop or barrel nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, gill or trammel nets, slat baskets or trotlines with more than 100 hooks in aggregate) as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 and in this rule.

b. Harvest**,** sell, resell, or purchase for re-sale non-game gross fish, nongame fish and non-native fish.

c. Sell minnows at wholesale (with the exception of those MS residents growing minnows on their own property, MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29) or sell minnows taken from the public freshwaters of Mississippi. Minnows are defined as golden shiners, fathead minnows, goldfish, emerald shiner, common carp, mosquito fish, and Gulf killifish.

d. Selling, reselling or exporting for sale across state lines crawfish or freshwater shrimp taken from the public freshwaters of Mississippi.

2. Any person using a slat basket in the public freshwaters of Mississippi waters must have a valid Mississippi Slat Basket License in addition to having a valid

Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.

3. LICENSE COSTS: The following licenses are available at the listed price.

Commercial Fishing License Types	Cost
Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	$30
Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	$200
Slat Basket License (for each basket and in addition to freshwater commercial license and slat basket tags)	$30

(Prices listed do not include processing fees or agent fees.)

4. A person holding a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License can be assisted by a helper who has any valid license issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Anyone in the boat with a licensed commercial fisherman is considered a helper and therefore must have valid license issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. There are no license exemptions for helpers. Helpers who do not have a Mississippi commercial fishing license cannot sell, resell, or ship for sale, nongame gross fish or nonnative fish.

5. Persons who have a freshwater commercial fishing license are allowed to fish crawfish traps and freshwater shrimp traps as described herein.

D. FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT

1. TROTLINES:

a. Trotlines must have hooks at least 24 inches apart and tied so they cannot slip together.

b. No trotlines or throw lines shall exceed 1,000 feet.

c. A trotline with more than 100 hooks is considered commercial gear and requires a freshwater commercial fishing license.

2. SNAG LINES: There is no open season for the use of snag lines.

3. HOOP NETS and BARREL NETS:

a. Hoop or barrel nets shall have hoops covered with treated mesh twine or cord number 15 or bigger; the minimum mesh size shall be two (2) inch square measure.

b. Lead Nets are hoop nets with one or two net mesh panels called wings or hearts attached to the front hoop. No more than seven lead nets per license holder may be used, with lead mesh panels up to 35 yards in length, with the minimum mesh size being two (2) inch square measure and made of treated mesh twine or cord number 15 twine or bigger.

c. Hearts may be used only in the Mississippi River where it is a common boundary between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included).

d. Hoop nets or barrel nets must be set at least 100 yards apart EXCEPT nets may be fished on each end of a lead mesh panel, as such, this constitutes one set, and each set must be 100 yards apart.

e. Any person fishing barrel nets and/or hoop nets in Mississippi waters, which are common boundaries between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included), may use the same mesh size allowed in the other state; EXCEPT, leads, hearts and wings are prohibited in Mississippi waters when attached to barrel or hoop nets with minimum mesh of less than two (2) inches square measure.

f. There are no restrictions on the size of the hoops, the material used for hoop construction, the overall length of a hoop net or barrel net or the number of throats they have.

g. Hoop nets are also known as barrel nets, set nets, funnel nets or fiddler nets.

4. REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS:

a. These are similar to hoop nets but have a rigid wire frame instead of hoops. These nets may be used as long as the wire frame spacing is at least six (6) inches square measure. The wire framing must be covered with #15 or bigger twine or cord treated net mesh material which is at least the minimum mesh size (square measure) specified for hoop or barrel nets in D3a and D3e. These nets may be fished as lead nets as specified in the Hoop Net and Barrel Net section D3a – D3e.

5. SEINES: The use of seines is prohibited statewide**,** except for minnow seines as described elsewhere in this rule.

6. MINNOW SEINES AND MINNOW TRAPS:

a. This equipment, as described below, can be used to harvest minnows as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29, non-game fish, and non-game gross fish as defined in MISS.CODE ANN. §49-7-1. Note: A commercial fishing license is not required to fish these types of gear, but the sale of fish authorized to be harvested by means of this equipment does require a commercial fishing license.

b. Minnow Seines: These seines must be no more than 25 feet in length and four (4) feet in depth.

c. Minnow Traps**:** Minnow traps or jars constructed of glass, plastic, nonmetallic or wire mesh not more than 32 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter having no wings or leads and having an entrance no larger than one inch in diameter may be used.

7. CRAWFISH TRAPS AND FRESHWATER SHRIMP TRAPS:

a. Crawfish Traps: any device constructed of coated wire or plastic mesh with openings of the throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches in diameter and which is used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Any commercially available crawfish trap with openings of throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches in diameter and any lift trap may be used.

b. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow or pyramid style or lift nets.

c. Freshwater shrimp traps: traps must be no larger than 36 inches long from the rear of the heart to the leading edge of the trap, and no larger than 24 inches wide between the leading edges of the trap or heart opening and no larger than 12 inches high and be without an external or unattached wings, weirs or other guiding devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart.

8. TRAMMEL NETS and GILL NETS:

a. Gill nets and trammel nets made of any material other than mono or multi filament twine are unlawful.

b. Nets must be set at least 100 yards apart and no nearer than 20 yards to piers. Maximum length shall be 3,000 feet.

c. Nets must have a minimum mesh of three and one half (3.5) inches square measure.

d. Exception in Specified Border Line Waters:

A minimum of three (3) inch square mesh measure gill and trammel nets may be used in Pickwick Lake, the main channels of the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers along the MS/LA border, and in any streams, lakes, and portion of lakes, where the Mississippi/Louisiana state line occurs as depicted on the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

9. SLAT BASKETS are defined as commercial fishing devices used solely for the capture of catfish.

a. Pursuant to MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 and 49-7-12, ANY PERSON using a slat basket in Mississippi waters must have a valid Mississippi slat basket license for each slat basket.

b. Slat baskets fished in Mississippi waters shall:

i. Be made entirely of wood and/or plastic slats in a boxlike or cylindrical shape, not to exceed six (6) feet in length or fifteen (15) inches in width and height or diameter.

ii. Have no more than two (2) throats, have at least four (4) slot openings of a minimum one and one quarter (1¼) inches by twenty-four (24) inches evenly spaced around the sides of the catch area on cylindrical shaped baskets and one such opening per on each side of square shaped baskets. These openings must begin at the rear (or closed end) of the basket and run twenty-four (24) inches toward the throat end (or mouth or open end) of the basket.

c. Slat baskets shall be placed at least one hundred (100) yards apart and may not be used with any form of leads, netting, or guiding devices (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1).

d. Slat Baskets must display the license holders' MDWFP Number on a waterproof tag provided by the licensed fishermen.

e. Any violation of this subsection is a violation of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-9.1 (6) and shall be a Class 1 violation, punishable as provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

E. TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:

1 All Commercial Fishing Equipment, and all Slat Baskets must display the license holders' MDWFP Number on a waterproof tag provided by the licensed fishermen. No other number will be needed.

2. Each Freshwater Commercial Fishing license holder is responsible for writing with waterproof marking or engraving their MDWFP Number on a waterproof Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag in legible numbers at least ¼" in height.

3. Commercial Fishing Equipment Tags do not expire and may be used as long as the MDWFP Number, or a Louisiana, or Arkansas resident commercial fishing license number is legible on the commercial fishing equipment tag for gear fished in Mississippi waters in border water areas.

4. A Commercial Fishing Equipment Tag shall be attached to one end of the float line of gill or trammel nets; on the front hoop of any hoop or barrel net; at the open end of any reinforcement wire catfish net; within five (5) feet of one end of the main line of each trotline; and attached to the front end of a slat basket.

5. All commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets must be tagged on those border lakes and waters that are part of the reciprocal resident license agreements between Mississippi/Louisiana 40 Mississippi Admin. Code Part 4 Rule 3.3, and between Mississippi/Arkansas 40 Mississippi Admin Code Part 4 Rule 3.2. The reciprocal agreements DO NOT give non-resident license holders authority to fish in border waters of a state of which they do not possess a license.

6. Gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, slat baskets and trotlines fished by RESIDENTS of Louisiana and Arkansas in Mississippi waters

specified in those reciprocal agreements must tag their commercial fishing equipment with the type of tag specified in the state where they are licensed for that gear, or if no tagging is required by their resident state, they must put their commercial fishing license number on their commercial fishing equipment tag when commercial fishing equipment is fished in border waters, or purchase a Mississippi nonresident commercial fishing license to get an MDWFP license number to for their tags. Persons with a Louisiana resident sportfishing or a basic fishing license using "recreational hoop nets" or any other commercial fishing equipment must either purchase a Louisiana commercial fishing license or a nonresident Mississippi commercial fishing license to fish commercial fishing equipment in Mississippi waters. Louisiana residents fishing gill nets must tag their equipment using the same criteria as Mississippi residents, EXCEPT their Louisiana license number must be on their freshwater commercial fishing equipment tag while fishing their gear in Mississippi waters.

7. Crawfish traps and freshwater shrimp traps fished in public water shall be marked with a waterproof tag provided by the fishermen, with their MDWFP Number, or a Louisiana, or Arkansas resident commercial fishing license number legibly printed on the tag using the same criteria as other commercial fishing equipment when fished in Mississippi waters in border water areas.

F. FISHING RESTRICTIONS

1. No person shall possess both sport and commercial gear when engaged in fishing or out on a water body.

2. It is unlawful to set any freshwater commercial fishing equipment within 100 yards of another piece of commercial fishing equipment (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-81). Exception:

a. Hoop nets connected by a lead as defined in D.3.d.; and

b. Minnow traps, minnow seines, crawfish traps, and shrimp traps.

3. It is unlawful to set any freshwater commercial fishing equipment so that it extends more than half way across any stream, channel, drain or other body of water (MISS. CODEANN. §49-7-81). A guideline that does not impede navigation may be set.

4. Driving or attempting to drive fish (also known as whooping, whipping or striking) into any freshwater commercial fishing gear is permitted; however, it shall be unlawful to alter or destroy any natural or man-made structure in the process of fishing for non-game gross fish or non-native fish.

5. It shall be unlawful to raise or run, or tamper with, or take fish from any legal freshwater commercial fishing equipment, crawfish traps, shrimp traps, and/or slat baskets which are not licensed and tagged in your name without written permission of the owner of the commercial fishing equipment. Written permission to run, or take fish from, someone else's commercial gear must be carried on the person running the gear and must include the full name

and MDWFP number of both the gear owner and the person running the gear.

6. It is unlawful for any person to fish any equipment in the waters of the state of any size or type that is not allowed by the MDWFP (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-81). Illegal gear, untagged gear and/or improperly tagged gear may be seized by conservation officers upon discovery.

G. HARVEST SIZE AND POSSESSION RESTRICTIONS; BAIT

1. All game fish (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-1) caught in freshwater commercial fishing equipment shall be returned to the water immediately (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-83).

2. Persons with commercial fishing licenses can use bream/sunfish for bait on trotlines**,** as long as:

a. these fish were legally taken; and

b. the daily creel limit for these species (100 fish total) is not exceeded.

3. No other species of game fish can be used by commercial fisherman as bait on trotlines. Nongame gross fish, nongame fish, minnows as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29 and nonnative fish for which harvest is legal may be used as bait. Only dead nonnative fish may be used as bait.

a. The harvest, possession, or use of any freshwater mussel for bait is prohibited (MISS. CODE ANN. §49-9-5).

4. Minnows, non-game fish, nongame gross fish and DEAD nonnative fish harvested for bait from Mississippi public waters may be taken outside the state for sale.

5. It is unlawful to commercially take, to offer for sale, or to possess non-game gross fish below the following total lengths, dressed lengths, or more than the creel limits:

Species	Total Length	Dressed Length	Creel Limit
Buffalo	16 inches	12 inches	None
Flathead Catfish	16 inches	12 inches	None
Other Catfish	12 inches	9 inches	None
Sturgeon			0
Paddlefish			0
Alligator Gar			2

a. Dressed means the removal of the head and guts from a fish. Dressed fish may also have the skin, scales, and all fins removed except for the tail fin. Dressed length means the length of the fish carcass measured on a flatboard from one end of the carcass to the end of the tail squeezed together to give the maximum overall length.

6. All Buffalo, Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish, and Blue Catfish must remain intact (with head, tail, skin and scales) while fishing any waters open to commercial fishing.

7. On border waters with Tennessee and Alabama persons with commercial fishing licenses shall possess no more than one catfish (blue, channel, flathead) over 34 inches in length.

8. Total length is measured with on a flatboard from the mouth to the end of the tail with the mouth of the fish closed and tail squeezed to give the maximum overall length.

9. The minimum length on dressed length shall not apply to fish processed at a facility (retail stores and supermarkets) that complies with Federal and State Health regulations. All fish sold on a rural or urban route or on display at a commercially licensed fish market shall meet total or dressed length requirements as established except that Buffalo ribs may be removed from the body side and be displayed and sold by commercial fisherman and commercially licensed fish markets.

10. PADDLEFISH: Paddlefish (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment must be released immediately. The harvest and/or possession, sale or attempted sale of Paddlefish, or any Paddlefish part (flesh and eggs) by resident and nonresident commercial fishermen is hereby prohibited on all the lands and water of the State of Mississippi including Mississippi lands and waters in all border water areas with adjacent states. As per MISS. CODE ANN§ 49-7-90, violation of this rule section is a Class 1 offense.

11. ALL MISSISSIPPI WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF ALL STURGEON SPECIES (Alabama shovelnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Lake sturgeon, Pallid sturgeon, and Shovelnose sturgeon). The harvest and/or possession, sale or attempted sale of any Sturgeon species, or any Sturgeon part (flesh and eggs) by resident and nonresident commercial fishermen is hereby prohibited on all the lands and waters of the State of Mississippi including Mississippi lands and waters in all border water areas with adjacent states.

12. ALLIGATOR GAR: There shall be no harvest of alligator gar of any size from the following waters:

a. Bee Lake in Holmes County; and

b. St. Catherine Creek watershed in Adams County.

13. Per 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Part 5, Rule 2.4, persons cannot take, possess, transport, export, process or sell any species on the Official State list of Endangered Species.

14. Per 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE Part 5, Rule 2.3, Non-game

wildlife, or their parts taken from wild Mississippi populations may not be bought sold, offered for sale or exported for sale. Any person who takes or possesses non-game wildlife, turtles, frogs, and snakes for personal use must comply with licensing, permitting, harvest restrictions, and reporting requirements as established in current version of 40 MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Part 5, Rule 2.3.

15. Freshwater mussels may not be taken, caught or killed as per MISS. CODE ANN§ 49-9-5.

16. It is unlawful for a commercial fisherman to import, export, transport, receive, transfer, sell, purchase, acquire or possess by intrastate or interstate commerce, any live catfish greater than or equal to 34 inches in length.

H. AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SLAT BASKETS, SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS, AND COMMERCIAL FISHING:

a. From the outlet works in the Coldwater River of Arkabutla Dam downstream to the Corps of Engineers cable crossing, a distance of approximately one-fourth mile.

b. In the Tallahatchie River and Barrow Lake below Sardis Dam from theoutlet works downstream to U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.

c. In the Yocona River from the outlet works of Enid Dam downstream tothe U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.

d. In the Yalobusha River from the outlet works of Grenada Dam downstream to south bound lane of the I-55 bridge crossing of said river.

e. In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) south from Hwy. 25 (Scrugg's Bridge) over the Yellow Creek embayment of Pickwick Lake in Tishomingo County to Bay Springs Lake at the Jamie Whitten Lock & Dam, including all of Bay Springs Lake.

f. Columbus Lake, in Monroe County from the Aberdeen Lock and Dam downstream to Hwy 45 overpass, locally known as "Morgan's Landing Boat Ramp", including the river channel bendways.

g. Aliceville Lake, in Lowndes County from Columbus Lock & Dam downstream to Hwy 82 overpass at the junction of the navigation channel and the mouth of Luxapalila Creek, including the river channel bendways.

h. Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Main Dam upstream to Lowhead

Dam near Ludlow, Mississippi.

i. Pearl River upstream from State Highway 15.

j. Pearl River below Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Spillway outlet to theCity of Jackson's Water Works Lowhead Dam.

k. All waters of Okatibbee Reservoir.

l. Muddy Bayou in Warren County from its mouth at Eagle Lake to the Muddy Bayou structure at Steele Bayou.

m. Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Passin Coahoma County, except as specified in Section I (Special Permit).

n. All State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes owned or leased by the Department.

o. The Yockanookany River between Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 429 in Attala and Leake Counties, including Little Conehoma Creek and all creeks connecting to this river section.

p. All waters of Back Bay Biloxi north and west of a line extending across Back Bay Biloxi beginning at the Highway 90 bridge and all rivers, bayous, bays, streams, lakes,inlets, and other waters whatsoever connecting to said designated part of Back Bay Biloxi.

q. Red and Black Creeks and tributaries and water area beginning at the mouth of Dead Lake in Jackson County upstream to the origin of said creeks.

r. All waters of St. Louis Bay which are north of the Highway 90 bridge and all rivers, bayous, bays, streams, lakes, inlets, and other waters whatsoever connected to said designated part of St. Louis Bay.

s. Bouie River and all associated oxbow lakes, tributaries and water areas upstream from its confluence with the Leaf River.

t. Lake Susie, an oxbow lake of the old Tallahatchie River in Panola County west of Batesville.

u. All waters in or on National Wildlife Refuges and National Forests in Mississippi.

v. Fosters Lake and Mud Lake in Wilkinson County.

2. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS BUT SHALL BE OPEN TO SLATBASKETS.

In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW):

a. The G. V. Sonny Montgomery Lock & Dam (Lock E) north to the Mississippi Hwy 4 overpass.

b. John Rankin Lock & Dam (Lock D) north to mile marker 406.

c. Fulton Lock & Dam (Lock C) north to mile marker 398.

d. Glover Wilkins Lock & Dam (Lock B) north to the Hwy 78 overpass.

e. Amory Lock & Dam (Lock A) north to mile marker 375.

f. Aberdeen Lock and Dam north to where the old Tombigbee River enters the TTW navigation channel at mile marker 366.3.

3. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE USE OF HOOP NETS, BARREL NETS, REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS, GILL NETS, OR TRAMMEL NETS BUT SHALL BE OPEN TO SHRIMP TRAPS, CRAWFISH TRAPS, MINNOW SEINES, MINNOW TRAPS, TROTLINES, AND SLAT BASKETS.

a. Yocona River from the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing downstream tothe Pope-Crowder Road Bridge.

b. Yalobusha River from south bound Interstate 55 bridge below GrenadaDam downstream to State Highway 8 and 35 bridge crossing.

c. Bull Mountain Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River tothe Mississippi-Alabama state line.

d. Luxapalila Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to theMississippi-Alabama state line.

e. Buttahatchie River from the confluence with the Tenn-Tom Waterway navigational channel to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

4. Slat baskets are prohibited in the Old River Wildlife Management Area.

5. Commercial fishing with hoop or barrel nets and reinforcement wire catfish nets shall be closed on the Escatawpa River south of Interstate 10.

6. From April 1 to Oct. 31, commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets

shall be closed in the following rivers:

a Bogue Chitto River from the confluence of the East and West Bogue Chitto Creeks west of Hartman, MS downstream to the Mississippi/LA state line.

b Chickasawhay River from Hwy 11 bridge north of Enterprise, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.

c Leaf River from I-59 bridge, west of Moselle, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.

I. REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT IN THE PASCAGOULA RIVER.

1. The use of commercial fishing equipment is allowed within the natural banks of the main channel of the Pascagoula River. Natural bank means the land that confines the entire existing river flow to within the main channel of the river covering the bed of the river. Water covering the top of the natural bank is considered floodwater that cannot be fished without permission of the landowner.

a. The use of all commercial fishing equipment is prohibited in any connected or non-connected oxbow lake or tributary stream of the Pascagoula River that is located in or on the Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or Ward Bayou WMA.

b. Commercial fishing with hoop or barrel nets and reinforcement wire catfish nets shall be prohibited from the Wade-Vancleave Road Bridge downstream to the Hwy 90 Bridge, including Little River and the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the East and West Pascagoula Rivers. Shrimp traps, crawfish traps, minnow seines, minnow traps, trotlines, and slat baskets are legal to use in this area.

c. Commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets shall be prohibited from the Pascagoula River's origin at the confluence of the Leaf and Chickasawhay Rivers north of Merrill, MS downstream to the Hwy 90 bridge from April 1 to Oct. 31. This includes the Little River, the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the East and West Pascagoula Rivers. Shrimp traps, crawfish traps, minnow seines, minnow traps, trotlines, and slat baskets are legal to use in this area year round.

J. SPECIAL PERMIT

1. A special permit issued through the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau Director shall allow a person with a commercial fishing license to fish nets in specific waters identified in the permit.

2. The special permits shall only be issued for waters identified by the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau where control of aquatic nuisance species or nongame gross fish removal is needed.

a. Those persons issued special permits shall carry that permit on them while fishing in the water body named in that permit and persons issued special permits shall report their harvest from the nets to MDWFP on forms supplied by MDWFP. Reports for the special permits shall be received by the deadline set by MDWFP.

3. The following areas shall be open to commercial fishing with gill, trammel, and hoop nets by issuance of a special permit:

a. From October 1 to April 30, Moon Lake in Coahoma County includingPhillip Bayou and Yazoo Pass in Coahoma County.

b. All Paddlefish (live or dead) and all species of Sturgeon (live or dead) caught in commercial fishing equipment shall be released immediately.

c. Commercial fishing equipment shall not be run, checked, nor shall fish be removed from gear from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. However, commercial fishing equipment may be left out overnight.

K. REPORTING FRESHWATER COMMERICAL FISHING HARVEST

1. Any person required to purchase a commercial fishing license must report their catch and other activities on forms provided by MDWFP when requested by the MDWFP.

2. Failure to submit reports or submitting reports with intentionally false information is cause for a person to be denied the privilege to purchase a Commercial Fishing License until such reports are submitted.

History: Revised April 2026

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-7-1, 49-1-29, 49-4-4, 49-7-3**;** 49-7-9.1; 49-7-12; 49-7-12.1; 49-7-29; 49-7-69; 49-7-81; 49-7-83; 49-7-87; 49-7-89; 49-7-90, 49-7-91, 49-9-5 49-15-77, 51-3-1 and 59-23-3(e).