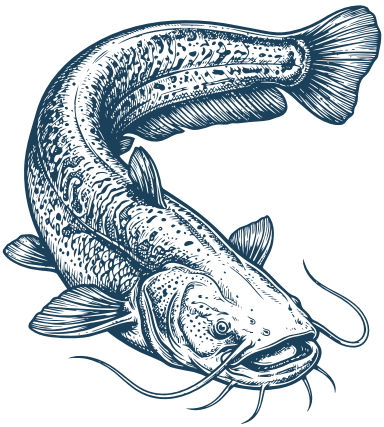
DIGEST OF MISSISSIPPI FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Revised June 2026



Mississippi Department of
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
Fisheries Bureau
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-432-2200
mdwfp.com

MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and enhance Mississippi's wildlife, fisheries, and parks, provide quality outdoor recreation, and engage the public in natural resources conservation.

DIGEST OF MISSISSIPPI FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This digest is a guide to the rules, regulations and required licenses relative to freshwater commercial fishing, commercial fishing equipment, and wholesale minnow dealers for all residents and non-residents for public waters as established in 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3, Rule 3.1.
(effective June 2026)

CONTENTS

Licenses..... 3-4
Fishing Equipment..... 4-8
Tagging Requirements 8-9
Fishing Restrictions 9-10
Bait..... 10
Requirements for Selling and Processing Freshwater Fish, Freshwater Shrimp, and Crawfish... 10-11
Length and Creel Limits 11
Turtles, Frogs, Snakes, Mussels..... 12
Wholesale Minnow Sales..... 13
Live Catfish..... 13
Waters Closed to Various Gears..... 13-16
Special Permits..... 16-17
Harvest Reports..... 17
Unlawful Acts and Penalties 17-18
License Purchase Locations..... 18

Persons who possess a valid Freshwater Commercial Fishing License are allowed to fish: trotlines with over 100 hooks, hoop nets, barrel nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, lead nets, fiddler nets, gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets (with a slat basket license for each slat basket), minnow seines, minnow traps, crawfish traps, shrimp traps, and sell non-game gross fish, minnows, non-game fish, and non-native fish taken from the freshwaters of Mississippi per established laws and rules summarized in this digest.

This digest is not a complete text of the commercial fishing laws and rules. It is furnished for use and guidance of the fisherman. (See 40 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 3, Chapter 3, Rule 3.1 and Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-9.1, 49-7-12, 49-7-12.1, 49-7-29, 49-7-81, 49-7-83, and 49-7-89.

LICENSES

Persons who engage in the following activities must have a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License:

- Fish hoop nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, fiddler nets, barrel nets, lead nets, gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets, or trotlines with more than 100 hooks in aggregate.

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

List of non-game gross fish and non-native fish:

Channel Catfish	Smallmouth Buffalo	Spotted Gar
Blue Catfish	Bigmouth Buffalo	Gizzard Shad
Flathead Catfish	Black Buffalo	Threadfin Shad
Yellow Bullhead	River Carpsucker	Common Carp*
Brown Bullhead	Highfin Carpsucker	Silver Carp*
Black Bullhead	Quillback	Bighead Carp*
Freshwater Drum	Blacktail Redhorse	Black Carp*
Bowfin	Alligator Gar	Grass Carp*
American Eel	Longnose Gar	
Spotted Sucker	Shortnose Gar	

**Non-native fish*
Non-game gross fish, non-game fish, and non-native fish are defined in Miss. Code 49-7-1.

- Sell minnows at wholesale (with the exception of those Mississippi residents growing minnows on their own property) or sell minnows captured from the public freshwaters of Mississippi. Minnows are defined in Miss. Code Ann § 49-7-29 as Golden Shiners, Fathead Minnow, Goldfish, Common Carp, Emerald Shiner, Western Mosquitofish, Eastern Mosquitofish, and Gulf Killifish.

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

Any person using a slat basket in Mississippi waters must have a valid Mississippi Slat Basket License for each slat basket in addition to having a valid Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.

There is no age or disability exemption for the purchase of, or use of, a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.

The reciprocal license agreements with Louisiana (40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 4 Rule 3.3) and Arkansas (40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 4 Rule 3.2) **DO NOT GIVE NON-RESIDENT** license holders the authority to fish in the border waters of the state of which they do not possess a commercial fishing license. **The reciprocal license agreements only pertain to residents of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.**

LICENSE COSTS

Fishing License Types	**Cost**
Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	$30
Non-resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License	$200
Slat Basket License **(A separate license is required for each basket)**	$30
Agent & processing fees are added. Note: Prices subject to change without notice.	

Helpers: 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, & Parks. Anyone in the boat with a licensed commercial fisherman is considered a helper. There is no age or disability exemption for these license requirements. **Helpers who do not have a Mississippi commercial fishing license cannot sell, resell, or ship for sale non-game gross fish or non-native fish nor can they run commercial gear without a person with a commercial fishing license present in the boat.**

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT

See pages 8-9 for equipment tagging requirements
See pages 13-16 for waters closed to various gears

TROTLINES: A line with dropper lines with attached hooks. A trotline with more than 100 hooks is considered commercial gear. Trotlines must have hooks at least 24 inches apart and tied so they cannot slip together. No trotlines or throw lines shall exceed 1,000 feet. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources regulates trotline use in the waters south of Interstate 10.

Square Measure for nets is measured from knot to knot along the twine:

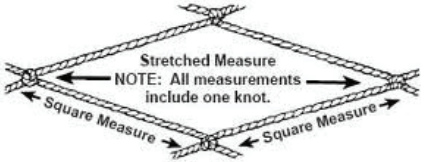


Image from Millernets.com

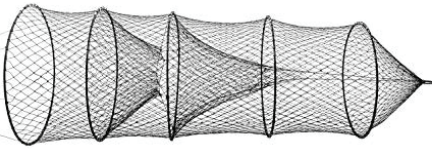


Image from Memphis Net & Twine

HOOP NETS, BARREL NETS, AND LEAD NETS: A trap made out of hoops and twine with throats that prevent escape of the fish. Hoop or barrel nets shall be made of number 15 or bigger twine or cord and treated; the minimum mesh size shall be two (2) inch square measure (see above). Hoop nets or barrel nets must be set at least 100 yards apart.

A Lead Net is a hoop net with a lead net (one or two panels called wings or hearts) attached to the front hoop that is up to 35 yards in length, with a minimum two (2) inch square measure mesh, made of treated number 15 twine or bigger. Hearts may be used only in the Mississippi River where it is a com-mon boundary between Mississippi and another state (oxbow lakes included). On Lead Nets, a hoop net or barrel net may be fished on each end of a lead, as such, this constitutes one set and each set must be 100 yards apart. No more than 7 nets or pair of nets with leads can be fished.

There are no restrictions on the size of the hoops, the material used for hoop construction, the overall length of a hoop net, or the number of throats it has.

A Fiddler Net is a hoop net with small hoops.

REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS: 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 spac-ing 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 nets or barrel nets. Reinforcement wire catfish nets must be set at least 100 yards apart. These nets may be fished as lead nets as specified in the Hoop Net and Barrel Net section.

Any person fishing barrel nets, reinforcement wire catfish 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, reinforcement wire catfish nets, or hoop nets with mesh less than two (2) inches square measure.

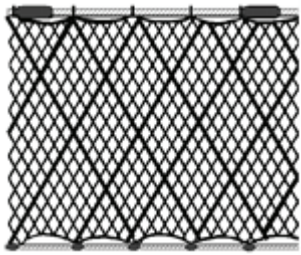


Image from Memphis Net & Twine

GILL NETS AND TRAMMEL NETS: are nets that must be made of multifilament or monofilament twine and are used to entangle fish. Nets must be set at least 100 yards apart and no closer than 20 yards to piers. Maximum length shall be 3,000 feet. **Nets must have a minimum mesh of three and one half (3.5) inches square measure except in border waters as described:**

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.

SLAT BASKETS: Any person using a slat basket in Mississippi waters **must have a valid Mississippi Slat Basket License for each slat basket in addition to having a valid Freshwater Commercial Fishing License.**



Image from Memphis Net & Twine

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

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.

MINNOW SEINES and MINNOW TRAPS: These gears, as described below, can be used to harvest minnows (defined on page 3), non-game fish (except for state and federally threatened or endangered species), and non-game gross fish. A Freshwater Commercial Fishing License is not required to fish these gears, but the sale of fish harvested with these gears from the public freshwaters of Mississippi does require a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License. A sport fishing license is required to use these gears to catch bait for personal use.

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

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.

CRAWFISH TRAPS: Crawfish traps are 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. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow or pyramid style or lift nets. Any commercially available crawfish trap with openings of throats or flutes not exceeding 2 inches in diameter and any lift trap may be used.

FRESHWATER SHRIMP TRAPS: Freshwater shrimp 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. The trap cannot have any external or unattached wings, weirs, or other guiding devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:

All gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, barrel nets, fiddler nets, lead nets, slat baskets, commercial trotlines, crawfish traps, and shrimp traps fished in public waters must have a tag attached that identifies the owner of the gear by their unique MDWFP Number found on the owner's license. 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. Minnow seines and minnow traps do not require a tag. 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 a quarter-inch in height. A valid tag can be either a tag supplied by the fisherman, or, tags previously sold by MDWFP. **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.**

All commercial fishing equipment and slat baskets must be tagged on those border lakes and waters that are part of the reciprocal license agreements between Mississippi and Louisiana (40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 4, Rule 3.3) and between Mississippi and Arkansas (40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 4, Rule 3.2).

Gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets, hoop nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, barrel nets, fiddler nets, lead nets, and trotlines with more than 100 hooks fished in Mississippi waters listed in those reciprocal license agreements by residents of Louisiana and Arkansas must tag their commercial fishing equipment with the type of tag specified in the state where they

are licensed. 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 non-resident commercial fishing license to get an MDWFP license number for their tags.

Persons with a Louisiana resident sport fishing or a basic fishing license using "recreational hoop nets" or any other commercial fishing equipment as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-9.1 must either purchase a Louisiana commercial fishing license or a non-resident Mississippi Freshwater Commercial Fishing License to fish commercial fishing equipment in Mississippi waters named in the reciprocal agreement with Louisiana (40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 4, Rule 3.3). Louisiana residents fishing gill nets must tag their commercial fishing equipment using the same criteria as Mississippi residents, except their Louisiana license number or their non-resident MDWFP Number must be on their equipment tags when commercial gear is fished in Mississippi waters.

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 with 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.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS

It shall be illegal to possess on the water, both commercial and sport fishing gear in the same boat.

ALL GAME FISH (listed in Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-1) caught in freshwater commercial fishing gear shall be returned to the water immediately (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-83). No game fish can be in possession by fish dealers (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-89).

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). Exceptions: minnow traps, minnow seines, crawfish traps, and shrimp traps.

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

Driving or attempting to drive fish (also known as whooping, whipping, or striking) into any freshwater commercial fishing gear is permitted as long as any natural or man-made structure is not altered or destroyed.

It shall be unlawful to raise or run, or tamper with, or take fish from any legal freshwater commercial fishing equipment, crawfish traps, freshwater shrimp traps, and/or slat baskets which are not licensed in your name without written permission of the owner of these gears. 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.

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

BAIT

Bream/sunfish caught by legal methods and not exceeding 100 in daily possession can be used for bait on trotlines. No other species of game fish can be used by commercial fishermen as bait on trotlines. Mussels cannot be used for bait. Non-game gross fish, non-game fish, minnows as defined in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-29, and dead non-native fish for which harvest is legal may be used as bait.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SELLING & PROCESSING FRESHWATER FISH, FRESHWATER SHRIMP, AND CRAWFISH

Scale Certification

Commercial fishermen selling fish or fish products by the pound shall have their scales certified for accuracy by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Food and Processor Permits

Commercial fishermen should contact the Mississippi State

Department of Health for required permits if they sell freshwater fish, crawfish, or freshwater shrimp direct to consumers and/or process these products for resale.

LENGTH LIMITS AND CREEL LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING

MEASURING FISH: Total length is measured with a flatboard and with the mouth of the fish closed and tail squeezed to give the maximum overall length. 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. 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.

The minimum length on dressed length shall not apply to fish **processed but not on display** 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 fishermen and commercially licensed fish markets.

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 limit:

Species	Total Length	Dressed Length	Creel Limit
Buffalo	16 inches	12 inches	No limit
Flathead Catfish[A]	16 inches	12 inches	No limit
Other Catfish[A]	12 inches	9 inches	No limit
Alligator Gar			2

[A] On border waters with either Tennessee or Alabama persons with commercial fishing licenses shall possess no more than one catfish (blue, channel, flathead) over 34 inches in total length.

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.

Minnows, non-game fish, non-game gross fish, or dead non-native fish harvested from public waters may be taken outside the state for sale.

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.

STURGEON: The harvest and/or possession, sale or attempted sale of any Sturgeon species, or any Sturgeon part (flesh and eggs) by resident and non-resident 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.

There shall be no harvest of **Alligator Gar** of any size from Bee Lake (Holmes Co.), and from the St. Catherine Creek watershed (Adams Co.).

TURTLES, FROGS, SNAKES: A Freshwater Commercial Fishing License does not allow the harvest of turtles, frogs, snakes or any non-game wildlife. These animals taken from wild populations may not be bought, sold, offered for sale or exported for sale. The harvest, possession, shipment, sale and transport of turtle eggs or tortoise eggs are prohibited (40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 5, Rule 2.2). Any person who takes or possesses turtles, frogs, and snakes for personal consumption must comply with requirements as established in 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 5, Rule 2.3. MDWFP has ceased issuing permits for commercial harvest of the common snapping turtle.

MUSSELS: All Mississippi waters are closed to the commercial harvest of mussels. (40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Rule 3.3). Mussels cannot be used for bait.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Persons cannot take, possess, transport, export, process, or sell any species on the Official State list of Endangered Species (40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 5, Rule 2.4.)

WHOLESALE MINNOW SALES: All wholesale minnow dealers (except for those Miss. residents growing minnows on their own property) must have a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License to engage in the selling of minnows. All persons selling minnows taken from the public freshwaters of Mississippi must have a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License. A copy of the Freshwater Commercial Fishing License shall always be carried in each vehicle which transports minnows into or within the state, if such license is required (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-29).

LIVE CATFISH: 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.

THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE USE OF ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, AND COMMERCIAL FISHING

- 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.
- In the Tallahatchie River and Barrow Lake below Sardis Dam from the outlet works downstream to the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.
- In the Yocona River from the outlet works of Enid Dam downstream to the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing of said river.
- 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.
- 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 the Jamie Whitten Lock and Dam, including Bay Springs Lake.
- Columbus Lake, in Monroe County from the Aberdeen Lock and Dam downstream to the Hwy. 45 overpass, locally known as "Morgan's Landing Boat Ramp", including the river channel bendways.
- Aliceville Lake, in Lowndes County from Columbus Lock & Dam downstream to the Hwy. 82 overpass at the junction of the navigation channel and the mouth of Luxapalila Creek, including the river channel bendways.
- Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Main Dam upstream to Lowhead Dam near Ludlow, MS.

- Pearl River upstream from State Highway 15.
- Pearl River below Ross Barnett Reservoir from the Spillway outlet to the City of Jackson's Water Works Lowhead Dam.
- All waters of Okatibbee Reservoir.
- Muddy Bayou in Warren County from its mouth at Eagle Lake to the Muddy Bayou structure at Steele Bayou.
- Moon Lake in Coahoma County including Phillip Bayou and Yazoo Pass in Coahoma County, except as authorized with a Special Permit.
- All State Fishing Lakes and State Park Lakes owned or leased by MDWFP.
- Yockanookany River System between Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 429 in Attala and Leake Counties, including Little Conehoma Creek, and all creeks connecting to this river section.
- 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.
- 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.
- All waters of Saint 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 Saint Louis Bay.
- Bouie River and all associated oxbow lakes, tributaries, and water areas upstream from its confluence with the Leaf River.
- Lake Susie, an oxbow lake of the old Tallahatchie River in Panola County west of Batesville.
- All waters in or on National Wildlife Refuges and National Forests in Mississippi.
- Fosters Lake and Mud Lake in Wilkinson County.

THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO: ALL TYPES OF FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT, SHRIMP TRAPS AND CRAWFISH TRAPS BUT ARE OPEN TO: SLAT BASKETS:

In the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW):
- The G. V. Sonny Montgomery Lock & Dam (Lock E) north to the Mississippi Hwy 4 overpass.
- John Rankin Lock & Dam (Lock D) north to mile marker 406.
- Fulton Lock & Dam (Lock C) north to mile marker 398.

- Glover Wilkins Lock & Dam (Lock B) north to the Hwy 78 overpass.
- Amory Lock & Dam (Lock A) north to mile marker 375.
- Aberdeen Lock and Dam north to where the old Tombigbee River enters the TTW navigation channel at mile marker 366.3.

THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CLOSED TO: HOOP NETS, REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS, BARREL NETS, FIDDLER NETS, LEAD NETS, GILL NETS, TRAMMEL NETS
BUT ARE OPEN TO: TROTLINES, SLAT BASKETS, MINNOW TRAPS, MINNOW SEINES, SHRIMP TRAPS, AND CRAWFISH TRAPS:

- Yocona River from the U.S. Highway 51 bridge crossing downstream to the Pope-Crowder Road Bridge.
- Yalobusha River from the south bound Interstate 55 bridge below Grenada Dam downstream to the State Highway 8 and 35 bridge crossing.
- Bull Mountain Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.
- Luxapalila Creek from the confluence with the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.
- Buttahatchie River from the confluence with the Tenn-Tom Waterway navigational channel to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

WATERS CLOSED TO THE USE OF HOOP NETS, BARREL NETS, REINFORCEMENT WIRE CATFISH NETS, FIDDLER NETS, AND LEAD NETS:

- Escatawpa River south of Interstate 10.

WATERS CLOSED TO THE USE OF SLAT BASKETS:

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

FROM APRIL 1 TO OCT. 31, GILL OR TRAMMEL NETS SHALL NOT BE USED IN THE FOLLOWING RIVERS:

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

- Chickasawhay River from the Hwy. 11 bridge north of Enterprise, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.
- Leaf River from the Interstate 59 bridge west of Moselle, MS downstream to its confluence with the Pascagoula River.

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT IN THE PASCAGOULA RIVER:

- 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 the permission of the landowner.

The use of commercial fishing gear is prohibited in the following areas:

- 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.
- Commercial fishing with barrel nets, reinforcement wire catfish nets, or hoop 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.
- 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 October 31. This includes 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 year-round.

SPECIAL PERMITS

A special permit issued by the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau

Director shall allow a person with a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License to fish nets in specific waters identified in the permit.

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

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 on the special permits shall be received by a deadline set by MDWFP.

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

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

REPORTING COMMERCIAL FISHING HARVEST

Any person who purchases a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License must report their catch and other activities on forms provided by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks when requested to do so.

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

UNLAWFUL ACTS AND PENALTIES

Any person who obtains a license under an assumed name or makes a materially false statement to obtain a license is guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed one (1) year, or both. (Miss. Code Ann. §49-7-22)

The following offenses are Class I Violations:
• Fishing with or using any equipment (including but not limited

to explosives, battery, or electrically operated devices, chemicals, and poisons) in the waters of the state of any size or type that is not allowed by the commission. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-81)
- Any non-resident who engages in commercial fishing without having the required Freshwater Commercial Fishing License. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-12)
- Illegal possession of Paddlefish. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-90)
- Violation of slat basket regulations. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-9.1)
- Fishing slat baskets in Mississippi waters without a tag attached to the front end of the basket. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-9.1)
- Wholesale selling of minnows without a Freshwater Commercial Fishing License. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-29)
- Take of species on the list of Endangered Species. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-5-115)
- Sale of game fish. (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-5-51)

Any person convicted of a Class I Violation shall be fined not less than $2,000 or more than $5,000 and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for 5 days. The person shall forfeit all hunting and fishing privileges for not less than 12 months, and shall forfeit any equipment, gear, or nets used in offense (Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-141).

HARVESTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to harvest Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Grass Carp, and Black Carp. There are companies in Mississippi and other states purchasing these carps. Call the Fisheries Bureau at 601-432-2200 to obtain contact information for these companies.

Freshwater Commercial Fishing Licenses and Slat Basket Licenses can be purchased anywhere fishing and hunting licenses are sold. These licenses can also be purchased by calling 1-800-5GO-HUNT (1-800-546-4868) or online at **mdwfp.com**.

MDWFP License Division
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211 - 6374
(601) 432-2055

For additional information visit the MDWFP Freshwater Commercial Fishing webpage at: *mdwfp.com*



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



MDWFP is an equal opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. If anyone believes they have been subject to discrimination on the basis of political affiliation, race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, religion, creed, age, or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either MDWFP, 1505 Eastover Dr. Jackson, MS 39211 or the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, 1801 L Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20507

Published and printed by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. **Revised June 2026.**