



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

SAM POLLES, Ph.D
Executive Director

Paddlefish Summer Harvest

Thank you for your interest in Mississippi's summer fishery for paddlefish

During the months of May thru August, a person possessing a valid commercial fishing license and paddlefish tags can harvest **five** paddlefish per day. Paddlefish desired to be kept must have a MDWFP issued tag attached at time of possession. Any size paddlefish from almost any waters open to commercial fishing can be harvested during this period. Waters that are not open to summer harvest of paddlefish are the Tennessee River, Tombigbee River (including Tenn-Tom Waterway), and Pascagoula River including all waters, rivers and streams within the watersheds of these three rivers.

Many paddlefish caught in nets during the warm months of the year do not survive. The summer paddlefish fishery was established for fishers to utilize this wasted resource. A tagging and reporting system was established with this program to get data on Mississippi's paddlefish stocks. These data are needed to determine if Mississippi can maintain a summer paddlefish fishery. Paddlefish populations are prone to over-fishing from the advanced age required for this fish to reach maturity, and the infrequency in spawning. Paddlefish stocks are now highly regulated due to the high demand for their roe for the caviar trade.

Tags for paddlefish harvest can be ordered from the MDWFP Jackson office. A form for ordering tags is on page 3 of this document, or one can call 601-432-2055 to order tags, or call 601-432-2200 to have an order form mailed. Tags are sold in bundles of 20 plastic tags. The cost for a bundle of 20 tags will be \$5.29. MDWFP had to limit the number of tags the Department procured, and there were not enough to distribute tags to the District Offices or State Park Offices. MDWFP apologizes for this inconvenience in not having these tags available at all locations where commercial fishing licenses are sold.

To tag a paddlefish, insert the tag through a slit made in the flesh below the dorsal fin.

A person who purchases Paddlefish Summer Tags will be given form(s) to record their harvest of paddlefish. A self-addressed envelope will be included to return the completed harvest report forms to MDWFP by September 15.

How To Fill Out The Summer Paddlefish Harvest Forms

1. Each Tag bundle will have a Harvest Report Form, Paddlefish Transaction Form, and a self-addressed letter to send in the Harvest Report Form at the end of the summer season (due to MDWFP by September 15).

Paddlefish Harvest Report Form:

2. Fill in the blocks for your Name and Year that the report form covers.
3. Fill in information for each date of the month that you harvest a paddlefish – List date block on top row as month/date/year (ex. 5/3/12).
4. For harvested paddlefish – please list Eye-Fork Length (to nearest inch) AND tag number. Eye-Fork length (EFL) is the length from eye to anterior curvature in tail. A 4 foot ruler or a seamstress tape could be used. You can keep (harvest) up to 5 paddlefish per day, and there are 5 boxes to record the requested information for any given day. If you choose to only keep one paddlefish per day there are 20 columns, 10 front and back, to record harvest by each date a paddlefish was caught. **ONCE YOU DECIDE TO KEEP A PADDLEFISH, A TAG MUST BE INSERTED AT THAT TIME AND MUST REMAIN UNTIL THE FISH IS CONSUMED OR “PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE”.** During the summer a paddlefish can be blocked but the tag has to remain on the blocked-out fish. The reporting of the harvest from multiple 20-tag bundles can be combined on a form for up to 20 days of harvest.
5. For released fish, either alive or dead; list numbers of paddlefish, by select lengths. Many commercial paddlefish fishers place marks on their boat to note a specific length of a fish.
6. List what gear was fished to capture paddlefish in the blocks by date.
7. For location; list the locations you fished in the “Location” block.
8. Sign the form on the back when you get ready to send it in

Paddlefish Transaction Form (these are printed with 4 Transaction Forms per page):

This form is to be used if you sell your paddlefish to a fish market, etc. The purpose of the form is to provide documentation in the market that the fish was legally harvested.

1. Print your name in the block at top and the date the paddlefish were SOLD
2. Record the name of the person taking possession of the paddlefish and the business name if applicable.
3. Record the tag number on the fish that was sold and list the length of the fish as recorded on your harvest record (do not list blocked-out length)
4. Sign the form, then cut out a copy of the form to leave with the market.

If you need harvest forms they can be downloaded from the MDWFP Commercial Fishery webpage <http://www.mdwfp.com/fishing-boating/freshwater-commercial.aspx>, or one can call 601-432-2200 to have forms mailed to you.

Thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions or experience problems feel free to contact the Fisheries Bureau at 601-432-2200.

SEND COMPLETED HARVEST REPORT FORMS TO:

**MDWFP
Fisheries Bureau, Paddlefish Harvest Survey
1505 Eastover Dr.
Jackson Mississippi 39211-6374**

Harvest Report Forms must be received by September 15.



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FORM TO ORDER PADDLEFISH SUMMER TAGS

Name (please print): _____

Address (please print):

Phone Number: _____

Customer ID Number (from license or permit): _____

Paddlefish tags are sold in bundles of 20 tags.

How many 20 Tag bundles do you Desire	Paddlefish Tags Priv. 339	Tag Fee	Agent Fee	Processing Fee	Bundle Cost	Total Cost (# bundles X \$5.29)
	Paddlefish SUMMER Tags for harvest of paddlefish during months of May, June, July, August.	\$3.00 (for 20 tags)	\$1.00	\$1.29	\$5.29	

Number of tags desired	Number of bundles to order	Cost
1-20	1	\$5.29
21-40	2	\$10.58
41-60	3	\$15.87
61-80	4	\$21.16
81-100	5	\$26.45

Send the order form along with either a check or money order to:

MDWFP

Fisheries Bureau, Paddlefish Tag Purchase

1505 Eastover Dr.

Jackson, MS 39211 – 6374