

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 HARVEST MANAGEMENT UNITS, OPEN HARVEST PERIODS AND HARVEST QUOTAS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PADDLEFISH

A. This rule delineates the waters of the state into Harvest Management Units (HMU) for the conservation of Paddlefish and defines the period when the Harvest Management Units are open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish. Harvest quotas are established for each Paddlefish HMU.

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 in any open HMU 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 Harvest Management Units shall be open to the commercial harvest of Paddlefish only during the dates listed or until the quota for that HMU is reached:

1. Yazoo River Basin HMU: January 1, 2017 – February 28, 2017
2. Mississippi River North HMU: November 20, 2016 – December 31, 2016
and March 1, 2017 – April 10, 2017
3. Mississippi River South HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
4. Big Black River HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
5. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: May 1 – August 31, 2017

F. The following Paddlefish HMU Quotas are established for the Harvest Management Unit dates listed above:

1. Yazoo River Basin HMU: 800
2. Mississippi River North HMU: no harvest quota
3. Mississippi River South HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED
4. Big Black River HMU: NO HARVEST ALLOWED

5. Paddlefish Summer Harvest: no harvest quota

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

H. Descriptions of Paddlefish Harvest Management Units:

1. Yazoo River Basin HMU: the public waters of the Yazoo River Basin, which include Bear Creek, the Sunflower, Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo Rivers, **except** for the following waters: Tippo Bayou, Six Mile Lake (Leflore Co.), Moon Lake (Coahoma Co.), Four Mile Lake (Humphreys Co.), Wolf Lake, Broad Lake, Roebuck Lake, Sardis, Enid, Grenada, and Arkabutla Reservoirs, and all waters closed to the use of commercial gears as specified in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE. Part 3. Rule 3.1.

2. Mississippi River North HMU: 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. Mississippi River South HMU: the border waters with Louisiana along the Mississippi River as delineated in the reciprocal agreement with Louisiana to include: Mississippi River from Mile Marker 507 south to Mile Marker 305, including all waters within the mainline levees of the Mississippi River in Warren, Jefferson, Claiborne, Adams, Wilkinson, as well as public waters in Amite, Franklin, Lincoln, Copiah, and Hinds Counties.

4. Big Black River HMU: the public waters of the Big Black River Basin, which includes public waters in Warren, Claiborne, Hinds, Yazoo, Madison, Holmes, Attala, Carrol, Montgomery, and Choctaw Counties, except for all waters closed to the use of commercial gears as specified in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 3, Rule 3.1.

5. Paddlefish Summer HMU: 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 2016.

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