

2016 MISSISSIPPI
ALLIGATOR
HUNTING GUIDE



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SAM POLLES, PH.D.

ALLIGATOR SEASON DATES for 2016:

Public Waters Season

12:00 noon August 26 - 12:00 noon September 5, 2016

Private Lands Season

12:00 noon August 26 - 6 a.m. September 19, 2016

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

1505 Eastover Drive • Jackson, MS 39211-6374 • (601) 432-2400

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Central - Canton, (601) 859-3421

South - Magnolia, (601) 783-2911

ATTENTION

The use of BAIT or BAITED HOOK LINES
is ILLEGAL in MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE: Private Lands Permits are not for use on any public water, regardless, even if public water is surrounded by the permitted private land, nor can public water permits be used on any private lands.

ALLIGATOR HARVEST REPORTING is MANDATORY

PUBLIC WATERS

Harvest Report On-line within 48 of Harvest

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7

Go to www.mdwfp.com/alligator

Do not return un-used tags or report card

PRIVATE LANDS

NEW! ON-LINE REPORTING for 2016

Harvest Report On-line within 48 of Harvest

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 21

Do not return un-used tags or report card

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Alligators in Mississippi: History and Biology



History

The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is one of the United States' true wildlife conservation success stories. Found only in the southeastern United States, it had become rare over most of its range by the 1960's, mainly as a result of over-exploitation. Pursued for their valuable hides, alligator populations plummeted to dangerous levels due to the lack of conservation laws and regulations. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the American alligator as

an Endangered Species under the newly enacted Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, once protected, alligator populations quickly rebounded and by the mid-1970's the status was modified for Louisiana, Florida, and later Georgia to "Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance" (TSA). The TSA designation meant that alligators were now known to be abundant in parts of their range and the states were allowed to begin managing (including hunting) their own alligator populations. Management plans still had to be approved by USFWS and harvested alligators had to be tagged with a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) tag. "Similarity of Appearance" refers to the fact that alligators, or more specifically alligator hides and parts, are very difficult to distinguish from the hides and parts of other endangered crocodylians such as the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) or the Chinese alligator (*Alligator sinensis*). In 1987, the status of the alligator was changed to TSA throughout its entire range, including Mississippi.



Range

The American alligator is found throughout the southeastern United States, up the Atlantic coastal plain to North Carolina, and west from central and southern Texas to southeastern Oklahoma. In Mississippi, alligators are most abundant in the coastal counties, but have been recorded as far north as Coahoma, Tunica, and Tishomingo counties. Since the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) first started conducting regular spotlight surveys in the early 1970's, the Mississippi alligator population has remained fairly stable in the coastal counties, but the population in the rest of the state has increased dramatically. Alligators are now locally abundant in areas of suitable habitat throughout the southern two-thirds of the state, particularly in the Pearl River drainage in and around Ross Barnett Reservoir; along the Mississippi River and associated lakes, oxbows, and levee barrow-pits; in the oxbows and swamps of the Delta where they pose a particular nuisance for catfish farmers; and, in and around the Noxubee, Panther Swamp, Hillside,

and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges. The widespread abundance is due in part, no doubt, to reintroduction efforts by the MDWFP in the early 1970's when several thousand alligators were captured at Rockefeller Refuge and Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Louisiana and brought to Mississippi. The alligators were placed in suitable habitats throughout the state by conservation officers. Illegal relocations by the general public have obviously contributed to the current abundance.

Habitat

Alligators inhabit a variety of wetland habitats in Mississippi. They are primarily found in coastal freshwater marshes, swamps, reservoirs, major river drainages, and oxbow lakes. They may also be common in small farm ponds, lagoons, canals and ditches, creek drainages, and levee borrow. Basically, alligators may take residence in any body of water that provides adequate prey and food items. However, if adequate food resources are depleted, an alligator will not hesitate to travel several miles in search of better habitat, even across dry, upland habitats. Young alligators, from birth to about 3-4 years old, seek the safety of dense aquatic vegetation. Older alligators, however, may spend significant time in more open water habitats. Breeding size females, usually over six feet, will establish a home range in close proximity to shallow water and dense vegetation in order to nest and brood her offspring. Breeding size males, also usually over seven feet, may be found in most any wetland habitat, especially during the breeding season (late April - June).



Biology

Alligators have been known to exceed 60 years of age in captivity, but rarely live more than 50 years of age in the wild. At maturity, male alligators are larger than females. Females rarely exceed 9 feet in length. Male alligators over 11 to 12 feet are somewhat common, but rarely do they exceed 13 feet in the wild. The longest alligator on record came from Marsh Island, Louisiana in the 1890's and was slightly over 19 feet. Large alligators in Mississippi have been recorded between 800-1,000 pounds. Alligators in good habitats typically grow about 8 inches to one foot each year. Females reach sexual maturity at about 6 feet in length, males at about 7 feet. It may take 10-15 years for females and 8-12 years for males to reach sexual maturity. Growth rates decrease after sexual maturity and more growth is concentrated on body mass and girth. Alligators have few predators of concern, especially after reaching 4 feet in length. Large alligators are quite cannibalistic and are the only predator of concern, other than man, after that point. Alligators are most active during the courtship and breeding season from late April to June. Alligator eggs and hatchlings are commonly preyed upon by raccoons, snakes, river otters, herons, and ospreys. Less than 20% of alligator nests are successful, and of those successful nests less than 5% make it to maturity (6-7 feet). Females usually build their nest in a secluded area near the water, in close proximity to brooding habitat. The nest is comprised of local vegetation, mud, sticks, and other debris. The nest mound may be 2-3.5 feet deep, 4-6 feet in diameter and contain 20-60 eggs, but the average is 35-40 eggs. The female will closely tend the nest during the 65 day incubation. Hatchlings are between 7-10 inches in length at birth. Most nests are initiated in late June to July. Hatching may occur from late August through September. Females are particularly aggressive during the time of nest initiation and brooding of the hatchlings. Heavy rains and resulting flooding during this time of the year can greatly influence a full year's reproductive success over



broad areas, especially in coastal areas where tropical storms may be common.

Alligators are opportunistic predators, eating live and dead prey. Young alligators prey mostly upon small fish, crayfish, frogs, snails, insects, and other invertebrates. Larger alligators may prey upon rough fish (e.g., gar, carp, bowfin, and shad), waterfowl, wading birds, snakes, turtles, and small to medium sized mammals such as muskrat, nutria, beaver, otter and raccoons. One of the biggest misnomers about alligators is that they are effective at controlling beavers. While it is true that large alligators will prey upon beaver, alligators very rarely are effective at controlling their populations at desirable levels. Alligators are also known to attack and feed upon domestic pets, and livestock.

Nuisance Alligator Program

The Mississippi Nuisance Alligator Program was initiated in 1989 to provide control of alligators where human/alligator conflicts existed. Initially, only specific areas of the state were included. However, the program was quickly expanded statewide as nuisance alligator problems became more prevalent. An important aspect of the Nuisance Alligator Program is the use of Agent Alligator Trappers.

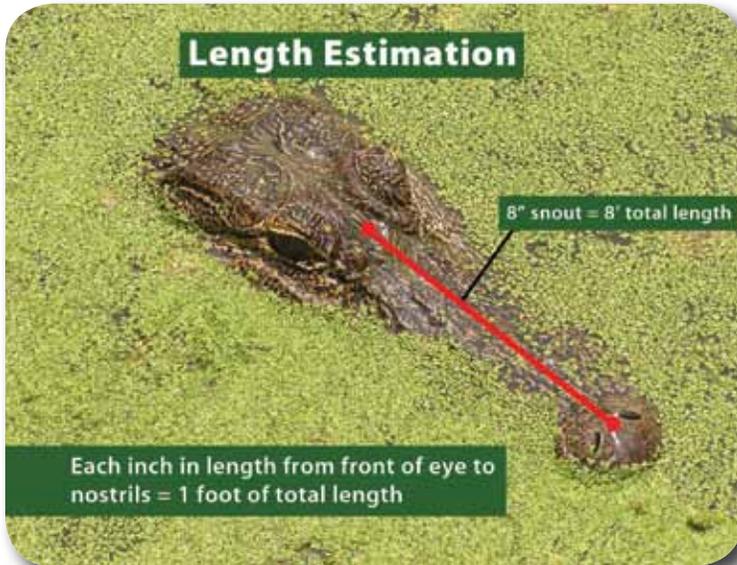
These are private individuals who are licensed to assist the MDWFP with capture, removal, relocations and harvest of specific nuisance alligators. Nuisance alligators are described as: any alligator that has been hand-fed; exhibits aggressive behavior towards humans, pets, or livestock; or, that is located out of place, e.g., in swimming pools, yards, garages, marinas, parking lots, roadways, or other locations that are not considered suitable. During spring and summer months, agent trappers are necessary to assist the agency in handling hundreds of alligator complaint calls. At peak periods some counties may receive as many as 6-8 complaint calls per day. In some instances where dense alligator populations exist near developed areas or recreational sites, quota harvest permits

are issued to agent trappers to reduce alligator population levels in order to reduce conflicts and potential danger as alligators become accustomed to human activity. Agent trappers may be requested to relocate smaller alligators to suitable locations, while larger nuisance alligators are harvested and disposed of commercially by the agent trapper.



Currently, there are over 20 Agent Alligator Trappers, statewide. Agent trappers and their activities are heavily regulated in order to comply with state and federal regulations involved with handling, transporting, and commercially processing alligators. Becoming an agent trapper is a very involved process including applications, background checks, reference interviews and applicant interviews. Additional agent trappers are added only as needed to handle complaint loads in specific areas of the state. Agent trappers are issued permits to harvest as many as 200-400 alligators per year, statewide.

Alligator Capture & Harvest Techniques



Estimating Alligator Length

The most accurate method to estimate total alligator length is by estimating the snout length (the distance between the nostrils and the front of the eyes).

This is a scientifically proven method used by biologists when conducting population surveys. The snout length in inches can be translated into feet to estimate the total body length.

For example: an 8 inch snout length would translate to 8 feet total body length (*Left photo*).

Capture Methods

Only legal methods of capture for the Mississippi Alligator Hunting Season are described in this Hunting Guide.

The use of bait and baited hook sets is illegal in Mississippi. All alligators must first be captured and controlled by a restraining line before being dispatched. Restrained is defined as having a noose or snare attached to the neck or at least one leg in a manner in which the alligator is controlled. Shooting at or attempting to dispatch an alligator that is not restrained may result in the loss and needless waste of the animal. Capture methods will be dictated by the hunter's proficiency with equipment and the amount of obstacles in the water in which the alligator is located. For instance, all legal methods may be applicable for an alligator located in basically open water with few underwater or surface obstacles. However, capture methods should be more selective for an alligator located near dense vegetation, logs, stumps, or man-made structures such as piers or boat houses. Preferred methods in these instances may be a harpoon with attached cable and buoy or a hand or pole snare, which hold the alligator more securely and may be able to withstand more substantial resistance. Capture preference is strictly left up to the hunter.

Legal methods of capture are:

- Snatch Hooks (hand thrown or rod/reel)
- Harpoon (with attached line and/or buoy)
- Snare (hand or pole type)
- Bowfishing equipment (with attached line and/or buoy)



(Above photo) 10/0 snatch hook and 5/0 treble hook rigged with 2 oz. weight.

Snatch Hooks

A snatch hook is the common term used for describing a weighted treble hook attached to a line and thrown or cast over and beyond the alligator. It is retrieved until the hook makes contact with the gator (preferably the shoulder area) in order to “snag” the animal with a strong tug of the line or rod. Then the attached line is used to retrieve the alligator near enough to the boat in order to attach the restraining line (noose or snare). Depending upon the size of the alligator, multiple snatch lines or rods and reels may be used to properly control the alligator so that a restraining line may be attached.



(Above photo) 11 ft. gator on rod/reel snatch hook.

Artificial fishing lures with hooks attached are not legal.

Alligator hide is very tough. Snatch hooks will rarely penetrate through the skin. Constant moderate pressure must be maintained on the hook line to avoid allowing the hook to fall off. By maintaining moderate constant pressure the alligator will usually “sull” (lie still) on the lake bottom after a short period of time. This is usually an indication to try to slowly lift the alligator to the water surface in order to place the restraining noose or snare around the head. In cases where the hook is set in the tail, it may be difficult to place the restraining noose on the head. In these cases, you may have to settle for placing the restraining noose or snare on the leg. When using a leg as the restraint point, a cable snare is much preferred over a rope noose.

Snare Pole

If feasible to use, a snare pole may minimize the risk of equipment failure or unintentional release. It also affords the ability to retrieve the alligator more aggressively. This can be a needed advantage in areas of dense vegetation and underwater or surface obstacles. The snare and attached rope can also act as your restraining line. Recommended cable material should be $\frac{3}{32}$ " or $\frac{7}{64}$ " diameter and at least 60-72" long. Use of gloves is absolutely necessary. A cheap and simple method is to form a 12-15" diameter loop in the snare, then lightly tape (electrical tape works well) only the tailing end of the cable to your pole (a large bamboo or fiberglass pole). Also, lightly tape the tailing end of the cable and the inside part of the loop to the pole about 8-10" further down the pole to open the loop to the desired diameter. It may be necessary to tape again further down the pole to keep it from drooping. Be sure not to place any tape between the operator and the swivel as this can greatly hinder the ability to cinch the rope at the appropriate time. All taped points should be snug enough to hold the cable on the pole, but not so tight as to restrict being able to pull back on the rope.



Usually the alligator will surge after you initiate the tug. Keep pulling back on the rope and the pole until all slack is gone from the snare. Remove the pole and place it out of the way. Allow the alligator to fight until it will come to the surface without thrashing. A good rule of thumb is to dispatch the animal when it no longer thrashes after tugging on the restraining line 2-3 times. This will ensure a still and safe target for dispatching with the shotgun or bangstick.

Harpoons

Legal harpoons are those with a detachable point that is attached to a cable, which is then attached to a restraining line or buoy (*Top left photo*). Gigs or other similar instruments that do not have a detachable point with an attached line or buoy are not legal.



The harpoon is thrust towards the neck and shoulder area of the alligator where upon impact the detachable point penetrates below the skin and turns perpendicular to the skin surface (*Center left photo*) armed harpoon point , (*Bottom left photo*) This portion releases after impact and lodges under skin). The attached cable and line may then be used to retrieve the alligator, immediately, or a buoy may be attached to the line and released. The buoy will float to the surface, marking the alligators location in order to retrieve the buoy and line after the alligator has tired. The line can then be retrieved in order to attach a restraining noose or snare.



The harpoon line is not considered as a legal restraining line. A noose or snare must also be attached to the alligator's neck or leg before being dispatched. Care must be taken to not retrieve the alligator too aggressively. Applying too much pressure on the harpoon point can cause the point to release. The benefit of the buoy is that if the alligator pulls too hard you may simply release the line to retrieve it again, and repeat as necessary until the alligator can be properly restrained.



Bowfishing Equipment

Traditional bows, recurves, compounds, or crossbows are legal equipment, provided that the arrow is equipped with a fish point (no broad heads) and the arrow shaft is attached to the bow or a buoy by a retrieving line. The retrieving line attached to the arrow shaft is not considered as a legal restraining line. A noose or snare must also be attached to the alligator's neck or leg before being dispatched. Care must be taken to not retrieve the alligator too aggressively. Applying too much pressure on the arrow fish point can cause the point to release. The benefit of the buoy is that if the alligator pulls too hard, you may simply release the line to retrieve it again, and repeat as necessary until the alligator can be properly restrained.

Not all standard bowfishing equipment is sufficient for hunting alligators. The MDWFP does not typically use bowfishing equipment for harvesting alligators. If you choose to use bowfishing equipment, we recommend that you contact one or several websites in order to receive advice from experienced alligator hunters who do use bowfishing equipment. Bowfishing arrow tips with hardened steel barbs and chisel points are recommended (*Right photo*).



Dispatching Techniques

Alligators may only be dispatched with a shotgun with shot size no larger than #6 shot or with a bangstick chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns or bangsticks must remain cased and unloaded until the alligator is restrained. No alligator may be dispatched until it is restrained by a noose or snare around the neck or leg so that the alligator is controlled.

Once the alligator has been restrained, it may be dispatched with legal equipment. A good rule of thumb is to dispatch the animal when it no longer thrashes after tugging on the restraining line 2-3 times. This will ensure a still and safe target for dispatching with the shotgun or bangstick. To safely and humanely dispatch the alligator aim for the center of the spine directly behind the skull plate. Do not shoot through the skull plate. The skull of an alligator is very dense bone and fragments may ricochet. The brain, which is about the size of a walnut, is located 2-3 inches behind the eyes directly between the ear flaps. A properly placed projectile will sever the spinal cord and brain causing instant death. Never attempt to dispatch an alligator by shooting into the chest cavity. *The use of safety glasses is recommended when discharging any firearm or bangstick.*

Shotgun

After the alligator has been properly restrained, remove the shotgun from the case, place all persons in a safe location, and safely load the shotgun. While gentle pressure is kept on the restraining line to hold the head and neck above the surface of the water, place the end of the barrel of the shotgun a maximum of 3 to 4 inches from the alligator, directly above the neck. Aim for the very center of the neck (directly between the two center rows of scutes) at an angle slightly towards the base of the head. After properly firing the shotgun, the alligator will immediately relax and begin to sink. Follow directions located in the section “Transporting from the Field.”

Bangsticks

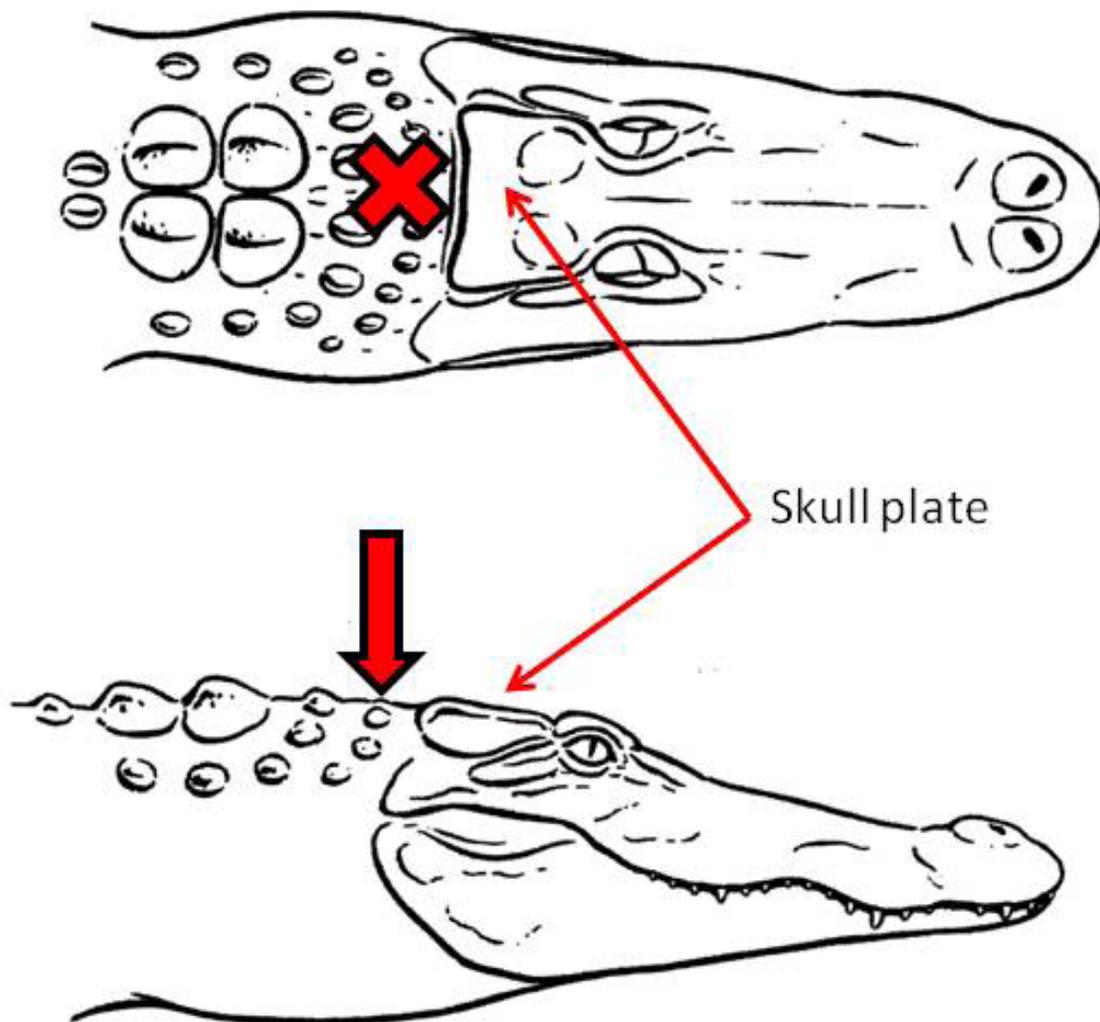
After the alligator has been properly restrained, remove the bangstick from the case, place all persons in a safe location, and safely load the bangstick. Extreme caution should be used when handling any bangstick to insure that the safety pin is not removed until fully prepared to dispatch the alligator. Always follow manufacturer’s safety recommendations. A loaded bangstick should always be held over the side of the boat and pointed away from the boat. A bangstick should always be discharged below the water surface to reduce potential for aerial dispersal of bullet or bone fragments. *(Right top photo) .38 cal./1.357 Mag. bangstick w/ safety pin inserted)*

While gentle pressure is kept on the restraining line to hold the head and neck slightly below the surface of the water, aim for the very center of the neck (directly between the two center rows of scutes) at an angle slightly towards the base of the head and properly discharge the bangstick. The alligator will immediately relax and begin to sink. Follow directions located in the section “Transporting From the Field.” *(Right bottom photo) Proper bangstick position behind skull plate, center of the neck, angled slightly forward.*



Proper Shot Placement

Shot placement is crucial for an effective dispatch of the alligator. DO NOT shoot into the skull plate. A shot into the skull plate can result in ricochet of bone and pellets and an ineffective dispatch of the alligator.



Securing, Tagging, and Transporting from the Field

** ALWAYS RESTRAIN THE MOUTH BEFORE TRANSPORTING **

Securing

Once the alligator has been properly dispatched the mouth should be secured with tape or inner tube bands. **Note:** *Improperly dispatched alligators may appear dead or stunned. Never handle or load an alligator without securing the mouth shut.* An alligator that has not been properly dispatched may cause serious injury or even death. Use extreme measures to secure any alligator that is transported in a boat. A thrashing alligator could knock occupants overboard. Always wear a life jacket while transporting alligators in a boat. It may be difficult to sufficiently lift extremely large alligators to the boat gunnel. In this case, use the restraining noose to slowly tow the carcass to a firm bank, then use the restraining noose to pull the alligator onto the bank in order to secure the mouth and legs.

Mouth: Use the restraining noose to lift the head, belly side up, to the gunnel of the boat. While the top jaw is held against the gunnel of the boat use another rope to pull the lower jaw to the top jaw (*Photo top right*). Secure the mouth with several wraps of quality duct tape or electrical tape. Large “rubber bands” can be made by cutting 3/4 - 1” cross sections from a car tire inner-tube (*Photo center*).

Legs: The legs should be secured by tying the front legs to each other and the back legs to each other (*Bottom left photo*). Using small diameter rope, tie to the elbow joint of one leg, then run the rope over the back of the alligator and tie to opposite leg. Do not use twine or heavy string to secure the legs, it may cause damage by cutting into the hide. Once the legs are secured over the back, the ropes can be used to assist in lifting or pulling the carcass.



Temporary Possession Tagging Instructions

Temporary Possession Tags will be printed and conveniently attached to your Alligator Possession Permit in the form of two extra perforated cards. Upon harvest of an alligator:

- 1) Tear one of the Temporary Possession Tag cards from your Permit
- 2) Be sure the tag is signed by the permitted hunter.
- 3) Gently pull the two tabs located on the Temporary Possession Tag card.
- 4) Insert string, wire, or a cable-tie through the holes and tie the Temporary Possession Tag card to the leg of the alligator.
- 5) The Temporary Possession Tag MUST remain attached to the carcass until processing.
- 6) The Temporary Possession Tag should be attached to the skin after skinning until a federal export CITES tag is obtained from the MDWFP.



EXAMPLE: Tabs are located on the Temporary Possession Tag. Pull the tabs and insert string or cable-ties to attach to the leg of your harvested alligator prior to transportation. Tags are void unless signed.

Obtaining CITES Tags: A federal CITES tag is required to be attached to the hide near the end of the tail if being sold to a licensed alligator parts dealer/processor or prior to transportation across state lines. A CITES tag(s) will be mailed to you upon receipt of your harvest report. CITES tags may also be obtained from MDWFP Regional Offices in person, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- The wildlife agencies of Arkansas and Louisiana have specifically approved that properly licensed hunters with legally harvested alligators with properly attached temporary possession tags are legal to transport through their respective states for the purpose of processing.

MDWFP OFFICES

- Jackson Main Office, Wildlife Bureau - (601) 432-2217
- North Region Office, Enid - (662) 563-6222
- Central Region Office, Canton - (601) 859-3421
- South Region Office, Magnolia - (601) 783-2911

Transporting

If the alligator is too large to load into the boat, it may be secured to the bow of the boat, head first, and slowly towed. Use extreme caution in this case as the boat will handle much differently and may be difficult to navigate. Otherwise, load the alligator into the boat being careful not to shift too much weight to one side of the boat. This could cause it to capsize. For this reason, as well as others, a wide bottomed, sturdy boat is recommended.

The CITES tag must remain attached to the hide until it is tanned or taxidermy mounted and during export from the state. The possession of any alligator hide not tagged (with either a temporary MS tag or CITES tag) is prohibited.

Processing the Hide and Meat

Skinning

Retaining the beauty of an alligator hide, while skinning for tanning or taxidermy mounting, is a delicate process. Patience is required to prevent accidental knife cuts or holes in the hide. One hole in the hide can greatly reduce its value. Every inch of the hide must be cut away from the flesh. It can not be pulled away from the muscle by hand like a deer skin. Cooling the carcass before skinning is recommended.

Alligators may be skinned in two different ways:

- 1) **For tanning or leather product use:** This method leaves the belly skin of the alligator intact and is the preferred method, if the hide is to be tanned and made into other finished products. Make an incision on each side of the top of the alligator (leaving one to two rows of scutes on the belly side of the hide) and on top of each leg and remove the hide with the belly skin intact. The underside of the skull should also be skinned with the rest of the belly. The back side of the skin with the scutes and osteoderms can be removed and retained for specialty items. Because it is very difficult to tan the osteoderms, the back skin is not considered very useful and is often discarded. *(See following page for illustrations.)*
- 2) **Hornback method:** This method provides a more natural looking hide but generally is more expensive to tan. This method is more similar to skinning mammals such as deer or hogs. Make an incision from the tip of the lower jaw, up the center of the belly, on the underside of each leg, and then down the underside of the tail.

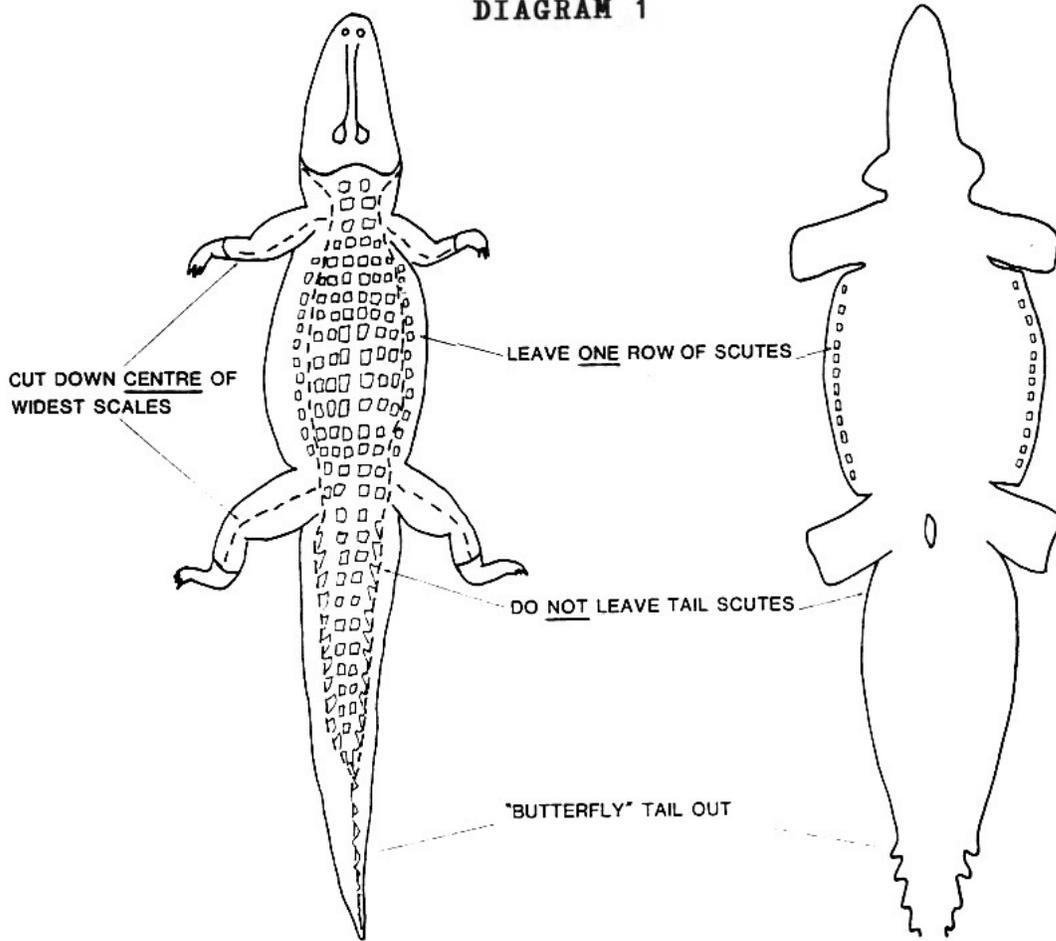
***Note:** For taxidermy preparations, always contact your taxidermist prior to the harvest and follow their recommendations. Most taxidermists prefer to receive the whole carcass.*

**A pictorial guide to skinning alligators is available at: www.mdwfp.com/alligator
Look under the section “Alligator Hunting Information.”**

Tanning the Hide

If you plan to have your alligator skin tanned, you may contact one of the many licensed taxidermist in the state for assistance. Commercial tanneries are also available. Tanneries have specific instructions for preparing the hide before shipping to their facilities. Always contact them well in advance of the hunt to avoid spoiling an otherwise valuable and beautiful trophy *(See tannery contact list on page 37).*

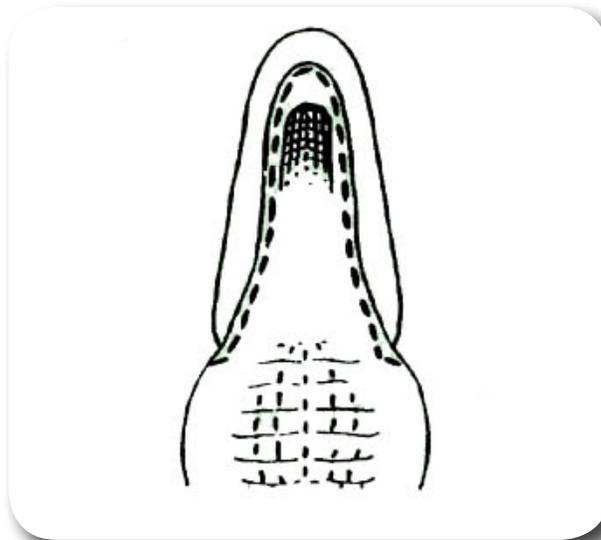
DIAGRAM 1



Top diagram: dotted lines illustrate location of cut for skinning a hide for tanning purposes.

Bottom diagram: dotted lines illustrate location of cut for skinning the throat area.

Source: American Tanning and Leather Co.



Curing the Hide

There are two methods that may be used to temporarily preserve and/or cure the alligator skin until sold or sent to a tannery. Method 1 is through repeated salting of the hide and storing in a cool, dry location. Method 2 (which utilizes some similar techniques to method 1) is through the use of a brine solution.

Method 1

After the alligator has been skinned, the hide should be scraped thoroughly using a knife, a piece of metal pipe, or other appropriate object until all meat and fat are removed. After scraping, salt the hide with approximately one inch of white, fine grade table salt or mixing salt. Thoroughly rub the salt into the hide, then roll the hide tightly, secure it, and store in a cool dry location. After 3-5 days, unroll the hide, discard the salt, and repeat the above procedure. Re-roll the hide tightly and band with one inch rubber bands. Store the rolled hide in a cool, dry place until transporting or shipping.

Method 2

An alternative to Method 1 is to utilize a brine solution. Hides cured in brine solutions often remain more supple, suffer less shrinkage, and are viewed as more attractive by hide graders and buyers. For these reasons, the use of a brine solution to cure a alligator hide is highly recommended.

Ingredients or materials needed:

- 50 gallon plastic drum with cover or lid
- 50 pounds salt
- 1 pint bleach (reduces bacterial growth)
- 25 gallons water

In order for brine solutions to be effective, they must be carefully prepared and maintained. A plastic or other non-corrosive covered container of sufficient size should be used. The brine solution must remain saturated with salt. Too little salt in the solution will cause damage to the hide.

Fill the 50 gallon container half full of water, then add the salt and bleach and mix thoroughly. After complete mixing, a 2-3 inch layer of salt should remain on the bottom. Hides must be properly scraped and salted with a one inch layer of salt, tightly rolled and secured with rubber bands prior to placing in the brine. When submersing a hide in the brine, it should be rotated to allow most of the air pockets to escape. If properly salted, the layer of salt in the rolled skin will act as a wick to draw the brine solution throughout the skin. The hide should be entirely submersed in the brine solution at all times and the container should be kept tightly covered to keep insects and airborne contaminants from entering the solution.

The hide should remain in the brine solution until sold or shipped to the tannery. If you plan to sell the hide, it must be removed from the brine solution and entirely re-salted prior to being shipped or placed in refrigeration. The brine should be discarded and a new solution made for each use. Dispose of the brine properly and carefully since it is harmful to plants and aquatic animal life.

Meat Preparation

Make plans to have your alligator cooled within 4 hours of harvest if you plan on processing meat from your alligator for consumption. You may pack the whole carcass with bagged ice during transport until you are able to skin and process the alligator. Alligator meat may be processed and stored in a similar fashion to that of deer, hog, and other game mammals. While the tail meat is the most popular portion, all meat from the alligator is edible, including the jowls, legs, ribs, backstraps, and flanks.

Note: Alligators are long-lived, may grow to large sizes, and may accumulate significant amounts of mercury and other contaminants. There is no information on mercury in alligators in Mississippi, but information on alligators in

other states indicates there could be risks for certain people, such as pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children if consumption of alligator meat occurs. The MDWFP recommends you contact your doctor or health department for more information on consuming wild alligator meat.

Note: *Only alligator meat that has been commercially processed at a licensed facility may be sold for commercial consumption.*

Documentation

All alligator skulls and skeletal parts which are not discarded must be permanently marked with the CITES tag number of the hide from which it was taken. The number may be marked in a conspicuous location, such as the inner lower jaw or palate of the mouth. The skull and other skeletal parts may be kept by the selected hunter, transferred, or sold. Records must be kept indicating to whom any parts are sold or transferred. Information should include hunter name, address, CITES tag number associated with the alligator, the date it was tagged, and a description of the parts. Any meat in storage must also be documented in the same manner and shall remain documented until it is prepared for consumption. Any cartons containing alligator hides, meat, or parts must be labeled with the above information for shipping interstate or intrastate.

The Mississippi Alligator Tagging Project

Why tag alligators?

On June 30, 2007, the MDWFP Alligator Program initiated a research project to acquire information on alligator movements, growth rates, and effectiveness of relocating alligators. Alligators 2 feet long and longer are being marked with individually identifiable tags. Location and biological measurement information on each alligator is entered into an information database. Most of the tagged alligators in this project are being captured, tagged, and released on-site at the location from which they are originally captured. Some additional alligators who have been removed from “out-of-place” locations, as a result of nuisance complaints, are also being tagged and relocated to suitable habitats along river systems currently open to alligator hunting. Global Position System (GPS) locations are recorded for each alligator’s capture location, as well as release locations for relocated alligators. By obtaining biological measurements and location information when alligators are observed, captured, or harvested in the future, then data from each observation can be compared to obtain valuable information about alligator movements, growth rates, survival, and effectiveness of relocation efforts.



(Hind foot tag)

Where are tags located on the alligator?

Depending on the size of the alligator there may be two different types of tags located on the alligator. Most alligators under 42” only receive metal clip-tags on each hind foot. These tags are located in the webbing of each hind foot. Each tag is stamped with an ID number and a contact phone number. Most alligators over 42” are also tagged with metal foot tags, as well as a color coded and numbered plastic tag located on each side of the upper portion of the middle of the tail.



(Tail tag)

However, tags are subject to loss or broken over time and may be absent, hence the use of multiple tags, so each hind foot and tail should be inspected for possible tags.

How can alligator hunters help?

The project is concentrating research efforts in areas currently open to alligator hunting (Pearl River/Ross Barnett and the Pascagoula River). Alligator hunt participants will be vital to the success of obtaining needed data. Alligator hunters who may observe, capture/release, or capture/harvest alligators during permitted hunting activities can be of vital assistance to the project by recording and/or reporting tagged alligator observations or captures to the MDWFP. Typically, numerous alligator hunt participants will capture an alligator and may choose to release

it if it does not meet their harvest expectations. Location and measurements obtained from any captured alligator that is tagged will provide vital information, especially if it released again. If the alligator is released again, then there is opportunity to obtain additional data from that alligator in the future. Alligator hunters are asked to record information on any tagged alligators that may be captured and released. The most important information are the alligators tag number(s) and precise location of capture/release. Some hunters may not be comfortable with handling and measuring live captured alligators, but willing hunters can follow instructions on how and where to take measurements described in this manual. Tagged alligators are legal for harvest by permitted alligator hunters. Tagged alligators that have been harvested can be reported in the notes section of the on-line harvest report process.

Instructions for documenting tagged alligator locations

Precise locations are very important to the project database. However, general locations are also beneficial. If available, obtain GPS locations. The preferred GPS format is decimal degrees (ex. N 032.12345°, W 089.12345°), however any GPS waypoint format can be converted. Hunters may also use phone and map apps to mark locations that can be converted to GPS locations.

Instructions for Measuring Tagged Alligators

There are 3 basic biological measurements of most importance; total length, belly girth, and tail girth. All measurements are measured with a cloth tape to the nearest 1/8 inch. Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail along the top of the alligator. The alligator should be on a flat surface and aligned in a straight position. Belly girth is measured at the location of greatest girth between the front and hind legs (measurement should be taken when the alligator has inhaled and lungs are at full expansion). Tail girth is measured at the location of greatest girth behind the hind legs. Tail girth is typically greatest at the fourth row of tail scutes behind the hind legs.



ATTENTION: Alligator Hunters in the Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone

Radio-Tagged Alligators

A cooperative research project between the MDWFP and the MSU Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been initiated to study movements and range of adult alligators on the Pearl River north of Ross Barnett Reservoir. In April 2010, 30 adult alligators were captured, tagged, and outfitted with a radio transmitter. The transmitter allows researchers to locate and monitor each alligator's location via a radio receiver. Each alligator will be monitored weekly to determine its location and to evaluate the habitat that surrounds its home range. Each transmitter is expected to transmit for approximately 16 months, which will allow us to monitor the alligators during two active seasons and at least one dormant season. Information obtained from this study will provide the MDWFP and other state agencies with new information about alligator populations located within inland freshwater riverine systems. An additional 30 male alligators will be outfitted with radios in 2012.

The harvest of a radio-tagged alligator is legal, but not encouraged. Obviously, the MDWFP would like to monitor an alligator and its movements for as long as possible. However, beneficial information can be obtained from the harvest of a radio-tagged alligator. Therefore, if a hunter captures or harvests an alligator that is radio-tagged, please make every effort to document the exact location of the capture or harvest. To report harvest of a radio-tagged alligator, please email the MDWFP Alligator Program Coordinator at rickyf@mdwfp.state.ms.us.

Participating hunters can provide an active role in this research project through their cooperation and information obtained by their observations.



(Left) Yellow 427, an 11 foot long male, showing the location of the radio transmitter on the top of the neck and the tag on the tail.



(Right) A radio transmitter attached to the osteoderms of an adult alligator.



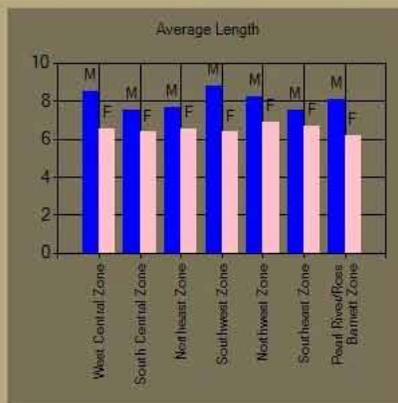
2015 ALLIGATOR HARVEST SUMMARY – PUBLIC WATERS

Alligator Survey Summary

Total Applicants who hunted : 997
 Total alligators harvested : 982 (524 < 7' and 458 > 7')
 Total Alligators captured and released : 2147
 Total Hunters who harvested an alligator: 693
 Methods of capture: Rod/Reel (919) Bowfishing equipment (42) Snare Pole (23) (7) Harpoon (6)
 Hunting Party Stats: Total: 3646 - Average: 3.66
 Total Hours spent hunting: 21,907.50 (hours/gator: 10.20)
 Hunter Experience: very enjoyable (712) enjoyable (248) not enjoyable (37)

Alligator Harvest Summary

Location	TotalGators	Avg Length Male	Min Length Male	Max Length Male	Avg Length Female	Min Length Female	Max Length Female
West Central Zone	285	8.511519	4.08	13.58	6.534054	4.08	9.92
South Central Zone	119	7.511857	4.25	12.00	6.366818	4.33	9.67
Northeast Zone	78	7.625471	4.17	12.50	6.554000	4.17	9.33
Southwest Zone	270	8.780287	4.17	13.25	6.377169	4.00	9.75
Northwest Zone	26	8.195882	4.83	10.75	6.916666	5.33	9.00
Southeast Zone	140	7.486451	4.25	13.00	6.670810	4.75	9.17
Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone	64	8.110000	4.33	11.58	6.204000	4.42	9.17





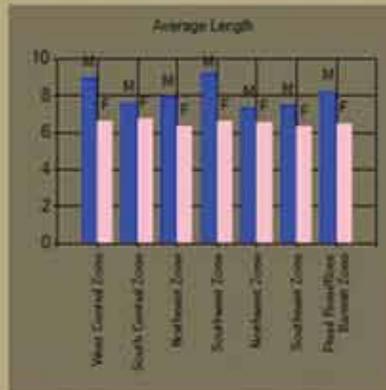
2014 Alligator Harvest Summary - Public Waters

Alligator Survey Summary

Total Applicants who hunted : 676
 Total alligators harvested : 682 (342 < 7' and 340 > 7')
 Total Alligators captured and released : 940
 Total Hunters who harvested an alligator: 449
 Methods of capture: Rod/Reel (627) Bowfishing Equipment (26) Snare Pole (16) Harpoon (5) (2)
 Hunting Party Stats: Total: 2,495 - Average: 3.69
 Total Hours spent hunting: 13,855.00 (hours/gator: 14.74)
 Hunter Experience: very enjoyable (486) enjoyable (175) not enjoyable (15)

Alligator Harvest Summary

Location	TotalGators	Avg Length	Min Length	Max Length	Avg Length	Min Length	Max Length
		Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Female
Northwest Zone	16	7.276666	4.17	10.83	6.620789	4.50	9.17
West Central Zone	161	8.908571	4.83	13.25	6.597142	4.50	9.58
Southwest Zone	166	9.174687	4.50	13.67	6.620789	4.50	9.17
Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone	59	8.239512	4.92	12.75	6.471111	4.25	9.50
South Central Zone	78	7.613695	4.50	12.33	6.740000	4.75	9.17
Southeast Zone	124	7.434794	4.42	12.25	6.306666	4.17	9.00
Northeast Zone	66	7.888636	4.08	13.25	6.340454	4.08	9.33





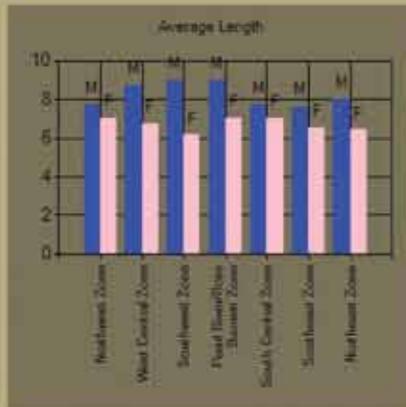
2013 Alligator Harvest Summary - Public Waters

Alligator Survey Summary

Total Applicants who hunted : 677
 Total alligators harvested : 671 (329 < 7' and 342 > 7')
 Total Alligators captured and released : 967
 Total Hunters who harvested an alligator: 467
 Methods of capture: Rod/Reel (623) Bowfishing equipment (34) Snare Pole (17) Harpoon (3)
 Hunting Party Stats: Total: 2622 - Average: 3.87
 Total Hours spent hunting: 12,012.50 (hours/gator: 12.42)
 Hunter Experience: very enjoyable (538) enjoyable (130) not enjoyable (9)

Alligator Harvest Summary

Location	TotalGators	Avg Length Male	Min Length Male	Max Length Male	Avg Length Female	Min Length Female	Max Length Female
Northwest Zone	18	7.718750	4.25	12.08	7.045000	5.92	8.17
West Central Zone	169	8.708951	4.33	13.58	6.736000	4.25	9.33
Southwest Zone	145	8.972342	5.00	13.58	6.151212	4.42	9.50
Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone	57	8.967073	4.25	12.33	7.025625	5.17	9.17
South Central Zone	89	7.752903	4.17	13.00	7.045185	4.25	9.08
Southeast Zone	103	7.618360	4.25	12.58	6.545238	4.25	10.00
Northeast Zone	90	7.975142	4.25	13.42	6.445500	4.92	9.08





2012 Alligator Harvest Summary - Public Waters

Alligator Survey Summary

Total Applicants who hunted :	590
Total alligators harvested :	513 (245 < 7' and 268 > 7')
Total Alligators captured and released :	574
Total Hunters who harvested an alligator:	373
Methods of capture:	Rod/Reel (533) Bowfishing Equipment (31) Snare Pole (21) Harpoon (5)
Hunting Party Stats:	Total: 2,170 - Average: 3.68
Total Hours spent hunting:	9,452.75 (hours/gator: 16.47)
Hunter Experience:	very enjoyable (434) enjoyable (129) not enjoyable (26)

Alligator Harvest Summary

Location	TotalGators	Avg Length	Min Length	Max Length	Avg Length	Min Length	Max Length
		Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Female
Northwest Zone	13	6.962307	4.25	9.67			
West Central Zone	156	8.516771	4.17	12.92	6.564827	4.58	9.58
Southwest Zone	116	8.970000	4.50	13.17	6.370294	4.33	9.42
Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone	46	8.658125	4.50	12.83	6.720000	4.58	9.42
South Central Zone	87	8.422857	4.17	12.83	6.521612	4.50	9.25
Southeast Zone	95	7.592068	4.33	12.08	6.737027	4.08	9.50
TOTAL	513	8.42			6.56		





PUBLIC WATER ALLIGATOR HUNTING LEGAL WATERWAYS CLARIFICATION

For those permitted in the following MS Public Water Zones:

1. Northeast
2. Northwest
3. West Central
4. Southwest
5. South Central
6. Southeast

The regulations ONLY allow permitted persons to hunt alligators within their drawn zone on waterways designated as a “Public Waterway” by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). There are also specifically named lakes and oxbow lakes within the Northeast, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest Zones that are legal hunting areas for those drawn within those zones.

A map and a list of designated waterways within each drainage system is available online here: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/L&W_pub_waterways?OpenDocument

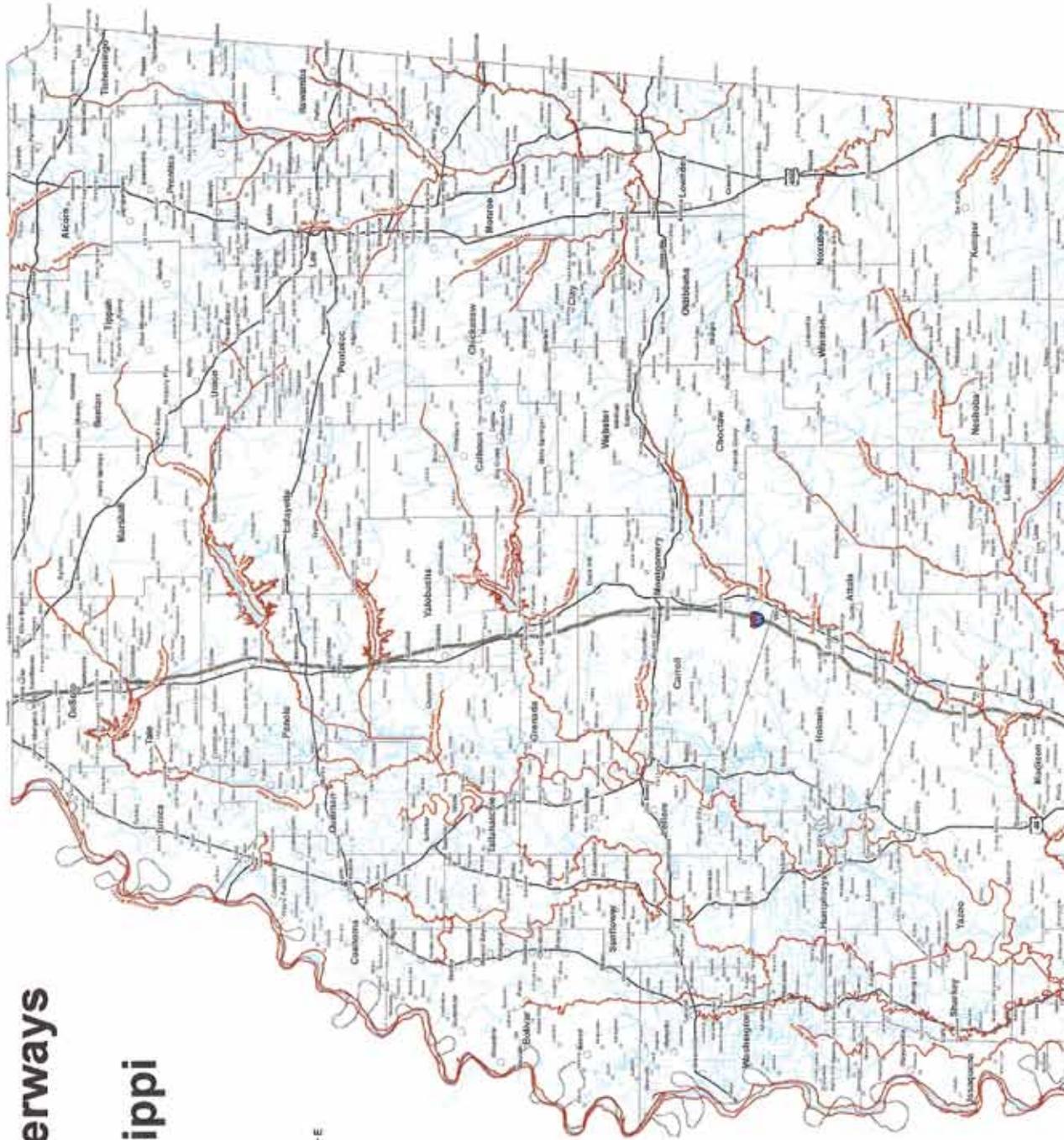
Clarification of Open Waterways:

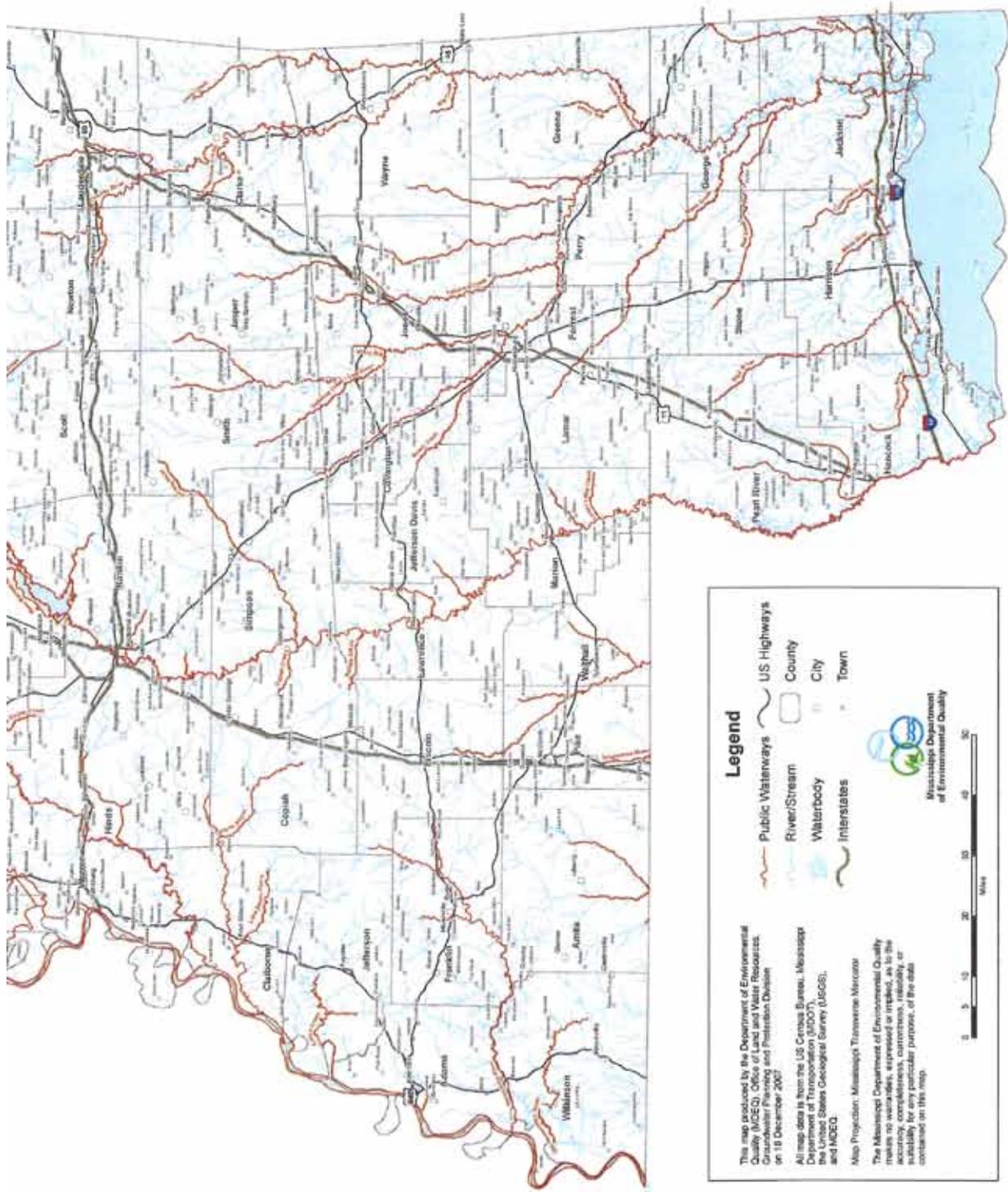
1. Legal public water for public water alligator hunters include any public waterway, as designated by MDEQ, and all associated portions of each drainage that are not privately owned and have navigable access from the designated waterway.
2. For those who hunt on or near state borderline waters, such as the Mississippi River, lower Pearl River (in Pearl River and Hancock Counties), Eagle Lake, Chotard Lake, Albermarle Lake, Tennessee Lake, Lake Ferguson, Lake Whittington, and Lake Beulah, BE ADVISED, to cross the state border while pursuing alligators into any water that is not part of Mississippi will be considered illegal alligator hunting by the adjoining state (i.e. AR & LA). It shall be the hunter’s responsibility to be aware of state borders.

Special Notifications:

1. **West Central Zone Hunters:** Be aware that alligator hunting access is allowed to permitted hunters at the Panther Swamp NWR boatramp located at Lake George on Callihan Road. Federal agents will enforce a no alligator hunting restriction north of the Calligan Road bridge.
2. **Northeast Zone Hunters:** Be aware to consult U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACOE) Regulations regarding hunting activities and boatramp use prior to hunting USACOE regulated waterways. A USACOE hunting permit may be required prior to hunting on the Tenn-Tom Waterway.

Public Waterways of Mississippi





This map produced by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Land and Water Resources, on 18 December 2002.

All map data is from the US Census Bureau, Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and NOAA.

Map Projection: Mississippi Transverse Mercator

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality makes no warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, currentness, reliability, or timeliness of any individual portion, or the data contained on this map.

Legend

- Public Waterways
- River/Stream
- Waterbody
- Interstates
- US Highways
- County
- City
- Town

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

Private Lands Alligator Hunting

Permitting process

The permitting process for private lands is much different than public water permitting. In open counties, landowners may apply to receive harvest vouchers for alligators within privately owned water on the landowner's property. Harvest vouchers are issued at the rate of 1 voucher for 20 acres of permanent surface water and 1 additional voucher for each additional 100 acres of permanent surface water. Landowners may transfer any or all harvest voucher(s) to anyone 16 years of age or older.

Hunting hours

There are no hunting hour restrictions on private lands, however legal capture/take methods are restricted depending upon the time of day.

Harvest Restrictions

Daytime hours: During daytime hours (½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset), nighttime capture and dispatch methods are legal. In addition, firearms may be used to dispatch an alligator without first being captured and/or restrained. However, type of firearm and ammunition are restricted. Centerfire rifles must be chambered in .277in./7.035mm (.270/7mm) or larger. Shotguns are restricted to 12 and 10 gauge. Shotgun ammunition is limited to slugs and shot size #6 and smaller.

Nighttime hours:

During nighttime hours (½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise), all alligators must be captured alive and legally restrained prior to being dispatched. It is illegal to kill an unrestrained alligator during nighttime hours. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose

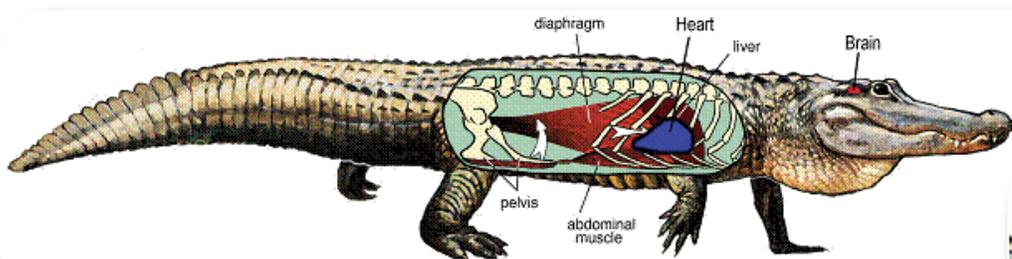
or snare secured around the neck or leg in a manner that the alligator is controlled. Capture methods are restricted to handheld snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/buoy) and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or buoy).

Hunting with a firearm during daylight hours

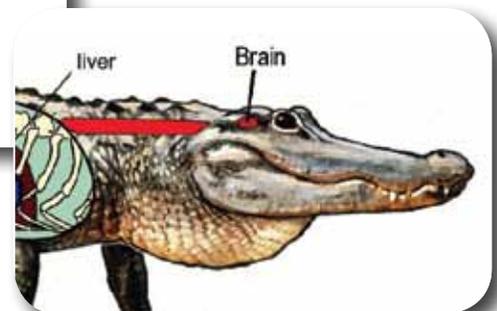
When using this method, several important suggestions should be considered:

- (1) Always be extra cautious when discharging a firearm across water, due to ricochet possibilities. Shooting at a floating or partially submerged alligator is highly discouraged. Shooting a floating or partially submerged alligator should only be attempted after consideration for all concerns for safety.
- (2) The preferred vital target area is the neck area between the head and front leg. Never attempt to shoot an alligator in the head. The vital area of the head (brain) is quite small (walnut sized) and the bone surrounding it is very dense and difficult to penetrate.
- (3) A floating alligator will sink immediately after receiving a lethal shot from a firearm. Never shoot a floating/swimming alligator, unless you are prepared with the proper equipment to retrieve the alligator carcass from the bottom. Dead alligators will not float.
- (4) Do not shoot an alligator in the chest cavity. A wounded alligator will retreat to the water and will most often move to an underwater bankhole or other location making retrieval nearly impossible.

ALLIGATOR ANATOMY



LOCATION of SPINE (below)



Tagging

Temporary Possession Tags will be printed and conveniently attached to your Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit in the form of two extra perforated cards. Upon harvest of an alligator:

1. Tear one of the Temporary Possession Tag cards from your Permit
2. Be sure the tag is signed by the permitted hunter.
3. Gently pull the two tabs located on the Temporary Possession Tag card.
4. Insert string, wire, or a cable-tie through the holes and tie the Temporary Possession Tag card to the leg of the alligator.
5. The Temporary Possession Tag **MUST** remain attached to the carcass until processing.
6. The Temporary Possession Tag should be attached to the skin after skinning until a federal export CITES is obtained from the MDWFP.

Harvest Reporting

All Private Lands harvest reporting is conducted on-line at www.mdwfp.com/alligator

Harvest reports must be submitted within 48 hours of harvest. The deadline is September 21 for all Private Lands harvest reports. Private Lands permit holders are no longer required to return unused temporary possession tags or Report Cards. Report cards are provided for your convenience to document the required information in the on-line report.

Documentation of Parts

Any part of the alligator kept in possession must be documented with a completed Alligator Parts Tag. Finished products may be permanently marked with the CITES tag number in lieu of the Alligator Parts Tag.

Violations of alligator tagging regulations may include federal penalties.



Mississippi Alligator Hunting Records

Alligator Hunting Records - PUBLIC WATERS

	Longest (Male)	Heaviest (Male)	Longest (Female)	Heaviest (Female)
RECORD	13 ft. 7 3/4 in.	822.0 pounds	10 ft. 0 in.	319 pounds
Taken By:	Angelia Rivers	Clayton Gibson	Brandon Maskew	Craig Jones
Town	Ellisville, MS	Natchez, MS	Ellisville, MS	Mendenhall, MS
Date	August 28, 2015	August 28, 2015	August 31, 2013	August 30, 2015
Water Body	Yazoo River	Mississippi River	Pascagoula River	Eagle Lake
Method of Harvest	Rod/Reel - Snatch hook			
Length	13 ft. 7 3/4 in.	13 ft. 1/2 in.	10 ft. 0 in.	9 ft. 11 in.
Weight (lbs.)	694.5	822	295.3	319
Belly Girth (in.)	60	65	50	47
Tail Girth (in.)	44	48	32	37
Comments	West Central	Southwest	Southeast	West Central

Alligator Hunting Records - PRIVATE LANDS

	Longest (Male)	Heaviest (Male)	Longest (Female)	Heaviest (Female)
RECORD	14 ft. 1/4 in.	826 pounds	10 ft. 1/2 in.	283 pounds
Taken By:	Kennie Crechale	Kennie Crechale	Jonathan Kent	Kevin Goza
Town	Morton, MS	Morton, MS	Greenwood, MS	Flowood, MS
Date	August 29, 2015	August 29, 2015	September 19, 2015	September 25, 2010
County	Warren County	Warren County	Issaquena County	Issaquena County
Length	14 ft. 1/4 in.	14 ft. 1/4 in.	10 ft. 1/2 in.	9 ft. 5 4/8 in.
Weight (lbs.)	826	826	283 (Tie Record)	283 (Tie Record)
Belly Girth (in.)	68	68	46	48
Tail Girth (in.)	48	48	32	32
Method of Harvest	Firearm/Rifle-Daytime	Firearm/Rifle-Daytime	Rod/Reel - Snatch hook	Rod/Reel - Snatch hook

Record Alligator Certification Procedures

Is Your Alligator a New Record Length or Weight:

Hunters who wish to certify an alligator as a potential state record of harvest should contact the MDWFP at 601-432-2217 or (after business hours) 601-432-2170. Hunters should be prepared to provide the following information at the time of your call:

1. Total length (feet - inches)
2. Belly girth (inches)
3. Tail girth (inches)
4. Weight (lbs) (*only needed if a potential weight record, plus length and girth measurements*)

The Alligator Program Coordinator will return the call ASAP, usually within 24 hours. If deemed a potential record by the program coordinator, arrangements will be made to meet with MDWFP personnel to obtain an official weight or length measurement.

Regarding Weight Records: Since weights are so difficult to estimate and vary greatly, hunters must pre-weigh their alligator before contacting the MDWFP. If certified scales are not available, then efforts should be made by the hunter to obtain a weight from a reputable source of scales. Weight certification must be on certified scales or other MDWFP approved scales and witnessed by a MDWFP officer or biologist.

Measuring tips:

1. Lay the alligator on a flat surface with the carcass laying completely flat and straight. Using a cloth measuring tape, measure along the dorsal side (top) of the alligator from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail following the dorsal contour of the alligator.
2. Measure to the nearest 1/8 inch.
3. For weight, be sure the alligator is completely suspended from the ground.
4. For weight, be sure to “zero tare” the scales when chains or straps are used to hoist the alligator before hoisting the alligator for measuring the weight. Chains and straps should not be included into the weight measurement.

2016 MS Alligator License Purchase Instructions

Available beginning August 15

ALLIGATOR HUNTING LICENSES

This license is required for each person in the hunting party, 16 years of age or older (including 65 YOA and older). This license is applicable for ALL alligator hunting seasons (All Public Water Zone Hunting and/or Private Lands Hunting).

- Priv Code 754 Alligator Hunting License (\$25)
Available at any location that sells MS H/F Licenses, on-line, or 1-800-5GO-HUNT.

PREREQUISITES FOR ALLIGATOR LICENSES

You must possess a combination hunting/fishing type license to purchase any of the above alligator licenses/permits.

- RESIDENTS (Sportsman, All Game H/F, Small Game H/F, Apprentice Sportsman, Apprentice All Game, Apprentice Small Game, Senior Exempt, Disabled Exempt, or Lifetime)
- NON-RESIDENTS (All Game, 7-Day All Game, or Non-res MS Native Lifetime)
- *NON-RESIDENTS who have permits for an approved private property in reciprocal agreement locations must purchase their Alligator Hunting License in the Jackson Office or by calling (601) 432-2263. Ask for Jason Thompson.*

*** Hunter Education requirements do apply. If you have never been certified in hunter education and are unable to attend a hunter education course prior to the hunt, you may purchase an Apprentice License in lieu of a combination type license. The Apprentice License is available as a one-time purchase for hunters who have never been certified in hunter education. It is valid for only one year.

Who needs an Alligator Hunting License - In a Nutshell:

If a person is 16 years of age or older and are in possession of, or in a vessel that possesses capture equipment or equipment used to harvest alligators, then you must possess an Alligator Hunting License.

No one may attempt to capture an alligator or possess alligator capture equipment while on the waterways, unless in the immediate (“Rock throwing distance”) vicinity of a holder of a valid Alligator Possession Permit.

Who needs an Alligator Hunting License - In a Nutshell:

PUBLIC WATERS – Any person who is in a vessel with a person who possesses an Alligator Possession Permit must possess an Alligator Hunting License, regardless. Such licensed person may partake in any part of the alligator hunt process.

PRIVATE LANDS – only the person whose name is retained on the harvest voucher is required to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit. Any person 16 years of age or older that is part of a hunting party must possess an Alligator Hunting License.

- Private land hunters who have multiple permits do not have to purchase ALL of their possession permits at one time. You may choose to buy some now and some later after filling the initial permit’s tags.

LIST of ALLIGATOR HUNTING LICENSES and POSSESSION PERMITS

Code #	Description	Price
754	Alligator Hunting License	\$25
776	Northeast Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
870	Northwest Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
871	West Central Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
872	Southwest Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
873	South Central Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
874	Southeast Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
875	Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone Alligator Possession Permit	\$150
759	Private Lands Possession Permit - RESIDENT	\$100
769	Private Lands Possession Permit – NON RESIDENT	\$200

MDWFP OFFICES

Jackson Main Office, License Dept. – (601) 432-2400

North Region Office, Enid – (662) 563-6222

Central Region Office, Canton – (601) 859-3421

South Region Office, Magnolia – (601) 783-2911

FAQ's for Alligator Season

ALL HUNTERS – Public Water and Private Lands

- **Who needs an Alligator Hunting License (\$25)?** Everyone in the hunting party 16 YOA or older
- **Who needs an Alligator Possession Permit?** Only the person who purchased a public water permit on July 19, 2016 or the person who possesses a private lands harvest voucher.
- **Where are licenses and possession permits sold?** Beginning July 19, 2016 at 9 a.m. on a first-come-first-serve purchase process via www.mdwfp.com. Assistants who need an Alligator Hunting License may purchase them anywhere Mississippi hunting and fishing licenses are sold, including online, or by calling **1-800-5GO-HUNT**.
- **Can I use a pistol loaded with a shotgun shell to dispatch my alligator?** No. Only long-barreled shotguns with #6 shot or smaller or bang-sticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger are allowed. *(Some exceptions only on private lands permitted hunts, see regulations).*
- **What is the bag limit?** For each possession permit there is a limit of 2 alligators at least 4 feet long, only one of which may exceed 7 feet.
- **Is the permit holder the only person who can capture or kill the alligator?** No. Anyone who has an Alligator Hunting License and is assisting a permit holder may partake in any part of the alligator hunting experience, including children under 16 YOA.
- **What are the temporary possession tags?** These tags must be attached to the leg of your alligator immediately after harvest and prior to moving or transporting. It is illegal to transport and possess an alligator that has not been tagged. Tags are not valid unless signed and dated.
- **Can I sell the hide or other parts of my harvested alligator?** Yes. Only to a person licensed to buy alligator parts, if properly tagged and documented with a federal export CITES tag. *See pages 16 & 37-39 of the 2016 Alligator Hunting Guide.*

Public Water Hunters

- **When is a WMA User Permit required?** Only if launching or accessing a public waterway from a MDWFP WMA property. It is not necessary if only entering or traveling through a WMA via boat.
- **Can more than one boat be involved in the hunting party?** Yes. However any vessel containing capture and harvest equipment or a harvested alligator must be within the immediate vicinity of the permit holder.
- **What is the purpose of the harvest report card?** It is provided so that you will have a standard location to document all of the necessary information needed for the mandatory on-line harvest report. Do not return it to the MDWFP.
- **How do I report my harvest?** An on-line report is required and is only available at www.mdwfp.com/alligator. The report is required of ALL permitted hunters even if you did not harvest or participate in the hunt.

Private Lands Hunts

- **What items must be in my possession while alligator hunting?**
 - Alligator Harvest Voucher(s) signed by landowner and transferee. An Alligator Possession Permit must be purchased for EACH harvest voucher retained by a person. (i.e. 4 vouchers in possession = 4 Possession Permits = 8 alligator tags)
 - Temporary Possession Tags
 - Harvest Report Card for Private Lands
 - Alligator Possession Permit(s) one for each Voucher
 - Alligator Hunting License
 - Each person in the hunting party 16 YOA or older must possess an Alligator Hunting License (\$25)
- **What is the purpose of the harvest report card?** Harvest report cards no longer have to be returned to the MDWFP. The cards are for your convenience to record required data for the on-line harvest report.

Alligator Skin, Meat, and Parts Buyers and Dealers

ACADIAN OSTRICH LLC

9010 HIGHWAY 961
CLINTON, LA 70722
225-683-9988
acadianostrichrh@cs.com
www.acadianostrich.com
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

ALIDORE L MARMANDE

840 VICE ROAD
HOUMA, LA 70363
985-876-1271
alshrimpco@charternet.com
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

AQUA FARMS CRAWFISH INC

PO BOX 287
EUNICE, LA 70535
337-432-5722
Alligator Meat

ARCHIE D DOMANGUE

305 LIRETTE STREET
HOUMA, LA 70360
985-851-4815
archiedomangue@charter.net
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

BIG AL'S SEAFOOD

1226 GRAND CAILLOU ROAD
HOUMA, LA 70363
985-876-7942
www.alcrawking@aol.com
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

C BARRETT GREER JR

208 SHEKEL DRIVE
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508
337-988-4765
voyagerpet@cox-internet.com
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

CAPTAIN GATOR

59363 THOMPSON RD
SLIDELL, LA 70460
985-641-3867
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
Heads & Scales

CATFISH WHOLESALE

PO BOX 759
ABBEVILLE, LA 70511
337-643-6700
jimricha@catfishwholesale.com
www.catfishwholesale.com
Alligator Meat

CHEF PENNY'S

3748 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD -
SUITE 301
METARIE, LA 70002
504-831-0698
www.pelts.com
Alligator Meat/ Breaded Alligator Nug-
gets/ Alligator Sauce Picquante

COASTAL SFD PROCESSORS

134 BROOKHOLLOW ESPLANADE
HARAHAN, LA 70123
504-734-9444
lyn@coastalsf.com
Alligator Meat

D & T SEAFOOD INC

112 CASCADE DR
HOUMA, LA 70364
985-879-2356
www.bobbykade@cajunnet.com
Alligator Meat

DANE LEDET

130 DANECO CT
HOUMA, LA 70360
985-876-4542
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
Alligator Meat/ All Parts

DANE P WEMPREN

705 HWY 304
THIBODAUX, LA 70301
985-633-9491
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

DAVID S VERNON

P O BOX 517
OXFORD, FL 34484
352-748-4142
mrgator1@earthlink.net
Heads & Feet

DEAN J LIRETTE

143 HIGHRIDGE DR
HOUMA, LA 70363
985-876-1271
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

DOMANGUE FUR HOUSE

4361 BAYOU BLACK DR
HOUMA, LA 70360
985-872-0729
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
Alligator Meat/ All Parts

DONALD E DELESDEMIER

PO BOX 38
BOOTHVILLE, LA 70038
504-534-7359
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
Alligator Meat/ All Parts

FARM PRIDE PROCESSORS

123 CREDEUR RD
SCOTT, LA 70583
337-873-3569
montoucet@aol.com
Alligator Meat

GERALD P SAVOIE JR

16124 HWY 3235
CUT OFF, LA 70345
985-632-6605
Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
Alligator Meat/ All Parts

GO FISH FREIGHT

1277 HWY 757
EUNICE, LA 70535
337-457-1138
gofishfreight@aol.com
Alligator Meat

GOLDEN RANCH SFD

146 COTEAU DU CYPRE
GHEENS, LA 70355
985-532-5221
golden@goldenranch.com
www.goldenranch.com
Alligator Meat

HARLON'S LA FISH LLC

P O BOX 486
 KENNER, LA 70063
 504-467-3809
 nolrah@aol.com
 Alligator Meat

J.R.'S SEAFOOD P.

P. O. Box 180/216 Main
 MOREAUVILLE, LA 71355
 318-985-2831
 Alligator Meat/ Heads

JACK C LALANNE JR

6576 FUR COMPANY RD
 IOWA, LA 70647
 337-582-3132
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

JEFF DONALD

907 CHENIERE DREW RD
 WEST MONROE, LA 71291
 318-396-2255
 dona4281@bellsouth.net
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

JEFFERY J DEROUEN

5966 HWY 190
 EUNICE, LA 70535
 337-457-1138
 gofishfreight@aol.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

JIMMY FRUGE

1042 OLD HENDERSON
 BREAUX BRIDGE, LA 70517
 337-523-3079
 Alligator Meat

KLIEBERT'S ALLIGATOR & TURTLE FARM

41083 YELLOW WATER RD
 HAMMOND, LA 70403
 800-854-9164
 klieberttours@bellsouth.net
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
 Heads & Feet

LA LAND SEAFOOD

P O BOX 67
 MATHEWS, LA 70375
 985-532-6408
 Alligator Meat

LA PREMIUM SFD INC

PO BOX 68
 PALMETTO, LA 71358
 337-623-4232
 whit@lapremiumseafood.com
 Alligator Meat

1095 OAK GROVE HWY
 GRAND CHENIER, LA 70643
 337-542-4233
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
 Heads, Feet & Teeth

PITRE FUR CO.

18076 HWY 3235
 GALLIANO, LA 70354
 985-632-6829 / 985-258-0355
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

LOUISIANA GATORS

322 BOYLES RD
 WAYNESBORO, MS 39367
 601-735-3504
 Heads & Feet

ELIZABETH A SMALLWOOD

81242 HWY 1083
 BUSH, LA 70431
 504-812-2580
 betty@pelts.com
 www.pelts.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

MANUEL ACOSTA

P O BOX 67
 MATHEWS, LA 70375
 985-532-6408
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

MARK A STATON

111 BOURQUE RD
 LAFAYETTE, LA 70506
 337-988-9964
 www.markstatonco.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

MAURICE C FLETCHER

PO BOX 156
 MATHEWS, LA 70375
 985-532-5284
 Heads & Feet

MICHAEL R RAGUSA

PO BOX 2892
 HAMMOND, LA 70404
 985-345-5246
 lagator@i-55.com
 www.lagator.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
 Alligator Meat/ All Parts

MICHAEL S MCCARTHY

1432 DRAKE LANE
 GRETNA, LA 70056
 504-394-2818
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

MONTY J FLETCHER

258 BOWIE RD
 RACELAND, LA 70394
 985-537-9702
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

PEGGY R ORDOYNE

6165 HWY 308
 LOCKPORT, LA 70374
 985-532-6062
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

PELTS & SKINS LLC

3748 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD
 SUITE 301
 METARIE, LA 70002
 504-831-0698
 www.pelts.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
 Alligator Meat/ All Parts

ROBERT C POPPLEWELL

BRAZOS RATTLESNAKE RNCH
 SANTO, TX 76472
 940-769-2626
 snake@wf.net
 Feet

ROGGWILLER TANNERY OF LA

105 DORSET AVENUE
 LAFAYETTE, LA 70501
 337-237-2895
 rtl@roggwiller.com
 www.roggwiller.com
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

STEELE B MCANDREW

PO BOX 477
 WASHINGTON, LA 70589
 337-826-5631
 Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/
 Alligator Meat/ All Parts

THOMAS A STODDARD

1165 JOHN DUHON LN
HACKBERRY, LA 70645
337-762-4117

lagatorwhls@aol.com

Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

TIMOTHY J DOMANGUE

125 GATOR COURT
GIBSON, LA 70356
985-804-0744

Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins/

Alligator Meat/ All Parts

ULYSSES J GUIDRY

219 W 177TH ST
GALLIANO, LA 70354
985-632-7614

Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

V.I.S. USA COMPANY

508 KEENELAND DRIVE
MADISONVILLE, LA 70447
985-845-0125

visusaco@aol.com

Alligator Meat

WALTER R LATAPIE JR

2811 JACKSON BLVD
CHALMETTE, LA 70043
504-271-4683

Alligator Meat/ Heads

WENDELL NUNEZ

PO BOX 21
PERRY, LA 70575
337-893-7562

Whole Alligators/ Alligator Skins

Tanneries

American Tanning and Leather Company

Christine Plott Redd, Sales and Marketing Director

730 Pimento Avenue, Building A

Griffin, Georgia 30224

Phone: 770-228-4433, extension 205

Fax: 770-228-8229

Website: www.amtan.com

E-mail: cpr@amtan.com

Florida Reposta, Inc.

c/o Sebring Custom Tanning

Sebring Air Terminal Plant, Building 727

Sebring, Florida 33870

Phone: 863-655-1600

E-mail: sebcu@strato.net

Roggwiller Tannery of Louisiana (R.T.L.)

105 Dorset Avenue

Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

Phone: 337-237-2895

Fax: 337-237-9989

Website: www.roggwiller.com

E-mail: rtl@roggwiller.com

Alligator Hunting Supplies

Central Florida Trophy Hunts

1655 Alligator Lane

Cocoa, FL 32926

(321)632-8995

www.centralfloridatrophyhunts.com

G&B Gator Gear

3708 Futch Rd.

Plant City, Florida 33566

Phone: 813-365-3132

Website: alligator-hunting-equipment.com

Gator Guides

Phil Walters

16147 Ravendale Dr.

Tampa, FL 33618

813-968-6154

www.gatorguides.com

gatorstick@tampabay.rr.com

Harpoons and Bangsticks

Gator Guides

Phil Walters
16147 Ravendale Dr.
Tampa, FL 33618
813-968-6154
www.gatorguides.com
gatorstick@tampabay.rr.com

Bud's Bangsticks

1007 Flood Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-468-7711 or 903-679-9856
www.budsbangsticks.com

Scuba Shack

508 Alice St.
Waycross, GA 31501
912-283-6444
www.scubashack.com

Beco Products, Inc.

2010 SW 100 Terrace, Bay D
Miramar, FL 33025
1-800-720-1905
www.beco-products.com

Diving World USA

1754 Tullie Cir.
Atlanta, GA 30329
404-634-4354
www.divingworldusa.com

Blue Water Hunter

73-5577 Kauhola St #1
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
1-808-331-2237
www.bluewaterhunter.com

Central Florida Trophy Hunts

1655 Alligator Lane
Cocoa, FL 32926
(321)632-8995
www.centralfloridatrophyhunts.com

Local Taxidermists

Coop's Skull Works

Specializing in European skull
mounts with dermestid beetles.
shannoncooper76@gmail.com
Ph. 662-816-1041
www.coopsskullworks.com

McGuire's Taxidermy

1206 Cynthia Rd.
Clinton, MS 39056
Ph. 601-925-8775
james@mtaxidermy.com
mtaxidermy.com

Morgan's Taxidermy

1890 Weeks Lane
Brookhaven, MS 39601
Ph. 601-833-2315

Tim Taylor Taxidermy

228 N. Central Ave.
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Ph. 601-573-0613

Hooks

Bass Pro Shops

1-800-976-6344
www.basspro.com

Delta Net and Twine

3148 Hwy 1 South
Greenville, MS 38701
1-800-255-5917
www.deltanetandtwine.com

Dragonfly Lures

701-367-8411
www.dragonflylures.com

Shark River Mail Order

P O Box 115
Avon, NJ 07717
1-800-223-6481
www.srmo.com

Jann's Netcraft

3350 Briarfield Blvd.
Maumee, Ohio 43537
419-868-8288
www.jannsnecraft.com

Catfish Connection

P O Box 476
Pana, IL 62557
1-800-929-5025
www.catfishconnection.com

Burch Fishing Tackle, Inc.

421 E. College St.
Florence, AL 35630
www.eburch.biz
256-764-3183

Snares

Wildlife Control Supplies

P O Box 538
East Granby, CT 06026
1-877-684-7262
www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com

The Snare Shop

858 East US Hwy 30
Carroll, IA
712-792-0600
1-866-357-6273
www.snareshop.com

R-P Outdoors

P O Box 1170
505 Polk St.
Mansfield, LA 71052
1-800-762-2706
www.rpoutdoors.com

Richard Nations

Clinton, MS
Ph. 601-863-6838
richard.nations@ng.army.mil

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

205 West Rankin St.
Jackson, MS 39201
1-800-647-5368
www.forestry-suppliers.com
(snares, catch-poles, lights)

Bowfishing Equipment

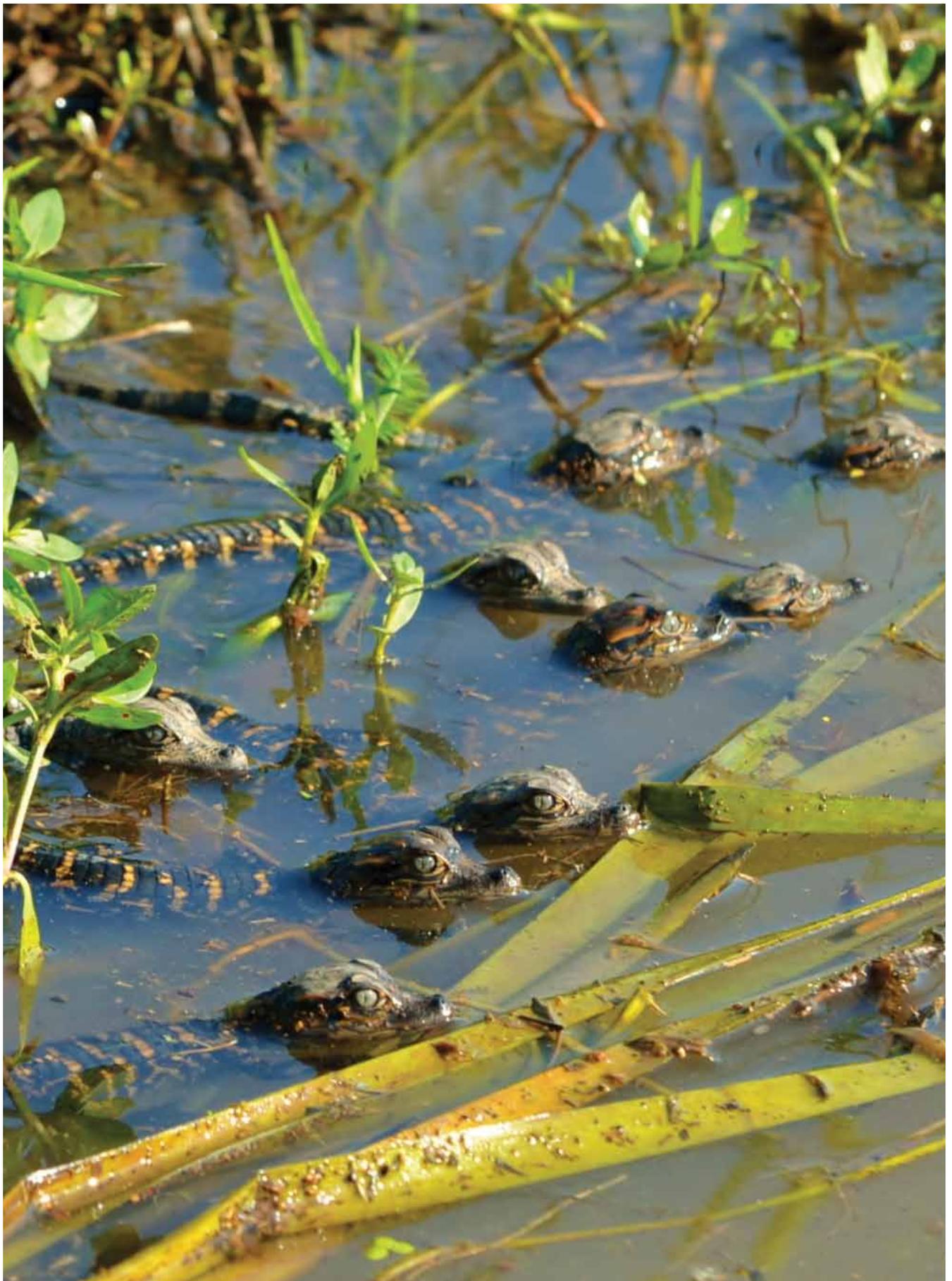
Backwater Outdoors, LLC

6239 Hwy 72 East
Gurley, AL 35748
1-866-451-4758
www.backwaterbowfishing.com

AMS Bowfishing

E P 1064 hemlock Lane
Stratford, WI 54484
www.amsbowfishing.com

The MDWFP does not endorse or recommend any previously listed companies over other existing companies that may sell similar products or provide similar services. The MDWFP encourages all hunters to contact local businesses, sporting goods stores, and other web sites in order to locate and purchase any necessary alligator hunting equipment. Reference to businesses and web sites are only provided as a source of additional information.



Other Alligator Information

Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council

www.alligatorfur.com

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

www.myfwc.com/gators/

Alligator Skins

www.alligator-skins.com/

The American Alligator in Florida

<http://agrigator.ifas.ufl.edu/gators/>

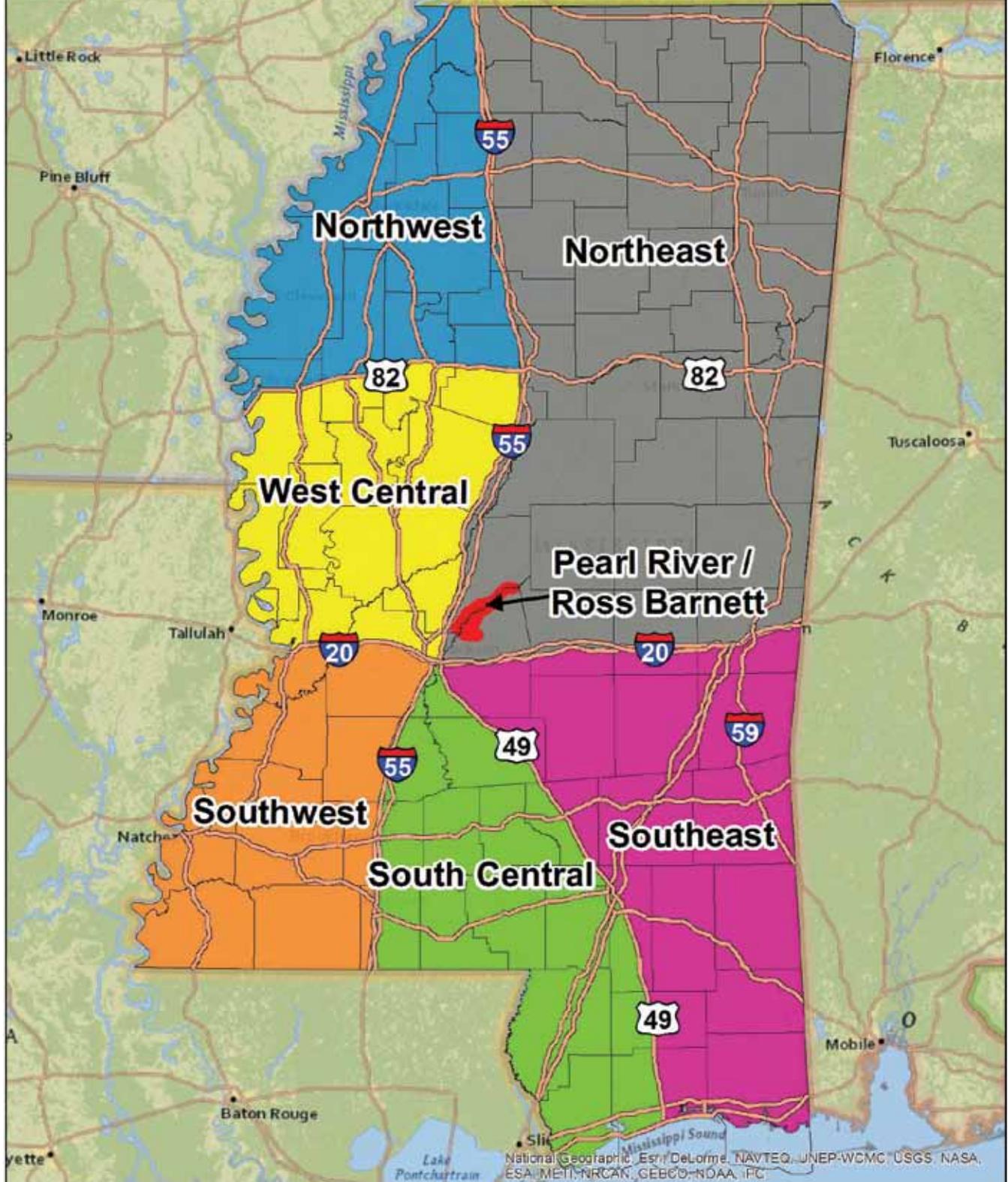
Alligators in Mississippi

Find articles about alligators in Mississippi on the MDWFP Alligator Program Webpage-

[www.mdwfp.com/alligator:](http://www.mdwfp.com/alligator)

1. Alligator Nest Hatch Videos
2. Alligator Tagging and Tales
3. Alligators in Mississippi Then and Now
4. Recovery of the American Alligator in Mississippi
5. Hunting at a new level: Mississippi's first alligator hunting season
6. Alligators – Neighbors or Nuisance Pests?
7. Feeding Alligators:
It Could Cost You an Arm and a Leg
8. What's the Problem with Alligators? PEOPLE

PUBLIC WATER ALLIGATORTM HUNTING ZONES



PUBLIC WATERS ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS - 2016

RULE 5.3 ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON FOR PUBLIC WATERS.

- A. An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) hunting season will be opened in the public waterways of the State of Mississippi and is hereby referred to as the following with described restrictions.
1. Legal public water for public water alligator hunting shall be any “public waterway”, as designated by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and all associated portions of each designated public waterway drainage that are not privately owned and which have navigable access from the designated waterway.
 2. Legal public water, as described above, will be open for alligator hunting from 12 p.m. on the last Friday in August and ending at 12 p.m. on the Monday, 10 days thereafter, for persons issued special permits as described below.
 3. PUBLIC WATERWAY HUNTING ZONE DESCRIPTIONS:
 - a. Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone - The public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District only within the area north of a line from Fannin Landing to Channel Marker “A” to the Natchez Trace Overlook on the main lake of Ross Barnett Reservoir, and south of Lowhead Dam on the Pearl River (excluding all areas of the main lake that are west of the Natchez Trace, i.e. North Bay and Twin Harbors). All other portions of Ross Barnett Reservoir are closed to alligator hunting including Pelahatchie Bay.
 - b. Northwest Zone – North of US Hwy. 82 and west of Interstate 55.
 - c. West Central Zone – South of US Hwy. 82, west of Interstate 55, and north of Interstate 20.
 - d. Northeast Zone – East of Interstate 55, north of Interstate 20, and excluding the area described as the Pearl River/Ross Barnett Zone. This zone does not include any portion of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, except portions of the Pearl River south of the spillway, north of Lowhead Dam, and Pelahatchie Creek east of Highway 471 are included in the Northeast Zone only. All other portions of Ross Barnett Reservoir are closed to alligator hunting including Pelahatchie Bay
 - e. Southwest Zone – South of Interstate 20 and west of Interstate 55..
 - f. South Central Zone – South of Interstate 20, west of MS Hwy 49, east of Interstate 55.
 - g. Southeast Zone – South of Interstate 20 and east of MS Hwy 49.
 3. Public Waters shall include the following public waters of Mississippi within each of open hunting zones:
 - a. Lake Ferguson (Washington County) in the Northwest Zone
 - b. Beulah Lake (Bolivar County) in the Northwest Zone

- c. Lake Whittington (Bolivar County) in the Northwest Zone
- d. Eagle Lake (Warren County) in the West Central Zone
- e. Chotard Lake (Warren and Issaquena Counties) in the West Central Zone
- f. Albemarle Lake (Issaquena County) in the West Central Zone
- g. Tennessee Lake (Issaquena County) in the West Central Zone
- h. Lake Washington (Washington County) in the West Central Zone
- i. Bee Lake (Humphreys County) in the West Central Zone
- j. Little Eagle Lake (Humphreys County) in the West Central Zone
- k. Dump Lake (Yazoo County) in the West Central Zone
- l. Lake George (Yazoo County) in the West Central Zone
- m. Lake Mary (Wilkinson County) in the Southwest Zone
- n. Okatibbee Lake (Lauderdale County) in the Northeast Zone
- o. Crystal Lake (Rankin County) in the Northeast Zone

B. PERMITS:

1. Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may purchase an Alligator Possession Permit (Permit) (*see License Requirements*).
2. Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).
3. Persons must have a valid resident Mississippi hunting license and a Mississippi Alligator Hunting License to purchase a permit.
4. Any Lifetime License holder may purchase a Permit.
5. Alligator permits and/or licenses are required of anyone 16 years of age or older. There are no exemptions for over 65 years of age or physical disability.
6. Permits will be available for purchase on a first-come-first-serve basis beginning the second Tuesday in July each year.
7. All permits must be purchased electronically through the Department website, www.mdwfp.com.
8. All permit sales require immediate payment and all sales are non-refundable and non-transferable.

9. Persons are limited to one (1) permit per person.

10. Persons must provide a valid email address for notifications from the Department.

C. TRAINING COURSE: Attendance to a Mississippi Alligator Hunting Training Course is not mandatory. A voluntary attendance Alligator Training Course will be provided. Registration is mandatory to attend and may be limited by availability of seating.

D. HUNTING REGULATIONS: (All Zones)

1. Persons eligible: Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Permit (*see License Requirements*). Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).

2. Bag limit: Each person receiving an Alligator Possession Permit will be allowed to harvest two (2) alligators four (4) feet in length or longer, only one (1) of which may exceed seven (7) feet in length.

3. Capture and Dispatch Methods:

a. Use of bait is prohibited.

b. Alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator.

c. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the head, neck, or leg in a manner that the alligator is controlled.

d. Capture methods are restricted to hand-held snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/buoy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/buoy, bowfishing arrow tips only, no broadheads, and no tips containing cartridges, or other explosive devices).

e. The use of fishing lures or other devices (with hooks attached) for the purpose of catching alligators in the mouth is prohibited.

f. All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture.

g. Any alligator that is captured with a harpoon or bowfishing equipment must be reduced to the bag and may not be released.

h. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator are restricted to long-barreled, shoulder-fired shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. No pistols or rifles are allowed.

- i. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator.
- j. No other firearm or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting party.
- k. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 100 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite.
- l. Any person or vessel that possesses equipment used to capture or harvest an alligator must be in the immediate vicinity of a person who possesses a valid Alligator Possession Permit at any time while located in the hunting area.
- m. The possession of alcohol or alcoholic beverages is prohibited for any person in the act of alligator hunting, nor may it be contained in any vessel in the act of alligator hunting.
- n. Nothing within this Rule shall supersede any other municipal laws, including discharge of firearms within a municipality.
- o. No person may hunt alligators within any public lake or pond that the governing entity does not specifically allow alligator hunting (i.e. state parks, state lakes, state wildlife management areas, federal refuges, municipal lakes and parks, etc.). However, public waterways, as designated by the MDEQ, that exist within MDWFP operated WMAs are not closed to alligator hunting, unless specifically noted.

E. Harvest Reporting and Tagging:

1. Tagging:

- a. Two Temporary Possession Tags will be provided with the purchase of an Alligator Possession Permit.
- b. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tags are not valid without a current Alligator Possession Permit.
- c. A Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator's leg immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting.

2. On-line Reporting:

- a. Each permittee must submit an on-line harvest report and survey via www.mdwfp.com.
- b. A report must be completed within 24 hours of harvest of any and each alligator.
- c. Failure to comply will result in loss of alligator hunting privileges the following year.
- d. Federal CITES tags will be mailed to permittees upon receipt of completed Harvest Report.

F. License and Permit Requirements:

1. Alligator Hunting Permittee:

- a. All alligator hunting permittees must purchase and have on their person an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit.
- b. In addition, a combination resident hunting/fishing license is required to purchase the Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License.
- c. Residents 65 years of age or older must possess a Senior Exempt Lifetime License.
- d. Residents who meet disability license exemptions must possess a Disability Exempt License.
- e. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars (\$25).
- f. The cost of the Alligator Possession Permit is one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150).
- g. A “WMA User Permit” is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are accessing a public waterway via any Department operated Wildlife Management Area.
- h. All alligator licenses and permits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

2. Alligator Hunting Assistant:

- a. Anyone, any age, resident or non-resident may participate as an alligator hunting assistant of a permit holder, as provided below:
 - i. All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. There are no exemptions.
 - ii. Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a Non-resident-All Game Hunting License and an Alligator Hunting License. There are no exemptions.
 - iii. Residents 65 years of age or older must possess a Senior Exempt Lifetime License.
 - iv. Residents who meet disability license exemptions must possess a Disability Exempt License.
- b. A “WMA User Permit” is required for all persons, unless otherwise exempt, who are accessing a public waterway via any Department operated Wildlife Management Area.
- c. All alligator licenses and permits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

H. Any person who hunts or attempts to hunt alligators without obtaining a permit and/or license as per regulations set forth herein shall be guilty of a Class I violation of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-47 and upon conviction shall be punished as provided in MISS. CODE. ANN. §49-7-141.

I. Any violation of any other provision of this Rule shall be a Class III violation and punishable as provided in MISS. CODE. ANN. §49-7-101.

History: Revised March 2016.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-47.

PRIVATE LANDS ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS – 2015

RULE 5.2 ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON FOR PRIVATE LANDS.

- A. An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) hunting season, hereby referred to as the “Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season,” will be opened on private lands, according to restrictions below:
- B. Location: Private lands only of Adams, Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Copiah, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Leake, Leflore, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, and Yazoo Counties.
- C. Dates: Starting at 12:00 Noon CDT on the last Friday in August and ending at 6 a.m. on Monday, 24 days thereafter.
- D. Applicant restrictions and requirements:
1. Only one (1) application may be submitted per property.
 2. The applicant’s property must contain a minimum of 20 acres of privately owned permanent surface water in an open county to qualify for an Alligator Harvest Voucher. (Public water is not eligible).
 3. Alligator Harvest Vouchers will be issued at the rate of one (1) voucher for the first 20 acres of surface water and one (1) additional voucher is available for each additional 100 acres of surface water in contiguous ownership by the applicant
 4. Upon receipt of the application, surface water acreage of the applicant’s property will be evaluated by the MDWFP. The rate of permit issuance may be increased or decreased based upon supporting biological information as provided by the Department
 5. Applicants must obtain and submit an application with the following information by July 1:
 - a. A private lands alligator hunting permit application.
 - b. Proof of ownership by providing a copy of the landowners current property tax receipt for the property for which the applicant is submitting.
 - c. A copy of the property deed with a complete property description.
 - d. In addition to the above, a leaseholder may submit applications signed by the landowner and must provide a copy of a current exclusive hunting rights lease agreement, and each of the following:
 - i. A legible map or aerial photo of the property labeled with property boundaries; or
 - ii. A county map indicating the general location of the applicant’s property.

6. Obtaining Applications are available on-line at www.mdwfp.com/alligator. They may also be obtained at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Jackson Office, or at any MDWFP Regional Office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Completed applications must be received at the MDWFP Jackson Office by July 1. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered.

7. Mail completed applications to:

MDWFP - Wildlife Bureau

Attention: Private Lands – Alligator

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211-6374.

E. Private Lands Alligator Harvest Voucher:

1. Each Private Lands Alligator Harvest Voucher (PLAHV) is valid upon the purchase of one (1) Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit (PLAPP), which is valid for the harvest of two (2) alligators per bag limit restrictions (see section H Bag Limit). A separate PLAPP is required for each PLAHV.

2. Qualifying applicants will be mailed a PLAHV for each alligator hunting permit allowed for each property along with alligator hunting regulations and instructions.

3. The landowner may transfer any or all PLAHVs to anyone (Resident or Non- resident) 16 years of age or older.

4. Each PLAHV must be signed by the landowner and the transferee and completely filled out with the transferee's personal information.

F. Training Course:

1. Each possessor of a PLAHV is recommended to attend and complete an Alligator Hunting Training Course provided by the Department.

2. The course location, date, and time will be announced as soon as possible.

G. Harvest Reporting and Tagging:

1. Temporary Alligator Possession Tag(s) (TAPT) will be issued with the purchase of each PLAPP.

2. The TAPT must be attached to each alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting dispatched and prior to moving or transporting.

3. Only damaged or broken TAPTs will be replaced, at the discretion of the Department.

4. An on-line Alligator Harvest Report is mandatory. Failure to complete a timely report will result in revocation of the properties application and subsequent hunting permits in the following year.

5. The Alligator Harvest Report must be submitted to the Department no later than September 30.
6. Upon harvest validation, a federal CITES tag will be mailed to the hunter. The TAPT must remain attached to the alligator until the CITES tag is attached.
7. No alligator hide, or parts may be transported across state lines without proper licenses, permits, and tags.
8. No alligator hide, meat, or parts may be transported within the state without proper licenses, permits, and tags.
9. Violations of alligator tagging/reporting regulations may include federal violations.

H. Bag limit:

1. Each PLAHV together with a PLAPP possessed by a person allows the harvest of two (2) alligators four (4) feet in length or longer.
2. Only one (1) alligator may exceed seven (7) feet in total length per permit.
3. All alligators must be pursued/hunted/taken from the property registered by the permitted landowner.
4. No alligators may be pursued/hunted/taken from public waters.

I. Capture and Dispatch Methods:

1. The use of bait or baited hooks is prohibited.
2. During daylight hours:
 - a. During daylight hours (from ½ hour prior to sunrise until ½ hour after sunset) unrestrained alligators may only be taken with:
 - i. Center-fire rifles chambered in 0.277 in./7.035mm (.270/7mm) or larger and shotguns (12 or 10 gauge only) with slugs only.
 - ii. “Bangsticks” chambered in .38 caliber or larger may be used.
 - b. No firearm may be discharged across or into any public waters.
 - c. Any dead or wounded alligators must be retrieved immediately. Hunters must make a reasonable prudent effort to retrieve any wounded alligator. Failure to do so is unlawful.

d. No shotgun ammunition other than slugs and #6 shot or smaller may be in possession of the hunting party.

e. Nighttime capture methods are also legal during daylight hours.

3. During nighttime hours:

a. During nighttime hours (from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise) alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator.

b. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the head, neck, or leg in a manner that the alligator is controlled.

c. Capture methods are restricted to handheld snares, snatch hooks (handheld or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/buoy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/buoy, bowfishing arrow tips only, no broadheads, and no tips containing cartridges, or other explosive devises).

d. All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture.

e. Any alligator that is captured with a harpoon or bowfishing equipment must be reduced to the bag and may not be released.

f. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator during nighttime hours are restricted to long-barreled, shoulder-fired shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator. No rifles or pistols are allowed.

g. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 100 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite.

J. License Requirements:

1. No one may pursue/hunt alligators on any private property unless the property is permitted by the Department.

2. Anyone hunting alligators on property permitted by the Department must be in the immediate vicinity of a holder of a Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit.

K. Private Lands Alligator Hunting Permit (PLAPP):

1. The cost of the PLAPP is \$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents.

2. The holder of a PLAPP must also purchase and have on their person a combination resident or nonresident hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License.

3. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars (\$25).

4. To possess a PLAPP you must be a qualifying landowner with a PLAHV or have a PLAHV transferred to your name by a qualifying landowner (*see section E. Private Lands Alligator Hunting Voucher*).

L. Resident Alligator Hunting Assistant: All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination-type hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License (\$25).

M. Non-resident Alligator Hunting Assistant: Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a Non-resident All Game-type Hunting License and an Alligator Hunting License (\$25).

N. Any holder of a valid Alligator Hunting License may partake in any part of the alligator hunting process while in the immediate vicinity of a holder of a PLAPP on permitted property.

O. All licenses are non-transferable and non-refundable.

P. Any person who hunts or attempts to hunt alligators without obtaining a permit and/or license as per regulations set forth herein shall be guilty of a Class I violation of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-47 and upon conviction shall be punished according to MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-141.

Q. Any violation of any other provision of this Rule shall be a Class III violation and punishable as provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-101.

History: Revised March 2016

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-47.

BOATING REGULATIONS

Boating Courses are available - Check online: www.mdwfp.com

Know what Mississippi law requires regarding:

- Boat Registration • Boat and Motor Titling • Required Equipment • Education Requirements

Boat Registration

In Mississippi, all boats equipped with propulsion machinery and sailboats (anchored or not) which use the public waters of the state must be registered and numbered for identification. A person must register his/her boat no later than 10 days after the actual purchase. All boat registrations are valid for a period of three (3) years from the last day of the month of receipt of the original or transfer application. You must have your registration card on board the vessel at all times.

How To Apply For Registration Of A Boat

Owners of new or used boats may get the registration form at any local county tax collector's office, most places where boats are sold or serviced, MDWFP District Office, or online at www.mdwfp.com. Complete the form, attach any necessary documents, sign and forward to the Department with appropriate fee.

To register a new boat include the sales invoice showing proof of payment of Mississippi sales tax. If the boat was purchased in another state you may pay Mississippi state sales tax at the local county tax collector's office. Include this proof of payment with the registration application. If registering or transferring ownership of a used boat include a notarized bill of sale describing the boat being purchased. If the bill of sale is not notarized it must be signed by two witnesses. If a boat was previously registered and titled in a state that requires mandatory titling you must also include the previous state's registration and title.

The registration application requires a Hull Identification Number. This number should contain 12 digits if the boat was manufactured after November, 1972. Examples of proper 12 digit Hull Identification Numbers will be: ABC456781272 or ABC45678A484. Boats manufactured prior to 1972 will have a serial number.

How To Renew A Boat Registration

Once a boat is registered a notice to renew the registration will be mailed to the owner by the MDWFP. For convenience and faster service you may renew your boat registration wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, by calling 1-800-5GO-HUNT (1-800-546-4868) which is available 24 hours a day, or online at www.mdwfp.com. You may also mail your renewal to the MDWFP Boat Registration Department. You should notify MDWFP Boat Registration Department of any address changes.

How to Obtain a Duplicate Boat Registration

If you lose your boat registration card and/or decals or if you need an additional boat registration card you may obtain a duplicate wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold or

by calling 1-800-5GO-HUNT (1-800-546-4868) which is available 24 hours a day.

Registration, Transfer, Renewal, Duplicate & Boat inspection Fees

Fees for original, transfer of ownership, renewal, delivery, dealer, duplicate registrations and inspection fee are as follows:

Less than 16 feet	\$10.20
16 feet but less than 26 feet	\$25.20
26 feet to less than 40 feet	\$47.70
40 feet and over	\$47.70
Dealer Number	\$40.20
Duplicate	\$7.70
Boat Inspection	\$12.70

Assignment of Registration Number

After processing a boat registration the department will assign a number to be displayed on the boat. This number is also noted on a water resistant, pocket-sized boat registration card which is mailed to the owner. This card must be on board the boat when in operation. In addition, boat owners will receive two (2) validating decals of appropriate color. The emblem should be displayed within six inches (6") of the number (See Boat Registration Numbering System and Proper Display). The decals correlate with the year the boat registration will expire. When MDWFP issues a number for a boat, that number becomes permanently assigned to that boat and remains as identification until such time as it is canceled, destroyed or abandoned. The same number will also be used for identification if the boat is transferred to a new owner.

Boat Numbering System and Proper Display

The numbering system consists of three parts: the first part consists of the symbol MI, which designates Mississippi; the second part consists of a numerical group having a maximum of four digits; and the third part an alphabetical group having a maximum of two letters; each part shall be separated by hyphens or equivalent spaces.

The assigned number shall be painted on or attached to each side of the bow of the vessel for which it was issued. The numbers shall be placed on each side of the forward half of the vessel in such position as to provide clear legibility for identification.

The numbers shall read from left to right and shall be in block characters of good proportion not less than three inches (3") in height. The numbers shall be of a color which will contrast with the color of the background and so maintained as to

be clearly visible and legible, i.e., dark numbers on a light background, or light numbers on a dark background. No other numbers shall be carried on the bow of such vessel. The decals should be displayed within six (6") inches of the numbers.

Example of Correct Number and Decal Display

Validating decal should be displayed within 6 inches of the number.



Sold or Lost/Stolen Boat

Should you sell your boat, you are required to report such transaction to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, who issues the identification number. The new owner must, within ten (10) days, make application to transfer the registration. If a numbered boat is lost, stolen or abandoned, the owner should first report it to the local authorities having jurisdiction then report to Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Boat & Motor Titling

Boat and outboard motor titling is available in Mississippi but is not mandatory. Boat and motor titling is an optional choice for lending institutions and boat owners. The cost is \$12.70 each for an original title, transfer of title or duplicate title. A boat must be registered prior to being titled. If the title is submitted indicating a lien the original title will be sent to the lending institution until the lien is satisfied. Once the lien is satisfied an original title will be provided to the owner. When a titled boat is sold, the owner must provide the original title to the purchaser along with a bill of sale in order for the boat to be eligible for transfer of ownership. Boat and Motor title applications may be obtained online at www.mdwfp.com, through your lending institution or the MDWFP Boat Registration Department.

Number Non-Transferable

The number awarded a boat by the Department shall become a permanent number of the boat, and will remain with the boat until such time as it is canceled, destroyed or abandoned.

Selling A Boat

Should you sell your boat, you are required to report such transaction to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, who issued your number. The new owner must, within ten (10) days, make application to the Department for a Transfer of numbers.

Change of Residence

If you change your residence, notify the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Reciprocity

Each state is required to recognize the validity of a certificate of registration which has been lawfully issued in another state. If the boat is kept in another state longer than 60 consecutive days the state may require compliance with its numbering system or law. Also, non-residents can operate on Mississippi waters sixty (60) consecutive days.

Lost or Stolen Boats

If a numbered boat is lost, stolen or abandoned, the owner should report it to the local authorities having jurisdiction (and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks).

Required Safety Certificate

No motorboat may be operated by any person under the age of 12 years unless he possesses a boating education certificate on board, is accompanied by someone who is at least 21 years of age, and is qualified and capable of operating the same. Persons born after June 30, 1980 must have a boating education certificate on board while the boat is in operation. This applies to the boat operator, not passengers.

Required Equipment

Every vessel shall have on board a Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device for each person aboard such vessel, and every person 12 years or younger on board a motorboat, sailboat, or vessel which measures less than 26 feet in length shall wear a Type I, II, or III Coast Guard approved personal flotation device when such motorboat, sailboat, or vessel is underway. For the purpose of this section, "underway" shall mean at all times except when a motorboat, sailboat or vessel is anchored, moored, or aground. Every vessel shall have lights during the hours of darkness, which comply with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of its classification. Such vessel shall not be operated unless in a safe and seaworthy condition; the owner and operator shall employ such safety devices as may be necessary for the safe operation of such vessel, including an efficient natural or mechanical ventilating system when necessary for safe operation. In addition to the requirements imposed by this section, all vessels shall comply with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of such classification.

Regulations applicable to specific classes of vessels may be obtained by writing the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and in such case the length of the vessel must be known. The basic requirements for vessels operated on the territorial waters of the State of Mississippi are as follows:

Class A (under 16 feet): Wearable Type I, II, III

1. A Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device.
2. Every person 12 years or younger is required to wear a Coast Guard approved PFD (see REQUIRED EQUIPMENT).

3. Red and Green running lights mounted on the bow: green to starboard (right side) and red to port (left side) and an all around white light on the stern, if operated after sunset.
4. Fire Extinguisher, if inboard engine, enclosed or permanently affixed fuel compartments.
5. Each person riding or being towed by a PWC must wear a Type I, Type II, or Type III, USCG approved PFD (personal flotation device).

Class I (16 to less than 26 feet)

1. Same as Class A except must have at least one throwable (Type IV) PFD per boat.
2. Sound producing device.
3. Fire Extinguisher, if inboard engine, enclosed, or permanently affixed fuel compartments.

Class II (26 to less than 40 feet)

Basic equipment requirements are the same as Class I.

Class III (40 to 65 feet)

Basic equipment requirements are the same as Class I.

For information on a free Safe Boating Class please call (601) 432-2181

Any person who violates any provision of the Boating Act is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to the following penalties: for the violation of any of the provisions of the law regarding boating accidents, reckless operation, water skiing, etc., a fine not to exceed \$250.00 and imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days or both.

No person shall change or in any manner mutilate or deface any Hull Identification Number awarded a vessel, or any motor numbered or otherwise stamped, cast, or forged numbers or letter or other marks upon any vessel, outboard motor, boat or boat trailer, or assist in so doing, or having knowledge of such change, fail to report the same to the Boating Division of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Violation of this provision will result in a fine not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days, or both.

All vessels, outboard motors, boats and trailers appearing to have awarded numbers or identification numbers or marks which have been changed contrary to the boating act shall be seized. Upon the seizure of such property, forfeiture proceedings shall be instituted.

For the violation of any provision by the Boating Act, a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$250.00 shall be levied.

The owner and/or operator of a vessel shall be civilly liable for negligent failure to comply with any of the provisions of the Boating Act.

Speed and Reckless Information

No vessel shall be operated within this state in a reckless or negligent manner or at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the then existing circumstances or when the operator is so physically or mentally incapacitated as to be in-

capable of safely operating such vessel, or while the operator is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics, or when such vessel is overloaded beyond its reasonable carrying capacity.

Enforcement

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has officers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Mississippi Boating Act and to promote water safety among boating organizations, clubs, etc., in setting up special rules and regulations where such are needed.

Water Skiing

There shall be two (2) persons in a boat which is towing a water skier - one to operate the boat and the other to observe the progress and safety of the skier. The observer shall be above ten (10) years of age. It is highly recommended that the skier wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver.

Accidents

In the case of a boating accident involving collision, or other casualty involving a motorboat or vessel, while operated upon the waters of this state, the operator thereof, if the collision, accident or other casualty results in death to any person, injury causing any person to require medical treatment beyond first-aid, or damage to property in excess of \$100.00, shall file with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks an accident report with a full description of the collision, accident or other casualty, including such other information as is required under the provisions of the Boating Act. A "boating accident" includes, but is not limited to, capsizing, collision, foundering, flooding, fire, explosion and the disappearance of a vessel other than by theft. Whenever death results from a boating accident a written report shall be submitted within 48 hours. For every other reportable boating accident, a written report shall be submitted within five (5) days after such accident by the operator(s) of the boat(s). It shall be the duty of the operator of any vessel involved in a boating accident to remain at the scene of such accident until he has rendered all necessary aid and assistance. This shall include taking or the making of arrangements for taking any person involved in such accident to a physician, surgeon or hospital for medical surgical or hospital treatment, if it is requested by such injured person. It is further the duty of the operator of any vessel involved in a boating accident required to be reported under this act to report the same as herein provided.

Accident report forms can be obtained by contacting the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. **The submission of this report is very IMPORTANT and is required under penalty of law.**

ALCOHOL SAFETY: In Mississippi, it is illegal to operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you have a blood alcohol content of 0.08% or greater, you are presumed intoxicated. By operating on the state's waterways, you are deemed to have given consent to be tested for alcohol if operating under the influence.

Accidents

In the case of a boating accident involving collision, or other casualty involving a motorboat or vessel, while operated upon the waters of this state, the operator thereof, if the collision, accident or other casualty results in death to any person, injury causing any person to require medical treatment beyond first-aid, or damage to property in excess of \$100.00, shall file with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks an accident report with a full description of the collision, accident or other casualty, including such other information as is required under the provisions of the Boating Act. A "boating accident" includes, but is not limited to, capsizing, collision, foundering, flooding, fire, explosion and the disappearance of a vessel other than by theft. Whenever death results from a boating accident a written report shall be submitted within 48 hours. For every other reportable boating accident, a written

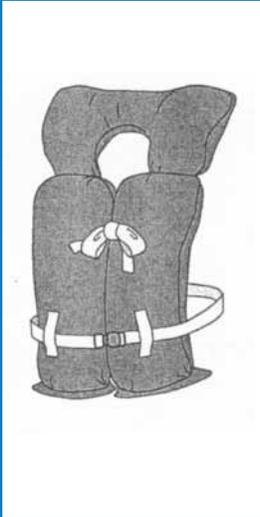
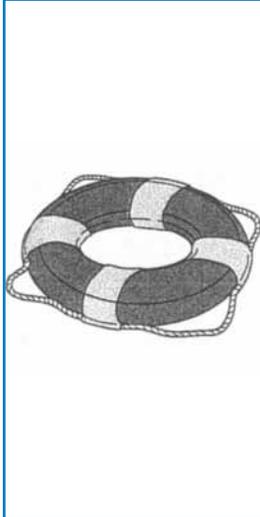
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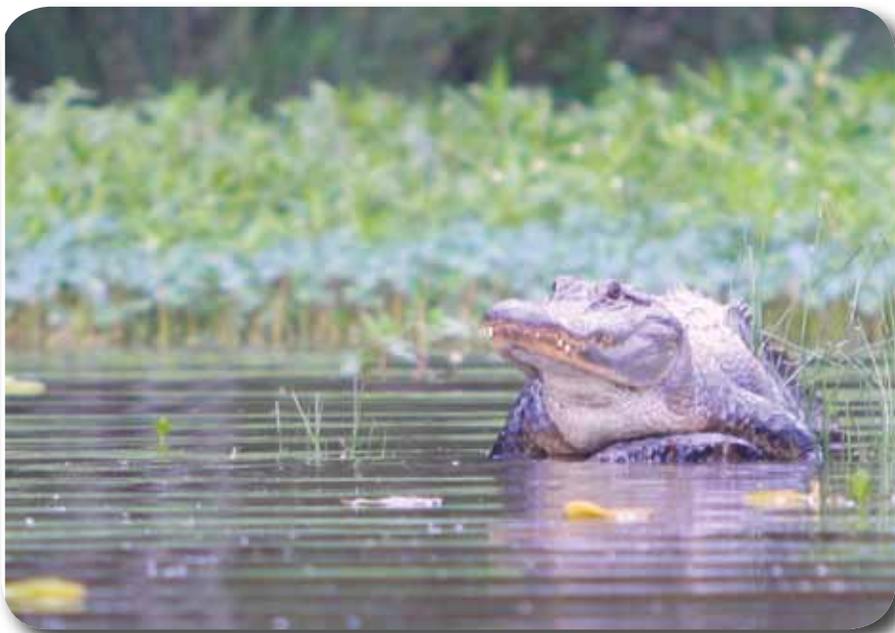
Accident report forms can be obtained by contacting the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. **The submission of this report is very IMPORTANT and is required under penalty of law.**

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Before you buy any PFD check to make sure that it is Coast Guard approved.

The certification is for your protection. The types of Personal Flotation Devices are as follows:

PFD Type Number	PFD Type Number	PFD Type Number	PFD Type Number	PFD Type Number
Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type V
Description Device	Description Device	Description Device	Description Device	Description Device
Life preserver with 22 pounds of buoyancy and designed to turn most unconscious wearers face-up in water.	Buoyant vest with at least 15.5 pounds of buoyancy and designed to turn many unconscious wearers face-up in water.	Buoyant vest or jacket with at least 15.5 pounds of buoyancy. Not designed to turn an unconscious wearer face-up in water	A throwable device such as the ring buoy or the familiar buoyant cushion. This is in addition to their wearable.	Device designed for specific restricted use; hybrid device must be worn to be counted as a regulation PFD.
Required for all Recreational Boats	Required for all Recreational Boats	Required for all Recreational Boats	Required for all Recreational Boats	Required for all Recreational Boats
				



The MDWFP is an equal opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. If anyone believes they have been subjected 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 the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Office of Administration Services, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211-6374, or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1801 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20507.

