

PREPARED BY: ANDREW ARNETT, ALLIGATOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# 2024 ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON REPORT



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LYNN POSEY

COVER PHOTO BY: MICHAEL A. KELLY



# ALLIGATOR HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI

There are two alligator hunting seasons offered in Mississippi and one special seasons:

1. Public Waters Alligator Season
2. Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season
3. Special Season on Pelahatchie Bay on the Ross Barnett Reservoir

Permits are offered as a “special permit” only and require an application process for both.

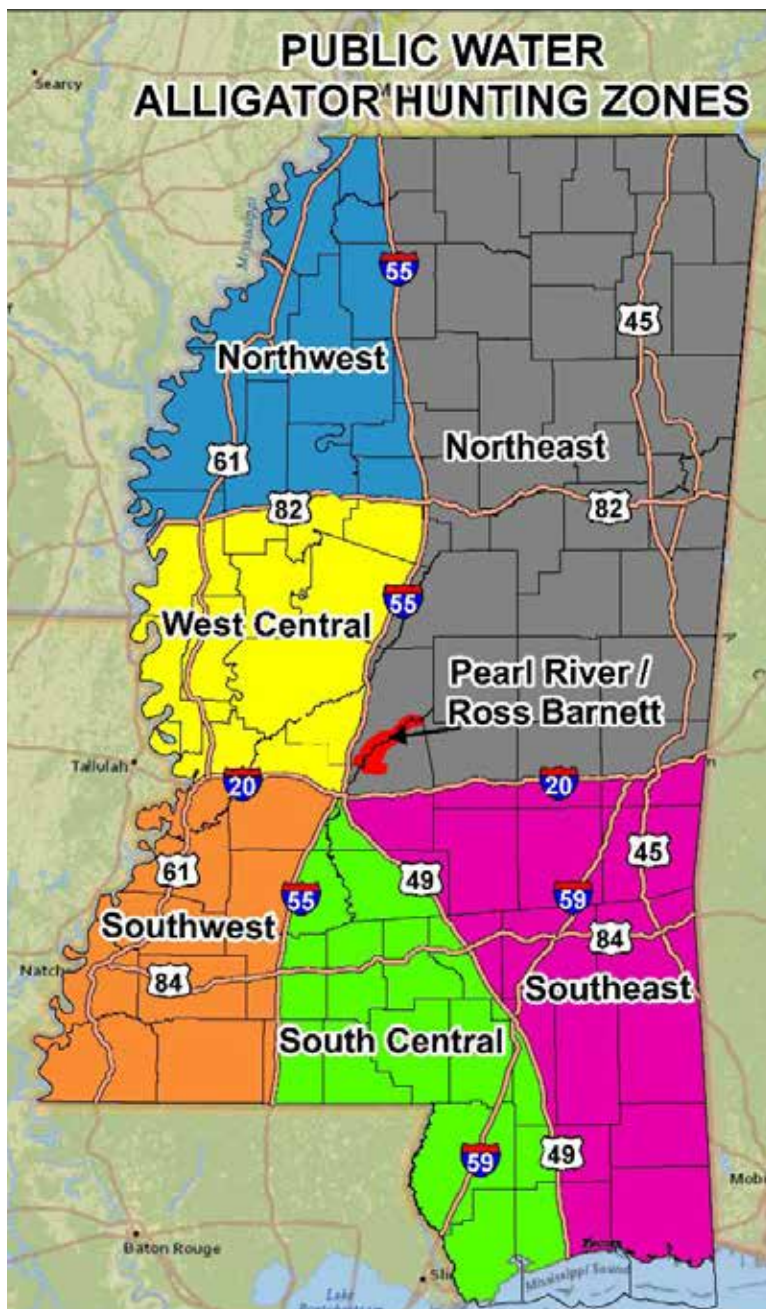
## PUBLIC WATERS ALLIGATOR SEASON

### PERMITTING PROCESS

Applications were accepted by an on-line electronic process from June 3-10, 2024. An electronic processing fee of \$2.39 was charged for each application. Applicants can only apply once in one alligator hunting zone of their choice. There are seven Alligator Hunting Zones. Applicants must be residents at least 16 years of age and must possess a prerequisite Mississippi hunting license. Nonresidents who possess a valid Lifetime Hunting License are eligible to apply.

### DRAWING/PERMITTING PROCESS

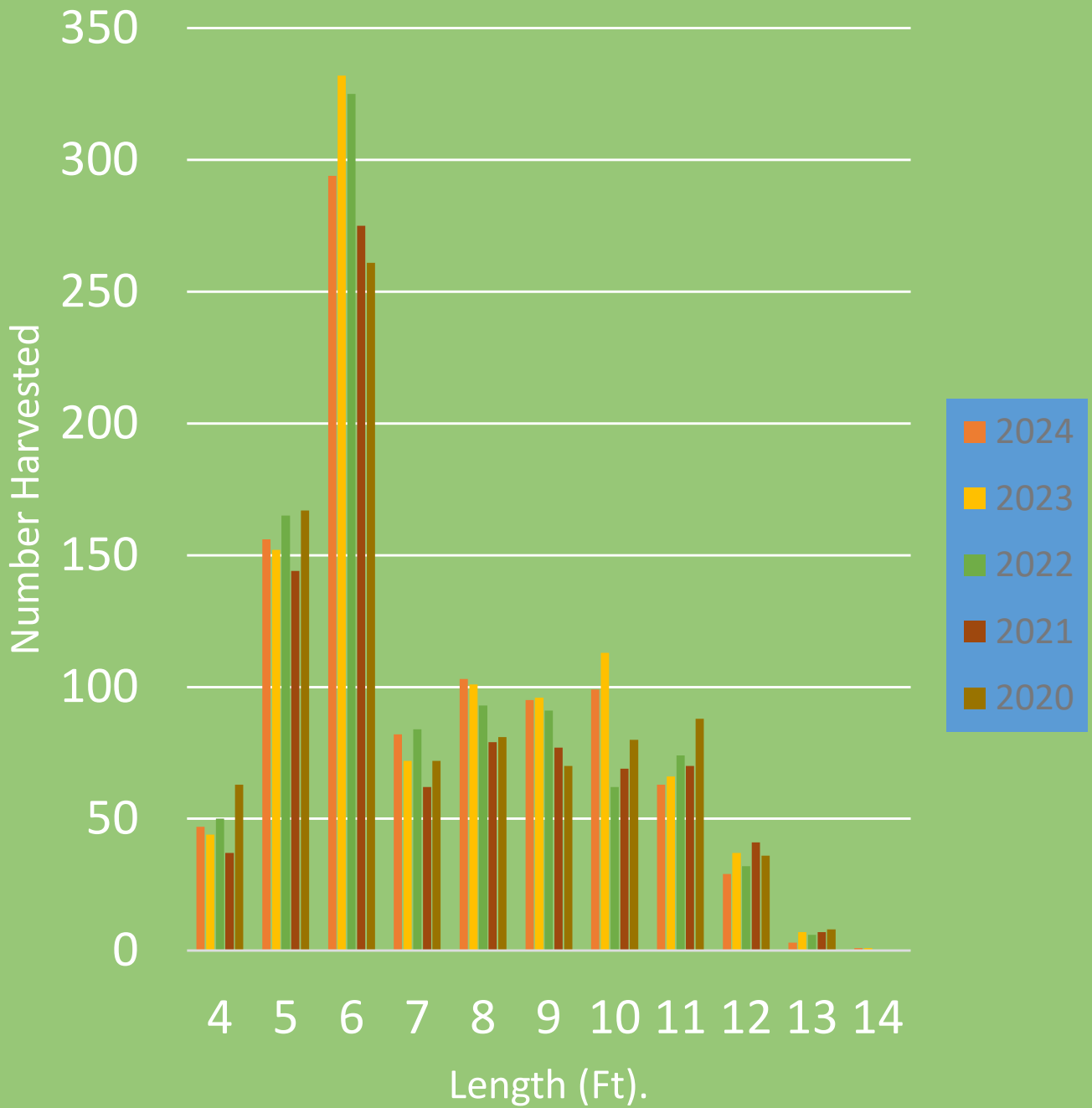
A third-party entity, MSI, conducts a computer based random drawing of applicant MDWFP Customer Identification Numbers of the applicants for each hunting zone, based upon the allotted numbers of permits in each hunting zone. An email is sent to each winning applicant to notify them that they have been drawn and are provided instructions with a secure internet link to begin the permit purchasing process. Winners have 48 hours to complete the purchase process. After 48 hours, any unsold permits are submitted for a secondz drawing from the remaining pool of undrawn applicants in each hunting zone. Email notifications are sent to winners of the second drawing, and they have a 48-hour period to purchase their permit. An Alligator Possession Permit, Alligator Hunting License, and two Temporary Possession Tags are mailed to each permit holder. An alligator hunting information packet is mailed to each permit holder that includes an instructions letter and where the Alligator Hunting Guide, Harvest Reporting Instructions, Harvest Report Information Cards, and FAQs can be located on the website.



## 2024 Alligator Permit Drawing Results

Number of Applicants	6,756
Number Drawn 1st Drawing	960
Number Sold 1st Drawing	846 (88.1%)
Number Drawn 2nd Drawing	163
Number Sold 2nd Drawing	135 (83%)
Grand Total Sold	981 (102%)

# Alligator Harvest Statistics 2020-2024



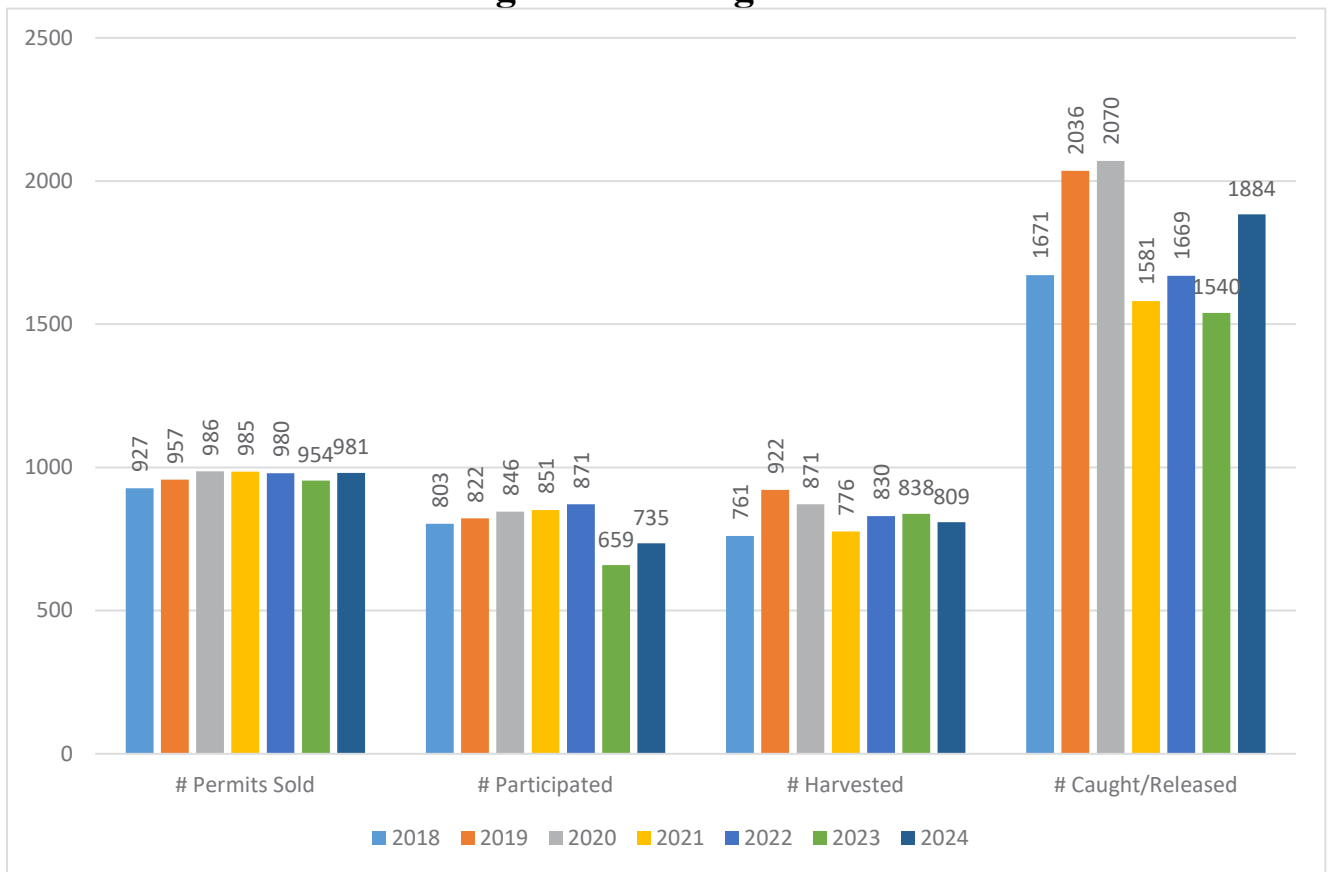
<b>Total # of Applicants Who Hunted:</b>	735
<b>Total # Hunters Who Participated:</b>	3584
<b>Size of Average Hunting Party:</b>	4.9
<b>Total alligators harvested:</b>	972 (498 < 7' and 474 > 7')
<b>Total Alligators Captured and Released:</b>	1884
<b>Capture Methods:</b>	Rod/Reel (776) / Bowfishing Equipment (17) / Snare Pole (14) / Harpoon (2)
<b>Total Hunters Who Harvested an Alligator:</b>	702
<b>Total Hours Spent Hunting:</b>	9,761
<b>Total Hours Per Alligator:</b>	5.1

### **Alligator Harvest Statistics 2024**

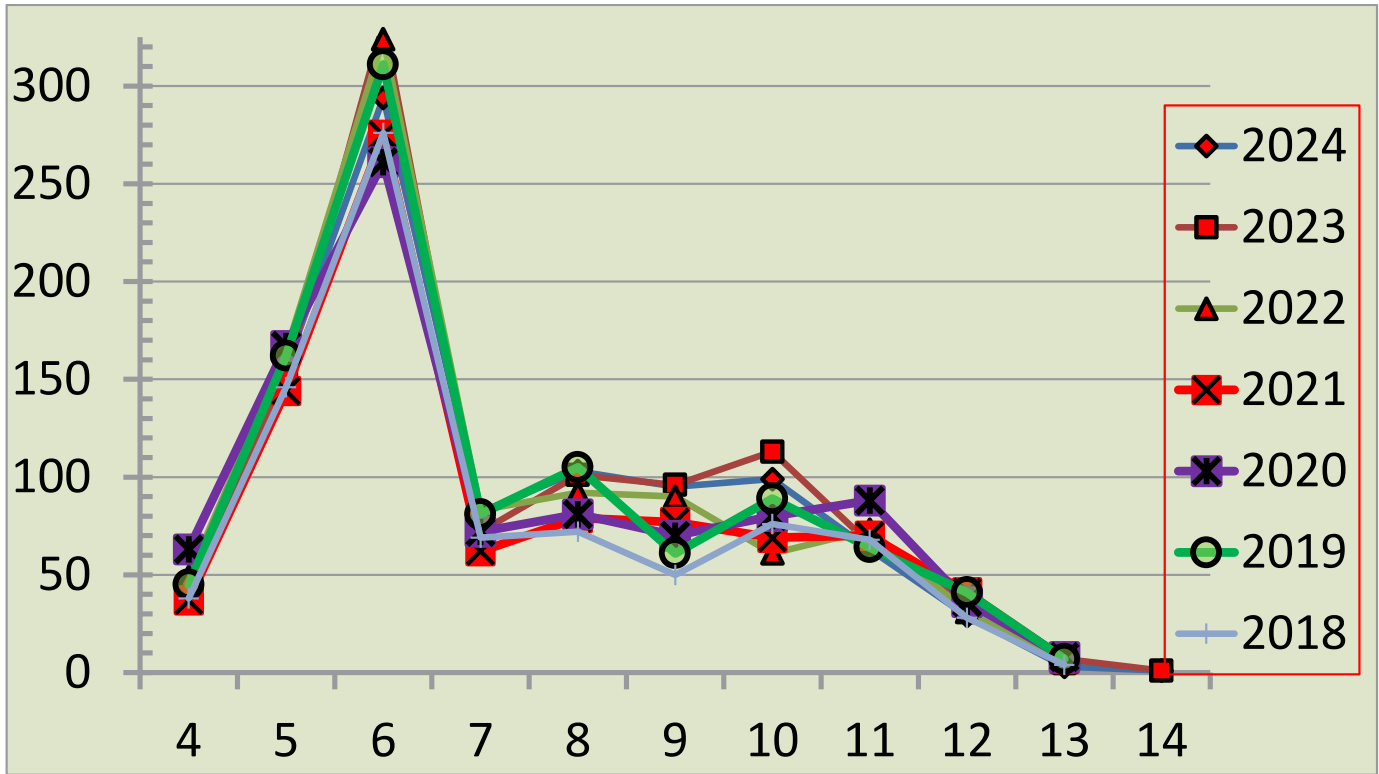
Zone	Total Gators	Average Length Male	Shortest Length Male	Longest Length Male	Average Length Female	Shortest Length Female	Longest Length Female
West Central	206	8.31	4.25	14.08	6.61	4.25	9.58
Southwest	230	8.32	5	13.5	6.91	4.08	9.5
Southeast	117	7.41	4.66	12.25	6.61	4.58	11.08
South Central	95	7.49	4.58	12.5	6.4	4.16	9.91
Pelahatchie Bay 2	5	10.39	9.08	12.08	7.5	7.5	7.5

Zone	Total Gators	Average Length Male	Shortest Length Male	Longest Length Male	Average Length Female	Shortest Length Female	Longest Length Female
Pelahatchie Bay 1	13	9.39	7.16	11.41	7.73	6.25	9.5
Pearl River	64	8.13	4.16	12.58	6.52	4.75	8.83
Northwest	19	7.13	4.5	12.16	6.93	4.41	8.83
Northeast	61	7.83	4.33	12.58	6.15	4.25	7.75

### Public Water Alligator Hunting Season 2018-2024



### Alligator Harvest By Size Class Public Waters



## MS Alligator Season Harvest History - Since 2005

YEAR	# Permits	# Applications	PEARL ZONE	PASCAGOULA ZONE	# Gators Harvested per Permit on Public Waters	PVT LANDS	# Open Counties
			# Harvested	# Harvested		# Harvested	
2005	50	719	30	NA	0.60		
2006	100	1205	47	NA	0.47	0	3
2007	200	1233	66	68	0.67	0	3
2008	240	1636	58	72	0.54	22	7
2009	240	1626	96	58	0.64	59	13
2010	260	2086	132	92	0.86	86	17
2011	480	2858	91	91	0.38	99	25
2012	810	7,212	513 (Statewide 6 Zones)		0.63	104	28
2013	920	25,529	677 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.73	103	28
2014	920	30,121	682 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.74	96	28
2015	1,138	11,639	982 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.86	127	28
2016	920	6,094	784 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.89	95	31
2017	920	4,141	741 ( Statewide 7 Zones)		0.81	119	33
2018	930	4,190	761 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.81	106	34
2019	957	4,414	922 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.96	95	36
2020	986	5,548	876 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.89	117	36
2021	985	6,103	776 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.79	117	36
2022	980	7,050	830 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.85	142	36
2023	953	6,373	838 (Statewide 7 Zones)		.88	149	36
2024	981	6,756	809 (Statewide 7 Zones)		.82	165	36
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,696</b>			<b>1,801</b>	



## Alligator Hunting Records – Public Waters

As of close of 2024 Hunting Season

	Longest (male)	Heaviest (male)	Longest (female)	Heaviest (female)
<b>RECORD</b>	14 ft. 3 in.	822 lbs.	11 ft. 3/4 in.	324 lbs.
<b>Taken by:</b>	Donald Woods	Clayton Gibson	Jason Ullendorf	Jason Ullendorf
<b>Town</b>	Oxford, MS	Natchez, MS	Saucier, MS	Saucier, MS
<b>Date</b>	August 25, 2023	August 28, 2015	September 7, 2024	September 7, 2024
<b>Water Body</b>	Yazoo River	MS River	Pascagoula River	Pascagoula River
<b>Method of Harvest</b>	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook
<b>Length</b>	14 ft. 3 in.	13 ft. 1/2 in.	11 ft. 3/4 in.	11 ft. 3/4 in.
<b>Weight (lbs.)</b>	802.5	822	324	324
<b>Belly Girth (in.)</b>	65	65	37	37
<b>Tail Girth (in.)</b>	46 1/2	48	32 7/8in.	32 7/8in.
<b>ZONE</b>	West Central	Southwest	Southeast	Southeast

## Alligator Hunting Records - Private Lands

As of close of 2024 Hunting Season

	Longest (male)	Heaviest (male)	Longest (female)	Heaviest (female)
<b>RECORD</b>	14 ft. 1/4 in.	826 lbs.	10 ft. 1/2 in.	9 ft. 5.5 in.
<b>Taken by:</b>	Kennie Crechale	Kennie Crechale	Jonathon Kent	Kevin Goza
<b>Town</b>	Morton, MS	Morton, MS	Greenwood, MS	Flowood, MS
<b>Date</b>	August 29, 2015	August 29, 2015	September 19, 2015	September 25, 2010
<b>County Taken</b>	Warren Co.	Warren Co.	Issaquena Co.	Issaquena Co.
<b>Length</b>	14 ft. 1/4 in.	14 ft. 1/4 in.	10 ft. 1/2 in.	9 ft. 5 4/8 in.
<b>Weight (lbs.)</b>	826	826	283 (Tie Record)	283 (Tie Record)
<b>Belly Girth (in.)</b>	68	68	46	48
<b>Tail Girth (in.)</b>	48	48	32	32
<b>Method of Harvest</b>	Firearm/Rifle - Daytime	Firearm/Rifle - Daytime	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel - Snatch Hook

# Female Alligator Record Length & Weight

On September 7, a new state record for the longest and heaviest female alligator was taken by Jason Ullendorf of Mississippi. The alligator was killed on the Pascagoula River and measured 11 feet 3/4 inches long and weighed 324lbs.



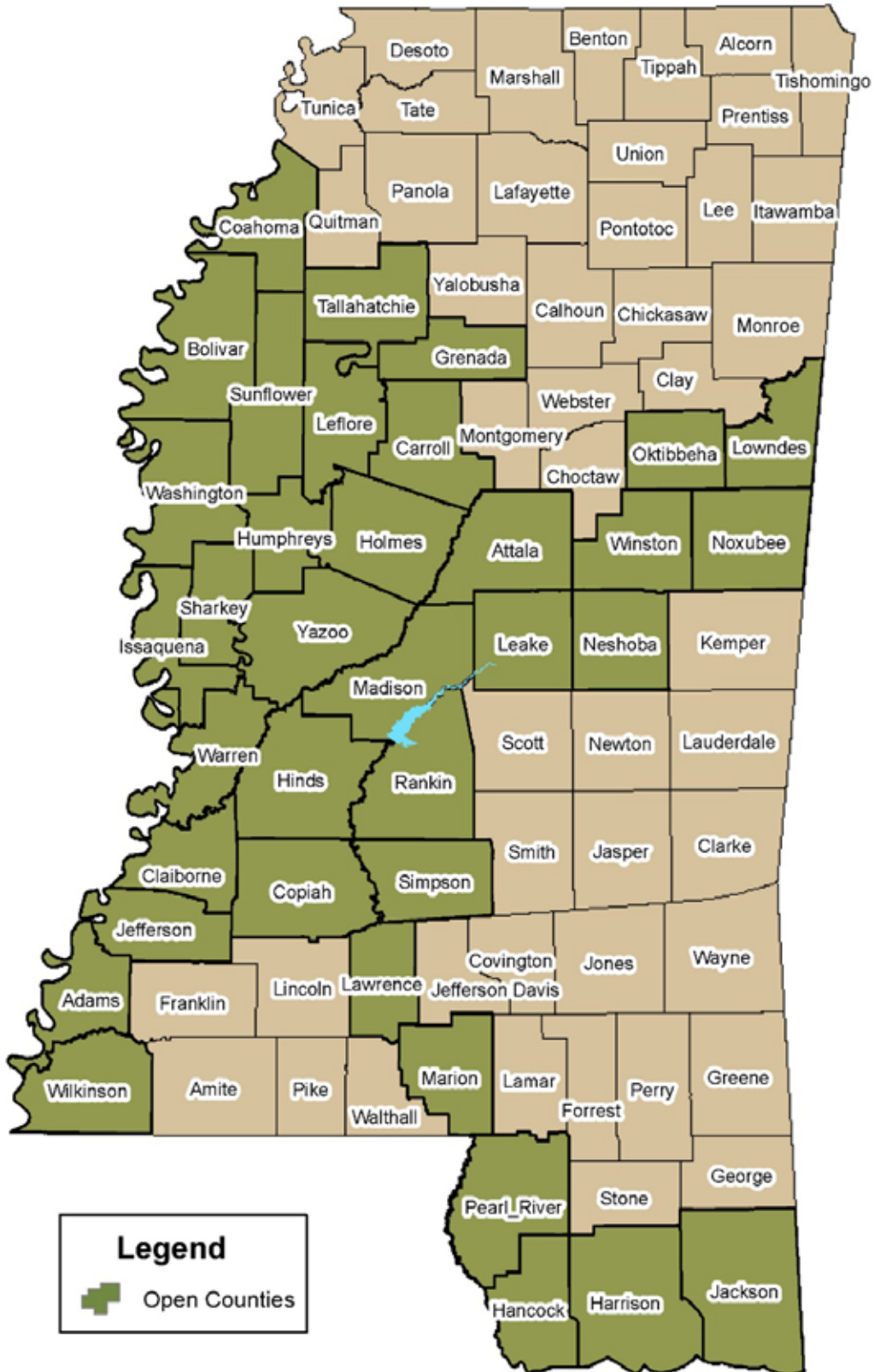
# PRIVATE LANDS ALLIGATOR HUNTING

In 2024, there were 36 counties open to private lands alligator hunting. Applications for private land alligator hunting vouchers are accepted during May and June, the deadline is July 1. Applications are accepted from anyone, resident, or nonresident, with signed landowner permission for properties located within any open county. Applicants must provide a completed application, signed by the applicant and the landowner, a copy of the property deed, a copy of current year tax receipts for the property, a map that shows the general location of the property within the county, and a map of the property boundaries. The MDW-FP digitizes the property boundaries and privately owned, permanent surface water located on the property to deter-

mine total acres of privately owned surface water (privately owned alligator habitat). Alligator Harvest Permit Vouchers are issued to approved property applicants at the rate of one voucher for the first 20 acres of privately owned alligator habitat and additional vouchers for each additional 100 acres of privately owned alligator habitat. Each voucher in conjunction with the purchase of a Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit (\$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents) and Alligator Hunting License (\$25) allows the harvest of two alligators at least four feet long, however only one of the two may exceed seven feet long.

<b>Number of Property Applications Received</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Number of Properties Permitted</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Number of Harvest Vouchers Issued</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>Number of Private Water Acres Involved</b>	<b>22,544</b>
<b>Number of Alligators Harvested</b>	<b>165</b>

# Open Counties for Private Lands Alligator Permits



2018

