



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commission Approves Notice of Intent; MDMR to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Bait Mullet Rule Changes

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) will hold a public hearing on proposed bait mullet rules and regulation changes Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6 p.m., at the Bolton State Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.

The public hearing is the result of the Commission on Marine Resources' (CMR) decision at its April 17 meeting to approve the issuance of a notice of intent to update, modify and change sections of Mississippi Title 22 Part 6, which pertains, in part, to bait mullet regulations. The notice of intent was filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State's office April 17, 2012.

The proposed changes include making it unlawful for minnow fishermen or live bait catcher boats to have in their possession more than five pounds of dead mullet. Additionally, the commercial minimum length limit for mullet (10 inches) will not apply to resident licensed minnow fishermen, licensed live bait catcher boats fishing below the CSX railroad bridge; or licensed live bait dealers selling mullet for bait.

The new regulation would limit minnow fishermen to sell mullet only to licensed Mississippi live bait dealers or Mississippi recreational fishermen. The regulation would also make it unlawful to possess mullet north of the CSX railroad while engaged in minnow fishing.

Public comments on the proposed regulation changes will be accepted through May 14, 2012. All comments should be mailed to the MDMR, Attention: Joe Jewell, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530 or emailed to Joe.Jewell@dmr.ms.gov. A copy of the proposed changes is available on the MDMR website at www.dmr.ms.gov.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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