



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Melissa Scallan

Phone: 228-523-4124

14-20-MMS
March 12, 2014
RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE

Commercial Spotted Seatrout rules go in effect May 1

BILOXI, Miss. – Beginning May 1, commercial fishermen will be required to obtain an endorsement along with their commercial fishing license in order to harvest spotted seatrout.

The endorsement is \$10, and fishermen must complete an application showing that \$5,000 of seafood product was sold in any 12 consecutive month period. That proof can include copies of sales records along with a copy of the applicable harvester's license for the appropriate time period.

Other forms of proof include records showing 10 percent of the fisherman's net income came from commercial fishing activities in any previous tax year. A form showing this must be submitted to the MDMR completed by a licensed tax preparer that includes a Preparer Tax Identification Number. It must be notarized before being submitted to MDMR.

The endorsement will be valid for three years, after which the qualifying documents must be re-submitted. Changes to Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 9, Section 110 that reflect these changes are posted on the DMR website at www.dmr.ms.gov.

The MDMR will assist fishermen in obtaining the required endorsement. For assistance, call 374-5000 and ask for the Trip Ticket office.

The new regulation will read as follows:

Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 9, Section 110

"Individuals harvesting spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) for sale must possess a spotted seatrout endorsement (\$10.00) in addition to a current applicable harvester's license. To qualify for this endorsement an application must be completed. The fisher must present proof that five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) of seafood product was sold in any twelve (12) consecutive months. Proof would be copies of sales records and a copy of the applicable harvester's license for the appropriate time period, or the fisher must present proof that ten (10) percent of their net income came from commercial fishing activities in a previous tax year. Proof would be a form provided by the DMR completed by a licensed tax preparer possessing a PTIN (Preparer Tax Identification Number), notarized, and submitted to the department. This endorsement will be valid for a three-year period at which time a new application with qualifying documents must be submitted for a new endorsement. The income requirement and seafood sale provision of this section shall cease to be in effect April 30, 2020 unless further Commission action is taken to extend the requirement."

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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