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2024-2025 hunting season louisiana start date

You can catch blue or stone crabs recreationally using various types of traps and nets, except for dredges. Note that trawl gear restrictions apply during open shrimp season. For crab traps, you must have no more than 10 per license, with each one marked with a stainless steel tag and a float at least 6 inches in diameter. Traps must also have escape rings, which cannot be obstructed from April to June or September to October. Additionally, metal tackle is prohibited in certain areas, including the Calcasieu River and Vermilion Bay. Owners are responsible for removing and properly disposing of or storing their traps when they're no longer serviceable or in use. Only the licensed owner or agent can remove trap contents or intentionally damage or destroy serviceable traps. Some areas may have additional gear restrictions, so consult local LDWF offices or the latest recreational regulations for details. Blue crabs can be harvested recreationally during designated times. Year-round crabbing is allowed, but you need to remove traps during scheduled cleanups for derelict traps. Check the Derelict Crab Trap Removal page for more information. No crabbing at night (half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise), and you can't bait or tend your traps then either. There's no minimum size limit for blue crabs, stone crabs, or stone crab claws. You can catch up to 12 dozen blue crabs per day, but no adult female crabs with eggs or young. Return any berry-stage females to the water immediately. Stone crabs and stone crab claws have no recreational minimum size or possession limits. For oysters, you can only harvest recreationally with tongs or by hand from a private lease with permission or in public areas open for oyster harvesting. You can cull oysters over reefs where they were harvested. Harvesting is prohibited at night (between half hour after sunset and half hour before sunrise). Public oyster areas may be closed based on biological data, so check the Oyster Season page for updates. Private lease holders or their designees with permission can fish oysters at any time of year on their lease. Size limits apply to oysters taken from public areas: they must be 3 inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. Recreational harvesters may take two sacks per person per day, except in Calcasieu Lake where the limit is one sack per person per day. Gear restrictions apply: cast nets can't exceed 8-1/2 feet in radius; bait seines must be no longer than 30 feet long; and trawls must be no longer than 25 feet with mesh at least 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched, except during the fall inshore shrimp season. Shrimpers fishing in Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island must equip their nets with turtle excluder devices (TEDs), except for manual or test trawls. For manually retrieved or test trawls, shrimpers must limit towing time to 75 minutes from November to March and 55 minutes from April to October to minimize sea turtle impacts. No leaving net or beam trawls unattended, and no trawling in state waters during closed shrimp seasons. Certain areas are off-limits for trawling due to privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating places, including Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain, Bayou Judge Perez, LA Highway 631 Bridge at Des Allemands, Lac Des Allemands, and Cypremont Point State Park. Shrimping seasons are flexible and determined by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based on shrimp population data and public input. Additionally, no trawling for shrimp at night in specific areas such as Vermilion Bay East and West Cote Blanche bays, Atchafalaya Bay, Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, Grand Bayou, Little Burton's Ditch, Grand Lake, White Lake, or south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass. Size limits for saltwater shrimp harvested during the spring open season are not applicable, and there is no size limit for brown or seabob shrimp harvested year-round. White shrimp season is open in any given season, and it's legal to harvest white shrimp if a pound of them equals or is less than 100 whole shrimp. However, there are restrictions on harvesting sub-legal size white shrimp. For recreational fishermen using certain gear, the daily catch limit is as follows: - Cast nets, dip nets, or bait seines: no more than 50 pounds per day during closed season and 100 pounds per day during open season. - Trawls 16 feet in length or less: limited to 100 pounds of shrimp per boat per day. - Trawls between 16 and 25 feet in length: limited to 250 pounds of shrimp per boat per day. Recreational fishermen can only use the shrimp they harvest for bait or their own consumption. These shrimp cannot be sold, traded, or entered into commerce. There may be different possession limits at certain Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and state and federal refuges. It's best to consult with your local LDWF office or check the latest recreational regulations for more information. Louisiana Alligator Season Guidelines Statewide, private lands only. The Louisiana Alligator Season starts on September 7 for the West Zone and October 31 for the East Zone, with a 60-day duration for each zone. Resident hunters need a Resident Alligator Hunter License, authorization to hunt on public lands via a lottery or bidding process, and a Helper License. Non-resident hunters require specific tags for both private and public areas, which can be purchased by those without private property. Private lands are tagged with guidelines provided by the LDWF. Public lands have tags distributed through auction or lottery based on certain requirements and application procedures. Hunters must follow minimum standards, bid specifications, and required hunting education to participate. The season is subject to regulations governing the use of weapons, hook-and-line fishing, bows and arrows, and size restrictions when hunting. Alligators must be promptly tagged, with missing tags reported within 15 days after the end of the season. Important exceptions include farm alligators, research on alligators with special markings, and hunters for nuisance control. The season also covers bird species such as Mourning and White Winged Doves, Fully-Dressed Eurasian and Collared Doves. Shot restrictions apply, with only non-toxic shot size 6 or smaller allowed in certain fields. Lease fields are available through the LDWF website, with registration fees of \$10 for adults. Permits can be accessed online, and dogs are allowed but ATVs may be restricted to field roads in wet conditions. For more information about dove hunting in Louisiana, contact Pineville Field Office at 318-487-5885. Some LDWF Wildlife Management Areas offer dove fields for hunting opportunities. The dove season starts on September 2nd in both north and south zones. You can find additional resources on the LDWF website, including information about WMA dove fields. If you're interested in dove hunting at Vernon Unit, contact the Calcasieu Ranger District Office at 318-793-9427 for more details. For general inquiries, reach out to Dr. Jeff Duguay at jduguay@wlf.la.gov or 225-765-2353. Here are some key dates and regulations for light geese and Canada geese in Louisiana: * Light Geese: * East Zone: November 2 - December 8, December 21 - January 26 * West Zone: November 2 - December 8, December 21 - January 5, January 13 - February 2 * Conservation Order: December 9 - 20, January 27 - March 2 * Canada Geese: * East Zone: November 2 - December 8, December 21 - January 26 * West Zone: November 2 - December 8, December 21 - January 5, January 13 - February 2 * Conservation Order: December 9 - 20, January 27 - March 2 Note that hunting Canada geese is prohibited in certain areas of Vermilion and Cameron parishes. However, photography of Ross', blue, and snow geese is allowed under the Geese/Conservation Order without daily or possession restrictions. Additionally, some bird species have specific hunting seasons: * King and Clapper Rails: September 14 - 29, November 9 - January 1 * Sara and Virginia Rails: September 14 - 29, November 9 - January 1 * Gallinules: September 14 - 29, November 9 - January 1 It's worth noting that there are various zones and dates for different bird species. For example: * Blue-Winged, Green-Winged, and Cinnamon Zones: * West Zone: November 2 - 3 (Youth and Veterans Only), November 9 - December 8, December 21 - January 5, January 13 - January 26 * East Zone: November 9 (Youth and Veterans Only), November 16 - December 8, December 21 - January 26, February 1 (Youth and Veterans Only) Regarding Louisiana's hunting season, the state maintains over 1.6 million acres of land for wildlife management. Some areas have restrictions or require permissions: * Forests and parks: Kisatchie National Forest & Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve limit hunting. * Wildlife camps: The USFWS maintains 23 national wildlife refuges in Louisiana, with certain constraints. * Wildlife-protected areas: These areas are carefully conserved because of their relevance to ecosystems and animal species. * State wildlife preserves: The state has 8 wildlife refuges, some of which allow hunting. To hunt in these areas, you may need to obtain a permit or license. The fees for these permits vary: * WMA Access Annual Permit: \$20.00/year * WMA Access 5-Day Permit: \$5.00 * WMA Camping Permit: \$7.00/day * Resident Lifetime Hunt/Fish (all ages): \$500 * Non-Resident Lifetime Hunt/Fish: \$4,000 * Lifetime Resident Senior Hunt/Fish (65 or older): \$100 The costs associated with hunting in Louisiana include a federal electronic duck stamp (\$27.72), a sportsman's paradise license (\$100-\$120), and various permits and licenses depending on the individual's status (senior, disabled, veteran). The season dates and rules for the 2024-25 hunting and fishing season have been released by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). The regulations pamphlet includes information on LDWF's Wildlife Management Areas, federal lands, and deer hunting areas. Printed copies of the pamphlets will be available in August at LDWF offices and vendors selling hunting and fishing licenses. The Children's Museum of Southwest Louisiana and the LDWF Nature and Science Center have officially opened. LWFC has approved the DE and NOI to expand the CWD control area starting May 1. Additionally, LDWF has announced a new WMA in Allen Parish - Flatwoods Savanna WMA, and the Target Range Grant Program is now open. LDWF reminds hunters that taking jake turkeys is prohibited except for properly licensed youth under 17. The 'Louisiana Outdoors Forever' program is accepting pre-applications for a new funding cycle. A CWD case was found in a white-tailed deer in Catahoula Parish, marking the first positive case outside of Tensas Parish. LDWF has also announced the winners of the 2025 Durable License Card Contest. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will open the private recreational and state charter red snapper season on Thursday, May 1. Furthermore, LDWF announces that 2026 will see a Louisiana Duck Stamp Contest. The 2024 duck hunting season has begun with a youth-only hunt in the western half of the state, followed by the first split of the season on November 16. The agency also requires hunters to have a Federal Duck Stamp and a basic hunting license to participate. Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program is a joint operation between USFWS and each state for hunters to register and report harvest statistics on waterfowl in the US. State law gives LDWF officers broad powers to inspect and search any premises with probable cause of a violation, including private property without trespassing signs. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) partnered with contributions worth \$2,100,000 to restore around 3,500 acres of damaged wetlands, affecting a total area of approximately 8,547 acres.[12] The LDWF manages various wildlife management areas across the state. According to their website, which can be accessed at [1], they also have initiatives like the Derelict Crab Trap Program and the Harvest Information Program (HIP). A report by the Louisiana Law Review states that the state's laws allow for searches without a warrant under certain conditions.[13] LDWF provides lottery hunts for different groups, including youth hunters, physically challenged hunters, disabled veterans, and the general public. These hunts are available for various game species such as alligators, deer, turkeys, waterfowl, and more. There's also specific information about hunting migratory birds, which includes a requirement for HIP certification to hunt ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, or gallinules in Louisiana. If you're 17 or younger, you don't need this certification unless participating in a WMA youth waterfowl lottery. However, it's mandatory in every state where you hunt these birds. LDWF manages dove fields and offers private land management assistance to attract more doves during hunting seasons. They also provide free help to private landowners who want to manage their property for wildlife. The mourning dove is one of the most abundant bird species in North America, with an estimated 243 million individuals in the United States. In Louisiana, dove numbers have been increasing over both short-term and long-term periods. Biologists conduct call count surveys across different areas to track population trends. They assess the number of birds in sight, examining these figures to discern overall flock patterns. Louisiana's native bird species, including the common dove, undergo periodic surveys to monitor their health and populations.

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