



GARY TILYOU NAMED NEW INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE OFFICE OF FISHERIES AT L.D.W.F.

Gary Tilyou has been selected as the new Inland Fisheries Division administrator within the Office of Fisheries at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

Tilyou, who has worked for the LDWF for 28 years, moves up from his position as assistant division administrator.

His responsibilities will include: managing Louisiana's freshwater fish and their habitat for the recreational and commercial fishermen of both state residents and non-residents, controlling nuisance aquatic vegetation and fish stocking programs for Louisiana's public water bodies.

"Gary's knowledge of the state's fresh water resources and working relation-

ships with personnel in the field, will serve the division well as we move forward with habitat recovery efforts following last year's storms and continuing drought conditions," said John Roussel, LDWF's assistant secretary for the Office of Fisheries.

After graduating from Hahnville High, Tilyou received his bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife (1976) and a master's in wildlife (1979) from Louisiana State University.

Tilyou replaces Bennie Fontenot who retired this year after 41 years of service to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



Photo by Thomas Gresham

Gary Tilyou - LDWF's New Inland Fisheries Division Administrator

For more information contact Adam Einck at 225-765-2465 or aeinck@wlf.louisiana.gov.

COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR LARGE COASTAL SHARKS TO CLOSE IN LOUISIANA WATERS ON JULY 31

Commercial fishing for large coastal sharks, as defined by Louisiana rule (L.A.C. 76:VII.357), closes in Louisiana waters at 11:30 p.m. on July 31, 2006, and the closure will remain in effect until 12:01 a.m. Sept. 1, 2006. Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will also be closed for commercial harvest of large coastal sharks during the same time period.

Upon closure of this season, all commercial harvest, possession, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sale or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter,

trade or sell large coastal sharks or their fins is prohibited through 12:01 a.m. Sept. 1, 2006.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau made the decision, under the authority given to him by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in its rule LAC 76:VII.357.M.2, which allows the secretary to declare a closed season.

Landreneau acted due to publication by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the Federal

Register that the federal waters adjacent to Louisiana waters will be closed on that date.

NMFS determined that the large coastal shark commercial fishery quota for the second trimester fishing season is projected to be reached and action is necessary to ensure that the trimester quota for large coastal sharks for the period July 1 through Aug. 31, 2006, in the Gulf of Mexico is not exceeded.

For more information, contact Harry Blanchet at 225-765-2889.



L.W.F.C. SETS TENTATIVE, EARLY MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the tentative dates for the 2006-07 mourning dove and early migratory bird hunting seasons at their July 6 meeting.

The mourning dove season will last 70 days with three segments and for the first time in Louisiana hunters may kill white-winged doves and include them in their 12-bird aggregate daily bag limit and possession limit of 24 total birds. The first segment will start on Sep. 2 and run through Sep. 10. The second segment will be open from Oct. 14 to Nov. 19. The final segment will open from Dec. 16 to Jan. 8. Furthermore, Eurasian-colored doves and ringed turtle-doves may only be hunted or taken during the open mourning dove season, with no bag limit provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass. Those not meeting this standard will be included

in the daily bag limit for mourning doves. The shooting hours are half an hour before sunrise to sunset, except for the opening weekend of each segment (Sep. 2-3, Oct. 14-15, and Dec. 16-17), which will be from noon to sunset.

Teal season will last 16 days from Sep. 15 to Sep. 30. A daily bag limit of four and possession limit of eight will be allowed.

Rail and gallinules seasons will last 70 days. The first segment will be open from Sep. 15 to Sep. 30. The other segments will be set in August with the regular waterfowl seasons and regulations. King and clapper rails have a daily bag limit of 15 with a possession limit totaling 30. Sora and Virginia rails have a daily and possession limit totaling 25. Common and purple gallinules have a daily bag limit of 15 and possession limit totaling 30.

Woodcock season will last 45 days from Dec. 18 to Jan. 31. A three-bird daily bag limit and a six-bird possession limit will be allowed.

Shooting and hawking hours for woodcock, rail, teal and gallinules are half an hour before sunrise to sunset.

Extended falconry mourning dove season is open from Sep. 11 to Oct. 13 and will reopen from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23. Extended falconry woodcock season is open from Oct. 28 to Dec. 17 and will reopen from Feb. 1 to Feb. 11. The falconry daily bag limit is three and possession limit is six birds for all permitted migratory game birds during the extended falconry and regular hunting seasons. Extended falconry seasons for ducks, rails and gallinules will be set in August with the duck regulations.

For more information, contact Dave Moreland at 225-765-2346.

L.W.F.C. KEEPS TWO-ZONE WATERFOWL SEASON

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission announced that it would keep two waterfowl hunting zones in the state through the 2010 hunting season. The decision came at the commission's regular meeting on July 6.

Robert Helm, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries waterfowl study leader informed the commission that the majority of hunters surveyed preferred that the state remain split into east and west zones. The survey provided hunters with three options: to have two zones with split seasons, to have three zones with no splits or to have a statewide season with three splits.

The survey, conducted by Louisiana State University, was sent to more than 6,000 Louisiana duck hunters; more than

half responded. The current season structure was favored at 53 percent, three zones interested only 6 percent of responders and 41 percent preferred the statewide season.

An Internet poll collected hunter opinions through the LDWF Web site during May and June. Of the nearly 700 responses, the current season framework was preferred by 43 percent of those responding, with 6 percent voting for the three-zone option and 51 percent voting for the statewide season.

The commission's decision will now be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which will provide choices for season dates based on the structure. The commission will decide the dates at their next regular meeting on Aug. 3.



BIG DAM WEIR PLATFORM AT MARSH ISLAND REPAIRED

The Big Dam Weir at the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in Vermilion Bay has been reopened for public access just in time for the July 4 weekend. The structure had been closed since last September due to Hurricane Rita damage. The storm's surge destroyed the old wooden platform/walkway, thus making it unsafe for public use.

LDWF File Photo



Workers repairing the Big Dam Weir Platform

"This fiberglass grating will be safer because it's non-slip, cleaner because it's non-stick and will hold up better to the elements that it faces every-day on Louisiana's coast," said Dennis Kropog, LDWF's facilities maintenance manager.

"The platform has always been a popular destination for recreational fishermen and boaters because of the out-

standing shrimp, crab and fish productivity."

The new platform, built with FEMA funding at a cost of \$49,400, was completed on Sunday, June 25. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the state's Office of Facilities, Planning and Control were responsible for the construction. The platform is made of fiberglass grating and still has the same 6-foot-wide by 120-foot-long dimensions as the original.

The only way to access the Big Dam Weir is by boat. The closest boat launch is located right outside of Cypremont Point State Park, off LA 319 in St. Mary Parish.

For more information, contact Dennis Kropog at 225-765-2816 or dkropog@wlf.louisiana.gov.

TWO MEN CITED FOR UNAPPROVED OYSTER HARVEST

LDWF Enforcement agents cited two men on July 5 for allegedly taking oysters from an unapproved area near Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

David Palmer, 29, and Richard Pecot, Jr., 29, both from St. Bernard Parish, were seen dredging for oysters near the MRGO and Lake Borgne located in St. Bernard Parish.

The Department of Health and Hospitals Oyster Water Monitoring Program closed this area of Lake Borgne due to high levels of potential-

ly harmful bacteria. DHH issues maps quarterly to designate open oyster waters and closed oyster areas with high bacteria counts.

Agents seized and returned 15 sacks of oysters to the water and placed two oyster dredges and one boat under seizure order.

If convicted, each person faces penalties of up to \$750 in fines, up to 120 days in jail, or both plus court costs. Additionally, whoever violates this subsection is subject to revocation of commercial fishing licenses.

For the first offense, the licenses will be suspended for one year. For the second and subsequent offenses, the licenses will be suspended for three years. Any person convicted of any violation of the provisions of this subsection will be mandated for one year to harvest oysters from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring system that LDWF will have access to monitor.

Agents participating in the case were Lt. Stephen McManus, Sgt. Bryan Marie and Senior Agent Kris Bourgeois.

