



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

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## COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING REGULATIONS

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS. THIS EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS CORRECT AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED. BEFORE TAKING PART IN THIS FISHERY, PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM](http://WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM) FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

**Definition:** The taking or attempting to take shrimp by any trawl or trawls used together which exceed 16' as measured along the main top line; as well as, the taking or attempting to take shrimp by any trawl 16' or less while licensed as a commercial shrimp boat.

**License:** License is issued to the boat and cannot be transferred.

- Commercial shrimp boat decal should be displayed on the port side of the vessel.
- Non-residents pay a license fee equal to that paid by Alabama residents or boats to shrimp in their state but no less than double the amount paid by Alabama residents. Non-resident licenses are sold only by Marine Resources Division Offices.
- Persons trawling for crabs for commercial purposes or selling crabs taken incidentally while shrimping must have a Commercial Crab License. Shrimp and bycatch can be sold only to an Alabama seafood dealer unless the shrimper possesses an Alabama Seafood Dealers License (must meet requirements for license).

**Season:** All inside waters close to commercial and recreational shrimping from 6:00 a.m. May 1 to 6:00 a.m. June 1 of each year.

The area in Mobile Bay from the center of May Day Pier out to 1/2 nautical mile then south to the northern edge of Point Clear Channel shall be closed 6:00 a.m., August 15<sup>th</sup>, until 6:00 a.m., October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Pounds allowed:** No limit

**Mesh Size:** No restriction

**Trawl Size:** In inside waters (bays, sounds, etc.) a trawl or trawls used together cannot exceed 50 feet as measured along the main top line. No more than two trawls may be used at the same time (not including a "try trawl" which cannot exceed 10 feet as measured along the top line). No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf of Mexico).

**Other:** It is unlawful for any person to drag a net, seine, or trawl over public or private oyster reefs. Commercially licensed boats cannot shrimp in exclusive bait areas. It is unlawful to retain gamefish which includes: red drum, spotted seatrout, tarpon, and striped bass caught with a trawl. It is unlawful to discard dead fish or other dead seafood within 500 feet of any shoreline or into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within three (3) miles of the Gulf beaches (includes Pelican Bay).

The use of any trawl or trawls, or the taking of shrimp by any means, in any area closed to commercial shrimping is hereby expressly prohibited.

**Little Lagoon** is closed to all trawls which exceed sixteen feet as measured across the cork line or top main line (Reg. 2003-MR-2, Rule 220-3-.64).

**PERMANENTLY CLOSED AREAS**  
**(SHRIMP TAKEN BY ANY METHOD SHALL NOT BE RETAINED)**

1. All rivers\*, streams, bayous, and creeks within the State (except Bayou St. John, Old River in Baldwin County and that portion of Blakeley River Designated by law as an exclusive bait shrimp area). \*The mouth of the Mobile River is defined as a line beginning at the southernmost tip of Pinto Island (30°40.033'N - 88°01.647'W) and running due west to a point on the mainland (30°39.952'N - 88°02.002'W).
2. All of Portersville Bay inside a line running from Barron Point on Mon Louis Island, (30°19.110'N – 88°11.519'W), thence to the south shore of Marsh Island (30°19.201'N – 88°13.473'W) thence to the south shoreline of the Isle aux Herbes (Coffee Island) (30°19.466'N – 88°15.346'W) and then along the western shoreline of the Isle aux Herbes to a point on the mainland due north of the northern tip of the Isle aux Herbes (30°22.008'N – 88°15.543'W).
3. Heron Bay which is described as that body of water lying north of a line extending from Barry Point on Mon Louis Island (30°19.883'N - 88°08.999'W) south southeast to Cedar Point (30°18.594'N - 88°08.278'W) and that portion of Mississippi Sound north of the Intracoastal Waterway and east of a line extending from Barron Point on Mon Louis Island (30°19.110'N – 88°11.519'W), southeasterly to Range Marker "D" on the Intracoastal Waterway.
4. All of Weeks Bay.
5. Theodore Industrial Canal.
6. Bon Secour Bay within 2500 ft. of the mouth of Weeks Bay.
7. All waters north of the southernmost edge of the Interstate Highway 10 eastbound lane (except that portion of Interstate Highway 10 which lies north of U.S. Highway 90 ([Battleship Parkway]), in which case the line follows the southernmost edge of the Battleship Parkway.
8. That portion of Mobile Bay north and west of a line running from the intersection of the Dog River Bridge with the Dog River Channel east along the northern edge of the Dog River Channel to its intersection with the Mobile Ship Channel (MSC) then north along the west side of the MSC to the Upper Reach Rear Range (located on the north side of the Arlington Channel) then north and east of a line running southeast to the charted position of Mobile Ship Channel marker #78 then southeast to the charted position of the center of Mayday Pier (30°35.966'N, 87°54.851'W) then eastward along the center of the Mayday Pier to its intersection with land. There shall be a 300-foot safety buffer along the western edge of the MSC where towing a trawl shall be allowed for turning by vessels (exception: One gallon of shrimp per person per day is allowed for bait or non-commercial purposes with a cast net).
9. All waters in Mobile County north of a line beginning at the Mississippi State Line running east to the eastern tip of South Rigolets (30°21.120'N, 88°23.490'W) then northeast to the southwest tip of Point Aux Pins (30°22.271'N, 88°18.888'W) then east to the charted position of the "BC" Beacon in the Bayou La Batre Ship Channel and then southeast to the northwest point of the middle cut that bisects Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes) defined as 30°20.785'N, 88°15.721'W.
10. North of Lillian Bridge in Baldwin County.
11. Little Lagoon Pass in Baldwin County and within 100 yards of the north and south entrance of Little Lagoon Pass.
12. Perdido Pass in Baldwin County which is defined as those waters north of Perdido Pass Channel markers #1 and #2 and south of the charted position of channel marker #12 in Terry Cove.
13. Exclusive bait areas are permanently closed to commercial shrimping.

**Note: Indian Bay and Lafitte Bay bottoms (Dauphin Island) are privately owned and may be closed to shrimping.**

## EXCLUSIVE BAIT AREAS (Closed to Commercial Shrimping)

(Areas open only to licensed recreational shrimping and live saltwater bait dealers)  
(Shrimp may only be taken from these exclusive areas from 4:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

### Baldwin County

1. **Wolf Bay:** that area encompassing the water within the boundary from the south shore of Wolf Bay northward to Beacon #86 on the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway then westward along the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to Beacon #94 then south across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the south shore of Wolf Bay.
2. **Oyster Bay:** that area encompassing those waters of Oyster Bay except those waters north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).
3. **Blakely River:** that area encompassing those waters in the mouth of the Blakeley River between the I-10 bridge and the Highway 90 (old causeway) bridge.
4. **Terry Cove**

### Mobile County

1. **Arlington Channel**
  2. **East Fowl River Channel:** from Beacon #5 and #6 to the mouth of the river
  3. **Bayou La Batre Channel:** From Bayou La Batre Channel BC Beacon to the mouth of Bayou La Batre
  4. **Dauphin Island Bay**
  5. **Buchanan Bay, Confederate Pass, British Bay, Columbia Bay, Colony Bay (Colony Cove), Spanish Bay, Barcelona Bay.**
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## SEASONAL BAIT AREAS

(Areas open exclusively to the commercial and recreational taking of live saltwater bait when adjacent waters are closed)

### Baldwin County

1. **Point Clear:** that area beginning at a point of land at the southern entrance to the marina at Great Point Clear (30°29.125'N, 87°56.072'W) then southwestwardly to the charted position of Point Clear light #4 then running southeastwardly to a point of land at the end of Zundel Road (30°28.416'N, 87°55.263'W)
2. **Mullet Point:** beginning at Mullet Point Park ramp then running southwesterly to Tall Range "2", then southwardly to a point (30°23.720'N, 87°55.330'W), then running due east to terminate on the shore.
3. **Ft. Morgan:** beginning at the shoreline east of the Gulf Shores Marina at Ft. Morgan then due north one-half nautical mile, then due west for one nautical mile, then due south to the shoreline on the west side of the Ft. Morgan boat ramp. The area is defined by the following corner points; NW 30°14.500'N, 088°01.100'W; NE 30°14.500'N, 87°59.600'W; SW 30°13.900'N, 088°01.100'W; SE 30°13.970'N, 87°59.600'W.

## **Mobile County**

1. Aloe Bay: from Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Marker #19 running southward to Tall Range D, thence to the western edge of the mouth of Heron Bayou on Dauphin Island, and west of the Dauphin Island Bridge and south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
2. East Fowl River Channel: from the charted positions for Beacons 1 and 2 to the charted positions for Beacons 5 and 6.

### **SPECIAL LIVE BAIT AREAS (PERMIT REQUIRED)**

1. **Mobile Ship Channel Bait Area:** May 1-June 1 During Commercial and Recreational Shrimp Closure. North of a line running through the charted position of Mobile Ship Channel marker #69 and the charted position of Mobile Ship Channel marker #70 and south of a line running through the Upper Rear Range and the charted position of Mobile Ship Channel marker #78. There shall be a 300-foot safety buffer along the western and eastern edge of the described area in the Mobile Ship Channel where towing a trawl shall be allowed for turning by vessels.
2. **USS Battleship Alabama Bait Area:** In addition, when the area described above is open to commercial shrimping from March 1 through December 31 and only then, an area beside the Battleship south of the Tensaw River Bridge, north of a line from the north point of Pinto Pass to the northwest edge of Goat Island to the eastern end of Tensaw Bridge shall be open for this purpose.

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS – Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS): For the latest rules contact  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at (727) 551-5794  
For technical assistance call (228) 762-4591**

**SHRIMP TRAWLER:** On-board or landed catch of shrimp is more than 1% by weight of all fish comprising on- board or landed catch.

**All shrimp trawlers in state and federal waters must use a Turtle Excluder Device.** (See Exemptions)

### **TED EXEMPTIONS:**

1. A shrimp trawler with no power or mechanical advantage trawl retrieval system on board (i.e., all gear is retrieved by hand).
2. A shrimp trawler vessel less than 40', fishing only with a pusher-head trawl ("chopstick rig"), skimmer trawl, or wing net ("butterfly net").
3. Single test net (try net) with head rope length 10 feet or less.
4. Beam or roller trawl fished without doors, boards, or similar devices.
5. Royal red shrimp fishermen – if 90% of their catch by weight is royal red shrimp.

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### **LICENSE PURCHASING:**

**NOTE:** Recreational Licenses may be purchased online at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) or by mail. Commercial Licenses may be purchased in person at one of our offices or by mail. Make check or money order payable to: Marine Resources Division.

Mail to:

License Clerk  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Box 189  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

License Clerk  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Drawer 458  
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Be sure to include a copy of the boat registration/documentation, copy of owner's driver license, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
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\* USS Alabama Bait Area (Permit Required) -  
from north point of Pinto Pass  
to NW edge of Goat Island to the  
eastern edge of Tensaw Bridge

\* Arlington Channel

♦ Mobile Ship Channel Bait  
Area (Permit Required) -  
from MSC #69 - 70 north to  
the Upper Range Rear Reach  
on the north side of Arlington  
Channel with a 300' buffer  
zone east and west of the  
area

\* E. Fowl River Channel -  
from the mouth of the river  
to beacons 5 & 6

\* Bayou La Batre Channel -  
from the mouth of the bayou  
to the "BC" Beacon

♦ E. Fowl River Channel -  
from beacons 5 & 6 to  
beacons 1 & 2

\* Blakely River - between the  
Bridges of I-10 and Hwy 90

\* Eastern Shore Area - From  
May Day Pier southward to the  
north edge of the Point Clear  
Channel, extending 1/2 nm  
seaward from the shoreline

\* Point Clear Area - From a  
point on land at the southern  
entrance to the marina at  
Great Point Clear (30°29.195N,  
087°56.072W) then SW to  
the charted position of Point Clear  
Light #4 to a point on land at the  
end of Zundel Road  
(30°28.416N, 087°55.263W).

♦ Mullet Point - Beginning at Mullet  
Point Park ramp, herein defined as  
30°24.98'N and 87°54.52'W,  
then running southwesterly to Tall  
Range '2', then southwardly to  
30°23.72'N and 87°55.33'W,  
then running due east to terminate  
on shore.

\* Waters in Wolf Bay from a point  
on the south shoreline running  
north to GIWW #86, then west  
to GIWW #94, then south to the  
south shoreline of Wolf Bay

\* Oyster Bay waters south of  
the north edge of the G.I.W.W.

♦ Aloe Bay - from GIWW #19 to Tall Range D,  
to west edge of Heron Bayou on DI, W to DI  
Bridge south of the GIWW

♦ Ft Morgan -An area from the shoreline east  
of the Gulf Shores Marina at Ft Morgan due north  
1/2 nautical mile, then due west for one nautical  
mile, then due south to the shoreline on the west  
side of the Ft. Morgan boat ramp.

Little Lagoon is restricted to  
shrimp trawls that measure  
no more than 16 feet across  
the cork line or main top line.

## ALABAMA RESTRICTED WATERS TO THE SHRIMP FISHERY

- Bait Shrimping Only \*
- ▨ Shrimp Nursery Areas (closed to shrimping)
- ▤ Restricted Shrimp Area
- Special Live Saltwater Bait Areas
- ▩ Live Saltwater Bait Areas open  
during times of Closed Shrimp Season ♦
- ▨ Shrimp Closure Zone (Aug 15 - Oct 1)

3 1.5 0 3 6 9  
Miles



Note: All Rivers, Creeks, Bayous, etc. are  
Permanently Closed to all Shrimping Activities.