

Press Release

February 27, 2017

Contact: Jason Hermann, 251-861-2882

Some Areas Closed to Crabbing March 24-25 for Derelict Trap Cleanup

Conservation Commissioner N. Gunter Guy, Jr. announces a two-day closed season for the taking of crabs by the use of commercial or recreational crab traps on March 24-25, 2017, in the area of Mobile Bay north of a line which extends from the southwestern tip of Little Sand Island to Mayday Pier. The closure is pursuant to Section 9-2-7, Code of Alabama 1975 as stated by Rule 220-3-.52

All crab traps must be removed from the area described above. Any crab traps remaining in the closed area will be considered marine litter and can be removed by any individual. Anyone who removes crab traps that are considered marine litter does so under the jurisdiction of the Marine Resources Division and must dispose of such litter properly in the dumpster provided at the Choccalotta Bay Boat Ramp. Taking of traps in any area south of this region, regardless of distance from shore, is strictly prohibited.

Anyone participating in the program may use an airboat, provided that they register with the Marine Resources Division no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Anyone using an airboat within the Marine Resources Division's jurisdiction that is not registered with the derelict crab trap removal program will be in violation of the law and subject to punishment as provided by law.

This Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program is a coordinated effort with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Marine Debris Program. Everyone is invited to participate in this clean-up. Interested groups or individuals are encouraged to contact Jason Herrmann at the Alabama Marine Resources office (251-861-2882) or send e-mail to jason.herrmann@dcnr.alabama.gov.

