



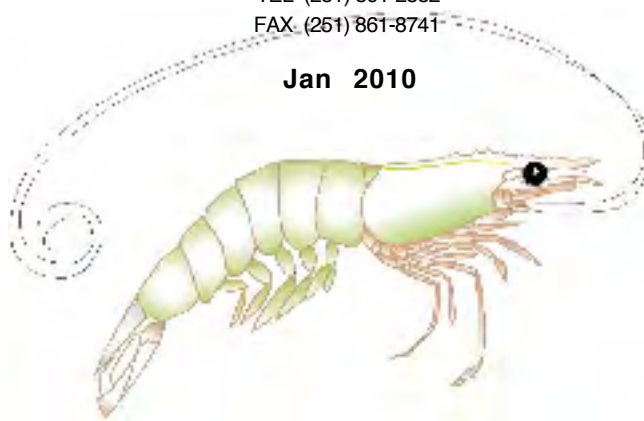
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**THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS. THIS EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS CORRECT AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED. BEFORE TAKING PART IN THIS FISHERY PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM](http://WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM)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

### COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING REGULATIONS

**I. Commercial:** 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 fishermen.

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

Boat less than 30 feet	\$51.00
Boat 30-45 feet	\$76.00
Boat over 45 feet	\$101.00

Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence, except Mississippi residents pay the same as Alabama's 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 \$51.00 crab license. Shrimp and bycatch can be sold only to an Alabama seafood dealer unless the shrimper possesses a \$201.00 seafood dealers license (must meet requirements for license).

**Season:** Set by regulation. Prohibited in permanently closed areas.

**Legal Size:** 68 (or fewer) shrimp per pound with heads-on.

**Pounds Allowed:** No limit

**Mesh Size:** No restrictions

**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

## Regulations - continued

may be used at the same time (not including a "try trawl", which cannot exceed 10 feet as measured along the main top line). No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf).

### Other :

It is unlawful for any person to drag any net, seine, or trawl over public or private oyster reefs. Commercially licensed boats cannot shrimp in exclusive bait areas. It is unlawful to retain a redfish or speckled trout caught with a trawl. It is unlawful to discard dead fish or other dead seafoods within 500 feet of any shoreline or into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within 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 shrimp trawls which exceed sixteen feet as measured across the cork line or top main line (Reg. 2003-MR-2, Rule 220-3-.64).

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## 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 Blakely River designated by law as an exclusive bait shrimp area). \* The mouth of the **Mobile River** is defined as a line running from the southernmost point of Pinto Island due west to a point on the mainland. The mouth of the **Blakely River** is defined as a line running westward from the charted position of the Blakely River channel marker #20 to a point of intersection with land on the southern tip of Big Island.
2. All of Portersville Bay inside a line running from Barron Point west along the south shores of Cat and Marsh Island then west to the south end of Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes) then north along the western shore of Coffee Island to a point on the mainland directly north of the northernmost tip of Coffee Island.
3. Heron Bay and that portion of Mississippi Sound north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and east of a line extending from Barron Point on Mon Louis Island 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 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 MSC marker #78 then southeast to the charted position of Blakely River Channel marker #2 then eastward to the Geodetic Survey in the center of Mayday Pier (30°35.966 - 87°54.851) 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.

9. That portion of Mobile Bay extending out from and parallel to the shoreline one-half nautical mile beginning at the center of Mayday Pier and then south to the northern edge of the Point Clear Channel. There shall be pilings installed by the Marine Resources Division one-half nautical mile from the shoreline and it shall be illegal to pull a trawl or trawls shoreward of such pilings.
10. 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 - 88°23.490) then northeast to the southwest tip of Point Aux Pins (30°22.271 - 88°18.888) 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 - 88°15.721.
11. North of the Lillian Bridge in Baldwin County.
12. Little Lagoon Pass in Baldwin County.
13. Perdido Pass in Baldwin County which is defined as those waters north of Perdido Pass Channel markers #1 and #2 and south of Perdido Pass Channel markers #8 and #9.
14. 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.

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**EXCLUSIVE BAIT AREAS (Closed to Commercial Shrimping)**  
 (Areas open to **licensed recreational shrimping and live saltwater bait dealers only**)  
 (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 the waters of Oyster Bay except those waters north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
3. **Pt. Clear:** waters inside a line starting from shore running west along the southern edge of Pt. Clear Channel to the Pt. Clear Beacon, then to the northwest piling at Zundel's Reef, then terminating at shore. Seasonal, from Jan. 1 to June 30 of each year.
4. **Blakely River:** that area encompassing those waters in the mouth of the Blakely River between the 1-10 bridge and the Highway 90 (old causeway) bridge.
5. **Terry Cove**
6. **Mullet Point:** beginning at Mullet Point Park ramp 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. Seasonal, from Jan. 1 to June 30 of each year.

***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 B.C. 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.**

**A map showing permanently closed areas and areas open only to licensed recreational shrimping and live saltwater bait dealers is attached.**

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS - Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS): For latest rules contact National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5312. 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:**

The following are exempted from the TED requirement

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 fishing only with a pusher-head trawl ("chopstick rig"). skimmer trawl, or wing net ("butterfly net").
3. Single test net (try net) with headrope length 20 feet or less; (State waters - try net cannot exceed 10 feet).
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.

#### **LICENSE PURCHASING**

**NOTE:** Licenses may be purchased 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 or P. O. Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547.

Be sure to include boat registration number, **copy of owner's drivers license**, state what size boat you have and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

This information sheet has been prepared for general information purposes only.

**Shrimping regulations are subject to change.** For information updates and copies of laws/regulations, you may phone the Dauphin Island office at 251-861-2882 or Gulf Shores office at 251-968-7576.

**A 24-hour recorded message may be accessed by calling 251-968-7575.**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, or disability in its



