



**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 CORRECTAS 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 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 boat and cannot be transferred.

Boat less than 30 feet:	\$61.00
Boat 30-45 feet:	\$91.00
Boat over 45 feet:	\$121.00

- 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 provided for above. 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 \$61.00 crab license. Shrimp and bycatch can be sold only to an Alabama seafood dealer unless the shrimper possesses a \$241.00 seafood dealers license (must meet requirements for license).

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

The area in Mobile Bay from the center of May Day Pier out to ½ 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 an 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 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).

**PERMANENTLY CLOSED AREAS  
(SHRIMP TAKEN BY ANY METHOD SHALL 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 running from the southernmost point of Pinto Island due west to a point of the mainland. The mouth of Blakeley River channel is defined as a line running westward from the charted position of the Blakeley River channel marker #18 to a point of intersection with land on the southern tip of Big Island (30°38.305'N, 87°55.503'W).
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 (Isle aux Herbes).
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 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.
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.
12. Perdido Pass in Baldwin County which is defined as those water north of Perdido Pass Chanel 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 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.**
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## SEASONAL BAIT AREAS

(Areas open exclusively to the commercial and recreational taking of live saltwater bait when adjacent water 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°23.720'N, 87°56.072'W) than 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 Rand "2", the 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 due north one-half nautical mile, then due west for one nautical mile, then due south to the shoreline on 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.

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS – Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS): For the latest rules contact  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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:**

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 head rope length 20 feet or less; State water – 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.

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**LICENSE PURCHASING:**

**NOTE:** Licenses may be purchased online at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) 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, a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



### 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)

\* USS Alabama Bait Area - from north point of Pinto Pass to NW edge of Coat Is. to the eastern edge of Tensaw Bridge

\* Arlington Channel

\* Arlington Channel - from MSC #89 - 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

\* Bayou la Baire Channel - from the mouth of the bayou to the 'BC' Beacon

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

\* 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 24.98N and 87 54.52W, then running southwesterly to Tall Range '2', then southwardly to 30 23.72N and 87 55.33W, 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.

\* Ft. Morgan - An area from the shoreline east of the Gulf Shores Marina at Ft Morgan due N 1/2 nautical mile, then due W for one nautical mile, then due S to the shoreline on the west side of the Ft. Morgan boat ramp.

\* Ape Bay - from GIWW #19 to Tall Range D. to W edge of Heron Bayou on DI, W to DI Bridge south of the GIWW



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