



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

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APRIL 2017

### RECREATIONAL 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 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 for bait or any non-commercial purposes by use of a trawl 16' (feet) or less as measured along the main top line.
- License:** A \$19.00 boat license is required. (Nonresidents shall 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.)  
\*If taken by cast net, a recreational saltwater fishing license is required in addition to the boat 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.  
  
From 6:00 a.m., August 15<sup>th</sup>, until 6:00 a.m., October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 will be open only to the use of a cast net to catch shrimp for non-commercial purposes not to exceed 1 gallon per person per day.
- Legal Size:** No restriction
- Gallons Allowed:** In areas open to commercial shrimping, 5 gallons of shrimp with heads intact (whole shrimp including head) per person per day. In exclusive saltwater bait areas, 1 gallon of shrimp with heads intact (whole shrimp including head) per boat per day. Licensed recreational shrimp boats taking crabs in waters open to commercial shrimping are limited to no more than one 5-gallon container of legal size crabs in possession per boat.  
  
Individuals taking shrimp, for recreational purposes, in an area open to commercial shrimping by means of a cast net and without the use of a boat, are limited to no more than 5 gallons of shrimp with head intact (whole shrimp including head) per person per day.
- Trawl Size:** Not to exceed 16 feet as measured along the main top line.  
No restriction on cast net.
- Mesh Size:** No restriction
- 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(s) is prohibited in waters closed to shrimping. Little Lagoon is closed to all shrimp trawls which exceed sixteen feet as measured across the cork line or top main line (Rule 220-3-.64). 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.

**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 (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.
12. Perdido Pass in Baldwin County which is defined as those water 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 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.

**RECREATIONAL TED EXEMPTION:**

No Power or mechanical advantage trawl retrieval system allowed on board boat. All gear must be retrieved by hand.

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**LICENSE PURCHASING:**

**NOTE:** Licenses may be purchased online at [outdooralabama.com](http://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

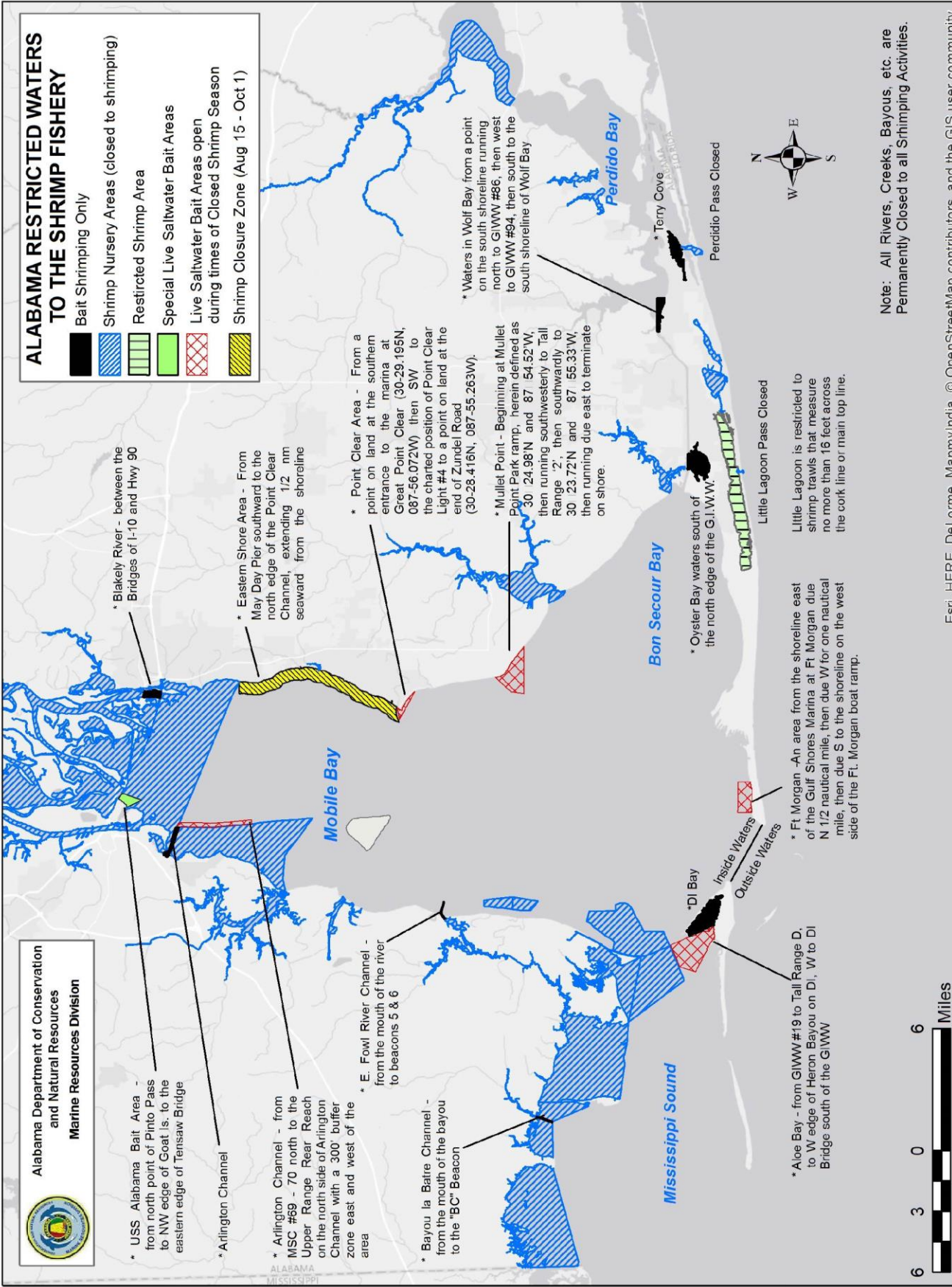
License Clerk  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Drawer 458  
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
Marine Resources Division



**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 Goat Is. to the eastern edge of Tensaw Bridge

\* Arlington Channel

\* Arlington Channel - from MSC #59 - 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 Batre 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 24.98'N and 87 54.52'W, then running southwesterly to Tail 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.

\* 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.

\* Alice Bay - from GIWW #19 to Tail 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.