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CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP, DIRECTOR MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

May 29, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

Pursuant to Section 9-12-46, Code of Alabama as stated by Rule 220-3-.01 the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division announces that as of 6:00 am, **Wednesday**, **June 3**, **2015** the following waters not permanently closed by law or regulation will **open** to shrimping:

• All waters in the Mississippi Sound not permanently closed by law or regulation.

• All waters in Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay south of N30 25.000' latitude not permanently closed by law or regulation.

Licensed live bait dealers are reminded that the taking of live bait north of a line beginning at the northern shore of East Fowl River running along the northern edge of the Fowl River Channel to Marker #2 in the Fowl River Channel then southeasterly to Middle Bay Light and then northeasterly to Great Point Clear is prohibited at this time except by Permit holders in the Special Permit Area in the Mobile Ship Channel.

Fishermen should be aware that state biologists will continue to sample in the areas to be opened. This opening is in response to routine shrimp sampling that indicated the average size were larger than 68 head-on shrimp per pound within designated waters. Should sampling indicate a change in the average size of 68 head-on shrimp per pound, additional announcements will be provided to modify the original announcement.

Approved: Christoper M. Blankenship, Director Marine Resources Division