Gator Season Dates Announced

Alligator season dates and hunting regulations have been established for twelve parishes in coastal Louisiana by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at a meeting held in New Orleans on July 24. J. Burton Angelle, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary, said that the open season will run for a 31-day period beginning September 7 and continuing through October 7.

Hunting will be permitted only in certain areas, with consent of landowners, according to specific harvest methods, and following stringent regulations. Angelle emphasized that all alligator harvesting as well as selling of hides, meat, and parts will be closely monitored and that enforcement would be strict.

Areas open to hunting will include portions of the parishes of Cameron, Calcasieu, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany.

In previous seasons, only Cameron, Calcasieu, and Vermilion Parishes were open. This year, hunting will be allowed in nine additional parishes as a result of the recent reclassification of the alligator by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Under regulations adopted by the commission, a quota was established for each area eligible for hunting. Landowners and trappers will be issued special tags for the exact number of alligators that can be harvested from their lands.

These tags, issued by the department, must be attached to the hide immediately and remain there during storage, shipment, and processing.

Angelle stressed that all hunters must be authorized by landowners and properly licensed by the department. Cost of a resident alligator hunting license is $25 and a non-resident sport hunting license is $150.

Indiscriminate hunting of alligators anywhere in Louisiana or in the designated areas out-of-season is a violation of state and federal law.