

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Fish and Wildlife Values
(LAC 76:I.313 and 315)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend the civil fish and wildlife values, guidelines for determining fish and wildlife values and the list of Threatened and Endangered species. It also establishes conversion factors to be used to convert the weight of fish and shellfish species not in whole form to whole form weight for the purpose of assigning civil restitution penalty values for commercial fish and shellfish species. Authority to establish such rules and regulations is vested in the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by R.S. 56:40.1-40.9 and R.S. 56:1904.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the proposed rule, the Secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part I. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Agencies Thereunder

Chapter 3. Special Powers and Duties

Subchapter D. Wildlife Values

§313. Guidelines for Determining Fish and Wildlife Values

A. The following are the guidelines utilized by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in determining fish and wildlife values.

1. With respect to fish and shellfish species, the American Fisheries Society publishes hatchery values reflecting estimated costs involved in rearing various freshwater and saltwater fish. These figures, adjusted by the Consumer Price Index; current data relating to expenditures of both sport and commercial fishermen relating to the animal or species which, directly or indirectly, result in revenues being generated for the state; ex-vessel commercial prices, as reported by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Trip Ticket Program; estimated costs involved in the capture, purchase, transportation and release of species of fish; the current commercial retail selling price of living replacement animals; and, the current commercial selling price of meat and/or other products which are derived from the animal and traded in commerce, shall be considered by the department in formulating its recommendations concerning valuation.

2. With respect to avian species, existing information and estimated costs involved in the capture, purchase, transportation and release of species of birds; cost to purchase replacement animals from other states or jurisdictions; the costs to zoos and other zoological institutions to raise and maintain like animals; the current commercial retail selling price of meat and/or other products which are derived from the animal and traded in commerce; and, the expenditures of sportsmen and others relating to the animal or species which, directly or indirectly, result in revenue being generated for the state, and adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, shall be considered by the department in formulating its recommendations concerning valuation.

3. With respect to mammal species, estimated costs involved in the capture, purchase, transportation, and release of species of mammals; pelt values; costs to zoos and other zoological institutions to raise and maintain like animals; the current commercial retail selling price of meat and/or other products which are derived from the animal and traded in commerce; and the expenditures of sportsmen and others relating to the animal of species which, directly or indirectly, result in revenue being generated for the state, and adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, shall be considered by the department in formulating its recommendations concerning valuation.

4. With respect to reptiles and amphibian species, the estimated costs involved in the capture, purchase, transportation and release of species of reptiles and amphibians; pelt or hide values, costs to zoos and other zoological institutions to raise and maintain the animal; the current commercial retail selling price of meat and/or other products which are derived from the animal and traded in commerce; and the expenditures of hunters, trappers, and recreational sportsmen with respect to the animal or species which, directly or indirectly, result in revenues being generated for the state and adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, shall be considered by the department in formulating its recommendations concerning valuation.

5. Certain species are highly prized because of their rarity or may have a high intangible perceived value placed on the animal or species by the public. Other species have an intrinsically high value because they are threatened or endangered. In addition to the guidelines set forth above, the department shall, with respect to these rare and/or threatened and/or endangered species which might have limited commercial value but which possess a high intangible, intrinsic, aesthetic, ecological, or biological value, consider those factors when determining its recommendations with respect to valuation.

6. Not all the criteria set forth in the guidelines above will be applicable to each particular series and each criterion or factor shall be considered by the department only insofar as it is applicable to each particular species.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:40.1-40.9.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 15:200 (March 1989), amended LR 37:2434 (August 2011), LR

§315. Fish and Wildlife Values

A. All fish and wildlife species found within, or taken from the state have value, regardless of whether a specific value is provided herein. If a specific value is not provided for in this Section, that species is not deemed to be without value and its value may be determined.

B. Fish and Wildlife Values

1. Game Mammals and Game Birds

Quality Deer ¹	\$1,600
Non-Quality Antlered Deer	\$800
Non-Quality Antlerless Deer	\$400
Squirrels	\$27
Rabbits	\$42
Turkeys	\$775
Ducks	\$51
Mottled Ducks	\$100
Geese	\$73
Coots	\$20

Gallinules and Rails	\$29
Snipe	\$26.50
Quail	\$65
Woodcock	\$80
Doves	\$25

¹Quality deer defined as buck meeting two of the following three criteria: at least eight total points, a minimum spread of 13.5 inches and a minimum beam length of 16.5 inches using the Boone and Crockett Scoring system defined in Measuring and Scoring North American Big Game Trophies; Third Edition, by Nesbitt, William H. and Wright, Philip L., updated by Buckner, Eldon L., Byers, C. Randall, and Reneau, Jack, 2009.

2. Non-Game Animals

Raptors (Birds)	\$116
Other Birds	\$23.25
Frogs	\$1.25
Turtles	\$2.75
Snakes, Other than Pine Snake	\$3.50
Salamanders	\$3
Alligator (Eggs)	\$15.50/egg
Alligator, Other Than Albino (Whole, Skin, or Meat ²)	\$250
Mink	\$5

Muskrat	\$1.25
Otter	\$25.75
Bobcat	\$39.25
Marine Mammals	\$4,350
Other Mammals, Excluding Outlawed Quadrapeds	\$23.25

² For alligator meat, 23 pounds of deboned meat and 35 pounds of bone in carcass meat shall equate to one alligator. Civil restitution penalty amounts for illegal possession of alligator meat, absent the presence of other parts of the animal(s), shall be based on the weight of the meat, with the weight rounded up to the next number of whole alligators.

3. Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species³

Reptiles (Adult or Young)	\$4,350/animal
Reptiles (Eggs)	\$4,350/nest or clutch
Whooping Cranes	\$15,000/animal
Birds, (Adult or Young)	\$4,350/animal
Birds, (Eggs)	\$4,350/nest or clutch
Mammals	\$4,350/animal
Invertebrates	\$4,350/violation
Fish	\$4,350/animal
Amphibians	\$4,350/animal

³ See LAC 76:I.317 for a list of Threatened or Endangered Species.

4. Species of Special Concern

Fish	
Prohibited fish species as found in LAC 76:VII.145, LAC 76:VII.337.A, and LAC 76:VII.357.B.4 excluding species listed in LAC 76:I.317.	\$2,175/animal
Birds	
Bald Eagle	\$4,350/animal
Brown Pelican	\$4,350/animal
Peregrine Falcon	\$4,350/animal
Mammals	
Black Bear	\$4,350/animal
Cougars (Felis concolor cougar)	\$4,350/animal
Reptiles	
Albino Alligator	\$4,350/animal
Alligator Snapping Turtle	\$700/animal
Box Turtle	\$700/animal
Diamondback Terrapin	\$700/animal
Razorback Musk Turtle	\$700/animal

5. Recreational and Commercial Fishes

Species Group	Value per Individual Fish
Drum, Red	\$50
Spotted Seatrout	\$31.25
Snapper, Red	\$38.25
White Trout, Sand Seatrout, Silver Seatrout	\$5.25
Flounder	\$21.50
Croaker	\$6.25
Bass, Largemouth	\$15
Bluegill	\$2
Crappies	\$6
Paddlefish ⁴	\$170

⁴For Paddlefish roe, 4.75 pounds of roe shall equate to one Paddlefish. Civil restitution penalty amounts for illegal possession of Paddlefish roe, absent the presence of other parts of the animal(s), shall be based on the weight of the roe, with the weight rounded up to the next number of whole Paddlefish.

6. Commercial Fish Species

Species Group	Value/Lb⁵
Amberjacks	\$2.25

Species Group	Value/Lb ⁵
Other Jacks	\$1.50
Barracuda	\$2.25
Bowfin ⁶	\$1
Buffalo	\$0.25
Carp	\$0.25
Freshwater Catfish	\$0.75
Cobia	\$3.75
Blue Crab	\$2
Stone Crab	\$5
Crawfish	\$1.50
Dolphin (Fish)	\$1.25
Driftfish	\$2.75
Black Drum	\$1.25
Freshwater Drum	\$0.25
Gar	\$1.25
Gag Grouper	\$5.25
Yellowedge Grouper	\$4.75
Other Grouper, Hinds, and Grunts	\$4.50
Kingfish and Whiting	\$1.50
King Mackerel	\$2.50

Species Group	Value/Lb⁵
Spanish Mackerel	\$1
Menhaden	\$0.25
Mullet ⁷	\$0.75
Oilfish and Escolar	\$1
Oyster (in-shell weight)	\$2
Pompano	\$4.50
Porgy	\$2
Shad	\$0.25
Shortfin Mako Shark	\$1.50
Sharks and Rays	\$0.50
Sheepshead	\$1
Shrimp	\$1.50
Snapper Other than Red Snapper	\$5.75
Squid	\$3
Swordfish	\$3.50
Tilefishes	\$3.25
Triggerfish	\$2.25
Tripletail	\$5
Albacore Tuna	\$0.75
Bigeye Tuna	\$5.25
Blackfin Tuna	\$0.75

Species Group	Value/Lb⁵
Bluefin Tuna	\$5.25
Yellowfin Tuna	\$5.25
Other Tuna	\$1
Wahoo	\$1.50

⁵All values listed are for whole form weight. When fish are not in whole form, the conversion factors set out in Section 316, following, shall be applied to convert their product form weight to whole form weight. If product form weight to whole form weight conversion factor is not available for a particular species and is thus not listed in Section 316, any data that is collected in a scientific method to allow estimation of the conversion factor from product form weight to whole form weight for that species shall be allowed to be used to determine civil restitution value for product form.

⁶For bowfin roe, weight of the roe should be multiplied by 1/.12 to convert the roe to whole bowfin weight.

⁷For mullet roe, weight of the roe should be multiplied by 1/.18 to convert the roe to whole mullet weight.

7. All Fish Not Listed Elsewhere in This Rule

Marine Fish	\$1.05/lb.
Freshwater Fish	\$0.45/lb.

C. Recovery of Civil Penalties by the Department

1. In any case where the department elects to enforce civil restitution for the value of injured or destroyed wildlife or aquatic life by adjudicatory hearing or civil suit, it shall demand restitution in accordance with the values established in this Subchapter.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Subsection, the secretary is authorized to assess or settle civil restitution penalties to ensure equitable and reasonable application of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and this Subchapter.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:40.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:39 (January 1990), amended LR 18:290 (March 1992), LR 37:2435 (August 2011), LR

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Small Business Analysis

The proposed rule change may raise expenditures for some firms and lower than for others, depending on specific violations of which they are charged.

Public Comments

Written comments should be addressed to Dr. Jack Isaacs, Economist, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000 or via e-mail to jisaacs@wlf.la.gov prior to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Kevin Sagrera

Chairman

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There is no anticipated impact on expenditures in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) as a result of the proposed rule change. The proposed rule change amends the civil restitution penalty values for recreational and commercial fish and wildlife taken in violation of laws, rules, and regulations.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is anticipated to decrease revenue collections to LDWF generated from civil restitution penalties by \$239,477 per fiscal year.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule change will negatively affect persons who are cited for violating wildlife and fisheries laws, rules, and regulations. The proposed rule change may benefit other stakeholders to the extent that the increased penalties deter transgressions of regulations that may damage the natural resources.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have a significant effect on competition and employment in the public and private sectors.