





*Our mission is to manage the State's marine fishery resources through research, enforcement, and education for the maximum benefit of the resources and the citizens of Alabama.*

## FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

April 30, 2012

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, May 2, 2012** the following waters will **temporarily close** to shrimping:

- **All waters in the Mississippi Sound.**
- **All waters in Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay north of 30 17.250' N latitude.**
- **All waters of Wolf Bay, Bay La Launch, Arnica Bay, Perdido Bay, Bayou St. John.**
- **All waters in Little Lagoon.**

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 during this closure 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 temporary closure is in response to routine shrimp sampling that indicated the average size were smaller than 68 head-on shrimp per pound. This is an annual occurrence, mandated by law, to allow shrimp to grow to harvestable size. Additional announcements will be provided to modify the original announcement.



Christopher M. Blankenship, Director  
Marine Resources Division