

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



TYLER M. BOSWORTH
SECRETARY

PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

June 21, 2025

Dr. Carrie Simmons
Executive Director
Gulf Council
4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33607

Re: Request for Extension of Wahoo Regulations into Federal Waters

Dear Dr. Simmons,

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has evaluated the management of the Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) fishery, including the possibility of extending state regulations into adjacent federal waters. Wahoo do not currently have any species-specific fishing regulations in federal waters off Louisiana. LDWF has implemented species-specific regulations for the recreational harvest of Wahoo and is seeking to extend those regulations into federal waters.

According to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Title 16 U.S.C. Section 1856, a state has the ability to extend their regulations into federal waters if there is no federal fishery management plan, or if there are no regulations for federal waters.

LDWF staff presented a rule proposal for Wahoo management at the February 6, 2025, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The rule establishes a five fish per person recreational bag and possession limit for Wahoo. The rule was accepted by the LWFC, moved through the administrative rule making process with public comment considered, and published as final on June 20, 2025.

It is our understanding that the Gulf Council has previously discussed the possibility of Wahoo regulations, but has no imminent plans to consider managing Wahoo in federal waters. The LDWF is committed to conserving these resources for future generations and is requesting to extend its regulatory authority into federal waters. Please contact me or Ryan Montegut if you have any questions or concerns about this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Bosworth", is written over the typed name and title.

Tyler M. Bosworth
Secretary

cc: Mr. Johnathan Dugas, Chair