

PREPARED BY: ANDREW ARNETT, ALLIGATOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# 2023 ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON REPORT



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LYNN POSEY

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# ALLIGATOR HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI

There are two alligator hunting seasons offered in Mississippi and one special seasons:

1. Public Waters Alligator Season
2. Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season
3. Special Season on Pelahatchie Bay on the Ross Barnett Reservoir

Permits are offered as a “special permit” only and require an application process for both.

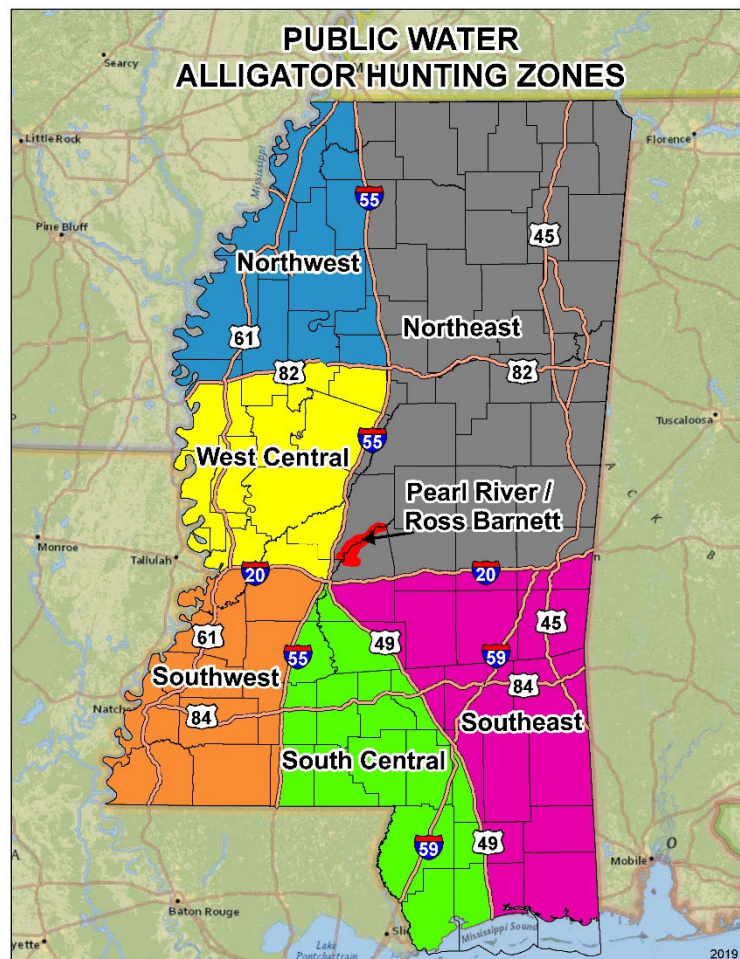
## PUBLIC WATERS ALLIGATOR SEASON

### Permitting Process

Applications were accepted by an on-line electronic process from June 1-8, 2023. An electronic processing fee of \$2.39 was charged for each application. Applicants can only apply once in one alligator hunting zone of their choice. There are seven Alligator Hunting Zones. Applicants must be residents at least 16 years of age and must possess a prerequisite Mississippi hunting license. Nonresidents who possess a valid Lifetime Hunting License are eligible to apply.

### Drawing/Permitting Process

A third party entity, MSI, conducts a computer based random drawing of applicant MDWFP Customer Identification Numbers of the applicants for each hunting zone, based upon the allotted numbers of permits in each hunting zone. An email is sent to each winning applicant to notify them that they have been drawn and are provided instructions with a secure internet link to begin the permit purchasing process. Winners have 48 hours to complete the purchase process. After 48 hours, any unsold permits are submitted for a second drawing from the remaining pool of undrawn applicants in each hunting zone. Email notifications are sent to winners of the second drawing and they have a 48-hour period to purchase their permit. An Alligator Possession Permit, Alligator Hunting License, and two Temporary Possession Tags are mailed to each permit holder. An alligator hunting information packet is mailed to each permit holder that includes an instructions letter, Alligator Hunting Guide, Harvest Reporting Instructions, Harvest Report Information Cards, and FAQs.



# 2023 Alligator Permit Drawing Plan

2023		JUNE		ALLIGATOR DRAWING PROCESS CALENDAR					
CALENDAR YEAR		CALENDAR MONTH		MONDAY FIRST DAY OF WEEK					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday			
29	30	31	01	02	03	04			
			Applications accepted beginning at 10am						
05	06	07	08	09	10	11			
			Applications end at 10am	Data Transfer					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Data Transfer	Data Transfer	Emails to winners at 12 noon. Begin Permit Purchase Process	Reminder email at Noon	Purchase process ends at 12 noon					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
Data Transfer	Data Transfer	Emails to 2nd Draw Winners at 12 noon. Begin purchase process	Reminder email at Noon	Purchase process ends at 12 noon					
26	27	28	29	30	01	02			
03	04	05	06	07	08	09			

\* 1<sup>st</sup> Drawing Winners are notified by email at 12:00 Noon 6/14/23 with a direct link to purchase their permit and license.

- A reminder email is sent if a permit has not been purchased after 24 hours.
- Winners have 48 hours to complete the purchase.
- Any unpurchased permits in each zone are returned for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing process.

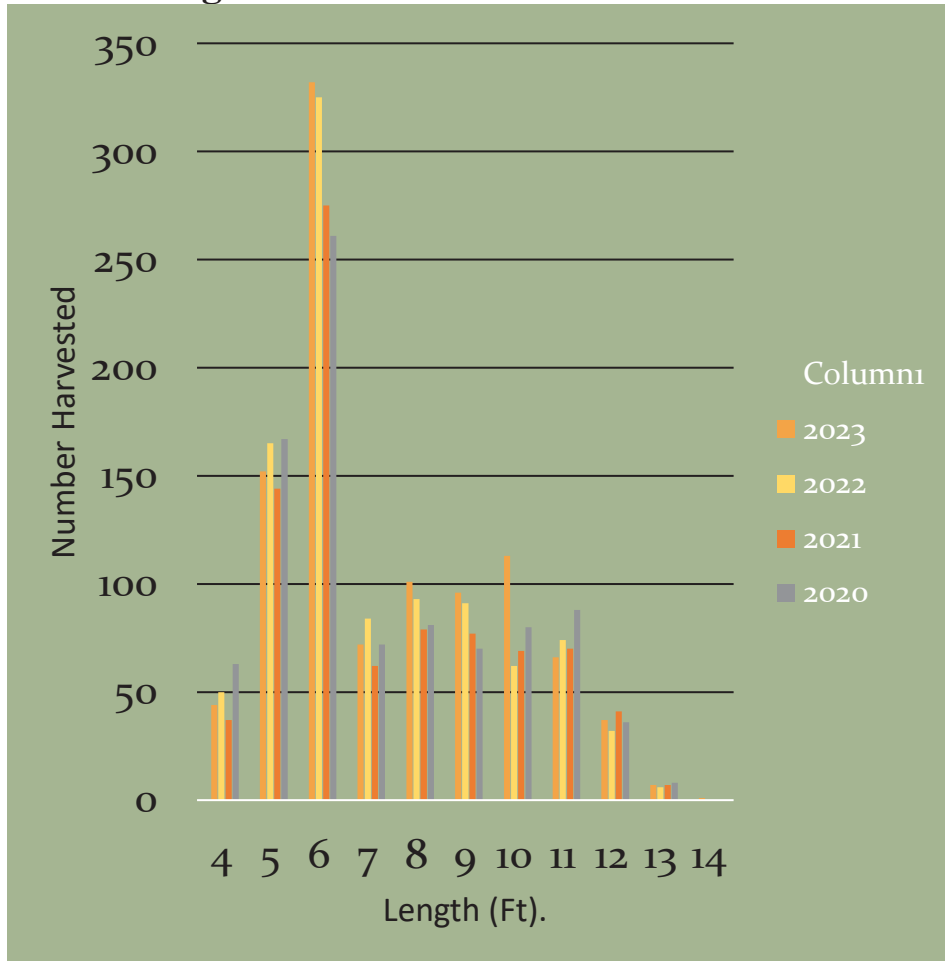
\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing consists of only unclaimed permits from 1<sup>st</sup> Drawing.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing Winners are notified by email at 12:00 Noon 6/21/23 with a direct link to purchase their permit and license.
- A reminder email is sent if a permit has not been purchased after 24 hours.
- Winners have 48 hours to complete the purchase.

## 2023 Alligator Permit Drawing Results

Number of Applicants	6,373
Number Drawn 1st Drawing	960
Number Sold 1st Drawing	850 (88.5%)
Number Drawn 2nd Drawing	130
Number Sold 2nd Drawing	104 (80%)
Number of "Opt Outs" for 2nd Drawing	69
Grand Total Sold	954 (99.3%)

## Alligator Harvest Statistics 2020-2023



## Alligator Harvest Statistics 2023

Total Harvest	838
Average Length	7.69 ft.
Average Length Under 7 ft.	6.02 ft.
Average Length Over 7 ft.	9.65 ft.
Males	69%
Females	31%

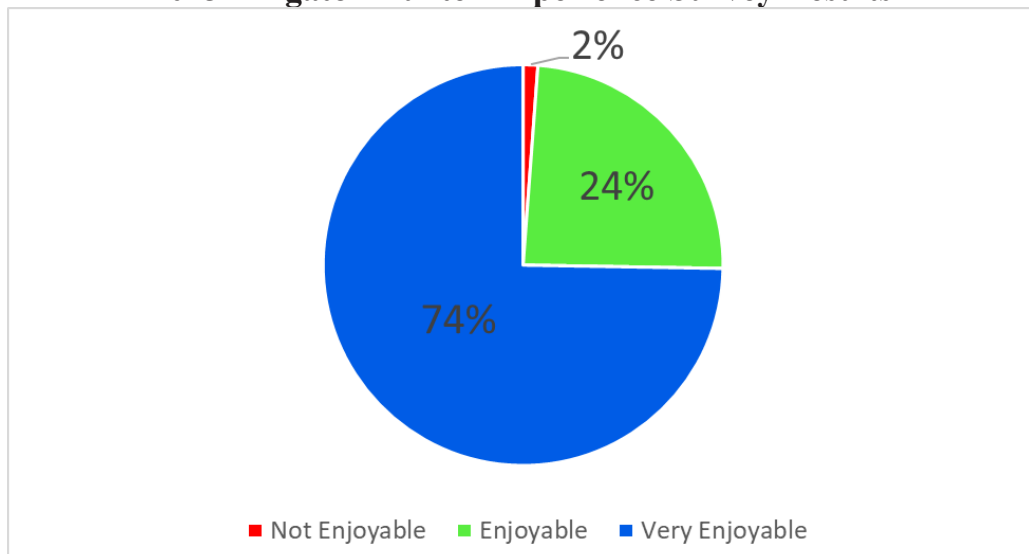
## Alligator Season 2023 Statistics

<b>Total # of Applicants Who Hunted:</b>	659
<b>Total # Hunters Who Participated:</b>	3705
<b>Size of Average Hunting Party:</b>	5.62
<b>Total alligators harvested:</b>	838 (457 < 7' and 381 > 7')
<b>Total Alligators Captured and Released:</b>	1540
<b>Capture Methods:</b>	Rod/Reel (803) / Bowfishing Equipment (17) / Snare Pole (13) / Harpoon (5)
<b>Total Hunters Who Harvested an Alligator:</b>	730
<b>Total Hours Spent Hunting:</b>	9,911
<b>Total Hours Per Alligator:</b>	6.4

## Alligator Season 2023 Statistics

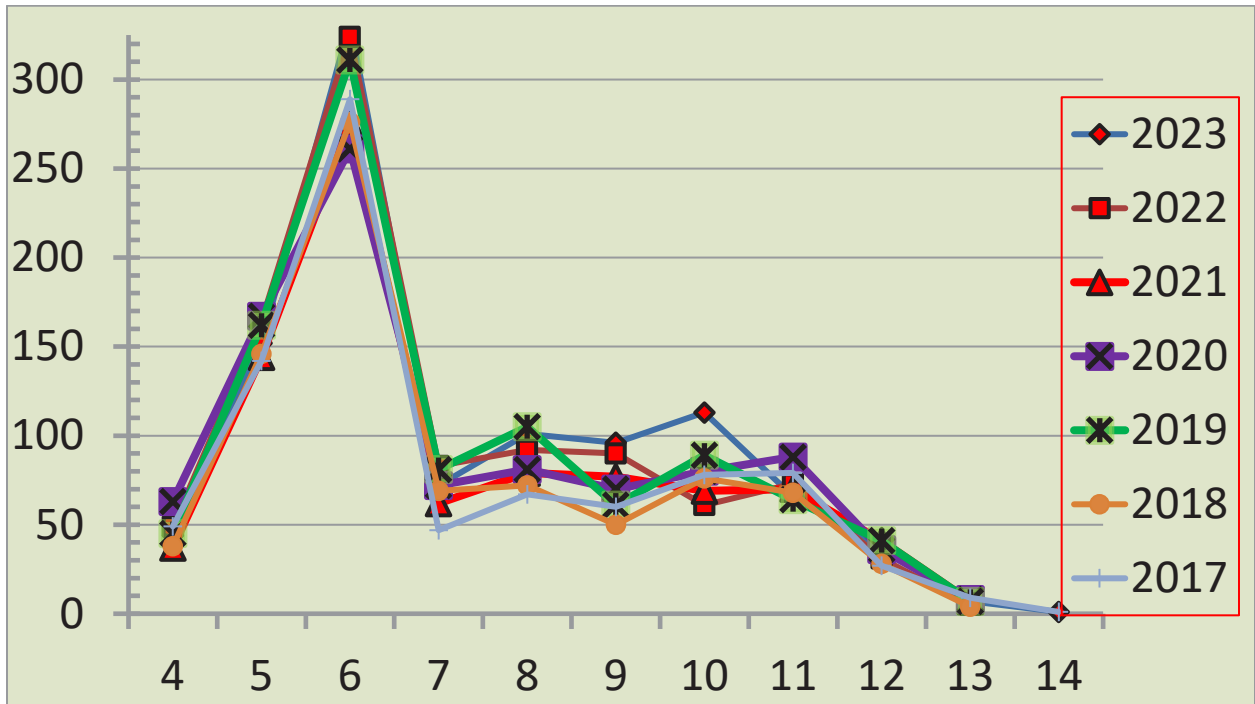
Zone	Total Gators	Average Length Male	Shortest Length Male	Longest Length Male	Average Length Female	Shortest Length Female	Longest Length Female
West Central	225	8.29	4.0	14.25	6.55	4.66	9.25
Southwest	239	8.49	4.75	13.25	6.44	4.50	9.41
Southeast	112	7.96	4.41	13.25	6.38	4.25	9.25
South Central	92	7.43	4.5	11.66	6.13	4.16	9.16
Pearl River	77	8.47	5.25	12.33	7.09	4.25	9.9
Northwest	14	8.69	4.58	13.83	6.16	5.75	6.83
Northeast	78	7.9	4.5	12	5.41	4.16	6.91

### 2023 Alligator Hunter Experience Survey Results



# Alligator Harvest By Size Class

Public Waters





## MS Alligator Season Harvest History - Since 2005

YEAR	# Permits	# Applications	PEARL ZONE	PASCAGOULA ZONE	# Gators Harvested per Permit on Public Waters	PVT LANDS	# Open Counties
			# Harvested	# Harvested		# Harvested	
2005	50	719	30	NA	0.60		
2006	100	1205	47	NA	0.47	0	3
2007	200	1233	66	68	0.67	0	3
2008	240	1636	58	72	0.54	22	7
2009	240	1626	96	58	0.64	59	13
2010	260	2086	132	92	0.86	86	17
2011	480	2858	91	91	0.38	99	25
2012	810	7,212	513 (Statewide 6 Zones)		0.63	104	28
2013	920	25,529	677 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.73	103	28
2014	920	30,121	682 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.74	96	28
2015	1,138	11,639	982 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.86	127	28
2016	920	6,094	784 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.89	95	31
2017	920	4,141	741 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.81	119	33
2018	930	4,190	761 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.81	106	34
2019	957	4,414	922 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.96	95	36
2020	986	5,548	876 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.89	117	36
2021	985	6,103	776 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.79	117	36
2022	980	7,050	830 (Statewide 7 Zones)		0.85	142	36
2023	953	6,373	838 (Statewide 7 Zones)		.88	149	36
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,283</b>			<b>1,487</b>	

### Pelahatchie Bay Season 2023

Number of Partnered Applications	718
Applications Drawn	12
Number of Tags Sold	24 (2 tags per application)

<b>Total # of Applicants Who Hunted:</b>	21
<b>Total # Hunters Who Participated:</b>	120
<b>Size of Average Hunting Party:</b>	5.714
<b>Total alligators harvested:</b>	21 (2 < 7' and 19 > 7')
<b>Total Alligators Captured and Released:</b>	22
<b>Capture Methods:</b>	Rod/Reel (19) / Snare Pole (1) / Harpoon (1)
<b>Total Hunters Who Harvested an Alligator:</b>	17
<b>Total Hours Spent Hunting:</b>	215
<b>Total Hours Per Alligator:</b>	9.773

### **Alligator License/Permitting Revenue 2021-2023**

<b>Privilege</b>	<b>Cost Each</b>	<b>Number Sold 2020</b>	<b>Number Sold 2021</b>	<b>Number Sold 2022</b>	<b>Number Sold 2023</b>	<b>Revenue 2021</b>	<b>Revenue 2022</b>	<b>Revenue 2023</b>
<b>Alligator Hunting License</b>	\$25	3041	3340	3,193	3,237	\$83,500	\$79,825	\$80,925
<b>Public Water Possession Permit</b>	\$200	986	985	980	953	\$197,000	\$196,000	\$190,600
<b>RES Private Lands Possession Permit</b>	\$100	120	104	120	120	\$10,400	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>NR Private Lands Possession Permit</b>	\$200	12	14	22	22	\$2,800	\$4,400	\$4,400
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>\$293,700</b>	<b>\$292,225</b>	<b>\$287,925</b>

## HUNTER RECRUITMENT BY ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON

YEAR	# First Time Customers Who Bought a (754) Alligator Hunting License	Total # of Alligator Hunting Licenses Sold	Percent New MDWFP Customers	# Permits Issued
2023	153	3,237	4.8	953
2022	194	3,193	6.08	980
2021	137	3,342	4.10	985
2020	130	3,041	4.27	986
2019	154	2911	5.29	960
2018	139	2126	6.53	930
2017	156	3088	5.05	920
2016	204	3283	6.21	920
2015	207	3602	5.74	1138
2014	175	2887	6.06	920
2013	205	2762	7.42	920
2012	162	2169	7.47	810
2011	77	1424	5.41	480
2010	54	865	6.24	260
2009	57	834	6.83	240
2008	65	816	7.97	240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,269/142 avg.</b>	<b>33,045</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>10,687</b>

## Alligator Hunting Records – Public Waters

As of close of 2023 Hunting Season

	Longest (male)	Heaviest (male)	Longest (female)	Heaviest (female)
<b>RECORD</b>	<b>14 ft. 3 in.</b>	<b>822 lbs.</b>	<b>10 ft. 2 in.</b>	<b>319 lbs.</b>
<b>Taken by:</b>	Donald Woods	Clayton Gibson	Jim Denson	Craig Jones
<b>Town</b>	Oxford, MS	Natchez, MS	Madison, MS	Mendenhall, MS
<b>Date</b>	August 25, 2023	August 28, 2015	August 28, 2022	August 30, 2015
<b>Water Body</b>	Yazoo River	MS River	Pearl River	Eagle Lake
<b>Method of Harvest</b>	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook
<b>Length</b>	14 ft. 3 in.	13 ft. 1/2 in.	10 ft. 2 in.	9 ft. 11 in.
<b>Weight (lbs.)</b>	802.5	822	193	319
<b>Belly Girth (in.)</b>	65	65	35	47
<b>Tail Girth (in.)</b>	46 1/2	48	24	37
<b>ZONE</b>	West Central	Southwest	Pearl/RBR	West Central

## Alligator Hunting Records - Private Lands

As of close of 2023 Hunting Season

	Longest (male)	Heaviest (male)	Longest (female)	Heaviest (female)
<b>RECORD</b>	<b>14 ft. 1/4 in.</b>	<b>826 lbs.</b>	<b>10 ft. 1/2 in.</b>	<b>9 ft. 5.5 in.</b>
<b>Taken by:</b>	Kennie Crechale	Kennie Crechale	Jonathon Kent	Kevin Goza
<b>Town</b>	Morton, MS	Morton, MS	Greenwood, MS	Flowood, MS
<b>Date</b>	August 29, 2015	August 29, 2015	September 19, 2015	September 25, 2010
<b>County Taken</b>	Warren Co.	Warren Co.	Issaquena Co.	Issaquena Co.
<b>Length</b>	14 ft. 1/4 in.	14 ft. 1/4 in.	10 ft. 1/2 in.	9 ft. 5 4/8 in.
<b>Weight (lbs.)</b>	826	826	283 (Tie Record)	283 (Tie Record)
<b>Belly Girth (in.)</b>	68	68	46	48
<b>Tail Girth (in.)</b>	48	48	32	32
<b>Method of Harvest</b>	Firearm/Rifle - Daytime	Firearm/Rifle - Daytime	Rod/Reel -Snatch hook	Rod/Reel - Snatch Hook

### RECORD LENGTH Male ALLIGATOR

On August 25, a new state record for the longest male alligator was taken by Donald Woods of Mississippi. The alligator was killed on the Yazoo River and measured 14 feet 3 inches long.





Additionally, the alligator had been previously captured and tagged as “Yellow 105” by the MDWFP in 2007. Arnett reports, “The alligator was tagged by the former coordinator, Ricky Flynt, on May 31, 2007 as part of a research project. At that time, the alligator measured exactly 10 feet 9 inches. The goal of the research is to obtain biological measurements and location information in hopes that alligator hunters may one day recapture or harvest previously tagged alligators in order to learn more about alligator movements and growth rates.

## **PRIVATE LANDS ALLIGATOR HUNTING**

In 2023, there were 36 counties open to private lands alligator hunting. Applications for private land alligator hunting vouchers are accepted during May and June, the deadline is July 1. Applications are accepted from anyone, resident, or nonresident, with signed landowner permission for properties located within any open county. Applicants must provide a completed application, signed by the applicant and the landowner, a copy of the property deed, a copy of current year tax receipts for the property, a map that shows the general location of the property within the county, and a map of the property boundaries. The MDWFP digitizes the property boundaries and privately owned, permanent surface water located on the property to determine total acres of privately owned surface water (privately owned alligator habitat). Alligator Harvest Permit Vouchers are issued to approved property applicants at the rate of one voucher for the first 20 acres of privately owned alligator habitat and additional vouchers for each additional 100 acres of privately owned alligator habitat. Each voucher in conjunction with the purchase of a Private Lands Alligator Possession Permit (\$100 for residents and \$200 for nonresidents) and Alligator Hunting License (\$25) allows the harvest of two alligators at least four feet long, however only one of the two may exceed seven feet long.

<b>Number of Property Applications Received</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Number of Properties Permitted</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Number of Harvest Vouchers Issued</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>Number of Private Water Acres Involved</b>	<b>19,444</b>
<b>Number of Alligators Harvested</b>	<b>149</b>





