



MICHAEL J. "MIKE"
WAGUESPACK, CPA

Report Highlights

COMPARISON OF LOUISIANA'S LICENSE FEES TO OTHER REGIONAL STATES

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Why We Conducted This Audit

The purpose of this audit is to provide information on how the fees the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) charges for certain licenses compare to other regional states. We conducted this audit because LDWF's fees have not changed significantly since June 2000, and the department relies heavily on mineral royalties for its funding, which have decreased since calendar year 2015.

What We Found

The fees for LDWF's commonly-purchased recreational and commercial fishing and hunting licenses for Louisiana residents and non-residents vary when compared to the average of other regional states. Specifically, we found the following:

Louisiana license fees are **lower** than the average of other regional states for the following licenses:

- Recreational freshwater fishing for Louisiana residents,
- Recreational all water (both freshwater and saltwater) fishing for Louisiana residents,
- Recreational basic/small game hunting for Louisiana residents,
- Recreational duck/waterfowl hunting for Louisiana residents,
- Recreational big game hunting for non-residents,
- Lifetime (recreational) combination hunting and fishing for Louisiana residents, and
- Boater registration fees.

Louisiana license fees are **comparable or higher** than the average of other regional states for the following licenses:

- Recreational saltwater fishing for Louisiana residents;
- Recreational freshwater, saltwater, and all water (both freshwater and saltwater) fishing for non-residents;
- Recreational big game hunting for Louisiana residents;
- Recreational bow & primitive hunting for Louisiana residents;
- Recreational basic/small game, duck/waterfowl, and bow and primitive hunting for non-residents;
- Commercial freshwater, saltwater, and all water fishing (commercial fisherman license) for Louisiana residents; and
- Commercial freshwater, saltwater, and all water fishing (commercial fisherman license) for non-residents.

In addition, LDWF paid a total of \$10.8 million in agent commissions and electronic licensing service fees for recreational licenses from fiscal years 2016 through 2020 that are not included in the cost of a license.

View the full report, including management's response, at www.la.gov.