AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-64.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE WATERS CLOSED TO SHRIMPING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 49-15-64.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

49-15-64.1. (1) The shrimp season shall open on the first Wednesday of June. The shrimp season shall be closed from January 1 until it is opened the first Wednesday of June, except south of the Intracoastal Waterway. The shrimp season shall be closed south of the Intracoastal Waterway and west of the Gulfport Ship Channel from May 1 until it is opened the first Wednesday of June, except as may be provided in subsection (2) of this section. For the purposes of this section only, that portion of the Intracoastal Waterway that extends from a point south of Long Beach to a point south of Point Clear is described as follows:
Begin at green buoy or beacon number 1 which is located approximately three (3) miles north of West Point on Cat Island, thence extending southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 4P, thence southwesterly to Pass Marianne Light, thence southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 15P at the northernmost point of Merrill Coquille, thence southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 17P, thence southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 22, thence westerly to Lighthouse Point and continuing westward following the meandering of the shoreline to the boundary line of the state.

(2) The commission, by majority vote, may open the season at an earlier or later date in designated areas only after sampling areas within its jurisdiction where shrimp may be caught for the purpose of determining the count of shrimp per pound. The commission may also, by majority vote, close certain designated areas where the shrimp count is found, by sampling, to be in excess of sixty-eight (68) per pound. If a natural or man-made disaster has the potential of adversely affecting the shrimp fishery, the commission, by majority vote, may open legal shrimping areas.

(3) The following waters are protective and staging areas for young shrimp, and are permanently closed to commercial and recreational shrimping activities:
All waters north of a line beginning at a point one-half mile due South of the shoreline at the Mississippi-Alabama state boundary; thence running westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline one-half mile therefrom to Light "5" in the Bayou Casotte Channel; thence running northerly to Light "7" in the Bayou Casotte Channel; thence running westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline one-half mile therefrom to the intersection with the Pascagoula Channel; thence running northwesterly to Beacon "50" in the Pascagoula Channel; thence running southwesterly to Beacon "49" in the Pascagoula Channel; thence running in the most direct line to the northeast point of Singing River Island; thence running westerly along the north shoreline to the northwest point of Singing River Island; thence running northwesterly to a point one-half mile due south of the mouth of Graveline Bayou; thence running westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline one-half mile therefrom to Beacon "18" in the Biloxi Bay Channel; thence running northwesterly to Beacon "22" in the Biloxi Bay Channel; thence running northwesterly to Beacon "26" in the Biloxi Bay Channel; thence running westerly to Beacon "34", exclusive of the Biloxi Channel itself; thence running westerly to Beacon "30" in the Biloxi Channel, exclusive of the Biloxi
Channel itself; and thence running due South to a point
on the north shore of Deer Island; thence running
westerly following the north shore of Deer Island to the
westernmost tip; thence running westerly in the most
direct line to Biloxi Beacon "8"; thence running
westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline at a
distance of one-half mile therefrom to a point on the
centerline of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis
Bay; thence running westerly along the centerline of
said bridge to a point one-half mile south of the
western abutment; thence running southwesterly following
the meanderings of the shoreline, at a distance of
one-half mile therefrom, to a point one-half mile due
East of the mouth of Bayou Caddy; thence running due
West to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; thence running
southwesterly following the meanderings of the shoreline
to the southernmost point of the Mississippi shoreline
on the east bank of the mouth of the Pearl River thence
following the meanderings of the east bank of the Pearl
River to a point where the east bank of the Pearl River
intersects the centerline of the Highway 90 bridge;
thence westerly along the centerline of the Highway 90
bridge to a point that intersects the
Mississippi-Louisiana state boundary.
(4) The redesignation of beacon numbers by the United States Coast Guard shall not alter the description of the boundary described in this section.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.