

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 021-01**

Under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, §12.027, if the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) or the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Executive Director) finds that there is an immediate danger to a species authorized to be regulated by the Department, the Commission or the Executive Director may adopt emergency rules as provided by Government Code, §2001.034.

Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) is a fish species indigenous to Texas and subject to regulation by the Commission under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapters 47 and 66. The Executive Director and the Commission find that a severe winter storm event in February of 2021 has resulted in an immediate danger to spotted seatrout populations, making it necessary to promulgate rules on an emergency basis to protect spotted seatrout populations. The new harvest regulations would affect the waters of the upper and lower Laguna Madre from the John F. Kennedy Causeway in Nueces County southward to the Brownsville Ship Channel and South Bay in Cameron County, and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico associated with the beachfront from the Packery Channel South Jetty to the Rio Grande in Cameron County. The rule imposes a slot limit of 17-23 inches and a daily bag limit of three fish for spotted seatrout, which is intended to reduce the harvest of mature female fish and thus preserve reproductive potential while maintaining some opportunity for the harvest of spotted seatrout.

This order is issued pursuant to §12.027 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and is effective immediately.

Signed this the 1st day of April, 2021.



Carter Smith  
Executive Director  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department