

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

SCR 24

2026 Regular Session

Womack

Changes the rule adopted by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) governing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Control Areas. Defines "apparent prevalence" as the percentage of confirmed CWD detections in deer within a surveillance season. Changes the term for the geographic area contemplated by the rule from "Control Area" to "CWD management zone".

Defines "CWD management zone" as the area established for surveillance and mitigation in response to the detection of CWD. Creates a 5-mile zone and a 15-mile zone around the location of a confirmed CWD deer.

Defines "supplemental feed/bait" as substances used to attract wild quadrupeds or birds.

Defines "surveillance goal" as the probability of detecting CWD at 2.5% prevalence with 95% confidence, not to exceed 300 samples.

Defines "surveillance season" as the period of sample collection, July 1st-June 30th.

Provides for establishment of a management zone upon detection of CWD outside of the existing management zone. Provides for modification of the management zone only if CWD is detected outside the 5-mile zone. Requires changes to management zone be via emergency declaration by the secretary, subject to ratification or amendment by the commission at its next meeting, and publication of the map on the LDWF's website.

Requires the LDWF to use easily identifiable zone boundaries, to establish 5-mile and 15-mile zones as closely as practicable to each zone's actual radius, and allows the LDWF to consider inclusion of processors, taxidermists, WMA's, and refuges in establishing management zones.

Requires removal of the CWD management zone when surveillance goals are met for three consecutive surveillance seasons without an additional confirmed CWD detection.

For carcass export restrictions, changes the term for the geographic area from "CWD Control Area" to "CWD management zone".

Allows baiting and supplemental feeding with the 5-mile zone and 15-mile zone Sept. 1st-March 31st, only when prevalence is below 2.5% and annual surveillance goals are met, subject to commission approval or modification.

Allows baiting and supplemental feeding if apparent prevalence exceeds 20%.

Requires hunters to check for bait prior to each hunt.

Provides that bait and feed restrictions for a new or modified management zone are effective upon confirmation that apparent prevalence exceeds 2.5%, subject to commission approval or modification.

Allows use of bait not normally eaten by deer for feral hog trapping or by permitted bear hunters during the designated bear baiting season.

Provides that properties of 40 or more acres within the 5-mile zone are eligible for Tier 1 DMAP liberalized bag limit and season length at no cost, if the entire property is within the specified zone. Allows for issuance of replacement tags to the harvester of a CWD-positive deer.

Directs transmission of copies of the resolution to the dept. and the commission.

Directs the Louisiana Register to print the amendments in the Louisiana Administrative Code.