

Changes to harvest permits mean new limits for axles on some loads

During the 2018 Regular Session, the Mississippi Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 2418, amending the Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 63-5-33 (3) and (4). The amendments only pertain to vehicles operating with a Harvest Permit or vehicles hauling prepackaged products unloaded or to be loaded at a state port or traveling on non-interstate highways. “There have been questions about what Senate Bill 2418 means for truck drivers and trucking companies,” said Commissioner Dick Hall, Central Transportation District and chair, Mississippi Transportation Commission. “To provide some clarity and transparency, MDOT compiled a detailed list outlining the specific impacts of the amendments passed in Senate Bill 2418.”

Senate Bill 2418 amendments:

Increased the axle tolerance for vehicles transporting harvest permitted from five percent to 10 percent above the maximum 40,000 axle weight. This increases the tandem axle weight, with the 10 percent tolerance, from 42,000 to 44,000 pounds.

Allowed the tolerance and the 84,000-pound gross weight for harvest permitted vehicles loading at a point of origin with a scale.

Senate Bill 2418 amendments did not:

Change the commodities authorized for a Harvest Permit.

Increase the 84,000-pound gross weight limit of vehicles operating with a Harvest Permit.

Increase the tandem axle tolerance for vehicles hauling products for recycling or materials for construction or repair of highways. The

tandem axle tolerance remains at five percent above the 40,000 pounds maximum axle weight for these vehicles.

Allow any tolerance over 80,000 pounds for vehicles hauling products for recycling or materials for construction or repair of highways if vehicles are loaded at a point of origin having scales.

Increase the maximum 80,000-pound gross weight for vehicles transporting products unloaded at a state port or to be loaded at a state port. No other statutes or por-



The West Civic Club met on August 15 for the finalization of the plans for our Big Black River Festival that will soon be here. September 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. tions of Section 63-5-33 were amended. For more information, visit GoMDOT.com.

in downtown West. The West Civic Club will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win \$200 worth of gasoline, donated by Dickerson Petroleum and the West Civic Club will be selling T-shirts. Come and enjoy the different vendors. There will be music, Big Earl from Pearl, food vendors, clothing, jewelry, paintings, bingo, a silent auction and a boutique. Central Hills Baptist Retreat is providing hamburgers again this year. Also there will be outdoor furniture, yard art and many numerous booths. The Casey Jones

Museum will be open for all to visit this year. For the silent auction, bingo and boutique we are asking you to pay a \$2.00 fee and get your hand stamped. By paying the entrance fee that will entitle you to come and go as much as you wish. No stamp no entry. We will not be having our usual run. There is still time to get an application in for this event. If you wish more information please get in touch with Carol Black, 662-967-2062. Plan on coming and enjoying the day September 8, 2018. Hope to see you there.

Conservation Corner

by James Cummins
Executive Director
of Wildlife Mississippi

Loss of oxygen in surface water is the most common cause of natural fish kills. Fish can also be killed by non-natural events such as dumping of chemicals or an illegal spraying of chemicals, such as the fish kill in Cassidy Bayou years ago. Another, and more recent, non-natural cause is pumping a body of water dry, or almost dry, for irrigation. Years ago, I saw a fish kill on Deer Creek in the Delta. Deer Creek had only a few inches of water in it and the irrigation wells were still running.

Depletion of oxygen in water is usually the result of natural processes with storm events. There are a couple of scenarios that can result in a depletion of oxygen.

One scenario is high levels of oxygen-depleting organic materials in the water. Early spring storms sometimes wash organic matter and other soil materials into bodies of water, which raises the biochemical oxygen demand of the water. When fish can't escape this water, they can no longer sustain life.

Another scenario is when heavy storms mix the water. When the upper layer of water heats up and cooler water is in the deeper areas, this can cause the deeper water to become depleted of oxygen. Then wind and rain come and cool the surface layer and mixes the water, which reduces the entire oxygen level.

This mixing also tends to stir up organic matter from the bottom, which calls for

a higher demand for oxygen. This process further reduces oxygen to critical levels.

Yet another way in which oxygen is depleted from the water is through plants. During the day, plants and algae in the water produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis, which raises the levels of oxygen in the water. Then at night, the oxygen is used by respiration of all the flora and fauna in the water, which leaves the oxygen at minimal levels by morning. This causes oxygen stress in the fish and can lead to death. This is why you will sometimes see catfish farms using turbines to oxygenate the water in the early morning hours.

Disease is another cause of natural fish kills. While stress from any of the above situations can destroy the health of fish, there are also other diseases such as redspot disease, common in catfish, as well as internal disorders that do not show themselves externally. Disoriented swimming and blindness are common symptoms of fish struggling with disease.

So, if you come upon a body of water and see dead fish, please contact the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks by calling 601.432.2400.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVY FOR HOLMES COUNTY NO COUNTYWIDE TAX LEVY INCREASE

The Holmes County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2019 on August 31, 2018, 8:00 A.M., at the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room in Lexington, Mississippi.

The Holmes County Board of Supervisors is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$17,153,050. 45.06%, or \$7,728,600, of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$13,905,230. Of that amount, 56.74%, or \$7,890,029 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For next fiscal year, the Holmes County county-wide ad valorem tax millage, excluding the Holmes County Consolidated School District rate remains the same as last year at 75.89 mills. The new Holmes County Consolidated School District millage rate will be 55.48 mills. This amount is necessary to honor the new Holmes County Consolidated School District's request for a 7% increase in our local contribution from ad valorem taxes. If you lived in the old Durant Separate School District, your millage rate will decrease by 8.95 mills; the old Holmes County School district will increase by 3.7 mills. If you live in the old Holmes County School District, this means that your ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures, equipment and rental real property will increase. Any citizen of Holmes County is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levy and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.