



Legislators address hunting and fishing issues during 2013 legislative session

By Jeremy Alford , June 20 at 1:00 pm

Louisiana Legislature wrapped up its regular session in early June after debating dozens of bills related to hunting, fishing and the outdoors. A number of the proposals never made it through the process, having been voted down or pulled from consideration by lawmakers.

But many others have already become law, like legislation creating a new mooring program in the Atchafalaya Delta and another that guarantees game can be donated to nonprofit groups.

Several also are pending approval by Gov. Bobby Jindal, who has veto authority over most all bills passed by the Legislature.

What follows is a closer look at how the 2013 regular session shaped up for those who care about the woods and water.

Giant salvinia

It takes a lot sometimes to pass a budget. That much was made clear by a last-minute \$200,000 addition to the state budget to lease, use and research something called the "Water Mower."

The budget amendment, just one part of what helped bring the differing factions of the House together on the spending plan, came courtesy of Rep. Patrick Williams (D-Shreveport).

"Working with the speaker and everyone else, I really thought this was an important issue for the entire state," Williams said.

The Water Mower, created by inventor John Bourque, was pitched to lawmakers this session by Williams as a possible solution to giant salvinia, an aquatic weed that is choking many Louisiana waterways. It's a problem in other states as well and cuts off nutrients and oxygen to freshwater fish.

Williams said he was unsure what area of the state would benefit most from the Mower money, but added it would be used in conjunction with ongoing efforts, like the spraying of special herbicides.