



Commercial Fishing Vessel Regulations

Beginning Oct. 16, 2012, all commercial fishing vessels operating more than three nautical miles offshore must be able to demonstrate full compliance with the existing fishing industry vessel safety regulations found in 46 C.F.R. Part 28, via a mandatory safety examination.

While there are a few options of how to demonstrate this compliance, having a current Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal (not more than two years old) is the most straightforward method. Two additional methods include, having a "Form CG-5587" signed by a Coast Guard examiner, or having a signed letter of compliance from an accepted third party organization (marine surveyor) as proof that your vessel passed an examination and is therefore compliant with the current regulations.

The examination requirement is one of several new mandates established by the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. While there is additional background on these pending mandates at www.fishsafe.info, the Authorization Act establishes a mandatory examination requirement if you operate beyond three nautical miles of the baseline of the U.S. territorial sea or the coastline of the Great Lakes, regardless of whether your vessel is state-registered or federally-documented.

To schedule a dockside examination contact Mark Jones at (409) 723-6590 or visit www.fishsafe.info/docksideexamrequest.htm.

Kevin A. Savoie

VMS Pilot Program for Public Seed Ground Oyster Vessels

In an effort to better manage the more than 1.6 million acres of public oyster beds, the state has implemented the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Pilot Program, which requires oyster vessels fishing on the public seed grounds to have a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided VMS. Data collected through the VMS Pilot Program will allow LDWF to better manage the resources on the public oyster seed grounds. The department worked closely with oyster industry leaders to create a program that will not be burdensome to harvesters.

VMS units will be provided to all oyster permit holders by LDWF. The entire system, service and installation will be provided at no cost to the vessel operator. Participants in the VMS Pilot Program will only be required to minimally maintain care for the units.

LDWF has contracted Pole Star Space Applications through a competitive bidding process to provide the data collection services. Pole Star will provide the VMS monitoring solution, and will coordinate with vessel owners to install the equipment. Pole Star, along with their sub-contractor Radio Holland USA, will be coordinating the installation effort for the entire oyster fleet.

Oyster vessels that harvest on public seed grounds must have a VMS unit installed to remain in compliance with current regulations. If they do not have a VMS unit currently installed they need to confirm with LDWF that installation has been scheduled.

To schedule a VMS installation, please contact Sam Boyd with Radio Holland USA at LDWF@radiohollandusa.com or 713/378-2145

All information collected by LDWF will be considered privileged and confidential and will not be made public. Vessels owners will be allowed to track their own vessels through VMS installed onboard their oyster vessels.

Currently, more than 700 vessels are permitted to harvest on public oyster beds. The Louisiana oyster industry provides more than one-third of the nation's oyster consumption.

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 266, giving LDWF the authority to require VMS devices onboard vessels that harvest oysters for commercial purposes on public seed grounds. This action was taken to enable the department to better manage the public oyster resource.

USGS Flyover Shows Storm Damage and Marsh Dieback

A flyover of southeast Louisiana revealed storm damage from Hurricane Isaac and marsh dieback, some of which was occurring before Hurricane Isaac. The flyover was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The flight examined areas from Wax Lake Delta, La., to Ship Island, Miss., and preliminary assessments suggest that Hurricane Isaac damaged coastal wetlands in a manner that is substantial, but not unprecedented. Damage to coastal wetland areas was evident throughout much of southeast Louisiana. The intensity of hurricane effects was most abundant in areas of upper Breton Sound, an area just to the south of the community of Braithwaite, which experienced devastating flooding. Breton Sound had been experiencing some slight recovery from the extensive damage inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav; however, scientists observed many of the initial effects of Hurricane Isaac to be reactivations of previous damages in these newly recovering areas. Photos from the flyover are available at <http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/hurricane/isaac/index.html>.

Other areas in which physical damage to coastal wetlands was observed include the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain near Slidell, areas surrounding the Rigolets to include the mouth of the Pearl River, and the Chandeleur Islands. The majority of structural changes in these areas appear to be reactivations or intensifications of effects of previous storms. Previous storms such as hurricanes Audrey, Hilda, Betsy, Andrew, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike are known to have damaged coastal wetlands and contributed to wetland loss, and Isaac appears to have been yet another blow to Louisiana's fragile but vital coastal wetlands.

The most prevalent effects of Hurricane Isaac observed were expansive wrack fields. Wrack is accumulated organic debris and trash that are transported and deposited by a hurricane's surge. Wrack deposits from Hurricane Isaac were observed throughout southeast Louisiana, burying existing marsh areas and obstructing infrastructure, such as canals and railroads. Generally wrack deposits eventually decompose and the areas are re-vegetated, but in the short-term wrack can kill the existing wetland vegetation.

Very few downed trees were observed in forested wetlands from Hurricane Isaac, especially compared to that of Hurricane Katrina, which is likely indicative of the lesser intensity of this storm. Even in areas where no physical removal of wetlands or vegetation was evident, the vegetation that did survive was observed to have sustained substantial damage.

Live Bait Availability To Saltwater Anglers

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a notice of intent to amend the Special Bait Dealer Permit rule. Amendments to the current rule would allow businesses that hold a "Special Live Bait Dealer Permit" added opportunities to meet the growing demand for live bait shrimp and live croaker from recreational saltwater anglers.

These changes would allow qualified businesses to apply for permits and conduct bait fishing operations year-round and at night provided permitted vessels are equipped with a working vessel monitoring system (VMS). Other changes include the following:

- Allows use of skimmer net frames up to the legal maximum size (16' horizontally; 12' vertically and 20' diagonally)
- Allows transfer of live bait from one vessel to another under the following provisions:
 - Both vessels must be permitted under the same wholesale/retail seafood dealer
 - Captain of the harvesting vessel must possess a signed trip ticket for the harvested bait
 - Bait is transported directly to the wholesale/retails seafood dealer under which both vessels are operating
 - Upon receiving the harvested bait, the dealer shall complete the trip ticket

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- Persons convicted of a Class Three or greater fisheries violation within the previous three years prior to the date of application shall not qualify to obtain a permit or be onboard any vessel engaged in permitted activities
- Prohibits sale of live shrimp or crabs directly from a permitted vessel to anyone other than the wholesale/retail seafood dealer listed on the permit during closed shrimp season

Current regulations limit special bait dealer permittees to the harvest and sale of live shrimp and live croaker beginning May 1 of each year and between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. No special permits are required to harvest and sell live bait during open shrimp season.

The proposed rule is in response to increased public demand for live bait, which often exceeds available bait dealer supplies.

“These proposed changes should enhance live bait availabilities by providing permitted dealers greater bait harvesting opportunities,” said Randy Pausina, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Assistant Secretary of Fisheries. “The rule will also boost fishing success for their long-standing favorite and Louisiana’s most targeted recreational saltwater species, speckled trout.”

Last amended in 2010, the Special Bait Dealer Permit Rule is intended solely for the benefit of the recreational fishing public which desires to use live shrimp and live croaker as bait during closed shrimp season between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. Its purpose is to allow the uninterrupted operation of those commercial establishments that sell live bait to the fishing public during the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons.

The special bait dealer permit is not intended for the direct use of recreational fishermen, charter boats, commercial fishermen who sell dead bait or for any other entity which may wish to catch bait for their own use during closed shrimp season.

Written comments relative to the proposed rule may be submitted to Martin Bourgeois, Marine Fisheries Biologist, Office of Fisheries, P.O. Box 189, Bourg, LA 70343 prior to Nov. 1, 2012.

2013 Crab Trap Removal Program

Two winter crab trap closures and clean-ups are planned for portions of Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes in February and March 2013.

Since 2004, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, together with individual volunteers and organizations, has successfully removed and disposed of more than 22,200 abandoned and derelict crabs. The removal of these crab traps is especially important to boating safety and crab harvesting efforts. Last year, volunteer organizations and individual volunteers, including members of the Coastal Conservation Association, Nature Conservancy, as well as volunteers from LSU, Nicholls State, LUMCON, National Relief Network, NOAA Fisheries Service, St. Bernard Parish government and commercial crab and shrimp fishermen, contributed to the removal of nearly 2,800 crab traps from coastal waters.

LDWF will again partner with Louisiana Sea Grant for the 2013 crab trap removal efforts. As the 2013 removal weekends approach, Louisiana Sea Grant will help organize volunteers, provide educational outreach on marine debris, as well as establish a recycling effort for crab traps.

Plaquemines Crab Trap Removal

The use of crab traps will be prohibited in the following areas beginning at 6 a.m., Feb. 16 through 6 a.m., Feb. 25, 2013:

- From a point originating along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River at 29 degrees 44 minutes 00 seconds north latitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 44 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to 89 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; thence southward along 89 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds west longitude to the eastern shore of the Mississippi River; thence northward along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River terminating at the point of beginning.

St. Bernard Crab Trap Removal

The use of crab traps will be prohibited in the following areas beginning at 6 a.m., March 9 through 6 a.m. March 18, 2013:

- From a point originating from the intersection of the northwestern shore of Bayou Yscloskey and the southern shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; thence northward to the southwestern shore of Shell Beach Cut; thence northward along the western shore of Shell Beach Cut to the southern shore of Lake Borgne; thence northward a distance of one-half mile from the southern shore of Lake Borgne; thence eastward and northward along a line extending one-half mile offshore along the southern and western shore of Lake Borgne to 29 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds north latitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to 89 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; thence southward along 89 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds west longitude to the southern shoreline of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; thence westward along the southern shoreline of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to the eastern shore of Bayou La Loutre; thence southward along the eastern shore of Bayou La Loutre; thence westward along the southern shore of Bayou La Loutre to the western shore of Bayou Yscloskey; thence northward along the western shore of Bayou Yscloskey and terminating at the point of beginning.

All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period will be considered abandoned.

In the weeks leading up to the closure periods, LDWF will send notices to all licensed recreational and commercial crab trap license holders and crab buyers within these and adjacent parishes.

These proposed trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property. Authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual landowners.

Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Anyone may remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed area. Abandoned traps must be brought to LDWF designated disposal sites and may not be taken from the closed area.

Since its establishment in 1968, Louisiana Sea Grant has worked to promote stewardship of the state's coastal resources through a combination of research, education and outreach programs critical to the cultural, economic and environmental health of Louisiana's coastal zone. Louisiana Sea Grant, based at Louisiana State University, is part of the National Sea Grant Program, a network of 33 programs in each of the U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states and Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands.

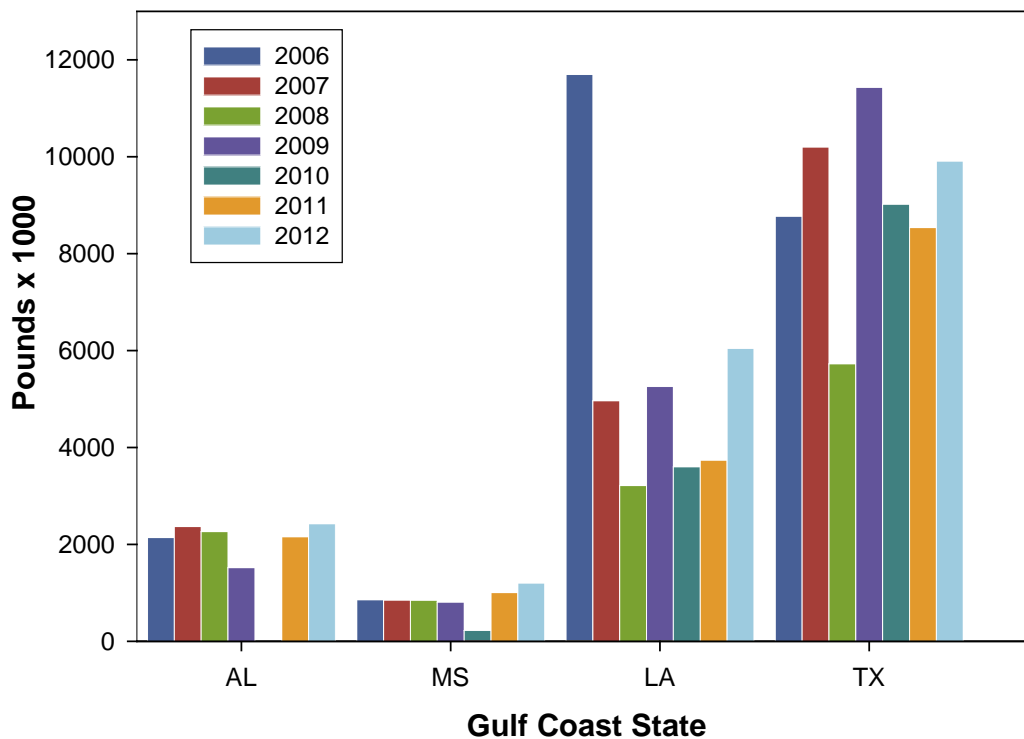
The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with managing and protecting Louisiana's abundant natural resources. For more information, visit us at www.wlf.louisiana.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ldwffb, or follow us on Twitter @LDWF.

Written comments may be submitted to Martin Bourgeois, Marine Fisheries Biologist, Marine Fisheries Section, P.O. Box 189, Bourg, LA 70343, prior to November 1, 2013.

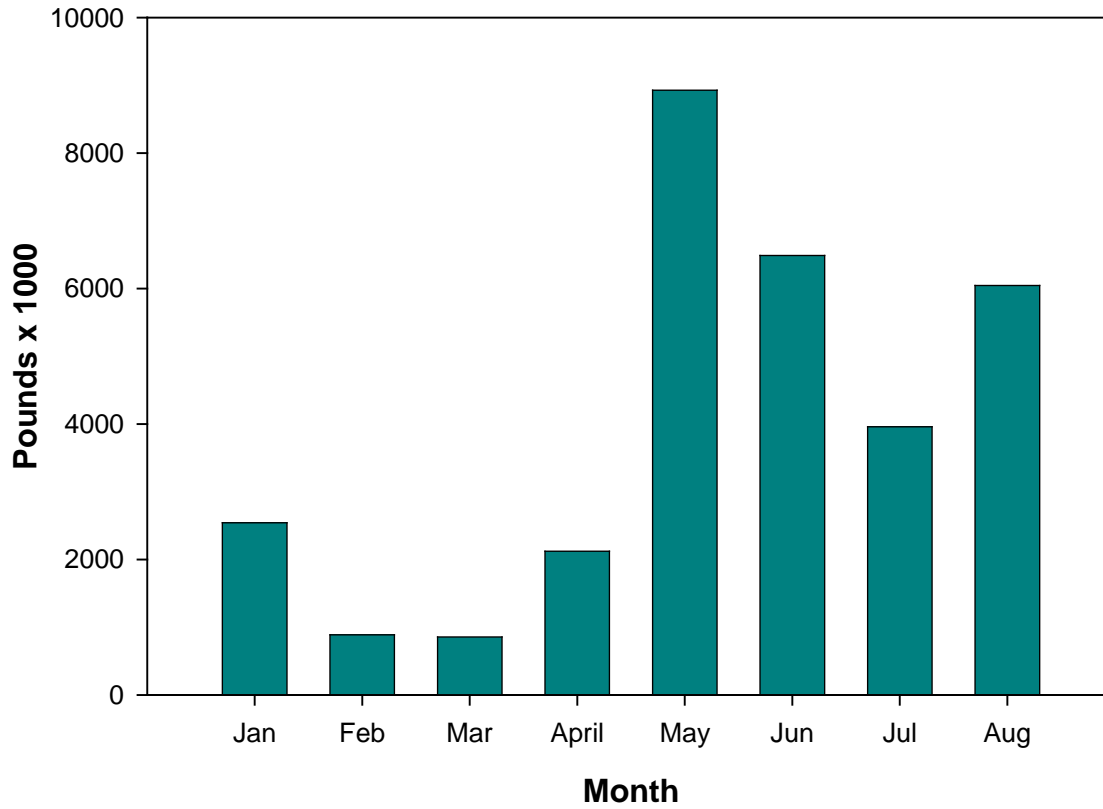
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on its website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as "zero" in these graphics. Price graphics reflect central Gulf states only (Texas and Florida are reported independently). For more information, please refer to: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html.

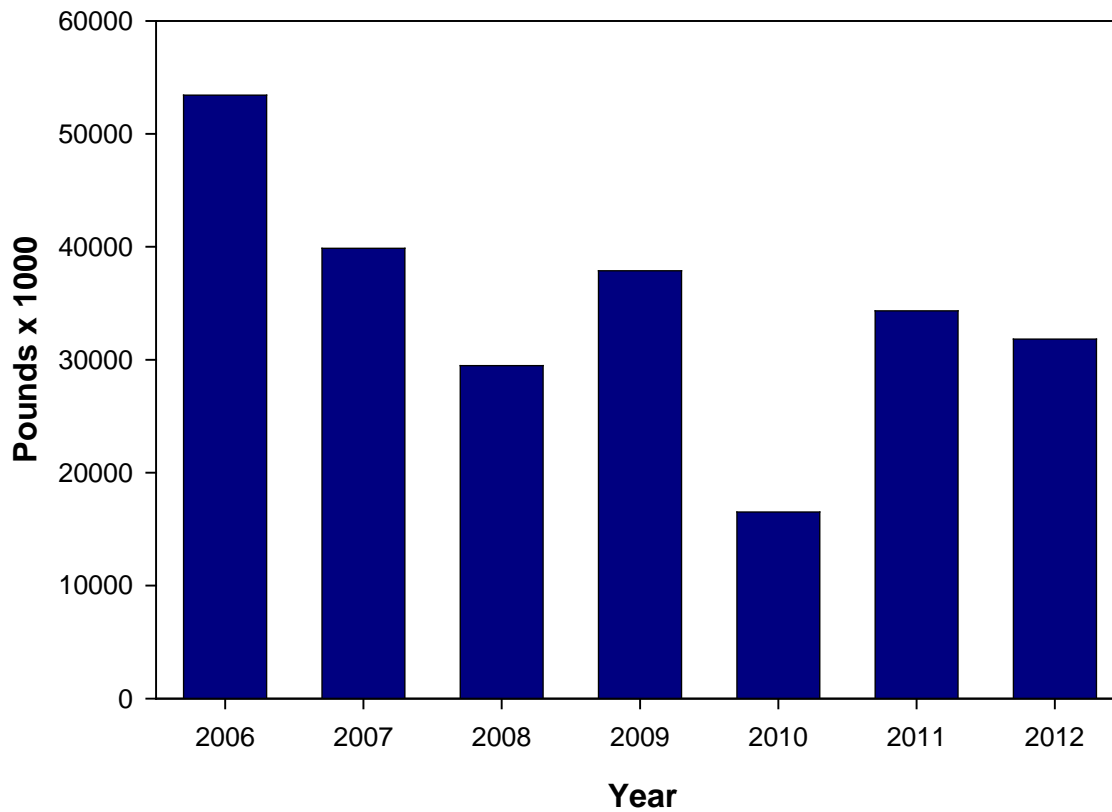
August Shrimp Harvest



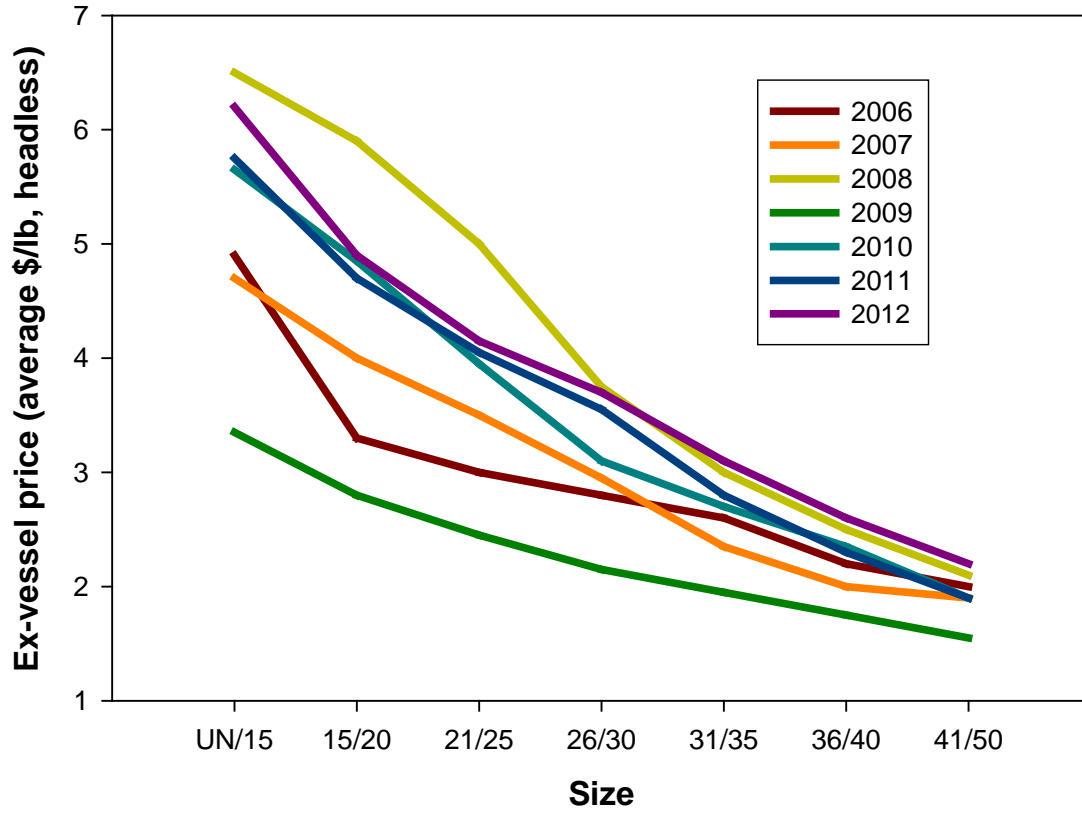
Louisiana 2012 Shrimp Harvest



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest



August Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



The Gumbo Pot

Kubuki Shrimp

Recipe courtesy of Regatta restaurant, Lake Arthur, La., and Louisiana Kitchen. For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup prepared chili sauce
- 1/3 cup hot sauce
- 24 wonton skins
- 24 colossal Louisiana shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails intact vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped iceberg lettuce
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions

Method:

Combine mayonnaise, chili sauce and hot sauce in a small bowl; mix well. Cover and chill at least 1 hour; can be made 1 day in advance.

Lightly moisten edges of won ton skin; wrap each shrimp individually, leaving tail exposed.

Pour vegetable oil 1/2" deep in a large skillet (not nonstick); heat over medium high heat to 350°F. Fry shrimp, in batches, 2 to 3 minutes on each side or until golden; drain on paper towels. Divide lettuce into 4 cold salad bowls, top equally with chilled sauce and 6 warm fried shrimp. Serve at once.

If you have a favorite seafood recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Julie Anderson janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu for inclusion in future issues.



Photo credit: Louisiana Kitchen



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We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management is encouraged to do so.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Julie Anderson at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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