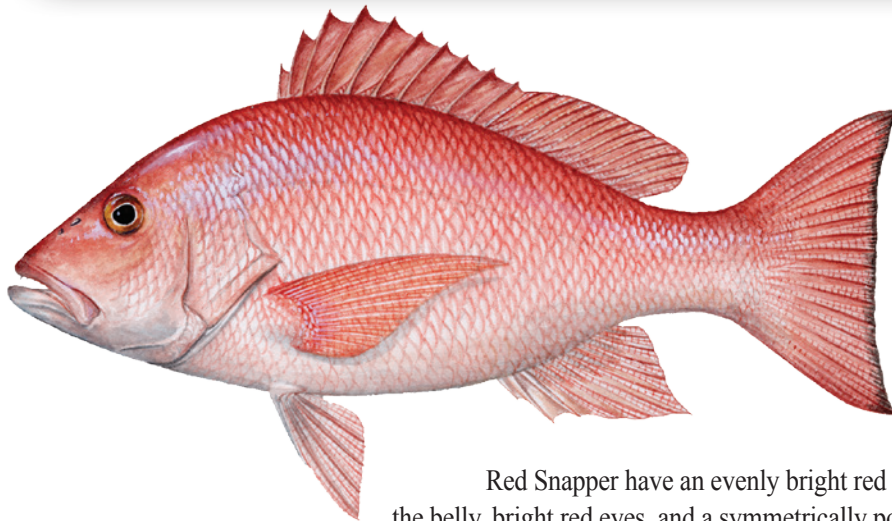




Lagniappe

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The Dapper Red Snapper

Harvested from the Gulf of Mexico as early as the mid 1800s, Pensacola, Fla., was the focal point of early red snapper fisheries. By the early 1900s, nearshore red snapper stocks were already being depleted, and fisherman had to make longer trips to find and fish for red snapper. Today, red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) inhabit coastal waters of the Eastern U.S. from the North Carolina coast, south to the Florida Keys, and along the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and the Yucatan Peninsula.

Red Snapper have an evenly bright red to pinkish colored large body becoming whitish near the belly, bright red eyes, and a symmetrically pointed caudal fin. Individuals over 10 inches long lack a characteristic black spot on either side of the body that can be found on less mature fish. Red snapper will grow to an average length of 24 inches but can grow up to 39 inches, weigh up to 20 pounds and live as long as 50 years. Both juvenile and mature red snapper are opportunistic and carnivorous, and adults are bottom-oriented feeders. Juveniles regularly feed on zooplankton, but as adults their diet includes crabs, fish, and soft-bodied invertebrates such a squid and penaeid shrimp.

The peak spawning season is June through August in the northwestern GOM and August through September in the southwestern GOM. A single female may produce as many as nine million eggs and spawn several times in a single season. Buoyant eggs float on the water's surface for about a day then hatch into larvae. About three weeks later the larval fish fall out of the water column to settle on the bottom, usually in areas with some protection from predators, which include sharks and other piscivorous fish.

As juveniles and adults, they prefer to congregate around objects such as rock outcrops, wreckages, offshore oil and gas rigs, and reefs, making these locations popular fishing spots. Ladyfish and squid are favorite baits used by commercial and recreational fisherman to catch red snapper, reeling in almost nine million pounds annually in American waters alone. Common methods for fishing for red snapper are handlines, bottom longlines and bottom trawls. Red snapper populations were rapidly depleted from 1950 through the late 1980s. Since the early 1990s, efforts have been made to help the red snapper bounce back from overfishing.

Matthew Seal

<https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Gallery/Descript/RedSnapper/Redsnapper.html>

<http://www.lsu.edu/seagrantfish/biological/snapper/redsnapper.htm>

Gallaway, B.J., S.T. Szedlmayer, and W.J. Gazey. 2009. A life history review for Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico with an evaluation of the importance of offshore petroleum platforms and other artificial reefs. *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 17(1): 48-67

Collins, L. A., A. G. Johnson, and C. P. Keim. 1996. Spawning and annual fecundity of the Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. In *Biology, fisheries and culture of tropical groupers and snappers*. ICLARM Conference Proceedings 48:174-188.

WAVE Smartphone Application Brings Variety of Information to Commercial Fishermen

A new, free smartphone application is now available to improve emergency preparedness for those who navigate Louisiana waters. Waterway Information for Vessels, known as “WAVE,” went online in November. It is unique because it brings a host of useful data from numerous sources into a single mobile platform.

Lauren Land, Louisiana Sea Grant’s (LSG) sustainability coordinator, served as project manager for the multi-disciplinary team from four different entities at Louisiana State University that created the app. The idea grew from Sea Grant’s work on harbors of refuge, with the initial goal of helping commercial fishermen locate safe mooring for their vessels in the event of a major storm.

WAVE users can toggle on and off the layers of information they want to view, including maps; charts; weather conditions, warnings and forecasts; fisheries data; and historic storm information. The application also shows publicly owned waterfront areas, and an emergency preparedness section is provided for Vermilion Parish.

Fisheries content is drawn from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and includes public seed grounds, private oyster leases, boundaries for fresh- and saltwater shrimp zones, and Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals harvesting areas and how they are classified. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration content includes electronic navigation charts and raster navigational charts, the latter of which is similar to what a captain might print and store on the boat. The charts are built into the application and can be accessed in the absence of an Internet connection, which can be a limiting factor when boats travel offshore. The application also incorporates data compiled from the Coastal Emergency Risks Assessment (CERA) model. For weather and tide information, the app will continuously update while it has online access and will show the time of the most recent update when the smartphone does not have an active Internet connection. The design is adaptable and scalable and can be adjusted to incorporate other types of data.

WAVE was made possible with funding from the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio’s 2014-2015 Small Projects Fund. WAVE was designed for iPhone and iPad and is available as a free download through the Apple App Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wave-waterway-information/id1056713560?mt=8>.

WAVE, <http://wave.laseagrants.org>



Juvenile Whooping Cranes Added to Louisiana’s Experimental Population

LDWF biologists received a sixth cohort of juvenile whooping cranes at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA) near Gueydan on Thursday, Dec. 3. The 11 young cranes add to the state’s resident population established through an LDWF species restoration project.

With the addition of the eight females and three males, Louisiana’s whooping crane population increases to 46.

“We’re beginning year six of this project, and I want to continue to encourage the public to support our biologists in our endeavor by observing the cranes from a distance and reporting any sightings of injured birds or anyone attempting to harm them in any way,” LDWF Secretary Robert Barham said. “We are blessed to have many private landowners who have assisted us by working with our staff when the cranes roost on their property and we thank them for their help.”

The White Lake WCA location in Vermilion Parish provides temporary shelter for the birds before their release into the wild. The cranes, which hatched in early May through mid-June, were raised at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md., and flown to Louisiana by the Windway Capital Corporation.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Entry into the LFF program for those seeking a new commercial crab gear license.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved a declaration of emergency that suspends entry into the Louisiana Fisheries Forward program for those seeking a new commercial crab gear license.

LDWF's recent blue crab stock assessment revealed that the blue crab fishery may be undergoing "overfishing," a threshold where management action is needed. Today's action aims to prevent increased fishing pressure and mortality by temporarily prohibiting new entrants into the fishery until more permanent regulatory and legislative measures can be developed to address the reduced stock status.

The Louisiana Crab Task Force requested that the department suspend entry into the fishery while they work with LDWF to identify the least invasive changes to the industry that will also protect the crab resource.

The Louisiana Fisheries Forward was implemented in November 2014 and requires training for fishermen obtaining crab trap gear licenses who did not possess a commercial crab trap gear license in two out of the four years, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Commercial Large Coastal Shark Harvest

A Declaration of Emergency to modify the commercial harvest possession limits for non-sandbar, large coastal sharks was approved. The commercial possession limit will increase from 36 to 45 for 2016 commercial harvest.

Earlier in 2015, the National Marine Fisheries Service promulgated rules establishing this increase. Today's action will provide consistency with federal regulations and increased opportunity for Louisiana shark fishermen.

The Declaration of Emergency also allows the secretary of the Department to modify the possession limit during the 2016 commercial season if he is notified by NMFS that the federal possession limit has been changed in-season.

In a related action, the Commission also took action on a Notice of Intent to permanently modify the commercial non-sandbar large coastal shark possession limits.

The non-sandbar large coastal sharks group includes great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse, blacktip, bull, lemon, silky, spinner and tiger sharks. Sandbar sharks are included in the large coastal sharks group; however, harvest and possession is prohibited without a special federal shark research permit issued by NMFS.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

Commercial Red Snapper Quota in the Gulf of Mexico in 2016

A final rule to withhold 4.9 percent of the 2016 red snapper commercial quota in the Gulf of Mexico was published on Nov. 27, 2015. The rule will be implemented Jan. 1, 2016. The rule withholds 352,000 pounds of the 2016 red snapper commercial quota in the Gulf of Mexico.

If approved, Amendment 28 would reallocate red snapper harvest between the commercial and recreational sectors from 51/49 percent to 48.5/51.5 percent, respectively. If that quota is not held back and Amendment 28 is approved then the commercial sector will have more quota than is supported by Amendment 28. The distribution of commercial individual fishing quota allocations occurs on Jan. 1, 2016. The 352,000 pounds to be held back will result in a commercial quota of 6,768,000 pounds. If Amendment 28 is not approved, the 352,000 pounds withheld will be returned to the commercial individual fishing quota program and distributed to the shareholders.

Greater Amberjack Allowable Harvest and Management

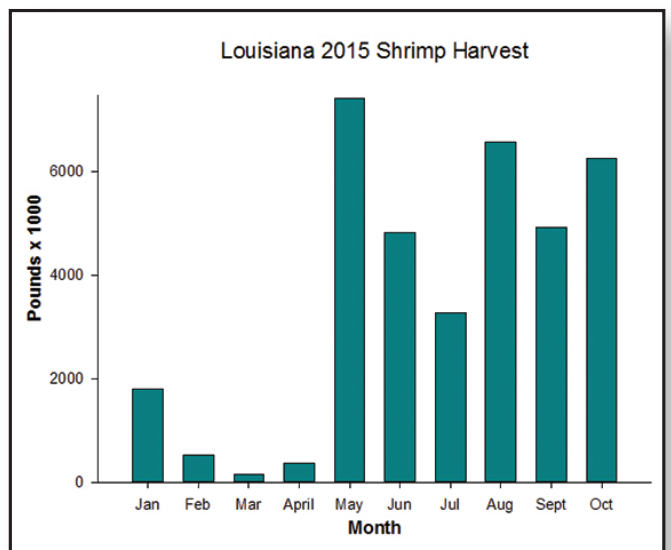
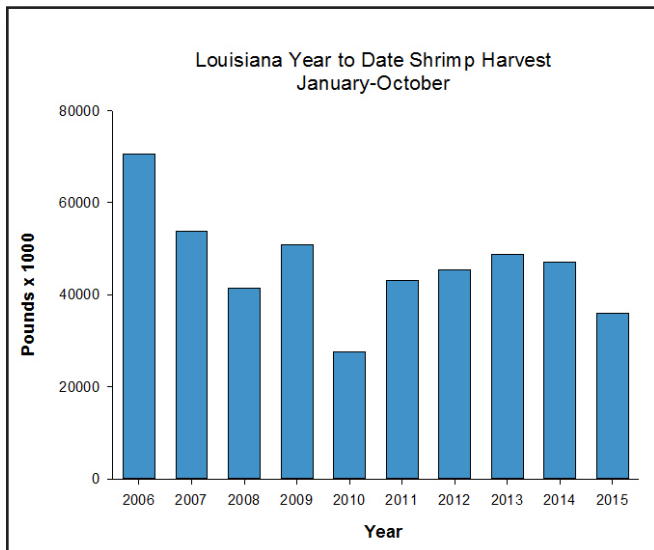
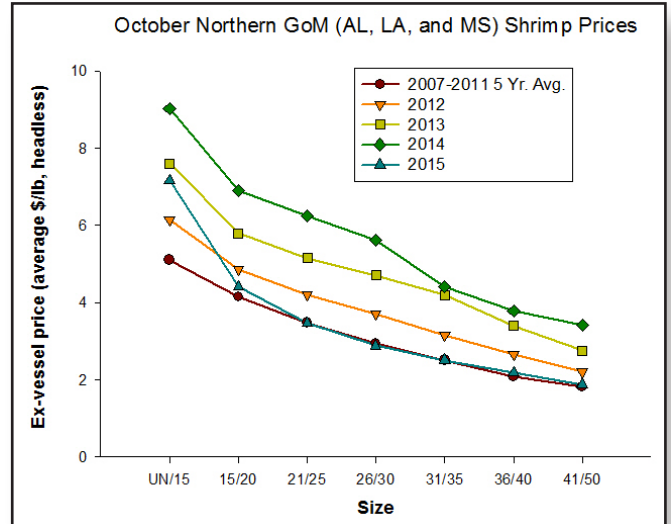
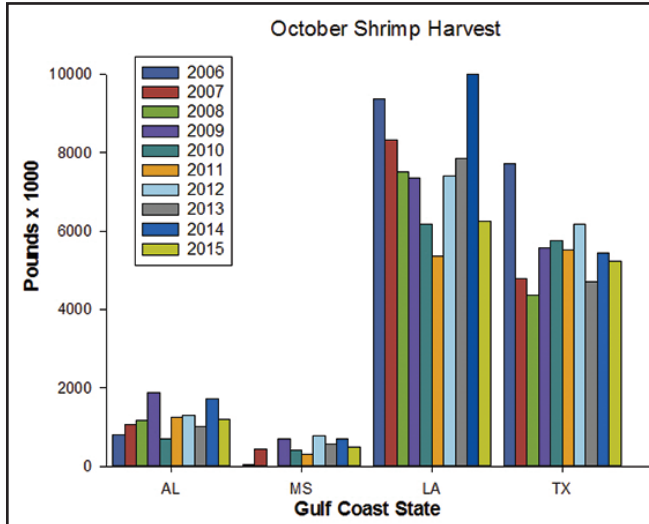
The final rule to implement changes to greater amberjack management measures in the Gulf of Mexico published on Dec. 2, 2015 (80 FR 75432). The rule will be effective Jan. 4, 2016. The rule will:

- Decrease the total annual catch limit from 1,780,000 pounds whole weight to 1,720,000 pounds whole weight.
- Set the commercial annual catch limit at 464,400 pounds whole weight and the commercial quota at 394,740 pounds whole weight.
- Set the recreational annual catch limit at 1,255,600 pounds whole weight and the recreational quota at 1,092,372 pounds whole weight.
- Reduce the commercial trip limit from 2,000 pounds whole weight to 1,500 pounds gutted weight.
- Increase the minimum recreational size limit from 30 inches fork length to 34 inches fork length.

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.



Fish Gear Coordinates

OCTOBER

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that three claims in the amount of \$13,054.65 were received for payment during the period Oct. 1-31, 2015. There were three paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 29 12.698 | 90 46.499 | TERREBONNE |
| 29 39.954 | 89 16.814 | SAINT BERNARD |
| 29 40.633 | 89 30.395 | PLAQUEMINES |

NOVEMBER

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that four claims in the amount of \$19,183.50 were received for payment during the period Nov. 1-30, 2015. There were four paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 29 02.846 | 90 22.683 | LAFOURCHE |
| 29 17.972 | 89 54.048 | PLAQUEMINES |
| 29 45.873 | 89 48.542 | PLAQUEMINES |
| 29 49.818 | 89 41.405 | SAINT BERNARD |

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Nov. 17, 2015 - Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico closed to commercial fishing for king mackerel until June 30, 2016

Jan. 1, 2016 - Commercial fishing for Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks open in Louisiana waters

Jan. 16, 2016 - Get Out and Fish! Event in Chalmette, LA

March 1, 2016 - Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit, The Pontchartrain Center, Kenner, LA

8:30 am- 4 pm For more information please visit: LaFisheriesForward.org/Summit

May 6, 2016 - BugBlitz at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve: Activities include inventories to identify insects for park research and for the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum collection, an onsite BioDiversity Festival which would feature activities and exhibits by local conservation groups, and there will even be speakers and bands.

*Happy Holidays
from Louisiana Sea Grant!*

THE GUMBO POT

SWEET AND SPICY SESAME OYSTERS

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture*.

For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>



Ingredients:

| | |
|---|--|
| 36 shucked fresh Louisiana oysters | 1 tbsp. salt |
| 3/4 c. sweet, thick Chinese or Indonesian soy sauce | 1 tbsp. freshly ground black pepper |
| 2 oz. Chile-garlic sauce | 1/2 g. (approximately) peanut oil |
| 2/3 c. self-rising flour | 1 c. sweet chile sauce |
| 2/3 c. self-rising yellow corn meal | 1 bunch fresh basil leaves, cut into thin strips |
| 2/3 c. self-rising white corn meal | 1/4 c. toasted sesame seeds |

Method:

Strain the oyster liquor into a container to remove grit and refrigerate or freeze for future use.

Set the oysters aside. Combine the soy sauce with the chile-garlic sauce and mix well. Set aside. In a small bowl, evenly combine the flour and the yellow and white corn meals and season with salt and pepper. Dredge each of the oysters in the flour mixture, lightly coating them, then gently shake them to remove excess flour. Set aside.

Place a large, heavy pot or Dutch oven no more than one-third full of peanut oil over high heat (or, set a deep fryer to 350°F). Set the oven temperature to 200°F. Line a baking sheet with paper towels and place it in the oven. When the oil reaches the correct temperature, use tongs to drop each oysters in the hot oil and fry until golden. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the oysters to the warm oven until all of them have been fried. On each serving plate, pool equal amounts of the combined soy and chile-garlic sauces. Place an oyster on each puddle of sauce. Spoon some of the sweet-chile sauce on top of each oyster. Sprinkle each oyster with some of the basil strips and sesame seeds.

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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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.

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