SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

The dates of the public hearings for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Shrimp Management Plan have been announced. The schedule is:

- August 13 - Monday - Cameron - 7-10 p.m.
- August 14 - Tuesday - Delcambre - 7-10 p.m.
- August 15 - Wednesday - Houma - 7-10 p.m.
- August 16 - Thursday - New Orleans - 7-10 p.m.

I don’t have the exact meeting places yet. I’ll either have them in the next newsletter or I’ll send out a special notice. This is a very important meeting for anyone concerned with shrimping as the shrimp plan will largely determine the future of the shrimp fishery in the entire U.S. part of the Gulf of Mexico.

LILIES TO MILK

One plant that everyone has seen and no one knows what to do with is the water hyacinth or as it is commonly known, the water lily. This plant which was introduced from South America is usually considered a pest and clogs up lakes, ponds and bayous all over the state. It gets so thick in the Atchafalaya Basin that when the river gets high, huge rafts of it wash out into the Gulf.

Recently, two LSU scientists, Dr. Louis L. Russoff and Sidney P. Zeringue, tried feeding these dried chopped lilies to dairy cows. They found that the cattle not only ate the dried lilies, but produced milk just as good as cattle fed Bermuda grass hay.

Although it may be a while before this gets practical, the scientists felt that there are possibilities of further development in the future.

DUCTED PROPELLERS

With the way that fuel prices are going, anything that a fishermen can do to save fuel costs helps. One thing that some people feel helpful is a ducted propeller with a nozzle. The picture below shows what one looks like.
With the ducted propeller, the same engine produces more thrust power. This allows a trawler to pull larger nets or you can pull the same size nets with a smaller engine. A smaller engine costs less and burns less fuel. If you keep the same engine and have a ducted propeller with a nozzle installed, you don’t have to push the engine as hard. This again saves in fuel.

One designer claims up to a 20% fuel savings. They also claim that the vessel vibrates less and throws less of a wake. Also, the boat can turn sharper and the stopping ability is improved. If you’re thinking about getting a new boat built or reconditioning an old one, it may pay to check into this system.

SHRIMP RESEARCH

As most shrimpers know, there is a National Marine Fisheries Service shrimp tagging study going on right now. Both fisheries biologists and commercial fishermen are wondering how long can we keep expanding the shrimp fishery.

However, these worries are not new. In 1930 there were concerns about the future of the rapidly growing shrimp industry. These concerns resulted in a biological study of the white shrimp fishery which at that time was the shrimp fishery of the Gulf.

In the fall of 1939, thousands of white shrimp were tagged and released. Their movements are mapped on the following pages. Based on this study, the biologists felt that the only regular movement pattern was from inside waters out to offshore waters. They noticed two waves of white shrimp that moved offshore, one in June and another in August and September. Remember when looking at these movement patterns that our shrimp fishery has changed in the forty years since this study.

**FUEL PROBLEMS**

Even though fuel has been a problem for fishermen for weeks now, fishermen have been removed from priority consideration for fuel. This happened at the end of last month when the President felt that since the farmer's crops were already planted, they didn't need as much fuel. When they were removed from priority consideration so were the fishermen.

Perhaps when farm harvest time comes again this fall, the farmers will be put back on 100% priority and the fishermen will also be given priority allocation. Until then all we can do is hang on and hope that the situation improves itself.

**THE GUMBO POT**

**Shrimp With Pea Pods**

The art of Chinese cooking is becoming more and more popular in this country. This recipe involves stir-frying, a fast and easy technique. While a wok, the bowl shaped Chinese cooking pot, makes stir-frying easier, don't give up just because you don't have one. This recipe can be used in a regular pot or frying pan.

The secret of stir-frying is to cut up all of the ingredients before you begin cooking. Then add them one at a time to the hot oil, all the time stirring rapidly. The food is lightly cooked and the hot oil seals in the color, flavor and crispness of vegetables and the natural juices of meats and seafoods.

- 1 lb. shrimp tails
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 3 tbsp. dry sherry or white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 2 tbsp. minced fresh ginger
- 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- 1/3 cup oil
- 2-6 oz. packages frozen pea-pods thawed
- 3 green onions cut in 1" pieces
- 8-oz can water
- Chestnuts, sliced

Peel shrimp and if large, split in half length-ways. Make chicken broth with 1 cube bullion to 1 cup water. Combine soy sauce, sherry or wine, chicken broth, ginger and cornstarch and set aside. Heat oil hot. Cook the shrimp, pea-pods, onions and water chestnuts by adding each separately to the pan or wok over high heat and stirring rapidly for 3 or 4 minutes. When one is finished, remove from the pan or wok, set it aside and put in another ingredient. Cook the shrimp only until they are pink and the vegetables until they are hot and become soft. Put all ingredients back into the pan or wok, stir and add the soy sauce mixture and cook until the sauce thickens slightly, about 2 to 3 minutes. May be served over rice. Serves 4.

Sincerely,

Jerald Horst
Assoc. Area Agent (Fisheries)

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service follows a non-discriminatory policy in programs and employment.
Just as my newsletter was going to press, I received notice of this year's bills which have passed both the state House and Senate. Some of the bills have been signed by the Governor and the rest are awaiting his signature.


Establishes a fishermen's gear compensation fund in state inside and outside waters to pay fishermen for fishing gear damage due to oil and gas activity, natural and other obstructions.

**Senate Bill 825** - Nunez and Reps. Fernandez, Scogin, Patti and Faucheaux.

Requires that all pipelines and flowlines and their associated equipment be properly buried. Requires that all pipelines be patrolled and kept buried.

**House Bill 75** - Russo

Makes the Catahoula the official state dog.

**House Bill 90** - Wall and Senator Gibbs

Provides for police powers for qualified game wardens and for firearms qualification and requalification.

**House Bill 476** - Ullo

States that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may provide rules or regulations to prohibit the use of unattended fish nets.

**House Bill 494** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides that the taking of fish by any method other than those specifically allowed by the law is illegal.

**House Bill 495** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides for a $50 non-resident retail seafood dealer's license.

**House Bill 496** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides that crabs may be taken with trawls in inside waters only during shrimp season. The trawls may not be smaller than the minimum mesh size allowed for shrimp.

**House Bill 497** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides that non-residents who buy or handle commercial fish shipped into or out of the state shall buy an annual $150 license.

**House Bill 498** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides that the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission may prohibit the taking of any species of fish in the state for not more than three years.

**House Bill 500** - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides that only legal size fish taken in a shrimp trawl may be sold.
House Bill 505 - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Provides the following penalties for violations of oyster seed ground and reservation laws, leasing laws, and seed oyster and cultch harvesting laws which don't already have penalties: First offense, $50 to $250, second offense, $250 to $500, third offense, $500 to $1000.

House Bill 516 - Tauzin and Ullo (By Request)

Drops the prohibition against "Biloxi type vessels" in inside shrimp trawling.

House Bill 713 - Tauzin and others

Provides for the development of a freshwater diversion plan for the state. The plan is to determine those areas in the state most in need of freshwater diversion from the Mississippi River to prevent further land loss and saltwater intrusion into the marshlands.

House Bill 766 - Tauzin

Provides that oysters which are not sacked on the oyster boat shall be tagged when sacked or boxed (containerized) at the dockside before shipment. A 10% tolerance for loss of tags will be allowed.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will require the owner of untagged oysters to return the oysters to the water they came from or to the person from whom he purchased them.

House Bill 768 - LeBleu and Patti

Provides for a non-resident alligator hunter's license of $150.

House Bill 772 - LeBleu

Requires that public hearings be held before permits for waste disposal wells are issued.

House Bill 1035 - Tauzin and Ullo

Provides that anyone fishing with a menhaden license shall not have more than 5% by volume of fish other than menhaden, mullet and herring-like species. The taking of mullet shall require a special permit.

House Bill 1169 - Ullo, LeBleu and Senator Nichoison

Divides state into two areas with the area below the following line being saltwater and the area above, freshwater. La. Hwy. 82 from the Texas line to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville and Nashville bridge, the L&N Railroad right of way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi State line.

Also considered saltwater areas, are Sabine and Calcasieu Lakes including the Calcasieu Ship Channel, Lakes Maurepas, Ponchartrain and St. Catherine.

The maximum length on all seines, gill nets and hoop nets shall be 1200 feet in all areas. The minimum mesh size on hoop nets in all areas shall be one inch square (2 inches stretched). The maximum mesh size allowed for seines in the saltwater area shall be one inch square and the minimum mesh size in freshwater seines shall be 2 inches square.
In saltwater areas, the minimum mesh size on the outside wall of a trammel net shall be 3 inches square and the maximum mesh of the inside layer shall be one inch square. Freshwater trammel nets and gill nets have a minimum mesh size of 3 inches square. Saltwater gill nets shall have a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square.

No monofilament nets may be used in the saltwater area except under special permits to develop underutilized fisheries in the area to the seaward from the inside-outside shrimp line.

**House Bill 1155 - Humphries and Lanier**

Prohibits the use steel traps with teeth.

**House Bill 1244 - Patti and LeBlou**

Provides that an oyster fisherman may use a two-foot dredge when working his own lease. To do so, he must obtain a special permit and keep it for ready inspection when the dredge is in use.

**House Bill 1246 - Patti, LeBlou and Senators Nunez and Nicholson**

Abolishes the maximum number of crab traps a licensed crab fisherman may use. Each trap must have a float or 6 inches in diameter or $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon and the float must have the fisherman's license number on it. Floats must be attached to the traps with a non-floating line.

**House Bill 1248 - Patti, LeBlou, Fernandez, Siracusa, Haik.**

Provides that non-resident commercial fishermen taking finfish, crabs, shrimp or bait shall purchase an annual $1000 license for each vessel used. These licenses shall be available from January 1 through January 31 only licenses for newly obtained vessels may be purchased within 45 days after getting the vessel anytime during the year.

**House Bill 1251 - Patti and LeBlou**

Provides that the shrimp season in Chandeleur and Breton Sounds shall remain open from the beginning of the May season to the closing of the August season.

**House Bill 1368 - Patti and Senators Nunez and Nicholson**

Provides for a commercial clamming license of $100 to be issued each October for the following year. Both fishermen and processors and brokers will be licensed. All water bottoms suitable for clamming in the state shall remain public for clamming. A tax of three cents per barrel shall be paid to the state by the dealer. Also twenty cents tax per bushel shall be paid on shellstock shipped out of state.

Each implement used to harvest clams shall be licensed at $100 each. Clams may not be taken from public oyster seed grounds when they are closed. Clamming is also prohibited in areas where active oyster production occurs. The minimum legal size is one inch from hinge to shell edge.

**House Bill 1397 - Tauzin**

Requires the Secretary of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to start a reporting system to show the amount and source of aquatic and wildlife resources in the state and to report to the Legislature on any that are diminishing and how to preserve them.