SEA GRANT PROGRAM

LAGNIAPPE

SEA TURTLE MEETING

Things are rapidly coming to a head on the issue of mandatory (forced) use of TEDs by shrimpers to protect sea turtles. Whether or not shrimpers will have to use TEDs in their trawls will be determined in the next six weeks.

Shrimpers concerned with the TED issue should be aware of several very important upcoming meetings. The first meeting will be sponsored by the Concerned Shrimpers Association of Louisiana, on March 4 (Ash Wednesday) at 1:30 pm, at the Civic Center in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Representatives of the environmental groups pushing TEDs and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service will be there to answer questions from fishermen. Governor Edwin Edwards will also be there as keynote speaker. This is a very important meeting for fishermen who want to hear, directly from the source, what is going to happen with TEDs. After the meeting there will be boiled seafood and a jambalaya feast. Admission is $1 for the meeting and $7 for the seafood party. The map below shows the way to the meeting.
SEA TURTLE HEARINGS

The National Marine Fisheries Service will be holding three public hearings in Louisiana for fishermen and others to make comments on the mandatory use of TEDs in trawls. These hearings will not be for questions and answers. The question and answer meeting is in Thibodaux on March 4. These meetings are for people to make official comments on whether or not they want to use TEDs and why.

The New Orleans hearing will be on March 18, 1987 at 7 pm. It will be at the Holiday Inn Holidome at 2929 Williams Blvd. in Kenner, on the corner of Williams Blvd. and Veterans Hwy., near the Williams Blvd. exit from highway I-10.

The other Louisiana hearings will be at 6 pm on March 16 at the Cameron Elementary School Auditorium in Cameron, LA, and at 7 pm on March 17 at the Houma Municipal Auditorium at 880 Verret Street in Houma, LA.

These will be the last meetings concerning forced TED use by shrimpers. Fishermen and others who have feelings about TEDs will have the opportunity to make their feelings public at these hearings.

LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Louisiana Shrimp Association meeting will be holding its 28th annual convention at the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Royal St., in New Orleans on March 18-21, 1987.

The educational program on Thursday the 19th will feature discussions of the present and future condition of the shrimp industry by congressional leaders, state personnel and scientists. Possibilities for new management methods to increase shrimp production will also be discussed. A speaker will also discuss Federal laws, including the new tax laws and how they affect the future of the shrimp industry.

The Association also has several social functions. Registration information can be obtained from:

Louisiana Shrimp Association  
c/o Gaylord-Bush Company  
126 Airline Highway  
Metairie, LA 70001

NATIONAL SEAFOOD PROMOTION

President Reagan has signed legislation creating a National Fish and Seafood Promotional Council. The legislation which was proposed by Sen. Ted Stevens and Rep. Don Young of Alaska contains an amendment creating the national council aimed at spurring seafood consumption. "Promotional councils have successfully strengthened markets for the citrus and dairy industries," Stevens says. "I'm confident a similar organization can do the same for seafood."

Seafood consumption in the United States has traditionally been much lower than beef, pork, and poultry. Louisiana recognized that seafood promotion was a key to the growth of the fishing industry with legislation sponsored by Senator Samuel Nunez in 1981, creating the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

FISHERIES LAW & POLICY CONFERENCE

The Louisiana and Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Programs are sponsoring the Conference on Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Law and Policy on March 18-20, 1987 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans.

The conference will cover who has fisheries management authority and conflicts between federal and state managers, the recreational-commercial conflict, the Lacy Act, enforcement issues, the legal...
aspects of aquaculture and tax law changes.

Registration is $175 ($40 for students and spouses.) Registration information can be obtained from:

Fisheries Law Conference
Sea Grant Communications
LSU Center for Wetland Resources
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507
(504) 388-6448

MISSISSIPPI SUES LOUISIANA

Mississippi Attorney General Ed Pittman has sued the state of Louisiana on behalf of two commercial fishermen. The suit states that Mississippi fishermen must shrimp in Louisiana because there are not enough shrimp off of the Mississippi coast and Louisiana charges them much higher fees than state residents.

Louisiana fishermen pay $55 for a commercial license and out-of-state fishermen are charged $105. Also, in order for out-of-state fishermen to catch shrimp in Louisiana and sell them out-of-state they must buy a $400 dealer's license which is $105 for residents.

The suit claims that the non-resident fees do not apply to Alabama fishermen fishing in Louisiana because of an agreement signed under a previous governor. The suit asks that the law be declared unconstitutional and that Mississippi residents be charged the same costs as Alabama residents.

Source: Morning Advocate Newspaper

ARTIFICIAL REEF HEARINGS

The use of abandoned oil rigs to create artificial fishing reefs has been of interest for several years. Plans have been put together to create an artificial fishing reef program.

The Louisiana Artificial Reef Initiative and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will hold public hearings on the Louisiana Artificial Reef Plan at the locations and times listed below. An outline of the plan and proposed artificial reef sites will be presented. The public will then be provided an opportunity to offer suggestions and comments.

Meeting Locations and Times

Houma: February 26, 1987
7:30 P.M., East Park Recreation Center

Chalmette: March 9, 1987
7:30 P.M., Police Jury Meeting Room
St. Bernard Police Jury Office
Government Complex

Lake Charles: March 9, 1987
7:30 P.M., Police Jury Meeting Room
Calcasieu Police Jury Office
Government Complex

ANOTHER LICENSE?

According to a report in "The Fish Boat" we will see legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress this year creating a federal fishing license for all commercial and sports fishermen. The proposed license will probably be in the form of a stamp, like the duck stamp for waterfowl hunters. The license fee is supposed to be "very modest" and the National Marine Fisheries Service will use the money to finance fisheries research and development. NMFS also feels that licensing will give them a better feeling on who is fishing and where, as it would cover the entire U.S. fishery conservation
zone. Although the details of the plan have not been worked out yet, this is part of the continuing increase in regulations and government involvement in fisheries that fishermen and seafood dealers have been seeing in recent years.

THE GUMBO POT

Shrimp Dip

There are lots of shrimp dip recipes. Some are better than others, but this is one of the best I've tasted. The cream cheese makes it very rich.

1 lb. peeled boiled shrimp
6 green onions, chopped
1 tsp. lemon juice
½ tsp. hot sauce
¼ tsp. worcestershires sauce
2 or 3 pods of pureed garlic
16 oz. soft cream cheese
2 Tbsp. mayonnaise

Put all ingredients except cream cheese and mayonnaise in a food processor and chop fine. Mix ingredients by hand with cream cheese and mayonnaise. Serve with crackers of your choice. Serves 6.

Sincerely,

Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles Parishes