HEARINGS ON COBIA, DOLPHIN AND MACKEREL

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on November 1, 1989 at Powell Auditorium, Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, concerning changes on several offshore fish. The changes are as follows:

1) A two fish per day recreational limit on cobia (lemonfish).
2) A five fish sport bag limit on dolphinfish (mahi mahi) and an 18 inch fork length minimum size for all fishermen.
3) A reallocation of Gulf Spanish mackerel from 57% commercial/43% sport to 52% commercial/48% sport.
4) Changing the requirement to be eligible for a commercial mackerel permit from 10% of one's income from commercial fishing to 50%.

Public comment may also be made by mail by November 20 to Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Blvd., Suite 881, Tampa, FL 33609.

COMMERCIAL SHARK PERMITS NOW REQUIRED

Persons fishing for sharks commercially are now being required by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to get a permit and make monthly reports on their catch. The permit is free and reporting forms will be given with the permit.

To receive an application for a commercial shark fishing permit, write the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Commercial Licensing Division, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or visit the Baton Rouge office at 2000 Quail Drive.

LAGNIAPPE

LAFFITTE/BARATARIA IDENTIFIED AS "ENDANGERED"

The Mountain States Legal Foundation has identified Lafitte/Barataria as an "endangered" community because of TED regulations. According to William Perry Pendley, President and Chief Legal Officer of the Foundation, "When the Shrimping towns along the Louisiana and Texas gulf coast disappear, all that will remain will be the ghosts of generations of family shrimpers."

Pendley also stated "All across America, working men and women are being put out of work, and towns and villages endangered, as a result of the decisions of federal officials in far-away Washington, D.C., or the decisions of federal judges in response to lawsuits by no-growth advocates, and single purpose environmental extremists."

The Mountain States Legal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that represents businesses and individuals that feel they have been wronged by governmental regulatory agencies.
PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTIES

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has released its list of proposed civil penalties for fish and wildlife violations for public comment. These penalties will be on top of the current penalties now in effect. What they basically amount to is paying the state back for fish and game taken illegally. Comments on the proposed penalties should be sent to Blue Watson, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000. Shown below are some of the proposed values for fish and seafood. Some are valued by the inch and some by the pound. For a complete list of fish and game values, call or write my office.

Fish Valued by the Inch
Redfish.............From 37¢/1-inch fish to $257.33/52-inch fish
Speckled Trout......From 37¢/1-inch fish to $85.75/32-inch fish
Red Snapper.......From 37¢/1-inch fish to $123.34/42-inch fish
Croaker.............From 37¢/1-inch fish to $9.69/26-inch fish
Flounder...........From 37¢/1-inch fish to $15.55/29-inch fish
King Mackerel......From 37¢/1-inch fish To $262.07/66-inch fish

Fish Valued by the Pound
Shrimp..................$1.46/lb. Blue Crab..................$0.41/lb.
Oyster..................$2.35/lb. Black Drum...............$0.27/lb.
Mullet..................$0.64/lb. Yellowedge Groupers...$1.73/lb.
Swordfish............$3.10/lb. Blacktip Shark.........$0.32/lb.
Catfish...............$0.48/lb. Yellowfin Tuna........$1.52/lb.
Sheepshead..........$0.18/lb. Bluefin Tuna.........$13.65/lb.

SAFETY TRAINING COURSE

The Texas A & M Sea Grant Program in cooperation with the National Council of Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance, has developed a 12-hour, three-part training program for commercial fishermen. The only charge for the course is $25 which covers the cost of the book used in the course. According to Dewayne Hollin of Texas A&M, several insurance companies has said that they will offer a discount on vessel insurance to fishermen who have taken the full 12 hour course. One large agency has supposedly offered a 5% discount.

If enough fishermen fill out the form below and send it in, they will offer the course at any fishing port on the Gulf Coast. Send the form to Gulf Coast Fishing Vessel Safety Program, Sea Grant College Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4115.

Gulf Coast Fishing Vessel Safety Program
Request for Information

Name ____________________________
Company/Vessel __________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ________
Zip __________________ Telephone ___

Preferred Location for Training: ________________________________
Preferred Training Dates/Times:
Month __________ Weekdays __________ Weekends __________
Hours of training: Daytime (12 hours) __________ (8 hours) __________
Evening (4 hours) __________

Preferred Training Segments (Circle one or more)
1. Fishing Vessel Safety/Survival Orientation
2. Navigation/Rules of the Road/Watchkeeping
3. Medical Emergencies at Sea

Certification of program completion is provided through the National Council of Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance. Certificates will be awarded to students completing 12 hours of training.
MORE GARBAGE RULES PROPOSED

Several months ago new rules on dumping of garbage and plastics into the water went into effect. The second round of rules is now up for public comment. These proposed rules apply to both commercial and sport fishing boats.

Size/Type of Vessel | Proposed Requirement
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Ocean-going vessels 79 ft. and over | 1) Keep records of garbage discharges in a Coast Guard Refuse Book to be returned to Coast Guard.  
2) Have on board a written waste management plan that meets the legal refuse discharge restrictions of Annex V, describes procedures used for collecting, processing, storing, and discharging the vessel's garbage, and lists person in charge of ship.  
3) Prominently display durable placard (at least 4" x 9" in size) to notify passengers and crew of Annex V discharge restrictions and penalties.
Ocean-going vessels 40 ft. and over | 1) Have on board a written waste management plan that meets the legal refuse discharge restrictions of Annex V, describes procedures used for collecting, processing, storing, and discharging the vessel's garbage, and lists person in charge of ship.  
2) Prominently display durable placard (at least 4" x 9" in size) to notify passengers and crew of Annex V discharge restrictions and penalties.
All vessels 26 ft. and over | 1) Prominently display durable placard (at least 4" x 9" in size) to notify passengers and crew of Annex V discharge restrictions and penalties.

Comments on these rules should be made to Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA-2/3600), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Room 3600, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC, 20593-0001 and are due by November 6, 1989.

RECREATIONAL MACKEREL LIMITS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted sportfishing limits of 10 for Spanish mackerel and 2 for king mackerel per trip. For charter vessels the limit is either 3 king mackerel per person excluding the captain and crew or 2 fish per person including the captain and crew.

BLACK DRUM REGULATIONS

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted temporary emergency regulations on black drum. Both sports and commercial fishermen were asked to take a 50% cutback on the number of fish they catch. Commercial fishermen will have an 18-inch minimum length and a 300,000 fish quota for the time period of October 12, 1989 through April 12, 1990. Sports fishermen will have a 14-inch minimum length. The reason that the sport length is less than the commercial length is that the most common size black drum taken by sportsmen is a 10-inch fish. The average size fish caught by commercial fishermen was much larger.

During this period, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists will be developing a permanent black drum management plan.

PADDLEFISH CLOSED AGAIN

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has announced another three year closure on the taking of paddlefish or spoonbill catfish as they are called. During the last closure, sports fishermen were allowed one fish per day. For the next three years, beginning November 1, no fisherman sport or commercial, may take or possess this fish or any of its parts including the eggs.
Crab Soup

This month's recipe comes to us from Darla Kiffe of Lafourche Parish. Crab soups are an east coast tradition and not often served here. I think that you will enjoy it. If any of you have a recipe to share with our readers please send it in. We are always looking for new ones.

½ cup margarine
½ cup chopped shallots
2 cans cream of mushroom soup
2 empty soup cans of homogenized milk
1 pound white crab meat
1 teaspoon liquid crab boil
1 pint half and half
salt and pepper to taste

In a 6 quart pan saute shallots in margarine until wilted. Then add all other ingredients - cream of mushroom soup, soup cans of homogenized milk, white crab meat, liquid crab boil, and pint of half and half. Bring to a boil. Lower fire and simmer 20 minutes. Stir often. Serves 8.

Sincerely,

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

JH/kwj