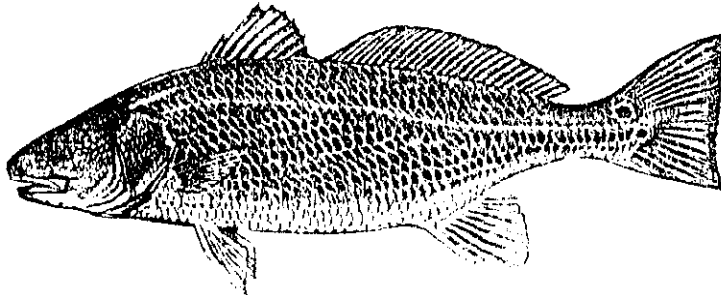


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

SPECKS AND REDS GAMEFISH IN ALABAMA

Speckled trout and redbfish have been declared gamefish in Alabama for a one year period beginning May 25, 1984. During the one year period, the state will conduct a study of the two fish. Alabama Conservation Commissioner Topyy Hodnett stated that he will lift the restriction if the study is completed sooner.

Also placed into effect was a 15 fish per day limit on redbfish and speckled trout for sports fishermen. As a trade off for gamefish status on the two fish, almost all of Alabama's coastal waters have been opened to allow netting of other species.

HANG FUNDS - FOR ALL FISHERMEN

In the last year, I have received a lot of questions on the two hang funds and whether they are for all fishermen or just shrimpers. The answer is that as far as trawls go, the funds are only useful to commercial shrimpers.

However, any commercial fishermen can make a claim for hull and propeller damage from underwater obstructions. The state fund which covers the area where most of our fishermen fish, has covered (up to \$5,000) everything from an oyster lugger's hull damaged by a pipe to a catfisherman's lower unit on his outboard that hit a submerged piling.

Since there has been so much interest (and confusion) over the two funds, I've decided to go over both the state and federal hang funds.

The State Fund

This fund has been in existence now for four years and has really proven to be a real benefit for Louisiana commercial fishermen. The fund pays for damage to both gear and vessels caused by underwater obstructions in state waters. As I mentioned earlier, this includes both inside waters and outside waters out to 3 miles off the beaches. The maximum amount that the claim fund can pay on any single claim is \$5,000.

If you feel that you have a claim in state waters, you must notify the fund office in Baton Rouge within 30 days of the damage. You can either call or write the fund as shown below:

Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44396
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-4600

When you call or write the fund they will want to know the following things:

- 1) Your name, address and telephone number
- 2) Name and registration numbers of your boat
- 3) Your commercial fishing license number
- 4) Where the damage occurred
- 5) Date and time of day of damage
- 6) Identification of obstruction, if known
- 7) Description and estimated value of the damage

After receiving this first report, Ed Wagner, who is the fella who will be handling your claim, will send you a one-sheet claim form to fill out. The claim form is pretty simple, but I'd like to give you a few pointers here on filling it out.

First, answer all questions; if you leave any blank, they will have to send it back to you.

Second, be sure that you include some proof that you make at least 50% of your income from commercial fishing. That's because this fund is only for commercial fishermen. You can either send in a copy of the first page of your income tax statement which shows that you are a commercial fisherman or instead, a written statement from a seafood buyer stating that you are a commercial fisherman.

Another important part of the claim is a statement from someone who witnessed the damage. It can be from a deck hand or from someone who was fishing near you. If you were fishing alone and no one else was fishing near you, a statement from someone who saw the damage back at the dock will do.

If your deck hand can't write too well, you can write it out yourself and have him sign it. It doesn't have to be fancy, but be sure to include the name of the witness and the name or numbers of the damaged boat, the date the damage occurred and how it happened.

If the damage occurred in an area of active oil exploration or production, Ed will send you the name and address of a company man to contact. Write him a letter, explaining the damage and ask if his company will pay for the damage. If they do, you are home free. If they won't then the fund will pay you after a hearing. If the damages are over \$500, you will have to attend the hearing.

I know this sounds complicated, but it is not nearly as bad as it sounds. In fact, it's really simple. I've helped many fishermen fill out their claim forms and anytime you need help on doing one, feel free to call me or drop by my office in Marrero.

I encourage fishermen to file a claim for any damage over \$100. If you mend your own nets you can even claim your own labor. Just get a receipt book from the dime store and write yourself a receipt for the hours you put in mending the net. Charge what net menders in your area would charge you by the hour to patch nets.

Another little point might help your claim is a photograph of the damage. If you have some place to keep a camera dry on your boat, it would be good to have one handy. A picture is worth a thousand words.

The Federal Fund

If your hang or damage occurred outside of the 3 mile limit, you will need to make a report to the Fishermen's Contingency Fund within 15 days after the end of the trip in which the damage occurred.

You can make the report by calling or writing the address below:

Chief, Fisheries Development Analysis Branch
Southeast region
National Marine Fisheries Service
9450 Koger Blvd., Duval Bldg.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 893-3271

This report should include the following information:

- 1) Your name and address
- 2) Boat name and Coast Guard numbers
- 3) Location of the obstruction
- 4) What you were doing when the damage occurred
- 5) A description of the damage
- 6) Date of damage
- 7) A description of the hang, if known
- 8) Whether or not the hang had a buoy or light on or near it

After they get your 15 day report, the fund will send you a formal claim form to fill out. In the past, not many fishermen have used the federal fund because of the red tape and delay. Some people had to wait over a year to get paid. Recently, they have worked very hard to streamline the claim process and they hope to be able to pay fishermen within 90 days of the claim. In addition to paying for gear damage the federal fund also will pay for the lost profits due to down time from the damage. Most fishermen have found, however, that unless they really have a lot of down time, it's not worth claiming for lost profits, because it really makes the claim a lot more complicated.

While there are still many problems with the federal fund, the new streamlining procedures have made making a claim a lot easier.

Remember if you have any questions on either the state or the federal funds or if you need help in filling out a claim, feel free to contact me and I'll do what I can.

SEAMAP AVAILABLE FOR FISHERMEN

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is overseeing a weekly shrimp and finfish sampling program in the northern Gulf of Mexico called SEAMAP. Under this program, offshore waters are divided into 10-minute grids and government research vessels pull 40 foot shrimp trawls in the different areas and report the catch in pounds per hour.

A fisherman can be put on the mailing list for the weekly reports by writing or calling the address below and requesting addition to the mailing list.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS
(601) 875-5912

LSU NEEDS SMALL MACKERALS FOR STUDY

Dr. Gil Bane with the LSU Coastal Ecology and Fisheries Institute needs king and Spanish mackerel under one pound. He is trying to determine if our mackerel are from a different stock than those from other areas in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

This is very important as the Federal Fishery Management Council is placing more and more regulations on the mackerel catch. If you catch any small mackerel, please freeze them and contact me at my office or call Dr. Bane in Baton Rouge at 388-6513. He will pick them up immediately.

WHITE SHRIMP MOVEMENT STUDY

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the LSU Center for Wetland Resources have completed a study of the movement of tagged white shrimp on the Louisiana Coast. Between July 1977 and January 1979, 50,863 white shrimp were tagged and released in inshore and offshore waters.

Recapture rates were 10.6% for the shrimp tagged inshore and 5.6% for the shrimp tagged offshore. Some interesting facts were learned about white shrimp in this study.

- 1) White shrimp do not stay in one particular spot in a bay system but move all over the system before going offshore. Also, young white shrimp move from one bay system to another.

- 2) White shrimp that were tagged inshore moved mostly to the west after they move offshore, although in the fall and winter some do move eastward.
- 3) Some shrimp stay inside all summer and into the fall until cold fronts move them out.
- 4) Some shrimp moved more than 100 nautical miles both eastward and westward after tagging.
- 5) Although white shrimp were tagged in all areas between the Mississippi River Delta and the Louisiana/Texas state line, no shrimp moved around the mouth of the river to the east and none went further westward than Galveston Texas.
- 6) Generally shrimp tagged offshore in the fall moved very little and in no particular direction.
- 7) Shrimp tagged and released offshore in December moved further offshore and eastward.
- 8) Shrimp tagged offshore in January generally moved offshore until the beginning of March and then began moving back inshore until they end up in the bays.
- 9) White shrimp which wintered offshore contributed to the spring inshore white shrimp fishery and were also the brood stock for the next white shrimp crop.
- 10) Both male and female shrimp showed the same movement patterns.

Source: Movement of Tagged White Shrimp, Penaeus setiferus in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico. James M. Lyon and Claude J. Boudreaux. Technical Bulletin No. 39. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

THE GUMBO POT

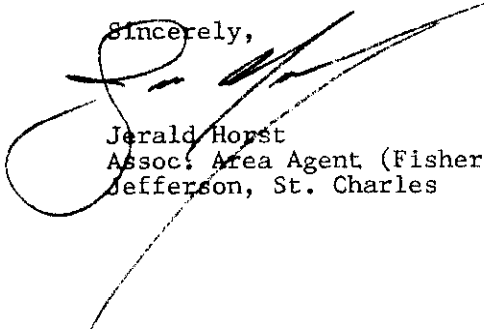
Flounder in White Wine

Each year the 4-H clubs in the New Orleans area hold seafood cooking contests in each parish. The winners in each parish then compete against each other. This recipe was judged the grand prize winner in the overall contest and is the best of the best. Anita Farac of Plaquemines Parish prepared this dish, which is her own creation.

2 pounds flounder filets	1/2 cup flour
salt and pepper to taste	2 cups (1 pt.) sour cream
juice of 1/2 lemon	1/2 cup white wine
1/2 cup melted butter	1/2 cup parmesan cheese
1 small diced onion	

Salt and pepper flounder and sprinkle with part of lemon juice. Saute fish and onions in butter for about 5 minutes. Remove fish from pan. Stir in flour. Turn off flame and blend in sour cream until sauce is smooth. Add wine and remaining lemon juice. Simmer for 20 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter baking dish. Place fish in baking dish and pour sauce over fish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and bake for 15 minutes.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
 Assoc. Area Agent (Fisheries)
 Jefferson, St. Charles