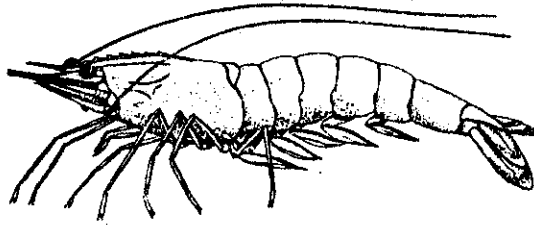


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

HANG FUND - 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 fisherman 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 seven 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 water, 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) 342-0122

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, they 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 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.

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 the 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 (202) 673-5421 in Washington, D.C. The 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.

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 to help.

NIGHT CRABBING OUTLAWED

In an effort to prevent the theft of crabs and crab traps, the Terrebonne Parish Council has passed an ordinance making it illegal to run crab traps at night in the parish's public waters. The new law is strongly backed by the Crab Fishermen's Association of Louisiana.

The law is intended to make it easier for the Sheriff's Water Patrol to stop thefts. The penalty for a first offense is up to \$500 fine and 30 days in jail.

TUNA LONGLINING WORKSHOP

The Florida Sea Grant Extension Program will be holding a one day yellowfin tuna workshop on May 28, 1987. Subjects to be covered include gear, fishing techniques, grading, on-board handling, processing and packaging, marketing, and regulations.

For registration information write:

Dr. Steve Otwell
467 Food Science Building
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

The program will be held at the Admiral Benbow Inn, 1200 North Westshore Blvd. in Tampa, Florida.

PROPELLER WASHING OR DREDGING

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that the use of a vessel propeller's wheelwash to widen, deepen, alter the natural course or channel of any navigable water is to be considered propeller dredging.

Included in this is the moving of a vessel through a waterway which is not deep enough for the draught of the vessel and/or barge.

This means that before anyone does this, he must get a permit from the Corps of Engineers.

For more information on what needs to be permitted and getting permits, contact Dr. Thom Davidson, Chief, Surveillance and Enforcement Section, at the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers at (504) 862-2270.

HE'S A SHE

For many animals the difference between being a male or a female is not as clear as it is for humans. Sex changes are quite common in some animals. Oysters, for example, usually start out their life as males and later in life turn into females. Groupers, a delicious deepwater fish off the Louisiana coast, start life as females and later turn into males.

Even more interesting is the blue-streak cleaner fish, found on coral reefs, which lives in groups made up of one male and five or six females. The male, which is usually the largest fish, mates regularly with all the females. If the male dies, the largest female begins acting like a male within an hour and by two weeks turns into a breeding male fish.

Alligators and turtles do it a different way — in the eggs. If alligator eggs are incubated below 86 degrees F., they all produce females. But if the incubation temperature is over 93 degrees, the eggs hatch as males. In contrast, the Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle determines its sex the opposite way — cool temperatures produce males. Even stranger is the snapping turtle. Eggs incubated at high or low temperatures produce females, while moderate temperatures produce males.

And you thought life was complicated for humans!

NEW COURSE AT FISHER HIGH SCHOOL

Fisher Middle-High School in Lafitte is offering a new high school course in commercial fishing recordkeeping. This course is especially designed for this area, as most young men become trawlers or fishermen, and the girls of the community often marry fishermen.

Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 are eligible for the course if they have not already taken Bookkeeping I. If you have a boy or girl attending Fisher High School that may become a fisherman, they will have to register this May to be able to take the course next year.

THE GUMBO POT

Crab Phyllo Bites

This month's recipe was developed by Pat Baldrige, Food Editor of the Morning Advocate newspaper. Tommy Simmons, Assistant Food Editor, tells me this recipe is ideal for parties.

6 oz. crab meat	6 sheets of frozen phyllo
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup shredded Swiss cheese	dough
1 (2 oz.) can of mushroom stems & pieces	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted butter
6 crushed wheat crackers	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. onion powder
2 Tbsp. snipped parsley	dash of red pepper

1. Filling: In medium mixing bowl, combine crabmeat, cheese, mushrooms, crushed crackers, parsley, onion powder and pepper. Drizzle 1 Tbsp. of butter to moisten. Set aside. 2. Pastry: Unfold phyllo. Spread one of the sheets flat. Using a pastry brush, brush with some of the remaining butter or margarine. Top with another sheet. Brush each sheet with butter. Repeat with a third sheet. Cover remaining dough with a damp towel. 3. Cut stack of buttered dough lengthwise into fourths and crosswise into fifths. You will have 20 ($3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch) squares. 4. Place 1 rounded tsp. filling in center of each square. 5. Fold into bundle by bringing edges together and slightly twisting to seal. 6. Place each bundle in greased baking pan. 7. Brush all bundles with a little melted butter. 8. Bake in 375 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. NOTE: These can be made ahead of time and frozen. To freeze: Make bundles up then brush with butter. Place in baking pan and cover well with moisture-vapor proof wrap. Seal well. Defrost before baking. Makes 40 appetizers.

Sincerely,

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

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LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT. LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE. LOUISIANA PARISH GOVERNING BODIES. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY. AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

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