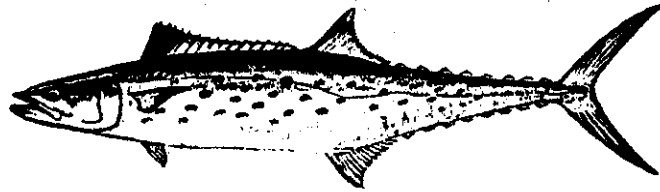


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

NEW FISHERIES LAWS

The following bills were passed by the 1987 Louisiana Legislature and will go into effect September 1, 1987 (unless otherwise noted). If you would like more information on these new laws, feel free to contact me in my office in Marrero.

Senate Bill 49 (Act 946) - McPherson and others

Allows the voters of the state to vote for a constitutional amendment which would provide that money in the Conservation Fund (except Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board money) be used only for fisheries and wildlife purposes. This is the money now used by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, but it is not protected by the state constitution.

Senate Bill 244 (Act 219) - Lauricella

Increases the maximum size of an eel pot from 36 inches to 48 inches. Decrease the minimum mesh size from one inch by one-half inch to one-half inch. Also provides that any other fish taken with an eel pot must be returned to the water unharmed.

Senate Bill 355 - (Act 283) - Chabert

Prohibits the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from enforcing federal regulations on TEDs until approval by the state legislature. Also directs the attorney general to file a class action suit against any federal TED law. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 371 (Act 285) - Bagert and others

Makes blue, black, striped, hatchet and white marlin and sailfish into game fish.

Senate Bill 505 (Act 809) and House Bill 1083 (Act 458) - Nunez and Patti

Provides that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries can lease only state-owned waterbottoms and natural reefs for the taking of oysters. No lease may be given until an ownership investigation is made. Any current leases which affect private waterbottom shall go back to the private landowner.

Senate Bill 542 (Act 497) - Bagert and Hollis

Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall investigate and demonstrate methods of oil and gas exploration and production in wetlands other than dredging.

Senate Bill 576 (Act 502) - Atkins

Allows the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority to provide money and credit for converting farmland to fish farming projects.

Senate Bill 673 (Act 309) - Lauricella and others

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue up to 10 permits

for experimental saltwater fish farming in the coastal zone to holders of valid coastal use permits. Each permit is good for 5 years and limited to 8,000 acres. Each permit holder must release a percentage of fish to the wild each year. Applications shall be accepted for one year. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 682 (Act 231) - Nunez

Establishes a state income tax check-off for donations to the Louisiana Coastal Environmental Protection Trust Fund.

Senate Bill 756 (Act 517) - Hinton and Johnson

Prohibits butterfly and bottom nets in the Rigolets and two miles into Lakes Ponchartrain and Borne from the Rigolets from being used from pilings, floats, barges, rafts, bridges or shore installations. Provides they must be used from a motorized vessel which is underway.

House Bill 44 (Act 455) - D. Hebert and Cross

Allows trawling in Pass Manchac. Effective immediately.

House Bill 140 (Act 891) - M. Hebert

Prohibits the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from enforcing federal TED requirements until they are completely tested and the department has made rules and regulations. Effective immediately.

House Bill 159 (Act 570) - Borne and others

Allows sport trawlers to pull a trawl up to 25 feet for a gear fee of \$40. Effective immediately, but only in effect until May 1, 1988, when the largest sport trawl will again be a 16 foot trawl.

House Bill 247 (Act 576) - M. Hebert

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to close outside state waters for trawling 15 days earlier (January 1). Allows the commission to keep outside state waters closed 15 days longer (May 1) off zones I and II and to open outside state waters one month earlier (March 15) off of zone III.

House Bill 248 (Act 896) - M. Hebert

Creates a special task force on federal regulations in the State Department of Justice to take legal action to prevent TED regulations. Appropriates \$100,000. Effective immediately.

House Bills 525 (Act 92) and 540 (Act 534) and Senate Bill 1151 (Act 851) - Settig, Lemoine and Benoit

Exempts crawfish and catfish farmers from all licensing and control by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

House Bill 636 (Act 602) - M. Hebert

Prohibits running crab traps at night statewide, except Lake Des Allemands.

House Bill 685 (Act 456) - Patti and others

Increases penalty for taking oysters at night from class 1 to class 3.

House Bill 692 (Act 381) - Benoit

Sets a yearly quota of 1.7 million pounds of redfish for commercial fishermen. Provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may adjust the quota based on biological and catch data.

House Bill 698 (Act 382) - Benoit

Sets a yearly quota of 1 million pounds of speckled trout for commercial fish-

ermen. Provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may adjust the quota based on biological and catch data.

House Bill 705 (Act 383) - Benoit

- 1) Requires that all finfish possessed by commercial fishermen have the head and tail on them until landed or sold.
- 2) Requires that all saltwater fish possessed by sports fishermen must have the head and tail on them until landed on shore from a vessel.
- 3) Increases the mesh size on saltwater fish seines from 1 inch square (2" stretched) to a minimum of 1 3/4 inch square (3 1/2" stretched).
- 4) Increases the minimum mesh size of the inner wall of saltwater trammel nets from 1 5/8 inches square (3 1/4" stretched) to 1 3/4 inches square (3 1/2" stretched).
- 5) Sets a minimum size on redfish for sports fishermen of 14 inches in 1987, 15 inches in 1988 and 16 inches starting in 1989.
- 6) Sets a minimum size on 12 inches speckled trout for sports fishermen.
- 7) Sets a minimum commercial size limit of 14 inches for speckled trout and 18 inches for redfish.
- 8) Provides that the 5% allowance of undersize fish does not apply to redfish.
- 9) Requires that any vessel fishing in federal offshore waters (outside of 3 miles) and landing redfish in Louisiana must have a transponder on board and notify Department of Wildlife and Fisheries before the vessel docks or unloads its catch.

House Bill 744 (Act 544) - Benoit and Laborde

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to create oyster seed grounds in outside state waters.

House Bill 745 (Act 779) - Benoit and Laborde

Allows commercial fishermen to sell their catch out-of-state without a dealer's license.

House Bill 899 (Act 549) - Haik

Requires any crabs sold to be identified with the commercial fisherman's name, license number and date caught. Provides that seafood dealers are not subject to penalties for possession of undersized crabs if they can provide the commercial fisherman's identity.

House Bill 936 (Act 173) - Bella

Makes possession of an outboard motor or boat from which the serial numbers or hull identification number have been removed or changed illegal. Provides for confiscation of motor or boat and a \$500 fine.

House Bill 938 - (Act 913) - Ullo

Prohibits discharge of gypsum in the Mississippi River. Effective immediately.

House Bill 974 (Act 622) - M. Hebert

Allows shucked oysters to be sold by fluid volume or net drained weight. Allows shucked oysters to be sold by count at the retail level. Allows shell stock oysters to be sold by weight, count or volume measure.

House Bill 978 (Act 386) - M. Hebert and Chabert

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue special harvesting permits to wetland owners and fish farmers. Provides that saltwater fish farmers shall release a percentage of their fish into the wild.

Provides that the department and Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium may enter into agreements with private saltwater fish farmers for research and monitoring the projects.

House Bill 1188 (Act 854) - Borne

Provides that crab traps may be fished on a trotline for a gear fee of \$1

per trap (\$25 maximum for any number of traps) for commercial fishermen.

Requires a buoy of at least 6 inches or 1/2 gallon to be attached to at least one end of the crab trap trotline in Lakes Des Allemands, Boeuf and Verret and the part of Belle River that is in Assumption Parish.

Also, requires such that each crab trap set on a trotline be registered with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and have a tag attached with the crabbers license number.

House Bill 1259 (Act 133) - Martin

Authorizes the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board to set a penalty of up to \$100 per day for dealers that do not collect and send in assessments.

House Bill 1402 (Act 924) - M. Hebert

Removes the requirement that the burden of proof is on the possessor of oysters that they are legally possessed.

Removes the mandatory opening of certain oyster seed grounds and reservations during open season. Provides that they are closed unless opened by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and that the commission designate natural oyster reefs by regulation.

House Bill 1462 (Act 559) - LeBleu

Provides that the same laws for the taking of oysters in Calcasieu Lake apply to Sabine Lake.

House Bill 1618 (Act 876) - Guidry

Moves the inside-outside shrimp line between Grand Isle and Grand Terre. The new line is -- along the northwestern shore of Grand Isle to the point of land most westerly of Grand Isle, lat. 29°12' N. (y-196,271.21), long. 90°02'30" W. (x-2,412,132.43). Thence along the south shoreline to the most easterly point of land of Grand Isle at Baratavia Pass, lat. 29°16' N. (y-220,837.36), long. 89°57' 15" W. (x-2,439,758.00). Thence N. 13° 00' 04" E for 2,075' to the Sea Buoy (green blinking light on turning buoy) at lat. 29° 16' 19" N. (y-222, 860.00), long. 89° 57' 09" W. (x-2,440,225.00). Thence E. 42°03'24" for 3,993' to a green blinking light on the southwest side of the rock jetty forming the entrance channel to the Wildlife and Fisheries Lab on Grand Terre Island, lat. 29°16'48" N. (y-225,825.00) long. 89° 56'38" W. (x-2,442,900.00). Thence along the south shoreline to a point of land most easterly on the west side of Quatre Bayou Pass, lat. 29°18'30" N. (y-236,381.88), long. 89°51'18" W. (x-2,471,180.90). Effective Immediately.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 - Nunez

Allows the use of two 25-foot shrimp trawls in all inside waters including Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. Also, allows the use of a test trawl with two 25 foot trawls. Effective immediately and lasting until 60 days after next year's legislature is over (usually about the end of August).

Senate Concurrent Resolution 76 - Nicholson

Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to keep Lake Cataouatche open to commercial trawling and fishing.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 182 - McPherson

Supports the right of public access on natural, navigable waterways and water-bottoms. Urges agency cooperation in preventing illegal blocking of such waterways.

House Concurrent Resolution 136 - LeBleu and Theriot

Suspends the requirement for 72 hours notice of opening and closing shrimp seasons. Also, suspends the requirement that shrimp season open statewide by May 25. Effective immediately and lasts until 60 days after the close of next year's legislature (usually about the end of August).

House Concurrent Resolution 236 - Patti

Extends the shrimp task force on shrimp management for one year.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 - McPherson

Directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to develop a plan for penalties for illegal taking of fish or wildlife and the killing of fish by contamination or destruction of Habitat. The penalties will be based on the value of the fish or wildlife destroyed.

House Concurrent Resolution 122- Patti

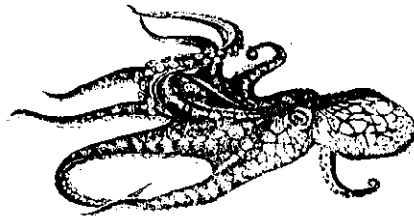
Creates an oyster task force to study the decline in oyster production and to make recommendations to increase production.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 61 - Nunez

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set aside a natural reef in St. Bernard Parish for sacking purposes only.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 174 and House Concurrent Resolution 242 - Nunez and Patti

Designates October 1987 as "Louisiana Commercial Fisheries Month."



NEW FISHING BUSINESS COURSE AT FISHER HIGH SCHOOL

The new school year is starting next week and Fisher High School in Lafitte is offering a brand new course called Business Methods for Fishermen. This full-credit course is designed for young men and women who may become fishermen after high school and is available for students in grades 10, 11 and 12. Subjects covered in the course include:

- * Complete fishing business bookkeeping
- * Managing cash flow
- * Bank financing
- * Incorporating
- * Fisheries laws
- * Engine and gear selection
- * Industry Trends - what does the future hold

If you are interested in enrolling your high-schooler in this very useful course, call Principal Clothilde Cobert at 689-3665.

SEAFOOD EXPORT CONFERENCE

The U.S. Department of Commerce will be holding its third annual Southeastern Seafood Export Conference in New Orleans on September 24-25. The conference will emphasize export opportunities for Gulf Coast seafood species, moving products overseas, fisheries trade and policy issues and pricing, promotion and finance of seafood exports.

At present, at least 20 foreign buyers are expected to attend the conference looking for seafood contacts.

Registration fees are \$85 before September 7 and \$95 after. For agenda and registration information, contact Julie Snyder, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service in New Orleans (504) 589-6546.

THE GUMBO POT

Grilled Catfish Steaks

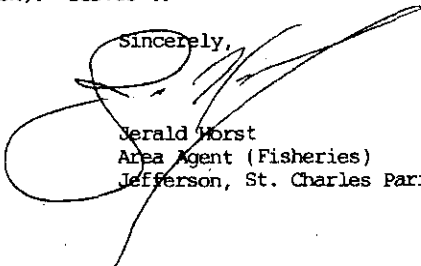
This recipe is one we put together at the hunting camp. With the strong interest in healthy eating, seafood grilling is becoming very popular. It's also a great way to use those big catfish, over 10 pounds, that aren't as good for frying as the smaller ones are.

4 catfish steaks, ½ inch-thick
1 sm. bottle Italian dressing
1 tsp. liquid smoke (optional)

¼ lb. margarine
lemon pepper
salt

Marinate steaks 12 hours in mixture of Italian dressing and liquid smoke in the refrigerator. Build a fire in barbeque pit and heat the cooking grates until hot. Remove steaks from marinade and salt and pepper both sides. Melt margarine and mix with left-over marinade. Place steaks on hot grates and baste with mixture. Cook 5 minutes, turn, and baste again. Cook only until the meat is white inside when tested with a fork. (Do NOT overcook). Serves 4.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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