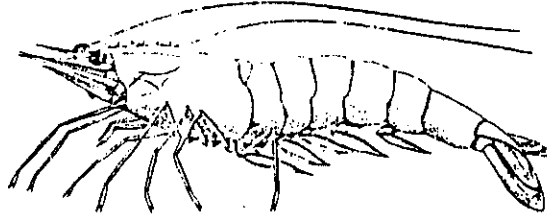


March 20, 1989
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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

TED REGULATIONS

By the time you receive this newsletter there will be less than 45 days left before the TED regulations go into effect. If there is no delay, vessels which are 25 feet long or longer, must use TEDs in all trawls (except test trawls under 20 head-rope length) when trawling outside of the 72 COLREGS DEMARCATION Line. Boats under 25 feet long may either use a TED or make 90 minute tows. The COLREGS DEMARCATION Line is a purple line on the 1:80,000 NOAA charts.

I still have not gotten final regulations yet. I was told by a National Marine Fisheries Service official on January 12, 1989, that the soft TED will not have to be a different color than the rest of the trawl, but I haven't received anything official yet and time is running out.

If anything changes, we will try to keep you informed.

DELINQUENT OYSTER LEASE AUCTION

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will hold an auction of oyster leases that have not had their rent paid. The auction will begin at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 28, 1989 at the Wildlife and Fisheries building at 400 Royal Street in New Orleans. The back door to the building on Chartres Street will be open.

Opening bid for all leases will be the rental and penalty due. Payment will be due on the day of the auction and personal checks will be accepted.

Information concerning these leases may be obtained at room 127, 400 Royal Street between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

NORTH CAROLINA PAYS SHRIMPERS TO USE TEDS

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries will pay fishermen back, up to \$500, to install TEDs on their shrimp boats. Payments will be limited to boats 25 feet or longer whose home port is in North Carolina and the owner of which has a resident commercial license.

Source: Marine Advisory News. UNC Sea Grant. Jan/Feb 1989.

ZERO TOLERANCE

The regulations which allowed the U.S. Coast Guard to seize any boat or vessel whenever any amount of illegal drugs was found, have been slightly modified. Under the new regulations, if drugs are found on a commercial fishing vessel which is fishing or traveling to and from the fishing grounds, and the amount of drugs is less than one ounce of marijuana or one gram of cocaine, the vessel will not be immediately seized.

Instead, a summons will be issued to the captain and the vessel will have to be presented to U.S. Customs at a later date. At that time, it will be determined if the vessel is to be seized or a penalty is to be paid. This new rule only applies to commercial fishing vessels, not to party or charter boats.

This new rule however, still does not solve all of a commercial fishing vessel owner's problems. Many of our larger vessels make trips over two weeks and a crewman may still bring amounts larger than one ounce or one gram on board. Also, if more than one crewman brings drugs aboard, their combined stash may be more than one ounce or one gram. Finally, the new rule does not prevent seizure of the vessel, it only delays the decision.

The only safe policy is one of trying to prevent drugs from being brought on board. To assist vessel owners in this effort, we have prepared a "Zero Tolerance Notice" and a "Crew Employment Agreement." If each crewman signs such an agreement and the owner has posted a notice, it will assist the owner in showing that he has made a reasonable attempt to keep drugs off of the vessel.

Copies of the crew agreements and notices are available from my office. Call or write and we will send you as many copies as you need.

SPORT AND COMMERCIAL USER FEES

The National Marine Fisheries Service is acting under directions by the administration to get a congressional sponsor for legislation to create user fees for commercial and sport fishermen who fish in federal waters.

The proposal presently is as follows:

Sport Fishermen

\$20 per fishermen. A boat owner may purchase a decal for several people to be allowed to fish off of his boat at \$20 per person. If more people fish off of his boat than the decal allows for, the extra people may buy a \$20 license at the post office. This also applies to charter boats.

Commercial Fishermen

A \$20 per person decal system similar to sportfishermen. The captain and all the crewmen must be covered. For example, if a vessel has four deckhands and a captain, the fee would be five times \$20 or \$100 total. In addition, the vessel would have to pay a 1 3/4% tax on the ex-vessel value (price the fishermen gets) of what the vessel catches in federal waters. This would only apply to species which have a federal management plan such as shrimp, mackerel, and snappers and groupers and not in species such as sharks, butterfish and tuna. If a management plan is developed for any of these species, they would become taxable. This fee may be quite high. For example, a shrimp vessel that produces \$200,000 worth of shrimp from federal waters would have to pay \$3,500.

Money raised from these fees would be dedicated to federal fisheries management.

TED ECONOMIC STUDY IN PROGRESS

The National Marine Fisheries Service is conducting a study on the catch of trawls equipped with TEDs and trawls without TEDs. Shrimpers wanting to be involved with the study should contact Gregg Gitschlag, NMFS, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77550, (409) 766-3517.

VOTERS WANT COASTAL PROTECTION

According to a statewide voters poll by the Morning Advocate newspaper, Louisiana's voters are more willing to pay higher taxes to protect the state's coastline than to improve the highway system, improve colleges, create smaller classes in public schools, give pay raises to teachers or build more prisons. Statewide, 57 percent of the voters surveyed said they would pay higher taxes for coastal protection.

Only one-fourth of the people said that Louisiana is doing a good to excellent job of protecting the environment. Only 17 percent of the people in southeast Louisiana gave the state a good rating. Interestingly, north Louisiana, where there is

no coast, was strongly in favor of coastal protection, with 62 percent of the people supporting the idea.

Source: Morning Advocate Newspaper. January 11, 1989.

MANDATORY SEAFOOD INSPECTION URGED

Consumer groups are strongly pushing for mandatory inspection of seafood plants, saying that fish is ten times more likely to cause a food poisoning outbreak than beef and nearly seven times more likely than poultry. U.S. fish consumption has increased over 20 percent since 1980 and the trend is likely to continue because of the healthful aspects of seafood.

According to "Public Voice for Food and Health Policy," a consumer group, FDA inspected far less than one percent of all seafood in 1987. Shellfish harvesting is monitored on a voluntary state-level basis using sanitation guidelines established by FDA. Of the 23 shellfish harvesting states, nine states (including Louisiana) accounting for more than half of the harvest, are not in compliance with the rules.

If a mandatory seafood inspection comes, it may have a serious impact on the state's seafood industry. Many of our seafood processors are small family-type businesses. Mandatory inspection will certainly add some costs to the cost of doing business. How much depends on how the program is designed.

NO MORE POND STOCKING SAYS D.W.F.

In a cost-saving move, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has announced that it will no longer be stocking private ponds with freshwater gamefish. The Department will honor existing commitments until July 1, 1989. After July 1, landowners will still be able to stock their ponds by buying gamefish fingerlings from private dealers.

The Department will continue to stock the state's public lakes, concentrating in the future on Florida Bass.

THE GUMBO POT

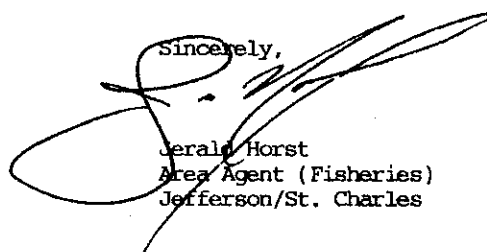
Pepper Stew

This month's recipe comes from Mrs. M. J. Ford of Harvey. If you like bell peppers and shrimp, you will enjoy this recipe. It has a very pronounced pepper taste.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 bell peppers | 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce |
| 1 large onion | 2 Tbsp. shortening |
| 4 cloves of garlic | 3 lbs. shrimp tails |
| 4 large parsley sprigs | salt & pepper |
| 4 large bay leaves | |

Chop onions, garlic and parsley and saute in shortening until tender. Add bay leaves, tomato sauce and simmer for 10 minutes. You may want to add a little water here if the sauce is too thick. Be careful not to add too much, because the shrimp and peppers will make water. Dice the bell peppers and add to sauce. Cook 5 more minutes. Add peeled shrimp and boil about 5 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

Sincerely,



Gerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY STATION, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1900

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300