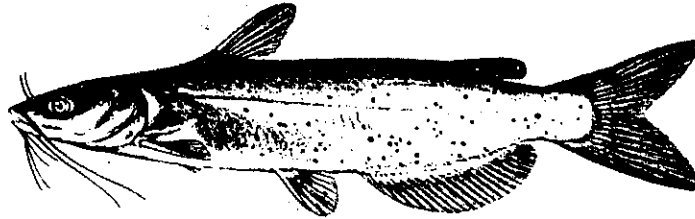


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Office of Emergency Preparedness is trying to gather information on the effect of the freeze on the commercial fishing industry. Included in this newsletter is a form for fishermen and seafood dealers to fill out concerning their losses or damage. This information is very important, if a disaster is to be declared.

CATFISH SIZE LIMITS

On January 1 of this year, the "no size limit" special exemption on channel catfish for the area between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River expired. This means that effective now, the minimum size limit on channel catfish (also called eel catfish) is eleven inches. According to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division, violation of this law is a class 4 violation and carries the following penalties:

- First Offense - \$400-\$450 fine, and/or 120 days in jail
- Second Offense - \$750-\$3000 fine, and 90-180 days in jail
- Third Offense - \$1000-\$5000 fine, and 180 days-2 years in jail

In all cases, violations shall include loss of all equipment seized in connection with the violation.

RECORD BOOKS AND TAX GUIDES

We still have a small supply of Commercial Fishermen's and Trappers Record Books and 1989 Tax Guides for Commercial Fishermen. The record books are used by many commercial fishermen to keep track of their expenses and business income.

For a free copy of either or both of these booklets, call or write my office in Marrero.

LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Louisiana Shrimp Association will be holding its annual convention from February 28 through March 3 at the Meridien Hotel, 614 Canal Street, in New Orleans. The educational program will be held from 9:15 to 12:00 noon on March 1 and 2, and attendance is free.

The theme of the program is "Survival in the '90's." Congressman Billy Tauzin will open the program on Thursday, March 1. Thursday's speakers also include Jerry Clark and Corky Perrett from the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Ken Roberts from LSU, Ardy Kemmerer from National Marine Fisheries Service and others. The agenda Friday will be just as full.

While the educational program is free, there is a charge for the cocktail party on Wednesday night and the other social functions.

CONCERNED SHRIMPERS ASSOCIATION ALSO MEETS

The Concerned Shrimpers Association will also be holding their annual meeting in March this year. It will take place on Saturday, March 24 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Thibodaux Civic Center. The theme is "Making Hard Decisions for Survival," and the keynote speaker will be Senator J. Bennett Johnston. Topics which will also be covered include:

- *TEDs in inside and outside waters
- *National Academy of Science TED report to congress
- *5th amendment lawsuit on shrimp lost
- *shrimp trawl finfish controversy
- *shrimp imports/mislabeling
- *outlook on fuel prices and supply
- *boycott of certain imported seafoods
- *national legislation
- *state legislation

There will be a \$1.00 admission charge at the door and free coffee will be provided.

COBIA AND MACKEREL REGULATION CHANGES PROPOSED

The Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils met in November and agreed to submit an amendment for the mackerel plans. If the amendment is approved, it would go into effect this summer. The Amendment includes the following parts:

- *Recognize that there are two migratory groups of King mackerel in the gulf and request a separate allocation for each group. The west group would be separated from the east group at the Florida/Alabama line.
- *Redefine sport bag limits as daily limits, with only one day's limit allowed to be possessed, except that charter boats can have a two day limit if the boat has two captains aboard and the customers have receipts for a multi-day trip.
- *Specify that gulf King mackerel may only be taken by hook-and-line and run-around gill nets.
- *Create a 2 fish bag limit on cobia for sportfishermen.
- *Establish a minimum size on King mackerel of 12 inches fork length or 14 inches total length.

Source: Gulf Fishery News. October/November 1989.

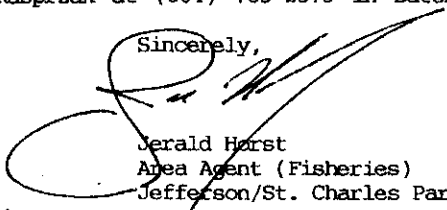
ARTIFICIAL REEF HEARING

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be holding a public hearing to discuss the state's Artificial Reef Program, on Wednesday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Park Recreational Center in Houma. Topics of discussion include:

1. Update on current program
2. Creation of a new artificial reef planning area south of Cocodrie
3. Establishment of "special artificial reef" sites
4. Inshore artificial reef sites planned for Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays.

For more information, call Rick Kasprzak at (504) 765-2375 in Baton Rouge.

Sincerely,


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

JH/kwj

URGENT - PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE I

1989-90 FISHERIES & FUR FREEZE DAMAGE ESTIMATES

Please Print All Information

The questions asked in this survey will be important in determining the need for disaster relief for the seafood and fur industries. Many fishermen and businesses have suffered several types of damage. Please fill out all parts of this form that apply to you.

Business Owner or Fisherman's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Date: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS: Check one or more

Finfish fishing _____	Oyster fishing _____	Seafood marketing _____
Shrimp fishing _____	Fur trapping _____	Other (describe) _____
Crab fishing _____	Seafood processing _____	

TYPE AND AMOUNT OF LOSSES

1. Did you lose fishing or trapping equipment, for example, did you lose crab traps, hoop nets or other equipment? Please list below.

<u>Type of Equipment</u>	<u>Amount of Equipment</u>	<u>Approximate Value</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

2. Was your fishing or trapping equipment (such as boats or processing equipment) damaged by the freeze? Please list below.

<u>Type of Equipment</u>	<u>Amount of Equipment</u>	<u>Approximate Value</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

3. If you hold an oyster lease, did your oysters die? YES or NO
 What is the size of your lease or leases? _____
 Give percent of oysters lost _____ and the approximate value \$ _____

4. Did you lose any income due to the loss of fishing time or processing/marketing time or products during the freeze? Please check one or more below.

<u>Type of Activity (Check one or more)</u>	<u>Amount of Time Lost</u>	<u>Amount of Gross Income Lost</u>
Finfish fishing _____	_____	_____
Shrimp fishing _____	_____	_____
Crab fishing _____	_____	_____
Oyster fishing _____	_____	_____
Fur trapping _____	_____	_____
Seafood processing _____	_____	_____
Seafood marketing _____	_____	_____
Other (describe) _____	_____	_____

5. Please answer the following questions concerning long-term gross income loss due to the freeze:

- When did your losses begin? Month _____ and Year _____.
- When do you feel your losses will end? Month _____ and Year _____.
- What percent of your gross income will you lose during this period? _____
- What is the dollar value of your gross income lost during this period? _____

6. Additional Comments: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO: JEFFERSON PARISH MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY BOARD
 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Suite 703
 Harahan, LA 70123

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