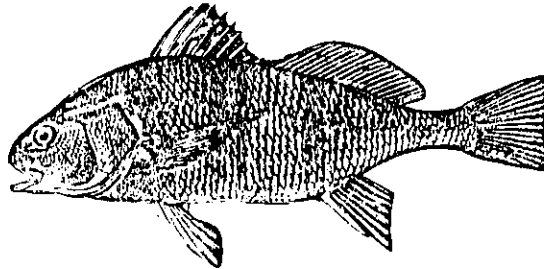


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

BULL DRUM AND SHARK REPORTS

Evidently there has been a good deal of confusion over the reports that bull drum and shark fishermen are required to send to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. These reports are required and should be sent in by the 10th of each month for what was caught the month before. A report must be sent in even if no fish were caught or the fisherman didn't fish. Failure to send in these monthly reports, even if the catch is nothing, can result in non-renewal of the permit.

FISHERMANS RECORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

Over the years, many of you have used the Extension Service's Commercial Fishermans and Trappers Record Books to keep a record of your expenses and earnings. Since the new year is beginning, this is a good time to get your new record book.

For a free copy or copies, come by or call or write my office in Marrero and we will send it to you.

CONTROL DATE FOR GULF SHRIMPERS

The National Marine Fisheries Service has drafted a proposed control date of February 1, 1991 for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp fishery in federal waters. Anyone getting into the fishery after this date may not be assured of being able to continue fishing if some sort of limited entry system is put in place in the future.

The Gulf Council is taking public comment on this control date at this time, but the Council may use a different date or may not even consider limited entry at all.

WHAT'S KILLING THE MARSH

For many years, saltwater intrusion has been blamed for the dying of Louisiana's marshes. Recently however, Sea Grant scientists have found that it's not too much salt, but rather too much water that's killing the marsh grasses.

All of southeast Louisiana is subsiding or sinking. Without sediment from the river to build the land up, the marsh plants spend more and more time under water. When the water contains hydrogen sulfide (the gas that causes the rotten egg smell in the marsh) like most of our salt marsh waters do, the marsh grasses grow slower and eventually die. The researchers feel that the hydrogen sulfide prevents the waterlogged plant from using nitrogen for growth.

This research is important, because some marsh management plans

are designed to save marshes by keeping saltwater out with levees and gates. This won't prevent marsh loss, because the land inside the levees will keep sinking and going under water. Source Aquanotes Summer 1990. Louisiana Sea Grant

ALL KING MACKEREL FISHING CLOSED

Effective December 20, sport fishing joined commercial fishing in being closed for king mackerel. The sportfishing catch was 34% higher than usual so their quota was met earlier this year. Commercial kingfishing closed on October 18, 1990. Both will reopen July 1, 1991.

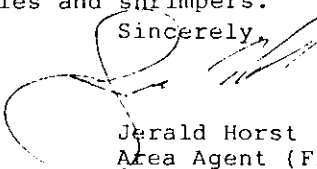
LAW WOULD PROVIDE TED RELIEF IF PASSED

Federal legislation introduced in August by U. S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D-La) would provide relief to shrimpers facing economic hardship as the result of new federal regulations requiring the use of TEDs in their shrimp trawls.


- The bill, which was filed just before Congress recessed, would:
- * prohibit the U. S. Secretary of Commerce from shortening or restricting the shrimping season in the Gulf until 90 days after information has been presented to Congress regarding the need for additional restrictions;
 - * provide a sea turtle conservation tax credit equal to 15% of the amount received from the sale of shrimp caught in areas where TEDs are required, or a maximum credit of \$50,000 to shrimpers who have not been convicted during the calendar year of violating regulations relative to TED use or trawl tow time limits;
 - * remove criminal penalties for violation of TED regulations; and
 - * authorize the appropriation of up to \$4 million over a 2-year period to establish sea turtle hatcheries to raise and release all species of endangered and threatened turtles in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic seaboard, plus an additional \$2.25 million to operate the sea turtle headstart program for the first 3 years.

According to Johnston, "With this bill, we do not have to choose. We can save not one but two endangered species with a single stroke of the legislative pen: sea turtles and shrimpers."

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)



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