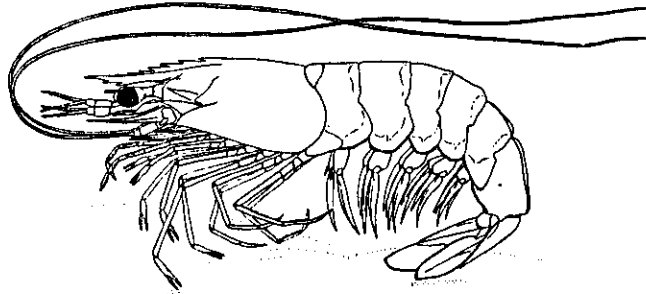


## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



## LAGNIAPPE

### SHRIMP TASK FORCE ACTION

The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force held a public hearing recently to discuss two proposals that received much attention around Louisiana recently.

The first proposal would have recommended prohibiting all night shrimp fishing during the fall shrimp season. The second proposal would increase the minimum mesh size allowed on all shrimp nets in the fall white shrimp season from 1¼" to 1½" stretched.

A large number of shrimpers from throughout the state attended this hearing and many expressed their opinion regarding these two issues.

The Task Force voted against the proposal to prohibit all night shrimp fishing in the fall due to overwhelming testimony against this recommendation. The vote however, was in favor of recommending the minimum mesh size on shrimp nets be increased to 1½ inch stretched. This recommendation will now go to the Louisiana State Legislature and can only become law if passed by a majority and approved by the Governor during this upcoming session.

### COAST GUARD USER FEES

The recently passed Budget Reconciliation Act (federal budget bill) repealed the existing law that prohibits the collection of user fees by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will not be allowed inspections, crew licensing, and documentation. This would raise approximately \$26 million in 1991 and \$165 million over a 5 year period. The act does not allow the Coast Guard to collect fees for search and rescue services.

As part of the same act, the federal government was also given authority to impose annual fees on recreational boats greater than 16 feet long. These fees may be up to \$25 for boats 16-20 feet long, up to \$35 for boats 20-27 feet long, up to \$50 for boats 27-40 feet long, and up to \$100 per year for boats 40 feet or longer. The act allows these fees to be collected from all boaters that operate in the United States navigable waters patrolled by the Coast Guard. The expected revenue for 1991 from these fees is \$127 million, and \$718 million in a five year period.

The U. S. Coast Guard is the agency responsible for collecting these fees and specific information relating to this program has not been made available to date. Authorization for these new fees is set to end after Fiscal Year 1995. As soon as I receive more information on this new fee program, I will include it in this newsletter.

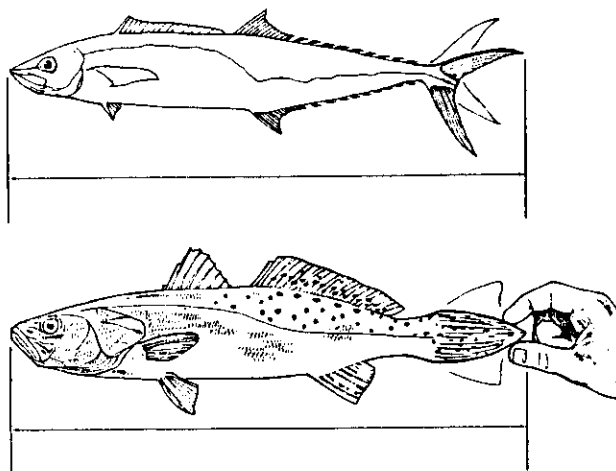
**MEASURING FISH**

As fisheries are becoming more heavily regulated, more fish are having size limits placed upon them. Shown below is the right way to measure the length of a fish according to the 1991 Louisiana Fishing Regulations published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

**HOW TO MEASURE FISH**

Use these guidelines to measure fish correctly:

1. Place the fish on its side with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length.
3. Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.



Listed below are the minimum and maximum size limits currently in effect. All lengths are in total length except marlins and sailfish which are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>RECREATIONAL</u>
Black drum	16" minimum 27" maximum except by permit	16" minimum Only 1 fish daily over 27"
Cobia	37" minimum	37" minimum
King Mackerel	14" minimum	14" minimum
Spanish mackerel	14" minimum	14" minimum
Redfish	--	16" minimum
Sheepshead	10" minimum	No size limit
Speckled trout	14" minimum	12" minimum
Greater amberjack	30 28" minimum	28" minimum
Red snapper	13" minimum	13" minimum
Gray snapper	12" minimum	12" minimum
Mutton snapper	12" minimum	12" minimum
Yellowtail snapper	12" minimum	12" minimum
Vermilion snapper (B-liner)	8" minimum	8" minimum
Lane snapper	8" minimum	8" minimum
Red grouper	20" minimum	20" minimum
Nassau grouper	20" minimum	20" minimum
Yellowfin grouper	20" minimum	20" minimum
Black grouper	20" minimum	20" minimum
Gag grouper	20" minimum	20" minimum

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>RECREATIONAL</u>
Blue marlin	--	86" minimum
White marlin	--	62" minimum
Sailfish	--	57" minimum
Bigeye tuna	7 lbs.	7 lbs.
Yellowfin tuna	7 lbs.	7 lbs.
Blue catfish	12" minimum	*12" minimum
Channel catfish	11" minimum	*11" minimum
Flathead (yellow) catfish	14" minimum	*14" minimum
Gaspergou	12" minimum	*12" minimum
Buffalofish	16" minimum	*16" minimum

\*Recreational fishermen are allowed a combined creel limit of 25 channel, blue or flathead catfish, gaspergou and buffalofish which are under the minimum legal size.

**FROG SEASON CLOSES**

For the first time in eight years, bullfrog season will be closed in the months of April and May in Louisiana. The closure is the result of Act 181 of the 1990 legislature. During the first year (1991), the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may only issue warning tickets for first offense violations.

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**THE GUMBO POT**

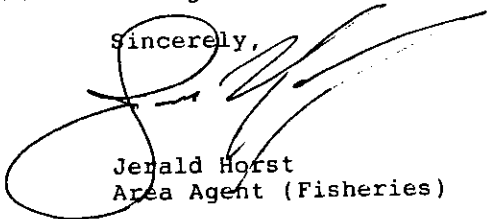
**Shrimp and Pea Salad**

2 lbs. peeled & deveined shrimp  
 1 package (10 oz.) frozen green peas

1 purple onion, sliced  
 3/4 cup prepared herb, vinegar and oil salad dressing  
 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds

Add shrimp to boiling water. Return to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 3 to 4 minutes. Shrimp should be opaque throughout. Drain and cool immediately. In a large bowl combine shrimp, frozen peas and onion. In a small container mix dressing with celery seeds. Stir into shrimp mixture. Serve on lettuce as an appetizer or as a main dish. Peas will be sufficiently thawed by serving time. Serve with crackers or bread sticks. Makes 6 servings.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
 Area Agent (Fisheries)

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