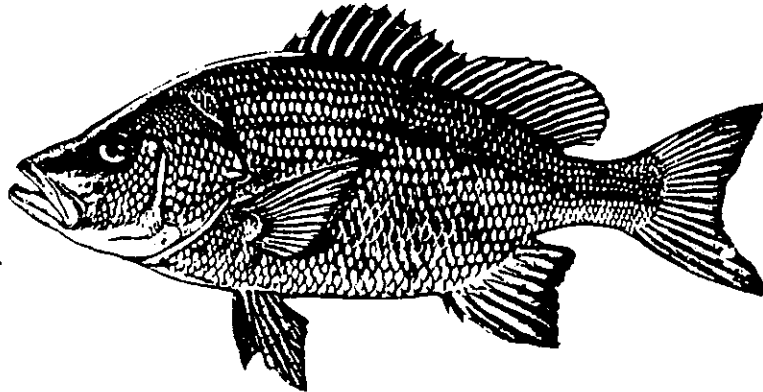




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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

RED SNAPPER RULE CHANGES PROPOSED

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management has proposed several major rule changes concerning the red snapper fishery. First they are requesting that the yearly quota be increased from 4 million pounds to 6 million pounds, of which 3.06 million pounds would be commercial and 2.94 million pounds would be recreational.

Trip limits are also being proposed for commercial fishermen. Under the proposal, commercial boats that can show 5,000 pounds of red snapper landings in 2 of the last 3 years would have a limit of 2,000 pounds of red snapper per trip. All other boats with commercial reef fish permits would be limited to 200 pounds of red snapper per trip.

These trip limits are proposed to extend the red snapper harvest. This year's quota was filled in 53 days and prices dropped because of the glutted market. The council is also requesting a delay of the opening of the 1993 season to a date no later than February 15. This is to allow enough time to work out the trip limit endorsements.

All of the proposed regulations have to be reviewed and approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service before they can become final.

REEF FISH RULE CHANGE HEARING

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will be holding two public hearings in this area on proposed rules changes for Gulf of Mexico reef fish. The following changes are proposed:

1. Additional regulations on the use of fish traps in the fishery, including consideration of prohibiting use of traps.
2. Establish special management zones off Alabama where fishing gear will be restricted.
3. Requiring all reef fish to be landed with heads and fins intact to ease enforcement of minimum size limits.
4. Revision of vessel permit requirement for earned income.
5. Increasing the minimum size limit for red snapper to 16 inches over a seven year period.

The public hearings will be held at the following dates and places beginning at 7:00 p.m.:

October 27, 1992	Howard Johnson Lodge, 201 North Canal Blvd., Thibodaux, LA
October 28, 1992	Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium Auditorium, 115 East Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS

RULES OF THE ROAD

Recently there have been some near-collisions between large cargo ships and shrimping vessels in the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO). According to U.S. Coast Guard Navigational Rule 9(c), any boat engaged in fishing or shrimping can in no way impede the passage of any other vessel, no matter how large or small. This means that it is totally up to the captain of the fishing vessel to get out of the way and stay out of the way of any other vessel in a channel or fairway.

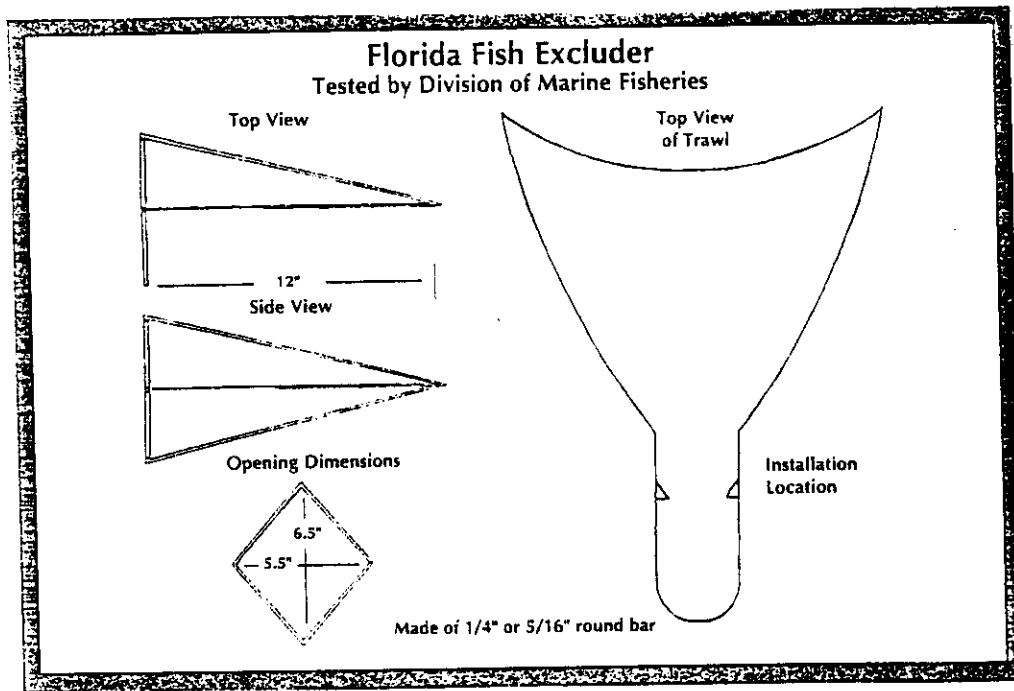
Large vessels such as cargo ships may take up to two miles to stop after their engines are reversed. Additionally, fishing boats can be very hard to pick up on the radar of the large vessel because they are often made of wood and there is a large blind spot on the radar in the area near the large vessel.

When a fishing vessel needs to communicate with another vessel, they should use VHF Channel 13. This channel has been designated for arranging safe meeting and passing. These navigational rules of the road apply to all maintained channels, including Barataria Pass.

FINFISH EXCLUDERS REQUIRED IN NORTH CAROLINA

Shrimp trawlers have been aware for sometime, of the efforts by state and federal agencies to reduce finfish bycatch in shrimp trawls. This month, North Carolina became one of the first states in the southeast to require the use of a finfish excluding device (FED) in

each trawl. The reason for their action was to reduce pressure on their grey trout stocks. The FED they are recommending for use is the Florida Fish Excluder, shown in the diagram below.



In case you are confused, FEDs are the same thing as bycatch reduction devices or (BRDs) as the National Marine Fisheries Service call them.

Source: UNC Sea Grant Marine Advisory News, Fall, 1992.

COMMISSION SETS NEW MULLET SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a new set of rules for mullet fishing on October 1. These rules set three different commercial mullet seasons. They are as follows:

- * A **pre-roe season**, beginning on September 15 and ending on October 14, with a daily limit of 200 pounds of mullet per permit holder or per vessel, whichever is less.
- * A **roe season**, beginning on October 15 and ending on January 14 with no daily limit.
- * A **non-roe season**, beginning on January 15 and ending on September 14 with a daily limit of 1,500 pounds per permit holder or per vessel, whichever is less.

A daily take and possession limit for recreational harvest of mullet was set at 100 pounds per person year-round. These rules were passed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and are in effect for this fall's roe season.

MINIMUM SIZES SET FOR ATCHAFALAYA BASS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has placed a 14-inch minimum size on black bass in order to aid in the recovery of fish populations in the Atchafalaya River Basin and the Venit-Palourde complex which were damaged by Hurricane Andrew.

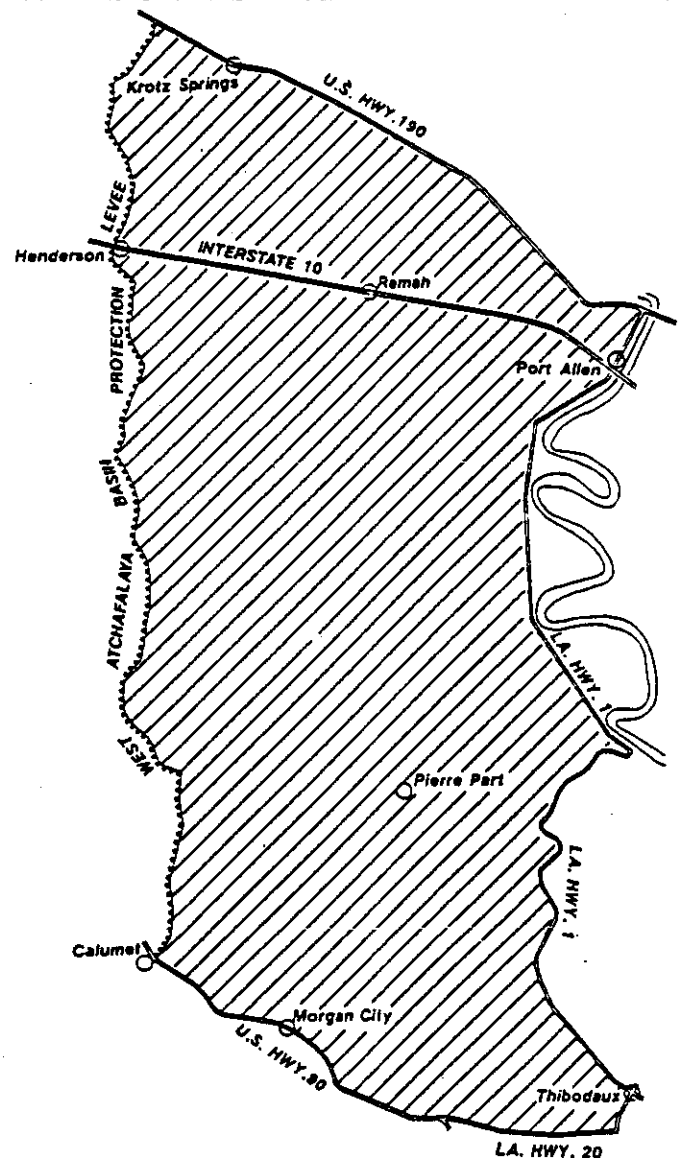
The area affected by the new minimum size is shown in the map on the right. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists will also be doing increased sampling and they will be stocking fish, both fingerlings and breeding size fish.

The official boundaries are as follows: "the area south of U.S. 190 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to the Intersection of LA 1 and U.S. 190 (due north of Port Allen), east of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from U.S. 190 to U.S. 90, north of U.S. 90 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to LA 20, north and west of LA 20 from U.S. 90 to LA 1 in Thibodaux, south and west of LA 1 from LA 20 to U.S. 190."

HURRICANE ANDREW WAS A KILLER

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biologists have finished their surveys of the damage to Louisiana fish and wildlife and the results are staggering. In the Atchafalaya Basin 182 million freshwater fish worth \$159,900,500 were killed by the hurricane. This includes 4,950,000 bass and 23,220,000 bream. Other fish killed included crappie (sac-a-lait), flounder, gaspergou, buffalo, catfish, shad, mullet, carp, eels and many others.

Saltwater fish kills in southern Terrebonne Parish were up to 9.4 million fish by August 31, worth \$7,800,000. This figure includes 198,000 speckled trout, 922,500 croakers and 5,740,000 menhaden. Other fish killed include redfish, black drum and mullet. Surveys of public oyster seed grounds showed a \$3.5 million loss to that resource.



Biologists estimate a loss of \$1.6 million dollars of economic activity in the freshwater recreational fishery and \$12 million in the saltwater recreational fishery. Commercial fishery losses are estimated at \$54 million for the months of September and October alone. This figure does not include damages to boats, docks and processing plants.

Other losses caused by Hurricane Andrew include \$5 million worth of wildlife, \$5 million worth of fur animals and alligators and \$1½ million of timber. The storm also cost the Department \$5 million in damages and personnel time.

The total loss to the state, including losses to fish and wildlife, impacts on industry and impacts on the department is \$266,206,515, and the total is expected to rise.

THE GUMBO POT

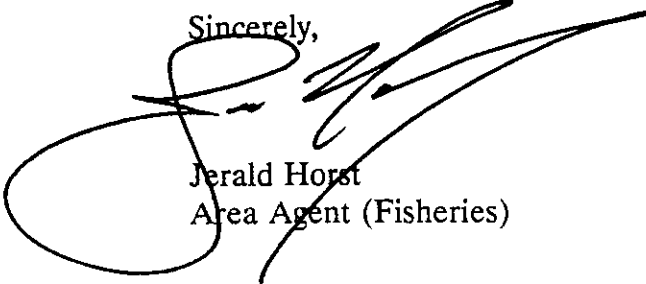
Shrimp and Mushroom Soup

This is a recipe for mushroom lovers. Since I like mushrooms, I find that a pound of shrimp to a pound of mushrooms gives a nice balance. If you like the taste that mushrooms give but aren't too fond of the mushrooms themselves, you may want to use a little less mushrooms.

1 pound shrimp	1 tsp. dry dill
1 pound fresh mushrooms	White pepper
1 stick butter	Salt
3 cups chicken broth	Flour
½ pint cream	

Peel shrimp. If shrimp are large, cut in half or thirds. Sauté sliced mushrooms in butter. Make chicken broth with 3 bouillon cubes. Add broth to mushrooms and heat. Add dill and salt, white pepper to taste. Mix flour with a little water then add a little at a time until soup thickens as desired and cook 5-10 minutes. Add shrimp and heat until cooked. Add cream and serve hot. Serves 6.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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