



Louisiana State University  
**Agricultural Center**  
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

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## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



### LAGNIAPPE

#### GILL NET LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

Effective Tuesday, August 15 (unless court action delays the law) Act 1316 goes into effect. At that time, no gill nets may be used in any state waters except for pompano in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. This net must be 5 inches minimum mesh size and may be up to 2400 feet long.

The license costs \$250 and only pompano may be possessed. The season extends until October 31.

The next gill net season will not occur until October 16 when the harvest of mullet (with a mullet strike net license) and other fish (except trout) will be legal with the pompano strike net license. The mullet strike net license also costs \$250 and a \$100 mullet permit is required. A \$250 rod and reel license will also be available on August 15.

In order to get any of these licenses, a person must show proof that they earned 50% of their income from commercial fishing in two of the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 and the person cannot have had a fisheries violation conviction of class 3 or greater.

#### TRAWL MESH SIZE CHANGE APPLIES TO TEDs

Beginning with this year, all shrimpers working in inshore waters will have to use trawls, butterfly nets and skimmers with a 1½ mesh size during white shrimp season.

Unfortunately a rumor has been circulating that the mesh size change does not apply to the part of the extension in the trawl where the TED is located.

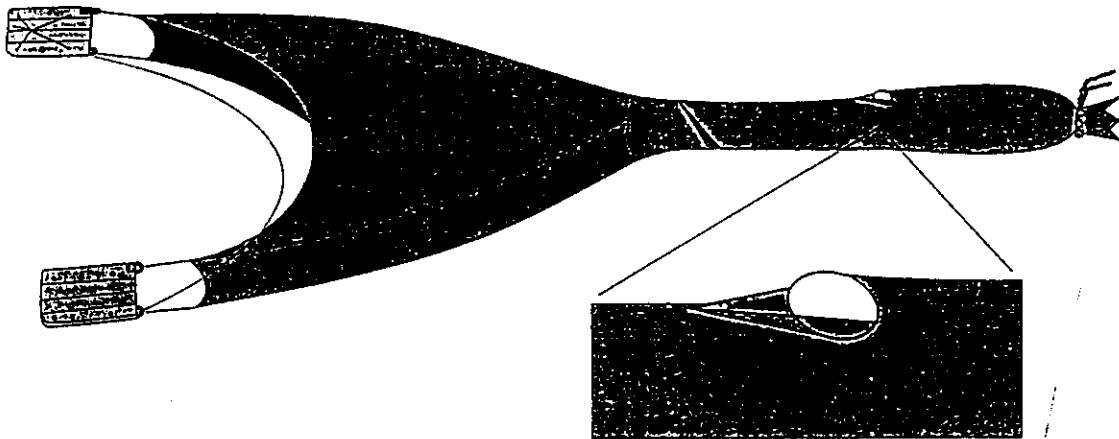
This is incorrect. The extension where the TED is located is considered part of the trawl and is therefore subject to the 1½ inch law.

Shrimpers in outside state waters may still use the 1¼ inch mesh webbing in their nets. This was done to allow for the harvest of seabobs.

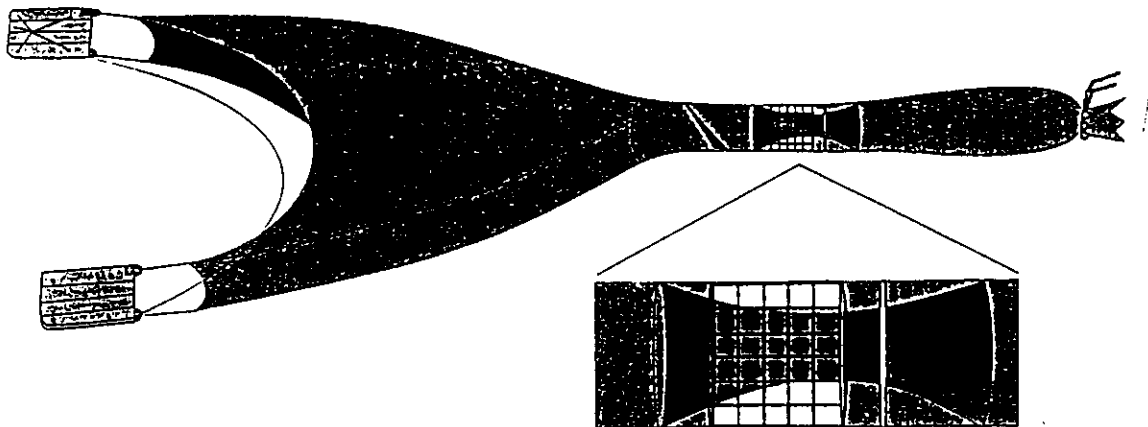
### **MORE RESULTS ON FINFISH EXCLUDER TESTING**

In a recent publication, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation released more research results on the testing of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs). The two BRDs reported on were the "fisheye," a finfish excluder invented by Louisiana shrimpers and the "extended funnel".

#### **FISHEYE**



#### **EXTENDED FUNNEL**



The results are summarized below. Mesh references on fisheyes are meshes back from the start of the bag.

<b>TYPE OF BRD</b>	<b>SHRIMP LOSS</b>	<b>FISH REDUCTION</b>	<b>SNAPPER REDUCTION</b>
5X12" fisheye @ 30 meshes	3%	29%	41%
5x12" fisheye @ 45 meshes	7%	41%	24%
3-bars expanded mesh	0%	26%	26%
3-bars expanded mesh	1%	21%	25%

While progress seems to have been made , none of the BRDs exclude 50% of the snappers or fish in general. More research is being conducted by federal researchers and at four state programs. Much of the research will not be completed until 1996 even though there is interest in bycatch regulations this year.

One of the most promising BRDs being tested is one designed by net maker C. J. Kiffe of Cameron Parish, Louisiana. His latest version, as tested in Georgia, showed a 52% reduction in finfish with no shrimp loss.

Source: Shrimp Trawl Bycatch Program Update, June 1995. Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation.

### **LILLY SPRAYING CHANGED**

The US Army Corps of Engineers has for many years been active in the spraying of water hyacinths or "lillies" as they are called in south Louisiana. Until last August, the Corps had eleven boats actively spraying lillies.

Now they have none. Instead of their boats, they have contracted a private contractor to do the spraying. The private contractor only has four boats, trying to do the same job as the eleven. The season for the change is that the Corps lost 21 jobs in aquatic weed control because of government cutbacks. This is part of the general movement to make government smaller.

Corps officials hope to get the private contractor up to the job soon. Until then, if you see more lillies in your bayous and canals, you will know why.

## SHRIMP VIRUS HITS U. S. FARMS

The development of a shrimp farming industry in the United States was hit a serious blow by an outbreak of the "Taura syndrome virus" on Texas farms. An estimated 70% of the expected 5 million pound crop has been lost.

This virus is the same virus which has seriously damaged the shrimp farming industry in Ecuador. How the virus got from Ecuador to Texas is a mystery.

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### THE GUMBO POT Shrimp Stuffed Mirliton

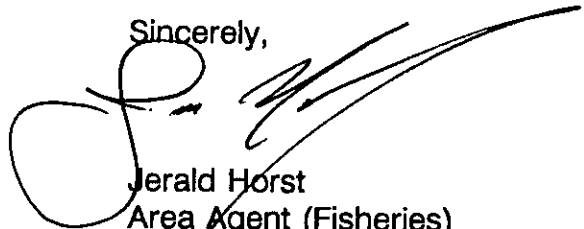
This month's recipe is an old New Orleans favorite. The recipe was a gold medal winner in the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board sponsored 4-H Seafood Contest. It was submitted by Delanea Crochet of Baton Rouge.

2 fresh mirlitons, washed, halved, seeds removed (renders about 1 cup of pulp)	1/4 cup parsley
2 Tablespoons margarine	1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
3/4 cup finely chopped onion	salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup finely chopped celery	2 cups chopped, fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Fill a 6 quart pot half way with water. Cover. Bring water to a boil; then slip in mirlitons. Lower the heat to medium, cover and cook until the mirlitons are tender when pierced with a fork. Use a spoon to scoop out the pulp, and put it in a mixing bowl. Save the skins. Arrange the four halves on a baking sheet.

In a sauce pan over medium heat, melt the margarine, and saute' the onions, celery and parsley until the onions are clear. Stir in the mirliton pulp (about 1 cup), bread crumbs, salt and pepper and mix well. Turn the heat down to low and let cool 10 minutes. Add the chopped shrimp, stir and remove from heat. When cool enough to handle, spoon the shrimp mixture into the mirliton shells. Sprinkle the tops with some bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees 30 to 40 minutes. Serves 4.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
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