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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

HELPI

I need help. In the last couple of months, I've received three separate requests to prepare a newsletter article on infections that fishermen and raw seafood handlers are exposed to. While I am familiar with *Vibrio vulnificus* infections, I know very little about other marine and aquatic infectious bacteria, protozoans and virus's. None of the reference literature I have is of any help either. I would like very much to interview a medical doctor on this subject and am appealing to my readers for assistance. Anyone wishing to help should call me at my office in Marrero 504/349-5644.HELP!

NEW FISHERIES LAWS

The following bills were passed by the Regular Session of the 1999 Louisiana Legislature and will go into effect August 15 (unless otherwise noted). If you would like more information on any of these new laws, call me at my office in Marrero. In these bill summaries, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is referred to as DWF, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as WFC, and the Department of Natural Resources as DNR.

Senate Bill 30 - Hainkel (Act 823)

Includes the Tchefuncte River from the Hwy 22 bridge to its entrance into Lake Ponchartrain in the Natural and Scenic River System, but creates exceptions to system rules for some lands bordering the river, including those that are zoned commercial.

Senate Bill 154 - Smith, Jack Smith & Landry (Act 1338)

Creates a "Fresh Products License" that allows commercial fishermen to sell their own catch directly to consumers in-state. The cost of the license is \$20 for residents and \$120 for nonresidents, and license holders must submit a report to DWF before the tenth day of each month. Provides that any commercial fishermen who sells his catch out-of-state or to a retail seafood dealer, restaurant or retail grocer must still purchase the wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license.

This bill also has a section that allows the WFC, after consulting with the Spanish Lake State Game and Fish Preserve, to assess an entrance fee to the Spanish Lake Game and Fish Preserve in southwestern Louisiana.

Senate Bill 227 - Landry (Act 198)

Reduces the minimum collarbone-off size limit for channel catfish from 9 inches to 8 inches.

Senate Bill 228 - Landry (Act 838)

Allows the use of hoop nets to commercially harvest mullet in freshwater areas of the state during daylight hours. These mullet cannot be possessed by commercial fishermen in the saltwater areas of the state. Also requires that WFC create rules for zones, permits, fees and limits for the fishery.

Senate Bill 349 - Ullo (Act 71)

Allows the use of dogs to take nutria during daylight hours except during deer still hunting season and turkey nesting season as determined by WFC.

Senate Bill 491 - Thomas & Jack Smith (Act 1207)

Requires a basic recreational fishing license to possess fish on fishing grounds that have been caught for recreational purposes. Provides that anyone under the age of 16 does not have to purchase any recreational gear license. Provides that no basic or gear license is required for the recreational use of crawfish nets, dip nets, landing nets, minnow traps, crab nets, or crab lines. Allows mobility impaired (crippled) residents over 60 years old to use without a license, one 18-foot by 8-foot hoop net to catch catfish for home consumption. Prohibits all other recreational use of hoop nets. Also creates recreational gear licenses for pipes/drums (\$10 for 5) and buckets/cans (\$10 for 5).

Senate Bill 492 - Thomas (Act 420)

Allows mobility impaired residents over 60 years old to use, without a license, one 18-foot by 8-foot hoop net and one legal size slat trap to catch catfish for home consumption.

Senate Bill 535 - Robichaux & Dupre (Act 421)

Provides that the maximum combined length for shrimp trawls used in state offshore waters shall remain at 130 feet of corkline and 165 feet of leadline, instead of dropping to 100 feet of corkline and 132 feet of leadline on January 1, 2000 as the previous law required.

Senate Bill 536 - Robichaux (Act 753)

Changes the membership of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board by providing for one representative from the American Shrimp Processors Association and the Louisiana Shrimp Association combined, rather one from each association, removing the representatives of the Concerned Shrimpers of America and the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association, adding 2 representatives of the shrimp harvesting sector (appointed from a list of names submitted by currently active shrimp associations or organizations), adding a representative of the crab industry, and by providing for one member to be a seafood wholesaler or retailer rather than one of each.

Senate Bill 537 - Robichaux & Dupre (Act 422)

Defines a "serviceable crab trap" as one of legal construction and condition maintained in such a manner with the potential to harvest crabs. This includes being legally tagged, legally marked with float and float line attached and with two escapement rings. Provides that the requirement that baiting, tending, checking, and removing of crab traps be done only during daylight hours and that these provisions apply only to serviceable crab traps in use.

Requires that unserviceable crab traps or those not in use shall be properly disposed of and stored by the owner. Creates a class two violation for intentionally discarding an unserviceable trap in navigable waters. Also makes it the responsibility of the crab fisherman to place his traps so that vessels can navigate safely.

Provides that a shrimper who catches an unserviceable crab trap shall keep it on board his vessel and dispose of it. A shrimper who catches an otherwise serviceable trap without a float shall return it to the water with a common float. Any licensed crab fisherman may raise and check any trap with a common float to determine ownership. The owner of the trap shall return the common float to any shrimper for reuse. The color of the common float shall be determined by WFC. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 548 - Romero, Hebert & Faucheux (Act 38)

Repeals and removes all authority to allow shell dredging from any state-owned water bottom.

Senate Bill 550 - Romero & others (Act 423)

Creates a statewide minimum size for commercial crawfish traps of 11/16-inch by 3/4-inch. Increases the minimum mesh size to 3/4-inch by 3/4-inch beginning July 1, 2003.

Senate Bill 558 - Theunissen (Act 73)

Repeals the alligator possession limit of 3 per person for non-residents.

Senate Bill 661 - Robichaux (Act 772)

Creates a "Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account" within the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to market Louisiana shrimp. Funding for the account is provided by a charge of \$10 per resident (\$40 per nonresident) who purchases any shrimp gear license. The funding program shall be reviewed before the 2001 Regular Legislative Session to determine whether legislation should be introduced to continue the fee.

Senate Bill 937 - Barham (Act 81)

Prohibits the taking of wild box turtles for commercial purposes. Limits recreational harvest to 2 per day and 4 in possession. Allows farm-raised box turtles to be sold.

Senate Bill 974 - Dean (Act 220)

Allows commercial shrimpers to keep and sell all southern flounders taken as bycatch on any shrimping trip. Other commercial fishermen are still limited to 10 southern flounders per licensed fishermen per day for each consecutive day on the water.

Senate Bill 1038 - Robichaux (Act 804)

Creates the "Saltwater Fishery Enforcement Fund" to be used to enforce all saltwater fishery and fishery related laws, rules, and regulations in coastal parishes. The money for this fund will come from leftover money in the Commercial Fisherman's Economic Assistance Fund. Effective immediately.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 - Dean & Others

Requests U. S. Congress to pursue other alternatives to present Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations, including seasonal exemptions where low numbers of kemp's ridley turtles occur in winter season, area exemptions where there has been no historical evidence of the turtle, and an industry-funded recovery program.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 33 - Ullo

Creates the "Seafood Standards of Identity Task Force" comprised of 16 seafood dealers and processors, with 7 non-voting technical advisors, to make recommendations for more uniform standards to enhance the marketability of Louisiana seafood products and lessen buyer confusion.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 - Schedler

Urges and requests DWF to institute a public awareness campaign highlighting Louisiana's "Personal Watercraft (jet ski) Safety Act".

Senate Concurrent Resolution 45 - Robichaux

Urges the Louisiana Legislature to provide additional funding to expand and improve biological, social and economic fisheries data collection programs. Also urges and requests DWF to conduct a detailed historical study on price trends in the shrimping industry at each level in the marketing chain, from dockside to the consumer.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 71 - Robichaux

Urges and requests DWF to conduct workshops for the Coast Watchers Program to involve citizens in assisting enforcement of fish and wildlife laws.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 73 - Robichaux

Urges and requests DWF not to release any confidential information contained on commercial trip tickets.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 80 - Hines & Dean

Urges and requests DWF in conjunction with the National Sea Grant Gulf Industry Program to develop a repellent to protect oyster beds from black drum.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 95 - Robichaux

Urges and requests the LSU Agricultural Center to study the possibility of developing a special fishery class as part of the Louisiana Agricultural Leadership Development Program.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 113 - Cain

Urges and requests the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development to study the long term effects of taking water from public water sources for commercial purposes.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 145 - Landry & Diez

Urges and requests the Joint Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to conduct a study of both deep draft and shallow draft ports in Louisiana and their needs and plans.

Senate Resolution 6 - Ellington

Directs the secretary of DWF to testify to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on the beaver and nutria problem and the failure of DWF to take actions requested by the legislature. Also directs DWF to assist parishes requesting beaver and nutria control.

Senate Resolution 11 - Ullo

Urges and requests WFC to allow licensed fur trappers to use dogs for the harvest of nutria during daylight hours, on property that they own or lease.

House Bill 241 - Alexander, Ewing & Romero (Act 5)

Prohibits the take or possession of freshwater gamefish with a bow and arrow.

House Bill 365 - Dupre (Act 1252)

Requires DWF to have in place by January 1, 2001, a method of electronically receiving trip ticket information from seafood dealers. Also exempts the sale or purchase of catfish and crawfish from the trip ticket program from August 15, 1999 to January 1, 2000.

House Bill 405 - Jack Smith (Act 700)

Requires possession of saltwater finfish to be with head or tail intact (except tuna, garfish, swordfish, and sharks) while on the water, except that up to 2 pounds of finfish parts per person are allowed on vessels equipped with facilities to cook, and the fish are within legal bag limits. None of the above provisions apply to bait species.

House Bill 407 - Jack Smith (Act 437)

Prohibits recreational use of hoop nets.

House Bill 427 - Odinet (Act 439)

Expands membership of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force to 17 and makes it permanent by establishing it under law rather than by being renewed annually by legislative resolution.

House Bill 531 - Odinet & others (Act 120)

Increases the penalty for illegally harvesting oysters from private leases to a fine of \$900 - \$950, and/or imprisonment for up to 120 days and loss of anything seized.

House Bill 538 - Faucheux (Act 962)

Creates the Coastal Mitigation Fund in the Louisiana State Treasury and provides for use of these funds.

House Bill 960 - Jack Smith (Act 547)

Provides that for any fisheries offense committed in state outside or federal offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico, that the case may be handled by any district court in any parish bordering the Gulf.

House Bill 961 - Jack Smith (Act 155)

Provides daily recreational limits of 25 for buffalo fish under the minimum size limit of 16 inches, 25 for freshwater drum (gaspergou) under the minimum size limit of 12 inches. Also provides a recreational limit of 100 for all species of freshwater catfish combined, 50 pounds for shad, and 150 pounds for crawfish. A total of 25 catfish combined may be possessed under the minimum sizes of 12 inches for blue catfish, 11 inches for channel catfish, and 14 inches for flathead (yellow or goujon) catfish. The

possession limit is a two day limit for all species except catfish, which have a possession limit that is the same as the daily limit.

House Bill 962 - Walsworth (Act 1269)

Gives to the administrator of Scenic and National Rivers Program the authority to regulate any houseboat (rather than just those docked over 30 days) on any such a river. Prohibits placing any barricade, barrier, fence or obstacle of any kind upon or across any river in the system. Also requires removal at the owner's expense by January 1, 2001 of the dam currently across Big Creek in Grant Parish.

House Bill 1081 - Dupre & others (Act 919)

Provides for the deposit of a portion of mineral revenues into the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund.

House Bill 1100 - Schneider (Act 292)

Requires DWF to provide 30 days written notice to any member of the legislature of any public hearing scheduled in the member's district by DWF or WFC.

House Bill 1108 - Triche & others (Act 162)

Creates a Coastal Conservation Association prestige vehicle license plate to be sold for \$50 per vehicle above the regular license fee. Half of the funds raised will be dedicated to the DWF Enforcement Division and half to the DWF Marine Fisheries Division.

House Bill 1109 - Warner (Act 877)

Adds a resident of St. Bernard Parish to the board of directors of the Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation.

House Bill 1262 - Gautreaux & others (Act 920)

Provides funding and authorization for land purchase, monitoring, cooperative agreements, and planning for the Atchafalaya Basin Program within DNR. Effective immediately.

House Bill 1264 - John Smith & others (Act 11)

Allows fishermen making a claim with the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to submit their report on the loss postmarked no later than 90 days after the loss, rather than having to be received by DNR within 90 days of the loss. Also allows DNR to extend the 90 day period by up to 45 days for individual claims with good cause.

House Bill 1438 - Fruge & others (Act 341)

Allows seafood marketing associations to market and sell skins and furs, including alligator skins.

House Bill 1495 - Durand & Romero (Act 574)

Adds Lake Dauterive and Lake Fausse Pointe to the areas where bowfin (choupique) can be legally harvested with nets during December, January, and February.

House Bill 1525 - Fauchoux & others (Act 177)

Creates a new commercial fishing license class for aliens. Defines an alien individual as a person who is not a U.S. citizen or as any corporation or business organized and located outside the U.S. Prohibits aliens from purchasing resident or nonresident commercial fisheries licenses. Provides that the alien commercial license fee is twice the nonresident fee.

House Bill 1527 - John Smith & others (Act 892)

Puts the provisions of the Lake Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain Sanctuary into new state law. Provides that the boundary shall be 1¼ miles out from shore in Lake Ponchartrain. Allows the use of hoop nets, slat traps and crab traps. Also allows the use of trawls, skimmers and butterfly nets east of the I-10 bridge. Prohibits all other use of trawls, seines, traps or other netting except for cast nets, drop nets or scoop nets in all other areas of the sanctuary. Repeals the provision that allowed bait trawling under permit with a 16 foot trawl. Allows all other methods of fishing, including recreational spearfishing. Increases penalties from \$100-\$400 or 30 days to 6 months in jail to \$250-\$500 and/or up to 60 days in jail. Provisions for loss of gear and catch remain the same.

House Bill 1528 - Jack Smith & others (Act 178)

Prohibits the action of or attempt at interstate sale, transportation or receiving of fish or wildlife that were taken, acquired, transported, or sold in violation of any state or federal law or regulation. Provides a penalty of \$900-\$950 and/or imprisonment for up to 120 days and forfeiture of anything seized in connection with the violation. Also provides that any person who "in the exercise of due care should know that the fish or wildlife were taken, possessed, transported, or sold" illegally is subject to the penalties.

House Bill 1529 - Hebert & others (Act 179)

Sets a recreational possession limit of 12 dozen (144) blue crabs.

House Bill 1530 - Hebert & others (Act 180)

Makes technical corrective changes to clarify penalties for violating laws on undersized crabs.

House Bill 1558 - John Smith & others (Act 181)

Provides that the 50 pound per boat limit on shrimp taken with a cast net also applies to land vehicles.

House Bill 1559 - John Smith & others (Act 12)

Changes the hours during which a personal watercraft (jet ski) cannot be operated to the time between sunset to sunrise.

House Bill 1563 - Dupre & others (Act 182)

Changes the inside-outside shrimp line in Zone 2 to adjust for coastline changes due to coastal erosion and subsidence.

House Bill 1564 - John Smith & others (Act 13)

Clarifies powers of DWF enforcement agents. Removes power of arrest from employees of the office of forestry, and arrest, inspection, and enforcement powers from employees of divisions of DWF other than enforcement and gives such powers to the deputy secretary of DWF. Provides arrest power to agents for violations under DWF jurisdiction and any other laws of the state.

House Bill 1565 - Frith & others (Act 183)

Clarifies provisions on possession of commercial fish species that are under or over legal size limits or over bag limits.

House Bill 1566 - Triche & others (Act 184)

Lowers the fine for a class 6 wildlife and fisheries violations from \$1,000 - \$2,000 to \$900 - \$950.

House Bill 1567 - Gautreaux & others (Act 185)

Makes the penalty for violations of bait shrimp regulations a class 4 violation along with loss of bond and permit. Violator is also ineligible for another bait shrimp permit for one year.

House Bill 1604 - Jetson & others (Act 1162)

Directs that any contract entered into for the lease of state lands for any purpose, shall require that public access to public waterways shall be maintained by the lessee except in cases involving property title disputes. This does not prevent a state agency in control of the property from restricting public access for safety reasons. The provisions of this act shall not apply to certain lands located along the Tchefuncte River between LA Hwy 22 and Lake Ponchartrain.

House Bill 1769 - Winston (Act 1170)

Legalizes the harvest of stone crabs by removing them from the minimum size limit for blue crabs. Provides a minimum propodus (claw) size of 2½ inches. Provides that only the claws of stone crabs can be landed, except that a tolerance of an average of one whole stone crab per box of blue crabs is allowed. Live stone crabs may be held on board a vessel as long as they are held in the work box.

House Bill 1842 - John Smith & others (Act 599)

Extends the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program to July 1, 2003. Dedicates \$250,000 from the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund in 1999 and 2000. Provides that DNR shall seek to match these funds with other federal or state funds. Provides that once a site is cleared by the program and an area 200 yards across is certified as free of hangs, that future claims on the site cannot be made. If four more claims are made on the site after clearance, the site shall be recleared if possible. Effective July 1, 1999.

House Bill 1898 - LeBlanc (Act 367)

Expands and defines the mission of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission.

House Bill 1899 - Travis, Thompson & Nevers (Act 1314)

Creates a territory called an "area of responsibility" defined by zip code, parish, or mile radius for marine dealers. Prohibits a manufacturer or distributor from entering an agreement that would add a new dealership of the same product line within an existing dealer's area of responsibility, or from changing a dealer's area of responsibility without consent. Creates provisions that would allow manufacturers to appeal the law that requires them to buy back unsold boats and motors from a marine dealer who goes out of business, if that marine dealer had an area of responsibility that was not shared with another marine dealer.

House Bill 1980 - Wilkerson (Act 1001)

Exempts boats equipped with a 7-inch by 14-inch or larger wide-angle convex marine rearview mirror from the rule requiring at least 2 persons to be present in a boat towing a person on water skis if the boat is being operated by a person 16 years old or older. Also prohibits towing a person on water skis with a personal watercraft (jet ski).

House Bill 2069 - Michot (Act 622)

Repeals the 10% tolerance for untagged oyster sacks or containers and provides a class one penalty if 10% or less of the sacks or containers are untagged. Provides that only untagged or improperly tagged sacks or containers can be seized in connection with the violation. Also provides that improperly tagged sacks or containers in commerce, other than on board the fisherman's vessel or on the dock before shipment, shall be considered to have been taken in polluted waters and be a health hazard.

House Bill 2070 - Kenney (Act 1022)

Adds coppernose bluegill, bluegill-green sunfish hybrids and redear sunfish-bluegill hybrids to the list of gamefish under fish farming regulation and to the list of "domesticated fish" that can be sold.

House Concurrent Resolution 41 - John Smith & others

Commends and congratulates the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for 50 years of efforts to provide for better management of Gulf of Mexico marine fisheries resources.

House Concurrent Resolution 66 - Jetson

Urges and requests the Division of Administration to study and develop a strategy to preserve public access to public waterways.

House Concurrent Resolution 106 - Odinet

Requests U.S. Congress to oppose U.S. Food and Drug Administration rules requiring post-harvest treatment of oysters and other shellfish.

House Concurrent Resolution 127 - John Smith

Approves the Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan for fiscal year 1999-2000, as adopted by the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority.

House Concurrent Resolution 128 - Dupre

Requests U.S. Congress to enact the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act to be introduced by U. S. Senators John Chaffe and John Breaux.

House Concurrent Resolution 153 - John Smith

Creates the 7-member Louisiana Alligator Task Force to study tag fee amounts, release ratio requirements, a cost-benefit analysis of Fur and Alligator Advisory Council marketing efforts, use of public education funds from the Alligator Resource Fund, and other issues.

House Concurrent Resolution 202 - Fontenot & Faucheux

Urges and requests WFC to study the possibility of creating a 14-inch minimum size limit for black bass on Amite River, Blind River, Tickfaw River, and Lake Maurepas.

House Resolution 75 - Triche

Requests DWF to study the daily recreational take and possession limits for saltwater fish, as many fishermen take multi-day trips, but can only keep a two day possession limit. Requests that consideration be given in the study to allowing mobility impaired (crippled) fishermen to take up to twice the daily limit.

UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL UPDATE

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Underwater Obstruction Removal Program has completed another obstruction removal project in the Lake Borgne area. Obstructions, or "hangs" as shrimpers often call them, were located by dragging a 3/8-inch by 100-foot chain between trawl doors with a 40-foot boat. Once hung, the boat

would be pulled back to the hang by winching in the cable. A diver then went overboard to make the identification.

Seventeen obstructions were found and 16 were removed with a 95-foot crane. Over 15 tons of debris were pulled up. Shrimpers can remove some hang readings from their DNR Hang Book. On Map 58, Numbers 1 and 3 and Map 59, Numbers 5, 6, and 7 can be removed. The others are questionable and should remain in the book.

The coordinates and items removed in this project are as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) | 30° 03.402' and 89° 38.824' | Three pilings with metal attached and pipe |
| 2) | 29° 02.004' and 89° 48.512' | Steel plates from metal tank |
| 3) | 30° 02.961' and 89° 25.095' | Wooden 50-60 foot shrimp boat hull and booms |
| 4) | 29° 59.273' and 89° 35.095' | Wooden skiff hull |
| 5) | 30° 02.373' and 89° 45.549' | Piling |
| 6) | 30° 02.418' and 89° 45.591' | Piling or log |
| 7) | 30° 02.441' and 89° 45.611' | Log |
| 8) | 30° 02.645' and 89° 46.048' | Log |
| 9) | 30° 02.717' and 89° 46.018' | Piling or log |
| 10) | 29° 56.430' and 89° 49.170' | Stump |
| 11) | 29° 52.248' and 89° 40.541' | Lumber |
| 12) | 29° 52.276' and 89° 40.481' | Piling cluster |
| 13) | 29° 52.298' and 89° 41.447' | Piling |
| 14) | 29° 52.107' and 89° 37.107' | Piling |
| 15) | 29° 51.903' and 89° 37.748' | Steel rods |
| 16) | 29° 51.885' and 89° 37.922' | Piling |

The one hang that was located but not removed (because of shallow water) was a 100 foot row of pilings spaced one foot apart at 29° 51.826' and 89° 31.120'. Bruce Ballard, manager of the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program cautions that Lake Borgne has received a lot of erosion over the years and that all waters within 200 feet of the shoreline should be navigated with extreme caution.

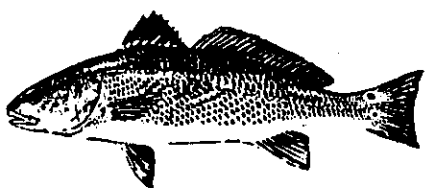
The next project will take place in outside waters between the Houma Navigation Channel and eastern Grand Isle. A total of 28 obstructions, some of the large, have been located. Removal should begin in September.

Ballard states that the task of locating underwater obstruction is very difficult and weather sensitive. This kind of work can only be done in seas of two feet or less, and getting a week of all good weather has been next to impossible. According to Ballard, the boat skipper on the Lake Borgne project was an experienced shrimper and even he was amazed at the difficulty of locating obstructions.

Anyone interested in more information on this program may access the Internet web site at www.dnr.state.la.us. Funding for the Lake Borgne project was derived from Hurricane Andrew Disaster funds channeled into the program by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

REDFISH STOCKING RESEARCH

Redfish are one of the more popular saltwater fish in Louisiana. Louisiana's neighboring state to the west, Texas, has conducted a program of stocking hatchery-raised redfish into the wild for some time.



Recently, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted research on redfish stocking in their state. A total of 61,198 fish were stocked in three size categories: 4-6 inches, 6-8 inches, and 8-10 inches. The fish were tagged with plastic tags to allow fishermen to make a return when they caught a stocked fish. DNR also sampled the waters that the fish were stocked in on a monthly basis with gill, stop and trammel nets.

Tags from 8-10 inch fish stocked in the spring were returned at a higher rate (7.2%) than were tags for medium (3.4%) or small (2.5%) redfish. Redfish stocked in the summer, fall and winter had lower return rates.

Sampling conducted by biologists using nets over the six years of the study found that 1.4% of the redfish they caught in the wild were hatchery fish which had been stocked. Unfortunately, the research did not indicate whether the stocked fish added to the natural population or simply replaced natural fish by out-competing them. The fish adjusted very quickly to life in the wild as some were captured 1 to 2 days after stocking, after being fed food pellets all their lives in the hatchery.

DNR also calculated the cost per hatchery fish caught, based on the average rate of tag return. The calculations were based on stocking 4 and 5 inch fish and ranged from \$12.90 to \$15.71 per fish. Research in other states indicates that not all fishermen return all tags taken from fish. This means that the cost per fish could be somewhat lower than this study showed.

Source: *Overview of an Experimental Stock Enhancement Program for Red Drum in South Carolina*. T. I. J. Smith, W. E. Jenkins and M. R. Denson. Bull. Natl. Res. Inst. Aquacult., Suppl. 3: 109-115 (1997)

PICCONES

COMPLETE FOOD STORE
3038 S. CARROLLTON AVE.

BIG SUPPLY OF EVERY ITEM

<p>Fresh Lake Shrimp 4 Lbs. 15c Catfish Lb. 7c Small Size Red Snapper . . Lb. 10c River Shrimp 3 Lbs. 25c Router's Crab Meat Jar 15c Sheephead Lb. 8c Fresh Lake Flounder Lb. 10c Fresh-Killed Turtle 2 Lbs. 35c</p>	<p>Large Speckled Trout Lb. 10c Medium Size Speckled Trout Lb. 7c Sliced Tenderloin Speckled Trout Lb. 10c Plenty Soft Shell Crabs 1 Doz. 75c Fresh Lake Crankpot Lb. 50c Fresh Lake Crabs 2 Doz. 15c Plenty of Nice Live Frogs Plenty of Nice Live Turtles</p>
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OLD NEWS

Above and on the right are a couple of old newspaper advertisements from the New Orleans Times Picayune Newspaper. The one above dates from July 12, 1935. The one on the right is from 1936. Prices have really changed in 60 years. These are retail prices! I wonder what the fishermen got for these products.

PLENTY OF PARKING SPACE

FREY

1028-1042 S. RAMPART ST. - OPPOSITE I. C. UNION STATION
Retail Hours Open 7 A. M. to 6 P. M. - Saturdays to 10 P. M.



Fresh
FISH
Today

Oysters 2 Doz 15c
in Shell 5c per Doz 75c

Crabs 1 Doz 20c

SHRIMP
3 lb 10c

RABBITS
Each 20c Up

Trout, medium size . . Lb. 10c	Tenderloined Catfish . . Lb. 15c	Sliced Redfish Lb. 15c	River Catfish Lb. 12 1/2c	Sheephead Lb. 10c
Veal Legs lb. 15c	Veal Shoulders lb. 10c	Veal Chops lb. 12 1/2c	Lamb Legs lb. 15c	Lamb Forequarters lb. 8c
BUTTER Lb. 33c			EGGS Doz. 29c	

UNION
COFFEE

19c

MACARONI 2 Lbs. 37c

Macaroni 3 lbs. 25c

Red Beans lb. 6c

Orzoline can 55c

Tomatoes 4 lbs. 25c

SUGAR

5 Lbs. 24c

84.70

LUZIANNE COFFEE & CHICORY 21c

RED SNAPPER SPAT

The upcoming recreational red snapper closure on August 29, has aroused strong emotions from Texas fishermen and now action from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). At a June 24 meeting in Lake Jackson, Texas, Hal Osburn, TPWD Director of Coastal Fisheries, said that Texas is going to buck the National Marine Fisheries Service on red snapper regulations.

This means, Osburn said, that Texas recreational and charter fishermen will be able to fish year-round, with no closure, under a 4 fish, 15-inch limit in Texas territorial waters. Since Texas state waters extend about 9 miles offshore (Louisiana has 3 miles), Texas fishermen may be able to harvest a substantial number of red snappers over and above the federal quota for 1999.

On top of this, Florida has announced that it will also keep the red snapper minimum size at 15 inches instead of 18 inches in its territorial waters. Additionally, Florida will keep its recreational red snapper season open until November 1. Florida territorial waters in the Gulf also extend to 9 miles offshore.

The interesting thing is what the Feds will do about this. If they do nothing, it may encourage states to enact regulations in conflict with federal conservation regulations. If they can and do deduct the overharvest from the quota for the entire Gulf of Mexico, the season in 2000 will close even earlier in federal waters. For states like Louisiana, which have few red snappers inside of 3 miles (and which usually closes its waters to match federal regulations anyway) the fishing season would become shorter.

Interestingly, Osburn stated the state of Texas will close the commercial red snapper season in state waters when commercial fishermen reach their quota in federal waters. Both the commercial and the recreational red snapper fisheries operate under set harvest quotas.

FEDERAL FISHERIES FINANCING

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced the creation of the new Fisheries Finance Program (FFP) to replace the former Fisheries Obligation Guarantee Program. There are significant differences in the two programs.

FFP will not finance construction of new fishing vessels, nor will it finance projects to increase the harvesting capacity of fishing vessels. This is probably due to the opinion that most commercial fisheries already have too many vessels with too much harvesting power in them.

Financing is available for all other vessel projects (whatever that means) and for refinancing of current vessel loans. Fisheries shoreside facilities and aquaculture projects are also eligible for both financing and refinancing.

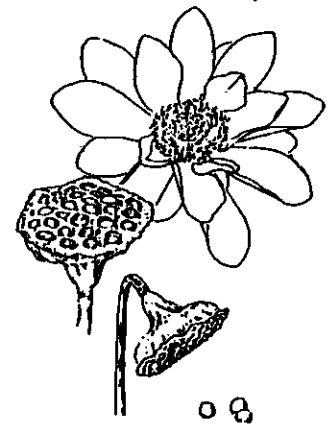
Another difference is that credit standards and requirements are more strict than under the old program. Applicants must have a good earnings record, net worth and assets. Applicants must also have fisheries experience. Although the standards are high, the benefits of using the FFP program are a lower interest rate and longer term financing than what is generally available.

Individuals interested in the program may contact the National Marine Fisheries Service, Financial Services Branch, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. (727) 570-5377

THE "GRAIN THAT FLEW"

That's the English interpretation for the plant that we in south Louisiana call "graine a voler" in Cajun French. Biologists give it the scientific name of *Nelumbo lutea* and the common name of American lotus. A total of 37 different names have been recorded for this plant in different parts of the country such as yanquapin, duck acorn, water chinquapin, rattlenut, alligator buttons and monaca nuts.

Once you've seen the plant it is hard to mistake for any other. Each yellow flower sticks up above water on a long stem and can be as big as a dinner plate. The lily pad-like leaves can each be over two feet across and float on the water or stick up on a stem above the water. Each flower blooms for a couple of days. After insects fertilize the flower and the petals fall off, a hard seed pod containing a couple of dozen seeds is left.



While we eat the seeds today as a treat, the early Indians of this country relied upon them as an important food source. They ate almost every part of the plant including the roots. The roots form thick banana-shaped tubers that taste something like sweet potatoes. Indians would wade barefoot in the mud to find the tubers and then pull them up with a hooked stick. Some tubers they peeled and cooked fresh, others they dried for the winter.

Although lotus plants produce up to 85,000 seeds per acre, they spread mostly by their roots rather than by seed. With enough room, a patch can grow 45 feet in each direction each summer. When a seed does sprout it takes about 6 years before the plant grows enough to start blooming. Each seed has a very tough shell on it and seeds up to 400 years old have been sprouted.

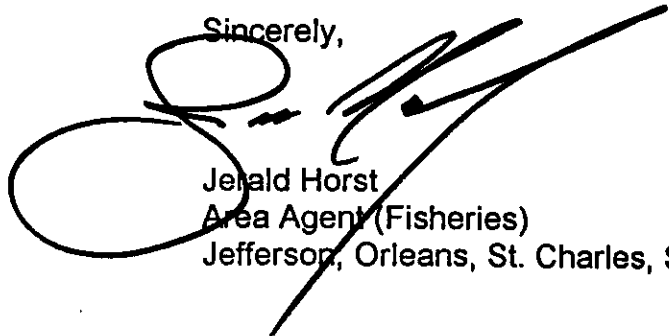
THE GUMBO POT
Baked Mackerel with Mustard Butter

This recipe works well with Spanish mackerel, bluefish or any other dark-fleshed fish. These types of fish have a more pronounced flavor than white-fleshed fish like speckled trout or catfish and are best prepared by methods other than frying.

2 lb fish fillets	4 tsp yellow mustard
3 cups water	$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp salt
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup lemon juice	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper
6 tbsp melted margarine	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp paprika
3 tbsp lemon juice	chopped parsley

Marinate fish in refrigerator for 20 minutes in water and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup lemon juice. Combine margarine, 3 tbsp lemon juice, mustard, salt, pepper and paprika and mix well. Place fish fillets in 15 X 10-inch baking dish. Brush generously with mixture. Place in oven set at 350° F and bake 4 to 6 minutes. Baste once more with mixture and bake 4 to 6 more minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Warm remaining mix, pour over fish, and sprinkle chopped parsley before serving. Serves 6.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles, St. John