



Gulf Council Calls for Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Red Snapper Update Workshop

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene the SEDAR Red Snapper Update Workshop to conduct an update assessment of the SEDAR 7 red snapper benchmark stock assessment.

The SEDAR 7 red snapper benchmark assessment was completed in 2004 with supplemental analyses in 2005. That assessment concluded that, as of 2003, the red snapper stock was overfished and undergoing overfishing.

The update assessment will use the assessment models and input parameters from the SEDAR 7 benchmark assessment, possibly with minor modifications, as well as updated data streams to update the previous full assessment.

In addition to updating the data streams, the update assessment workshop will include a discussion on age distribution; growth and density dependent mortality of juvenile red snapper; and composition and changes of red snapper in shrimp trawl bycatch. The workshop will also include a review of the data inputs with respect to life history, indices of abundance, commercial and recreational fisheries statistics and fishery independent data.

The SEDAR panel will meet at the NMFS laboratory, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Fla., beginning at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, 2009, and conclude no later than 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2009. Copies of the agenda are available and can be obtained by calling the council office at (813)348-1630.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the SEDAR for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal panel action during this meeting. Actions of the SEDAR will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

This meeting is open to the public and is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern five working days prior to the meeting.



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The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

2009 Gulf Hypoxic Zone Report

The scientists on the mapping cruise for this year's Gulf hypoxic zone released their report on July 24. Scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) measured an area totaling slightly more than 3,000 square miles (8,000 square kilometers). Predictions sponsored by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had put this year's zone in a larger range of 7,500 to 8,500 square miles (22,000 to 25,000 square kilometers).

The larger predictions were based on high nitrate-nitrogen loads and freshwater flows in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in May and June.

Gulf hypoxia, a condition of low dissolved oxygen in the lower water column, is known to be fueled by nutrient loading from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers that fertilizes massive algal blooms offshore. The decomposition of the algal blooms, coupled with stratification of fresh and salt water layers, results in hypoxia.

Researchers from LUMCON and NOAA cited several causes for the smaller than expected hypoxic zone:

- below average river flows in July which reduced freshwater and nutrient loading to the Gulf;
- west-southwest winds during the weeks immediately before the cruise that pushed low oxygen waters to the east;
- high winds and waves in the area west of the Atchafalaya delta during the latter part of the cruise which mixed oxygen in shallow waters;
- limitations of current models (geared to long-term management) for predicting effects of short-term weather patterns.

While the overall size of the hypoxic area was smaller, the severity of low oxygen areas was higher in several areas measured.

Another limitation comes from the single mapping cruise for Louisiana waters each July. Budgetary constraints have prevented the multiple measurements that would provide a fuller picture of the hypoxic process during summer months.

The average size of the hypoxic zone is now at 6,000 square miles (15,670 square kilometers), and has more than doubled since regular measurements began in 1985, making it one of the largest such areas in the world. The threat that the spread of hypoxia poses to the Gulf fishery has been recognized for some time, but the policy response has been limited thus far.

A national Action Plan adopted by a federal-state Task Force has set a goal of reducing the average annual size of the hypoxic zone to 2,000 square miles (5,000 square kilometers).

The Task Force will have its next meeting on September 23-24 in Des Moines. This is the first meeting under the new administration, and advocates are hopeful that an expanded effort will be adopted that includes long-promised federal funding for implementing the Action Plan across the Mississippi River Basin.

- Doug Daigle, Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group

LUMCON Hypoxia Mapping and Research

www.gulfhypoxia.net

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Watch

<http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/hypoxia>

NOAA links to articles on 2009 Hypoxic Zone

www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090727_deadzone.html

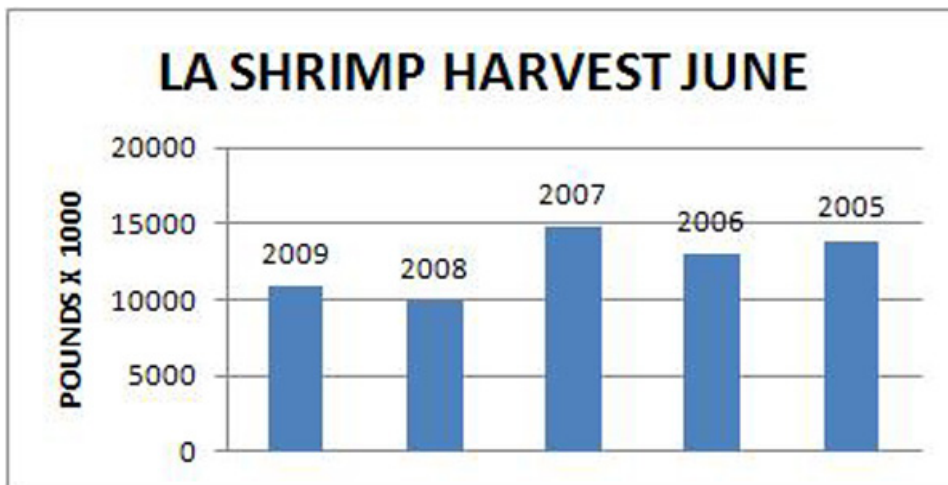
Gulf Hypoxia Task Force

www.epa.gov/msbasin

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on their Website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as 'zero' in these graphics. Price graphics reflect central Gulf states only (Texas and Florida are reported independently). For more information, refer to: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html

- Rusty Gaudé



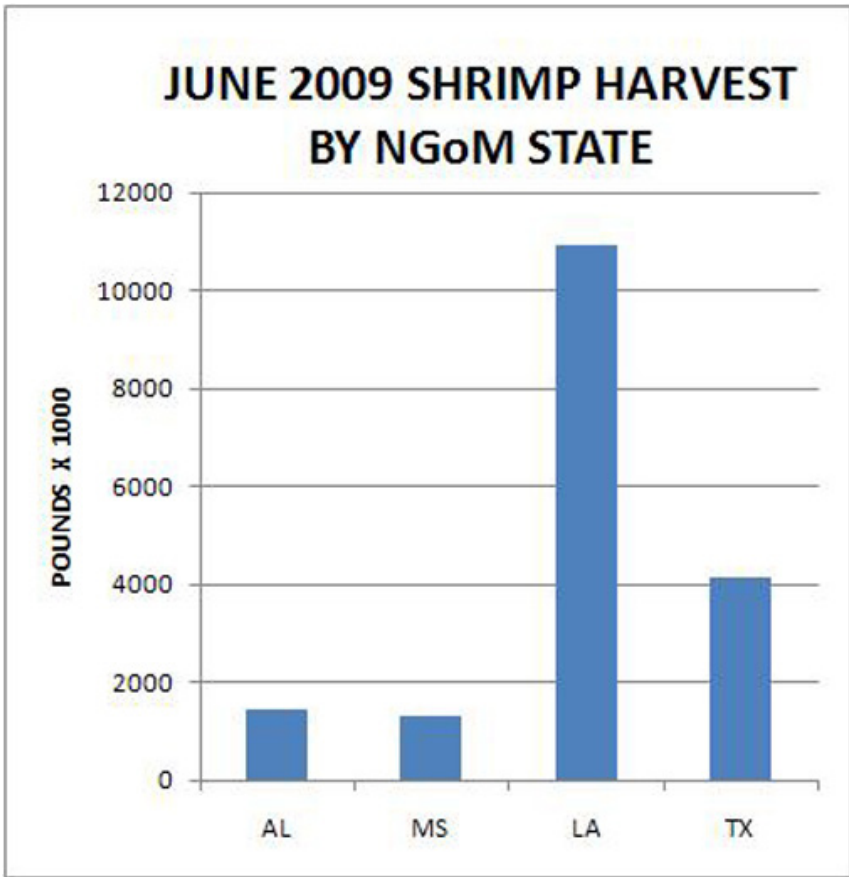
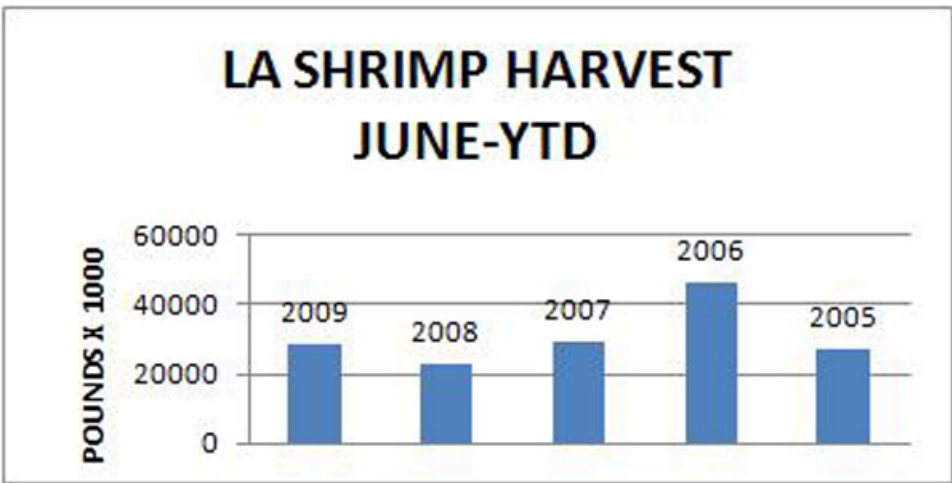
Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

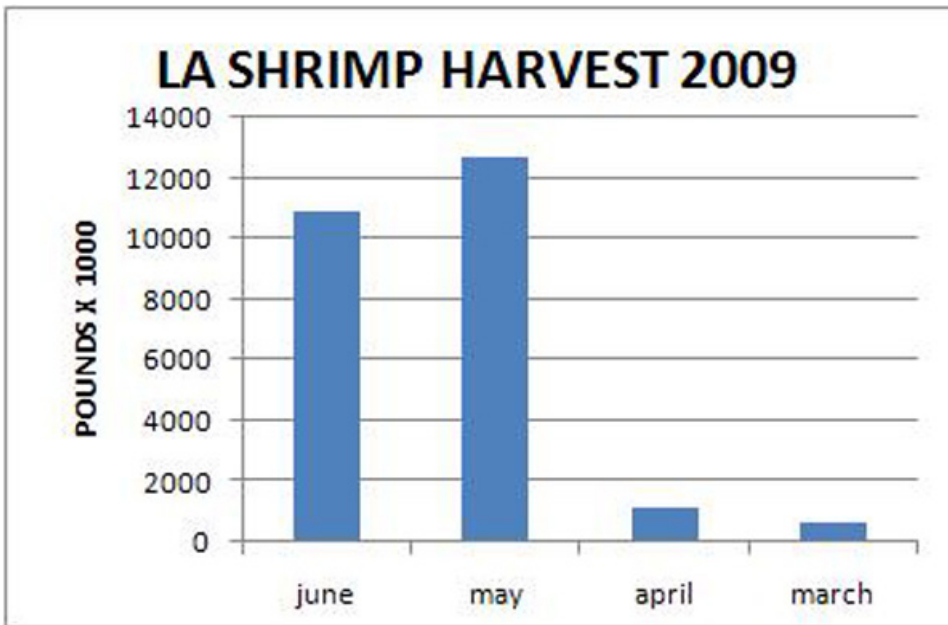
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Worm / Hilborn Collaboration Finds Common Ground on Fisheries Management

In 2006, Boris Worm and the late Ransom Myers published articles in *Nature* claiming that only 10 percent of the large predatory fish remained in the ocean ecosystem, and that current trends, if continued, would lead to the extinction of all commercial fish species by 2048.

The dramatic headlines were seized on by the news media and became an iconic belief among environmentalists.

Ray Hilborn, a respected professor at the University of Washington, who studied fish populations all his life, was outraged. He wrote a rebuttal, called "faith based fisheries" in which he pointed out the lack of data about global fisheries, and how much of the Worm and Myers study had been extrapolated beyond the facts. Hilborn also criticized *Science*, where he is on the board of reviewers, for accepting too many sensationalized papers about fisheries decline without proper peer review.

This dispute could have continued as a scientific fight, echoed in the public fight over fishery management, but Hilborn and Worm found some common ground in that they both wanted to see more data on what was actually happening with global fisheries.

The result was a multi-year collaboration between them with major funding supporting a huge range of both fisheries and conservation scientists to gather and catalog actual data on the status of global fisheries.

The study had two goals: to examine current trends in fish abundance and exploitation rates (the proportion of fish taken out of the sea); and to identify which tools managers have applied in their efforts to rebuild depleted fish stocks.

What they found was that in a number of large marine ecosystems, including Alaska, New Zealand, Iceland and the West Coast of the U.S., fisheries managers had successfully implemented strategies leading to the restoration of biomass and long term healthy exploitation. In other areas, such as the Northeast U.S., they also found that the rates of overfishing were decreasing and that positive growth was occurring.

The work has vindicated the idea that sound fishery management can achieve both high levels of harvest from a marine ecosystem, and at the same time protect the biological diversity and health of the ecosystem. They even point to work showing under proper management, overall fish size increases.

These are startling conclusions, given the fear mongering that has been used to drive the debate on fisheries restrictions in the U.S.

The work is a significant leap forward, the scientists say, because it reveals that the rate of fishing has been reduced in several regions around the world, resulting in some stock recovery. It bolsters the case that sound management can contribute to the rebuilding of fisheries elsewhere.

- **John Sackton (SeafoodNews.com)**

Status Update on Gag Grouper

A recent stock assessment update for Gulf of Mexico gag shows a decline in abundance. In other words, the stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing, and the council must take immediate action to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. The council, as a result, directed staff to initiate a plan amendment for the rebuilding of gag grouper. It is expected that the council will begin reviewing a draft document in October, and that scoping meetings will likely be held later this fall/winter.

Boating Course Offered

The Baton Rouge Sail and Power Squadron is offering a boating course that meets Louisiana state requirements for the motorboat license. They will conduct the eight-hour course on Oct. 17, 2009, at Cabela's in Gonzales. The meeting rooms are upstairs and there is also a cafe for breaks and lunch. To register for, follow these instructions:

1. Go to USPS.ORG (<http://USPS.ORG>)
2. Click EDUCATION on drop down menu
3. Click COURSES AND SEMINARS
4. Click LOCATE A COURSE NEAR YOU

At this point enter the zip code 70808, with 20-mile radius, and the city Gonzales to locate the course at Cabela's. Fill out the form and submit it.

The Baton Rouge Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, is a non-profit, civic service and educational boating organization. Founded in 1963, the BRSPS is one of 450 squadrons nationwide that focus on improving our boating environment.

The Baton Rouge Sail and Power Squadron also offers several focused two hour seminars on individual boating topics, including GPS, trailering, chart reading, anchoring and VHF use. BRSPS offers internal courses to its members on topics such as seamanship, piloting, coastal and celestial navigation, weather, engine maintenance, marine electronics, and sailing. The squadron is also active in other civic service events and public awareness efforts during boat shows and Boat Safety Week, and works with NOAA to update nautical charts.

2009 Louisiana Fall Shrimp Season to Open

The fall inshore shrimp season open in Shrimp Management Zones 1, 2 and 3 at 6 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, 2009. Season dates were approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its Aug. 6 meeting, based upon recommendations presented by Office of Fisheries biological staff and public comment.

The closing date set by the commission for these waters is official sunset Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009, except for the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the double-rig line (LA R.S.56:495.1(A)2) which will remain open to shrimping until 6:00 a.m. March 31, 2010.

Zone 1 includes Louisiana waters from the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River. Zone 2 extends from to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, and Zone 3 extends from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line. The commission also authorized the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing dates of the 2009 fall shrimp season if biological and technical data indicate a need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state inside and outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

According to LDWF trip ticket report data, 2008 Louisiana shrimp landings measured 90.4 million pounds and were valued at \$133.5 million dockside. White shrimp landings accounted for approximately 70 percent of total shrimp landings and comprised 82 percent of the value. Trip ticket data also indicated that 2,873 licensed commercial shrimp fishermen reported taking 39,949 shrimping trips in 2008.

Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures under Development

New requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 require regional councils to develop annual catch limits and accountability measures by 2011 to ensure that overfishing does not occur. While the council has already met the requirement to establish by 2010, annual catch limits and accountability measures for managed stocks classified as overfished or undergoing overfishing (greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, red snapper and gag), a generic amendment is under development to establish annual catch limits and accountability measures for the remainder of the managed stocks.

For coastal migratory pelagics and spiny lobster, which are managed jointly by the South Atlantic and Gulf councils, separate joint amendments will be developed.

During its June meeting, the council approved a draft scoping document, and scoping meetings are planned around the Gulf Coast later this summer. The council strongly encourages the public to participate in the scoping process - it's the first and best opportunity for the public to make suggestions or to raise issues and concerns before the council begins developing a draft amendment. "It's important to have as much public input as possible before the council sets these annual catch limits," said Steve Bortone, Gulf Council executive director.

Annual catch limits are based on the scientifically determined annual biological catch, but may be set lower to allow for uncertainties associated with actions and activities related to management. Uncertainties include things like variation in adherence to fishing regulations and the inability of surveys to always detect the actual catch and discard levels of fish in any given fishery. "We want to set annual catch limits as close to the acceptable biological catch as possible but, because of the nature of fish and fishing, we need a little breathing room to assure that our management activities don't unintentionally go over that all important annual catch limit," said Bortone.

In the event that catch limits are exceeded, accountability measures will kick in. Accountability measures are predetermined actions to either prevent further catches in the current fishing year, or

return catches to the specified levels in the following year. For scoping meeting information, contact the Gulf Council by emailing gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org or by calling (888) 833-1844.

Underwater Obstructions

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 8 claims in the amount of \$26,821.82 were received for payment during the period June 1, 2009 - June 30, 2009. There were eight claims paid and 0 claims denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 05.278	89 03.411	PLAQUEMINES
29 17.146	90 28.443	TERREBONNE
29 22.603	89 45.694	PLAQUEMINES
29 22.610	89 49.290	PLAQUEMINES
29 23.304	89 36.396	PLAQUEMINES
29 32.980	89 32.070	PLAQUEMINES
29 40.894	89 30.379	ST. BERNARD
29 50.431	89 41.364	ST. BERNARD

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Gwendolyn Thomas, administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call (225)342-0122.

THE GUMBO POT

Oyster Kabobs

Here's a slightly different way to treat this gourmet's delight, one that should have special appeal to backyard chefs.

1 pint or 1 12-oz can oysters	½ cup cooking oil
1 large green pepper, cut in 1' cubes	¼ cup lemon juice
1 large Spanish onion, cut in wedges	2 t salt
1 pint cherry tomatoes	¼ t white pepper
½ lb bacon, sliced	

Thaw oysters, if frozen. Drain. Place in bowl. Combine oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Pour over oysters and let stand 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon in half crosswise. Remove oysters from marinade. Reserve marinade for basting. Wrap each oyster with bacon. Parboil green peppers and onions. Place bacon-wrapped oysters, tomatoes, green pepper squares, and onion wedges alternately on skewers. Broil in oven 5 minutes, turn, baste with reserve marinade, and broil 5-7 minutes longer until bacon is crisp. May be cooked on grill over moderately hot coals. Serves 6.

Recipe taken from *A Louisiana Seafood Cookbook*, courtesy of Louisiana Sea Grant.



For more information, contact your local extension agent:



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For questions or comments about a story, contact Lagniappe editor Glenn Thomas at gthomas@agctr.lsu.edu.

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