

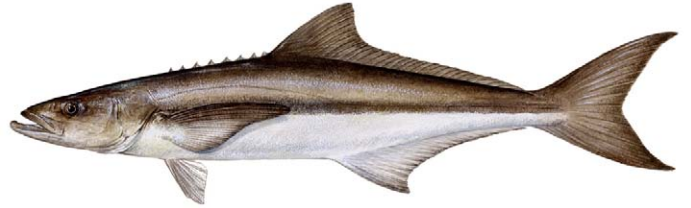
# Lagniappe

August 2011 Volume 35, No. 8

## Cobia-The One and Only

On any offshore fishing trip, the excitement peaks when a cobia is spotted near the surface.

Also known as ling or lemon fish, the cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) is prized for its delicate, white, flaky fillets. Cobias are the only living species in their family and they have no close relatives. Found almost worldwide in tropical, subtropical and warm temperate waters, they are open-water fish, but tend to locate around pilings, buoys or drifting objects. They even orient themselves under sea turtles and floating boats. Cobias also appear to be attracted to noise. They range from saline bays inshore to offshore waters 4,000 feet deep.



Cobia. Photo credit: Diane Rome Peebles

Cobias are common in offshore waters of Louisiana from May through September. In the spring they migrate out of southern Florida waters north and westward into the northern Gulf of Mexico and westward to Texas. Some fish are reported to overwinter off of Louisiana's coast in deeper Gulf waters.

Cobias become sexually mature at age two for males and three for females, at which time they are around 27 inches and seven pounds. They spawn in the summer months of May to August.

A single female may produce between 1.5 and 5.4 million eggs. Fertilized eggs are buoyant and are kept afloat by a large oil globule in the egg until they hatch in 36 hours. Highest hatching rates occur in full-strength seawater at temperatures of 80°F. Cobia grow rapidly, reaching seven inches in a matter of months and 13 to 15 inches by one year old. Cobia are known to live at least 10 years and may reach 15 years of age.

Cobias' diet consists of many different prey species, however the preferred food is swimming crabs, such as the blue crab. A food habits study done in the lower Chesapeake Bay bears this out. The researcher found 28 different species of animals in the 78 cobia stomachs he examined, but swimming crabs were by far the number one item in volume and number, making up 78 percent of cobia diet. This was true even in large cobia.

The researcher did find one interesting thing that no one had seen before – some of his cobia had eaten cownose rays, a very common species in the Gulf as well as the Atlantic. For additional information on cobia go to: [www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/resources/factsheets/cobia.htm](http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/resources/factsheets/cobia.htm).

-Kevin A. Savoie

## Louisiana Freshwater and Saltwater Recreational Fish Size and Bag Limits

The 2011 recreational creel cards with the size and bag limits for saltwater and recreational fishing in Louisiana are now available. They will be printed soon, but in the meantime they can be accessed as a PDF online at:

- Saltwater card: [http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/pdfs/saltwater\\_card\\_11.pdf](http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/pdfs/saltwater_card_11.pdf)
- Freshwater card: [http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/pdfs/freshwater\\_card\\_11.pdf](http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/pdfs/freshwater_card_11.pdf)



## Teachers Complete WETSHOP Training

Twenty enthusiastic teachers from 12 parishes participated in the 13th Annual WETSHOP, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) on Grand Isle during the week of July 10-15.

WETSHOP is coordinated by the LDWF Education Program and is focused on providing fourth grade through high school teachers an in-depth look at issues related to wetland ecology and coastal land loss in Louisiana. More than 250 teachers have participated in the program since it began in 1998.

Utilizing LDWF's Fisheries Research Lab facilities, participating teachers attended 55 hours of instruction over six days and covered a wide variety of topics including wetland ecology, fisheries management and coastal restoration. A portion of each day was devoted to field instruction on subject matter involving maritime forests, beach ecology, coastal restoration projects, bird life, marsh and swamp habitats and marine organisms.

Participating teachers are prepared to teach their students about coastal ecology and the threats facing coastal Louisiana, as well as teach other teachers so they can effectively educate even more students regarding coastal issues. The "train the trainer" model expands WETSHOP's impact to an estimated 40,000 students.

WETSHOP is sponsored by LDWF with grant funding provided by the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP). In addition to this funding, WETSHOP is a collaborative effort with partners that provide experts in their field for presentations and educational materials.

These agencies/organizations include: BTNEP, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, LDWF, The Nature Conservancy-Louisiana, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, the Coastal Planning, Protection and Restoration Act and Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.



Hands-on training. Photo credit: LDWF

## Water Management Plan for Catahoula Lake

The historic flooding along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers has prompted a change in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) water-level management at Catahoula Lake. LDWF's altered plan for 2011 includes drawing the lake down a month later than usual.

Traditionally, Catahoula Lake was de-watered during the months of June and July to promote germination and growth of vegetation that provides food for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The drawdown currently underway will continue into August. The intent of the later drawdown is to inhibit germination of encroaching woody species without negatively impacting waterfowl food production. The lake will still be re-flooded prior to opening the East Zone duck season in mid-November.

"Last year, LDWF initiated a 10-year management and research plan that includes varying water-level management from traditional dates in an attempt to reduce woody encroachment and maintain or improve waterfowl food production", said Larry Reynolds, LDWF Waterfowl Study Leader. "We had intended to draw the lake down earlier this year, but that was impossible due to very high water levels in local river systems."

Along with varying water-levels, the experimental management plan includes collecting vegetation data from permanent monitoring plots, evaluating the effect of LDWF's woody control activities including herbicide spraying, mowing and clearing, and scientific studies on woody-encroachment on the lakebed. The research studies are being accomplished in cooperation with researchers from LSU's School of Renewable Natural Resources. Additionally, further investigation of lead poisoning and lead-shot availability on the lakebed will be undertaken. The goal is to use knowledge gained from these studies to better manage and maintain this valuable habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland birds.

The initial management plan was introduced last August to a gathering of approximately 40 local hunters, landowners and people with a keen interest in Catahoula Lake management. LDWF will conduct two public meetings in August to present a more comprehensive plan and participate in public discussions regarding anticipated changes in the management of the lake. Meeting dates and locations will be announced in advance on the LDWF website and through public notice in local newspapers.

One change in the management plan this year provides for the opportunity to cut hay on the lakebed, if conditions allow. LDWF staff is currently preparing maps and a bid prospectus to allow individuals to bid to cut and remove hay from selected areas at Catahoula Lake. It is anticipated that haying will help inhibit growth of encroaching woody species, and cutting will be timed to minimize impacts on waterfowl food production. The bid announcement is expected later this month.

### Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

Editor: Julie Anderson

Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry

Copy editor: Roy Kron

Layout/design: Jessica Schexnayder

## **LDWF Releases 2010 Atchafalaya Basin Fishing Survey Results**

In an effort to better capture the requests of the fishing community of the Atchafalaya Basin, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) issued surveys to 2,000 resident recreational fishermen within 60 miles of the basin. In addition to biological data, department biologists recognize the importance of angler opinion in fish management. The intent of the survey was to determine desired management for bass in waters that include the Atchafalaya Basin, Henderson Lake and the Verret/ Grassy/ Palourde Complex. Preferences for bass regulations in all three water bodies varied based upon regional differences of respondents.

For the Atchafalaya Basin, results show that the majority of survey respondents want to keep the current 10 fish daily limit for bass. This finding was constant among all survey respondents. Results for desired creel limits in Henderson Lake and the Verret/Grassy/Palourde Complex were less pronounced. The most common response was a preference for the current 10 fish daily limit.

Responses indicate Atchafalaya Basin anglers are satisfied with the current 14-inch minimum size limit. Angler opinions for bass size limits in Henderson Lake were similar to those for the Atchafalaya Basin, with 36 percent of responses indicating a desire to keep the current size limit. However, opinion differed for the Verret/Grassy/Palourde Complex. Thirty-seven percent of responses indicated a preference to decrease or remove the size limit.

For all three water bodies, results show that respondents who prefer lower creel limits also prefer no change to the current size limit. Anglers who prefer increased daily limits want to eliminate or reduce the current 14-inch size limit.

To access the full report on the survey results, visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/publication/2010-atchafalaya-henderson-and-verret-black-bass-survey](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/publication/2010-atchafalaya-henderson-and-verret-black-bass-survey)

## **Proposed Rules for Issuance of Calcasieu Lake Oyster Harvester Permit**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a notice of intent outlining a proposed rule to govern the issuance of a newly-required permit for commercial oyster harvest in Calcasieu Lake.

The Calcasieu Lake Oyster Harvester Permit is required by Act 329 of the 2011 Regular Legislative Session and will be made available on a first-come-first-serve basis by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF.) Act 329 further requires that the commission adopt rules and regulations for the issuance of the permit and the recent action has begun this rule adoption process.

The proposed commission rule stipulates that a public notice shall be issued by LDWF announcing when applications will be made available and when those applications will be received by LDWF.

Act 329 and the proposed rule require that 126 permits be issued, with 63 of those provided to any person who has legally harvested oysters from Calcasieu Lake since Jan. 1, 2001, as evidenced by trip-ticket records of LDWF. The remaining 63 permits shall be issued to anyone who currently holds all necessary licenses for the commercial harvest of oysters.

In addition to holding all required licenses, applicants must present government-issued photo identification, and must present a completed application to LDWF. The permit shall be valid for a period beginning on Oct. 1 and ending on Dec. 31 of the following year. There will be no cost for the permit and it cannot be sold, exchanged, or otherwise transferred.

The commission and LDWF are currently accepting public comment on this notice of intent until Sept. 1, 2011. Public comment may be submitted to Patrick Banks at LDWF Office of Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Following this public comment period and review by the Louisiana Legislature, the ratification of the final rule will be considered. Within the notice of intent, the commission delegated final rule ratification authority to the LDWF Secretary, Robert Barham.

### **No Drawdown Schedule for Lake D'Arbonne**

Despite plans for spillway repairs, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does not plan to conduct a drawdown on Lake D'Arbonne in Union Parish in 2011.

"A coffer dam will be constructed around the work area of the spillway, eliminating the need for a lake drawdown," said Noel James, President of the Lake D'Arbonne Commission.

Regularly scheduled drawdowns on the lake occur every five years, with the next drawdown scheduled to begin the day after Labor Day in 2012. The public will be notified immediately, should any unforeseen project complications arise and a drawdown becomes necessary.

## **LOUISIANA RULE CHANGES**

### **2011 Season for Gag Grouper**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced the 2011 season for the recreational harvest of gag grouper is set to begin on Sept. 16, and will remain open until Nov. 15, in both state and federal waters.

The bag limit for gag grouper in Louisiana state waters is up to five gag grouper within a five grouper aggregate bag limit at a minimum size limit of 22 inches total length. Federal regulations allow only two gag grouper within a four grouper aggregate bag limit with a minimum size of 22 inches total length.

The recreational gag grouper season is set based on rules issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service as recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Captain and crew of vessels operating as charter vessels have a bag limit of zero. For further information on gag grouper regulations please visit [www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing\\_regulations/index.php](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing_regulations/index.php)

### **Commercial Fishing for Large Coastal Sharks to Close in Louisiana Waters**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) announced commercial fishing for large coastal sharks closed in Louisiana waters on July 17, 2011, at 11:30 p.m.

This closure was made by LDWF Secretary Robert Barham under the authority given by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, which allows the secretary to declare a closed season. The National Marine Fisheries Service will also close the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico at the same time.

At this time, no date has been set for the reopening of the commercial large coastal shark fishery in Louisiana waters. During the closed season, all commercial harvest, possession, purchase, exchange, barter, sale or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell large coastal sharks or their fins is prohibited.

The large coastal shark group is composed of the great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse, blacktip, bull, lemon, sandbar, silky, spinner and tiger sharks.

Vessels that have been issued or possess a federal shark research permit may continue to operate under the conditions of that permit, which includes the presence of designated NOAA Fisheries observers aboard the vessel for the duration of the trip, until the quota for the federal shark research fishery is achieved.

Louisiana harvesters land approximately 68 percentage of the annual quota for large coastal shark species according to recent statistics.

### **Property Owners Contending with Outlaw Quadrupeds, Nuisance Animals**

Legislation passed during the 2011 Legislative session provides additional options for citizens to take outlaw quadrupeds (armadillos, coyotes, feral hogs) and nuisance animals (nutria and beaver.) The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reminds citizens that a valid Louisiana hunting license is required.

House Bill 294, signed into law by Gov. Bobby Jindal as Act 95, makes it legal beginning Aug. 15, 2011, to take outlaw quadrupeds, nutria and beaver at night from March through August on private property with any legal firearm. Anyone taking part in these activities at night is required to notify the parish sheriff's office 24 hours in advance of any such hunt.

Additionally, House Bill 169, signed into law by Jindal as Act 29, allows the take of nuisance quadrupeds at night using sound suppressors on the firearm(s) utilized, beginning Aug. 15, 2011. Anyone using such a weapon must have in possession a valid permit issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The use of sound suppressed weapons is restricted to the take of outlaw quadrupeds, including coyotes and feral hogs, from March through August on private property.

### **Reopening Sherburne Wildlife Management Area**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will re-open Sherburne Wildlife Management Area (WMA) effective Aug. 1, 2011. The public shooting ranges that include the rifle, handgun, archery and shotgun range 1 are included in the Aug. 1 re-opening of those areas within the WMA, which had remained closed since spring floodwater prompted LDWF to close the site in May. The public is reminded that LA 975 south from US Hwy. 190 remains closed. Access to the site

is restricted to LA 975 from I-10 to the Sherburne WMA Headquarters. For more information, contact Johnathan Bordelon at [jbordelon@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jbordelon@wlf.la.gov) or 337/948-0255 or Tony Vidrine at 337/948-0255 or [tvidrine@wlf.la.gov](mailto:tvidrine@wlf.la.gov).

## **GULF OF MEXICO RULE CHANGES**

### **Comment on Proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment for the Gulf of Mexico**

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Generic Annual Catch Limits /Accountability Measures Amendment for the Gulf of Mexico reef fish, red drum, shrimp, and coral and coral reef fishery management plans (FMPs). A DEIS is a draft analysis of potential significant impacts that proposed management actions can have on the natural and social environment. The analysis compares a series of alternatives for each action to evaluate the effects on the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DEIS in the *Federal Register* on July 1, 2011 (76 FR 127). The public comment period ends on Aug. 15, 2011.

The Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment proposes the establishment of annual catch limits and accountability measures for species in the reef fish, red drum, shrimp, and coral and coral reef FMPs not subject to overfishing (rate of removal is too high). Annual catch limits are set at levels that prevent overfishing from occurring by limiting the amount of fish that can be caught in pounds. Accountability measures are management controls to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded, and to correct overages of annual catch limits if they occur.

Actions contained in the DEIS include:

Actions 1 and 2 determine which stocks are in need of annual catch limits and which may not need annual catch limits due to being removed from the fishery management plans or delegated to other management agencies.

Action 3 establishes species groupings, which allow a single annual catch limit to be set for all species within that group.

Actions 4, 5, and 6 establish the necessary procedures for determining and implementing annual catch limits and associated management measures by creating an acceptable biological catch control rule, and annual catch limit/annual catch target control rule, and a framework procedure for implementing management changes.

Action 7 establishes annual catch limits, and optional annual catch targets for each species or species group. This section also apportions stocks that occur across jurisdictional boundaries between the Gulf of Mexico Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and allocates black grouper between commercial and recreational sectors.

Action 8 establishes the accountability measures for each species or species group. In-season and post-season accountability measures will be established to keep catch levels within the designated annual catch limits or to restore catch levels to those limits if exceeded.

Request for Comments: Comments on this DEIS must be received no later than Aug. 15, 2011, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses: Electronic copies of the DEIS, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/GulfACL.htm> and from the e-rule making portal [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). After selecting "submit a comment," enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: NOAA-NMFS-2011-0143. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail: Rich Malinowski, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

### **Red Snapper Season Ends July 19**

The recreational red snapper season which opened June 1 closed on July 19. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service projected the red snapper recreational quota was harvested by July 18, 2011.

The 48-day season is the shortest to date since the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council chose to begin the season on June 1, and is, in part, the result of the increasing size of the fish being landed. Between 2007 and 2010, the average weight of a red snapper landed in the Gulf of Mexico increased from 3.32 to 5.34 pounds per fish.

Between 2007 and 2008, there was a 29 percent increase in the average weight of red snapper landed. Between 2008 and 2009 there was an 18 percent increase in the average weight. Between 2009 and 2010 there was a 5.4 percent increase in the average weight. And between 2010 and 2011, stock assessment projections indicate average weight will increase by 10 percent.

The average weight of red snapper for 2011 is estimated by the stock assessment to be 6.14 pounds (SEFSC 2009). This average weight is a 15 percent increase from the reported average weight in 2010 of 5.34 pounds whole weight (ww). In 2009, the average weight projected was 5.25 pounds ww, compared to a reported average weight of 5.06 pounds ww. In 2010, the average projected weight was 5.56 pounds ww, compared to an average reported weight of 5.34 pounds ww. Average weights in 2009 and 2010 were approximately 4 percent less than projected estimates.



To evaluate the sensitivity of the model to different red snapper average weights, projections were run using: 1) the stock assessment projected average weight for 2011; 2) an average weight of 5.90 pounds, which is ~4 percent less than the average projected weight; and 3) the stock assessment average weight for 2011 minus 10 percent.

The observed increases in average weight appear to be tracking stock assessment projections, but at a slightly lower rate of increase. Increases in average weight are expected as the stock rebuilds and the number of older, larger fish in the population increases.

For more information on how the red snapper season length was calculated, refer to a document titled "2011 Recreational Red Snapper Quota Closure Analysis" located on the Southeast Regional Office's website: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/GulfRedSnapperQuotaClosure4-19-11.pdf>.

-Kevin A. Savoie

### **Shrimp Fishery to Re-Opened Off Texas on July 15**

NOAA Fisheries Service announces federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas opened to shrimp trawling at 30 minutes after official sunset, local time, on July 15, 2011, corresponding to the time Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling.

The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that might otherwise be discarded because of their small size. The opening dates of the Texas closure are based on the results of biological sampling by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). NOAA Fisheries Service opens federal waters off Texas when the state of Texas opens its territorial waters. Texas opens state waters based on projections of when the mean size of brown shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. TPWD has projected the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 15 this year.

### **Reef Fish Amendment 32 and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 18**

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled a series of public hearings on the following proposed amendments:

Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (mackerel) contains alternatives for actions to set annual catch limits and accountability measures for Gulf group king mackerel, Gulf group Spanish mackerel, and Gulf group cobia. It also contains measures to remove cero, little tunny, dolphin and bluefish from the fishery management plan, revise the framework procedure, and separate cobia into Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups.

Reef Fish Amendment 32 will establish annual catch limits and annual catch targets for 2012 to 2015 for gag and for 2012 for red grouper. The amendment contains actions to establish a rebuilding plan for gag; set recreational bag limits, size limits and closed seasons for gag/red grouper in 2012; consider a commercial gag and shallow-water grouper quota adjustment to account for dead

discards; make adjustments to multi-use IFQ shares in the grouper individual fishing quota program; reduce the commercial gag size limit; modify the offshore time and areas closures; and revise gag, red grouper, and shallow-water grouper accountability measures.

The hearings will be held Aug. 1 through Aug 3, 2011, at various locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. All hearings will begin at 6 p.m. local time, and will conclude no later than 9 p.m.

### **Proposed Generic Amendment to Establish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Federally Managed Species**

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is required by the reauthorized Magnuson Act to establish annual catch limits and accountability measures for federally managed stocks, and is doing so, in part, through a generic amendment to its reef fish, red drum, shrimp, and coral fishery management plans.

Major actions contained in the amendment include:

- A determination of which stocks need annual catch limits and which may not because of removal from the fishery management plan or delegation to other agencies.
- Species groupings, which allow a single annual catch limit to be set for all species within that group.
- Procedures for determining and implementing annual catch limits and associated management measures.
- Annual catch limits and optional annual catch targets for each species or species group.
- Accountability measures for each species or species group. In-season and post-season accountability measures will be established to keep catch levels within the designated annual catch limits or to restore catch levels to those limits if exceeded.

A presentation outlining the proposed actions contained in the amendment can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/26636369>. The complete document can be downloaded from: [www.gulfcouncil.org/docs/ACLAM062411.pdf](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/docs/ACLAM062411.pdf). Public comment on this generic amendment is encouraged and will be accepted through Aug. 8, 2011. Comments can be submitted by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org/council\\_meetings/comment\\_form.php](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_form.php). All comments will be summarized and provided to the council for review and consideration before final action is taken during the Aug 15-19, 2011, council meeting.

### **Public Comment to Repeal the FMP for the Stone Crab Fishery**

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to repeal the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 20, 2011 (76 FR 43250). The public comment period ends on Aug. 19, 2011.

The commercial stone crab fishery is conducted primarily in Florida coastal waters. The federal FMP was originally implemented in 1979 in response to competing gear use between stone crab and shrimp fishermen, and applies only to federal Gulf of Mexico waters adjacent to Florida waters. The

FMP for the Shrimp Fishery in the Gulf of Mexico establishes the same closed areas, so those closed areas would remain in place.

In the process of developing new federal regulations, NOAA Fisheries Service and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council reviewed all FMPs to determine which species are in need of federal management. National standard guidance lists criteria to consider in deciding whether a fishery needs federal management, including if the fishery could be or already is adequately managed by states. Because the stone crab FMP only covers waters adjacent to Florida state waters, and the council feels the state could adequately manage the fishery, NOAA Fisheries Service is considering action that would repeal the stone crab FMP and allow the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to exclusively manage the stone crab fishery in adjacent federal waters beginning with the 2011/2012 season.

The action would promote management of the stone crab fishery in the most efficient manner, while maintaining conservation of the resource and the ecosystem and properly conform to National Standard Guidance under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Request for Comments: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. To submit comments through the federal e-rulemaking portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), click on "submit a comment", then enter "NOAA-NMFS-2011-0140" in the keyword search and click on "search". To view posted comments during the comment period, enter "NOAA-NMFS-2011-0140" in the keyword search and click on "search". You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail: Susan Gerhart, Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The environmental assessment (EA), proposed rule and other information on this topic can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/StoneCrab.htm>. The proposed rule is also available via the Internet at [www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html). Copies of the rule and the EA can be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office by contacting Susan Gerhart (see address above).

Comments must be received by Aug. 19, 2011, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service in its decision on the final rule. All comments received by NOAA Fisheries Service specific to the proposed rule will be addressed in the final rule.

## OTHER REGULATION CHANGES

### Commercial Harvest of Black Sea Bass

The commercial sector for black sea bass in federal waters of the South Atlantic from 35° 15.19' N. lat. (the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, N.C.) to Key West, Fla., closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time), July 15, 2011, through 12:01 a.m. June 1, 2012. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2011-2012 commercial quota of 309,000 pounds has been reached.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and that is landing black sea bass for sale must have landed and bartered, traded or sold such black sea bass prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, July 15, 2011. All black sea bass pots must have been removed from South Atlantic federal waters subject to the closure prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, July 15, 2011.

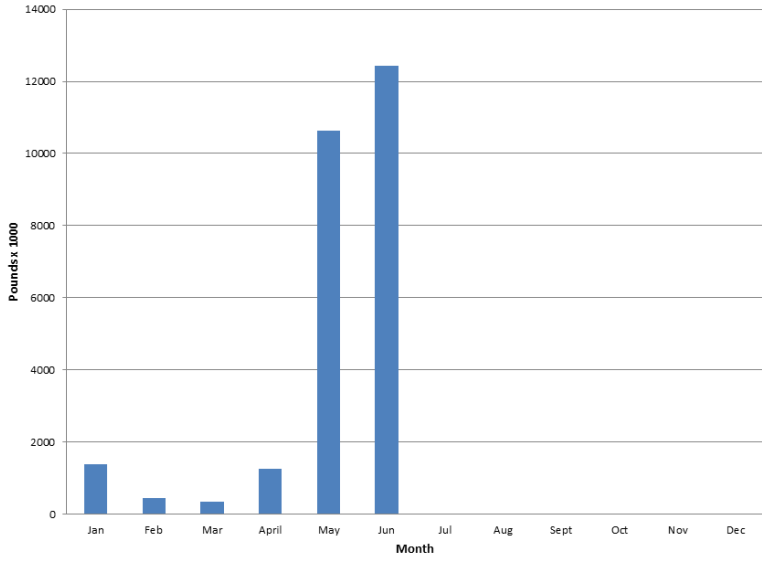
During the closure, all harvest and possession of black sea bass in or from closed federal waters of the South Atlantic is subject to the applicable bag and possession limits, and the sale or purchase of black sea bass taken from closed federal waters is prohibited. In addition, those bag and possession limits, and the prohibition on sale or purchase apply in state and federal waters of the South Atlantic for a vessel for which a valid federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued.

The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of black sea bass that were harvested, landed ashore and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, July 15, 2011, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. Closure of commercial fishing for black sea bass in federal waters of the South Atlantic from 35° 15.19' N. lat. (the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, N.C.) to Key West, Fla., complies with the regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region and is necessary to protect the black sea bass resource.

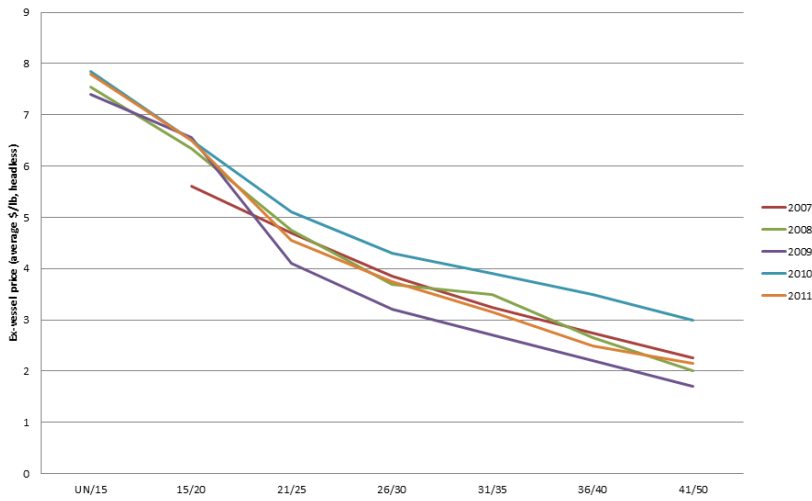
### Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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, please refer to: [www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market\\_news/index.html](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html).

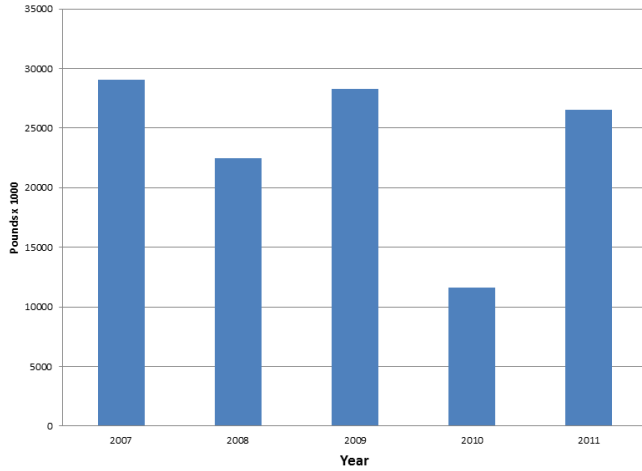
LA 2011 Shrimp Harvest



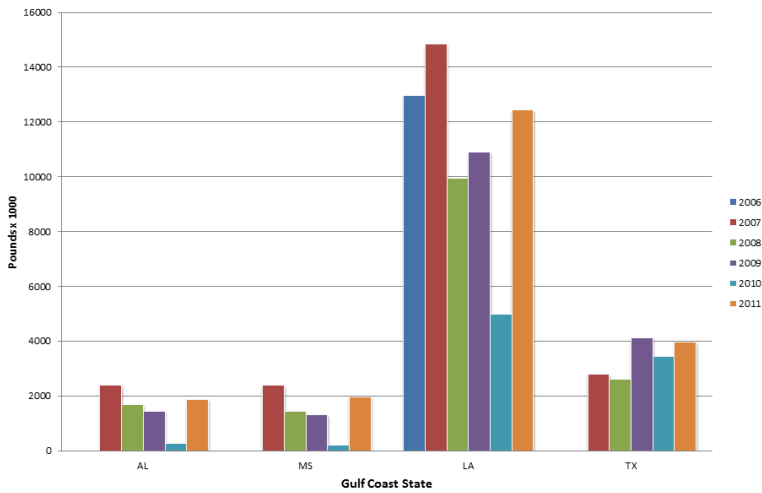
June Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



LA Year To Date 2011 Shrimp Harvest



June Shrimp Harvest



## The Gumbo Pot

If you have a favorite seafood recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Julie Anderson [janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu) for inclusion in future issues.



For more information, contact your local extension agent:



**Thu Bui** – Assistant Extension Agent, Fisheries  
St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion Parishes  
St. Mary Parish Court House  
500 Main Street Rm. 314  
Franklin, LA 70538-6199  
Phone: (337) 828-4100, ext. 300  
Fax: (337) 828-0616  
tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Julie Falgout** – Extension Assistan  
204 Sea Grant Bldg.  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507  
Phone: (225) 578- 5932  
Fax: (225) 578-6331  
jfalgout@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Carol D. Franze** – Associate Area Agent  
Southeast Region  
21549 Old Covington Hwy  
Hammond, LA 70403  
Phone: (985) 543-4129  
cfranze@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Albert 'Rusty' Gaudé** – Area Agent, Fisheries  
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. John Parishes  
Phone: (504) 433-3664  
agaude@agctr.lsu.edu

**Twyla Herrington** – Associate Area Agent, Plaquemines Parish  
479 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Suite 201  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
Phone: (504) 433-3664  
Fax: (504) 392-2448  
therrington@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Thomas Hymel** – Watershed Educator  
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion,  
St. Landry, & Avoyelles Parishes  
Phone: (337) 276-5527  
thymel@agctr.lsu.edu

**Lucina Lampila** – Associate Professor  
111 Food Science Bldg.  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507  
Phone: (225) 578-5207  
Fax: (225) 578-5300  
llampila@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Alan Matherne** – Area Agent (Fisheries & Coastal Issues)  
Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption Parishes  
511 Roussell Street  
Houma, LA 70360  
Phone: (985) 873-6495  
amatherne@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Kevin Savoie** – Area Agent (Southwest Region)  
Natural Resources-Fisheries  
Phone: (337) 475-8812  
ksavoie@agctr.lsu.edu

**Mark Shirley** – Area Agent (Aquaculture & Coastal Resources)  
Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry, Evangeline,  
Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette, Beauregard, & Allen Parishes  
Phone: (337) 898-4335  
mshirley@agctr.lsu.edu

**Research and Extension Programs**  
Agriculture  
Economic/Community Development  
Environment/Natural Resources  
Families/Nutrition/Health  
4-H Youth Programs

We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management is encouraged to do so.

**Please contact Lagniappe editor Julie Anderson at [janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu).**

**Julie A. Anderson**  
Assistant Professor  
LSU Agcenter & Louisiana Sea Grant  
114 RNR Building  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
Phone: 225-578-0771  
Fax: 225-578-4227  
janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu



A State Partner in the Cooperative Extension System

The LSU Agricultural Center is a state-wide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A. & M. College, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.