

Lagniappe

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Tigers on the Rise

This summer the number of tigers is significantly on the rise, the giant tiger prawn that is. The giant tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*), a member of the Penaeidae, or shrimp family, is a relatively new invader showing up in the Gulf of Mexico, including Louisiana waters.

The tiger prawn is native to Southeast Asia, the Philippines and Australia. Prawns reach over 10 inches in length and weigh up to one-third of a pound, much larger than our native brown and white shrimp. The tiger prawn is easily

recognizable due to the characteristic black and white banding on the tail. This species can survive in a wide range of salinities from 3 to 35 parts per thousand (ppt) and temperatures from 77F to 91F. The large invaders can be found in coastal estuaries, lagoons or mangrove areas; however adults can survive depths up to 110 meters. Tiger prawns are known to occur either as a solitary species or in groups of 200 to 300. This nocturnal species burrows into sediments during the day and emerges at night to feed. Most of our native Louisiana shrimp are omnivorous scavengers, but the tiger prawn is more of a predator with a diet consisting of smaller shrimps, crabs, mollusk and algae.



Tiger Prawn. Photo credit: LDWF

The giant tiger prawn is the most widely used species of the Penaeidae family for aquaculture. Coastal people in Asian countries have practiced shrimp farming as a livelihood for more than a century. From steamed in Asian-style cuisine to a more southern favorite, deep-fried, tiger prawns have made their way into kitchens across the U.S.

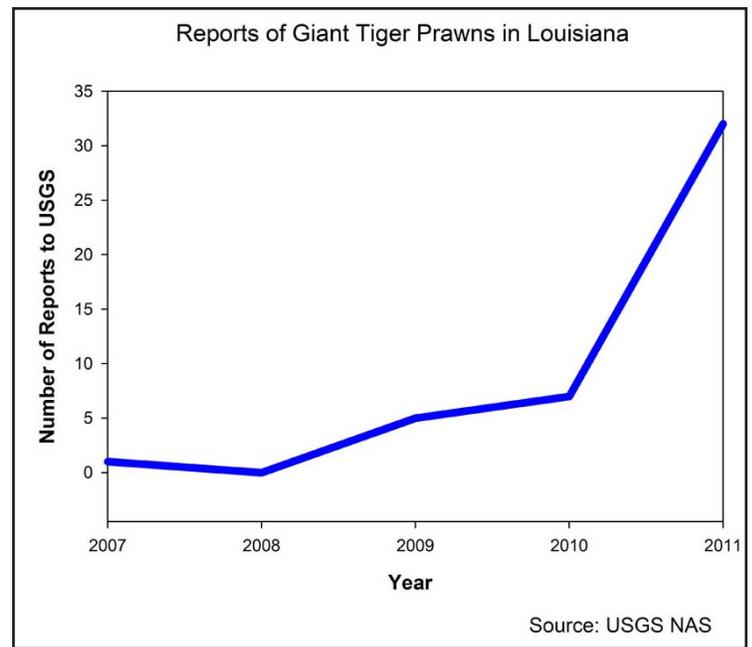
In 1988, a population of prawns escaped from a mariculture facility in Bluffton, S.C. Currently, the prawns are invasive in the Western Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Eastern Caribbean and waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands. Tiger prawns have also been found in cultured populations of shrimp in Texas and South Carolina. The ecological consequences of introduction are currently unknown. If a population is established they could pose a threat to our native commercially important shrimp species. Here in Louisiana, the first giant tiger prawn was documented in 2007. Since then

reported incidences have been low until the 2011 shrimp season. As the graph shows, more than 30 reports have been made this year alone, up significantly from any other year.

You can do your part to help minimize the spread of this invasive species in our coastal waterways. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is monitoring giant tiger prawn occurrence in our coastal waters. If you catch a giant tiger prawn, LDWF asks that you save the specimen (ice or refrigerate), record the location and contact an LDWF biologist at (225) 765-2949.

For additional information, visit

www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/biological/invasive/tigerprawn.htm



Wholesale Seafood Sales

**This is the second in a series on requirements for selling seafood directly*

Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program was asked to research the legal issues related to the creation of a direct seafood sales program. A significant amount of regulation falls on any individual selling seafood. This article only addresses state regulations. Wholesale seafood dealers will need to comply with public health requirements as well as Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries licensing requirements. Other requirements include parish and municipal regulations, sales tax provisions and the Department of Agriculture's regulation of commercial scales. This article only addresses some of the issues regulated by the state and should be considered advisory research.

Any person or firm who plans to buy, acquire or handle seafood for sale or resale must purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealers license. A wholesale/retail license holder is the only licensee who can legally purchase seafood from a commercial fisherman and resell that seafood. However, a wholesale/retail dealer may also acquire fish from other licensed wholesale/retail dealers.

A wholesale/retail license holder may sell to another wholesale/retail dealer, a licensed retail dealer or a consumer. A license holder does not need a fresh products license to sell to consumers. The LDWF requires separate licenses for sales from a fixed business location and for sales from a vehicle. Wholesale/retail licenses must be purchased for each location the dealer plans to sell from. Each license costs Louisiana residents \$250 and is valid for one year. If a license is purchased in connection with sales from a vehicle, the wholesale/retail license covers all transportation activities of the license holder. If a wholesale/retail license is purchased in connection with a permanent business location, the license holder will also need to purchase a seafood transport license. A seafood transport license will authorize the delivery of seafood to and for a wholesale dealer. Whether sales occur from a fixed location or a mobile vehicle, wholesale/retail license holders must have their scales inspected by the

Department of Agriculture at least once a year. This is to ensure that the scale is accurate and suitable for commercial use.

If a wholesale/retail dealer plans to sell from a mobile location, they must be in compliance with parish and municipal mobile vendor regulations. Please contact your local government for more information. License holders should also contact the Department of Health and Hospitals about a mobile vendors permit. In addition, dealers who are cleaning, shucking, picking, peeling or packing will need to contact the Department of Health and Hospitals for more information regarding a permit to operate. The condition of the seafood sold to consumers will also have to be reported on trip tickets submitted to the LDWF.

Wholesale/retail license holders must keep two kinds of records: records of their purchases and sales and reports required by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. These records must be kept for three years and include information about the type of seafood acquired, the date it was acquired, the name and license number of the commercial fisherman or wholesale/retail dealer from whom the seafood was acquired and the name and/or license number of the person to whom the seafood was sold. Wholesale/retail dealers must also submit monthly reports to the LDWF.

It is important to comply with state, parish, and municipal regulations. Please contact each local government for details regarding processing, sales tax, and additional license requirements.

GulfSource.org, Single Source Website for Seafood, Water and Sediment Safety Test Results

Louisiana officials announced today the launch of GulfSource.org, a site that makes public all of the seafood, water and sediment safety testing information conducted since the 2010 BP Oil Spill under the Louisiana Seafood Safety Plan. The site, which allows users to scroll through all available samples or conduct specific searches by area, date or sample type, utilizes information from the Louisiana departments of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Health and Hospitals (LDHH), Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF).

“Though we’ve been testing seafood, water and sediment since April 30, 2010, in response to the BP oil spill, the information has been difficult to widely distribute to the public until the launch of GulfSource.org,” said LDWF secretary Robert Barham. “We hope the public will utilize GulfSource.org to find out what the safety test results in seafood from areas they fish or from waters they consume reveal. What is truly encouraging is that, to date, not a single sample has failed our safety tests. We now have the tool to share those results with the general public. Rebuilding our seafood brand starts with rebuilding consumer confidence in our product. We hope GulfSource.org helps us accomplish that task.”

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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Louisiana officials reached an agreement with BP to test seafood, sediment and water from across the Louisiana coast for traces of toxins called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and for dispersants called Dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DOSS). The agreement funds the testing program, called the Louisiana Seafood Safety Plan, up to \$18 million for a total of three years (\$6 million per year).

To date, none of the samples tested have shown levels of PAHs or dispersants near the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-established "level of concern." In fact, of the samples that showed any minute traces of PAHs, none were above background levels (the levels found in seafood before the oil spill). Test results for dispersants are also available on GulfSource.org.

Seventy-Eight Fish Tagged at Speckled Trout Tournament

Despite what Mother Nature had planned, the inaugural Louisiana Saltwater Series Fall Trout Tournament on Lake Pontchartrain was a huge success. Although high winds and the threat of bad weather kept overall turnout numbers lower than average, a remarkable 78 fish were tagged and released back into the wild.

The tournament, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, allows teams to bring extra fish to the weigh-in, thus increasing the total number of tagged fish. Since its inception in 2004, over 38,000 speckled trout have been tagged through Louisiana's Cooperative Marine Sport Fish Tagging Program. The program has been a cooperative project of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Coastal Conservation Association for seven years. However, tagging data on the species dates back to 1989.

Taking home the tournament's top prize were Kris Robert and Benny Sanchez, with a two fish total weight of 5.64 pounds.

The Louisiana Saltwater Series will take the winter off before gearing up again in April of next year. The 2012 tournament schedule will be published later this year at www.lasaltwaterseries.com.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Greater Amberjack Commercial Season

The 2011 Greater Amberjack commercial season closed Oct. 19 at 11:59 p.m. in all Louisiana waters. The season will remain closed until Jan. 1, 2012, at 12:01 a.m.

The 2011 season was previously reopened on Sept. 1, based on projections that the 2011 quota had not been met.

Greater amberjack are found throughout the Gulf of Mexico as well as in the temperate and tropical Atlantic Ocean. Greater amberjack usually live in nearshore waters out to 300 feet deep. This species is found throughout the Gulf of Mexico, and is often found near offshore platforms, wrecks and artificial reefs. Greater amberjack can reach sizes of three feet in length and weights of 170 pounds. Louisiana commercial landings of greater amberjack average 100,000 pounds annually.

Oyster Season Closures in Hackberry Bay, Lake Chien and Lake Felicity Public Seed Grounds

Oyster harvest season in the public seed grounds of Hackberry Bay, Lake Chien and Lake Felicity closed Friday, Nov. 4, at one-half hour past sunset.

Historically, Hackberry Bay, Lake Chien and Lake Felicity all yield a smaller oyster crop. Based on current harvest pressures and the estimated stock sizes, these areas can sustain only a few days of harvest. As a result these closures were made to protect the long-term sustainability of the resource.

All other details, rules and regulations of the 2011/2012 oyster season as established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in September remain in effect until further notice.

Visit here for the latest on the 2011/2012 oyster season: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/oyster-seasons>

\$6,500 in Rewards to Tipsters

Louisiana Operation Game Thief Inc. (LOGT), a Louisiana wildlife crime-stoppers program, awarded \$6,500 to diligent citizens statewide at their quarterly meeting on Oct. 5 in Mansura.

The group approved and dispensed cash reward amounts for tipsters who reported wildlife violations that led to 26 subjects being apprehended in wildlife cases. There were a total of 14 cases presented and 50 offenses associated with those cases.

Louisiana Department Wildlife Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement LOGT Coordinator Sgt. Will Roberts provided LOGT members with information on each case and a recommendation for reward amounts.

“We depend on Operation Game Thief and these public tips to help break a lot of cases that might have otherwise gone unsolved,” Roberts said. “Perfect examples of the public helping us get convictions are in the recent black bear and bald eagle cases. The public contributed information that led to guilty pleas in both instances.”

LOGT awarded the two black bear tipsters a total of \$800 and the bald eagle informant the maximum reward of \$1,000. Cory Ronsonet, 39, of New Iberia pleaded guilty for illegally taking a Louisiana black bear in federal court on Aug. 17. Jeffrey Miles, 22, of West Monroe, pleaded guilty for violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in federal court on Sept. 19 for shooting a bald eagle.

Anyone wishing to report wildlife or fisheries violations should anonymously call LDWF’s 24-hour toll free Operation Game Thief hotline at (800) 442-2511 or utilize LDWF’s new tip411 program. To use the tip411 program, citizens can anonymously text LADWF and their tip to 847411 or download the “LADWF Tips” iPhone app from the Apple iTunes store free of charge. CitizenObserver, the tip411 provider, uses technology that removes all identifying information before LDWF receives the text so that LDWF cannot identify the sender.

LOGT was instituted in 1984 and provides cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of violators of fish and wildlife regulations. Funds are raised through private donations, court directed contributions and through contributions from cooperative endeavor agreements with organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation and Quality Deer Management Association.

To make a donation to the LOGT that can be used for cash rewards, please contact Sgt. Will Roberts at wroberts@wlf.la.gov.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

Commercial Fishing for Greater Amberjack

The commercial harvest of greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico is closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) Oct. 20, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2011. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2010 commercial quota of 342,435 pounds of greater amberjack will be reached by this date. During the closure period, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial Gulf of Mexico reef fish permit has been issued may fish for or retain greater amberjack in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, this closure applies in state waters for persons aboard a vessel for which a federal reef fish permit has been issued.

Closure of the commercial greater amberjack harvest in the Gulf of Mexico complies with regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and is necessary to protect the Gulf reef fish resource. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined this action is necessary to prevent overfishing and to keep the commercial sector from exceeding the quota during the 2011 fishing year. The operator of a vessel with a valid commercial reef fish permit having greater amberjack aboard must have landed and bartered, traded or sold such greater amberjack prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, Oct. 20, 2011. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of greater amberjack that were harvested, landed ashore and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, Oct. 20, 2011, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. The commercial harvest will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., Jan. 1, 2012.

Commercial Quota for Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper

Small Entity Compliance Guide: NOAA Fisheries Service announces a final rule that increases the red grouper bag limit from two to four fish in the four-fish grouper aggregate bag limit. The rule also increases the commercial quota of red grouper. Because red grouper is a part of the shallow-water grouper complex, this also requires an increase in the shallow-water grouper quota. The final rule will be effective Nov. 2, 2011.

Recreational bag limit: The rule increases the red grouper bag limit from two to four fish in the four-fish grouper aggregate bag limit. This will allow the recreational sector the opportunity to harvest its allocation which was increased from 1.36 mp to 1.65 mp for 2011.

Commercial red grouper quota: The rule increases the 2011 red grouper quota from the existing 4.32 million pounds (mp) to 5.23 mp. The rule also sets the red grouper quotas for 2012-2015, which incrementally increase from 5.37 mp in 2012 to 5.72 mp in 2015. Finally, the rule adjusts the 2011-2015 shallow-water grouper quotas to reflect the increases in the red grouper quota. For fishermen holding red grouper individual fishing quota (IFQ) shares, additional allocation for 2011 will be posted to their accounts by the close of business on Nov. 2, 2011. Note the increase in the shallow-water grouper quota only reflects the increase in the red grouper quota and will not result in any additional gag or other shallow-water grouper allocation.

Reminder to red grouper IFQ shareholders: Additional red grouper allocation will be issued to your shareholder account, not your vessel account. To harvest your additional 2011 red grouper allocation, you must transfer allocation from your shareholder account to your vessel account prior to your landing notification. Directions for transferring allocation to your vessel account can be found in the IFQ Trouble Shooting Guide which can be found at <https://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/ifqgt/main.html#>.

Other information: This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. This bulletin provides only a summary of the information about the rule. Discrepancies between this bulletin and the rule as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Commercial King Mackerel Fishing

Commercial king mackerel fishing closed Oct. 7, 2011, for commercial vessels fishing in the northern Florida west coast subzone. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2011/2012 commercial quota of 168,750 pounds of king mackerel from this subzone has been reached. The closure will remain in effect through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2012. The northern Florida west coast subzone is located in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico north of 26°19.8' N lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, Florida, boundary) and east of 87°31.1' W long. (a line directly south from the Alabama/Florida boundary).

Proposed Rule to Implement Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Reef Fish, Red Drum, Shrimp and Coral Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries Service has published a proposed rule that would implement actions developed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in the Generic Annual Catch Limits Amendment. In summary, the proposed rule would: Revise the species in need of federal management. Set annual catch limits (highest level of landing that is acceptable to maintain adequate stock size) and annual catch targets (acceptable levels of landings that provide a buffer, if needed, for management uncertainty). Modify procedures that would allow for timelier implementation of management actions. Establish accountability measures, which adjust catches in-season or in future years to maintain harvests at or less than the annual catch limits.

The Generic Annual Catch Limits Amendment is a very large and comprehensive document, and the actions being proposed cannot be adequately explained in this brief bulletin. The reader is urged to obtain an electronic copy of the Generic Annual Catch Limits Amendment and its associated proposed rule for a more detailed review.

In summary, the proposed rule addresses the following issues: A determination of which stocks are in need of annual catch limits and which stocks may not need federal management; which stocks can be delegated to other management agencies; and which stocks can be grouped to form species complexes for more effective management. Based on the standardized procedures outlined in the amendment, the rule would set annual catch limits and optionally annual catch targets for royal red shrimp, red drum, corals and a variety of reef fish species or species complexes. The rule would establish a flexible procedure by which to implement future management changes in a timely fashion for these

managed species. Establishment of accountability measures for both in-season and post-season actions. In-season actions would close a fishery during the year if the annual catch limit is projected to be met. Post-season actions would adjust management the following year, if the annual catch limit is exceeded during a year.

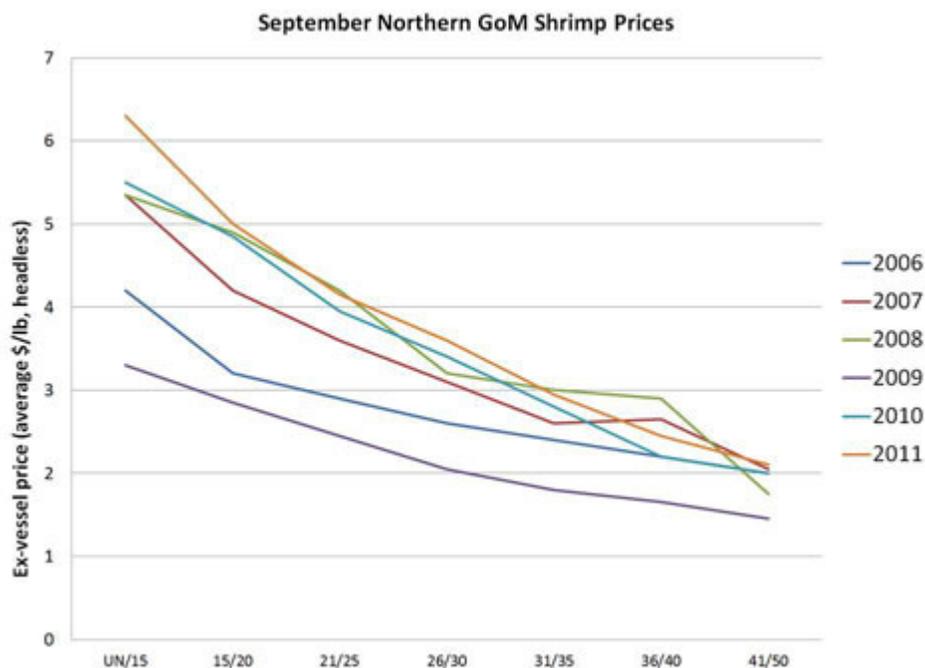
Approval of the Generic Annual Catch Limits Amendment would establish some non-regulatory actions as well. It would establish standardized procedures by which to set allowable biological catches and annual catch limits; it would allocate the harvest of three stocks between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils; and would allocate black grouper between the recreational and commercial sectors in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dates: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern Time, on Nov. 18, 2011. Addresses: You may submit comments on the amendment identified by NOAA-NMFS-2011-0143

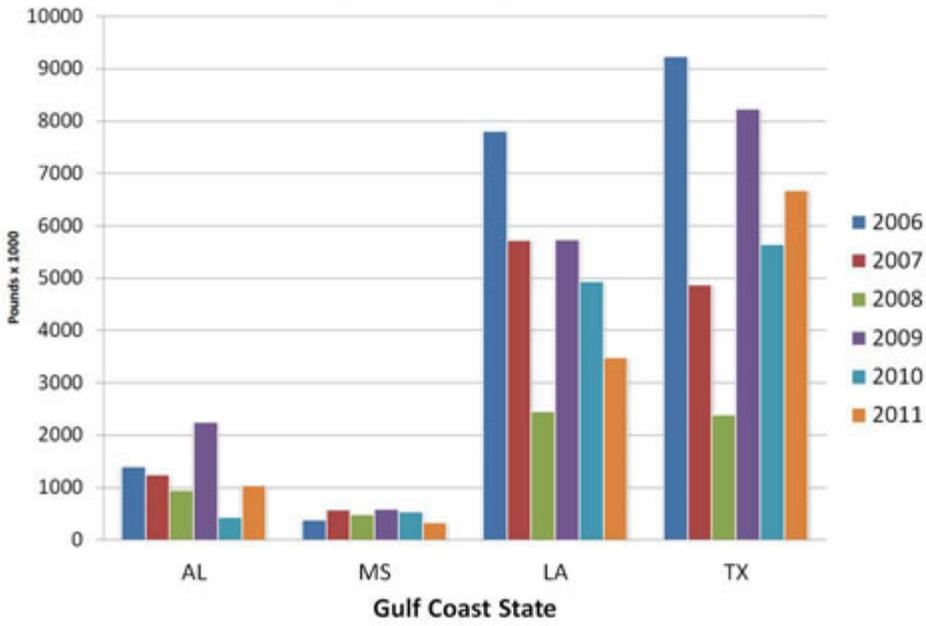
For further information contact: Steve Branstetter, telephone: (727) 824-5305, or e-mail: steve.branstetter@noaa.gov.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

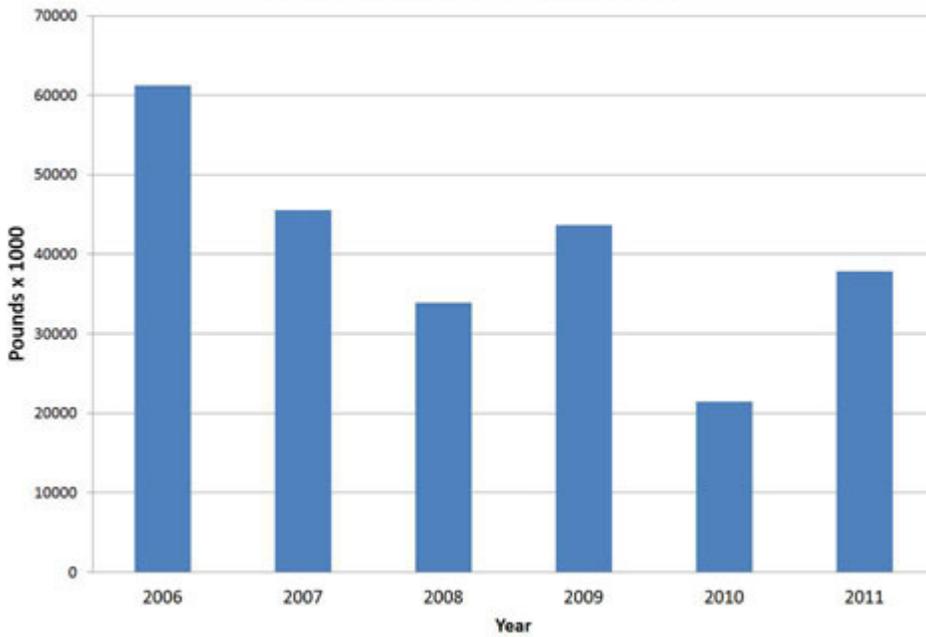
Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on their website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports 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.

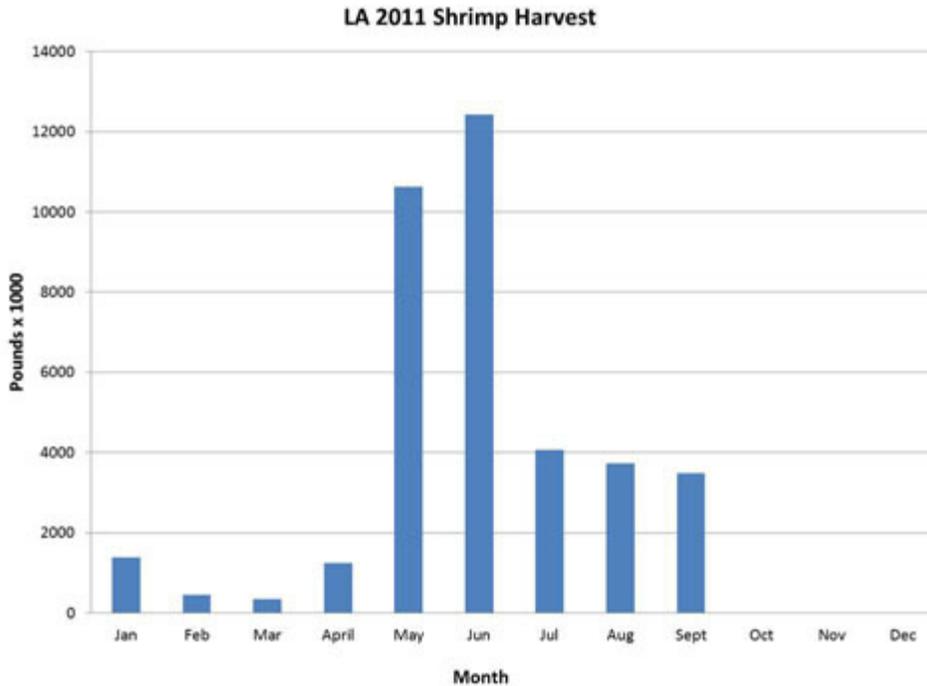


September Shrimp Harvest



LA Year To Date 2011 Shrimp Harvest





Fish Gear Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that eight claims in the amount of \$34,833.75 were received for payment during the period Sept. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2011. There were six claims paid and two denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

21 18.925	90 34.381	TERREBONNE
29 08.450	90 56.280	TERREBONNE
29 10.095	90 04.883	JEFFERSON
29 15.970	89 56.830	JEFFERSON
29 22.581	89 45.730	PLAQUEMINES
29 36.331	89 39.400	PLAQUEMINES
29 40.354	89 39.735	PLAQUEMINES
29 50.039	93 20.996	CAMERON

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)342-9388.

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 for inclusion in future issues.



For more information, contact your local extension agent:



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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.

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