



Consumers to be Aware of Unapproved USCG PFDs in Marketplace

As Louisiana's busy boating season approaches, many boaters are getting their boats in working order including purchasing the required equipment to keep on board. Part of the required equipment includes choosing the correct personal flotation device (PFD).

Choosing the correct PFD can be the difference between life and death when on the water. There are many different PFD types and styles to choose from and each must be properly fitted to the person wearing the PFD.

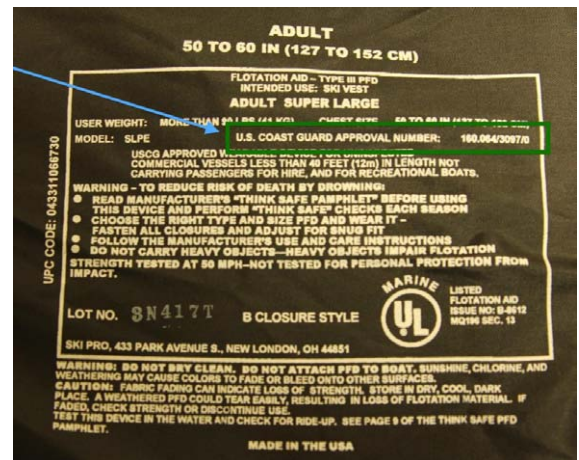
Another factor that must be considered is to ensure that the PFD to be used is U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved. A USCG approved PFD will have an approval number on the label usually on the inside part of the PFD. Any other PFD that is not U.S. Coast Guard approved is considered illegal and unsafe.

"Recently there have been more and more non-approved personal flotation devices showing up in the marketplace and now they are being sold at larger retailers where most customers just assume it is an approved version," said Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne, the state's boating law administrator. "We want people to be aware during the purchase to look for the U.S. Coast Guard approval number on the label."

According to the USCG, all approved PFDs are tested by a sanctioned USCG recognized laboratory. These PFD tests validate a PFD's performance and also make them legal for use.

As one of its many duties, the LDWF Enforcement Division is charged with making the state's waterways safer for the public to enjoy and use. The LDWF Enforcement Division strictly enforces PFD requirements on the water since it has been determined to be one of the largest factors in preventing boating incident fatalities.

In 2012, there were 23 boating incident fatalities in Louisiana of which 15 officially listed drowning as the cause of death.



USCG approved PFD. Photo Courtesy of LDWF

In Louisiana, a vessel must have a USCG approved PFD for each occupant. Also, anyone under 16 years of age must wear a USCG approved PFD if on board a vessel less than 26 feet in length and while underway.

“The unapproved personal flotation devices for sale are attractive purchases because they usually cost less than the USCG approved ones,” said Mayne. “However, those unapproved personal flotation devices would not be considered legal and could potentially put somebody’s life at risk.”

SWIFT ENERGY OPERATING, LLC ADVERTISEMENT REGARDING LAKE WASHINGTON FIELD CM 183 WELLHEAD RELEASE ON FEBRUARY 26, 2013 PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 USC 2714(c)), the Lake Washington Field CM 183 Well in Plaquemines Parish, La., owned/operated and/or leased/permitted by Swift Energy Operating, LLC, has been named as the source of a discharge of crude oil and produced water into the Lake Grande Ecaille on or about Feb. 26, 2013, at 2000 hours. This spill impacted a localized area of the inland coastal waters of the Lake Washington Field (e.g., Lake Grande Ecaille and the East Barataria Bay area) to the South and East of the CM 183 Wellsite, and as the Owner/ Operator and/or Lessee/Permittee of the vessel/facility involved in this incident, Swift Energy is accepting claims for uncompensated removal and damage costs. Swift Energy has calculated, with concurrence from the State of Louisiana and the Unified Command, that the volumes released were estimated to be:

Volume Released from the Wellhead

- Crude Oil 76 barrels
- Produced Water 76 barrels
- Natural Gas 261 MCF

Disposition of Released Fluids

- Produced Water volume impacting water 76 barrels
 - Volume recovered 0 barrels
- Crude Oil evaporation prior to impacting water 9 barrels
- Crude Oil volume impacting water 67 barrels
 - Volume recovered via skimming 42 barrels
 - Volume recovered via absorbents 14.5 barrels
 - Volume lost due to evaporation 9 barrels
 - Volume lost via natural dispersion in water 0.5 barrels
 - Volume impacting marsh grass 1 barrel
- Natural Gas recovered 0 MCF

Removal costs and damages which may be compensated include removal costs; damages to natural resources; damages to or loss of real or personal property; loss of subsistence use of natural resources; loss of government revenues; loss of profits and earnings; and increased cost of public services.

Claims should be in writing, signed by the claimant, for a specified amount; and should include all copies of evidence to document and support the damages. Claims presented may include claims for

interim short-term damages representing less than the full amount to which the claimant ultimately may be entitled. It should be noted that payment of such claim shall not preclude recovery for damages not reflected in the paid or settled partial claims. Claims should be mailed to the following address:

Swift Energy Operating, LLC CM 183 Claim
c/o Phelps Dunbar LLP
400 Convention Street, Suite 1100
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5618

Claimants may also call 225/376-0251 for information. Office hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm CST, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Any claims which are denied or which are not resolved within 90 days after the date of submission to claims representatives may be submitted to the US Coast Guard STOP 7100 (ca), 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 20598-7100 for consideration.

Dredging of Pilottown Anchorage Begins

Dredging has begun at the Pilottown Anchorage Area in the Mississippi River as part of the operations and maintenance responsibilities for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act West Bay Sediment Diversion Project. Approximately two million cubic yards of material is expected to be dredged from the anchorage area by Mike Hooks, Incorporated for a cost of approximately \$12 million. All material dredged from the anchorage area will be used beneficially in the West Bay Sediment Diversion receiving area to aid in the creation of land.

A recent study completed by the Army's Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) shows that the West Bay Sediment Diversion Project contributes approximately 25 percent, plus or minus 15 percent, of the shoaling that occurs within the Pilottown Anchorage Area. As a result, the CWPPRA Task Force voted to fully fund this current dredging cycle under the premise that this cycle will cover all dredging responsibility associated with the operation of the West Bay project for as long as the diversion remains open. This is last dredging cycle to be funded through the CWPPRA program and is expected to wrap-up in August 2013.

For more information on the CWPPRA program, please visit www.LaCoast.gov.

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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RED SNAPPER REGULATIONS

Louisiana Offers Further Clarification on 2013 Red Snapper Season

The Louisiana-only Season

Beginning Saturday, March 23, Louisiana implemented a weekend-only recreational red snapper season that will end on Sept. 30, with a recreational bag limit of three fish per day at a 16-inch minimum.

A weekend is defined as Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of Memorial Day and Labor Day, when Monday will be classified as a weekend day as well.

“One day we will look back on today’s actions and see them as a historic move for Louisiana recreational anglers and for our abundant natural resources,” said LDWF Secretary Robert Barham. “No longer will we sit idly by, as our fates are determined by someone with so little understanding of our fisheries and a refusal to negotiate. Whether their actions are ones of arrogance or fear, we join our Gulf neighbors in Texas and Florida, who implemented similar state-by-state regulations today, in standing up to NOAA and showing them that their strong-arm tactics will not work on us.”

Barham was given the authority to modify the portions of this rule pertaining to red snapper recreational daily harvest limits and season if NOAA instituted sub-regional management for the species or if it is otherwise deemed necessary.

“Louisiana’s recreational fishing community has spoken and we have listened,” said LDWF Assistant Secretary Randy Pausina, head of fisheries for Louisiana. “In this unprecedented move, our department is challenging the recommendations set by NOAA through the National Marine Fisheries Service. Our actions may seem rogue, but I assure you we have not entered into this lightly or without great thought. We plan to conduct our own research, analysis and make our own decisions on what is best for Louisiana anglers and our resource. For years the wishes of our anglers have fallen on deaf ears... that ends now.”

The Louisiana Gulfward Boundary

In June 2012 the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took action to extend Louisiana state waters from three miles offshore to three marine leagues or approximately 10.357 miles.

LDWF officials encourage fishermen to use caution and their own personal judgment when fishing beyond the three-mile boundary that is currently recognized as federal waters, as it is fully expected that federal agents will continue to enforce federal law. Until the time when the U.S. Congress confirms Louisiana’s action, the battle will continue over Louisiana’s state water boundary.

NOAA Fisheries Announces Changes to the Recreational Red Snapper Season in the Gulf of Mexico

On March 25, 2013, a temporary emergency rule will publish in the *Federal Register* that gives NOAA Fisheries the authority to set separate closure dates for the recreational red snapper season in federal waters off individual Gulf of Mexico states. The closure dates will depend on whether state regu-

lations are consistent with federal regulations for the recreational red snapper season length or bag limit. This action was requested by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at their February meeting to provide a fairer and more equitable distribution of recreational red snapper fishing opportunities among anglers in all the Gulf of Mexico states.

The federal recreational season for Gulf of Mexico red snapper begins June 1 each year with a two-fish bag limit. The length of the season is determined by the amount of the quota, the average weight of fish landed, and the estimated catch rates over time. NOAA Fisheries is responsible for ensuring the entire recreational harvest, including harvest in state waters, does not exceed the recreational quota. Therefore, if states establish a longer season or a larger bag limit for state waters than the federal regulations allow in federal waters, the federal season must be adjusted to account for the additional harvest expected in state waters.

If all states were to implement consistent regulations, the 2013 recreational season would be 28 days, assuming the recreational quota is increased to 4.145 million pounds through separate rule-making. However, Texas, Louisiana and Florida have indicated they will implement inconsistent red snapper regulations for their state waters (see above). Therefore, without this emergency rule, the 2013 federal season would be reduced to 22 days to compensate for that additional expected harvest.

This emergency rule allows NOAA Fisheries to calculate the recreational red snapper fishing season separately in the EEZ off each state to account for any inconsistency of regulations in state waters. Based on the expected regulations for Texas, Louisiana and Florida, the preliminary season lengths would be as follows: Texas, 12 days; Louisiana, nine days; Mississippi and Alabama, 28 days; and Florida, 21 days. The method for calculating these dates can be found in a report (SERO-LAPP-2013-02) at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2013_red_snapper_emergency_regs.pdf.

NOAA Fisheries will officially announce the closure dates through a separate Southeast Fishery Bulletin.

All other federal regulations for recreational red snapper are still in effect. In particular, if federal regulations for red snapper are more restrictive than state regulations, a person aboard a vessel for which a federal charter/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued must comply with federal regulations regardless of where the fish are harvested. Relative to this emergency rule, that means if the federal waters off a particular state are closed for recreational red snapper harvest, then vessels with a federal charter/headboat permit may not harvest red snapper in those state waters even if the waters off the vessel's home state are still open.

The emergency rule, a map showing federal waters off each state, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions are on the NOAA Fisheries website: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/2013/rs_er/index.html.

Research on Recreational Harvest of Red Snapper

In an effort to better monitor the recreational catch of red snapper during the “Louisiana-only” season, LDWF biologists will be conducting creel surveys, specific to red snapper, beginning Saturday, March 23. Anglers may also see an increased presence of LDWF biologists at their local boat ramp, conducting dockside interviews.

Department Surveys

These surveys will be separate from the federally sponsored Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) surveys that anglers may have been a part of in the past. These surveys will be short and aimed at better assessing the number of red snapper landed in Louisiana.

In addition to dockside interviews, LDWF will be contacting a random portion of non-charter Louisiana Recreational Offshore Permit holders every Tuesday by phone, following the Friday, Saturday and Sunday red snapper season (on Wednesdays following Monday holidays). LDWF will ask five simple questions of permit holders; 1) Did you fish offshore, which is beyond the beach or rocks, last Friday, Saturday or Sunday? 2) How many of these offshore trips did you take last Friday, Saturday or Sunday? 3) How many of these trips were paid charter trips?. 4) Did you land your fish at a site that is open to the general public? 5) Did you land your fish between 2 p.m. and sunset?

The randomly selected group of non-charter permit holders will be notified by e-mail (from the account RedSnapperSurvey@scpdc.org) each Wednesday before the weekend season as to their selection. Those selected permit holders will have the option to answer all five questions, by reply e-mail, prior to noon on the Tuesday following the weekend season to avoid receiving a phone call. These e-mails will also be sent by the South Central Planning and Development Commission on behalf of LDWF.

Charter captains holding a Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit will also be contacted by LDWF weekly to collect information on the number of trips and the total number of red snapper caught during the Friday, Saturday and Sunday season. Charter captains will have the option to respond electronically prior to a biologist contacting them on the phone.

“As our department moves forward with unprecedented actions, to protect the rights of Louisiana anglers, we hope to have the support of the fishing community as we work diligently to capture more data about our recreational red snapper fishery,” commented LDWF Assistant Secretary Randy Pausina. “This is a critical piece of the puzzle as the state of Louisiana continues to build our case toward regional management.”

Required Permits

LDWF also takes this opportunity to remind anglers of the required free Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit to possess red snapper in Louisiana. This permit was designed to gather more accurate information on recreational and charter anglers that annually fish beyond Louisiana’s territorial waters and to produce more accurate data regarding participation in Louisiana’s offshore recreational fisheries.

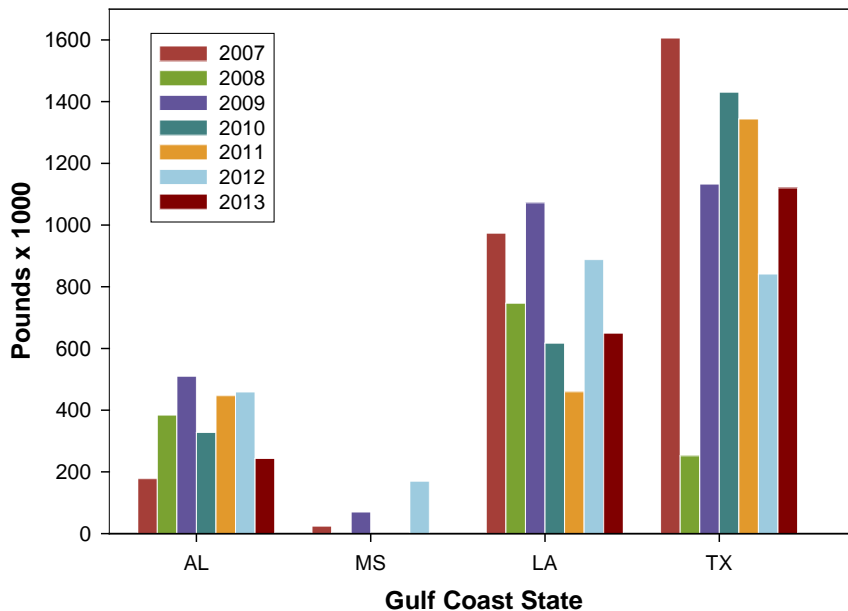
The free Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit may be obtained by visiting www.wlf.la.gov/rolp.

For-hire vessels are also reminded that if federal regulations for Gulf reef fish are more restrictive than state regulations, a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat for which a federal charter/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued must comply with federal regulations regardless of where the fish are harvested. Therefore, during the time federal waters are closed, vessels with a federal charter/headboat permit may not harvest or possess red snapper in state waters.

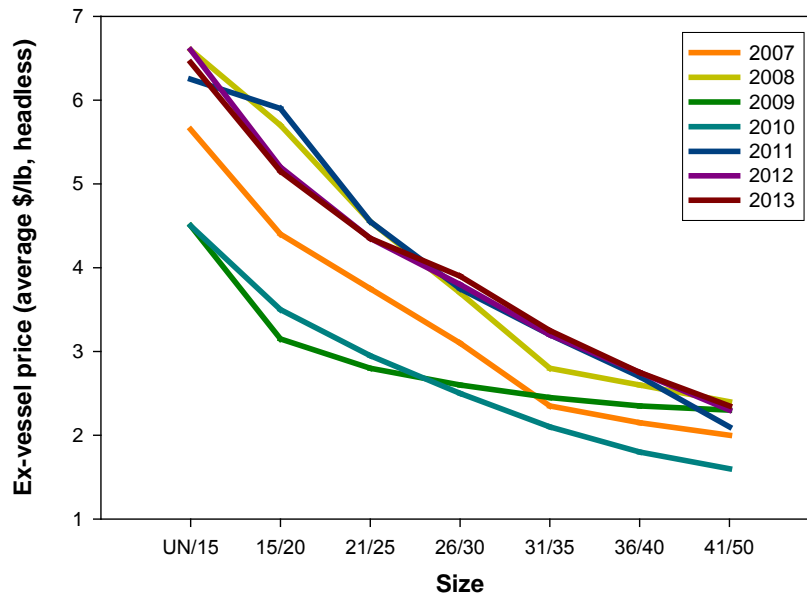
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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.

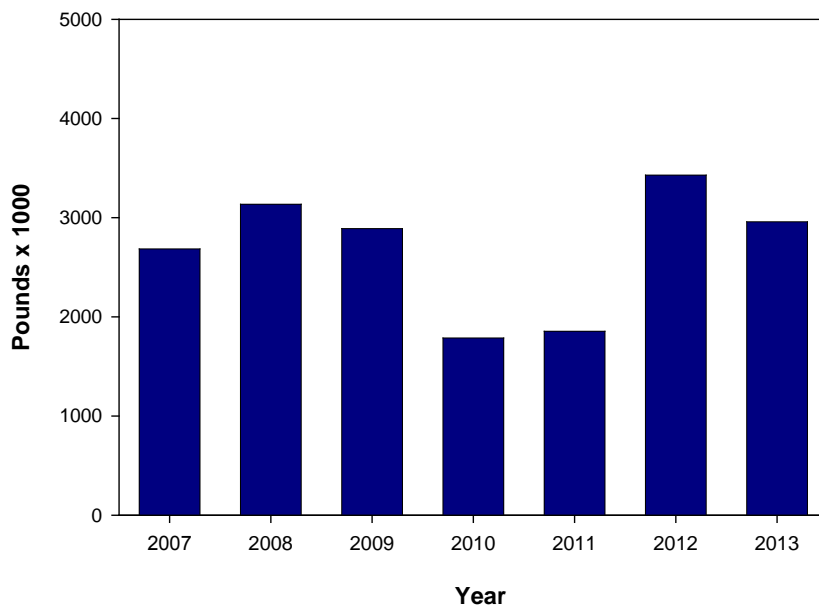
February Shrimp Harvest



February Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest



Fish Gear Coordinates February 2013

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 24 claims in the amount of \$95,041.37 were received for payment during the period Feb. 1, 2013 – Feb. 28, 2013.

There were 24 paid and 0 denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 00.005	89 24.281	PLAQUEMINES
29 04.912	89 05.450	PLAQUEMINES
29 07.207	90 56.108	TERREBONNE
29 12.151	90 32.254	TERREBONNE
29 12.502	90 29.950	TERREBONNE
29 14.397	90 17.402	LAFOURCHE
29 17.746	89 54.169	PLAQUEMINES
29 21.507	89 56.706	JEFFERSON
29 22.130	89 36.003	PLAQUEMINES
29 25.901	90 33.585	TERREBONNE
29 29.854	92 20.701	VERMILION
29 29.949	92 00.544	IBERIA
29 34.012	89 39.402	PLAQUEMINES
29 41.350	89 32.845	SAINT BERNARD
29 43.682	89 29.526	SAINT BERNARD
29 45.423	93 16.686	CAMERON
29 45.569	89 47.506	PLAQUEMINES
29 45.818	93 16.786	CAMERON
29 46.531	89 47.018	SAINT BERNARD
29 48.195	89 38.252	SAINT BERNARD
29 50.481	89 41.413	SAINT BERNARD
29 53.077	93 21.169	CAMERON
30 09.381	89 54.461	ORLEANS

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 -Baked Oysters Radosta

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture* and Andrea's Restaurant and Catering. For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup pure olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped white onion
- 1/4 cup minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion
- 3 cups freshly shucked oysters, water reserved
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup unseasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup grated Romano cheese
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Grated Parmesan cheese
- Fresh Italian parsley for garnish



Courtesy of Louisiana Kitchen and Culture

Method:

Heat the pure olive oil in a large pan and sauté the onion and garlic until caramelized. Then stir in the celery and green onion, sautéing until tender. Add the shucked oysters and wine bringing mixture to a boil. Season with salt, crushed red pepper and Worcestershire sauce. Remove from heat and stir in the breadcrumbs and Romano, along with enough oyster water to keep the dressing moist.

Lightly coat a baking dish with extra-virgin olive oil, then fill with the oyster mixture and smooth the top with a spoon. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake in a preheated 450-degree oven until golden brown, 12-14 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes, then spoon onto appetizer plates. (Or, you can bake this dressing in individual ramekins.) Garnish with fresh Italian parsley. Serves 4.

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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