

# Lagniappe

July 2013 Volume 37, No. 7

## Keeping Bait Alive

In late summer, when water temperatures are hot and fish become a little less active, many coastal anglers rely on using live bait. A basic understanding of live bait handling could mean the difference in a successful fishing trip. The first consideration is water quality. A number of water quality requirements should be considered. These are oxygen, temperature and salinity.

Many bay boats manufactured recently have built in bait wells with flow through pumps. These work well if not overloaded with bait. For fishermen who do not have a built-in bait well or even a boat, the most popular method of ensuring adequate oxygen is to use a 12-volt aerator that sits inside of a well or bucket. Another method is to an external pump with an air stone that blows diffused air. This set up is recommended because it will not cause heat buildup like a submersible pump.

Temperature and salinity should be considered next. If possible, you should fill your bait well or bucket with the same water the bait was being held in when purchased. If this is not possible, you may acclimate the bait to the water at the site of the fishing location by adding small quantities of water until the desired temperature and salinity are reached. This is especially important if there is a large temperature and salinity difference. Rapid changes in water temperature and salinity, more than 5 degrees and 10 parts per thousand, can cause temperature shock and osmotic stress.

Remember, cooler water holds more oxygen than warm water. Cooling the water with ice will not reduce the salinity too much. Caution should be taken when adding ice to the water, as too much ice will chill your bait too fast and kill it. These steps may seem unnecessary but, if these steps are not taken, your bait will die much sooner.

All finfish have protective mucus — a “slime” coat that protects them from external stress. If this mucus is removed by handling the fish, it can cause the fish to become stressed and die. This can be overcome by using a dip net to remove bait from the live well and wetting your hands before hooking the bait. This also serves as a means of not contaminating the water in which the bait is living. Insect



Baitfish. Photo credit: Julie Anderson

repellant and sunscreen are two sources of contamination for your bait. After time, the concentration of chemicals could build up to levels that will affect the performance of your bait.

Many types of tanks are suitable for holding and maintaining live bait. Homemade tanks can be constructed of plastic or fiberglass. All metals should be avoided when possible. Round tanks are preferred, since bait tends to huddle in the corners of square or rectangular tanks. This is especially true of menhaden (pogies).

**-Kevin A. Savoie**

Source: <http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/resources/factsheets/tipslivebait.htm>

## **Reward Increases to \$15,000 for Shooting Death of Whooping Crane**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officials are still looking for leads regarding a whooping crane that was found shot to death in Red River Parish in April.

The Humane Society of the United States and the The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering \$5,000, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation is offering \$3,800, LDWF's Operation Game Thief Program is offering \$1,000, the USFWS is offering \$1,000, the Whooping Crane Conservation Association is offering \$1,000, John Perilloux is offering \$1,000, anonymous donors are offering \$1,250, the International Crane Foundation, through the restitution money from the South Dakota whooping crane shooting case, is offering \$500, the Audubon Nature Institute is offering \$250, and the Louisiana Ornithological Society is offering \$200. This brings the total in rewards to \$15,000 for anyone who has any information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

LDWF Whooping Crane Biologist Sara Zimorski said, "We have a lot of people and organizations that are very serious about making sure the person that shot this crane is punished for his or her actions. By increasing the reward amount, we are very hopeful that it will also increase the incentive for anybody with information regarding the shooting of this whooping crane to come forward."

If any group or person wants to donate funds to increase the reward amount, contact Zimorski at [szimorski@wlf.la.gov](mailto:szimorski@wlf.la.gov) or 337/536-9400, ext. 4.

To report any information regarding this whooping crane shooting, please call 800/442-2511.

The whooping crane was found and recovered from the bank of the Red River about two miles northwest of Loggy Bayou on April 16. After a necropsy of the crane, it was determined that the bird was shot with a 6.5mm/.264 caliber projectile.

Investigators believe the bird was shot between April 10-14. The whooping crane was a part of LDWF's whooping crane reintroduction program and was fitted with a GPS tracking device. The last tracking point of the crane moving was on April 10 near where she was eventually found dead on April 16. The last tracking point received was on April 14 at the location she was found.

This whooping crane was released in Louisiana on March 14, 2011.

LDWF has released 40 whooping cranes since 2011 and currently have 25 whooping cranes they are

tracking. This is the third whooping crane that has been found shot with the previous two having been shot in Jefferson Davis Parish in October of 2011.

The reintroduced whooping cranes came from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD, and they were placed in the coastal marsh of Vermilion Parish within LDWF's White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA). This reintroduced population marked the first presence of whooping cranes in the wild in Louisiana since 1950.

LDWF is working cooperatively with the USFWS, USGS, and the Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to bring the species back to the state. This non-migratory flock of whooping cranes is designated as a non-essential, experimental population but is still protected under state law, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

### **Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting**

The School of Renewable Natural Resources hosted the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society May 30-31<sup>st</sup>. More than 140 fisheries professionals from Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi attended the meeting themed "Fisheries Professionals: Lifelong Learning" to learn from 21 scientific presentations (11 student presentations), view 16 posters and participate in a Land Ethic workshop. Students competed for awards.

Brett Miller, LSU, won 1<sup>st</sup> place oral presentation and 2<sup>nd</sup> place abstract with "Resource partitioning within the centrarchid assemblage of the Atchafalaya River Basin, Louisiana, based on stomach content and stable isotope analyses." Justin Leonhardt, LSU, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place presentation for "An industry in decline: Finding the optimal oyster stock and ideal salinity conditions for intensifying commercial production of eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Louisiana," and A. Nikki Anderson, LSU, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place oral presentation with "Alternative bait for the Louisiana commercial blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) fishery."

For posters, Josh Patterson, LSU, won 1<sup>st</sup> place for "Variation in reproductive and larval physiology of Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*) fed diets deficient in essential n-3 fatty acids or supplemented with fish oil." Paige O'Malley, LSU, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in poster and 3<sup>rd</sup> place abstract for "A transitional feeding regime of live and artificial feeds for larval Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*)," and Sierra Riccobono, UNO, received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for "Effects of salinity on growth and behavior of invasive Rio Grande Cichlids (*Herichthys cynoguttatus*) in Louisiana."

Calvin Fisher, LSU, won 1<sup>st</sup> place abstract for "Manipulation of the divalent ions Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> and their role in biochemical and molecular homeostasis in larval Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*)."

## **Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter**

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## LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

### State Weekend-Only Red Snapper Season

The federal red snapper season ended Friday, June 28, at midnight, the Louisiana weekend-only recreational red snapper season resumed on June 29.

The bag and possession limit for the state season is three fish per person at a 16-inch minimum total length. A weekend is defined as a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of Labor Day when Monday will be considered a weekend as well.

LDWF reminds anglers of the free, required offshore landing permit. The permit is required for all anglers, including anglers not normally required to possess a recreational fishing license, possessing tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers and snappers (except gray snapper) and hinds.

As Louisiana continues to make the case for regional management and the extension of Louisiana's red snapper season, it is more important now than ever that anglers provide LDWF biologists with this critical data that will only strengthen the state's case.

The permit is available at no cost to the public. <http://rolp.wlf.la.gov/Permit/Apply>

### Greater Amberjack Commercial Season to Close

The 2013 commercial fishing season for greater amberjack closed on Monday, July 1, at 12:01 a.m.

Following a review of current landings, data indicates the 2013 Gulf of Mexico quota of 338,158 pounds will be harvested by that date. Louisiana commercial landings of greater amberjack average 100,000 pounds annually.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that federal waters will also remain closed to commercial amberjack fishing for the remainder of 2013.

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 often found near offshore platforms, wrecks and artificial reefs. Greater amberjack can reach sizes of three feet in length and weights of 170 pounds in the Gulf of Mexico.

## GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

### Gulf Council to meet in New Orleans

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meet Wednesday, July 17, 2013, from 7:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hilton Riverside Hotel, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans.

The purpose of the meeting is to establish the 2013 red snapper quotas and supplemental recreational red snapper season. The council will also hear public testimony on these issues. Anyone wishing to speak before the council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

## Shrimp Season to Close in Majority of the Terrebonne Basin

The 2013 spring inshore shrimp season will close at 6 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, in the Terrebonne Basin except for portions of lower Timbalier Bay, Terrebonne Bay, Lake Pelto and Pelican Lake that border the Gulf.

Specifically, the inside waters within the Terrebonne Basin that will remain open to shrimping are bounded by the following coordinates: south of 29 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 18 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 90 degrees 34 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and south of 29 degrees 07 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 34 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 90 degrees 50 minutes 30 seconds west longitude

Data collected in recent weeks by LDWF biologists indicate increased quantity, distribution and percentage of small, juvenile white shrimp within these waters. The decision to close this area was made in an effort to protect these developing shrimp and provide opportunity for growth to larger and more marketable sizes.

LDWF is extending the shrimp season in these lower coastal bays and lakes to provide shrimpers with added opportunities to harvest emigrating brown shrimp while limiting adverse impacts to developing white shrimp populations. However, if compliance among shrimpers with respect to these boundaries becomes a problem, LDWF will immediately close these waters to shrimping.



## Gag Recreational Season and Modification to the Recreational Shallow-Water Grouper Closure

### Gag Recreational Season

The recreational gag season opens on July 1, 2013, and the rule closes the season on Dec. 3, 2013, when the annual catch target of 1.287 million pounds is projected to be caught. However, if at any time landings are projected to exceed the 2013 annual catch limit of 1.495 million pounds during the federal season, gag accountability measures would close fishing for gag. The Dec. 3, 2013, closure date does factor in the effect of incompatible state regulations by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that open state waters off four counties from April 1 through June 30.

### Recreational Shallow-Water Grouper Closure

The rule restricts the geographical extent of the fixed Feb. 1 through March 31 shallow-water grouper closed season to apply only to waters seaward of the 20-fathom boundary. This allows grouper fishing to occur year-round while providing some protection to species that spawn during February and March.

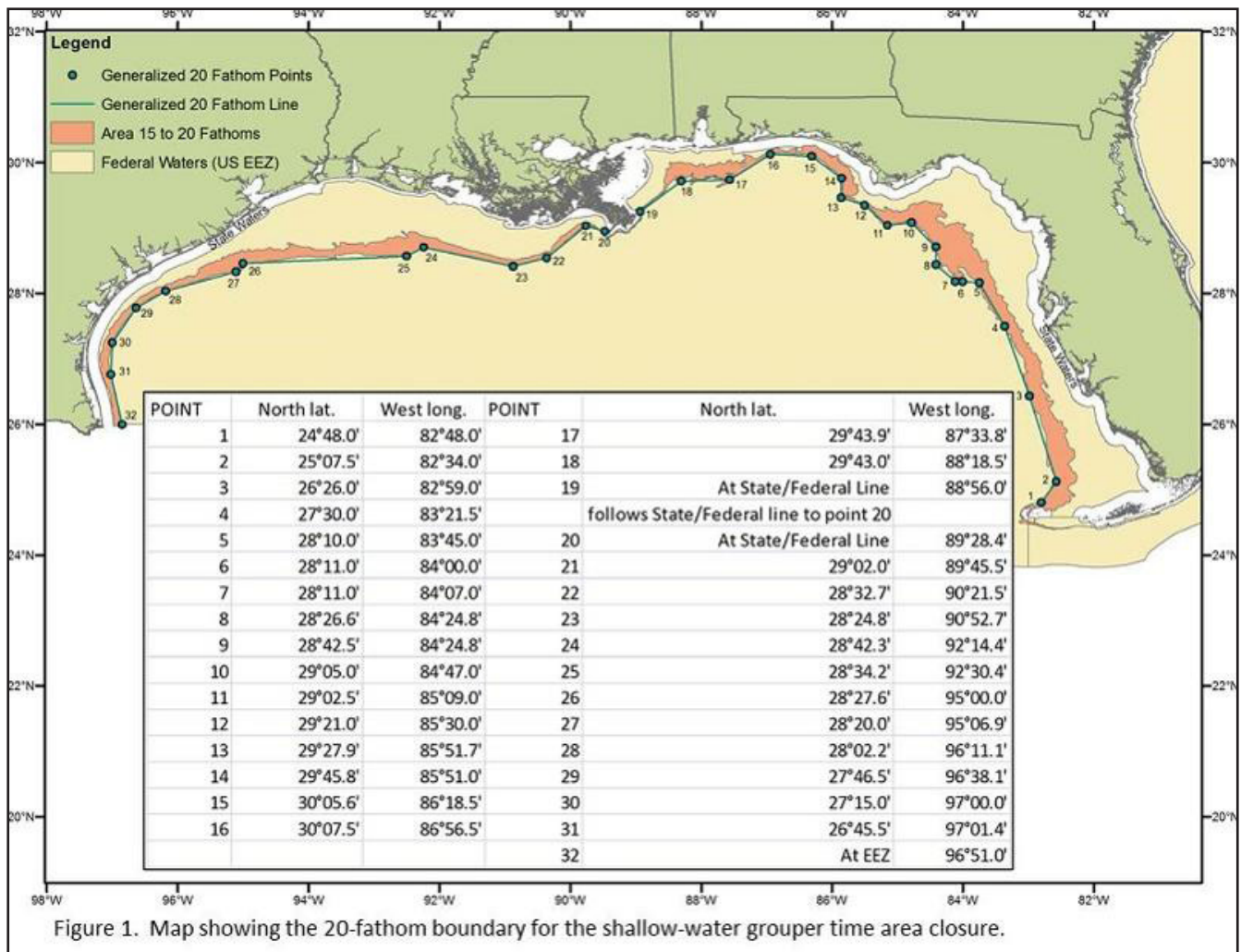


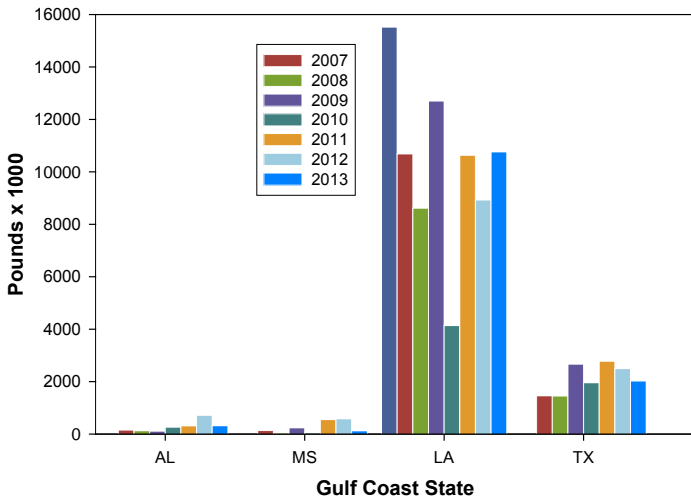
Figure 1. Map showing the 20-fathom boundary for the shallow-water grouper time area closure.

Map courtesy of NOAA

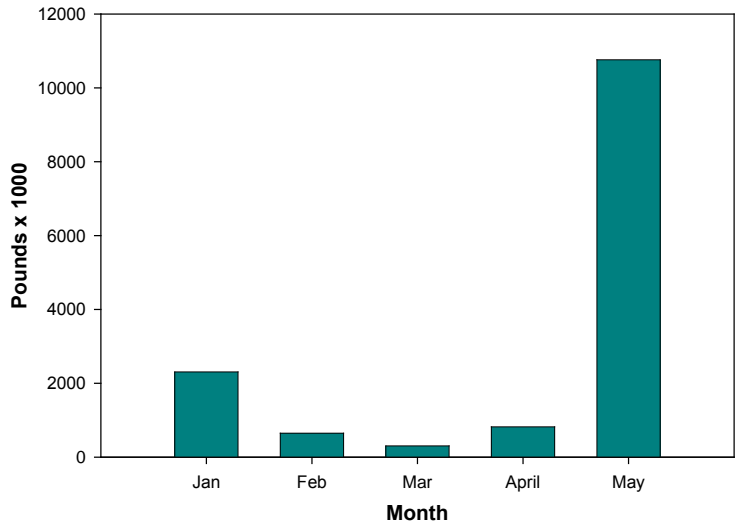
## Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on its 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).

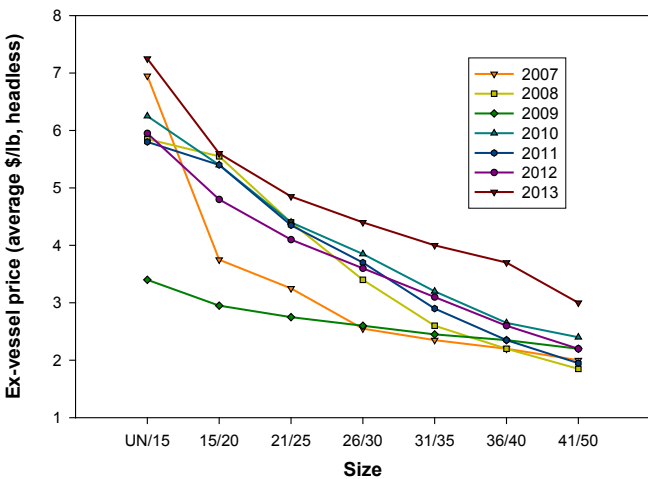
May Shrimp Harvest



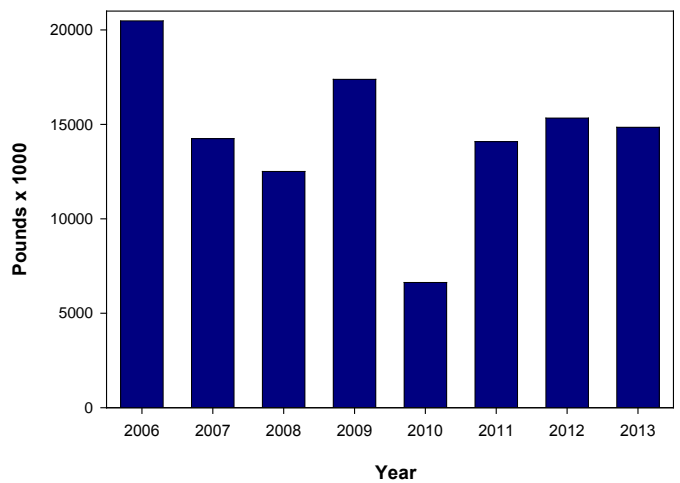
Louisiana 2013 Shrimp Harvest



May 2013 Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest January-May



## Fish Gear Coordinates- June

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that eight claims in the amount of \$28,466.29 were received for payment during the period May 1, 2013 - May 31, 2013. There were 8 paid and 0 denied.

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

29 19.724	89 31.653	PLAQUEMINES
29 29.140	89 24.461	PLAQUEMINES
29 30.937	89 27.953	PLAQUEMINES
29 42.209	93 03.623	CAMERON
29 44.433	93 20.430	CAMERON
29 46.387	90 13.505	SAINT CHARLES
29 47.723	89 48.483	PLAQUEMINES
29 49.651	89 31.231	SAINT 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 225/342-9388.

Additionally, information on the Fishermen's Gear Website has been updated: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=100&pnid=192&nid=200>. The new information includes monthly coordinates and a GIS layer of fish gear hang points that will be downloadable as a Shapefile and as a .KML file, useable in Google Earth. The fish gear hang points are already viewable through the DNR SONRIS Interactive GIS system online: <http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/gis/agsweb/IE/JSViewer/index.html?TemplateID=181>. Under Table of Contents (top right of the page), click on the 'Reference Layers' pull down menu. Click on "Fisherman's Gear Hang Points" to turn the layer on and to get specific information about any particular site.

### The Gumbo Pot Abita Poached Vermillion Bay Sweet Shrimp Over Mixed greens

3 lb. Vermillion Bay Sweet Shrimp  
1 bottle Amber Beer  
6-8 Small Tomatoes, Quartered  
8 oz. Carrots, Shredded  
1 lb. Spring Mix

Vinaigrette  
12 oz. Olive Oil  
3 oz. Cane Vinegar  
2 tbsp. Dried Oregano  
2 tbsp. Dried Thyme  
2 tbsp. Dried Basil



1 tbsp. Black Pepper  
2 tbsp. Steen's Syrup  
1 tbsp. Garlic, Minced

For the vinaigrette, combine all ingredients together except the olive oil in a medium bowl. Using a whisk, stir the ingredients while drizzling in the olive oil to make an emulsion. Keep aside for later use. In a small pot pour in the Abita Amber and bring to a simmer. Once it reaches a simmer toss in the peeled and deveined shrimp. Slowly poaching the shrimp until they are fully cooked, it takes about 6-8 minutes. Remove and place in a bowl of ice water, this stops the shrimp from over cooking. To put the salad together, mix in the vinaigrette with the mixed greens and place on a small plate. Place a few shrimp on the salad and garnish with the carrot and tomatoes. Serves 6-8  
Recipe developed by: Chef Colt Patin, CEC, FMP Chef Instructor Louisiana Culinary Institute

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:**



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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](mailto:janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu).**

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