

2014 Crab Trap Removal Program

A Notice of Intent to continue the abandoned crab trap removal program was approved for 2014. A winter crab trap closure and clean-up is planned for a portion of Terrebonne parish from Feb. 15-24, 2014.

Since 2004, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, together with individual volunteers and organizations, has successfully removed and disposed of more than 23,200 abandoned and derelict crabs. The removal of these crab traps is especially important to boating safety and crab harvesting efforts. Last year, LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant staff, volunteer organizations and individual volunteers, including members of the Coastal Conservation

Association and Louisiana Crab Task Force as well as volunteer students and faculty from LSU and Purdue University, NOAA Fisheries Service, and commercial crab and shrimp fishermen, contributed to the removal of nearly 1,000 crab traps from coastal waters.

LDWF will again partner with Louisiana Sea Grant for the 2014 crab trap removal efforts. As the 2014 removal weekends approach, Louisiana Sea Grant will help organize volunteers, provide educational outreach on marine debris, as well as establish a recycling effort for crab traps. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps/. The volunteer rodeo days will be Feb 15 and Feb. 22.

Terrebonne Crab Trap Removal

The use of crab traps will be prohibited in the following areas beginning at 6 a.m., Feb. 15 through 6 a.m., Feb. 24, 2014:

From a point originating at the intersection of the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and the southern shoreline of Falgout Canal; thence westward along the southern shoreline of Falgout Canal to Lake Decade; thence westward and then southward along the southern and western shoreline of Lake Decade to the mouth of Bayou Decade; thence southwesterly along the southern shoreline of Bayou Decade to Lost Lake; thence westward and then southward along the northern shoreline of Lost Lake to the mouth of Rice Bayou; thence southward along the western



shoreline of Rice Bayou to Blue Hammock Bayou; thence westward along the northern shore of Blue Hammock Bayou to Four League Bay; thence southward along the eastern shoreline of Four League Bay to the mouth of Oyster Bayou; thence southward along the eastern shoreline of Oyster Bayou to a point along the inside-outside shrimp line as defined in R.S. 56:495(A); thence eastward along the inside-outside shrimp line to the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou; thence northward along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou to 29 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds north latitude; thence westward across Bayou Grand Caillou to the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline canal; thence westward along the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline canal to the eastern shore of Bayou Dularge; thence northward along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and terminating at the intersection of the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and the southern shoreline of Falgout Canal.

All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period will be considered abandoned. In the weeks leading up to the closure, LDWF will mail notices to all licensed recreational and commercial crab trap license holders and crab buyers within Terrebonne and adjacent parishes. These proposed trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property. Authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual landowners.

Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone may remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed area. Abandoned traps must be brought to LDWF designated disposal sites and may not be taken from the closed area.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Martin Bourgeois, marine fisheries biologist DCL-B, Marine Fisheries Section, Box 189, Bourg, LA 70343, or via e-mail to: mbourgeois@wlf.la.gov prior to Oct. 11, 2013.

LDWF Officials Withdraw Participation from NOAA's MRIP Survey Program

In the seemingly endless battle over red snapper management, the Louisiana Department Wildlife and Fisheries took the boldest step to-date by withdrawing from the NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), the program currently in place to estimate the recreational harvest of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

With support from the commission, the department will continue to move forward with its own Louisiana Recreational Creel Survey (LA Creel), a more precise data-gathering tool that will provide real-time quota monitoring to ensure the best management decisions are made.

The LA Creel has improved methods for precisely estimating recreational harvests and implementing management measures. In the survey's inaugural year, LDWF biologists measured 23 times more fish and interviewed more than 49 times the vessel trips than the MRIP survey did, already providing a better foundation for sound management of this fishery. With much more intense sampling, LA Creel will have much tighter confidence intervals and provide more reliable, timely data.

MRIP landings estimates are so uncertain that Louisiana's most recent landings (May through June 2013) are somewhere within a range of a half million pounds, between a low of 124,965 pounds and a high of 681,055 pounds. Therefore, there is a major issue in using this data to accurately predict how much will be harvested and appropriately determine catch allocations and fishing seasons to not

exceed limits. For this and other reasons, LDWF will no longer conduct the MRIP survey, as of Jan. 1, 2014.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Commercial King Mackerel

The commercial season for king mackerel in Louisiana waters closed at 12 p.m. (noon), Sept. 20, 2013.

The closure was set based on data gathered by LDWF biologists and the National Marine Fisheries Service, that the annual quota for king mackerel of 1.07 million pounds for the western zone of the Gulf of Mexico would soon be met. The commercial fishing season for king mackerel also closed in federal waters.

Each year, a commercial quota is established for Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel by NMFS based on recommendations by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. That figure is then divided into allocations for various zones and fisheries. According to the best information available, the 1.07 million pound commercial quota of king mackerel for the western zone of the Gulf of Mexico will be harvested by Sept. 20, 2013.

While there are relatively few king mackerel harvested or targeted by Louisiana recreational anglers, a substantial commercial fishery does exist, which typically lands 800 to 900 thousand pounds annually at Louisiana ports. A significant portion of the king mackerel landed in Louisiana ports is shipped to markets in the northeast United States.

State Red Snapper Season

The Louisiana, weekend-only season ended Sunday, Sept. 29. There was no red snapper fishing on Monday, Sept. 30. State and federal waters will be open on Oct. 1, with a two-fish limit and a 16-inch minimum.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

King Mackerel Commercial Fishing

NOAA Fisheries Service closed the Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico to commercial fishing for king mackerel effective 12:00 noon (local time) Sept. 20, 2013. The commercial quota of 1,071,360 pounds for this zone is projected to be reached by this date. The Western Zone is from the U.S./

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Mexico border to the Alabama/Florida boundary. Gulf states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama) are expected to close adjoining state waters at the same time.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. We encourage you to read the full text of the regulations, available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

The allowable catch for red snapper increased from 8.46 million pounds (mp) to 11 mp. The recreational quota will increase from 4.145 mp to 5.39 mp and the commercial quota will increase from 4.315 mp to 5.61 mp. Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will open for red snapper recreational fishing beginning on Oct. 1, 2013, at 12:01 a.m. (one minute after midnight), local time. The season will close on Oct. 15, 2013, at 12:01 a.m., local time.

The increase in commercial quota will be distributed to individual fishing quota shareholders on or shortly after Oct. 1.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in San Antonio, Texas, Aug 26-29, 2013, to discuss a number of fishery issues. Below is a brief summary of some of the actions taken. Visit <http://www.gulfcouncil.org/index.php> for full information.

Regional Management of Red Snapper - Reef Fish Amendment 39

Red snapper would remain a federally managed stock, but regions would have more flexibility in choosing management measures. The council's current preferred alternatives are as follows:

Action 1 - Regional Management Preferred Alternative: Establish a regional management program that delegates authority to a state or states.

Action 2 - Establish regions for regional management Preferred Alternative: Establish five regions representing each Gulf state.

Action 3 - Apportioning the recreational red snapper quota among regions: No preferred.

Action 4 - Regional Management Guidelines Preferred Alternatives: Allow individual regions to set season start and end dates and season structure, recreational bag limits from 0 to 4 red snapper per angler per day, minimum size limits from 14 inches to 18 inches TL, establish closed areas within the EEZ adjacent to their region and establish sub-allocations for the private and for-hire sub-sectors.

Action 5 - For-hire vessel federal permit restrictions Preferred Alternative: Exclude requirement for vessels with federal charter/headboat permits to comply with more restrictive red snapper regulations when fishing in state waters.

Action 6 - Post-Season Accountability Measures Adjusting for Regional Overages Preferred Alternative: If a region exceeds the apportioned regional quota, then NMFS will file a notification with

the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the regional quota in the following year by the amount of the regional quota overage in the prior fishing year. If the total landings from all regions do not exceed the Gulfwide recreational quota in that year, the region's quota would not need to be reduced to account for the region's overage. Option b: Apply overages beginning two years after implementation of the plan.

Action 7 - Default Regulations Preferred Alternative: During the suspension of delegation, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the federal waters off such state would be restricted to the default regulations, and if a state opts out of delegation, the default regulations would apply for recreational harvest of red snapper in the federal waters of the state.

The council added options to the document that consider a sunset provision for regional delegation after five years. Final action on this amendment is expected in October.

Federal Regulatory Compliance

The council will consider rescinding Section 2.13 of Reef Fish Amendment 30B for charter permits. Section 2.13 requires all vessels with federal commercial or charter reef fish permits to comply with the more restrictive of state or federal reef fish regulations when fishing in state waters.

Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ Advisory Panel Formed

The council selected members to serve on the newly formed Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel, which is charged with proposing management measures to improve the performance of the red snapper IFQ program. Congratulations to the following applicants who were appointed to the panel:

Larry Abele	Seth Macinko
Tom Adams	Jerry Rouyea
Billy Archer	Bob Spaeth
Buddy Bradham	Bill Tucker
Jason DeLaCruz	David Walker
Bob Gill	Mike Whitfield
John Graham	Elbert Whorton
Scott Hickman	Tommy Williams
Chris Horton	Troy Williamson
David Krebs	Jim Zurbrick

IFQ Inter-sector Trading

The council reviewed a scoping document that considers the possibility of trading Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) between commercial and recreational fishing sectors and agreed to send the document out for scoping workshops after the October council meeting.

Dealer Reporting

The council took final action on Modifications to the Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements. The amendment proposes to change the current dealer permit and reporting requirements for purchasing species managed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management councils by 1) Establishing one federal dealer permit for Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions; 2) Requiring forms to be submitted electronically on a weekly basis; and 3) Requiring dealers to submit “no purchase forms” for weeks when no purchases are made. The intent is to ensure landings of managed fish are recorded accurately and in a timely manner so Annual Catch Limits are not exceeded. The amendment will be sent to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation.

Amendment 28 - Red Snapper Allocation

The council reviewed an options paper for red snapper allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors to increase the net benefits from red snapper fishing and improve the stability of the red snapper component of the reef fish fishery, particularly for the recreational sector.

Mackerel

A recent stock assessment indicated that the Spanish mackerel stock is not overfished and is not experiencing overfishing. The council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee increased the acceptable biological catch. The council initiated the development of a framework action to consider increasing the annual catch limit for Spanish mackerel to reflect the increases in acceptable biological catch.

The council heard public comment/public hearing summaries for Amendments 19 and 20 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 19 addresses sale and permit provisions for Gulf of Mexico Spanish and king mackerel. Amendment 20 addresses season length, transit provisions, allocation, and framework procedures for coastal migratory pelagics. The council finished selecting preferred alternatives and is expected to take final action during its October 2013 meeting after the South Atlantic Council reviews the documents.

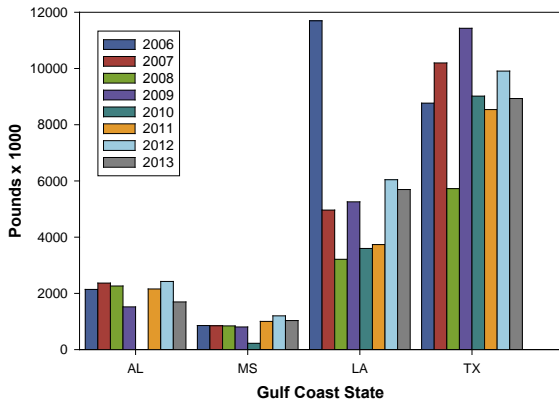
Exempted Fishing Permits

The council recommended that NOAA Fisheries approve an application for an exempted fishing permit that the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation Inc. submitted to the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office. If approved, the exempted fishing permit would allow for the take of approximately 500 sublegal and/or legal fish to conduct research on bycatch reduction devices and electronic logbook data collection in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico.

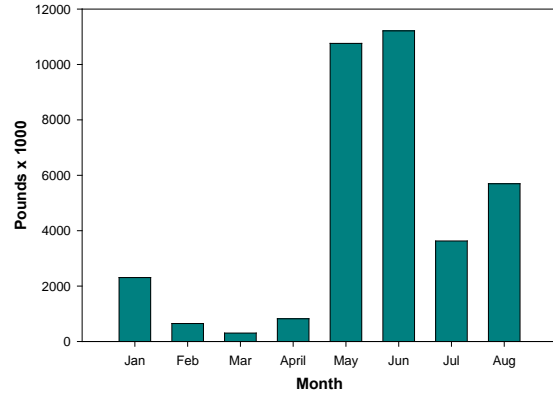
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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.

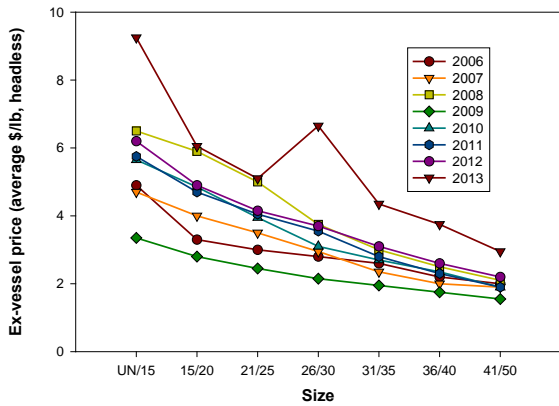
August Shrimp Harvest



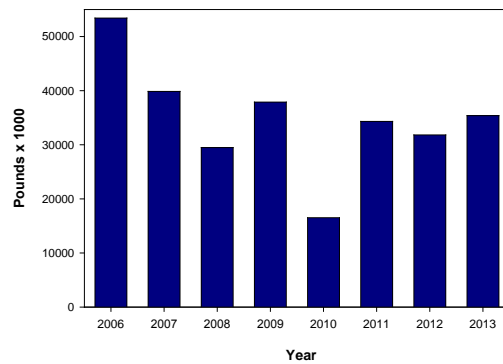
Louisiana 2013 Shrimp Harvest



August 2013 Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest January-August



Fish Gear Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 23 claims in the amount of \$100,779.48 were received for payment during the period Aug. 1-31, 2013. There were 23 paid and 0 denied. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, In Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

28 58.463	89 11.421	PLAQUEMINES
29 07.694	90 55.224	TERREBONNE
29 08.350	90 06.572	JEFFERSON
29 08.881	90 35.313	TERREBONNE
29 10.116	90 05.316	JEFFERSON
29 13.732	89 58.093	JEFFERSON
29 15.989	89 56.377	JEFFERSON
29 16.032	89 56.876	JEFFERSON
29 16.416	89 56.226	JEFFERSON
29 24.770	89 54.470	PLAQUEMINES
29 29.288	89 27.494	PLAQUEMINES
29 31.877	91 41.452	IBERIA

29 33.833	89 52.891	PLAQUEMINES
29 35.216	89 30.552	PLAQUEMINES
29 35.478	89 31.118	PLAQUEMINES
29 35.890	89 33.036	PLAQUEMINES
29 45.331	89 16.199	SAINT BERNARD
29 48.470	90 03.240	JEFFERSON
29 49.778	93 21.530	CAMERON
29 50.095	89 33.794	SAINT BERNARD
29 55.945	89 32.375	SAINT BERNARD
29 56.720	90 35.123	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
30 03.094	89 46.634	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 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>. We will be publishing the monthly coordinates on the website and we will have 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

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture* and *Dam Good Sweets* by Chef David Guas & Raquel Pelzel. For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>

Old-Fashioned Chocolate Pudding

Ingredients:

5 large egg yolks (reserve whites for another use)

1/2 cup sugar

3 tablespoons cornstarch

2 tablespoons cocoa powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 cups milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, finely chopped (preferably 58%-62% cacao)

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Method:

Whisk the egg yolks, sugar, cornstarch, cocoa and salt together in a medium bowl and set aside. Bring the milk to a boil in a medium saucepan. Remove from the heat and whisk a little at a time into the egg mixture being careful not to cook the eggs. Once the bottom of the bowl is warm, slowly whisk in the remaining hot milk. Pour the mixture back into a clean medium saucepan (cleaning the saucepan prevents the pudding from scorching), add the vanilla and whisk over medium-low heat until it thickens, 3 to 4 minutes. Cook while constantly whisking until the pudding is glossy and quite thick, 1 to 2 minutes longer. Transfer the pudding to a clean bowl.

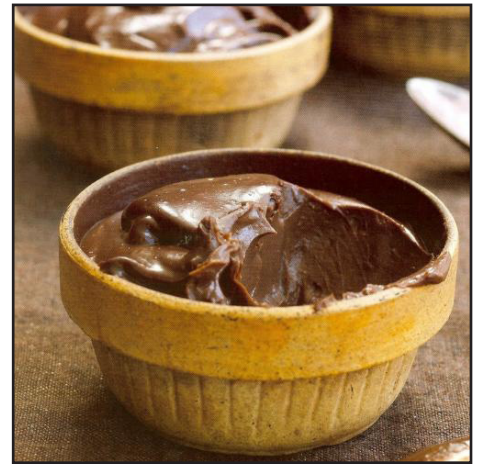


Photo courtesy: Louisiana Kitchen and Culture

Add the chopped chocolate and butter and gently whisk until the chocolate is completely incorporated. Press a piece of plastic wrap onto the surface of the pudding to prevent a skin from forming. Refrigerate for 4 hours.

Before serving, whisk the pudding until it is soft and smooth, about 30 seconds. Divide into custard cups or martini glasses and serve. The pudding will keep in the refrigerator for up to 3 days, with plastic wrap intact.

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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