



## Historic Moment for State's Wild Whooping Crane Population

The foremost crane experts in North America heard encouraging news for Louisiana's experimental whooping crane population when news of eggs produced by a mating pair was announced at the 13th North American Crane Workshop in Lafayette, La.

"I am proud today to announce to you that our small population of whooping cranes is adjusting well to life in the wild and a mating pair has produced eggs in the wild for the first time in over 70 years on the Louisiana landscape," said Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Robert Barham. The state whooping crane reintroduction project began with the release of an initial cohort of juvenile cranes in 2011 at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish.



Whooping crane nest with eggs on the northern end of Louisiana's Cajun prairie. Photo Credit:LDWF

The single nest with eggs, on the northern end of the Cajun prairie, remains under observation by project biologists. Including subsequent cohorts, 50 whooping cranes have been released in Louisiana. Thirty of those birds have survived. Some have been lost to predators, some to naturally occurring health problems and five in total have been confirmed as killed or wounded in shooting incidents.

To learn more about LDWF's whooping crane re-population project, visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes).

## Salvinia Control

Two species of the invasive, aquatic salvinia are found throughout Louisiana.

Common salvinia, *Salvinia minima*, which is native to Central and South America, was first identified in Florida in the 1930s. From there it has spread to every southern state in the U.S. Giant salvinia, *Salvinia molesta*, also native to South America, has spread to almost every temperate and tropical country worldwide. It has become known as the most noxious of all aquatic weeds.

While giant salvinia at maturity is quite a bit larger than its cousin the common salvinia, the two can be distinguished from one another through close observation of the upper leaves. Both species of salvinia have many small spike-like hairs on the upper leaf surface. The giant salvinia's hairs split into four prongs that rejoin at the tips to form a structure that resembles an eggbeater or cage. The four prongs on common salvinia do not rejoin at the tip. The giant's young plant leaves lie flat on the water similar to the common salvinia in size and appearance. However as the giant salvinia grows and matures, the leaves begin to fold upward and inward.

Giant salvinia is much more damaging than its smaller cousin because of its ability to grow into dense mats that can cover entire water bodies with a thick layer of vegetation.

These mats smother native plants by blocking the penetration of sunlight into the water. Other consequences of giant salvinia are reduced production of submerged aquatic plants due to shading, and consequently, reduced dissolved oxygen in shaded waters, causing fish kills. This severely reduces the value of an area as waterfowl habitat. Solid mats of giant salvinia may also reduce or eliminate boating and fishing opportunities simply because boats are not able to push through the thick mats.

Controlling salvinia is difficult and can be quite costly. Common salvinia does not tolerate salinities and dies in a few days at levels at or above 3-4 parts per thousand.

Giant salvinia is more tolerant requiring salinities of 7-10 parts per thousand for a week to begin killing it. In areas where salt water is not an option, such as in fishponds and freshwater marshes, herbicides are an option. Diquat dibromide, commonly sold under the brand name of REWARD is a contact herbicide that is effective at controlling salvinia.

Another option is to use an aquatic labeled formulation of glyphosate, commonly known as the Roundup family of herbicides. It is widely sold under many brand names. When applying these two herbicides it is important to add a surfactant which breaks the surface tension of the herbicide mixture allowing it to coat and stick to the plant long enough to work.

When controlling salvinia in waterfowl hunting areas, time of application should be considered. It is most desirable to control unwanted vegetation without killing desirable waterfowl foods if possible. The ideal time is early in spring before the peak of growing season when infestations are light, water levels allow easy access and it is less costly to spray small areas of growth. Spot spraying throughout the summer to maintain control should follow this.

In ponds with no flow, another herbicide option is to use Sonar or Avast, which requires a long residence time to be effective. It is quite costly, but one application gets control for up to a year.

The long-term plan for control is through the introduction of salvinia weevils throughout each watershed until the population grows large enough to keep the salvinia in check.

- Kevin A. Savoie

## LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

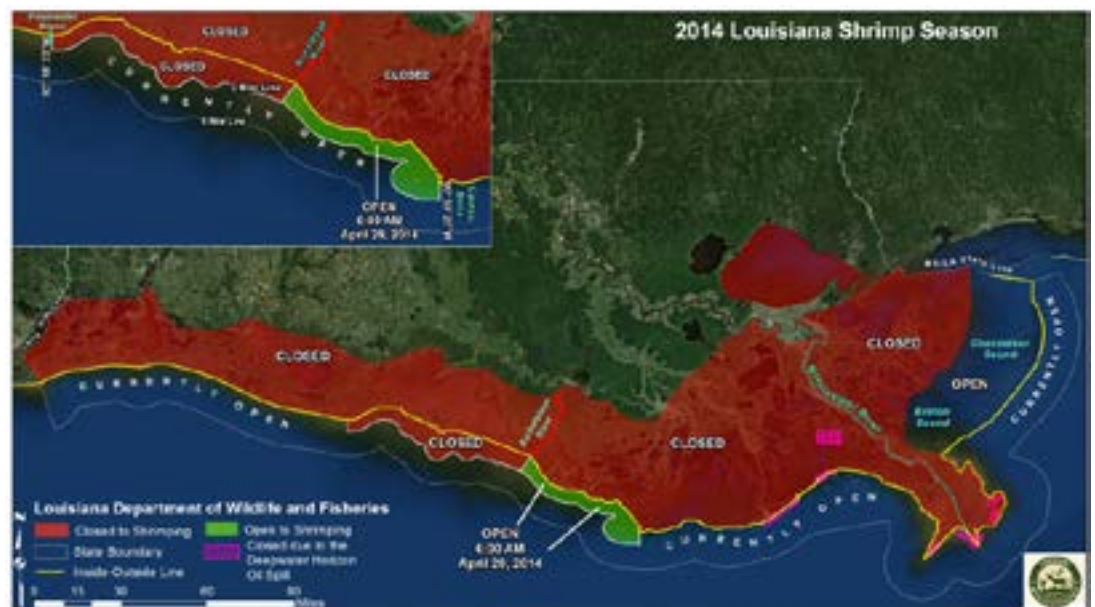
### Shrimp Season In Portion Of Louisiana Offshore Territorial Waters

The shrimp season in the portion of state outside waters extending a distance of three nautical miles, seaward of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, from the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at -90 degrees 50 minutes 27 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the channel red buoy line, reopened to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29. This area lies seaward of Terrebonne parish.

According to the most recent trawl samples taken by LDWF biologists, small white shrimp which previously occupied these waters since December have reached marketable sizes, and the closure is no longer necessary.

Because significant numbers of juvenile white shrimp remain in state outside waters seaward a distance of three nautical

miles westward from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal, these waters will remain closed until further notice. Except for these waters, all remaining state outside waters will be open to shrimping. The opening dates for the 2014 spring inshore shrimp season will be considered by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at the May 1, meeting.



Map credit: LDWF

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## RED SNAPPER REGULATIONS

### *2014 Recreational Red Snapper Season in State Waters*

The Louisiana weekend-only red snapper season will be modified to include weekdays beginning on Monday, April 14, 2014, at 12:01 a.m. until further notice. The bag and possession limit for the state season is two fish per person at a 16-inch minimum total length. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission gave LDWF Secretary Robert Barham the authority to modify red snapper recreational seasons and daily harvest limits in 2013.



Red Snapper. Illustration credit: Diane Rome Peebles

“After reviewing what our biologists expect Louisiana’s recreational red snapper landings to be this year, and the recent action taken by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to have a very short federal season, I have decided to support our anglers and the associated fishing industry by opening state waters 365 days until further notice,” stated Barham.

“The Gulf Council’s action is clear evidence that their process is broken and they give no consideration to the needs of individual states. For two years, I have been trying to persuade the Gulf Council to move forward with regional management, allowing the states flexibility in management by empowering our anglers and fishing industry to decide how they want red snapper managed. That hasn’t happened.”

*The Louisiana Gulfward Boundary:* In June 2012, the commission took action to extend Louisiana state waters from three miles offshore to three marine leagues, or approximately 9 nautical 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 federal agents will most likely continue to enforce federal law. Until the U.S. Congress confirms Louisiana’s action, the battle will continue over Louisiana’s state water boundary.

*Recreational Offshore Landing Permit:* The department reminds anglers that a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit is required in order to possess certain species, including red snapper. Anglers may obtain or renew the permit, free of charge at <http://rolp.wlf.la.gov>. Anglers may renew their permits up to 30 days prior to expiration.

The permit is required for any angler possessing tuna, billfish, swordfish, amberjack, grouper, snapper, hind, wahoo, cobia and dolphin, except those fishing on a paid-for-hire trip where the captain holds a permit.

### **Gulf of Mexico Recreational Red Snapper Fishery**

The Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Council requested an emergency rule resulting in 11-day recreational red snapper season for 2014. After receiving a briefing on a recent court decision in response to a legal challenge on management of the recreational component of the red snapper fishery, the council took actions to prevent the recreational sector from exceeding its quota in 2014 and beyond.

For the short-term, the council asked the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement an emergency rule that establishes a 20 percent buffer on the 5.39 million pound recreational quota. The 20 percent buffer, which provides a low probability that the quota will be exceeded, results in a recreational annual catch target (ACT) of 4.312 million pounds, and an 11-day red snapper recreational season for 2014. The bag limit will remain 2-fish per person.

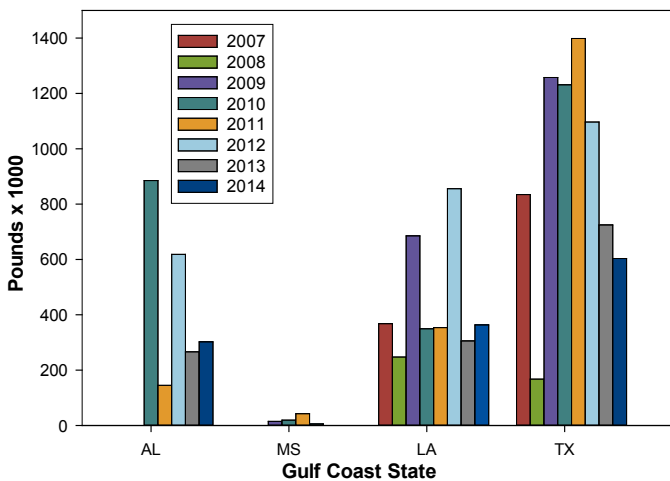
The 11-day season takes into consideration the incompatible state seasons and bag limits adopted by Texas, Louisiana and Florida. The council also voted to withdraw a framework action submitted in February that would rescind the Amendment 30B permit provision, which requires vessels with federal charter vessel/headboat permits to abide by federal regulations if more restrictive when fishing in state waters.

To address the issue long-term, the council has asked staff to include accountability measure alternatives for the recreational allocation, such as buffers and overage adjustments, in the Allocation Amendment (Reef Fish Amendment 28).

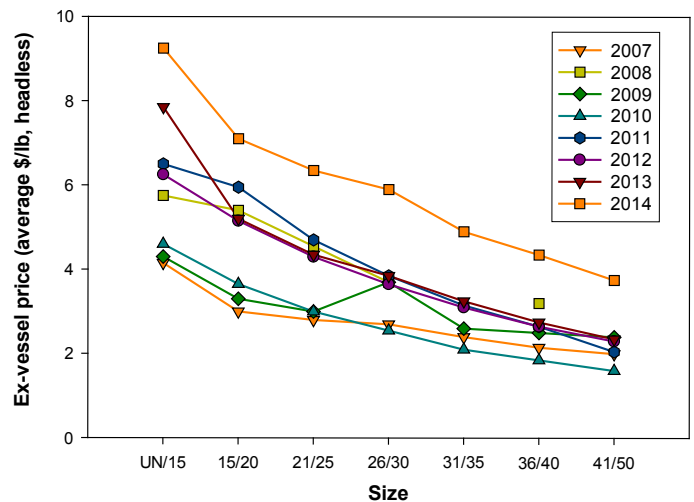
### Louisiana Shrimp Watch

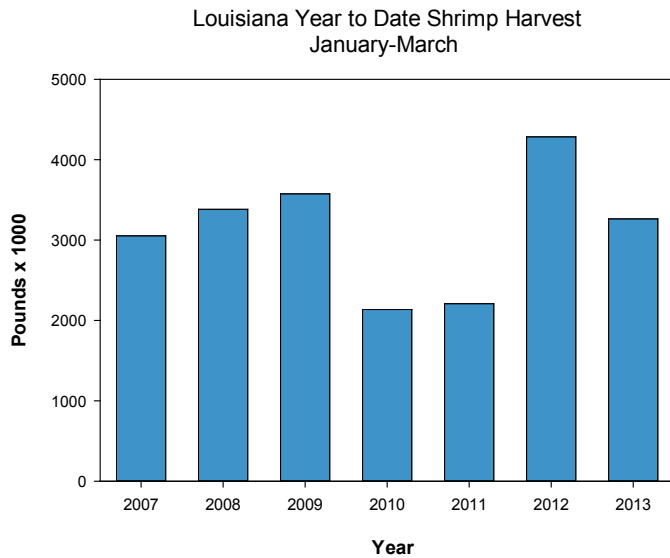
Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on its website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports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

March Shrimp Harvest



March 2014 Northern GoM Shrimp Prices





### The Gumbo Pot

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture* and *You Can't Keep New Orleans Out of the Cook* by *Tommy Centola*. For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>.

### Crawfish Bread

#### Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 3 eggs, large
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 1/4 cup green onions (scallions), chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 10 ounces Louisiana crawfish tails, roughly chopped

Method: Preheat oven to 375°F. Oil and flour a 9 x 13 x 2-inch baking pan. In a mixing bowl, add butter, flour and eggs; whisk until mixture is smooth with no lumps. Add the remaining ingredients and combine. Pour batter into your prepared baking pan and bake for 30 to 40 minutes until golden on top and batter is cooked through.

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.



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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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