



2015 Fishery Legislative Summary

The following is a summary of some of the House and Senate bills that affect the fishing industry. Details, current status, and full text can be found at <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx>.

HB198: St. Germain. Status: Pending Legislative Bureau; Passed House

FISHING/CRABS: Increases fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery from \$35 to \$50 for a resident commercial crab trap gear license. Nonresident gear license fees would increase to \$200.

HB303: Gisclair. Status: Passed House and Senate; Signed by the Speaker

FISHING/FINFISH: Provides relative to the method of determination of a stock assessment for black drum, sheepshead and flounder.

HB332: Billiot. Status: Passed House and Senate; Signed by the Speaker

FISHING/CRABS: Expands eligibility for a commercial crab trap gear license to holders of a seafood dealer's license who can document appropriate crab landings between 2011 and 2014.

HB341: Garofalo. Status: Passed House and Senate

FISHING/OYSTERS: Provides for additional penalties for unauthorized taking of oysters from leased acreage.

HB438: Lambert. Status: Pending House Natural Resources

FISHING/CRAWFISH: Sets penalties for minimum size violations for live crawfish sold for direct human consumption.

HB579: Garofalo. Status: Pending Legislative Bureau

FISHING/OYSTERS: Increases lease rental rates for oysters leases from \$2 to \$3 per acre per year.

HB668: Hill. Status: Pending Legislative Bureau; Passed House

FISHING/SHRIMP: Repeals the prohibition on enforcement of the federal rules on the use of turtle excluder devices in shrimp trawls used in state waters.

HB680: Leopold. Status: Pending House Natural Resources

FISHING/OYSTERS: Provides relative to private oyster leases on privately owned water bottoms.

HCR104: Dove. Status: Pending Senate floor action; Passed House

FISHING/OYSTERS: Creates the Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Committee.

HCR138: Lambert. Status: Involuntarily deferred in House Natural Resources FISHING/CRAWFISH: Creates a study committee to study issues surrounding both the farm-raised and wild-caught crawfish industries.

HCR140:Lambert. Status: Pending Senate Natural Resources

FISHING/CRAWFISH: Urges the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to examine the issue of a wild-caught crawfish fishing season.

SB254: Crowe. Status: Pending Senate Natural Resources

WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT: Authorizes an alternative for identification for the purchase of a resident fishing and hunting license.

SCR66: Chabert. Status: Sent to the Secretary of State

FISH/FISHING: Memorializes Congress to take action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Louisiana's sovereign waters by passing H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Louisiana spring shrimp season

The 2015 Louisiana inshore shrimp season opened statewide at 6 a.m. on May 18, as well as that portion of state outside waters extending three nautical miles seaward from the shoreline from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line westward to the to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at -92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude.

In addition to the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, all state outside waters are currently open to shrimping except for outside waters extending three nautical miles seaward from the shoreline from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island westward to the to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provided projections of the dates when a minimum of 50 percent of the inshore brown shrimp population would reach sizes of 100 count per pound or larger. LDWF reminds fishermen that federal Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations require skimmer net fishermen to limit tow times. Maximum tow times are 55 minutes from April 1 through Oct. 31 and increase to 75 minutes from Nov. 1 to March 31.

Commercial Fishing Season for Large Coastal Sharks Closed in Louisiana Waters

Effectively immediately, commercial fishing for large coastal sharks is closed in Louisiana waters. The National Marine Fisheries Service also closed commercial fishing for large coastal sharks in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The season will remain closed in state and federal waters until Jan. 1, 2016, when the season is scheduled to reopen. The season for the commercial harvest of small coastal sharks in Louisiana waters remains open at this time.

During the closed season, all commercial harvest, possession, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sale or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade or sell large coastal sharks or their fins is prohibited.



Vessels that have been issued or that possess a federal shark research permit may continue to operate under the conditions of that permit, which includes the presence of designated NOAA Fisheries observers aboard the vessel for the duration of the trip, until the quota for the federal shark research fishery is achieved.

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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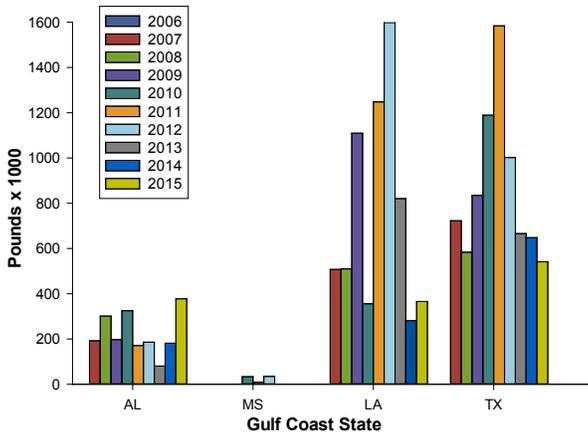
Electronic Hunting and Fishing Licenses

LDWF is now offering an electronic license option for both hunting and fishing privileges. Save paper by storing an electronic file on your electronic device, or print the E-license in the convenience of your home for immediate use. To access this option, simply visit www.wlf.la.gov and select the E-license option when making your purchase. Those customers interested in a traditional, hard copy license on durable, waterproof paper can still visit any license vendor or call toll-free (888) 765-2602.

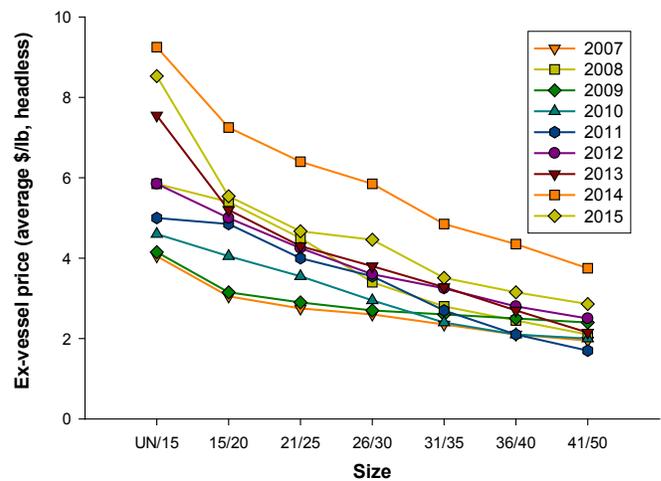
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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.

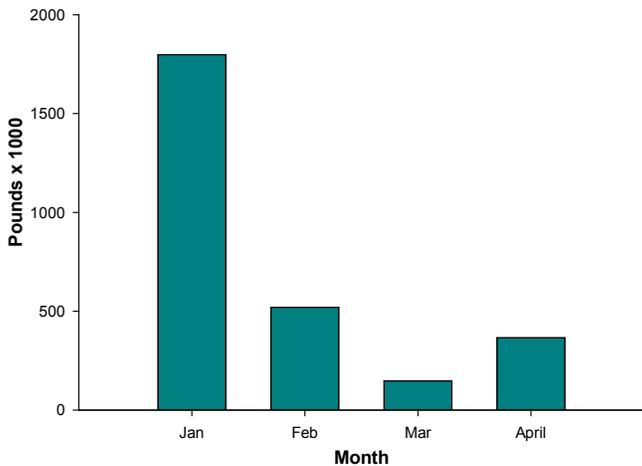
April Shrimp Harvest



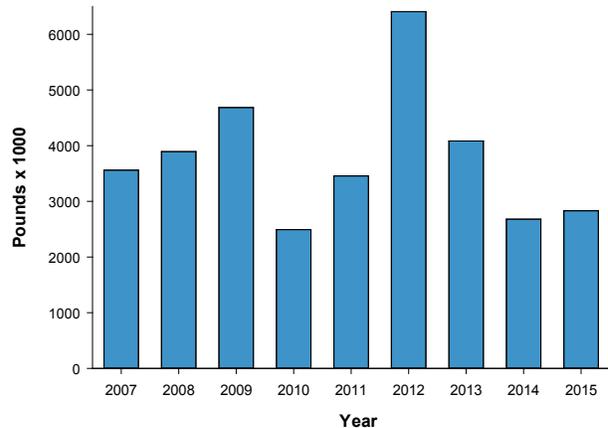
April Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



Louisiana 2015 Shrimp Harvest



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest January- April



Fish Gear Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 14 claims in the amount of \$58,748.39 were received for payment during the period April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015.

There were 13 paid and one denied.

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

29 04.081	89 07.820	PLAQUEMINES
29 05.820	90 50.840	TERREBONNE
29 15.370	89 06.850	PLAQUEMINES
29 15.409	89 55.521	JEFFERSON
29 18.066	89 47.017	PLAQUEMINES
29 18.773	89 48.875	PLAQUEMINES
29 19.807	89 42.536	PLAQUEMINES
29 36.147	92 43.842	CAMERON
29 38.770	89 32.490	PLAQUEMINES
29 41.664	89 41.954	PLAQUEMINES
29 44.460	89 38.520	SAINT BERNARD
29 45.149	89 37.805	SAINT BERNARD
29 49.487	89 16.814	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.

The Gumbo Pot

Pan Fried Grouper

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

Ingredients:

- 2 medium sized grouper fillets
- 2 large eggs
- 1½ c. flour
- 1¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. white pepper, freshly ground best
- ⅛ tsp. cayenne
- ¼ c. (½ stick) salted butter
- ¼ c. olive oil
- ⅓ c. shallots, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- ¾ tsp. dry marjoram



Courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen and Culture*

Method:

Rinse the fillets and dry on paper towel. Combine eggs and 2 tablespoons cold water in a pie dish and beat lightly with a fork. Combine the flour, salt, pepper and cayenne in another bowl and mix well. Dip fillets in egg and water mixture then roll them in the seasoned flour to coat all sides. Place them on a platter - not touching - to let dry for 5 minutes.

In a large skillet melt the butter over medium heat, mix in the olive oil with a wooden spoon and continue cooking until the oil is quite hot. To test oil shake a small drop of water on oil if it skates and dances across then oil is hot enough. Fry the fillets until browned about 3 to 4 minutes per side. Add the shallots, bay leaf and marjoram to the oil in the spaces around the sides of the fish fillets after the fish begins to brown on the first side. When the fish is done on both sides remove it to a paper towel lined platter. Continue to let the sauce in pan simmer for another 3 minutes. Serve the fillets with about 2 to 3 tablespoons of sauce from the pan.

If you have a favorite seafood recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Julie Lively 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 Lively at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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