



Louisiana Fisheries, Part 2: Freshwater Fisheries

This is a continued story summarizing the landings and value of Louisiana fisheries for 2014 (the most recent year with complete data). For the marine fisheries, please see the March edition.

The harvest of freshwater and marine finfish and shellfish in Louisiana continues to contribute significantly to the state's economy. Fisheries landings are recorded by two government agencies. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receives monthly reports from the initial buyers (processors, dealers, etc.) who are required to record every transaction via trip tickets. Species, weights and dockside sales values of the landings are reported for all commercially harvested species. The National Marine Fisheries Service also is responsible for estimating fisheries landings, using both regional National Marine Fisheries Service data collectors and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reports. The information reported here is from those two cooperating sources. All this data is provisional and subject to change.

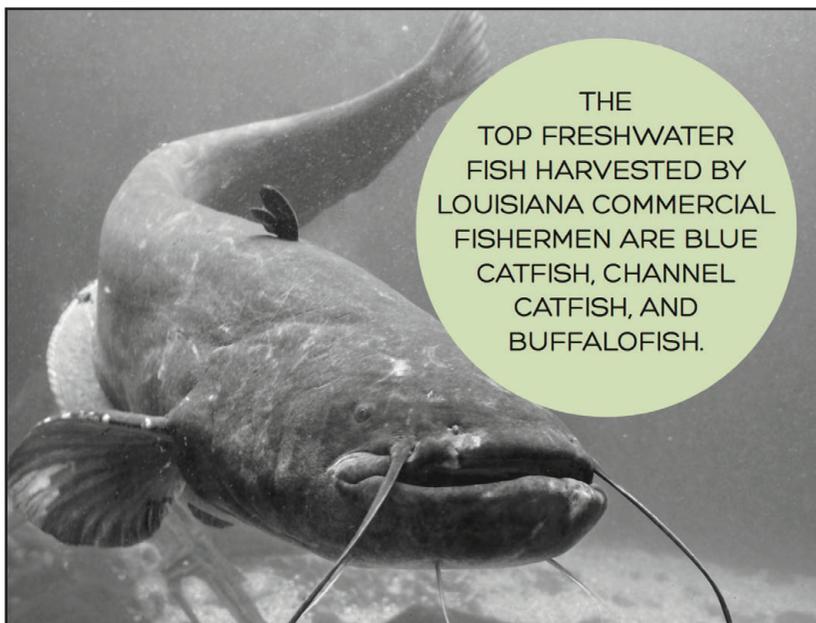
The freshwater finfish are primarily bowfin, catfish, buffalo, shad, gar and carp, and typically are less valuable on a per-pound basis than marine finfish. Total freshwater finfish value remained relatively unchanged from \$4.3 million for 11.3 million pounds caught by 1,329 commercial fishers in 2013 to \$4.2 million for 9.6 million pounds caught by 2,385 commercial fishers in 2014.

Catfish are the mainstay of the more valuable freshwater species. The commercially caught catfish are not the same as farm-raised catfish described in the aquaculture section of this summary. Sales of catfish caught commercially in Louisiana waters were \$2 million on 3.8 million pounds in 2014, just down from 4.3 million pounds in 2013.

Most wild crawfish are caught in the Atchafalaya Basin, where water levels fluctuate as inflows are controlled by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers at about one-third of the combined flows of the Mississippi and Red rivers. Although wild crawfish compete in the marketplace with farm-raised crawfish, some consumers prefer the wild product because of its frequently larger size. The volume of the wild crawfish harvest is almost completely constrained by the timing and duration of the annual winter/spring floodwater event in the Atchafalaya Basin. The 2014 crawfish season fell between the 2013 and 2012 seasons. Landings in 2014 were 11.2 million pounds. The 2013 crawfish season (17.1 million pounds) nearly tripled the landings from 2012 (6.5 million pounds). For comparison, freshwater crawfish landings were a record level of 50 million pounds in 1993. Wild crawfish sales were \$13.4 million in 2014, down about 20 percent from \$14.3 million in 2013.

Overall, landings from the freshwater fisheries sector in 2014 had a gross value of \$17.6 million.

Julie Lively



THE
TOP FRESHWATER
FISH HARVESTED BY
LOUISIANA COMMERCIAL
FISHERMEN ARE BLUE
CATFISH, CHANNEL
CATFISH, AND
BUFFALOFISH.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Research Projects for 2016 Omnibus Announced

The Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (LSG) intends to support eight research projects for the funding period which began Feb. 1, 2016. Below is a synopsis of the projects, along with a list of the principal investigators and their affiliations.

Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Natural Phytoplankton Communities, Oyster Development and Trophic Interactions

Principal Investigator: Sibel Bargu (LSU); Associate Investigators: Reagan Errera (LSU) and Achim Hermann (LSU); Collaborator: John Supan (LSU AgCenter and LSG)

The goal of this project is to better understand the impacts of multiple stressors associated with changing climate (sea surface warming, ocean acidification and nutrient enrichment) on coastal water quality and the health of the eastern oyster, which is an economically and ecologically important species along the Gulf coast.

Migratory Movements and Fishing Mortality of the Louisiana Blue Crab Spawning Stock

Principal Investigator: M. Zachary Darnell (Nicholls State University)

The researcher will examine the timing and route of crab migration using a mark-recapture study focusing on females that have recently molted to maturity.

Impacts of Labor Policy Changes on Louisiana Seafood Processing and Production

Principal Investigators: Jeffrey Gillespie (LSU AgCenter) and Ashok Mishra (Arizona State University)

The goal of this study is to determine the many impacts of H-2A and H-2B labor in crawfish and alligator production and in seafood processing in Louisiana.

Genomic Variation and Local Adaptation among Natural Stocks of Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Coastal Louisiana

Principal Investigators: Morgan Kelly (LSU) and Jerome LaPeyre (LSU AgCenter)

This study seeks to quantify genetic and phenotypic variation among and within stocks of Louisiana oysters, both at the genomic level and in key traits affecting their environmental distribution.

Expansion of Black Mangroves on Trophic Dynamics in Coastal Louisiana: Implication of Climate Change and Coastal Restoration to Estuarine Fisheries

Principal Investigator: Michael Polito (LSU); Associate Investigator: Melissa Baustian (The Water Institute of the Gulf)

This research will investigate how salt marsh-dependent commercially and recreationally valuable nekton species, such as crab and shrimp, may be affected by transitioning marsh habitats and shifts in basal carbon sources.

Evaluation of Blue Carbon Accumulation Potential in Created Marshes of Louisiana

Principal Investigator: Tracy Quirk (LSU); Associate Investigator: Ronald DeLaune (LSU)

This project seeks to inform the large data gap on the value of coastal marsh restoration to soil carbon development and long-term sequestration of blue carbon by testing the hypothesis that blue carbon stores increase with time in restoration sites, but varies spatially, depending on species composition, mineral sediment accumulation, elevation, hydrology, redox potential and soil texture.

Towards Continuous Updates to Topography, Bathymetry, and Surface Characteristics for Louisiana Surge Guidance and Related Coastal Studies

Principal Investigator: Scott Hagen (LSU); Collaborators: Carola Kaiser (LSU) and Maurice Wolcott (LSU AgCenter)

The ADvanced CIRCulation model (ADCIRC) is a system of computer programs that can be used to predict tide, wind-wave and hurricane storm surge. This project will update an existing ADCIRC model mesh representation of topography (including levees and other flood control structures) and bathymetry by applying prior elevation data and data that is acquired as the project progresses.

From Physics to Oysters: An Integrated Modeling Study of the Potential Impacts of Future Large Sediment Diversions on Louisiana Eastern Oyster

Principal Investigator: Haosheng Huang (LSU); Co-Principal Investigators: Dubravko Justic (LSU), Kehui Xu (LSU), Megan LaPeyre (LSU) and Jerome LaPeyre (LSU AgCenter)

This project will provide a quantitative tool for assessing the effects of river diversions for coastal restoration on Louisiana oysters.

Recovery of Louisiana Black Bear

After almost a quarter of a century of tireless work, collaborative research and private-public partnership, the Louisiana black bear joins an impressive Bayou State recovery list.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Charles Melancon jointly announced the bear is recovered and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to remove it from the list of species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Sea Grant Oil Spill Resources

New fact sheets and recordings of seminars are now available online. We are continuously working to bring you oil spill science, so please stay tuned for our upcoming publications and science seminars. Please be sure to check out our other oil spill outreach publications: <http://gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach/publications> and listen to the recordings of past seminars: <http://gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach/presentations/>

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

Public Meetings for Potential Skimmer Trawl Regulations

NOAA Fisheries is considering new regulations in the shrimp fishery of the southeastern United States based on information indicating sea turtles are vulnerable to capture by skimmer trawls and tow times may not be as effective in reducing by-catch-related mortality as turtle excluder devices. The agency will host five public meetings around the region to discuss and receive input from fishermen and other constituents on alternatives to reduce sea turtle by-catch and mortality.

These public meetings are the first stage in a multi-step process required by the National Environmental Policy Act to ensure that federal agencies evaluate the environmental impacts of major federal actions. During these meetings, the public is provided with an opportunity to assist us in determining the scope of issues that require analysis. The analysis of issues and the environmental impacts of the proposed actions will be presented in a draft Environmental Impact Statement, which will be made available for public comment. The notice of intent to prepare the draft statement was published in the Federal Register on March 15, 2016.

Additionally, a scoping document and a list of frequently asked questions as aids to the public on the upcoming scoping process has been prepared. These documents are available on the NOAA Fisheries website at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/index.html. The scoping document describes the major issues, current management and legal requirements, and identifies potential management measures to reduce interactions, and in particular, lethal interactions, between sea turtles and trawl fisheries.

The dates, times, and locations of the five meetings in April are as follows:

1. Morehead City, NC – April 13, 2-4 p.m., Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557.
2. Larose, LA – April 18, 4-6 p.m., Larose Regional Park and Civic Center, 307 East 5th Street, Larose, LA 70373.
3. Belle Chasse, LA – April 19, 4-6 p.m., Belle Chasse Community Center, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037.
4. Biloxi, MS – April 20, 5-7 p.m., Biloxi Visitor's Center, 1050 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530.
5. Bayou La Batre, AL – April 21, 2-4 p.m., Bayou La Batre Community Center, 12745 Padgett Switch Road, Bayou La Batre, AL 36509.

Scoping comments may also be submitted during a concurrent 45-day comment period. When the draft EIS is published, it will also have a 45-day public comment period.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

March 15 – Commercial fishing for large coastal sharks closed in state and federal waters

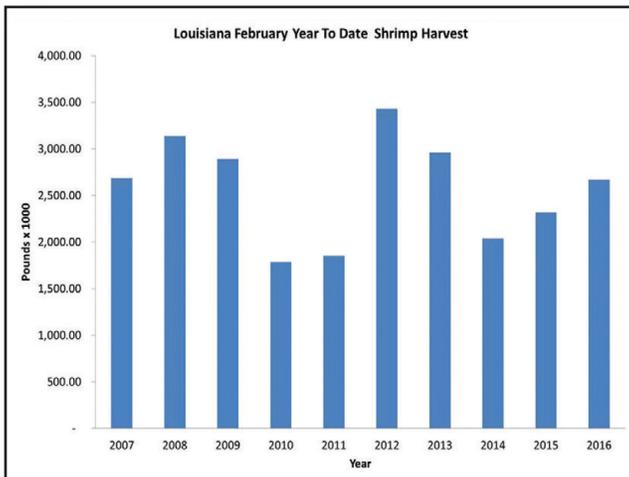
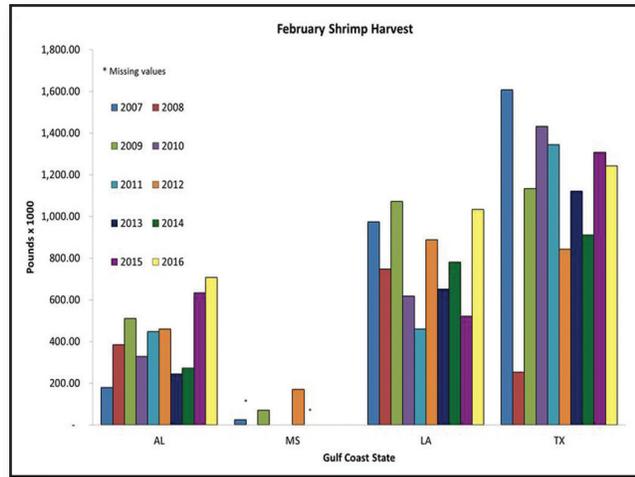
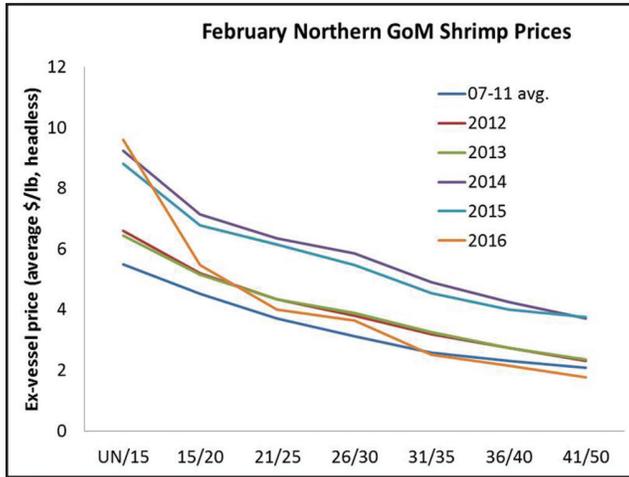
April 18 – 4-6 p.m., NOAA Skimmer TED meeting. Larose Regional Park and Civic Center, 307 East 5th Street, Larose, LA 70373

April 19 – 4-6 p.m., NOAA Skimmer TED meeting, Belle Chasse Community Center, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

April 23 – LDWF's Get Out and Fish! at the Burbank Soccer Complex in Baton Rouge
www.fishla.org/community-outreach/get-fish/brec-april-23/brec-registration/

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.



Fish Gear Coordinates - February

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that five claims in the amount of \$20,798.34 were received for payment during the period Feb. 1-28, 2016.

There were five paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 08.136	89 24.492	PLAQUEMINES
29 12.037	90 38.720	TERREBONNE
29 20.311	89 59.092	JEFFERSON
29 23.998	89 58.175	JEFFERSON
29 57.209	93 20.256	CAMERON

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.

THE GUMBO POT

ABITA CRAWFISH CAKES

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:

Vegetable oil	1 dash Tabasco
4 tablespoons chopped green pepper	3 oz. Abita beer
4 tablespoons chopped onion	1 lb. crawfish tails
4 tablespoons chopped celery	1 to 1 ½ cups dry bread crumbs
1/2 teaspoon black pepper	Flour
1 teaspoon Creole seasoning	Egg wash
1/4 teaspoon thyme	Corn flour
1/4 teaspoon basil	16 tomato slices

Method:

In a large skillet, saute green pepper, onion and celery in the oil with the spices and Tabasco until vegetables are tender. Add beer and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat and add crawfish.

Set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, combine the crawfish mixture and bread crumbs and form into eight flat crawfish cakes. Coat each cake with flour, dip into egg wash, then coat with corn flour. Fry in vegetable oil on medium heat until cakes are a light golden brown. Use the same procedure to coat the tomatoes and fry them, too.

To serve, place two fried tomato slices on a plate with the crawfish cake. Serve with Remoulade sauce, diced fresh tomatoes and sliced onions.

**Be sure to visit the *Lagniappe* blog for
additional news and timely events between issues.
<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>**

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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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.

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