



Then, Now and Next: Lagniappe's 40th Anniversary

For four decades, the *Lagniappe* fisheries newsletter has been a source of information for Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishers. The publication, a joint effort of Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter, commemorates 40 years this March and boasts more than 1,400 subscribers.

Lagniappe – which updates fishermen about new regulations, important events and species information – has had just three editors guide its content. The first author and editor, then fisheries assistant area agent Jerald Horst, admitted that relationships with fisherman were tough to build in the 1970s. Strangers at the docks were “generally met with suspicions of either being a game warden or the IRS,” he said.

When the first *Lagniappe* newsletter arrived in 1977, it featured a short introduction from Horst.

“Dear friends,” it reads. “I’ve been promising to put out a newsletter for several months now and this is finally it.” Horst goes on to explain his goal with *Lagniappe* is to “extend information to people concerned with the seafood industry,” and to “include subjects of interest to all segments of the industry.”

However, reaching those in the seafood industry was no easy feat. During the early years, he explained, there weren't many ways to reach large numbers of people. Fishermen typically spent most of their time away from their homes, and sometimes there was a literacy issue, he said.

Work hours in the fishing industry are long, Horst added, and women often headed the household while their husbands were away. That's when he decided to add *Lagniappe's* signature recipe, “The Gumbo Pot,” to capitalize on the influence of the fishermen's wives.

“The addition of the monthly recipe was designed specifically to attract women readers,” he said. “I knew if I wanted to get something important to commercial fisherman, I had to give the information to the people in the family that were the best readers, too – the wives.

“I also wanted them to notify their husbands about legislation that could also affect them,” he said. “I began a special edition that would cover all of the bills that affected the commercial and recreational fishing industry, and then I printed what passed.”

In 2006, Horst retired from the Extension service as state-wide fisheries specialist, leaving *Lagniappe* in the hands of its second editor, then fisheries associate area agent Glenn Thomas.

While the look of the *Lagniappe* has been updated with the times, the format remains largely the same. Each newsletter continues to feature pertinent information, events, policies for commercial and recreational fishermen, and the recipe.

“There was no reason to change what was working,” Thomas said. “Sea Grant communicators did a fantastic job of upgrading the look and graphics several times during my tenure.”

However, the publication and distribution process was only partly digitized, Thomas said. Roy Kron, Sea Grant's director of outreach and communications, brought this up to speed and LSG reached out to more subscribers through Sea Grant electronic mailing lists, he added. All but about a dozen of the current 1,400 subscribers receive the newsletter electronically.

The needs of the average *Lagniappe* reader had changed, evidenced by the newsletter evolving from a hard copy mail-out to almost a full digital subscription base. Additionally, recreational and charter fisheries went from ‘part of the fisheries equation’ to the biggest part of the equation, Thomas said.

There was a point where federal regulations in the Gulf began to change on almost an hourly basis, Thomas said, which made the monthly publication of rule changes difficult. During those times, *Lagniappe* included links to real-time information sites.

According to Thomas, the most regular feedback he would receive was about The Gumbo Pot recipe, which he sourced from some of his own favorite recipes, friends, family and LSU AgCenter cooking contests.

Julie Anderson Lively, associate professor in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources and state-wide fisheries specialist, took over as *Lagniappe* editor in 2010 and said The Gumbo Pot recipe still receives the most response from readers.

“We rarely get feedback these days. But for years, we’ve had a recipe, and if there isn’t a recipe we definitely get a message from some readers asking if they were missing a page of the newsletter,” Lively said.

In 2011, Lively took *Lagniappe* one step further into the digital era by starting its blog, (louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com). Similar in fashion to Horst’s first *Lagniappe* newsletter, she welcomed readers in the blog’s first post.

“We will be using this website as a way to provide additional or timely information we just can’t fit in the monthly newsletter,” the post reads, followed by a quick reminder that *Lagniappe* would still be available on the Louisiana fisheries website (www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu) each month.

The *Lagniappe* blog currently has 50 subscribers and is “even more specific” to the Sea Grant mission, Lively said. The site garners 30 to 40 page views daily. There are some days where page views may jump to several hundred after a post focused on shrimp is featured, she added.

Although both the *Lagniappe* newsletter and blog still cater to commercial and recreational fishermen. Lively said that the emphasis on commercial fishermen has been much stronger in recent years. She hopes to balance that more in the future, as well as target underserved populations, like the Vietnamese fishermen who make up a large percentage of Louisiana’s fishing industry.

The Blue Tang

Popularized as Dory from “Finding Nemo,” the blue tang can be found in several coastal waters from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean, particularly around coral reefs and inshore grasses.

Displaying bright blue and yellow colors, they aren’t hard to miss. Young fish are yellow with blue spots near their eyes, while mature fish become fully blue over most their body with narrow dark lines running the length of the body. Having these fluorescent colors make the blue tang an excellent aquarium fish by attracting viewers. However, their unique colors also attract predator fish and make it very difficult for the blue tang to hide, resulting in the tang having to use its secret defense weapon, or playing dead by laying on their side until the predator passes.

The term “tang” refers to the extremely sharp spines on each side of the fish’s tail, which are said to resemble a surgeon’s scalpel. These spines usually remain flat against the fish’s body, extending only when it is threatened or alarmed. When threatened, the fish thrashes its tail from side to side, enabling the blue tang of inflicting serious damage to an enemy.

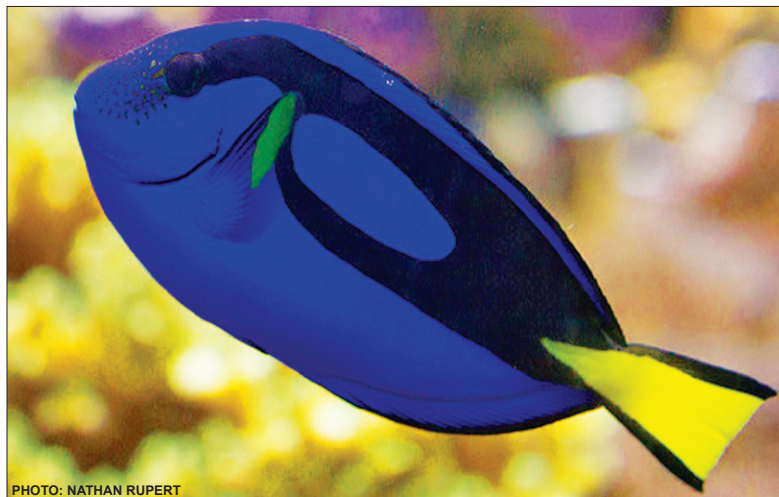


PHOTO: NATHAN RUPERT

Another purpose of the blue tang’s spines is for the males to achieve dominance by fighting with their spiny tails, resulting in the more dominant males having larger breeding grounds.

There are over 70 species of large surgeon fish, with the blue tang being one of the smaller species. Adults average 12 inches in length, fully maturing around 10 inches. The tang live both singly and in pairs – or sometimes in groups as large as 9-12. They can often be found hanging around coral reefs and other rocky or grassy areas which give them protection from predators.

The main predators of the blue tang are tuna, bar jacks and tiger groupers, as well as some interference from humans who try to capture them for tanks. The main diet of the blue tang consists of algae, using their sharp teeth to rip it from rocks and coral. This diet is not only important for the fish, but for the health of the reefs as well, as it prevents the algae from overgrowing and suffocating the coral.

– Skylar Bueche

For more information visit:

<http://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/specialfeatures/animals/fish/blue-tang.xml>

<http://www.livescience.com/55339-regal-blue-tangs.html>

Delinquent Oyster Lease List Available Online

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is required to make public notice regarding the nonpayment of fees related to oyster leases on both its website and in the official journal of the parish in which the delinquent lease is located.

As per Louisiana Revised Statute 56:429, any lessee who pays their rent on or after Feb. 1 owes the rent due plus an additional 10 percent penalty. Failure of the lessee to pay the rent punctually on or before the first of each January, or within 60 days thereafter, terminates and cancels the lease and forfeits to the department all the works, improvements, betterments and oysters leased on the water bottom.

The list of delinquent leases is available at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/delinquent-oyster-leases>. For questions regarding delinquent oyster lease payments, please contact Marc Maniscalco at (504) 284-5277.

Evaluating Feral Hog Toxicants Before State Approval

Feral hogs are a serious nuisance across Louisiana, and a new feral hog poison is being recommended in nearby Gulf coast states. However, there is concern over the impact of Kaput on other Louisiana wildlife. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) passed a resolution recommending the adequate evaluation of the feral hog toxicant Kaput and any other similar poisons prior to state approval to determine impacts on wildlife.

The resolution came after a report from LDWF veterinarian, Dr. Jim LaCour, a member of the task force. During his presentation to the commission, LaCour said LDWF and the task force had many concerns about the toxicant, which has received conditional general licensure from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though general directions for use states that the bait may only be applied in special feeders with 8-10 pound lids, LaCour and the Task Force believe other species would be able to access the poison. LaCour said LDWF researchers have witnessed a raccoon lifting a 23-pound lid on a feeder. There is also a worry the toxicant could be ingested by non-target species of concern like the Louisiana black bear.

LaCour also stated that squirrels and other rodents could feed on bait dropped or scattered by feral hogs, which could lead to secondary intoxication of predators such as bobcats, owls, hawks, eagles and vultures.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

2017 Recreational Fishing Regulations

With the weather warming up, it's time to make sure you know the recreational regulations for this coming year. The full regulations are available at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/publication/31743-2017-recreational-fishing-regulations/2017_recreational_fishing_regulations_low-res.pdf

For marine fisheries, there are a handful of changes from 2016. First, all crab traps must be out of the water for 30 days starting on the third Monday in February. Also, make sure you know the changes coming for escape rings for November. The number, size, and exemptions for Lake Pontchartrain are changing. The minimum size limit for two groups has changed: greater amberjack is 34 inches fork length and the gag and black grouper is 24 inches total length. The open recreational season for gag grouper was modified to June 1 through Dec. 31.



PHOTO: FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE

Commercial Fishing for Bait Menhaden to Open March 15

A Declaration of Emergency will open the commercial season for the harvest of bait menhaden on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, based upon a request from the bait menhaden industry. Menhaden, or Pogy, is popular bait in the crab and crawfish industries.

The commercial season for the harvest of bait menhaden typically opens on Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 30, with a 3,000-metric ton quota. In the event that quota is not harvested during the normal November season, the bait season may resume April 1 of the following year.

The bait industry requested to open the season two weeks earlier on March 15 to meet customer demand. The quota was not met in 2016 and opening the season two weeks earlier in 2017 is not expected to negatively impact the quota or regular commercial menhaden season.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

Commercial and Recreational Yellowtail Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico

A new final rule modifies the gear requirement for the commercial harvest and adjusts the fishing year for both commercial and recreational fishermen effective March 13, 2017. The rule removes a requirement to use circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for the commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper south of Cape Sable, Fla., in the Gulf. Specifically, the requirement would apply in the area south of a line extending due west from 25°09' North latitude off the west coast of Monroe County, Fla., to the Gulf and South Atlantic inter-council boundary. The rule also adjusts the commercial and recreational fishing year for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, to Aug. 1 through July 31 to coincide with the fishing year for this species in the South Atlantic.

Fish Gear Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that two claims in the amount of \$10,000 were received for payment during the period Jan. 1-31, 2017.

There were 0 paid and 2 denied.

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

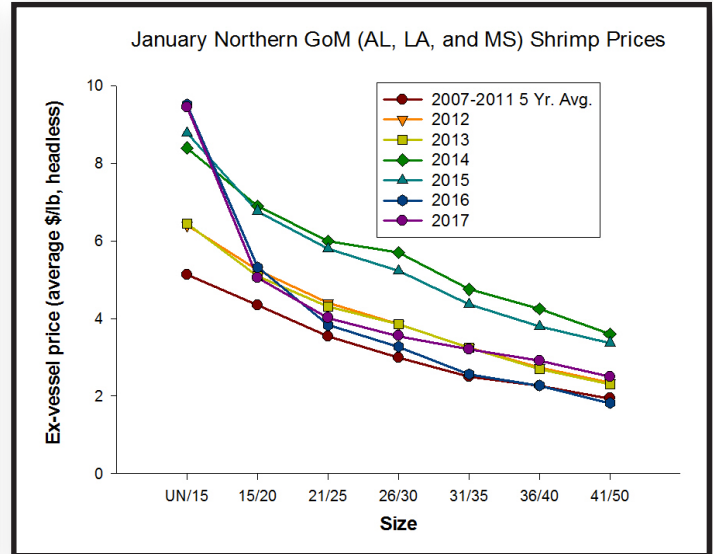
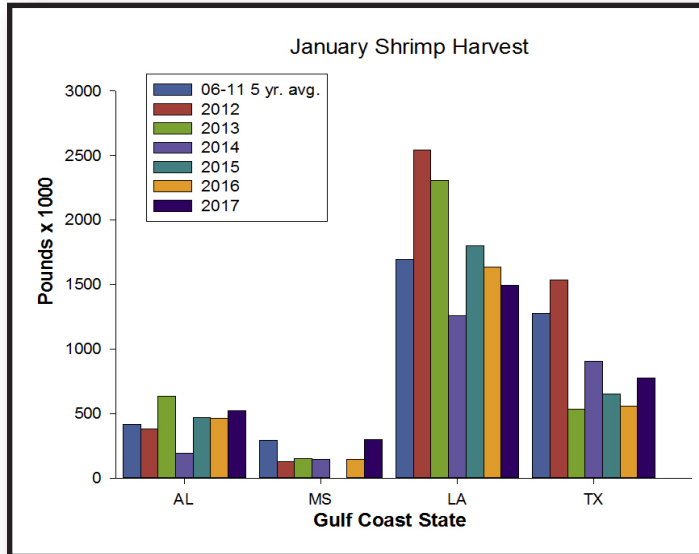
29 21.489	90 43.776	TERREBONNE
30 03.670	89 09.982	SAINT BERNARD

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.

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



Important & Upcoming Events

Feb. 13, 2017 – All oyster harvest in the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area in Cameron Parish closed

March 14, 2017 – Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting at 1 pm

March 15, 2017 – Commercial fishing for bait menhaden opens

THE GUMBO POT

SPICY PEANUT BUTTER SHRIMP

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 tablespoons soy sauce	2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1/4 cup brown sugar	1 tablespoon minced shallot
1/2 cup water	1 tablespoon minced fresh chives
1 jalapeño pepper, minced	1/4 cup olive oil
3 teaspoons grated fresh ginger	28 large Louisiana shrimp, shelled and deveined
1 clove garlic, minced, plus 1 tablespoon minced	1/4 cup white wine
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter	6 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons fresh grapefruit juice	hot cooked rice, for serving
	sliced green onions, for garnish

Method:

Bring soy sauce, brown sugar and 1/2 cup water to a boil in a small saucepan; set aside.

Put the jalapeño pepper, ginger and 1 clove garlic in a blender and add the soy sauce mixture; purée and transfer to a bowl. Stir in the peanut butter and add the grapefruit and lime juices. Sauté the shallot, the remaining 1 tablespoon garlic and the chives in the oil in a sauté pan over medium heat; add the shrimp, then the wine. When the shrimp turn pink, after about 3 minutes, add the butter. When the butter is incorporated, add the peanut butter sauce and toss together. Serve over rice, sprinkled with green onions.

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

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

Editor: Julie Anderson Lively

Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry

Copy editor: Roy Kron



For more information, contact your local extension agent:

Thu Bui

Assistant Extension Agent, Fisheries
St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion Parishes
Phone: (337) 828-4100, ext. 300
tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu

Kevin Savoie

Area Agent (Southwest Region)
Natural Resources-Fisheries
Phone: (337) 475-8812
ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu

Carol D. Franze

Associate Area Agent
Southeast Region
Phone: (985) 543-4129
cfranze@agcenter.lsu.edu

Dominique Seibert

Area Agent - Coastal Advisor
Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
dseibert@agcenter.lsu.edu

Albert 'Rusty' Gaudé

Area Agent, Fisheries
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. John Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
agaude@agcenter.lsu.edu

Mark Shirley

Area Agent (Aquaculture & Coastal Resources)
Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry,
Evangeline, Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette,
Beauregard, & Allen Parishes
Phone: (337) 898-4335
mshirley@agcenter.lsu.edu

Thomas Hymel

Watershed Educator
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion,
St. Landry, & Avoyelles Parishes
Phone: (337) 276-5527
thymel@agcenter.lsu.edu

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.

Julie A. Anderson Lively

Assistant Professor
LSU Agcenter & Louisiana Sea Grant
114 RNR Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: 225-578-0771
Fax: 225-578-4227
janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu