



Proposed Fishery-related Bills for the 2017 Louisiana Legislative Session

The following is a brief summary of the bills proposed in the 2017 session that could impact fishing or fisheries.

We've included the number, author and brief synopsis. More information including the full text and current status can be found at www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=last.

HB156 – DWIGHT – FISHING/OYSTERS: Limits the gear used for oyster harvest on Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake to tonging.

HB474 – GAROFALO - FISHING/OYSTERS: Authorizes the issuance of an alternative oyster culture permit to a person holding an oyster lease on a privately owned water bottom.

HB475 – GISCLAIR - FISHING/CRABS: Provides that the removal of derelict crab traps coincide with the closure of crab season by authorizing the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit certain crab traps when the season is closed for biological or technical reasons.

HB591 – STOKES - FISHING/LICENSES: Allows purchase of a senior hunting and fishing license by any person who turns 60 years of age at any time during the calendar year in which the license is purchased.

HB614 – GISCLAIR - SEAFOOD: Authorizes the Grand Isle Port Commission to use an additional 13 acres of a specified portion of water bottom, water column and water surface for a seafood research program undertaken in cooperation with the Louisiana Sea Grant program in seafood production research.

SB77 – LAMBERT - WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT: Allows the use of gill nets for taking of shad as bait fish during the closed season and on weekends of the open season with certain limitations: (1) The shad gill net shall not exceed 150 feet in length. (2) No more than 50 pounds of shad shall be taken per day. (3) The gill net shall be attended at all times.

SB103 – RISER - WATER/WATERWAYS: Provides that if the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission fails to take action on the proposed rules and regulations within 180 days after submission by the commission, then the proposed rules and regulations shall be deemed to be adopted.

SB207 – ALLAIN - FISH/FISHING: Limits the permissible uses of monies in the Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund.

SCR1 – MORRISH - COASTAL PROTECT/RES AUTH: Approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection.

- Skylar Bueche and Julie Lively

Inshore Shrimp Season Fills the Void with Access to Local Catch

The spring inshore shrimp season is around the corner. Though most of the state outside waters have been open since March 17, the multitude of inshore fishing vessels, dubbed the “mosquito fleet”, greatly increase the volume and availability of local, wild-caught shrimp.

“This short spring season brings in mostly brown shrimp from saltier estuaries,” said Dominique Seibert, Louisiana Sea Grant/LSU AgCenter area fisheries agent in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. “These smaller shrimp are more likely to be floating in shallow waterways at this time of year . . . perfect for scooping up with the skimmer and butterfly nets of inshore boats.”

Inshore shrimping trips may be limited to one day or night for the smaller boats, and four or five days for the larger vessels. Boats must be loaded with enough fuel, ice and supplies for the trip, though some shrimpers have recently opted to install

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Spring Shrimp Season

On May 1, the remainder of the Louisiana offshore waters opened to shrimping at 6 a.m.

For the inshore waters, the opening dates for the 2017 Louisiana spring shrimp season were as follows:

- The portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River at 6 a.m. on Monday, May 15
- The portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m. on Monday, May 8
- The portion of state inside waters from Freshwater Bayou to the Louisiana/Texas state line at 6 a.m. on Monday, May 15

LDWF biologists monitored hydrological parameters and conducted over 500 trawl samples throughout the state's estuarine and nearshore waters over the last five weeks to develop management recommendations for spring inshore opening dates. The department provided projections of the dates when a minimum of 50 percent of the inshore brown shrimp population sampled reach sizes of 100 count per pound or larger.

The federal waters off Texas (9 to 200 nautical miles) and state waters closed on May 15 to allow the brown shrimp to grow. This closure is usually 45 to 90 days.

Commercial Fishery For Large Coastal Sharks

The commercial fishery for large coastal sharks in Louisiana waters closed effective May 4 at 11:30 p.m. This closure is concurrent with the National Marine Fisheries Service's closure of commercial fishing for large coastal sharks in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The season is currently closed in state waters, due to the annual seasonal closure of recreational and commercial shark harvest. The season is scheduled to reopen in state and federal waters on Jan. 1, 2018.

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.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

NOAA Announces the 2017 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Recreational Seasons

The 2017 Gulf of Mexico federal red snapper recreational seasons open for the private angling and federally permitted for-hire components on June 1, 2017, at 12:01 a.m., local time. The private angler component season will be three days and the federally permitted for-hire component season will be 49 days in federal waters.

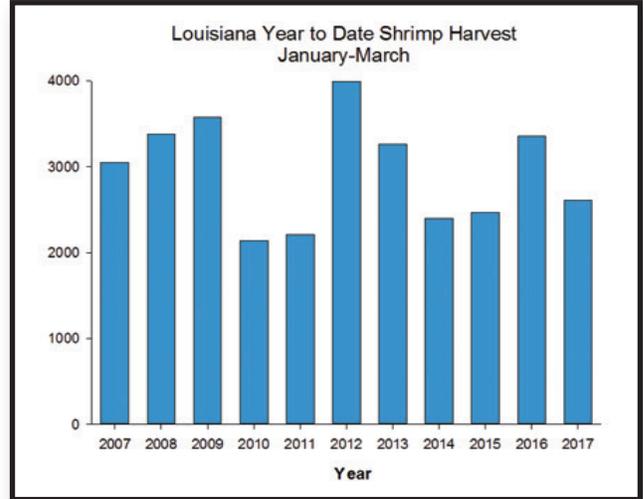
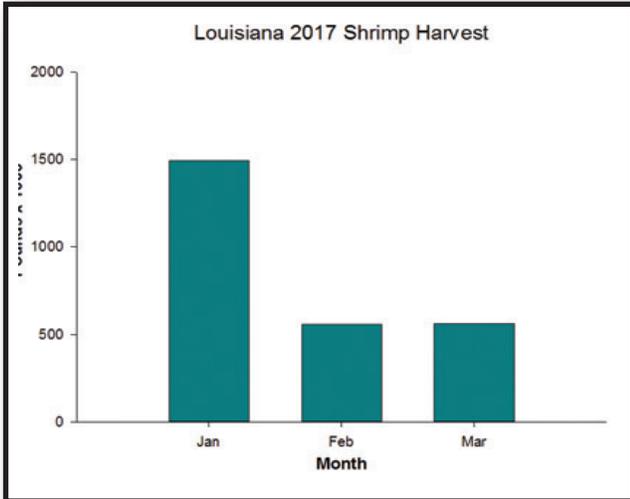
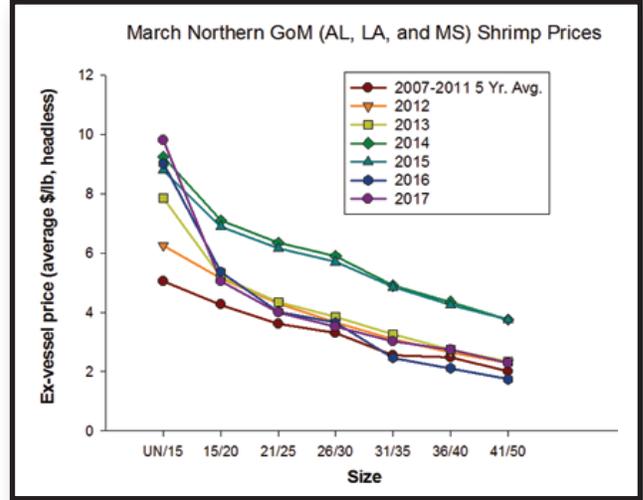
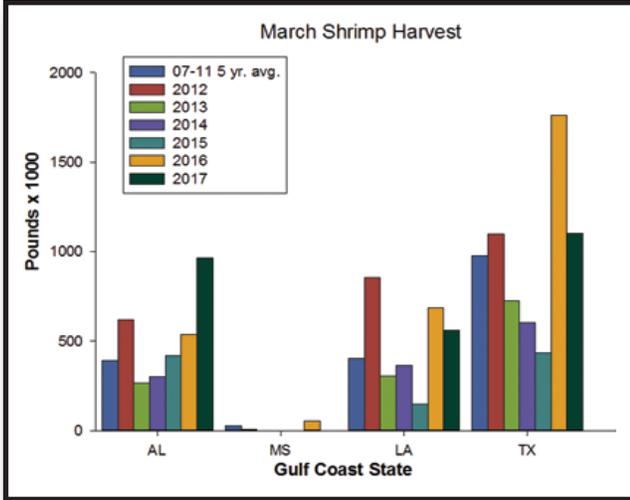
Closing dates for each component are:

- Private Anglers: June 4, 2017, at 12:01 a.m., local time.
- Federally Permitted For-Hire Vessels: July 20, 2017, at 12:01 a.m., local time.

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 and March

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that five claims in the amount of \$24,276.20 were received for payment during the period April 1-30, 2017.

There were five paid and zero denied.

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

29 09.110	89 28.560	PLAQUEMINES
29 10.688	89 29.164	PLAQUEMINES
29 11.371	89 31.556	PLAQUEMINES
29 11.784	90 38.377	TERREBONNE
29 50.510	89 41.471	SAINT BERNARD

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Donald Haydel, administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call (225) 342-7591.

Important & Upcoming Events

May 11, 2017 – Commercial King Mackerel Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico opens

March 6, 2018 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit

LOUISIANA Fisheries Forward SUMMIT 2018

DON'T LET IT
Catch
BY You
Surprise



Save The Date

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

— AT —

The Pontchartrain Center

4545 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA 70065

8:30 am – 4 pm

More information will be available online,
at LaFisheriesForward.org/Summit

To facilitate planning and provide the best user experience, the Seafood Summit will be held every other year. As the Gulf South's premier fisheries event, featuring trade show and hands-on demonstrations, we invite you to join us in 2018.



THE GUMBO POT

SHRIMP SHOOTERS

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:

2/3 cup olive oil	1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/2 cup white balsamic vinegar	1 teaspoon hot sauce
1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro	1½ lb. peeled, large cooked Louisiana shrimp
2 tablespoon grated lemon rind	Romaine lettuce heart leaves
1 teaspoon salt	

Method:

Whisk together first 7 ingredients in a large bowl.

Place cooked shrimp and vinaigrette mixture in a large zip-top plastic freezer bag. Seal and chill at least 8 hours or up to 24 hours, turning bag occasionally.

Arrange lettuce leaves in 8 (6- to 8-oz.) glasses. Spoon shrimp mixture evenly into glasses. Arrange glasses in a baking dish and surround with ice to keep chilled.

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.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Julie Anderson Lively at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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