



Louisiana Fisheries, Part 2: Freshwater Fisheries

This is a continued story summarizing the landings and value of Louisiana fisheries for 2015 (the most recent year with complete data). For the marine fisheries, please see the July edition.

The harvest of freshwater 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 (LDWF) receives monthly reports from the initial buyers (processors, dealers, etc.) who are required to record every transaction via trip tickets. 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. Due to the delay in verifying all data, official landings are on a full year lag. Here is the most recent annual data (2015).

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 increased 22 percent from \$4.2 million for 9.6 million pounds caught by 2,385 commercial fishers in 2014 to \$5.1 million for 11.5 million pounds caught by 2,335 commercial fishers in 2015. While landings in 2011-2013 were approximately 11 million pounds, the value increased per pound in 2015.

Catfish are the mainstay of the more valuable freshwater species. Sales of catfish caught commercially in Louisiana waters were \$2.8 million for 4.9 million pounds in 2015, an increase from \$2 million on 3.8 million pounds in 2014 and 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 2015 crawfish season had a low year. Landings and value were down about 50 percent from the 2014 season. In 2015, 5.5 million pounds of crawfish were landed for a value of \$6.9 million. Landings in 2014 were 11.2 million pounds with sales at \$13.4 million. 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.

Overall, landings from the freshwater fisheries sector in 2015 had a gross value of \$11.9 million.

- Julie Lively

Diamondback Terrapin Hatchlings Released On Louisiana Coastal Barrier Island

Twenty-one diamondback terrapins were released July 6. The hatchlings, whose eggs were discovered by scientists at a Deepwater Horizon restoration site last year, were released on Chenier Ronquille, a coastal barrier island northeast of Grand Isle. The island's restoration was funded by Early Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) dollars (Phase III) that went to NOAA for their Outer Coast Restoration Project to restore beach, dune and back-barrier marsh habitats, as well as brown pelicans, terns, skimmers and gulls to help compensate the public for spill-related injuries and losses to these resources.

The story began in July 2016 when Keri Landry, an endangered species biologist with LDWF's Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, was contacted by NOAA about diamondback terrapin eggs found on the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project.

Chenier Ronquille is a barrier island located at the entrance to the Barataria Basin in Louisiana that is being restored through Deepwater Horizon early restoration efforts. The restoration is a component of the Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration Project, which restores beach, dune and back-barrier marsh at four barrier island locations. Other project components are being implemented by the CPRA and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"Louisiana's barrier islands and headlands are the first line of defense during storms, reducing the effects of wind, waves and flooding on coastal marshes," said Pat Montanio, Director of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation. "They also provide habitat for fish, shrimp, birds and other wildlife, but have been impacted by storms and oil spills like Deepwater Horizon. We're happy to support this important effort, restoring habitat that helps protect coastal communities in Louisiana."

Landry traveled to the barrier island to collect the diamondback terrapin eggs. Unable to incubate the eggs or raise the hatchlings, she contacted David and Karen Milliken, who assisted LDWF with its work with gopher tortoises, a federal and state-protected species. The Millikens incubated the eggs during July 2016.

The eggs were then turned to Steven and Rachael Creech in August 2016. They hatched in August 2016. The Creechs raised them since that time. Under their constant care, the terrapins have nearly tripled in size since hatching and were ready to be released into Louisiana's coastal barrier island system.

"LDWF didn't have the ability to incubate and raise the terrapin eggs," Landry said. "The Millikens and the Creechs have worked with LDWF in the past and came alongside again to help out. They were instrumental in caring for these hatchlings with their willingness to assist LDWF. LDWF's partnerships with other agencies, like NOAA and CPRA, and with the Millikens and Creechs, make conservation of our most imperiled species a reality."



PHOTO ROY KRON

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

New notice of intent regarding recreational bag limit and commercial seasons of king mackerel

A Notice of Intent was approved in July to increase the recreational bag limit of king mackerel from two to three fish per person. This increase in the recreational bag limit mirrors actions taken at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council seeking to maximize harvest of the recreational king mackerel quota for the Gulf of Mexico. In the same Notice of Intent, the commission also took action to set the opening date of the commercial king mackerel season as July 1 of each year. The commercial season has typically opened by Declaration of Emergency on July 1 of each year and this Notice of Intent will codify that long-standing practice.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via email to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Sept. 7, 2017.

Red Snapper Season Continues as LDWF Monitors Landings

Louisiana anglers will be able to complete the month of July catching red snapper. LDWF catch estimates are still well below the harvest limit that would result in red snapper season being closed. The latest catch statistics recorded by LDWF's LA Creel, the state's near real-time data collecting program, is 709,595 pounds. It covers the period through July 16. The last reported catch total was 655,603 pounds for the week ending July 9. The state's self-imposed cutoff number is 1.04 million pounds for 2017.

The red snapper fishing season was extended 39 days as part of an agreement reached earlier this summer involving Louisiana, the four other Gulf states – Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida - and the U.S. Department of Commerce. It allowed recreational anglers to fish out 200 miles from the Louisiana coast for red snapper for 39 days. Those dates included June 16-18, June 23-25, June 30-July 4, July 7-9, July 14-16, July 21-23, July 28-30, Aug. 4-6, Aug. 11-13, Aug 18-20, Aug. 25-27, and Sept. 1-4.

Any dates after this weekend will be cancelled immediately if the limit is reached before Sept. 4.

Also under the agreement there would be no red snapper fishing in state waters – out nine miles from the Louisiana coast – on Mondays through Thursdays, except on July 3-4 and Sept. 4. Anglers are limited to two fish, measuring at least 16 inches, per day.

For more information on the 2017 red snapper landings estimates, visit: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/page/41176-red-snapper-long-range-plan-facts/redsnapperwebsitedocument7-16-17-1.pdf.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

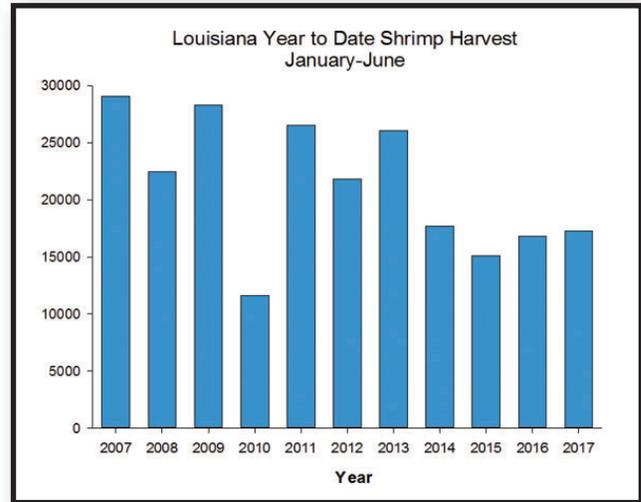
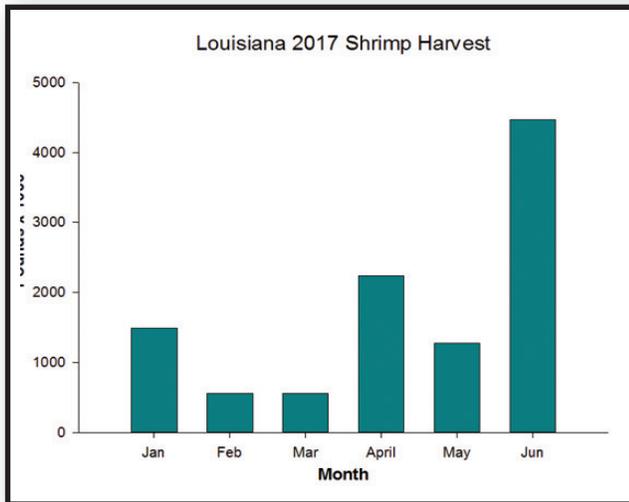
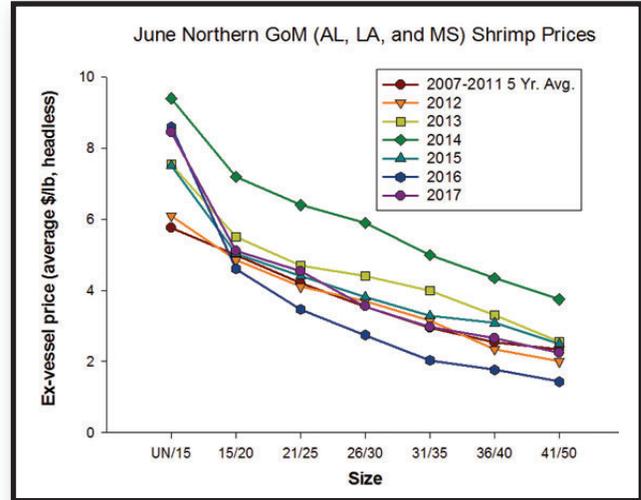
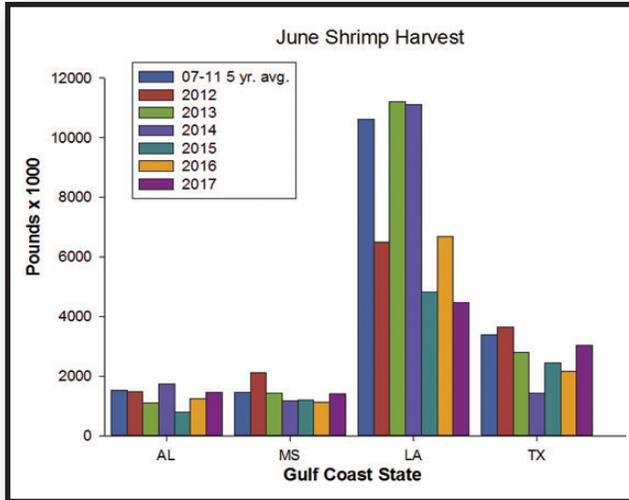
Final Rule for Hogfish Management in Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

Hogfish in the Gulf of Mexico will be managed as a single population from the Texas/Mexico border to a line near Cape Sable, Fla. A recent population assessment determined that the Gulf hogfish population is not undergoing overfishing (rate of removal is too high) and is not overfished (population abundance is too low). This rule adjusts annual catch limits, establishes gear restrictions, and increases the minimum size limit for Gulf of Mexico hogfish to prevent overfishing. Regulations will be effective Aug. 24, 2017.

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 Dates & Upcoming Events

July 24, 2017 – Louisiana shrimp season closed in all inside waters

September 2017 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Meetings for the Charter For-Hire fleet. For exact dates and locations, please visit <http://www.lafisheriesforward.org/>.

March 6, 2018 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit, Metairie, LA.

THE GUMBO POT

FISH BURGER

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:

4 four-ounce Louisiana fish fillets, such as snapper, grouper, or redfish, about 1 inch thick	3 tablespoons cooking oil
Creole or Cajun seasoning	2 tablespoons butter
1 cup flour	4 burger buns, for serving
2 eggs	Dill Pickle Tartar Sauce
1 cup panko bread crumbs	Lettuce, fresh dill, pickles, for garnish

Method:

Wash fish fillets and pat dry. Sprinkle both sides generously with Cajun or Creole seasoning. Spread flour on a plate; whisk eggs in a shallow bowl until no thick strands of egg white remain; spread panko on another plate.

Dredge fish fillets in flour, shaking off excess; dip in eggs, then in panko bread crumbs, pressing to adhere. Place on a wire rack and refrigerate for 20 minutes.

Place oil and butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat; oil is hot when a pinch of bread crumbs sizzle vigorously when dropped into oil. Add fish fillets and cook until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes, rotating after 1 minute. Turnover and cook until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Drain briefly on a rack set over paper towels; do not place directly on paper towels to avoid a soggy crust.

If desired, lightly toast buns; spread the bottom bun with Dill Pickle Tartar Sauce and garnish with lettuce. Top with a fish fillet, additional tartar sauce, and garnish as desired.

**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) 875-2635

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