



Oyster Leader Announces Retirement

Research professor, oyster specialist and Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) Oyster Research Lab director John Supan retired Dec. 31, 2017, after more than three decades with LSU.

Supan first began work with LSG in 1984 as an area fisheries agent for Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter, serving St. Tammany, Orleans and Tangipahoa parishes. During the following six years, he developed a strong commercial fisheries program working with local inshore shrimpers, while specializing in soft shell crab production during the National Sea Grant Program's impetus of applying recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) technology to that industry. In 1985, he became executive secretary-treasurer of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association, the state's oldest seafood trade association, a position he still holds.

During 1990, Supan changed career focus and became a Sea Grant research associate to begin working on his doctorate, while on loan to the first commercial oyster hatchery in the Gulf region, Gulf Shellfish Farms of Louisiana. There, he began a 28-year part-time residency on Grand Isle, while managing the oyster hatchery and training oystermen to utilize oyster larvae for remote setting techniques to produce their own seed oysters in order to become less dependent on the public oyster grounds, where production had dwindled due to drought conditions and saltwater intrusion from 1985 to 1991. Once wild seed production rebounded, the commercial venture folded and LSG acquired the facility. The repurposed Gulf Shellfish Farms became the Sea Grant Oyster Hatchery with Supan at the helm by 1993.

"It's been a long career helping all of this happen," Supan said. "My long-term goal for the (oyster) program was always commercialization, and now we have commercial triploid farms all across the Gulf."

Beginning in 2003, Supan began proposing the concept of sustainable coastal community development via inshore marine enterprise zones, or aquaculture parks, applying industrial park zoning concepts to Louisiana's coastal waters. He assisted the passage of state legislation in 2012 and 2017 creating policies for the use of the water column and surface over existing oyster leases and unique marine spatial planning of oyster farming zones in our coastal waters for off-bottom culture, thereby making Louisiana the only state in the U.S. with such dual progressive programming. This eventually led to the establishment of the Grand Isle Oyster Farming Zone administered by the Grand Isle Port Commission, a pre-permitted, delineated area of coastal water for off-bottom cage culture for triploid oyster production, also serving as a demonstration of unique, progressive, coastal planning for consideration by other coastal parishes and private land owners.

Supan plans to continue his work with oysters, as he is co-owner of Navy Cove Oyster Co. LLC in Alabama, an industry cooperator where collaborative research occurs with Auburn University and LSU, and has a number of ongoing projects in continuing to develop and enhance triploid production.

"I don't know that I could've possibly had a better career than I've had at Louisiana Sea Grant," he said. "And I won't be leaving the oyster world at all, I just won't be in Grand Isle as much."

Louisiana Recreational Creel Survey Certified

NOAA Fisheries announced the certification of the Louisiana Recreational Creel (LA Creel) survey design. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) uses LA Creel as an alternative general survey to estimate recreational fishing catch and effort, or number of angler trips. It was designed to provide catch estimates by state drainage basins, particularly for offshore fisheries, that are more precise than the Marine Recreational Information Program general survey estimates, and also to provide preliminary estimates weekly during the fishing season.

Since 2014, the State and NOAA Fisheries, along with outside consultants, have been working collaboratively to develop and refine the LA Creel sampling and estimation methods. LDWF developed the survey design, and MRIP provided technical support for subsequent improvement. MRIP also coordinated the independent peer review of the design.

Now that the LA Creel survey design has been certified, it is eligible for federal funding to support ongoing improvements and implementation. Use of LA Creel catch statistics in stock assessments and management actions, requires their conversion into a “common currency” that makes them comparable to historical MRIP estimates. Implementation of such a conversion requires development of peer-reviewed scientifically valid methods.

LA Creel is one of several Gulf of Mexico surveys that has been developed by the states with technical support from MRIP. Survey designs to supplement MRIP catch and effort estimates for red snapper are currently under review for certification in Alabama and Mississippi. Additionally, Florida has developed a supplemental reef fish survey design that will be peer reviewed in February 2018.

Greater Amberjack Allowable Harvest and Recreational Closed Season

A final rule will be effective Jan. 27, 2018, modifying commercial and recreational greater amberjack management measures in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf).

Greater amberjack annual catch limits and annual catch targets for 2018 and subsequent years will change. The greater amberjack population is expected to rebuild to sustainable levels by 2027. The greater amberjack recreational seasonal closure will be Jan. 1- June 30. The greater amberjack recreational sector will open Jan. 1, 2018, but is closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, Jan. 27, 2018.

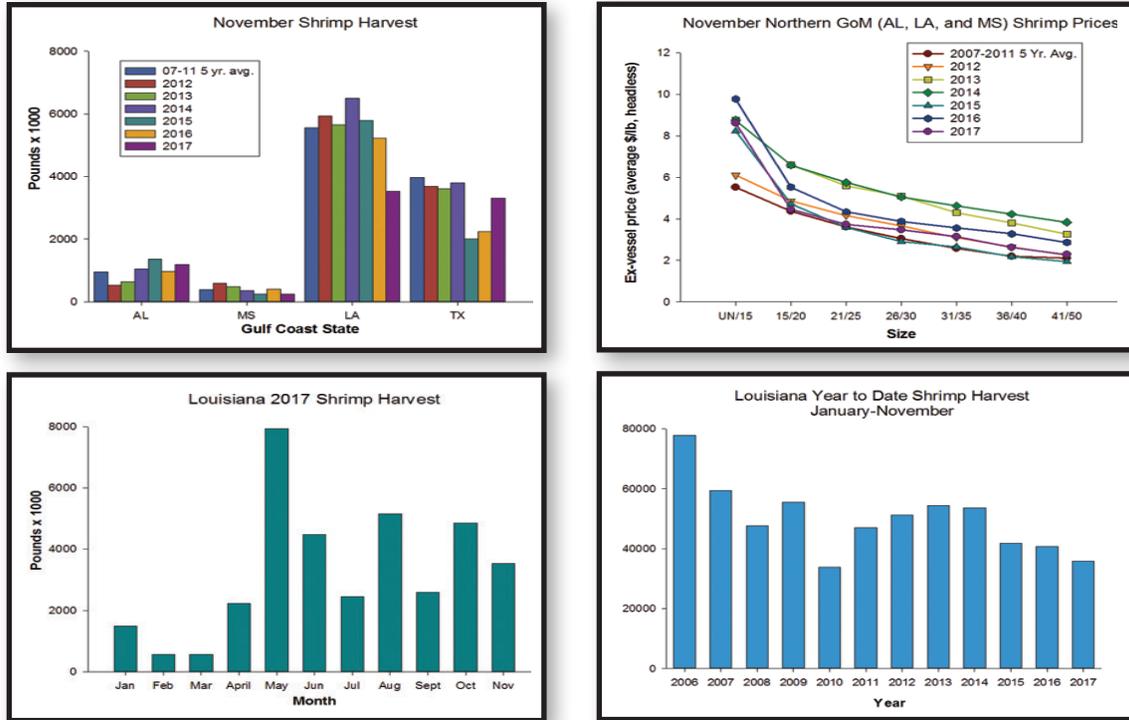
In Louisiana, the season for the recreational harvest of gray triggerfish will close in Louisiana waters on Jan. 16, 2018, and remain closed through Feb. 28, 2018. The recreational season will open as originally scheduled on Jan. 1, 2018, and run through Jan. 15, 2018, and then resume on March 1, 2018. NOAA Fisheries announced that new regulations are being enacted to help rebuild the gray triggerfish stock. NOAA Fisheries requested that Louisiana state waters also remain closed for that period. The changes to the recreational season include an additional recreational fixed closed season from Jan. 1 through the end of February of each year along with the currently established June 1 to July 31 fixed closed season.

Further changes enacted by NOAA Fisheries include size and bag limit changes which will also take effect in federal waters on Jan. 16. These changes include an increase in the recreational minimum size to 15 inches fork length and a reduction in the recreational bag limit to one gray triggerfish per angler per day within the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit (species within the 20-reef fish aggregate are vermillion snapper, lane snapper, almaco jack, gray triggerfish and tilefishes). Commercial trip limits have also changed to 16 gray triggerfish per trip. These additional changes to gray triggerfish regulations will be addressed at a future Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting.

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/stl/market_news/index.html.



Fish Gear Coordinates – December 2017

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that four claims in the amount of \$19,765.32 were received for payment during the period Dec. 1-31, 2017.

There were four paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in degree decimal minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 17.615	89 50.224	PLAQUEMINES
29 22.702	91 41.394	IBERIA
29 22.885	90 17.811	LAFOURCHE
30 03.450	89 46.806	ORLEANS

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Charles Reulet, administrator, Fishermen’s Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or call (225) 342-7591.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

March 6, 2018: Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit. Come join us at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. This free event is the Gulf South’s premier commercial fishing and seafood industry event, attracting hundreds of commercial fishermen, seafood dealers, processors and others. Produced by Louisiana Sea Grant, LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – with their industry partners – it is part of the Louisiana Fisheries Forward (LFF) education initiative.

This year’s Summit will again be structured as an expo, with an open trade show and ongoing demonstrations repeated throughout the day. Register for free lunch at <https://www.lafisheriesforward.org/summit/>.

THE GUMBO POT

SHRIMP AND CRAWFISH -STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

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:

1 pound of peeled crawfish tails	1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper
1 pound of shrimp, peeled and deveined	Salt and black pepper, to taste
½ cup of oil	2 eggs
1 large bell pepper, ground	1 cup of bread crumbs, or 3 or 4 slices of bread
½ cup of chopped onion	6 to 7 bell peppers, halved
½ cup of chopped celery	

Method:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grind crawfish and shrimp and cook in oil until it turns pinkish-orange in color. Add ground bell pepper, onion and celery and cook another 20 minutes, adding small amounts of water as needed to prevent sticking.

Add seasonings, let cool, then add eggs and stir well; add bread crumbs or stale bread and mix well. Stuff into uncooked pepper shells.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes.

Makes 12 to 14 pieces

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

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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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