



Lagniappe

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Louisiana Sea Grant Examines History and Options of Coastal Access Conflict

A new report from the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (LSG) examines the growing conflict over public and private access claims to the state's coastal waters.

The report, *Preliminary Options for Establishing Recreational Servitudes for Aquatic Access over Private Water Bottoms*, was completed in early March. The document emanates from a 2017 legislative mandate (HR 178) that directed LSG to study and make recommendations on recreational access in coastal waterways. This ongoing conflict is primarily between private landowners and recreational fishermen, and it involves disputes over what water areas are considered private and what water areas are open for public access.

Jim Wilkins, professor and director of the Sea Grant Law and Policy Program, served as lead author of the study. "The coastal access conflict has been with us since the early 1970s," said Wilkins, "... but it has really ramped up in recent years."

A guiding principle imposed by the 2017 study resolution was to limit the analysis to voluntary actions that would not impinge on individual property rights or impede commerce. In preparing the study, LSG convened stakeholder meetings with fishermen, landowners and state agencies to hear concerns and identify potential options.

The final report provides a general overview of the context, history and drivers of the coastal access issue; describes the process utilized for soliciting stakeholder input; and details economic and legal considerations for ten preliminary options that could be used to partially mitigate this conflict. Louisiana Sea Grant does not oppose nor endorse any of the options, said Wilkins, who describes the report as a compilation of "suggestions that stakeholders and policymakers can use in future discussions of possible solutions."

A full copy of the report and a list of frequently asked questions is available online at:
www.laseagrant.org/sglegal/publications/other/.



Louisiana Coastal Waterways. Photo: Julie Lively

2018 Legislative Season

The following is a brief summary of the bills proposed in the 2018 session that could impact fishing or fisheries. We've included the number, author, brief synopsis, and status as of mid April. More information including the full text and current status can be found at <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=18RS>

HB4 – S. BISHOP – FISHING/RECREATIONAL: Extends the additional saltwater fishing fee dedicated to the LACREEL program through May 31, 2018. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB114 – PUGH – WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Prohibits the capture or transport of the common musk turtle for commercial purposes. House Committee.

HB118 – BILLIOT – FISHING: Extends the Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund and extends payments into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2022. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB129 – REYNOLDS – CAPITAL OUTLAY: Exempts certain Department of Wildlife and Fisheries projects over a value of \$500,000 (increased from \$150,000) from the capital outlay process. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB130 – SCHEXNAYDER – WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Provides for the establishment of airboat trails on wildlife management areas. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB391 – PEARSON – WATERWAYS/NAVIGATION: Provides for the public navigation of running waters, including those running waters passing over any privately-owned water bottom directly connected to a state-owned water bottom that is subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. Failed to pass House.

HB411 – SCHEXNAYDER – WATERWAYS/SCENIC RIVERS: Adds the Tickfaw River, from the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to the I-12 crossing, and Blind River to the rivers eligible for clearing and snagging and dredging operations permitted by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB425 – ZERINGUE – FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Includes charter fishing guides in the certification program as earning more than half of their income from charter boat guide activities. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB549 – M. WHITE – BOATS/SHIPS/VESSELS: Requires houseboats without motors to be registered and numbered with the registration fees to be used for a grant program to parish governments to remove derelict houseboats. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB624 – SCHEXNAYDER – AGRICULTURE: Provides relative to the Commission of Weights and Measures and defines "basket" as a one and one-half bushel container used for measuring oysters for sale or purchase. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB687 – ZERINGUE – WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Restructuring of hunting and fishing licenses. In House.

HB706 – ZERINGUE – FISHING/RECREATIONAL: Allows possession of up to the possession limit of filleted red drum, spotted sea trout, or Southern flounder while traversing the waterways between a camp owned by the boat operator and a recognized boat ramp. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

HB722 – ZERINGUE – FISHING/OYSTERS: Requires oysters taken or sold to be "wholesome and marketable" and describes what qualifies as a "wholesome and marketable" oyster. House Committee.

HB784 – MCFARLAND – BOATS/SHIPS/VESSELS: Increases boat registration fees and dedicates the revenue to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund. Scheduled for House vote end of April.

HB799 – GAROFALO – FISHING/CRABS: Provides relative to the disposition of abandoned crab traps. Passed House and in Senate Committee.

SB176 – LONG – FISH/FISHING: Reduces the crappie daily take limit from fifty to twenty-five on Sibley Lake. In Senate Committee.

SB327 – LAMBERT – FISH/FISHING: Provides possession limits of certain species of fish caught in saltwater areas of the state. Passed Senate, in House.

SB427 – CHABERT – COASTAL PROTECT/RES AUTH: Transfers the Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board and the Atchafalaya Basin Program from within the Department of Natural Resources to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Passed Senate, in House.

SB437 – CHABERT – BOATS/BOATING: Deems commercial watercraft to be situated in the parish or district of its home port, as fixed by the owner on the commercial watercraft's registration. In Senate Committee.

SB451 – MORRISH – FISH/FISHING: Institutes a permanent moratorium on oyster fishing in Sabine Lake. Passed Senate and House Committee, Waiting House Debate and Vote.

SB453 – MORRISH – FISH/FISHING: Authorizes a person holding a permit to harvest oysters in Calcasieu Lake prior to Aug. 1, 2017, to harvest using a hand scraper or a single scraper with mechanical assist with a flat bar length of no more than 36 inches only in areas of Calcasieu Lake authorized by commission, based on biological data as of 30 days prior to the beginning of open season. Senate Committee.

SCR5 – MIZELL – WATER/WATERWAYS: Expresses opposition to the “One Lake” project proposing to dam the Pearl River and to build a 1,500 acre lake near Jackson, Mississippi and requests the United States Army Corps of Engineers to deny a pending permit for the project. Passed Senate and House.

– Damen Pheiffer and Julie Lively

Approval of EFP for Red Snapper Fishing

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has approved the LDWF request for state managerial control of red snapper for private recreational anglers fishing in 2018 and 2019. NOAA has chosen to retain management authority for that sector and is expected to set a gulf-wide charter season in the near future.

The approval of LDWF’s Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application allows the state to manage the private recreational red snapper fishery in both state and federal waters. The permit exempts Louisiana from certain federal regulations and allows the state to set those regulations in federal waters.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is expected to determine when the season should open and the number of red snapper harvested per day by each angler at its meeting in May. LDWF’s EFP application recommended that the state’s red snapper season open the Friday before Memorial Day, May 25, in both state and federal waters.

Private recreational anglers will be able to fish in both state and federal waters, but are required to hold a valid Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) in addition to regular basic and saltwater fishing licenses.

“Once the commission makes its determination, Louisiana anglers will be able to enjoy red snapper fishing under consistent regulations for both state and federal waters,” said LDWF Secretary Jack Montoucet. “State management of the red snapper season has been pushed for the past several years by the department and has received strong support from Gov. John Bel Edwards, along with other state and Congressional officials.”

The state’s recreational landings data program, known as LA Creel, will monitor landings on a weekly basis. The fishing season will close when landings approach or reach the requested allocation of red snapper approved under the EFP application. That allocation is equal to approximately 743,000 pounds of red snapper, which is the historical average annual harvest of the fish by the private recreational sector. LA Creel harvest monitoring will be coupled with a test of electronic harvest reporting via a smart phone app and online web portal. To participate under the terms of the EFP and to participate in the electronic reporting, visit <https://rolp.wlf.la.gov>.

State charter boats, those that do not have a federal reef fish permit, are not covered by the terms of this EFP. They can fish for red snapper in state waters only, when the season is open in such state waters.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Fishing

The greater amberjack recreational fishing year will be Aug.1 through July 31. The fixed closed season will be Nov.1 through April 30 and June 1 through July 31. Recreational fishing will be open August through October and in May. Therefore, the greater amberjack recreational sector will open on May 1, 2018.

Commercial harvest of greater amberjack in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) will not reopen June 1, 2018. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2019.

Louisiana Crab Task Force Seeking Input on Blue Crab Management Options

The Louisiana Crab Task Force is seeking public comment regarding future regulations on the commercial harvest of blue crabs in Louisiana waters. At the request of the task force, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) presented management options for the 2019 crab season at the March 13 task force meeting. The four options presented were designed to reduce annual landings by an amount similar to the reduction in landings during the 30-day closure in 2017.

OVERVIEW OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR 2019

OPTIONS PRESENTED	CONSIDERATIONS
1. Keep the current March – April 60-day restriction on commercial harvest of female blue crab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows female crab to move offshore to spawn • Longer restriction period • Harvest of male blue crab • Greater loss in dockside value
2. Implement 35-day restriction of commercial harvest of female blue crab beginning second Monday in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter restriction period than 60-day option • Reduced loss in dockside value • Harvest of male blue crab • Similar reduction in landings as the 60-day option
3. Implement 12-day commercial crab fishery closure (no harvest of males or females) in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter than female harvest restriction options • Requires traps to be removed from the water • Reduction in landings and dockside value similar to 35-day female restriction • Possible allowance for a concurrent crab trap cleanup
4. Implement 12-day commercial crab fishery closure (no harvest of males or females) in October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter than female harvest restriction options • Requires traps to be removed from the water • Reduction in landings and dockside value similar to 35-day female restriction • Possible allowance for a concurrent crab trap cleanup

The task force is accepting input on these options until May 3.

To submit feedback and public comment on the options above via an online survey,

<https://fs30.formsite.com/Jfroeba/form84/index.html>

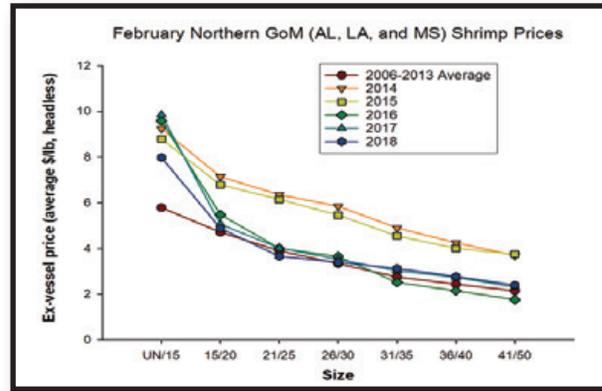
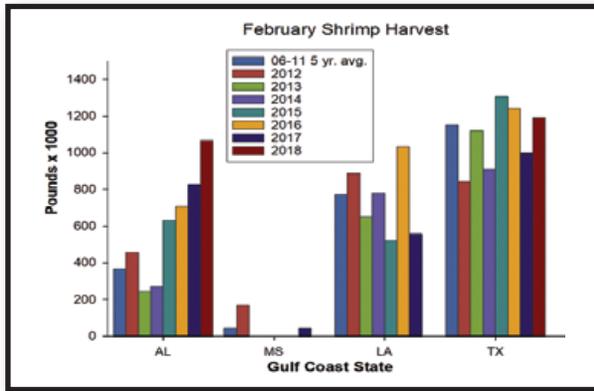


Crab traps. Photo: Julie Lively

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 – March 2018

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 17 claims in the amount of \$63,227.43 were received for payment during the period March 1-31, 2018.

There were 17 paid and 0 denied.

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

29 02.141	90 34.330	TERREBONNE
29 07.368	90 19.490	LAFOURCHE
29 08.318	90 02.829	JEFFERSON
29 12.173	90 23.850	LAFOURCHE
29 12.867	89 58.984	JEFFERSON
29 17.246	90 28.554	TERREBONNE
29 17.307	89 52.570	PLAQUEMINES
29 17.404	89 53.602	PLAQUEMINES
29 18.914	89 50.930	PLAQUEMINES
29 24.573	90 02.968	LAFOURCHE
29 33.145	90 02.585	JEFFERSON
29 38.363	89 31.160	PLAQUEMINES
29 43.072	89 41.095	PLAQUEMINES
29 48.712	89 40.457	SAINT BERNARD
29 56.597	89 48.985	SAINT BERNARD
30 00.427	89 45.784	SAINT BERNARD
30 09.538	89 37.893	SAINT TAMMANY

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 you can call (225) 342-7591.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

March 13, 2018: Commercial Fishing for Large Coastal Sharks closed state and federal waters

April 2, 2018: Shrimp season reopened in a portion of state outside waters seaward of Terrebonne Parish.

May 1-3, 2018: LDWF Commercial Fishing Licenses to be available. New Orleans Office, 2021 Lakeshore Drive Suite 210, New Orleans, LA, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

May 3, 2018: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries May meeting at the LDWF headquarters at 2000 Quail Drive.

THE GUMBO POT

FRIED FLOUNDER SANDWICH

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 cup mayonnaise	1¼ cups all purpose flour, divided
1 tablespoon minced green onion, white and light green parts only	½ cup cornstarch, divided
1 tablespoon finely chopped dill pickles	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon chopped fresh mint	1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1 teaspoon chopped fresh dill	1½ to 2 cups club soda
1 teaspoon chopped capers	4 (6-ounce) fresh flounder fillets
vegetable oil, for frying	4 sandwich buns
	lettuce leaves, for garnish

Method:

Combine mayonnaise, green onion, pickles, mint, dill, and capers; cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Pour oil to a depth of 3 inches in a large, heavy pot over medium heat; heat to 375°F. Combine ¼ cup flour and ½ cup cornstarch in a large shallow dish. Whisk remaining flour, cornstarch, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Stir in club soda until mixture is the consistency of pancake batter.

Dredge fish fillets in flour/cornstarch mixture, tapping off excess. Working in batches of 2, dip fillets in batter, then carefully lower into oil. Fry 2 to 4 minutes per side, until golden. Transfer to a wire rack set over paper towels to drain; repeat with remaining fillets.

To serve, spread buns generously with tartar sauce, layer with lettuce, and top with fish fillets. Serve hot.

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

Nicole Lundberg

Area Agent – Fisheries/Coastal Issues
Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes
Phone: (985) 873-6495
nlundberg@agcenter.lsu.edu

Carol D. Franze

Marine Agent
Southeast Region
Phone: (985) 875-2635
cfranze@agcenter.lsu.edu

Kevin Savoie

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

Dominique Seibert

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

Thomas Hymel

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

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