



Louisiana Fisheries: Marine Fisheries, Part II

Note: Freshwater, Part 1 appeared in May. The information reported here is from two cooperating sources: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) receives monthly reports from the initial buyers who are required to record every transaction via trip tickets and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reports. All this data is provisional and subject to change. The freshwater and marine fisheries data presented reflect the calendar year 2016. The one-year lag is necessary to ensure data accuracy.

In 2016, marine fisheries landings in Louisiana were valued at \$409.2 million dockside, up from \$361.7 million in 2015.

Marine finfish landings for food are varied and complex, with about 60 different species being landed for a total of 12.5 million pounds in 2016, excluding menhaden. This was a four percent increase from 2015, when 12.1 million pounds of marine finfish were landed in Louisiana. Excluding menhaden, the five most-valued species landed in 2016, by decreasing value, were red snapper, yellowfin tuna, black drum, king mackerel and vermilion snapper. Total saltwater finfish landings, excluding menhaden, were valued at \$21.3 million, an 11 percent increase from \$19.2 million in 2015.

Landings of menhaden or pogey, a low-value but high-volume nonfood finfish species, were one billion pounds in 2016, an increase of 20 percent from only 894 million pounds in 2015. The catch was valued at \$132 million in 2016, an increase of 35 percent from \$85.3 million in 2015. Menhaden oil and meal are sold on the world market for industrial purposes, animal feeds and omega-3 dietary supplements, among other uses, and the prices received for menhaden products is a function of the world supply of oils and meals, particularly those produced by the fisheries for the anchovetta of the Pacific Coast of South America.

Oysters had a decent increase in 2015, but 2016 saw another decline of 17 percent in landings to 12.1 million pounds. This is still an increase compared to previous years as in 2013 and 2014, 11.3 million pounds of oysters were landed. The price in 2016 decreased slightly from approximately \$5.87 per pound of oyster meat in 2015 to \$5.69 per pound. To calculate prices per sack, assume 6.47 pounds of shucked oyster meat per sack (\$36.79 per sack). According to NMFS, the gross value of oysters harvested during 2016 was \$68.5 million – down 19 percent from \$85.1 million in 2015.

Blue crabs constitute nearly all of the Louisiana crab harvest, with stone crab claws making up less than 0.01 percent. Louisiana hard crab landings normally range from 40 to 50 million pounds. However, stock assessments show stocks fell below acceptable levels in 2012 and 2014. Blue crab landings were 40.1 million pounds with a gross value of \$49.4 million in 2016 by 2,659 license holders, a 3 percent decline in landings and a 15 percent decline in value from 41.1 million pounds with a gross value of \$57.5 million in 2015.



Photo: Paula Ouder

Peeler or buster crabs are blue crabs that are close to molting their shell. These crabs are sold to soft shell facilities to produce soft shell crab. In 2016, the soft shell industry continued to see declines to 145,090 pounds of peeler crabs and 10,865 pounds of soft shell. Hurricane Isaac in the fall of 2012 may have affected shedding facilities. Overall, the soft shell crab industry has been in steady decline for at least two decades.

Louisiana shrimp landings in 2016 consisted of six species: white shrimp, brown shrimp, sea bobs, pink shrimp, roughneck shrimp and other (either royal reds or rock). In 2016, white shrimp contributed about 74 percent (72 million pounds) of total weight and 85 percent (\$117.7 million) of total value. In 2016, brown shrimp landings totaled 23.9 million pounds with a value of \$18.9 million dockside. Total shrimp landings in 2016 were 97.5 million pounds, a six percent increase from 91.6 million pounds in 2015. Shrimp landed in Louisiana had a gross value of \$137.7 million in 2016, up 21 percent from 2015. Overall, price has fallen on shrimp after a few years with higher dockside prices. The higher prices in Louisiana were a result of the decline in imported farmed shrimp due to disease issues in Asia and South America. The weighted-average price for shrimp was \$1.41 in 2016, up from \$1.24 in 2015, down from \$2.08 in 2014, \$1.81 in 2013 and \$1.45 in 2010-2012.

– Julie Lively

2018 Louisiana Red Snapper Recreational Season

The 2018 recreational red snapper season began on Friday, May 25, in both state and federal waters. The season will run seven days a week with a daily bag limit of two fish per person and a 16-inch total length minimum size limit. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may consider amending the season at a future meeting to weekends-only if necessary. The season will remain open until recreational landings approach or reach Louisiana's annual private recreational allocation of 743,000 pounds of red snapper according to estimates from LA Creel.

This year's season differs from years prior in that state and federal seasons will run concurrently because federal fisheries managers approved the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' application for an Exempted Fishing Permit to manage the private recreational snapper season in state and federal waters in 2018 and 2019. Under the EFP, participating anglers will be allowed to fish red snapper in the state territorial seas and adjoining federal EEZ, from shore to 200 nautical miles, during the season set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. NOAA Fisheries will continue to regulate federal for-hire charter vessels.

The intent of the state's EFP is to test a state-based management approach that allows the recreational harvest of red snapper in federal waters off Louisiana's coast.

Resident and Non-Resident Recreational Anglers:

- Must possess valid Louisiana Basic and Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses as well as a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (free of charge) to participate.
- Anglers can sign up via the ROLP website or smartphone application (Google Play or iTunes) to participate. Log into your ROLP account and click the link to register to fish for red snapper under the EFP. Once you have registered, save an electronic copy on your mobile device or print a copy of your ROLP indicating your EFP registration and carry it on your person along with applicable licenses while fishing under the EFP.

State For-Hire Charter Vessels:

- State for-hire charter captains (those who do not have a federal Gulf of Mexico charter/headboat permit for reef fish) are not covered by the terms of this EFP.
- May only fish for red snapper in state waters (within the 9 nautical mile state water boundary), when the Louisiana recreational red snapper season is open.

Federal For-Hire Charter Vessels:

- Despite the department's initial EFP application, vessels with federal reef fish for-hire permits will remain under federal regulations and may not fish under this EFP.
- May only fish in federal waters during the 51-day federal for-hire season from June 1 through July 21, 2018.
- If a federal for-hire charter captain also holds a Louisiana charter license, he/she may also fish state waters only when the federal for-hire charter season overlaps with the Louisiana season.

Opening of Shrimp Season

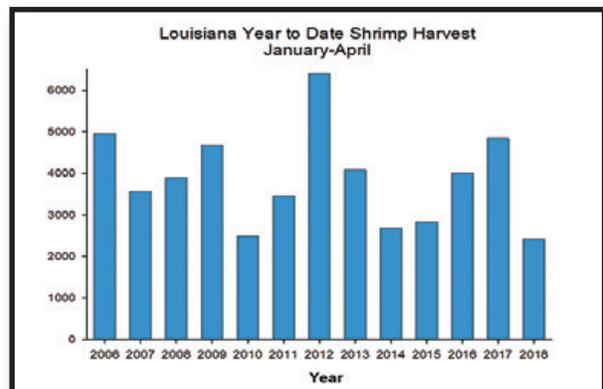
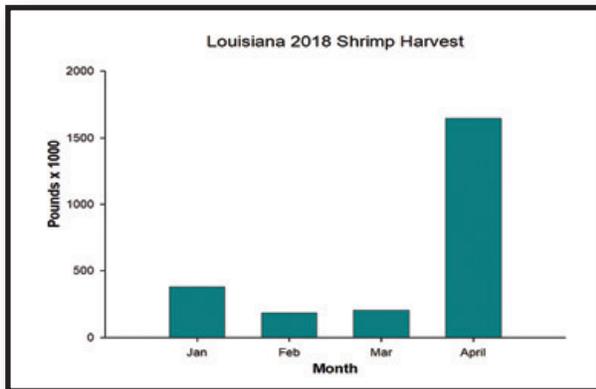
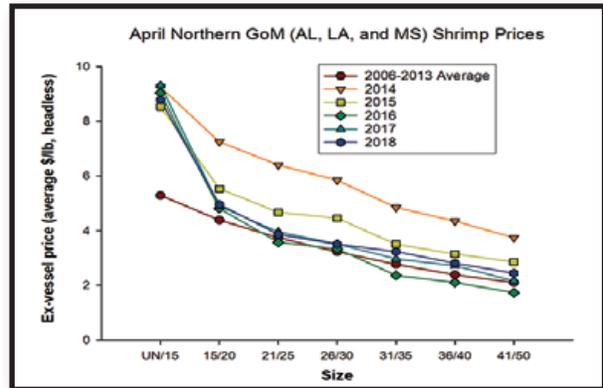
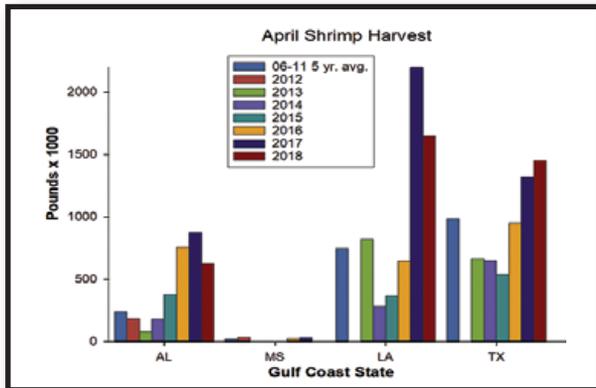
The opening of the remainder of Shrimp Management Zone 1 from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the southern shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet was delayed until May 29. The Secretary of the LDWF had been notified of recent technical data that could negatively impact the Louisiana commercial shrimp industry. The high volume of brown shrimp landed by commercial harvesters has led to more available shrimp than can be efficiently handled by docks and processors. This situation can be detrimental to the commercial industry by flooding the market with similar sized shrimp, resulting in lower dockside values and a possible loss of harvested shrimp due to lack of available buyers.

A declaration of emergency adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 3 authorized the secretary of LDWF to delay or advance the opening dates of shrimp season if biological and/or technical data indicate the need to do so. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

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 – April 2018

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that four claims in the amount of \$14,433.50 were received for payment during the period April 1-30, 2018.

There were four paid and zero denied.

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

29 10.226	89 30.064	PLAQUEMINES
29 17.246	90 28.554	TERREBONNE
29 17.446	89 48.200	PLAQUEMINES
29 23.897	89 46.494	PLAQUEMINES

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

May 15 – Commercial harvest of king mackerel closed in federal waters

May 25 – Recreational red snapper season opened in state and federal waters off Louisiana.

June 5-7 – AFDO Seafood HACCP training, LSU AgCenter, 8:00 am,

<https://www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/haccp-seafood.htm>

June 7 – Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, LDWF, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, 9:30 am

June 13 – Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board meeting,

Capitol Park Event Center, 702 River Road, Baton Rouge, 1:00 pm

June 19 – 2018 Louisiana Seafood Cookoff (LASCO), Cajundome, Convention Center, Lafayette, 4:30 pm

June 26-28 – IAH Meat, Poultry, and Catfish HACCP training, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge,

<https://www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/haccp-meat-poultry.htm#p5>

July 5 – Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, LDWF, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, 9:30 am

July 11 – Shrimp Task Force, Terrebonne Council Meeting Room, 8026 Main Street, Houma, 10:00 am

July 31 – Crab Task Force Gear Subcommittee Meeting, UNO, 2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210, New Orleans, 10:00 am

July 31 – Crab Task Force Meeting, UNO, 2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210, New Orleans, 1:00 pm

THE GUMBO POT

BEER-BATTERED FISH TACOS

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:

oil for frying
 1 c. all-purpose or corn flour
 1 tbsp. salt
 1 tbsp. black pepper
 1 tsp. dried oregano
 1 tsp. cumin, toasted if time permits
 cayenne pepper to taste
 1 lb. firm white Louisiana fish fillets, cut into strips
 1 c. dark beer
 corn or flour tortillas, warmed

Method:

Pour oil to a depth of two inches in a deep, heavy skillet or Dutch oven, and set it over medium-high heat to 350°F.

Preheat oven to 200°F. Line a large baking sheet with paper towels and top towels with wire cooling racks; place in the oven.

Whisk together flour, salt, pepper, oregano, cumin and cayenne pepper; taste, and adjust. Slowly whisk beer into flour mixture, stirring until no lumps remain, and set it aside for 10 minutes.

Working in batches, dip fish strips into batter, allowing excess to drop back into bowl, and slip into hot oil. Fry, turning occasionally, until golden and crispy, about three minutes total. Drain on prepared baking sheet, keeping fish warm while frying remaining fish.

Serve hot, allowing guests to assemble as desired.

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.

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

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