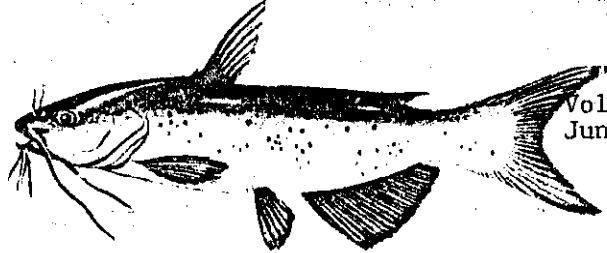


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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



Volume 2, Number 6
June 21, 1978

LAGNIAPPE

CATFISH FESTIVAL

It's getting near the time for Des Allemands annual catfish festival. Festivals are a big thing in Louisiana and popularity of the catfish festival has been growing by leaps and bounds.

Over 10,000 pounds of catfish will be fried this year and catfish courtbouillon and sauce piquant will also be served. Besides catfish, 200 gallons of seafood gumbo will be prepared, 3500 hamburgers, 16 cases of sausage and 1500 pounds of potatoes and 100 dozen eggs for potato salad. To wash all this good food down, 150 kegs of beer will be on hand.

Demonstrations of duck carving will be held and there will be a south Louisiana painting display and on Sunday at 1:30 p.m., there will be Karate demonstration. Capping off the festivities, will be the world champion catfish skinning contest at 3:00 p.m.

The festival will be held on the weekend of July 8-9 at the Church Grounds, old Highway 90 in Des Allemands.

CHANGE IN LOAN PROGRAM

The President of the United States has signed the bill changing the Fishing Vessel Obligation Guarantee Program. Prior to the change, the fisherman had to put up 25% of the cost of a new boat before the Government would back the other 75%.

With the new law, the fisherman only has to put up 12½% and the Government will guarantee the other 87½%. This program can be useful to the fishermen, but it does have some drawbacks. It can only be used on larger boats, not skiffs and you can't buy a used boat with it. This program is primarily designed for the purchase or building of new boats and reconditioning or rebuilding of old boats already owned by fishermen.

If you have any questions on this program, contact me at my Gretna office.

TEXAS GAME WARDENS HAVE BIG BOATS

The state of Texas annually closes its Gulf shrimping season from June 1 to July 15 to protect migrating shrimp. However, it was found that closing the season was one thing and enforcing it was another.

When the law went into effect in 1959, game wardens patrolled the 375-mile coastline in small outboards and bay cruisers. These boats could only venture into the Gulf on calm days.

In 1966, the department purchased a twin-engine, 310 Cessna, for shrimp patrol. The next year they added a 36-foot and a 54 foot patrol boat. The larger boat was a steel hull vessel with two diesel engines and equipped with radar and electronic equipment. The smaller boat was fiberglass. In 1968 they added a 36-foot aluminum-hull cruiser to their fleet.

The last additions to the fleet were a 65 footer in 1976 and four thirty-footers in 1977. The 30-foot boats have a deep V-hull and are constructed of marine aluminum and stainless steel. They are powered by two 350-horsepower gasoline engines and cruise at 28-30 miles per hour. Their top speed is over 40 mph.

The 65-footer, the Captain Sprott, is powered by two V-12 diesels and can maintain a speed of 28 mph. It operates for as long as a week between trips and dockings. All five boats have the best electronic and communications systems available anywhere.

During the 1977 closed season, the coastal wardens caught 122 boats and confiscated over \$74 thousand dollars of seafood and collected \$12,000 in fines. Looks like Texas has its own navy! Source: Texas Parks & Wildlife. May 1978.

CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION FUND

The Capitol Construction Fund is a complex financing program for commercial fishermen. Because it is hard to understand, many fishermen don't use this very valuable program. What it is basically, is an agreement between the U.S. government and a fisherman for the fisherman to set aside some of his income in a special account for buying a fishing boat. No income tax is paid on this money.

When a fisherman has saved up enough money to buy his boat, he just withdraws the funds. Uncle Sam gets his tax money back through vessel depreciation.

What this really amounts to, is an interest free loan of money that would otherwise have been paid in Federal income taxes. This program is especially valuable to fishermen who are selling their boat, as it really lessens the tax bite which would normally occur when the boat is sold. If you are interested in knowing more about this program, contact me at my Gretna office.

LORAN-C RECIEVERS

With the new LORAN-C units out now, many shrimpers who have a LORAN-A unit or no unit at all, are thinking about installing one.

However, it is important not to ignore the technical details when installing your LORAN-C unit. For example, a common source of interference to LORAN-C recievers can be a T.V. set on the boat. This is especially true if the T.V. is an older, poorly shielded model. It can cause the LORAN-C reciever to become swamped or overloaded.

The Coast Guard is now putting out a regular bulletin on LORAN-C. You can request to recieve this free bulletin from Commandant (GWAN/73) U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, D.C. 20590. It is full of useful bits of information if you have a LORAN-C unit or plan to get one in the near future.

SPECKS IN TEXAS

Speckled trout are a highly desirable fish, not just in Louisiana, but all along the Gulf Coast. Several articles on specks recently appeared in the TEXAS newspaper, the Houston Post.

In a series of articles by Dave Precht, he points out that the people who would be most hurt by a ban on commercial speckled trout fishing, would be the average consumer who would pay higher prices for the fish.

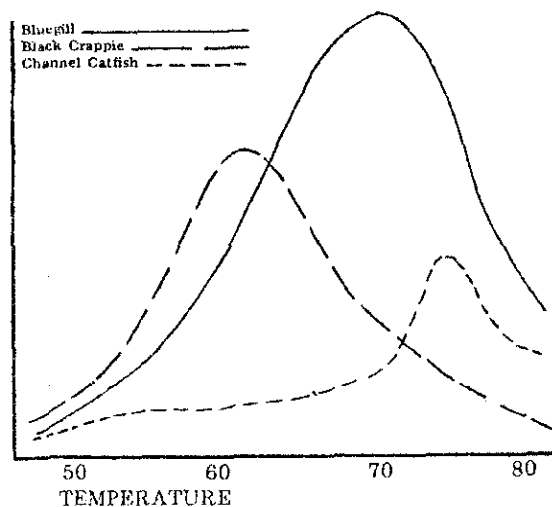
In a letter to the editor on the same subject, a Mr. Charlie Hargrave quoted the latest Texas Parks & Wildlife creel survey data he had available for Galveston Bay. His figures showed that sport fishermen harvested 81.4% of the specks, 70% of the redfish and 90% of the flounder.

He seemed to feel that the real danger to trout wasn't over catching, but rather the choking off of its life processes, by such things as pollution, dredging, filling and dams.
Source: Houston Post. April 24, 1978.

FISH AND WATER TEMPERATURE

Water temperature is widely known as one of the most important factors in fishing success. Whether you fish commercially or just for sport, the temperature of the water is certainly an important consideration. Water temperature not only affects fish, but also shrimp and crabs.

Recently, fisheries biologists in the state of Virginia studied the effects of temperature on the catch of freshwater fish. Two sport fish, bluegill and soc-a-lait (black crappie) and one commercial fish, channel catfish, were studied. The graph below shows at what temperatures the most fish were caught.



The interesting thing found here, was that the best catches were made at a water temperature just a little cooler than the fish's spawning temperature. This seems to show that fish are probably easiest to catch while they are moving around looking for a place to spawn. For example, the best catches of catfish are made at around 75°F. Catfish spawn at temperatures of 75°-80°F.

Fishermen are realizing more and more how important temperature is. In fact, I know several blue crab fishermen and quite a few sports fishermen who carry thermometers with them.
Source: Virginia Wildlife. March 1978.

COASTAL ENERGY IMPACT FUNDS

It seems that no matter how hard they try, the oil industry and the fishing industry sometimes lock horns. Since our recent oil shortage, great priority has been given to new oil exploration and production.

An awful lot of this work has been done in Louisiana and off of it's coast as any fisherman can tell you.

Fortunately, provisions have been made to make up for some of the problems caused by this work. A total of over \$132 million dollars has been alloted to 33 states for 1978. Louisiana as can be seen below, gets double the next nearest state. These funds may be a good source of money for communities to look into to help them with some of the problems caused by oil exploration.

Louisiana.....	\$52,147,971
Alaska.....	\$21,141,955
California.....	\$14,180,710
Texas.....	\$13,071,401
Mississippi.....	\$ 6,547,401

SEAFOOD POSTERS AVAILABLE

I have just recieved a shipment of seafood posters from the National Marine Fisheries Service. These large full-color posters show an assortment of seafoods and have tips on picking seafood. They are ideal for dressing up the wall or window of a retail shop.

Posters like this, tend to cheer up a seafood market and add color to it. You can get a free poster for your business by calling or writing me at my Gretna office.

THE GUMBO POT

Shrimp Salad

This recipe is one of my wife's favorites. We like to put left-over boiled shrimp in the freezer and use them for this recipe. The nice thing about it, is that it only takes 10 minutes to prepare and is a real treat during our hot summer days.

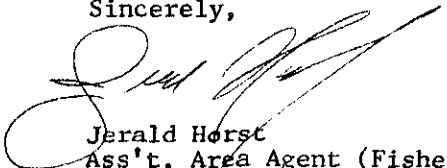
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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb. boiled seasoned shrimp tails | 1 tbsp. green onion (diced) |
| 1 boiled egg | 2 tbsp. sweet pickle relish |
| 1 stalk celery (diced) | 1 cup mayonaise |

Peel shrimp and egg and chop finely either by hand or with a blender. Mix all the ingredients together smoothly. Serve on crackers or toast.

*

This newsletter is a free service of the LSU Cooperative Extension Service. Our mailing list is still open for people who would like to recieve this newsletter.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Ass't. Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles