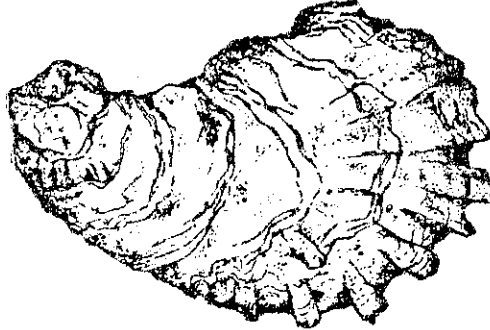


LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

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COMMERCIAL SHRIMPER'S MEETING

Tee John Mialjevich will be chairing a meeting for commercial shrimpers at the Lafitte Civic Center in Lafitte on Wednesday, January 16, 1980 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be about problems facing shrimpers in the 1980's. One subject that is sure to be discussed is the proposed seasonal closure of all shrimping off of Texas. Many Louisiana fishermen feel that this will place a tremendous burden on our ice, fuel and dock side facilities when all the Texas boats come over. The meeting is open to everyone.

TAX GUIDES

Its that time of year again, income tax time. While the subject might be unpleasant, its important to know as much as you can about it. There are special rules and regulations for fishermen, most designed to help them.

Since not most tax preparers don't file very many fishermen taxes, they may not be familiar with the special benefits for fishermen. Whether you use a commercial tax preparer or do it yourself, you may find the new 1979 Tax Guide for Commercial Fishermen to be useful. You can get a free copy by calling or writing me at my Gretna office.

TAX TIPS

Fishermen are treated differently from most other taxpayers when it comes to filing your federal income tax forms. If your tax year starts January 1 and if at least 66% of your estimated income is from fishing you may do either of two things: (1) use Form 1040-ES to estimate your 1979 tax and pay this amount by January 15, 1980, then file your regular Form 1040 by April 15, 1980 and pay any balance due. (2) use Form 1040 to file your 1979 tax return and pay the tax due on or before March 3, 1980. Most fishermen find it easier to file theirs by the March 3rd date.

Remember if you are a part-time fishermen who earns less than 66% of his gross income from fishing then you file like an ordinary income earner by April 15, 1980.

Crew Members: If you had crew members working on your boat in 1979 who were paid on a crewshare not salary basis, then two more dates are important. You must tell the IRS each crew member's social security number, his share of the catch and your precentage share of the catch. As you could have guessed, IRS has a form for this information. It is Form 1099-F. You will have to use carbon paper

because there are three copies of this form A, B, and C. You must fill out a 1099-F for each crew member. Copy A must be sent to the IRS center to which you normally send your return. Send Copy A on or before February 29, 1980. Send each crew member his Copy B on or before January 31, 1980. Keep Copy C for your records.

MORE TAX TIPS

Reduce Federal Taxes: A definite way to reduce your federal tax is to use the investment tax credit. Many fishermen pay too much tax by not remembering what they bought in 1979. If you bought something to use in your fishing business that will last three years or more, you can probably get a break on your taxes owed Uncle Sam or even a refund. Examples are: electronics, diesel engines, gasoline engines, winches, or a boat. These things and others don't have to be new. You can get the same break if you bought used equipment. Make sure you tell your tax preparer to look into the investment tax credit and give him a list of big things you bought last year. A new or used boat you bought for \$10,000 would save you \$1,000 in taxes. Our LSU Extension economist, Ken Roberts, can give more advice on this. Give me a call if I can help.

Loran A: Some fishermen may have bought a Loran C set in 1979. If you also owned an A set which was not fully depreciated, then you should tell your tax man about Loran A going off the air. Your tax man can write off all the remaining depreciation on your A set when the 1979 return is filed. Since A is going off the air, the A set is of no value. You should also write off the salvage value you originally estimated the set would have when fully depreciated. Of course, this advice does not apply to those fishermen who have already fully depreciated their A sets.

Big Taxes are Coming When you Sell a Boat: Most boats increase in value between the time you buy and sell. You will pay capital gain tax on 40% of the increase in price. However, you will also pay tax on that part of the sales price which represents recapture of depreciation. For example, 10 years ago you bought a trawler for \$40,000 and you have written off \$30,000 in depreciation. You sold it for \$50,000 this year. You recaptured the \$30,000 in depreciation. You also have capital gain of \$10,000 ($\$50,000 - \$40,000 = \$10,000$). You only add 40% or \$4,000 of this \$10,000 to your gross income. However, you must also add the \$30,000 of recaptured depreciation to your gross income. This means you add a total of \$34,000 to your gross income in the year you sold the boat. The \$34,000 is treated just like you sold another \$34,000 of shrimp. The tax bite will be large. There is a way to protect this money from being taxed. It is called the Capital Construction Fund program. Have your tax man check with me on the details of the program.

BRAZILIAN CATFISH

Catfish production over the years has grown from a down home southern favorite to an international product. Years ago the only catfish sold in the U.S. were wild-caught fish primarily from the South. Then along came farm-raised catfish and then in 1969 imported Brazilian catfish.

In 1969, Brazil exported 3.8 million pounds to the U.S. This grew to a record high of 18 million pounds in 1977. Almost all catfish imported from Brazil are wild-caught fish from the Amazon River Basin. While we call the fish we import from Brazil the Amazon blue channel catfish, their name for it is piramutaba.

They catch these catfish by trawling with 260-330 foot trawls pulled by two boats. Each drag lasts about 6 hours and with a mesh size of about five inches, they can land up to 700 tons of fish a month.

Right now all the fish exported from Brazil are handled by two or three large Brazilian companies. Their plants have to meet the health standards of their country and pass FDA inspection when they enter this country. Very few shipments fail to meet FDA standards.

PCB POLLUTION

PCBs are a short term for a group of chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls. They were first invented in 1929 and have been used for such different things as hydraulic brake fluids, ironing board covers, ink, carbon paper, paints, soaps, caulking compounds and electrical parts. Approximately 1.4 billion pounds have been manufactured since 1929 and it is felt that 95% of these chemicals will end up in the world's waters.

PCBs don't break down into harmless chemicals after they have been used. They end up building up in the bottoms of rivers, lakes and oceans. Fish absorb them through their gills and skins and eat PCB contaminated bottom-living animals.

PCBs were dramatically found to be a problem in 1968 when some cooking oil was contaminated in Japan. Persons who ate the cooking oil were permanently affected with serious skin, nervous system and lung problems. PCBs are known to cause cancer in laboratory animals. In 1971, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration put PCBs on its list of hazardous substances and their use was cut way down.

Unfortunately, the 1.4 billion pounds manufactured since 1929 are still here and won't go away. Many researchers are looking at the high amounts of PCBs in fish and fish products. If high concentrations are found, the fish could be declared hazardous for human consumption. In some rivers like the Housatonic in Connecticut, the State Department of Health has had to post warning signs against the use of fish. These areas won't clean themselves up like areas with sewage pollution. The PCBs may stay there for 50 years or longer.

Source: Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection. Citizen's Bulletin. Volume 6, Number 10. June 1979.

CAMP BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

In a recent survey by LSU Sea Grant, it was estimated that Louisiana has over 10,000 camps in its marshes, swamps and beaches. Many of these camps are in areas where wind and water damage are likely. This causes special construction problems.

I recently obtained a few copies of a building construction checklist used for Texas coasts and shorelines. If you are planning to build or re-build a camp, this may be of use to you. You can get a copy by writing or calling me at my office.

COLORED OYSTERS

Have you ever opened an oyster that has an unusual color? There are many reasons for oysters which have unusually colored meats. Here are some of the more common colors and their causes.

Green Gills - This is caused by the depositing of chlorophyll from the tiny plant life that the oyster uses as food.

Green Oysters - Many oysters will concentrate copper in their bodies giving them a green color.

Red Oysters - (1) Pink yeasts will sometimes give oysters and their liquid a pink color. This yeast growth results from unsanitary conditions in the processing plant or on the boat harvesting them. (2) Sometimes a bacteria Serratia marcescens with a red pigment will multiply and cause a red color. This bacteria is rarely observed. (3) A small crab called the pea crab is sometimes found inside oysters. The ovaries of this crab contains a red pigment which can leak out and cause a pink color. (4) The most common cause of red colored oysters is a microscopic dinoflagellate which

the oysters have been consuming in recent years. If the oyster is cut during shucking or damaged during freezing and thawing the red pigment will leak out and discolor the oyster liquor. This color can be destroyed by heating to 120 F degrees. This red color has no relation to the very poisonous red tide. These red pigmented oysters are safe for human consumption. (5) Brown spots-oysters in the South will develop brown spots due to biochemical reactions. This is normal for these oysters and not harmful.

THE GUMBO POT Smoked Fish

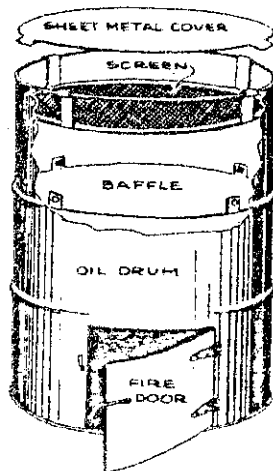
When I mentioned in last month's newsletter that we had a free publication on smoking fish available, it seemed like everyone called for a copy of it. If you've eaten smoked fish, you know that its delicious.

Prepare the fish by cutting off the head, gutting and scaling it. Split the fish in half lengthwise along the backbone and soak it in a brine solution for 18 to 24 hours. Make the brine by dissolving enough salt in cold water until it will float an egg. If you want to spice the brine, add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of brown sugar, 2 tablespoons of black pepper and 2 tablespoons of crushed bay leaves for each cup of salt used.

Before smoking, remove the fish from the brine and wipe dry. Make the fire with oak, ash, hickory or pecan. Green wood will make more smoke. You can also make the fire with charcoal and add some of these types of wood when your supply is low. If the wood is dry, cut down on the air supply to make it smoke more. Never use pine or cypress.

Smoke the fish until the surface of the flesh becomes dry and golden 160 to 180 degrees. Thin pieces finish sooner. Ideal fish for smoking are carp, gasper gou, catfish, mullet and croaker.

How To Build A Smoker



Obtain a 50 gallon metal drum (oil or alcohol). Using a sharp cold chisel, the top of the drum is carefully cut out. Next reduce the diameter of the removed top about three inches. This top is then suspended from 3 brackets 13 inches from the top of the drum (see diagram). Next cut out a 10" x 7" section at the bottom side of the drum for the fire pit door. Lightweight sheet metal may be used for a door on a single hinge. A tray for holding the fish can be made from heavy $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ " wire mesh. This tray is suspended 6 inches from the top of drum. A wood or metal cover may be used to hold smoke in drum.

Sincerely,

Jerald Horst
Jerald Horst
Assoc. Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service follows a non-discriminatory policy in programs and employment.