

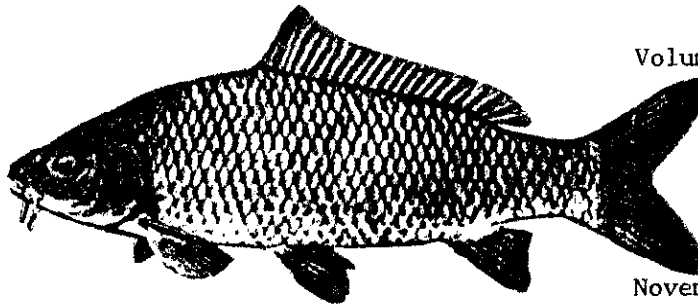
LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Jefferson Parish
Orleans Parish
St. Charles Parish

1825 Bonnie Ann Drive
Marrero, LA 70072
341-7271, 341-7272

SEA GRANT PROGRAM

Volume 4, No. 11



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LAGNIAPPE

CARP

When ever talk turns to underutilized species, it seems that everyone turns to saltwater fishes. However, freshwater commercial fishermen also have their underutilized fish. One of the most underutilized fish in the United States is the carp or German carp as it is called in southern Louisiana.

Carp are a very popular food and sport fish in Asia and Europe. European sportsfishermen spend a great deal of time catching carp; using bait like corn, worms and doughballs. Carp are highly intelligent fish and they are easily spooked from an area except during spawning season. They are also very strong fighters.

Demand for carp is so good in some areas of the world that they are farmed to supply the public, just as we farm catfish and rainbow trout. In the U.S., demand for carp has always been low. Most people object to their small bones and "muddy" flavor. Most sportsmen would rather quit fishing than catch carp.

However, carp are very common in almost all parts of the country. When carp were first introduced into the United States by the Federal Government in 1879, Congressmen actually fought to have them introduced into their districts. No one wanted to be left out, now it seems that everyone wishes they were.

Fishermen receive very little for carp in the United States, usually from 3 to 10 cents per pound. Carp were 64% of the total fish catch from the Mississippi River in 1976, yet they account for only 34% of the value of the total catch. This is a shame because most biologists feel that the best way to control carp is by heavy commercial fishing. Other methods like poisoning and netting by fish and game commissions are not only expensive, but don't really work very well.

Many researchers feel that work needs to be done in the area of processing and promotion to increase the value of the fish. In some areas of the country, smoked carp are very popular and wholesale for over a dollar a pound.

Carp are large, long lived fish. The largest carp on record was almost 90 pounds and came from south Africa. While carp have been recorded living as long as 47 years in captivity, most wild carp don't live over 12-15 years. Carp mature and begin spawning within 2 to 4 years. They move into shallow water over grass beds to spawn in the

spring. They usually begin spawning when water temperatures reach about 59°F. They spawn in small schools with each female being courted by 2 to 4 males. They scatter their eggs loosely over an area of several square yards and then leave them to hatch on their own. Each female will lay from 50 thousand to over 2 million eggs depending on how large she is.

The young grow to 3 or 4 inches long their first year. They grow very rapidly their first 4 or 5 years and then slow down. Carp grow slowest in rivers and fastest in rich weedy lakes. They will live and grow in water temperatures from the high 30's up into the 90's.

Carp feed at almost any hour of the day or night. They root around the bottom stirring up insects which they eat. Often they will pick up a gob of mud and spit it out and then pick out the floating foods they want. Carp will eat almost anything depending where they are; water insects, worms, snails, fish eggs, algae, plant seeds and planktonic crustaceans (pinhead size animals with a shell like a shrimp or crawfish). In some areas, carp eat mostly plants and in other areas, animals.

LORAN A TO LORAN C CONVERSIONS

Good News! Thanks to Gary Graham of the Texas A&M Extension Service, I will have a mini-computer available which converts Loran A readings to Loran C. I will have the computer for the week of December 15-19, 1980.

On Tuesday, December 16, I will have the computer at the Lafitte Civic Center in Lafitte from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The computer will be available free of charge to any fisherman. You will need to bring in BOTH 3H2 and 3H3 coordinates. The average error in conversion is estimated to be about 400 yards.

If you need some conversions made, mark the 16th on your calendar and come by. If you can't make it on this day, you may be able to catch me in the office with the computer sometime during that week.

TUNA IN THE NEWS

With the poor shrimp season, many shrimpers have been looking at other ways to increase their income. One fishery that some offshore shrimpers have been looking hard at, is for blackfin tuna.

In a recent discussion I had with Gary McCrary of Lavaca Shrimp Company in Port Lavaca, Texas, he told me that blackfins are bringing \$1150 per ton. He also told me that he has seen shrimpers coming in from a trip with as many dollars worth of blackfin tuna as shrimp.

Most shrimpers catch their tuna the first two hours after daylight in the morning. After their last night drag, they pick their nets up and sort and ice their shrimp. The trash fish are left on deck for use as chum, which is tossed overboard a little at a time to keep the fish hanging around the boat.

The fishermen catch the tuna on feathered single or double barbless tuna hooks on lines tied to fiberglass poles. All the tuna fishing is done while the boat is drifting.

The fish are laid on an ice bed while alive to cool them down and then iced up with the first layer on a 4 or 5 inch ice bed with layers of fish followed by layers of ice.

STATE SNAG FUND PAYOFF HEARINGS

Hearings to consider payment to the fishermen below will be held at the places listed below. Anyone wishing to testify for or against the claim may do so.

December 1, - 1 p.m. - Cameron Courthouse - Rooms 109 and 110.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Claim Amount</u>
Steve Smith	Miss Dawn	\$1,358.00
David K. Willis	Humming Bird	\$4,621.00
Russell Corley	Tuffy II	\$ 834.00
Jimmy Mallet	Miss Gloria	\$1,600.00

December 11, - 10 a.m. - Police Jury Chambers - 8201 W. Judge Perez Dr. Chalmette, LA.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Claim Amount</u>
Arnold Rodriguez	Our GrandKids	\$ 615.00
Leonard Nixon	Little John	\$4,100.00
Troy Holden, Sr.	Two Fools	\$ 775.00
Malcolm J. LeBlanc	Bayou Champ	\$2,820.00
Tilton Creppel, Sr.		\$ 430.00
Warren Thibodeaux	Honey Sucker	\$ 600.00
Warren Thibodeaux	Honey Sucker	\$ 600.00
Warren Thibodeaux	Honey Sucker	\$ 450.00
John McKean	Little Windy	\$1,102.00

December 16, - 10 a.m. - Cooperative Extension Service Office Basement - Iberia Parish Courthouse - New Iberia.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Claim Amount</u>
Howard J. DeRouen	Sea Breeze	\$1,122.00
Charles Jumonville	David J	\$1,025.00
Dudley Bouillon	Silver Sprag	\$1,951.00

December 18, - 10:30 a.m. - Cooperative Extension Office, Greater Lafourche Port Commission Building - Galliano, LA.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Claim Amount</u>
James J. George	Mr. James	\$ 640.00
Leory Chabert	Capt. Kris	\$ 436.00
Houston Trahan	Rebecca Lynn	\$4,600.00
George Terrebonne	Queen Mary	\$1,350.00
Leon Fonseca	Logan	\$1,018.00
Houston Trahan	Rebecca Lynn	\$ 307.00
Rodney J. Eymard	Rodney's Angels	\$ 625.00
Joseph S. Verdin	Mr. Doug	\$5,000.00
Thomas E. Frieze	Cajun Queen II	\$ 400.00
Leslie Lebouef	Kajun Kid	\$ 854.00
Houston Trahan	Rebecca Lynn	\$ 396.00
Eldon A. Lafont	Darla-Mary	\$ 380.00

HELP FOR SHRIMP INDUSTRY

As you've probably read in the newspapers, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce has announced that money will be made available to assist the shrimp industry. According to Commerce Secretary Klutznick, \$11 million will be available for low-cost government loans to assist vessel owners who have loans backed by the National Marine Fisheries Service guarantee program.

Arrangements for this money to catch up notes that fishermen are behind on, will be made between the banks and the Department of Commerce. If you have a NMFS Guaranteed loan, it may be good to call your banker and make him aware of this program. He should take it from there.

Another million dollars will be used on a promotional effort to boost shrimp sales and \$200,000 will be made available to assist shrimp boat owners in selling their vessels to be used in other types of fishing.

The Commerce Department is also planning to provide low-interest loans to fishermen to convert their vessels to other types of fisheries and/or install energy or cost saving equipment. The amount of money available here will depend on Congress and the Economic Development Administration.

As more information on these programs becomes available, I'll keep you posted.

THE GUMBO POT
Fish Jerky

This is one method of preparing fish such as carp which are not really the most desirable of fish to eat in other ways. Jerky is simply made by drying. Indians and mountain men made jerky by drying buffalo flesh. I got this recipe from Jim Humphreys, Marine Advisory Agent in Michigan.

1. Cut 3 pounds of fish filets into strips 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick and two inches wide. Cut across the grain of the muscle for a more tender product.
2. Prepare a sauce from:
1/8 cup teriyaki sauce, 1/8 cup liquid smoke, 6 drops tobasco sauce.
3. Salt strips thoroughly with 7-9 tps. of table salt on an oven rack.
4. Put fish and sauce in a plastic bag. Roll bag back and forth to mix the fish and the sauce. Be sure to mix thoroughly. The salt and the sauce will make its own brine to preserve the flesh.
5. Squeeze all the air from the bag and tie off the opening. Marinate in refrigerator for 12 hours.
6. Remove fish strips and place on oven rack. Dry in oven for about 12 hours at 140°F. (The time in the oven will depend a great deal on the amount of moisture in the flesh. Check regularly and remove before too dry).
7. The finished product should be firm, dry and tough, but not crumbly. Overcooked jerky is crunchy.
8. Wrap jerky in wax paper and store in cool, dry place. It should keep for a month or two.

Sincerely,


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

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