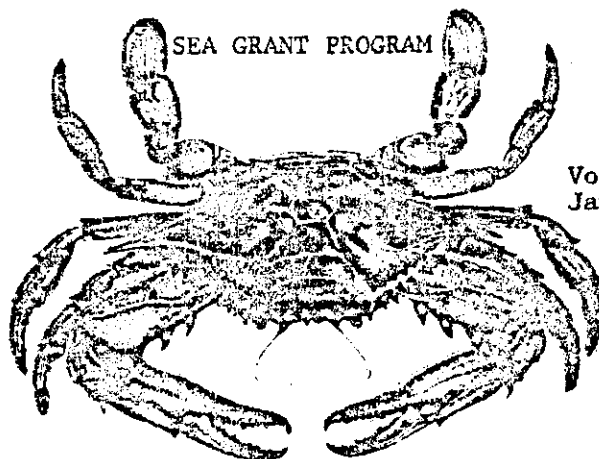


LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Jefferson Parish
Orleans Parish
St. Charles Parish

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



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LAGNIAPPE

STATE SNAG FUND PAYOFF HEARINGS

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

Tuesday, January 20 — 10 a.m. — LSU Extension Office, 511 Roussel St., Houma, LA.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Claim Amount</u>
Delton T. Cheramie, Sr.	Cindy	\$115.47
Joseph Cheramie	Cathy Cheramie	880.00
Eudras Prosperie	St. Anthony	340.15
A.J. Sattoon	Eunia Kay	1,400.00
John Ambruster	Wendy Lynn	737.95

Thursday, January 22 — 10 a.m. — Police Jury Chambers, 2201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA.

Malcolm Assevado	Lady Cynthia	625.00
Malcolm Assevado	Lady Cynthia	625.00
Leroy Palmisano	Lori Ann	655.00
Anthony Guerra, Jr.	Peperick	4,000.00
Howard P. Dardar	Master Timothy	600.00
Joseph R. Gainey	Man-O-War	2,000.00
Timothy Maise	Moonlight Lady	500.00
Joseph Lafrance	Cajun Lady	640.00
John Thigpen		426.00
John Thigpen		282.00
Malcolm LeBlanc	Southern Nights	1,690.11
Louis Freire, Jr.	Lady Carolyn	1,210.60
Stanley Weiskope	Karen-Susan	895.00
John Domingo, Jr.	Captain John	750.00

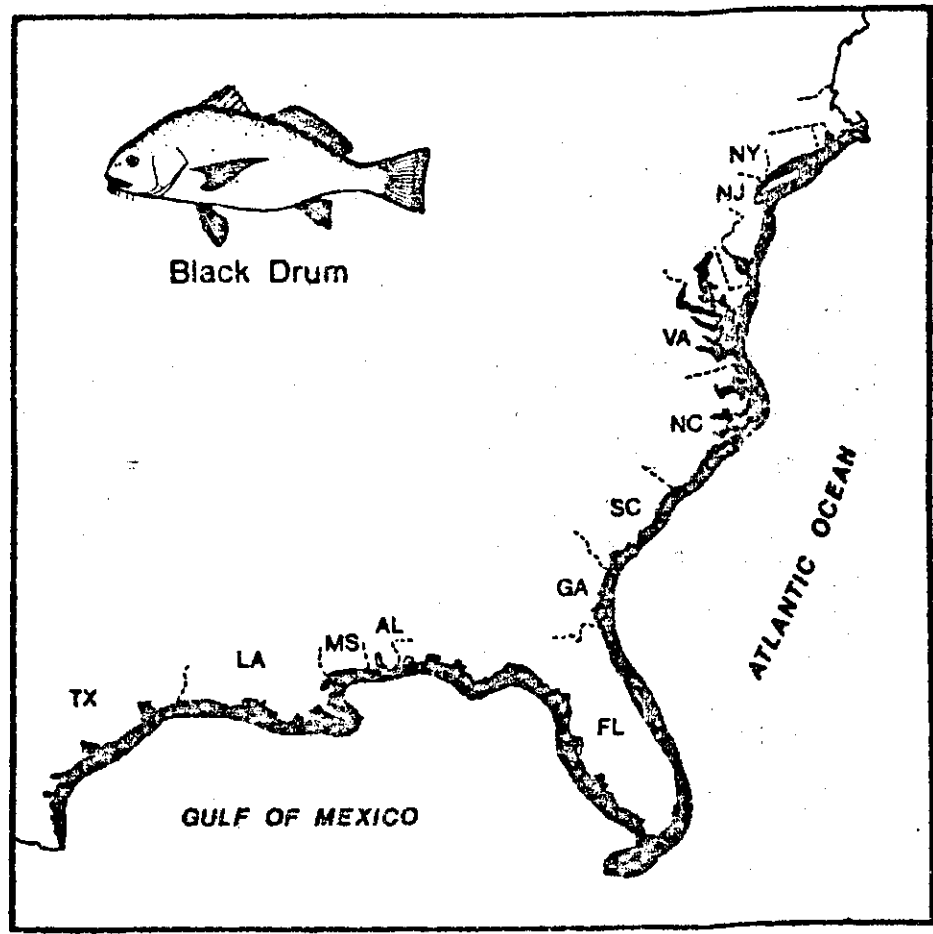
COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S RECORD BOOKS

I've received a shipment of commercial fisherman's record books for next year. These booklets are designed so that commercial fishermen can keep a record of their expenses involved in fishing. If you don't have good records when the IRS audits you, it can be very expensive. You can get a free copy by calling or writing me at my office.

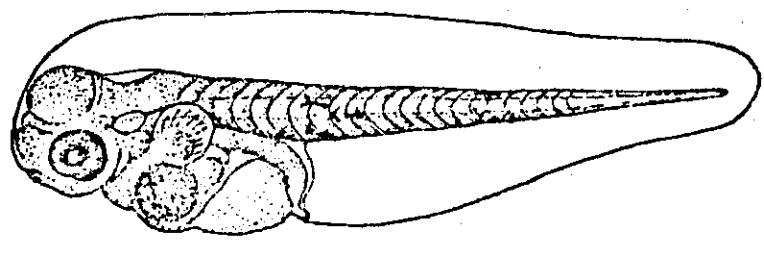
BLACK DRUM

The black drum which is just called drum in Louisiana, is a very common fish in our marshes. The scientific name of the fish is Pogonias cromis. The name comes from Greek with Pogonias meaning "bearded" and chromis meaning "to grunt." Actually the name "bearded grunter" is pretty accurate.

The drum is found along shorelines all the way from Argentina in South America north to Maine. It is most common in the Gulf of Mexico. The drum can live over 35 years and gets up to 146 pounds. It is the largest fish in the drum family which includes redfish, speckled and white trout and the freshwater gaspergou.



Drum spawn at sea near larger bays and sounds. Most of the spawning takes place in February and March with some going on until May. The eggs are free floating with the tides and currents. As many as 6 million eggs have been counted in a 44 inch female. The pictures show what they look like right after hatching at 1/10-inch long and later at 3/4-inch long.





Black drum are pretty tough fish and can eat just about anything. They have been found in just about all salinities from pure freshwater to 80 parts per thousand saltwater (pure gulf seawater is only 30-35 ppt). Young drum will eat anything available that will fit in their mouth. Medium-size fish feed mostly on oysters, clams, crabs and shrimp, and older larger drums concentrate on oysters, clams and crabs.

The table below shows the growth rate of drum in Virginia. Research in the Gulf Coast show at about the same rate.

Age	Length (inches)	Weight (lbs.)
1	9	.3
2	16	2.4
3	22	6.4
4	28	12.3
5	32	19.4
6	36	27.3
7	40	35.6
8	42	43.8
9	45	51.7
10	47	59.2

Black drum have never been a very popular commercial or sport fish in Louisiana. The yield of meat is very low compared to speckled trout or even redfish. Also, some people feel that the meat is course and warmy in the larger fish. Sportsmen don't care for the fish because of its poor fighting qualities.

Commercial landings of black drum by state
(thousands of pounds)

Year	Gulf				
	FL West Coast	AL	MS	LA	TX
1950	49	3	19	197	708
1951	35	10	8	235	702
1952	126	2	2	139	614
1953	71	2	5	64	770
1954	45	2	1	68	2,191
1955	48	3	14	128	1,972
1956	69	5	39	148	1,852
1957	62	2	21	184	1,502
1958	128	9	28	178	1,071
1959	124	10	38	161	1,288
1960	191	2	15	190	1,520
1961	75	2	23	388	1,635
1962	58	2	22	309	1,373
1963	100	10	17	344	1,363
1964	88	5	46	306	1,409
1965	65	3	33	195	1,470
1966	65	4	20	247	1,007
1967	75	8	33	264	1,061
1968	84	16	75	360	677
1969	63	43	114	478	610
1970	50	24	53	434	783
1971	73	31	21	506	1,138
1972	96	44	23	540	1,165
1973	84	80	14	542	1,208
1974	60	53	10	440	1,357
1975	171	20	20	275	1,172
1976	27	19	48	575	2,091

As can be seen from the figures on the left, Louisiana's landing have never held up much over 500,000 lbs. Texas, in contrast, is placing more and more emphasis on drum, producing about 2/3 of all the drum caught commercially in the U.S.

Source: Biological & Fisheries Data on Black Drum, *Pogonias cromis* (Linnaeus). Myron J. Silverman. Sandy Hook Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service Technical Series Report No. 22.

LOUISIANA WETLAND LOSS

A new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study shows that Louisiana is losing even more marshlands than was thought. In fact, the rate is two to three times as higher.

Over 500,000 acres of southeastern Louisiana Coastal wetlands were lost from the mid 1950's to 1978. This equals about 25,000 acres or 39 square miles per year. Louisiana's wetlands are home for more than two-thirds of the Mississippi Flyway's ducks and supports the largest fur harvest and one of the largest commercial fisheries in the United States.

The study team said both natural and manmade causes are involved. Natural processes are subsidence (sinking of the land) and erosion. Human causes include those related to oil and gas production, dredging and drainage projects for channels and housing developments, dumping of sewage and toxic wastes, and levee construction.

Since almost all of our fisheries products are tied to the health and size of our marsh and swamplands, it is important for us to remember that as the marsh goes so goes the fisheries.

LORAN C HANG LOGS AVAILABLE

Although I haven't seen one yet, I ve been informed that Gary Graham of Texas A&M has completed the new Loran C hang book. They are available for \$5.00 per copy from

Sea Grant College Program
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843

The publication number is 81-501.

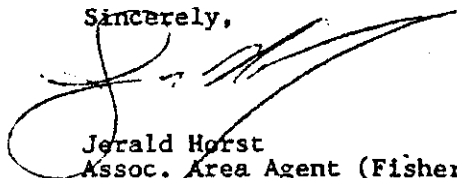
THE GUMBO POT
Crab Meat Spread

- 1 lb. crab meat
- 1/2 lbs. peeled shrimp
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. chopped parsley
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. white pepper
- 1/8 tsp. paprika
- Melba Toast Rounds or assorted crackers.

Drain and check crab meat for shell. Wash and drain shrimp. Chop shrimp coarsely. In a two quart pan combine all the ingredients except the crackers. Heat until hot. Serve with crackers. Makes one quart of spread.

Sincerely,



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

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