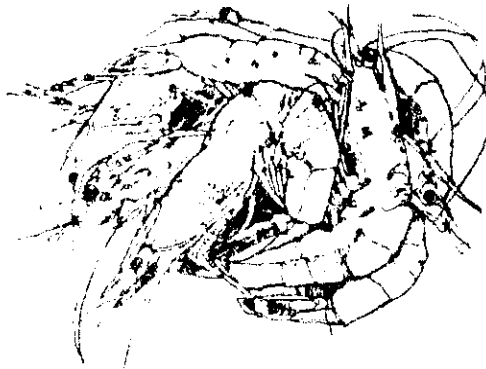


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

Dear Friend:

I will be on vacation from June 19 through July 9. Since I will be traveling out of state, Alan Matherne, the marine advisory agent for St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes, will be handling my calls unless you want to wait until I get back. His telephone number is 279-9402 in Chalmette. My secretary, Lori will have the information on the 3% loans so you can call here for that.

NMFS LOANS

The National Marine Fisheries Service has put together the Fisheries Loan Fund program to assist commercial fishermen who are behind on their vessel mortgage notes. The summary below will give you some guidelines on who is eligible. If you are interested in making an application, call me at my office and I'll send you more detailed instructions on how to apply for a loan.

- 1) All applications received by the NMFS between June 15 and July 29 will be reviewed.
- 2) There is no special application form to use but I can give you a rundown on the information they will be looking for.
- 3) There is \$9.7 million available for this program nationwide with \$2.4 million of that for the Gulf and South Atlantic.
- 4) Both fishermen with or without NMFS-guaranteed loans are eligible.
- 5) At this time, the money is planned to be made available at 3% interest for a maximum of 10 years.
- 6) The loans are to be used only to pay off past-due, present and some future mortgage notes. The money can't be used to pay other bills such as fuel and so on.
- 7) Only owner-operators who have been in the seafood harvesting business for at least 5 years are eligible. The vessel must be at least 5 net tons or more and the owner-operator a U.S. citizen. Also, the applicant must have made a profit in at least two of the last 5 years.
- 8) Decision on who gets the loans should be made before September 30.
- 9) With the relatively small amount of money available for such a wide area probably only 12 to 15 people per state will get a loan. This means that it will be very important to have your facts together before you apply.

For more information on these loans, call my office and my secretary will send you the information.

TEXAS CLOSURE

The Texas Closure went into effect on May 27 this year. Unless things change, waters in the fishery conservation zone will reopen at 30 minutes after sunset on July 15, 1983. Texas state offshore waters are scheduled to open at the same time the federal waters open.

TEXAS SHRIMPING LAWS

Recently several shrimpers from the Lafitte area asked me to summarize the shrimping laws in Texas, since many Louisiana shrimpers go over there in July.

Basically, Texas like Louisiana has "inside waters" and "outside waters". Outside waters are those state waters from the shoreline out to 9 miles offshore. Inside state waters include all bays, passes and rivers landward from the Gulf, which have tides.

All measurements on shrimp trawls in Texas are on the corkline and include the length of the doors in the measurement. As of this year, no shrimp boat fishing in Texas waters will be allowed to keep any speckled trout and redbfish taken while trawling.

Shrimping in any pass is illegal and it is illegal to head shrimp aboard a boat in inside waters or to dump the heads except in artificial passes, canals or basins. Fresh shrimp may be held only during open seasons and five days after closing.

Outside Waters

Texas Law requires a boat fishing in outside waters to have a \$50 Commercial Shrimp Boat License. Also, the captain and each deck hand on the boat must each have a General Commercial Fishermen's License. These can be purchased in the name of the vessel and the fee is \$20 per man or the amount it costs a Texas resident to fish in Louisiana, whichever is more.

During the period of the "Texas Closure" which usually takes place in June and July, in outside waters, white shrimp can be taken within 4 fathoms with a single rig trawl not larger than the following sizes:

- Doors three feet or more but less than four feet--40 feet
- Doors four feet or more but less than five feet--42 feet
- Doors five feet or more but less than six feet--44 feet
- Doors six feet or more but less than seven feet--46 feet
- Doors seven feet or more but less than eight feet--48 feet
- Doors eight feet or more but less than nine feet--50 feet
- Doors nine feet or more but less than 10 feet--52 feet
- Doors 10 feet or more--54 feet

In addition to the Texas Closure, outside waters within 7 fathoms are closed from December 16 through February 1. Seabobs may be taken during this closed season with one 25 foot trawl and a mesh size no smaller than 5 stretched meshes in 6½ inches (1.3 inches stretched). The catch cannot have more than 10% of any other shrimp than seabobs.

All outside waters within 7 fathoms are closed to night shrimping (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise) at all times. Outside of 7 fathoms, day and night shrimping is allowed.

Except for seabob fishing in the closed season, the minimum mesh size in outside waters is 1 3/4 inches stretched and there is no limit on the size or number of trawls used in outside waters. There is no count size in outside waters.

Inside Waters

Like Louisiana, Texas has two inside season. The spring season is open from May 15 through July 15. The fall season is open from August 15 through December 15. Trawling is permitted only in the major bays, with a single rig and daylight hours only.

In the spring season the trawl may be no larger than shown below and no more than 300 pounds of shrimp per day may be taken.

Doors three feet or more but less than four feet--40 feet  
Doors four feet or more but less than five feet--42 feet  
Doors five feet or more but less than six feet--44 feet  
Doors six feet or more but less than seven feet--46 feet  
Doors seven feet or more but less than eight feet--48 feet  
Doors eight feet or more but less than nine feet--50 feet  
Doors nine feet or more but less than 10 feet--52 feet  
Doors 10 feet or more--54 feet

In the fall season there is no limit on the catch and the total length of the trawl including the doors cannot be over 95 feet. From August 15 through October 31 of the fall season only the minimum count is 50 to the pound, heads-on. There is no count from November 1 through December 15.

Try nets used in inside waters cannot be over 21 feet including the doors and the doors cannot be larger than 450 square inches. Commercial Bay Shrimp Boat Licenses are \$40 and must be purchased in January or February of each year. There is, however a two year moratorium on new bay boat license sales for 1982 and 1983.

This summary does not include the laws on bait shrimping.

#### WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LAWBOOKS AVAILABLE

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has made the updated book on wildlife and fisheries laws available for sale to the public. The book will cover all the laws up to this year's legislature and it is in a looseleaf form, so yearly legislative changes can be added. The price is \$5 per copy and it may be ordered from:

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 15570  
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

#### FDA TO WITHDRAW PROPOSED SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

The Food and Drug Administration will officially withdraw a 1975 proposal which would have formalized the National Shellfish Sanitation Program and required each state to put in-depth shellfish control plans into effect.

Congress placed a moratorium on the proposed regulations in 1976, requiring FDA to show the need and assess the economic impact of such regulations before they could be made final.

FDA will also announce that it plans to update the 1965 NSSP Manual of Operations by including new scientific results and management practices that have been accepted by state agencies as well as FDA.

Source: Food Chemical News 5/23/83.

#### LOUISIANA LORAN C HANDBOOK FOR 1983

The new edition of the LORAN C handbook is now available. This is the only book available using the stations that Louisiana shrimpers use to plot hangs. The cost is \$26 including postage and can be ordered from:

Gay G. Matherne  
Box 0429C  
Barataria, LA 70036

A Texas LORAN C handbook is also available from the same address for \$16.

COAST GUARD DOCUMENTATION LAWS

There is a lot of confusion among commercial fishermen as to what the laws are concerning documented vessels. Hopefully the following summary will help somewhat.

<u>LAW</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
Any vessel of at least 5 net tons which engages in fishing <u>must</u> be issued a certificate of documentation by the U.S. Coast Guard unless exempted.	\$500, each day
Vessel <u>must</u> be owned wholly by a U.S. citizen in order to be documented.	Forfeiture of vessel
Certificate of Documentation must be on board the vessel, except when the vessel is in storage or out of the water, or in the custody of the Coast Guard Documentation officer.	\$500, each day
The owner of a documented vessel must renew the Certificate of Documentation annually.	\$500, each day
No documented vessel shall be commanded by anyone other than a U.S. citizen.	\$500, each day and surrender of Document
The owner of a documented vessel must not permit the vessel to operate unless it is properly marked with the vessel's official number, name and hailing port.	\$500, each day
No owner or person acting on behalf of the owner shall knowingly falsify or conceal a material fact or make a false statement in connection with the documentation of that vessel.	Forfeiture of vessel

A simplified formula for determining the tonnage of a fishing vessel is: Length x Breadth x Depth + 100 x .7 = Gross tonnage. Take 80% of the gross tonnage = net tonnage.

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THE GUMBO POT

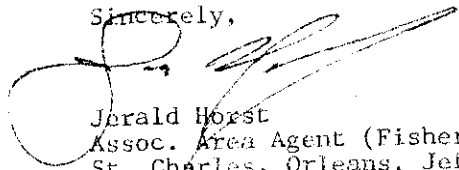
Hush puppies are a long-time southern tradition. While good hush puppies are a real treat, the average hush puppy is a tasteless mess. Since good hush puppy recipes are rare as hen's teeth, I think you'll really enjoy this one. Ruby Michel of Harvey has prepared these at our last two church fish fries and she graciously provided me with her recipe.

Ruby's Hush Puppies

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 cups corn meal       | 2 tbsp. vegetable oil |
| 1 cup flour            | 1/2 tsp. salt         |
| 1/2 cup minced onions  | 2 tbsp. baking powder |
| 1/2 tsp. garlic powder | milk                  |
| 1 egg                  | deep fat for frying   |

Mix all the ingredients well with enough milk to make a heavy soupy mixture. Drop the mixture by spoonful into hot vegetable oil. Fry until golden brown and drain on absorbent paper.

Sincerely,



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