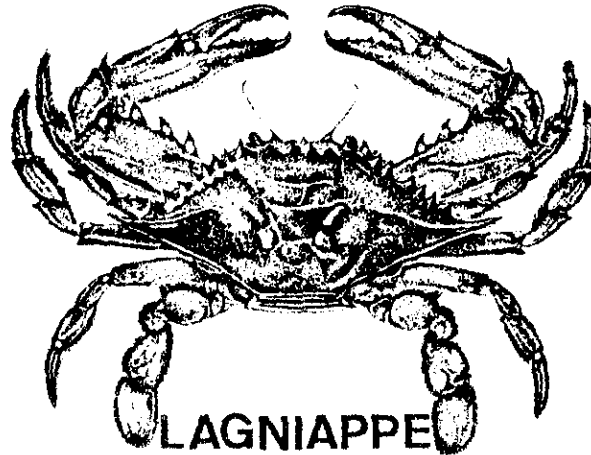


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



NEW SEAFOOD LAWS

The following bills were passed by the 1985 Louisiana Legislature and will go into effect on September 6, 1985 (unless otherwise noted). If you want more information on any of these new laws, feel free to contact me at my office in Marrero.

House Bill 322 (Act 160) - Haik & Benoit

Changes the minimum commercial size limit on blue catfish from 14 inches to 12 inches.

House Bill 916 (Act 327) - Martin & others

Allows the Crawfish Promotion and Marketing Board to expel a member for good cause, such as missing three straight meetings.

House Bill 917 (Act 328) - Martin & others

Changes the requirement that one person on the Crawfish Promotion and Research Board be appointed from the New Orleans Retail Seafood Dealers Association to a requirement that one person on the Board must be an owner or operator of a crawfish-seafood retail facility.

House Bill 918 (Act 329) - Martin & others

Authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to audit the records of persons who collect artificial crawfish bait assessments.

House Bill 919 (Act 492) - Martin

Provides for an assessment (tax) of 2 cents on each bag used by crawfish farmers and fishermen. The money collected will go to the La. Crawfish Promotion and Research Board.

House Bill 920 (Act 330) - Martin

Provides for an assessment (tax) on natural bait (such as fish) of 25 cents per hundred pounds of bait. The assessment will be paid by crawfish farmers and fishermen and the money will go to the La. Crawfish Promotion and Research Board.

House Bill 1046 (Act 865) - Laborde & others

Adds one member to the crawfish Promotion and Research Board from the Associated Crawfish Processors of La.

House Bill 1131 (Act 869) - Benoit & others

Exempts Wildlife & Fisheries Commission and Department from legislative oversight on rule and regulation changes concerning trapping, alligator, oyster and finfish seasons and size limits. (Effective immediately)

House Bill 1132 (Act 648) - Benoit & others

Allows game wardens, working undercover to break wildlife and fisheries laws without prosecution as long as they report the violation themselves within 24 hours. (Effective immediately)

House Bill 1133 (Act 870) - Benoit & others

Redefines purse seines as any seine or net which can be closed at the top or bottom of the net and which is constructed of mesh so as not to be primarily used to entangle commercial-size fish by the gills or bony projections.

House Bill 1135 (Act 500) - Benoit & others

Provides that when a person holds a saltwater anglers license or a finfish sellers license, all saltwater finfish in his possession will automatically be assumed to have been caught in Louisiana. (Effective immediately)

House Bill 1171 (Act 872) - Patti & Guidry

Clarifies the law on sizes of trawls used in Vermillion and East and West Cote Blanche Bays.

House Bill 1237 (Act 875) - Benoit & others

Prohibits the harvest and sale of oysters taken from areas not approved by the state health officer and purchased from an oyster dealer not certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Public Health Services for interstate shipment.

House Bill 1318 (Act 658) - M. Hebert & Patti

Provides that when an oyster lease holder gives written permission to someone to work his lease, he must include a starting and stopping date on the permission slip.

House Bill 1320 (Act 657) - Patti & M. Hebert

Provides that all shrimp test trawls used in inside waters may not be more than 16 ft. along the corkline or 20 ft. along the leadline or headrope and may not have otter doors larger than 24 inches long. Also provides that shrimp boats may pull two trawls up to 65 ft in length and a test trawl in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. (Effective immediately)

House Bill 1481 (Act 805) - Carter & others

Requires the owner of a vessel which has sunk in a navigable waterway and which obstructs navigation or waterflow to remove it within 60 days of receiving notice.

House Bill 1509 (Act 504) - Lebleu & Ullo

Defines hull insurance and eases the requirements for non-profit local insurers. This makes self-insurance more possible.

House Bill 1526 (Act 880) - Benoit & others

Creates the Louisiana Crawfish Market Development Authority under the chairmanship of the commissioner of agriculture. Its primary purpose is to lend money and technical assistance for the construction and operation of wholesale crawfish packaging, warehousing, distribution and marketing facilities. Also creates the Louisiana Crawfish Market Development Fund.

House Bill 1833 (Act 908) - Patti & Guidry

Makes trawls, butterfly nets and cast nets the only legal means of shrimping. (Effectively immediately)

Senate Bill 351 (Act 541) - Bagert & Patti

Defines purse seine as any net or device commonly known as a purse seine and/or ring net that can be pursed or closed by means of a drawstring or other device that can be drawn to close the bottom of the net or the top of the net, or both.

Senate Bill 857 (Act 567) - Bagert & Ullo

Repeals requirement that the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries mark the boundaries of the Lake Pontchartrain Sanctuary. (This reestablishes the sanctuary.)

House Concurrent Resolution 225 - Haik & others

Requests the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees to meet and study the shell dredging industry, including its financial status, revenues paid to the state and the impact it has on the state.

House Concurrent Resolution 247 - Patti & others

Requests the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to keep the oyster lease fee at \$2 per acre.

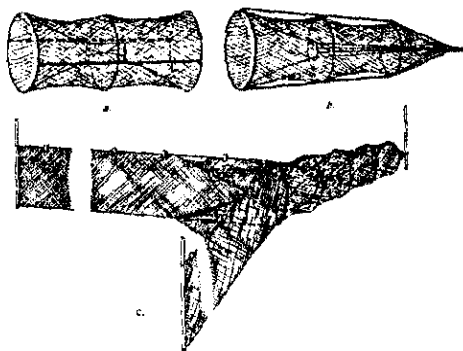
Senate Concurrent Resolution 82 - Nunez & others

Continues the Governor's Task Force on Shrimp Management for one more year. Also creates two new openings on the task force.

FISHING METHODS OF THE WORLD - FYKE NETS

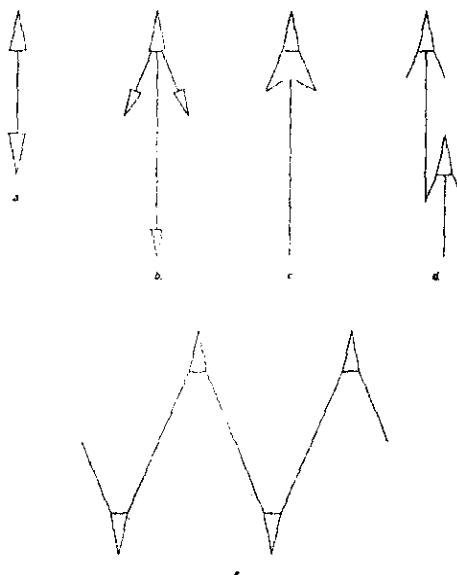
Fyke nets are a type of gear heavily used in Louisiana's freshwater fishery where they are called hoop nets. The primary targets for these nets in Louisiana are freshwater catfish, gaspergou and buffalofish. In Europe they are used for many other species of fish, including eels.

Figure 1



Hooped nets and fyke nets: (a) Hooped net with two entrances and spreading sticks; (b) fyke net with spreading sticks; (c) fyke net with wings.

Figure 2



Arrangements for fyke nets with leaders and wings: (a) Double net; (b) cross net; (c) hook net; (d) fyke net weir; (e) scissor net.

The Louisiana hoop net very much resembles the net shown in Figure 1-b, but usually has more hoops (up to 7) and more flues (2 or 3). Also, the nets shown in Figures 1-a and 1-b have spreading sticks to keep the net open. Here hoop nets are either staked on both ends to keep them open or they are staked on the upper end only and the force of the current keeps them from collapsing. Hoop nets are set with the funnel end facing downstream in rivers and bayous and may either be fished with or without bait of some sort.

A variation of the straight hoop or fyke nets is one with wings or leaders (Figures 1-c and 2). The purpose of the wings and leaders is to guide the fish into the net and increase the catch. Where legal, wings and leads are extremely effective. In Louisiana, wing and lead nets may only be used in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of a natural stream or lake and the net is set at least 500 feet from the actual stream bed.

Since many large Louisiana rivers flood thousands of acres of swamp lands for several thousand months in the spring of most years, this provides a large area to fish these nets.

Source: Fish Catching Methods of the World. A. Brandt.

EFFECTS OF SHRIMP FARMING ON U.S. MARKET

Shrimp imports greatly affect prices paid to Louisiana shrimpers. In 1984, 422 million pounds of shrimp were imported into the United States compared to 188 million pounds caught by United States fishermen. Ecuador, which has been the most successful country in farming shrimp, was the second largest exporter of shrimp to the United States in 1984 behind Mexico. While some analysts predict Ecuadorean farm-raised shrimp output to increase from 40 million pounds today to 100 million pounds by 1990, others believe growth will be limited by difficulty in obtaining juvenile shrimp for pond stocking and rising production costs.

A major problem now facing the Ecuadorean industry is difficulty in obtaining young shrimp to stock the increasing number of ponds. During the July through January season, when these post-larval shrimp are scarce, shrimp farmers paid fishermen as much as \$16. per 1000 post-larvae in 1984. In previous years, the price did not increase beyond \$5 per 1000 post-larvae. Some companies are investing in hatcheries to supply the seed shrimp needed for pond stocking. It will probably be several years, however, before hatchery-produced post-larvae are available in large enough quantities to supply the shrimp farmers needs.

THE GUMBO POT

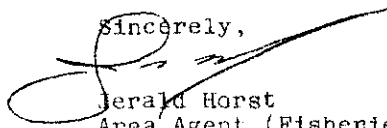
Deviled Oyster Casserole

This month's recipe was the Grand Prize Winner of the New Orleans area 4-H seafood cookery contest. Reine Sears of St. Bernard Parish was the proud chef.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 stick butter | 5 slices French Bread (soaked in water) |
| 1 cup chopped celery | 3 eggs |
| 1 cup chopped onions | 3 Tbsp. worcestershire sauce |
| 1 cup chopped green onions | 1/3 cup cooking sherry |
| 4 dozen fresh oysters (cut in half) | 2 Tbsp. creole seasoning |
| 1/3 cup chopped parsley | |
| 1/2 cup bread crumbs | |

Melt butter in large saucepan. Add seasonings and saute until clear. Add oysters. Cook until curled. Squeeze water out of French Bread and add to mixture along with chopped parsley and eggs. Stir continuously. Add worcestershire sauce, the cooking sherry and the creole seasonings. Cook over low heat until the mixture with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees until browned. Serves 6.

Sincerely,



Gerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles Parishes