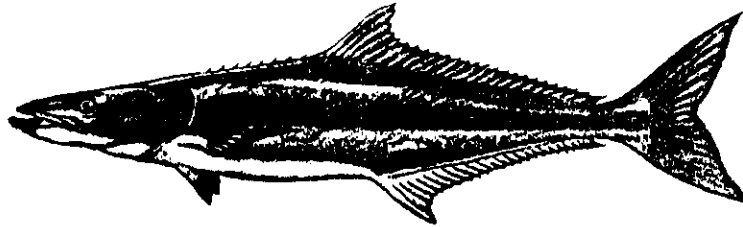


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

HEARINGS ON REEF FISH

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will be holding public hearings on the proposed new regulations for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed regulations are as follows:

- * A yearly commercial quota of 2,900,000 pounds for red snapper in the Gulf.
- * A minimum size limit of 13 inches total length for red, yellowtail, mutton and gray snappers and an 8 inch minimum size on vermillion (b-liner) and Lane snappers.
- * A minimum size limit of 20 inches for black, gag, red, yellowfin and Nassau groupers.
- * A minimum size limit of 50 inches for jewfish.
- * A daily sport and trawl bag limit of five groupers and ten snappers, no more than five of which can be red snappers.
- * A minimum size of 28 inches fork length on amberjack and a daily bag limit of three, with a commercial quota of 829,000 pounds.
- * Yearly commercial quotas on groupers:
 - 1,658,000 lbs. for black and gag groupers
 - 6,170,000 lbs. for red groupers
 - 1,381,000 lbs. for all other groupers (including the yellowedge) except jewfish
- * Banning bottom longlines and buoy lines inside of 50 fathoms west of Cape San Blas, Florida and inside of 20 fathoms east of the Cape.
- * Banning fish traps and entangling nets for reef fish in federal waters.
- * To get a commercial permit, a person must make 50% or more of his income from commercial fishing.

Local hearings will all begin at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at the following locations:

April 3
Lake Charles, LA
McNeese University
Student Union
Parra Ballroom

April 4
Thibodaux, LA
Nicholls State University
Powell Auditorium

April 5
Biloxi, MS
Biloxi Cultural Cnt.
217 LaMeuse Street

SHRIMP LANDINGS DOWN AGAIN GULFWIDE

Shrimp landings took another drop this year Gulfwide, showing what shrimpers on the bayou already know, the shrimp fishery is in serious economic trouble, especially offshore. The shrimp pie isn't getting any bigger and too many people want a slice of it.

<u>State</u>	<u>Headless Landings</u>	<u>Decline from Last Year</u>
Louisiana	65,727,000 lbs.	-12.2%
Texas	49,061,000 lbs.	-16.9%
Florida	10,508,000 lbs.	- 7.4%
Alabama	8,749,000 lbs.	-17.9%
Mississippi	7,867,000 lbs.	- 0.4%

PROPOSED GILL AND TRAMMEL NET RULES

The 1988 Louisiana Legislature passed a law requiring the marking of saltwater gill nets and trammel nets. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has proposed the following regulations:

A. Each gill net or trammel net shall be marked with a waterproof tag attached to the corkline at each end of the net, no more than three feet from the edge of the webbing. Said tags shall be supplied by the commercial fisherman and to be completely waterproof. Each tag shall have the fisherman's full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number (not the net license number) printed thereon in the English language, so as to be clearly legible.

B. Each gill net or trammel net shall be marked with buoys which shall be visible above the surface of the water. Said buoys shall be supplied by the commercial fisherman, have a minimum diameter of six inches and be international orange in color. The buoys shall be attached to each end of the net.

These proposed rules are open to public comment. Written comments should be sent to John Roussel or Rep. Sam Theriot before March 1, 1989.

John Roussel
Saltwater Finfish Section
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Representative Sam Theriot
Chairman Joint Legislative
Oversight Committee
101 South State Street
Abbeville, LA 70150

People wishing to make public comments may do so in person at the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting in Baton Rouge on March 2 and 3, 1989.

TEDS

At the present time, the use of Turtle Excluder Devices by outside shrimpers in boats over 25 feet long is still scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 1989. The same holds true for the regulation requiring inside trawlers and outside boats under 25 feet long to limit tows to 90 minutes.

I cannot print the complete regulations on approved TEDs until I receive word from National Marine Fisheries Service. When I receive the regulations they will appear in this newsletter.

CRAB TRAP ESCAPE RINGS

Biologists with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have finished a study on the use of escape rings in crab traps. Escape rings are simply a plastic or metal ring of some type which are placed in the wall of the trap to allow undersized crabs to get out of the trap.

By letting out these small crabs, the crabber spends less time grading his catch. Unfortunately, a lot of peeler crabs are also lost.

The study was done in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. The biologists fished regular traps without rings, traps with 2 3/8" escape rings and traps with 2" escape squares. In regular traps without rings, 52.8% of the total catch was undersized crabs. The traps with the 2 3/8" rings only caught 15.9% undersized crabs and the traps with 2" squares caught 17.6% undersized crabs.

The catch of legal crabs was also slightly less in traps with rings; 4.6% in the traps with 2 3/8" rings and 1.4% in the traps with 2" squares. The catch of peeler crabs was also reduced 70% in traps with rings, which would create a problem for crabbers who shed soft crabs.

The recommendation of the report is that the use of escape rings be encouraged, but not made law because of its effect on softshell crab production.

Source: An Evaluation of Escape Rings in Crab Traps. Vincent Guillory and Jerry Merrell Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1988.

FISHERMEN'S RECORD BOOKS AND TAX GUIDES

We have just received a new supply of Commercial Fishing and Trappers Record Books. These excellent books are used by many fishermen to keep track of their expenses and business income.

We also have some 1988 Commercial Fishermen's Tax Guides. These are a little technical, but are useful for keeping up with the new changes in tax laws.

For a free copy of either or both of these booklets, call or write my office in Marrero.

KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE NESTS UP THIS YEAR

The very endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle has shown an increase in nesting success for this year. This turtle nests only on one beach in Mexico and its decline has brought on TEDs, in an effort to save it. While everyone is pleased that nests have increased, many federal administrators are not sure that a one year increase in nests, even one this big, means that the turtle is recovering.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Nests</u>
1978	924
1979	954
1980	868
1981	897
1982	750
1983	746
1984	798
1985	702
1986	744
1987	737
1988	851

COURT RULES SEAFOOD PICKERS ARE EMPLOYEES

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled on December 12, 1988 that unskilled crab and crawfish meat pickers were employees and not contract labor. This case involved a Louisiana seafood processor, and the precedent may have far-reaching effects. This means that seafood processors will have to provide full benefits (over 7% social security, over 4% unemployment tax, over 8% and rising, workman's compensation, and time and a half for pickers working over 40 hours) at the same time that the seafood market is resisting higher prices.

Many processors feel that the cost-price squeeze will put them out of business, reducing Louisiana's job opportunities for both seafood pickers and crab and crawfish fishermen. It is my understanding that the only appeal left is to the U.S. Supreme Court and the appeal, if made, may not be accepted.

MARINE FINFISH PANEL FORMED

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has formed a Marine Finfish Panel to assist them in creating a complete plan for managing Louisiana's saltwater finfish resources. Every year the battle between sport and commercial fishermen over who gets to fish for saltwater fish becomes louder. Last year 24 bills were introduced into the legislature concerning saltwater finfish.

Members of the panel include Al Bankston, Maurus Claverie, Jr., and Henry Bernard, Jr., representing sport fishing interests; Charlie Hardison, representing charterboat fishing; Henry Truelove, Peter Gericca and Daniel Edgar representing commercial fishing interests; Charles Goodson of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, Jimmy Jenkins, representing the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Senator Hank Lauricella and Representative Clyde Kimball, representing the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees. The panel is chaired by John Roussel of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Dr. Chuck Wilson of the LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute.

Panel meetings are open to the public and the Department urges all sport and commercial fishermen to make their views known to their representatives on the panel.

THE GUMBO POT
Crawfish Fettucine

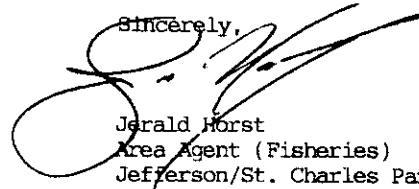
This recipe is from my wife's co-worker, Rodie Martin of Gramercy, LA. It is well-seasoned, but doesn't bite your tongue.

2 lbs. crawfish meat
½ lb. processed American cheese
12 oz. bag fettucine
1 cup half & half
½ cup jalapeno relish
1½ sticks margarine
1 Tbsp. flour

1 tsp. parsley
2 onions, chopped
2 green onions, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
Parmesan cheese, to taste
salt and pepper

Saute onions, green onions, bell pepper and celery in margarine until soft. Add flour, parsley and crawfish and cook for 15 minutes. Add relish, cheese and half & half. Stir well. Add salt and pepper to taste. Combine mixture with the pre-cooked and cooled fettucine. Mix well and pour into 9" X 13" casserole dish. Top with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Serves 6.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT. LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE. LOUISIANA PARISH GOVERNING BODIES, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY STATION, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1900

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300