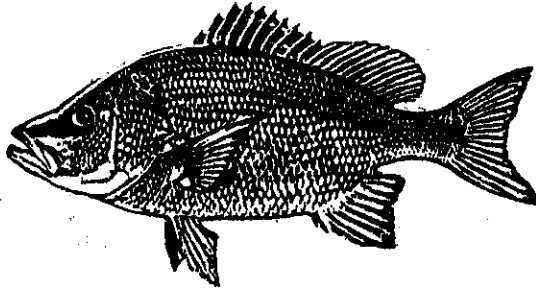


## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



### LAGNIAPPE

#### REEF FISH REGULATIONS APPROVED BY COUNCIL

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has adopted proposed management measures which are somewhat different than those proposed at their hearings. These rules will go into effect for the Gulf in early 1990 if they are approved by the Secretary of Commerce.

- \* A yearly commercial quota of 3.1 million pounds on red snapper.
- \* A daily sport bag limit of seven red snappers per person per trip.
- \* A daily sport bag limit for all other snappers, except vermilion and lane snappers, of ten fish combined.
- \* Minimum size of 13 inches (unchanged) on red snapper, 12 inches on gray mutton and yellowtail snappers and 8 inches on lane and vermilion (b-liner) snappers.
- \* Commercial quotas of 9.2 million pounds for shallow water groupers and 1.8 million pounds for deep water groupers. Deepwater groupers are snowy, yellowedge, misty and warsaw groupers.
- \* A daily sport limit of five for all groupers combined.
- \* A minimum size of 20 inches on red, gag, black, yellowfin (not yellowedge) and Nassau groupers.
- \* A minimum size of 50 inches on jewfish.
- \* A commercial quota of 1.5 million pounds of amberjack.
- \* A daily sport bag limit of three amberjack.
- \* A minimum size of 28 inches fork length on amberjack.
- \* All bag limits are to be trip limits with an allowable possession limit up to two days on multi-day trips aboard charter or head boats and other commercial boats taking reef fish as a bycatch. Any boat eligible for a two day possession limit must keep a daily log book to do so.
- \* Bottom longline are prohibited within 50 fathoms west of Cape San Blas, Florida and within 20 fathoms east of the cape.
- \* Incidental catches of reef fish on other longlines, shrimp trawls and nets will be limited to the sport bag limit (up to two days limit in possession) and minimum size limits.
- \* Fish traps will be allowed outside of designated stressed areas, but will be limited to 100 traps per permit holder. Annual permits are required.
- \* Fishermen are restricted to sport bag limits unless they have a commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. To qualify for a permit a fisherman must prove he earned more than 50% of his earned income from commercial or charter/head boat fishing the previous year. Retirement income or similar income does not count as earned income. Reef fish taken without a commercial permit may not be sold.

## TED QUESTIONS

I have recently been receiving many questions on TED regulations. Two of the most common are, how will my vessel be measured, and are butterfly nets or skimmers exempt from having to use TEDs? Our gear specialist, Dr. David Bankston recently received some official answers to these questions from Chuck Oravetz of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Vessel length will be determined by what is stated on your state registration or Coast Guard documentation papers. Any vessel or boat that is listed as 25 feet long or longer on his papers is supposed to use a TED in outside waters.

As far as butterfly nets (and skimmers which are licensed as butterfly nets) go, they are not exempt from the TED regulations when they are used outside of the Col-regs line, at this time.

## SALTWATER FISH NET MARKING SYSTEM

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has approved a new marking system for all saltwater gill and trammel nets. Each net must 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. The tags must be supplied by the fisherman and have his full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number (not the net license number) in clearly readable English.

Each net must also be marked with buoys at least six inches in diameter and colored international orange. Each end of the net must have a buoy on it.

Source: LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries News Release 89-43.

## MACKEREL REGULATIONS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has adopted new mackerel regulations which go into effect on July 1, 1989 when the new season begins. The commercial king mackerel quota for the Gulf of Mexico western zone (where Louisiana is) will be 420,000 pounds and 940,000 pounds for the eastern zone. The commercial Spanish mackerel quota for the Gulf is 2,990,000 pounds.

Sportfishermen are limited to 10 Spanish mackerel per person per trip and two king mackerel per person per trip off of Louisiana. Charter boats may take two king mackerel per person including the crew or three per person excluding the crew.

All commercial fishermen must have a permit and must prove that 10% of their earned income the previous year came from commercial fishing. Charter and for-hire vessels must have a charter permit.

Source: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council News Release.

## LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is the state's overall conservation organization that most local sportsmen's clubs belong to. Additionally, the State Federation is part of the National Wildlife Federation. At their recent annual meeting, the Federation adopted several resolutions concerning fisheries.

LDWF TASK FORCES The Wildlife Federation strongly supported the use of Task Forces and Advisory Panels to develop and improve Department of Wildlife and Fisheries policies and programs.

MARICULTURE Requests the legislature to hold oversight hearings on the experimental mariculture program created by Act 305 of 1987 to evaluate its impacts on wild fisheries and if mariculture seriously harms wild fisheries the Federations supports repealing or amending the Act.

LDWF FUNDING Urges the governor and the legislature to provide necessary operating funds to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries since its own sources of money are declining.

Source: Louisiana Out-of-Doors. Louisiana Wildlife Federation Vol. 17, No. 4.

#### STATE HANG FUND NEWS

The Louisiana Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund has been temporarily drawn down, but will be refunded by this summer. All back claims should be paid by August 1, 1989.

According to Gerald Theriot, administrator of the fund, the act that created the fund makes it impossible to get new funds before the current money runs out. It then takes about 90 days to make a new assessment. Theriot is hoping that the rules will be changed this legislative session to avoid this problem in the future.

#### JEDCO - FINANCING THE FUTURE

The Jefferson Economic Development Commission has put together a program called "Financing the Future" to assist existing parish businesses in expanding and to attract new businesses, including seafood businesses. The program provides for below market loans from several funding sources including JEDCO, state and federal funds, private lending institutions, bond supported allocations and applicant participation,

Included in the program are tax and hiring incentive programs like the enterprise zone, restoration tax abatement, job training and other incentive programs. These programs range from tax exemptions on purchases of equipment and rebates on the renovation of buildings, to tax credits and reimbursements of salaries for employees trained or hired by business.

For more information on "Financing the Future," contact Carol Ward at 736-6550.

#### 1988 SEAFOOD IMPORTS

Seafood imports into the United States dropped in 1988 to \$5.5 billion dollars, down \$251.8 million from 1987. Shrimp imports, however, were up to a new record of 503.9 million pounds worth \$1.8 billion. This was an increase of 25.6 million pounds worth \$44.5 million.

#### SHARK INFORMATION

In the last two years, quite a fishery for sharks has been developed in the Gulf of Mexico. Many sharks have a firm delicious flesh that has gained acceptance both in restaurants and at sportsmen's tables. This new interest in sharks has caused concern about the future of shark fishing amongst biologists. This is because sharks are very long-lived fish that have very few young each time they breed.

For quite a few years the National Marine Fisheries Service has been conducting a tagging program to learn more about shark biology. Their 1988 report had some interesting facts. A sandbar shark set a new record for all sharks on length of time before being recaptured of 22.9 years. New records were also set for the common thresher shark (8 years), the silky shark (7 years) and the bull shark (7 years). Silky sharks are a brown shark with black tips on its fins the people who fish offshore waters often call a "black-tip shark." Bull sharks are the most commonly caught inshore shark in Louisiana and is usually the one we call a "sand shark."

A new distance record was also set with a bignose shark moving over 1400 miles from Maryland to Mexico. A few tunas and swordfish are

also tagged under this program and in 1988 a new speed record was set for swordfish. The fish traveled 1,200 miles from Canada to Haiti in one month. That's an average of 42 miles per day.

Source: The Shark Tagger 1988 Summary.

#### GULF COAST FISHING VESSEL SAFETY MANUAL AVAILABLE

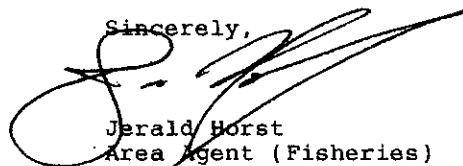
A new fishing Gulf Coast vessel safety manual is now available for order. The manual which was produced by the Texas A&M Sea Grant Program has chapters on safety and survival, medical emergencies, fire prevention and fire fighting, U.S. Coast Guard standards and procedures, navigation, seamanship, watchkeeping, rules of the road, stability, and vessel systems and engineering. The cost of the manual is \$25 and it can be ordered from: National Council of Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance, 2000 M Street N.W., Suite 580, Washington, D.C. 20036. Make checks payable to: National Council of Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance.

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#### THE GUMBO POT

The gumbo pot is EMPTY! Since I only print recipes from real people and not from cookbooks, we don't have a recipe this month. If you would like to share a favorite seafood recipe with our readers, please send it to my office address on the frontpage of the newsletter.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

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

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