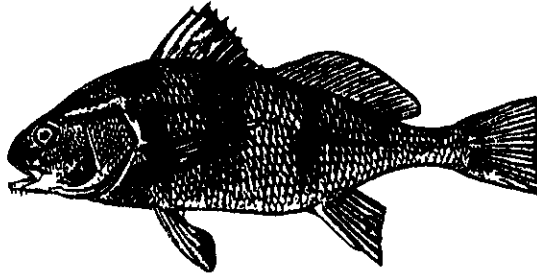


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

BLACK DRUM

By the time you get this newsletter, commercial and sports fishermen will probably be fishing under temporary regulations on black drum. A black drum management plan has been in the works for some time and is due to be completed by January 1990 and in effect three months after that. However, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has proposed putting in temporary regulations until the plan is in effect. Dr. Jerry Clark, Assistant Secretary of the Department, made recommendations for a temporary size limit of no drum less than 16 inches or more than 24 inches long at the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting on September 19, 1989.

The Commission voted to refer the matter to the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee for their recommendations, with some sort of action planned for the October 5 and 6 meeting. According to Department information, sport and commercial fishermen will each need regulation, since each group catches about half the fish by number. I will have more details in the next newsletter.

ALLIGATOR HIDE AUCTIONS

At the request of alligator harvesters, the Cooperative Extension Service will again organize three regional alligator hide sales. This year's sales will be at the following times and places:

Monday, October 9, Mosquito Control Barn in Cameron
Contact person is Paul Coreil (318) 775-5516

Tuesday, October 10, Lafourche Parish Fair Building in
Raceland. Contact person is Alan Matherne (504) 632-6852

Thursday, October 12, Extension Service Exhibit Building in
Abbeville. Contact person is Mark Shirley (318) 898-4355

The sale in St. Bernard has been moved to Raceland to attract more hides. All of the sales will begin at 8:00 a.m.

For more information on either selling or buying alligator hides at these sales, call the contact person for the sale you are interested in.

HEAD START TURTLES RELEASED

The Sea Turtle Head Start Research Project of the National Marine Fisheries Service has released 809 young Kemp's ridley sea turtles on May 25, which came from the 1988 hatching season. The young turtles which weighed between one and two pounds, were released offshore of Mustang and North Padre Islands, Texas. This is the eleventh year of this project, which is designed to build up the turtle's population to where it is safe. Over the eleven year period, 14,592 young Kemp's ridley turtles have been released. On July 9, 2,013 just-hatched Kemp's ridley turtles were transferred from Mexican nesting beaches to Galveston, Texas to be raised for next year's release.

Source: NMFS Newsbreaker, 8/3/89

FUR HARVEST DOWN

Louisiana's fur harvest dropped again last trapping year, to a modern record low of \$923,861. This is lower than records all the way back to 1940. Louisiana's record fur production was in the winter of 1976-77 when 3,246,988 pelts were harvested, worth \$24,122,144. Most of the decline in production appears to be due to low prices, which don't make it worthwhile to trap. For example, nutria prices slid from an average of \$8.18 in 1980-81 to \$1.72 last year.

Resident trapping license sales also bear this out, dropping from 9,711 in 1977-78 to 3,093 in 1988-89.

A preliminary breakdown on the 1988-89 fur harvest is shown below:

	<u>No. of Pelts</u>	<u>Approximate Price to Trapper</u>	<u>Value</u>
Nutria (Eastern)	178,082	\$1.52	\$ 270,684.64
Nutria (Western)	<u>45,140</u>	<u>2.50</u>	<u>112,850.00</u>
	223,222		\$ 383,534.64
Muskrat (Eastern)	1,013	.50	\$ 506.50
Muskrat (Western)	<u>21,180</u>	<u>1.52</u>	<u>32,193.60</u>
	22,193		\$ 32,700.10
Raccoon (Upland)	20,992	3.50	\$ 73,472.00
Raccoon (Coastal)	<u>13,995</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>27,990.00</u>
	34,987		\$ 101,462.00
Mink	25,782	14.00	\$ 360,948.00
Opossum	1,052	.25	263.00
Otter	1,924	10.00	19,240.00
Skunk	-	-	-
Red Fox	76	4.00	304.00
Gray Fox	579	9.00	5,211.00
Bobcat	874	20.00	17,480.00
Beaver	830	3.00	2,490.00
Coyote	<u>76</u>	<u>3.00</u>	<u>228.00</u>
TOTAL PELTS	311,595		\$ 923,860.74
	<u>No. of Pounds</u>		
Nutria Meat	124,968	.07	8,747.76
Raccoon Meat	135,050	.50	67,525.00
Opossum Meat	<u>1,041</u>	<u>.25</u>	<u>260.25</u>
TOTAL MEAT	261,059		\$ 76,533.01
TOTAL PELTS AND MEAT			\$1,000,393.75

SPORT MACKEREL CATCHES OVER QUOTA

The South Atlantic and Gulf Fishery Management Councils jointly manage king and Spanish mackerel takes in the Gulf and south Atlantic. Commercial catches are managed under a quota. Recreational catches are managed with daily limits and a quota. According to the most recent Gulf Fishery News, the use of recreational bag limits with a shut down on take when the allocation is reached, does not necessarily keep the catch to its allocation. Three of the four groups of mackerel have had a recreational over harvest this year.

Gulf King Mackerel

July 1-June 30, recreational quota - 2.31 million lbs.
July 1-April 30, recreational catch - 4.09 million lbs.

Gulf Spanish Mackerel

July 1-June 30, recreational quota - 2.15 million lbs.
July 1-April 30, recreational catch - 1.06 million lbs.

Atlantic King Mackerel

April 1-March 31, recreational quota - 4.40 million lbs.
April 1-March 31, recreational catch - 4.48 million lbs.

Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

April 1-March 31, recreational quota - 0.96 million lbs.
April 1-March 31, recreational catch - 2.88 million lbs.

Some reasons listed for the possible over-runs may be that states have not set strict enough regulations, that bag limits are too high or an error in catch estimates.

Source: Gulf Fishery News. June/July, 1989.

PROPOSED SWORDFISH REGULATIONS

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is coordinating the development of a federal plan which would seriously reduce the harvest of swordfish in the Gulf. Their goal is a 78% reduction in harvest. What is being proposed at this time is a trip limit of seven swordfish per boat until a quota is filled. After the quota is filled, all night-time longlining will be prohibited.

I will have more details, including public hearing times in my next newsletter.

THE GUMBO POT

Sweet and Sour Alligator

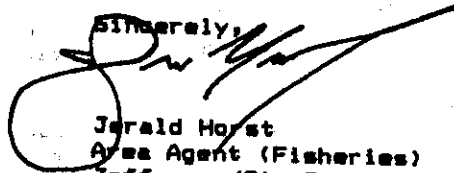
This months recipe comes from Kirk Tucker of Baton Rouge. It is timed just right because September is alligator season in Louisiana.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 eggs, beaten | 1/3 c. light corn syrup |
| 1/4 c. plus 2 Tbsps. all purpose flour | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1/4 tsp. black pepper |
| 1 1/2 lbs. alligator tail meat, cut
in 3/4 inch cubes | 1 8 oz. can unsweetened
pineapple chunks, drained |
| 4 c. vegetable oil | 1 med. bell pepper, cut
into 1-inch squares |
| 1 c. pineapple juice | 2 stalks celery, sliced
diagonally |
| 1/3 c. firmly packed brown sugar | 1/2 med. onion, thinly
sliced |
| 3 Tbsps. cornstarch | Hot cooked rice |
| 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce | |
| 1/3 c. cider vinegar | |
| 2 Tbsps. milk | |

Combine eggs, flour milk and salt; mix well. Add alligator cubes, stirring to coat. In 2 quart deep fryer, heat vegetable oil to 350 degrees. Deep fry alligator a few pieces at a time until golden brown. Drain well.

In a 4 quart saucepan, combine pineapple juice, brown sugar, cornstarch, tomato sauce, vinegar, corn syrup, garlic salt and black pepper. Stir well. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Stir in alligator chunks, pineapple, bell pepper, celery and onion. Cover and simmer ten minutes. Serve over hot cooked rice. Serves 6.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

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