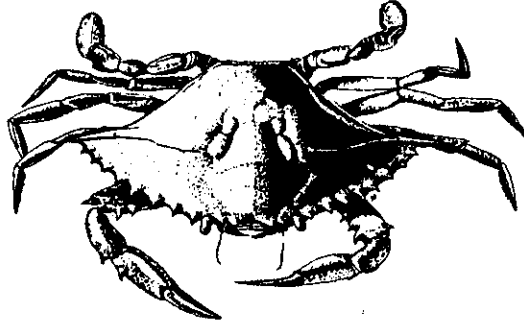


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

CRABBERS TO FORM TASK FORCE

Following the lead of the shrimp, oyster and finfish industries, leaders of the Louisiana crab fishery have requested the formation of a Louisiana Blue Crab Task Force. The purpose of this task force will be to make recommendations on the management and laws that concern the blue crab fishery.

A group of crab fishermen, dealers and biologists met in October to discuss the formation of the task force. The next meeting, at which the task force will formally be formed, will be on January 17, 1990 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building in Baton Rouge. Crabbers and crab buyers who would like to be part of the task force should be at the meeting or call Phil Bowman, (504) 765-2389 in Baton Rouge or Vince Guillory, (504) 594-4130 in Houma. Both are Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists.

This task force will be very important, as a lot of the laws and regulations that the crab industry will work under in the future may come from this task force.

OYSTER HARVESTERS LICENSE

A new oyster harvester's license will be required for person, sport or commercial, who harvests or possesses oysters on the water beginning January 1, 1990.

Every person on a boat must have this new license if any oysters are in possession. This includes oysters purchased from an oyster boat on the water to be brought home.

This new license costs \$100 per person for residents and \$400 for nonresidents and does not take the place of any other licenses now required.

REEF FISH REGULATIONS

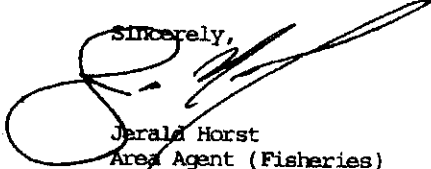
The new reef fish regulations which were proposed for federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will go into effect in mid January. The purpose of the regulations is to rebuild the populations of snappers, groupers and amberjack. The new regulations are as follows:

- * A fisherman must prove that 50% of his earned income came from commercial fishing or charter/head boat fishing last year to get a commercial permit. Retirement income does not count as earned income.
- * A bag limit of seven red snappers per trip for sport fishermen.
- * A commercial quota of 3.1 million pounds on red snapper for the first year.
- * A bag limit on other snappers (not including vermilion and lane snappers) of 10 fish total per trip for sport fishermen.
- * A minimum size limit of 12 inches on gray, mutton, and yellowtail snappers and 8 inches on lane and vermilion (B-liner) snappers.
- * A commercial quota of 1.8 million pounds for deep water groupers (snowy, yellowedge, misty and warsaw) and 9.2 million pounds on shallow water groupers

- * A minimum size of 20 inches on red, black, gag, yellowfin and Nassau groupers and a 50 inch minimum size on jewfish.
- * A bag limit of 5 groupers, all species combined, for sportfishermen.
- * A bag limit of 3 and a minimum size of 28 inches fork length on amberjack for sportfishermen.
- * A minimum size of 36 inches fork length on amberjack for commercial fishermen.
- * All sport bag limits are trip limits except that charter or head boats on multi-day trips may possess a two day limit.
- * Bottom longlines for reef fish are prohibited within 50 fathoms west of Cape San Blas, Florida and 20 fathoms east of the Cape.
- * Incidental catches of reef fish on other longlines, shrimp trawls and nets will be limited to sport bag limits and sizes. This limit will not apply to groundfish trawlers where catch is not sorted at sea.
- * Fish traps will still be allowed outside of stressed areas, but will be limited to 100 traps per permit holder and annual permits will be required.

One final note is that the council is considering a complete ban on the taking of jewfish and will be holding public hearings on this sometime in January.

Sincerely,


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

JH/kwj

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