

SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

ALLIGATOR HIDE SALES

The Extension Service will again be sponsoring three alligator hides sales this year. Each sale will begin at 8:00 a.m. and buyers will bid on each hunter's lot of hides presented for sale. The sales will be held at the following times and places:

Friday Sept. 14

Cameron

Parish Mosquito Control Barn

Friday Sept. 21

Abbeville

Extension Service Exhibit Building

Monday Sept. 24

Raceland

Lafourche Parish Fair Building

If you would like maps giving directions to the sale sites, call or come by my office in Marrero.

WEIRS AND SHRIMP PRODUCTION

With more and more of Louisiana's marshes eroding away, many landowners are planning marsh management and preservation projects. One of the most common steps that landowners take, is the construction of weirs or dams to control water movement. This has concerned many fishermen, as the state's marshes are the nursery grounds for our huge shrimp, fish, oyster, and crab fisheries.

In a recent study, L.S.U. researchers tried to determine the effects of weirs on shrimp production in the Cameron—Creole Watershed in Cameron Parish. They caught, marked, and released brown shrimp in two ponds, one with a weir and one without, and checked how the shrimp grew and migrated.

They found that shrimp in the weired pond stayed 12 to 18 days longer before leaving, and were larger when they did leave. However, the pond without a weir produced twice as many pounds of shrimp than the one with a weir.

This study (and others like it) shows that putting dams and weirs in the marsh does affect shrimp production. Without weirs, however, saltwater intrusion will continue to get worse and many researchers feel that when enough of our marshlands are gone, shrimp and other fisheries production will collapse.

Marsh management and preservation efforts and their effects on fisheries are getting more and more attention in recent years, as coastal Louisiana continues to sink and wash away.

Source: Effects of a Fixed-Crest Weir on Brown Shrimp *Penaeus aztecus* Growth, Mortality, and Emigration in a Louisiana Coastal Marsh. E. Knudsen, R. Paille, B. Rogers, W. Herke and J. Geaghan. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 9:411-419, 1989.

MORE FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON FISH

Several new regulations concerning finfish in federal waters have gone into effect on August 20, 1990. The ones that apply to the Gulf of Mexico are as follows:

- *A limit of 2 cobia per person per day for sport and commercial fishermen.
- *The sport bag limit on mackerel has been changed from trip limits to daily limits.
- *A minimum size of 12 inches fork length or 14 inches total length on king mackerel for all fishermen.
- *Only hook and line and run-around gill nets are allowed as commercial gear on king mackerel.
- *The beginning date for the Spanish mackerel season is moved from July 1 to April 1.
- *A \$23 annual fee will be charged for commercial and charter permits for mackerel and cobia.

If you would like an updated copy of "Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters," call or write my office.

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region, News Bulletin.

SEA TURTLE NEWS

A new sea turtle head-start building was finished in April at the Galveston Lab of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The new building will have enough tanks to hold 1600 Kemp's ridley turtles.

Also, on August 15, approximately 1,850 head-start Kemp's ridley sea turtles were released along the southeastern Texas coast 50 miles offshore. Each of the turtles, which were hatched last year, are tagged.

Source: NMFS Newsbreaker. No 90-04.

BLACK DRUM REGULATIONS

After what seems like quite a bit of confusion, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted final regulations on black drum. The following regulations went into effect on September 1, 1990:

Commercial Regulations

- *16 inch minimum size.
- *3,250,000 pound quota on fish between 16 and 27 inches.
- *27 inch maximum size, unless the fisherman has a "Special Black Drum Permit."
- *300,000 fish quota on black drum over 27 inches.
- *The Special Black Drum Permit can be gotten by writing to LDWF Marine Fisheries Division, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.
- *Either quota can be closed by the Department with a 72 hour notice when the quota is met.

Sport Regulations

- *16 inch minimum size.
- *27 inch maximum size.
- *5 fish daily limit, one of which can be over 27 inches long.

FEDERAL FISHING VIOLATION SYSTEM

The Eighth Coast Guard District has put in a new enforcement procedure for smaller fisheries violations. The Coast Guard has the responsibility of enforcing many of the new fisheries laws on fish in federal waters such as snappers, groupers and king mackerel.

The system allows a person with a small violation, who does not want to fight the ticket, to pay his fine quickly. Under the system, the Coast Guard can issue "summary settlements" for these violations according to a schedule. Penalties under the schedule are \$150 for the first undersize fish or lobster and \$25 for each additional one. The fine for catching over the sport limit on any fish with limits will be \$250 for the first fish and \$50 for each additional one.

This program is for small violations that do not have any other aggravating factors. If the violation is large or if other problems, like uncooperation occur, the Coast Guard

boarding officers have the option of making the violator go through the normal process, which takes longer and has larger fines.

NUTRIENT OVERENRICHMENT - WHAT IS IT?

Well for one thing, it's the main cause of "dead zones," those areas in lakes and the gulf where there are no live fish, shrimp or crabs. Nutrient overenrichment is simply the adding of so many nutrients to the marine waters that it overloads.

Nutrients are certainly needed for anything to grow, that's why farmers and gardeners fertilize their fields, but some of our waters are having too much of a good thing. The nutrients causing these problems are the same nutrients found in fertilizers, especially nitrogen and phosphorus.

When very large amounts of these come down the rivers, draining into our area, they cause the tiny microscopic plants (phytoplankton) floating in the water to grow in great numbers. Sooner or later, these tiny plants have a big die-off and sink. As they decay, most or all of the oxygen is removed from the water, creating a dead zone.

The reason the Gulf of Mexico gets such a large load of nutrients is that the rivers going into the gulf, especially the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, drain two-thirds of the contiguous United States, large areas of Mexico and Cuba, and a small area of Canada. Very little water moves from the Gulf into the Atlantic, so the nutrients stay here.

Human activities such as city sewage treatment plants, industries, poor septic tanks, homeowner's overfertilization of lawns and gardens, and some agriculture, all add to the problem.

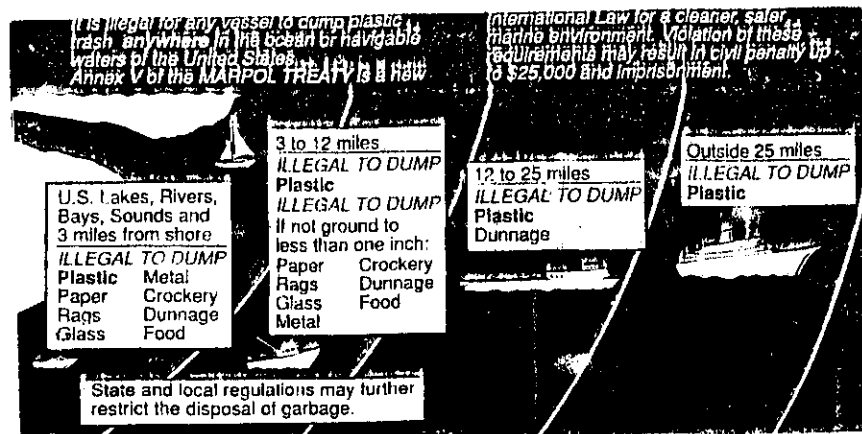
The Gulf of Mexico is a very valuable resource. About one-third of all the saltwater sport fishing in the continental U.S. takes place in the gulf. The gulf produces over 2½ billion pounds of finfish and shellfish worth several billion of dollars each year, and the most valuable commercial fishery in the U.S. is the gulf shrimp fishery. A great deal of Louisiana's economy depends on our fisheries resources.

For more information on this problem and what you can do, contact Gulf of Mexico Program (601) 688-3726.

Source: Gulf Facts, GMP-FS-003. Gulf of Mexico Program.

GARBAGE DUMPING LAW

Annex V of the MARPOL Treaty has created some strict regulations on the dumping of garbage and wastes at sea. Different rules apply to different distances from land. The drawing below summarizes the rules for the different areas.



RECYLING MOTOR OIL

Pollution of this area's waters has come to be of real concern to fishermen. One source of pollution has been people dumping their used motor oil down storm drains. Each person may only dump a small amount, but with thousands of people each dumping a little bit, the impact is serious and it all ends up in Lake Ponchartrain or the Barataria Bay system.

Since late June, Jefferson Parish residents have been able to bring up to five gallons of used oil at a time to either of the parish's recycling centers. The recycling centers

are located at 912 David Drive in Metairie and 6250 Lapalco Boulevard in Marrero. These centers also take and will pay for paper, metal and glass.

THE GUMBO POT

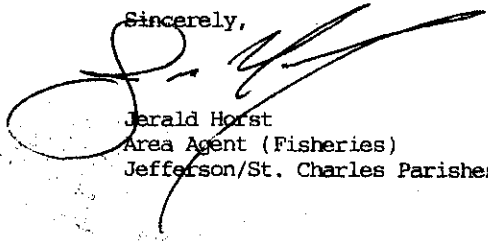
Weight Watchers Shrimp Cupcakes

Betty A. Cortez of Des Allemands, who contributed this month's recipe, says it is based on one from the 1990 Weight Watchers Food Program. When I first looked at it, I said "how can it be good with no salt or pepper?" When I tried it, I loved it. It really lets the marvelous taste of shrimp come through.

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 oz. cooked shrimp (crumbled) | 4 slices bread (crumbed) |
| 2 Tbsp. ranch dressing | 1 egg |
| 2 Tbsp. oil | |

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly. Divide evenly into 12 cupcake papers. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes until brown. Serves four dieters or two like me.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE
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