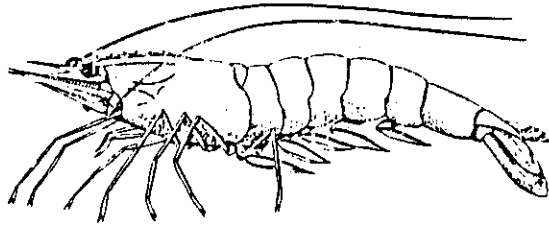


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

RUMORS

This summer has seen quite a few rumors floating around concerning shrimp-ing regulations. Hopefully this will set some of them straight.

- * There is no change in minimum mesh size on shrimp nets.
- * Night trawling is still legal.
- * There is no regulation or law proposed at this time to outlaw salt boxes.
- * TED regulations will not change before white shrimp season opens. According to Chuck Orvetz of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the earliest that any proposed TED changes will be published will be September and the earliest that they could go into effect would be November. Some changes are definately coming , however.
- * Skimmer nets have not been outlawed. In fact, a bill was passed late in the legislative session that (after the Governor signs it) will allow the lead line on skimmers to be 28 feet long after September 6. The current law only allows 16 feet.
- * The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has not changed the way they measure mongoose shrimp trawls. According to Major Tommy Candies, they will not measure along the bib if a false cork line is sewed into the top of the trawl where the cork line would ordinarily be.

DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE

Commercial fishermen, seafood dealers and oyster farmers are eligible for low interest disaster loans due to the very high rainfall levels this spring. Commercial fishermen and seafood dealers will be working through the Small Business Administration and should call 1-800-462-9029. Employees of businesses affected by the disaster may also be eligible for unemployment benefits. Oyster farmers should contact the Farmers Home Administration at 361-4771 in Gretna.

EMPIRE LOCKS CLOSED

The Empire Locks have been closed until August 31 for repairs and repainting. If shrimp season opens in August, fishermen will need to use another route to move from one side of the river to the other. The last time the locks were overhauled was in 1979.

FISHING BOATS NEEDED

The Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska has created a lot of public concern over having clean-up crews and boats ready to go in case of another spill. In Louisiana, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) and several major oil companies are working through a local marine towing and transportation company to develop a list of commercial fishing boats who would be willing to contract for clean-up work in case of an oil spill or fire.

They are looking for all size boats from skiffs to deepwater vessels under captains with 5 years professional commercial fishing experience. If an accident were to happen, all fuel and equipment would be supplied and payment will be arranged at that time. Interested persons should call:

Gary J. Landry
Otto Candies Inc
Des Allemands, LA
(504) 469-7740

This company is also involved in oil and gas platform removal site clearance contracts.

TED TIPS

Texas A & M University has published a new publication on solving problems of shrimp loss in TEDs. Some points from the publication are:

- * Never sew a grid-type TED directly into the trawl. The grid should first be installed into a stretched webbing panel (skirt) at the proper angle (40-45 degrees). When installed, the exact top of the center of the grid and the webbing skirt must line up exactly with the top of the trawl.
- * Accelerator funnels should be made of polyethylene webbing that is depth-stretched and heat-set.
- * Soft-TEDs should be custom-installed by an experienced person who knows how to apply the proper tension to the webbing during installation. Prefabricated soft TEDs for the "average" shrimp trawl do not appear to work.
- * Quad-trawls (2 nets on each outrigger) using grid TEDs and Y-bridled lazy lines need to use a lazy line that is long enough. Each arm of the Y bridle should be 20 to 22 feet in length for two 40-foot trawls. The lengthened bridle may require some changes in the rigging that leads to the cathead.
- * Overly heavy slip rings for the lazy line can affect TED performance.
- * Pulling in nets while heading down sea or not keeping enough forward speed during haul-back can cause shrimp loss through the TED opening.

For a copy of "Solving Problems with TEDs", write Sea Grant College Program, Texas A & M University, P. O. Box 1675, Galveston, TX 77553-1675.

SWORDFISH QUOTA

The National Marine Fisheries Service has placed emergency regulations on the harvest of swordfish in Gulf and South Atlantic waters. A 6 million pound commercial quota was put into effect, divided in two 3 million pound sections, one for January through June, the other July through December. After a quota is reached, only two swordfish per trip can be possessed as bycatch.

Also no more than 15 percent of the total number of swordfish landed from each trip can be less than 31 inches dressed carcass length or less than 41 pounds, dressed carcass weight.

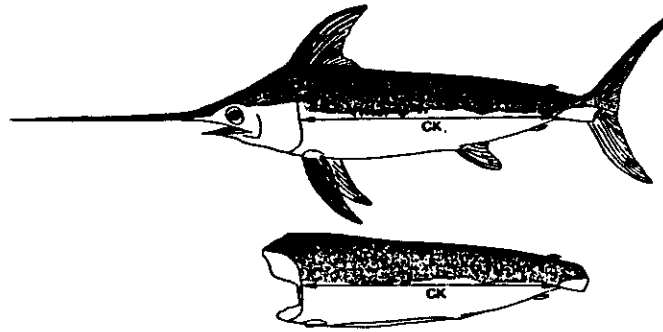


Figure 1. Cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement (i.e. dressed carcass length) of swordfish.

Sports fishermen are not allowed to sell or trade swordfish and cannot have any gear on board except rods and reels. Sportsmen have no bag limit but must obey the same minimum size limit as commercial fishermen.

MARSH MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be sponsoring a workshop entitled **MARSH MANAGEMENT - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE** on September 26 and 27 at the Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg. in Baton Rouge.

Louisiana's marshes are a treasure to the state and their use and management may be the most important fisheries issue of the 1990's. Beside, producing hundreds of millions of pounds of commercial and recreational fish and shellfish, these marshes produce fur and game animals, overwinter several million ducks, serve as a storm buffer and produce millions of dollars worth of oil and gas.

Yet most of these marshes are in private hands. Oil and gas revenues to the landowners are becoming smaller and landowners are looking for other uses for their marshes, such as mariculture. These marshes are also eroding very quickly. Preserving the wetlands and satisfying landowner needs while at the same time producing fish and shellfish for Louisiana's fishermen will be a big challenge.

This program should be of interest to sport and commercial fishermen, hunters, trappers, land owners and marsh managers as well as policy specialists and scientists. Anyone wishing to attend should fill out the application below and send it in.

I will be attending the LWBA Marsh Management Workshop on 26-27 Sep 1991.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Return to:

LWBA
P.O. Box 14762
Baton Rouge LA 70808

I (will) (will not)
need a hotel room.

MACKEREL QUOTAS UP SLIGHTLY

King mackerel season opened July 1 for Gulf of Mexico waters. The quota this year is higher than last year. The recreational quota for the Gulf is 3.91 million lbs. compared to 2.89 million lbs last year. The commercial quota for the entire Gulf is 1.84 million lbs. compared to last 1.36 million lbs. The western Gulf's (where Louisiana is) share is 570,000 lbs. this year compared to 420,000 lbs. last year.

The quota on spanish mackerel, which opened on April 1, is also larger, with 3.70 million lbs. for recreationals and 4.90 million lbs. for commercials this year. Last year, it was 2.26 million lbs. for recreationals and 2.99 million lbs. for commercials.
Source: NMFS News Bulletin 7/1/91

COMMISSION LOOKS AT BASS AND CHOUPIQUES

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is filing a notice of intent to change management measures on bass and choupique in Louisiana. They are considering increasing the daily limit on bass from 8 to 10 fish, except in Toledo Bend, Caddo Lake and trophy and quality Lakes. Also under consideration is removal of the 14 inch minimum size and 5 fish limit on bass in the Sabine River below Toledo Bend. In a separate action, the Commission is proposing a minimum commercial size of 22 inches on bowfin (we call'em Choupique, pronounced Shoo-pick in south Louisiana). This size limit would allow most females to have spawned at least once before being harvested. Comments on either proposal may be sent to Bennie J. Fontenot Jr., Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, La 70898-9000.

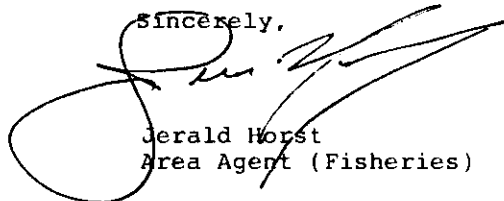
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**THE GUMBO POT
Shrimp Pie**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 lb small peeled cooked shrimp | 1 tsp pepper |
| 1 cup sliced mushrooms | 1 tsp salt |
| 1/4 cup chopped green onions | 1/8 tsp dry mustard |
| 6 Tbsp melted butter | 1/8 tsp nutmeg |
| 4 eggs, well beaten | 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese |
| 1 1/2 cups half and half | 1 unbaked 9 inch pie shell |

In a small pot, saute mushrooms and green onions in butter until tender. In a large bowl combine eggs, half and half, salt, pepper, dry mustard, nutmeg and cheese. Mix in shrimp, mushrooms and onions. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 300 degrees and continue to bake at 300 degrees for 40 minutes. Makes 4 generous servings.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)

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