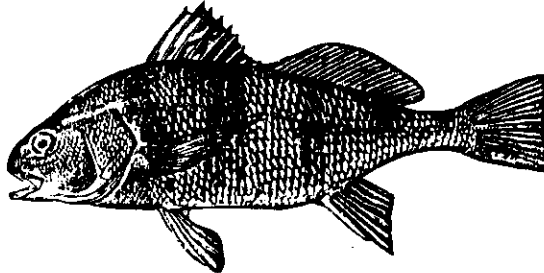


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

RIGHT COMPANY-WRONG NUMBER

In last month's newsletter, I had an article about the development of an oil spill emergency response team and their need to contract fishing boats. Unfortunately, I printed the companies' FAX number instead of their direct telephone number. The correct number is:

Gary J. Landry
Otto Candies Inc.
Des Allemands, LA
(504) 469-7700

They are looking for all size boats from skiffs to deepwater vessels with captains who have 5 years professional commercial fishing experience. If an oil spill or fire were to occur, they would supply all fuel and equipment and payment would be arranged at that time. If you want your boat or vessel on their contact list call Gary at the number above.

BLACK DRUM PERMITS EXPIRING

Commercial fishermen are reminded that all bull black drum permits expire on August 31 of this year. The sale of black drum over 27 inches long is illegal without the permit. As a service to fishermen we have these applications in our office in Marrero. Anyone wishint to get a permit or renew their old one may call or write our office.

NEW PUBLICATION ON FISHERIES TERMS

As more and more fish are being managed more carefully, many fishermen are getting involved in advisory groups and others often read the management plans and scientific reports. Many of these reports use technical terms that aren't well explained.

A new publication, "Defining Fisheries, A Users Glossary," by Louisiana Sea Grant explains most of these terms in everyday language. It is an ideal reference for people who read reports or attend technical meetings and public hearings on fisheries. For a free copy call or write my office in Marrero.

OYSTER PUBLICATION

In recent years, the Louisiana oyster industry has experienced more and more difficulty in getting seed oysters from the state's public oyster reefs. There are many reasons for this poor production, including saltwater intrusion, marsh loss predators and disease.

One solution may be the production of oyster larvae from hatcheries. The Sea Grant Program at LSU has an ongoing hatchery research study. The same researcher in charge of this work, John Supan has produced a 47 page booklet "Using Remote Setting to Produce Seed Oysters in Louisiana and the Gulf Coastal Region."

This publication includes building a system, handling the larvae and clutch, setting the spat and planting the seed. If you would like a free copy of this publication, call or write my office in Marrero.

GOVERNOR VETOES MARSH MARICULTURE BILL

Governor Buddy Roemer has vetoed House Bill 998. The bill would have allowed 5 private mariculture operations of 50,000 acres each in the coastal wetlands and authorized the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue 5 native shellfish harvesting permits, which would have allowed the owner to harvest shellfish, such as shrimp, whenever and however they want.

NEW FISHERIES LAWS

The following bills were passed by the 1991 Louisiana Legislature and will go into effect September 6, 1991 (unless otherwise noted). If you would like more information on these new laws, call me at my office in Marrero.

Senate Bill 108 (Act 587) - Hinton

Allows any Louisiana citizen who is serving in the military to fish or hunt for free, when on leave from a post outside the state.

Senate Bill 534 (Act 157) - Bankston and Hainkel

Keeps redfish gamefish indefinitely, but requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to make a yearly report to the legislature on the biological condition of redfish and whether or not they should be kept gamefish.

Also gives the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission complete management power, except for gear and gamefish determination, over redfish and speckled trout. Provides that farm-raised redfish are exempt from these regulations.

Outlaws the possession of redfish on any boat with a seine, gill, trammel or hoop net on board. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 548 (Act 987) - Bankston

Allows the sale of gamefish, except black, yellow, white, striped or shadow bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and bream, raised by approved colleges as part of their research programs.

Senate Bill 549 (Act 822) - Bankston

Removes the requirement that imported or farm-raised redfish have a metal self-locking tag on the gill cover of each fish. Requires instead that the buyer or handler of any saltwater gamefish shall notify the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of each shipment and possess a bill of lading. Also requires that each retailer get a copy of the bill of lading from the wholesaler. Both dealers must keep these records on file. Effective September 1, 1991.

Senate Bill 787 (Act 177) - Foster

Exempts sales of bait menhaden to wholesalers and retailers in 100-pound lots from advance sales tax collection.

Senate Bill 852 (Act 824) - Nunez

Allows fishermen using pompano nets in the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Islands to have a recreational limit of sharks, Spanish mackerel or cobia in their possession.

Senate Bill 853 (Act 631) - Nunez

Defines a gill net as not having more than two layers.

Senate Bill 916 (Act 788) - Chabert

Repeals the law that prohibits any trawling or seining over leased oyster grounds and instead prohibits anyone from trawling or seining over any area of privately leased oyster grounds in the year following seeding of the area, if it is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation. Also provides that the law requiring that one-tenth of the leased bottom be placed under cultivation in one year does not apply if the area is closed because of health reasons.

Senate Bill 1084 (Act 641) - Landry

Allows a ten percent tolerance by number of undersized channel catfish (eel cats) in possession.

House Bill 88 (Act 184) - Sam Theriot and others

Creates a lifetime sport fishing license at the cost of \$300 or a lifetime combination sportfishing and hunting license for \$500. Effective January 1, 1992.

House Bill 240 (Act 337) - Roach and Patti

Increases the minimum balance before assessment in the Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund (State Hang Fund) from \$100,000 to \$250,000, with the money still coming from oil and gas leases and rights-of-way.

House Bill 533 (Act 931) - Roach

Increases the maximum door size to 8 ft x 40 in. for the outside doors on the easy-rig shrimp trawls. Also, defines a skimmer net as having a 16 by 12 foot two sided frame and allows the lead line of each net to be 28 feet long.

House Bill 564 (Act 804) - Thompson and others

Changes the penalties for violations of the weights and measures laws on oysters to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 per day of violation. Also, allows the Commissioner of Agriculture make the offender pay the costs of the hearing.

House Bill 584 (Act 476) - Patti, and Nunez

Clarifies the language on severance taxes on oysters and shrimp. Effective immediately.

House Bill 731 (Act 484) - Patti

Provides that no oysters, whether for food or not, may be taken unless they come from approved areas.

House Bill 806 - (Act 564) - Pattie and Nunez

Allows the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries to give permits which allow oyster and clam depuration and container relaying operations.

House Bill 909 (Act 234) - Roach and Landry

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to draft regulations for Commission approval that will assure the confidentiality of fisheries data.

House Bill 953 (Act 946) - Patti

Moves the inside-outside shrimp line at the eastern end of Chandeleur Sound slightly. Also, allows 10% undersized white shrimp when more than 50% by weight of the shrimp possessed are brown shrimp.

House Bill 956 (Act 566) - Patti and Nunez

Allows trawling and seining over privately leased oyster beds unless the beds are staked off, marked or posted with prominent, durable signs stating "NO TRAWLING OR SEINING - OYSTER LEASE."

House Bill 957 (Act 567) -Patti and Nunez

Requires that during the harvesting of oysters from a private lease, that the lease be posted with prominent durable signs stating "NO TRAWLING OR SEINING - OYSTER LEASE."

House Bill 959 (Act 496) - Patti

Increases from class one to class two, the penalty for violating laws on culling oysters from natural reefs, seed oyster and reservation laws, and the use of dredges.

House Bill 960 (Act 1051) - Patti

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adopt rules for the taking of mullet. Creates the following temporary rules until the Commission adopts permanent rules:

- (1) Mullet season begins October 15 and lasts 90 days.
- (2) A limit of 200 pounds of mullet per day outside of the season for both sport and commercial fishermen.
- (3) A special permit will be required to fish for mullets at a cost of \$100 for residents and \$400 for nonresidents.
- (4) Strike nets over 1200 feet long are prohibited during the season and no more than 2 strike nets can be used from any vessel at any time.
- (5) Mullet may be fished in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds south and west of a line beginning at the most northerly point on the south side of Taylor Pass at Latitude 89° 23' 18" 476 N.(Y-268,131,65), Longitude 89° 19' 00" 803 W. (X-2, 642, 161.69);thence run North 32° 32' West for 8.74 miles to a horizontal tank battery located in the vicinity of Battledore Reef and east of Little Battledore Island; thence run North 30° 47' East for 11 miles to the Mississippi River Gulf-Outlet channel at the lighted, privately maintained marker known as station "69-A and "70-A".

House Bill 961 (Act 859) - Patti

Outlaws the use of dredges for crab fishing.

House Bill 1055 (Act 393) - Triche

Declares a moratorium on the commercial harvest of bowfin(choupique) and places a minimum size of 22 inches on them commercially. Also makes it illegal to possess bowfin eggs removed from the fish while on the water.

House Bill 1074 (Act 868) - Haik

Increases the penalty for the use of gill nets over 1200 feet long to a fine of \$5,000 to \$7,000 and 2 to 6 months in jail for each offense. Allows a 10% tolerance in the length of the net.

House Bill 1177 (Act 871) - Roach

Requires a \$25 commercial gear license for cast nets over 6 feet. Also, sets a possession limit of 50 pounds of shrimp per boat per day when using a recreational cast net ~~over~~ 6 feet. ~~as usual~~

House Bill 1185 (Act 1041) - Roach

Sets a fee of \$4 per alligator skin tag, with the money collected going to a newly created Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund. Also removes the requirement that alligator parts and eggs need tags. Effective immediately.

House Bill 1271 (Act 698) - Higginbotham and Thompson

Defines a "trigger device" as a piece of gear to harvest finfish.

House Bill 1284 (Act 254) - Ellington

Requires farm-raised catfish processors to pay catfish producers within 14 days after delivery of the product.

House Bill 1287 (Act 374) - Ellington and Campbell

Creates weighing procedures for farm-raised catfish.

House Bill 1350 (Act 258) - Odinet

Increases the penalty for using a butterfly net in closed waters to the same as using a trawl in closed waters.

House Bill 1354 (Act 514) - Melancon

Requires that any catfish product sold in the state shall be labeled as farm-raised or naturally produced. Effective January 1, 1992.

House Bill 1365 (Act 957) - Roach

Requires that state water bottoms be cleared of all obstructions when an oil or gas well is removed using the same procedures, where possible, as those required for federal waters.

House Bill 1509 (Act 523) - Patti

Requires the possession of both a basic sport fishing license and a fresh water trout license when fishing in designated freshwater trout areas.

House Bill 1529 (Act 270) - R. Alexander

Increases the penalties for taking fresh and saltwater gamefish by illegal methods.

House Bill 1533 (Act 578) - Sam Theriot

Removes the requirement to have a special permit to sell the skins of alligators under four feet long.

House Bill 1536 (Act 525) - Triche

Requires the confiscation and loss of anything seized in connection with a class 6 or class 7 violation.

House Bill 1548 (Act 272) - Salter

Repeals the \$200 fee for nonresident minnow dealers.

House Bill 1571 (Act 579) - Long and others

Creates the Louisiana Alligator Market Development Authority.

House Bill 1573 (Act 885) - Adley

Requires that failure to pay the fine on a class one violation will result in immediate loss of all recreational fishing and hunting licenses and that the person can get no new licenses until the entire fine is paid.

House Bill 1574 (Act 966) - Adley

Makes most boating violations class one violations.

House Bill 1592 (Act 708) - Roach

Requires that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission make a report to the legislature by March first of each year on the biological condition of redfish and a recommendation as to whether redfish should be kept as gamefish and why.

Also defines the terms and sets the policies and standards for saltwater fin-fish conservation and management in Louisiana.

House Bill 1593 (Act 886)-Roach

Makes it illegal for anyone to use a gill net to encircle another boat or use any vessel or commercial fishing gear to interfere with a sport fisherman.

Also makes it illegal for anyone to use a boat and sportfishing gear to interfere with a commercial fisherman.

Also limits gill nets to a maximum of 600 feet long in the Calcasieu Lake area. Also requires that each set gill net used in this area be marked by double buoys at each end and if the net is over 200 feet long, a buoy every 150 feet. All buoys must be orange and orange buoys are prohibited for use on any other gear. Requires a minimum distance of 50 feet between each set net.

House Bill 1594 (Act 887) - Roach

Increases the gear fee for saltwater gill nets from \$25 to \$250. Effective November 1, 1991.

House Bill 1596 (Act 888) - Roach

Requires game wardens to seize all gear used to take seafood when a person is caught fishing without a valid commercial fisherman's license. Effective immediately.

House Bill 1670 (Act 294) - Benoit

Repeals license requirement and regulation for a wholesaler's agent who buys shrimp.

House Bill 1869 (Act 896) - Patti and Nunez

Exempts seafood processors from paying state sales taxes on materials and supplies if the processor owns or leases commercial vessels or has vessels contracted to the plant.

House Bill 1916 (Act 900) - Roach

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to open the oyster tonging season in Calcasieu Lake between October 15 and November 1.

House Bill 1972 (Act 719) - Roach

Allows the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enter into an agreement to allow federal game wardens to enforce Louisiana game and fish laws on Calcasieu Lake and federal wildlife refuges in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. Effective immediately.

House Bill 2010 (Act 913) - Jess Smith

Dedicates the money received from the sale of confiscated items to be used to get equipment for game wardens and for uniform cleaning.

House Concurrent Resolution 16 - Siracusa

Re-creates the special committee to study the transfer of oyster industry regulation to the Department of Agriculture.

House Resolution 25 - Diez and Jetson

Urges and requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to raise the limit on black bass from eight to ten.

House Concurrent Resolution 32 - Roach

Directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to review the shrimp management plan data and proposal and give the Legislative Natural Resources Committees an evaluation.

House Concurrent Resolution 25 - Toomy and others

Provides that the Louisiana Marine Fisheries Museum shall be located in Jefferson Parish and that the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board shall be the developing and coordinating agency.

House Concurrent Resolution 122 - Patti and others

Directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force to study and report on alternatives to TEDs.

House Concurrent Resolution 145 - Roach

Directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and report on the legal aspects of ownership of non-navigable waterbottoms in coastal areas.

House Concurrent Resolution 277 - Patti and Nunez

Directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to make, by March 1 of each year, a report to the legislature on the biological condition of redfish and whether continued gamefish status is required and why.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 35 - Bagert

Declares 1992 as the "Year of the Gulf".

Senate Concurrent Resolution 64 and 108 - Nunez and McPherson

Asks the U. S. Congress to repeal the user fee on recreational boats longer than 16 feet.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 92 - Landry

Creates a Task Force to study the reptile and amphibian educational/scientific/pet trade in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)

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