

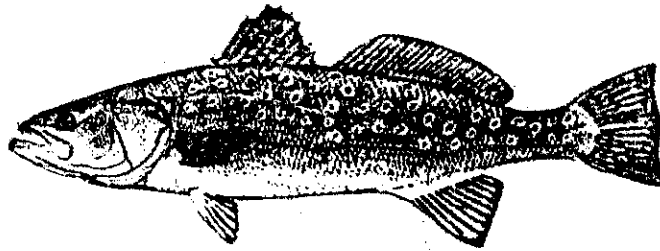


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## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



## LAGNIAPPE

### NEW SPECKLED TROUT RULES

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has approved the following rules for the commercial harvest of speckled trout:

- \* A closed season on commercial fishing for speckled trout from May 1 through September 14 of each year even if the quota isn't filled.
- \* No commercial fishing or commercial possession of speckled trout will be allowed from sunset Friday through sunset Monday of each week.
- \* The commercial quota is reduced from 1.25 million pounds to 1 million pounds.

### RED SNAPPER HEARINGS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will be holding a public hearing on the 1993 commercial catch quota at 6:30 p.m. on March 9 at the Stouffer Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 Water St., Mobile, Alabama. The purpose of the hearing is to get public comment on methods that could be used to harvest fish over a longer period. Red snappers are being caught so quickly this year that prices have dropped because of the glut of fish and the quota will be filled very early.

Some suggested methods include allowing fishing only for two weeks per month, splitting the overall quota into several time periods or creating trip limits. Comments made will be used by the Council and Reef Fish Committee to make changes for 1993.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SAVE MARSHES**

Volunteers with shallow draft boats are needed for the final step of this year's "Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Project." On March 7 & 14, 28 & 29 and on April 4 and 11, boats and volunteers will be needed to place the bundled trees in cribs in the Barataria area.

The Barataria Basin is one of the most important fish, shrimp and crab producing areas of the state and also one of the fastest eroding. Experts predict that as we lose our marshes we will lose our fisheries.

Volunteers, especially those with flatboats or other shallow draft boats should call 736-6440.

## **MULLET LIMITS CHANGED**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took emergency action at its meeting in early February to increase the daily commercial limit on striped mullet during closed season from 200 pounds per day to 1,500 pounds. The closed season is from January 13 to October 14. This emergency action is temporary, lasting through June 4, 1992.

## **CRAB TRAP TAGS WILL BE REQUIRED**

In another action, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has approved a rule that will require that all crab traps be marked with a 1/2-inch stainless steel self-locking tag. The tags must be attached to the center of the trap ceiling and must have either the commercial fisherman's license number (not the gear license) or the recreational crab trap gear license number printed on it. This regulation will go into effect on July 1, 1992.

The Louisiana Crab Task Force is compiling a list of businesses that will handle the tags and this information will be provided as soon as it is available.

## **SHARK PLAN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced that its proposed management plan for sharks is available for written public comment until March 9, 1992. Among other things, the plan would do the following:

- \* Close the commercial season on large coastal sharks until June 30, 1992.
- \* Set an annual commercial quota of 3.2 million lbs. on pelagic (open-sea) species in the Gulf, Atlantic and Caribbean.
- \* Set recreational limits in federal waters of two sharks per fishing boat per trip for large coastal and pelagic species combined, and five per person per day for small coastal species.
- \* Require that a person show that 50% of his income come from commercial fishing or charter or headboat operations to get a commercial permit.
- \* Set a minimum size of 66 inches fork length on mako sharks

## SHARK PLAN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)

- \* Limit the number of fins landed to five per carcass landed.

Copies of the shark management plan can be obtained by calling Michael Justen with National Marine Fisheries Service at (813) 893-3722. Written comments should be sent to Richard H. Schaefer, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, NMFS, 1335 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910. For commercial shark permit applications call the Regulations and Permits Branch at (813) 893-3722.

## FINAL SWORDFISH RULES

The National Marine Fisheries Service has published the final rules for the swordfish fishery. These replace the emergency rules which expired on December 9, 1991. Provisions of the rules are as follows:

- \* Keeps the minimum size limit at 31 inches dressed carcass length or 41 pounds dressed weight, with a 15% allowance for undersized swordfish based on the number landed per trip.
- \* The annual quota is divided into two halves for the periods January 1 - June 30 and July 1 - December 31. The directed quota has been set at 6.9 million pounds dressed weight but may be changed.
- \* Provides for separate gear quotas for longlines, harpoons and drift gillnets.
- \* During closure of the drift gillnet fishery, a vessel using or possessing a drift gillnet may not fish for swordfish or possess more than two swordfish per trip.
- \* During closure of the longline fishery, a vessel using or possessing a longline may not fish for swordfish or possess more than two swordfish per trip.
- \* During closure of the harpoon fishery a vessel using or possessing a harpoon may not fish for or possess any swordfish.
- \* Any commercial vessel using gear other than drift gillnet, longline or harpoon may not fish for swordfish or possess more than two swordfish per trip.
- \* Provides for mandatory observers on selected vessels.
- \* Limits the sport fishery to rods and reels and prohibits sale of their fish.
- \* Requires that dealers buy a permit and make reports twice each month.
- \* Requires that vessel owners and operators buy a permit and that they must keep daily logbooks and send copies of it in no later than the fifth day after each sale of fish.

Copies of the complete regulations are provided with each 1992 permit and are also available from NMFS, Office of Conservation and Management, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

## RENEWAL TIME FOR RECREATIONAL BOAT DECAL

Recreational boaters should be aware that congress has still not repealed the user fee for recreational boats and that they will need a new

**RENEWAL TIME FOR RECREATIONAL BOAT DECAL (CONT.)**

decal for 1992. This recreational boat user fee was mandated by Congress in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. The cost of the decal is based on the size of the boat and required on all recreational boats over 16 feet long operating on coastal waters out to 3 miles, rivers and bays under tidal influence, and river and bays connected to those under tidal influence.

Boats over 16 feet but less than 20 pay \$25, boats 20 feet to less than 27 feet pay \$35, boats 27 feet to less than 40 feet pay \$50, and boats 40 feet and longer pay \$100.

Boats operated by nonprofit charitable groups must apply for an exemption decal. Boats that do not need any decal are all boats 16 feet long and under, boats propelled only by oars, paddles or poles, boats owned by state, local and foreign governments, charter boats carrying a crew, barges and houseboats and commercial boats and vessels. The determination on whether a boat is commercial or recreational will be based mostly on the boat's registration.

For more information on this program, call the boaters safety hot line at 1-800-368-5647. Decals can be ordered by calling the recreational user-fee hot line at 1-800-848-2100.

**MIALJEVICH APPOINTED TO COMMISSION**

Teo John Mialjevich of Gretna has been appointed to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Governor Edwin Edwards. Mialjevich has served as president of Concerned Shrimpers Association since 1987 and has been a commercial shrimper since 1965.

**\*\*\*\*\* THE GUMBO POT \*\*\*\*\***

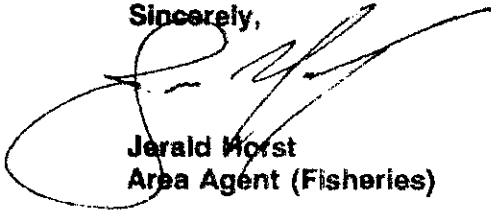
**Can-venient Shrimp Dip**

Years ago, canned shrimp were found in almost every pantry. Even though they aren't as popular as they once were, they are just as good and just as convenient. This is a real tasty recipe and it's easy to make.

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 4 1/2-oz cans of shrimp   | 1/4 cup chopped onion          |
| 1 8-oz package cream cheese | 1/4 cup chopped stuffed olives |
| 1/4 cup mayonnaise          | 1/4 tsp salt                   |
|                             | 1/4 tsp white pepper           |

Drain, rinse and chop shrimp. Mix well with other ingredients. Makes about two cups of dip.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
Area Agent (Fisheries)