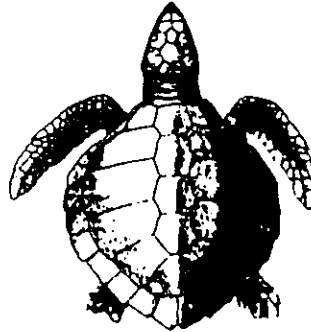




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Jefferson Parish Office
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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

TED WORKSHOPS

The National Marine Fisheries Service will be holding three TED workshops for Louisiana fishermen. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend and will be held at the following times and places.

- * Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 p.m.
St. Bernard Cultural Center
8245 West Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, LA
- * Wednesday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.
Central Lafourche High School Gym
Mathews, LA
- * Thursday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.
Cameron Elementary Auditorium
Cameron, LA

If you have any questions on the use of TEDs, these workshops should answer them. The meeting agenda is as follows:

- * Introduction and purpose of workshop
- * Review of the new regulations
- * Enforcement of Regulations
- * Violations, prosecution, fines and appeals

- * Inshore TED discussion
 - recommended inshore TEDs
 - experience with inshore TEDs
 - review of inshore TED testing
- * Introduction of TED manufacturers
- * Open discussion, questions and answers
- * Closing remarks

BAYOU SEGNETTE CLEAN-UP

Two local companies, Cypress Swamp Tours and Bayou Segnette Swamp Tours in conjunction with the City of Westwego are sponsoring a Trash Bash Day for Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The area to be cleaned up is Bayou Segnette, the bayou levee, Louisiana St., Laroussini St. and West Bank Expressway. Clean-up organizers are looking for volunteers, especially those with small boats to help in this effort. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Eileen Sementilli at 561-8244.

WHERE'S THE FUR INDUSTRY?

For many years fur trapping provided a valuable source of income for Louisiana's coastal residents. At one time, fur trapping was even more important to many people than commercial fishing. At very least, it was part of their seasonal income cycle that included shrimping, crabbing, oystering and finfishing.

Louisiana's fur industry has fallen on hard times. Louisiana produced 8,869,609 pelts in the 1945-46 trapping season. As recently as the 1976-77 season the state produced 3,246,988 pelts worth \$24,765,894 (including meat value). By the 1990-91 season Louisiana's fur harvest dropped to 144,674 pelts with a total value of \$490,291.

While many people feel that the animal rights movement is the reason for the market decline, the real reasons are much more complex. Fur reached record prices in the 1970's as long-fur coats were in fashion and cold winters, especially in Europe, pushed up sales. The market began to decline in the 1980's as fur farmers began to overproduce. This was especially true in Northern Europe as fur farmers there were subsidized by their governments. The animal rights movement may also have affected fashions and the market.

The result was an international glut of mink. Prices rapidly dropped, driving down the price of cheaper furs like nutria, raccoon and beaver. On top of that, the international economy got worse, which further hurt demand.

The decline of the fur industry not only caused a loss of income for trappers, but caused uncontrolled animal populations to explode. Farmers throughout the United States are complaining about livestock losses to coyotes. Valuable agricultural and forest lands are being flooded by beavers. The large raccoon populations in the northeast are being hit with a new strain of rabies, which threatens pets and humans. Here in Louisiana, overpopulation by nutria and muskrats is worsening coastal erosion by their destruction of wetland plants.

Hopefully, the depressed fur market will recover. An improved economy in both Europe and the U. S. would help. So would a series of cold winters. Most importantly, we will probably have to wait for a major change in fashions which will make fur coats popular once again.

Source: The Post-Star, Glens Falls, N.Y. 11/9/92

RED SNAPPER ENDORSEMENTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service has issued 131 red snapper endorsements to commercial reef fish permit holders as of February 18. With the endorsement, a fisherman is allowed to land 2000 pounds of red snapper per trip. Without the endorsement, a permit holder is limited to 200 pounds of red snapper per trip.

Reef fish permits are required for the commercial take of snappers, groupers and amberjack from federal waters. No new permits are being issued. If a person wants to get into the fishery he must buy the boat and reef fish permit from a current permit holder. Transfer of a reef fish permit with a red snapper endorsement can only be made from one vessel to another already owned by the same person.

The number of red snapper endorsements issued in each state is as follows:

Florida - 58; Texas - 40; Louisiana - 20; Alabama - 7; and Mississippi - 6.

COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE OFFERS COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL DOCKSIDE EXAMINATIONS

On 15 September 1991, the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act regulations became effective. The intent of these regulations is to improve personal safety on commercial fishing vessels with a minimum of economic hardship.

To help the fishing community meet the new regulations the Coast Guard has begun a voluntary examination program.

This program is coordinated through Mr. David Johnson at the U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office New Orleans. The program includes meeting with fishing groups and

associations, distributing informational material, providing training to other Coast Guard units and accommodating requests for courtesy no-penalty examinations.

Examinations are done at the dock and are entirely educational. Discrepancies are pointed out with no penalty incurred. Once all discrepancies have been corrected, a "Commercial Fishing Safety Examination" decal is issued. All of the dockside examinations are scheduled at the fisherman's request. An examination may be scheduled by contacting the Marine Safety Office at 504/589-4234.

Once again, this dockside examination is entirely voluntary with no penalties assessed. Fishermen can find out if their boats pass, or what needs to be done in order for the boats to pass. Fishermen should be aware that a boarding performed at sea is not a courtesy examination and may result in penalties being assessed.

THE GUMBO POT

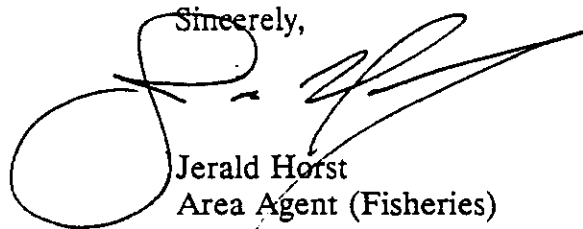
This month's recipe has a lot of celery in it but surprisingly it doesn't overpower the shrimp. In fact, they go together quite well.

Celery Shrimp Casserole

1 lb. peeled shrimp	1/3 cup sliced water chestnuts
1/3 cup chopped celery	1 hard boiled egg, chopped
1/3 cup chopped green pepper	1 tbsp. lemon juice
1/3 cup chopped onion	1/4 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. margarine	1/4 tsp. pepper
1 can condensed cream of celery soup	2/3 cup cracker crumbs
	1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In a 2 quart saucepan, saute celery, green pepper and onions in margarine for 10 minutes. Stir in all the remaining ingredients except for cheese and spoon the mixture into a 1½ quart casserole dish. Bake in 350° oven for 15 minutes. Sprinkle cheese on top and put back in oven until melted. Serves 4.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)