



Louisiana State University

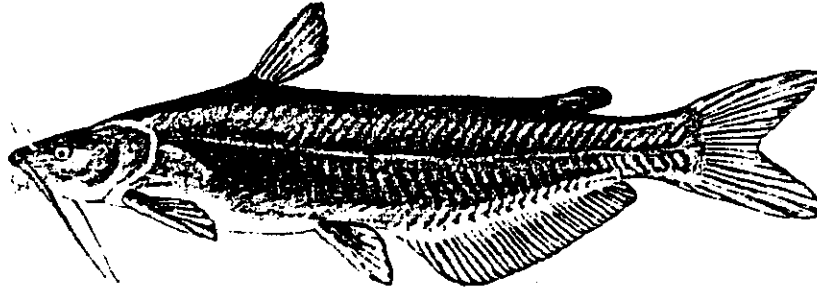
Agricultural Center

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

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Jefferson Parish Office
1825 Bonnie Ann Drive
Marrero, LA 70072
(504) 349-5640

SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

HANG FUNDS

Fishermen's gear compensation funds have been available for both federal and state waters for some time now. These funds pay for damage to commercial fishermen's trawls and vessels caused by underwater obstructions. To refresh everyone's memory, I've decided to publish a list of do's and don'ts concerning the funds.

- 1) In state waters, you must report the damage within 30 days of when it occurred by calling 1-342-0122 in Baton Rouge.
- 2) In federal waters, you must report the damage within 15 days after the end of the trip in which the damage occurred by calling 1-301-713-2396.
- 3) The state fund requires that fishermen either show original receipts for the gear lost or estimates for exactly the same size gear. The federal fund requires original receipts and a replacement receipt or estimate.
- 4) State claims must be returned within 90 days of the incident and federal claims must be returned within 60 days of the incident.
- 5) These funds are of great benefit to fishermen who suffer damage to their gear and vessels. However, it is very important that claims are totally correct. An improper claim is considered felony mail fraud and carries a one year jail sentence, a \$2,500.00 fine and repayment of any claim money paid. Additionally, the federal claim fund regularly sends field auditors from the Office of Inspector General into local fishing ports to verify claims.

If you have any questions on how to use either program, please call me at my office.

BARATARIA BAY FRESHWATER DIVERSION

Since the first of the year I have received quite a few questions on the river water diversion into upper Barataria Bay Freshwater diversion is widely viewed as a method of slowing marsh loss due to salt water intrusion. Shown below is the operational schedule for the LaReussite Freshwater Diversion Structure.

Month	Duration Period	Number of Pipes	Cubic Feet Per Second Flow
January	First half of month	8	1493
	Second half of month	8	1496
February	First half of month	8	1680
	Second half of month	8	1680
March	First half of month	8	1976
	Second half of month	8	1976
April	First half of month	2	540
	Second half of month	2	540
May	First half of month	4	1028
	Second half of month	2	514
June	First half of month	4	880
	Second half of month	2	440
July	First half of month	8	1408
	Second half of month	4	704
August	First half of month	8	1071
	Second half of month	4	536
September	First half of month	8	1039
	Second half of month	4	520
October	First half of month	8	1039
	Second half of month	4	520
November	First half of month	8	1039
	Second half of month	4	520
December	First half of month	8	1336
	Second half of month	4	668

The operational schedule of this structure is based on average monthly Mississippi River Stages. If the river stages are higher or lower than average, the number of pipes operating can be adjusted to get the planned water flow. Flow rates are reduced during April, May and June to lessen the project's impact on brown shrimp. This project is much smaller than the planned Davis Ponds project which will divert 10,500 cubic feet per second of freshwater into the Barataria Estuary during normal high river periods.

ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN LOUISIANA

In the mid-1980's, a small striped clam was found in the fresh waters of the United States Great Lakes. Researchers identified these critters as zebra mussels which are native to Europe. Evidently, they were introduced to U. S. waters from the ballast water of a cargo ship from Europe. Since then, they have spread into the Mississippi River drainage system.

Researchers thought that the mussel could not survive the warm waters of the southern U. S., but in February they were discovered in Lettsworth, Louisiana and more recently in Harvey. These little clams are a problem because they cause heavy fouling problems, reaching numbers of over a half a million per square yard. They have caused millions of dollars of damage in the Great Lakes area where they have clogged industrial and city water supplies and fouled boat hulls and commercial fishing gear.

People who wish to report zebra mussels or who would like more information may call Dr. Jim Layzer with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-800-999-6226.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION REMINDER

Under Louisiana law, many farmers and commercial fishermen are exempt from sales taxes on purchases for their businesses. It is important that commercial fishermen who have a tax-exempt number, remember that they must have their sales tax exemption papers with them when they make a business purchase in order to get the exemption. Retail businesses are not allowed under the law to take the fisherman's word that he has an exemption.

Fishermen that do not have an exemption for 1993 may apply for one by getting an application form by calling, writing, or coming by my office in Marrero. In order to be eligible, the fisherman must be a Louisiana resident, have a valid Louisiana commercial fishing license, have a registered or documented boat and be able to prove that 50% of his income comes from commercial fishing.

MARINE ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

The Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board is drawing nearer to its goal of crating a marine fisheries museum in Jefferson Parish. Fisheries played an important role in the development of south Louisiana and to this day, is one of the area's largest employers. The creation of the museum was assigned to the Marine Advisory Board by the 1991 Louisiana Legislature with House Concurrent Resolution 25 by Representative Joseph Toomy.

The museum will be located on Louisiana Avenue near Bayou Segnette on property that Westwego Alderman Steve Valence has agreed to lease to the parish for one dollar a year. The building was donated to the Parish by the City of Westwego. Funding for the movement of the museum building to the lot was authorized in an ordinance by Jefferson Parish Councilman James E. Lawson.

The fishing industry is one of the largest employers in Jefferson Parish, creating approximately 10,000 jobs in the commercial and recreational sectors combined. Last year the commercial fishery pumped \$31.4 million dollars worth of landings directly into the parish economy. Value-added processing and multipliers, more than double the value of these landings.

Jefferson Parish also ranks first in the state in recreational fishing license sales with 50,531. The closest other parish is East Baton Rouge with 32,803 and the closest coastal parish is Calcasieu with 28,759 licenses.

The Marine Advisory Board will soon begin looking for old photographs of the fishing and seafood industries to copy, and for old fishing gear and seafood processing equipment for the museum.

THE GUMBO POT

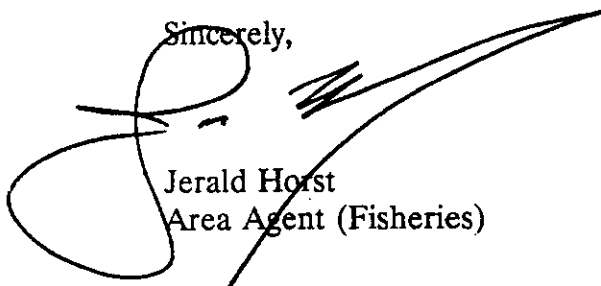
This month's recipe is one that I adapted from the 1990 state champion in the oyster category of the 4-H Seafood Cookery Contest. Wayne Bishop of West Feliciana Parish was the winner.

OYSTER TARTS

1 pint oysters	½ teaspoon salt
8 slices bacon	¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 cups sliced mushrooms	¼ cup chopped parsley
½ cup chopped onion	2 tablespoons lemon juice
½ cup chopped green onion	16 individual tart shells
¼ cup flour	1 tablespoon melted butter

Drain oysters and dry. Cook bacon until crisp; remove from pan, drain and crumble. Reserve 3 tablespoons bacon drippings. Add mushrooms, onion and green onion to pan with reserved bacon drippings. Cover and simmer 5 minutes or until tender. Blend in flour, salt and pepper. Stir in oysters, bacon, parsley and lemon juice. Turn oyster mixture into 8 tart shells. Top with remaining tart shells. Make several slits in tops to allow steam to escape. Brush crusts with 1 tablespoon melted butter. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Serves 4.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)