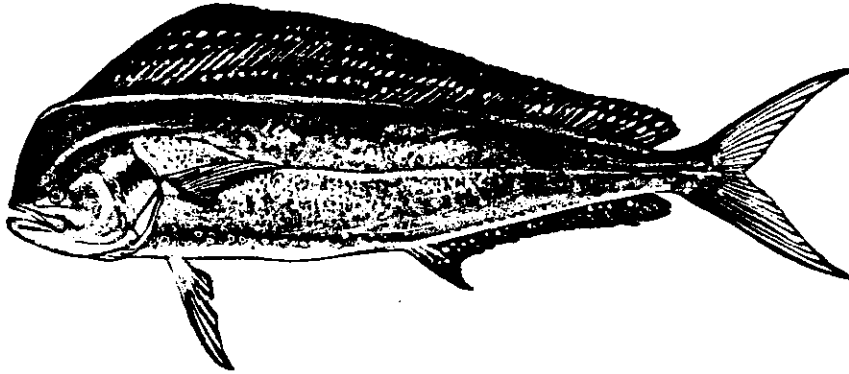




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## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



### LAGNIAPPE

#### SMALL CATFISH HARVEST BLOCKED

Last month, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorized the harvest, by permit, of channel (eel) catfish 8 inches or larger in portions of southeast Louisiana. This Commission action was blocked by the 19th Judicial District Judge of East Baton Rouge Parish who issued a temporary restraining order to that effect.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is ordered not to issue any more permits or honor any already issued until the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission can appear before the court to show justification for the permit program. A total of thirty-six fishermen had already purchased the \$25 permits at the time of the court order. Also, the Legislature's Natural Resources Oversight Committee has ruled that the commission action was not proper and must be changed. This means that for the time being, the minimum size on channel catfish is 11 inches statewide.

#### IF YOU CATCH A SEA TURTLE?

Occasionally, shrimpers will catch a sea turtle in their trawl which is too large to get out of the hole in the TED or small enough to go between the TED bars. Some of these turtles may be unconscious and need to be revived before they are returned to the water. Because of the severe penalties involved, a shrimper may be scared to have a turtle on their vessel.

According to National Marine Fisheries Service, enforcement agent Tom Schuler, it is legally permissible to have a turtle on board to be revived for up to 24 hours. The turtle must be on the deck and not in the hold or storage compartment of the vessel. If an unconscious turtle is returned to the water without being revived it will drown.

### **KEMP'S RIDLEYS NESTS UP DRAMATICALLY**

After three years at about the same level, the number of Kemp's ridley sea turtle nests increased quite a bit in 1994. This turtle rests on only one beach in Mexico and its decline has brought on TEDs in an effort to save it.

<u>Year</u>	<b>Number of Nests</b>
1978	924
1979	954
1980	868
1981	897
1982	750
1983	746
1984	798
1985	702
1986	744
1987	737
1988	842
1989	878
1990	992
1991	1155
1992	1275
1993	1184
1994	1568

On another note, the government's "head start" program was stopped last year. Under this program, Kemp's ridley sea turtles were hatched and grown to a larger size before being released into the wild. Since these head start turtles were all tagged, it should be possible to see if any of them return to rest. None have done so yet. It is estimated that a Kemp's ridley turtle must be at least ten years old before it nests.

### **COMMERCIAL FISHING IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS**

A new federal report says commercial fishing is the deadliest job in the United States, suffering the highest fatality rate among all major occupations in the country last year.

That finding was published recently in a Labor Department safety study, which said about 155 fishermen died last year for every 100,000 people in the industry. That figure surpasses the national average of five deaths per 100,000 workers by about 30 times.

More than three-quarters of the 79 fishermen killed last year died as a result of boat capsizings. Most of the rest fell overboard and drowned, and a few lost their lives from equipment accidents according to the study. Commercial fishing was included in the annual study for the first time this year. In 1992, the first year of the nationwide study, logging was found to be the country's most dangerous occupation.

The federal fatality report is intended to identify the most dangerous jobs so precautions can be taken to reduce the dangers.  
From: Fisheries Product News Vol. 9, No. 4

### MISSISSIPPI REDFISH LIMIT SET AT 18 INCHES

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources has approved an 18-inch minimum size limit for redfish. The regulation went into effect on November 1, 1994 and applies to commercial and recreational fishermen. The size limit went from 22 to 16 inches in July after an outgoing commission lowered the limit. The new 18-inch limit is favored by state fishery biologists and is projected to allow 30 percent of redfish in Mississippi waters to reach spawning age.

Source: Gulf Coast Fishermen. October 1994. Mississippi Sea Grant Advisory Service

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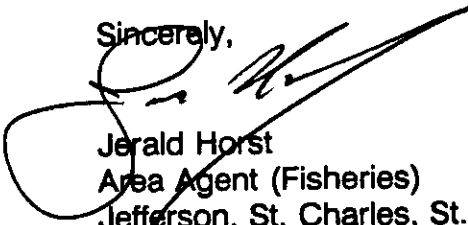
### THE GUMBO POT Marinated Seafood Salad

Seafood salads, especially those with crab meat are a big favorite of mine. This one is delicious.

6	large boiled crabs	5	cloves garlic, minced
1	lb. boiled shrimp tails	1	lemon, sliced thin
1	stalk celery, chopped	1	tbsp vinegar
1/2	cup onion, chopped	3	tbsp. olive oil
1/4	cup shallots, chopped	1	8 oz. bottled Italian dressing
1/4	cup green pepper, chopped	1/4	cup lemon juice
1/4	cup red pepper, chopped		salt & pepper to taste

Pick crab meat from crabs and peel shrimp. Mix all ingredients in a 3 quart container, Marinate overnight in refrigerator, stirring once. Serve cold with crackers or French bread. Serves 4.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
Area Agent (Fisheries)  
Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John

**LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
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