



## The Shrimp Industry Crisis

The Cameron Shrimp Summit of Sept. 16, 2009, covered the many factors leading to the current Louisiana shrimp situation along with some opportunities for the future. The entire meeting or portions can be viewed at: [www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/management/shrimpsummit.htm](http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/management/shrimpsummit.htm).

Louisiana shrimp landings comprised 47 percent of the Gulf of Mexico landings in 2008, worth \$130 million dockside. The history, social and economic impacts of Louisiana's shrimp industry is an important part of the state's coastal zone. However, the industry as a whole is in dire straits. The number of shrimp harvesters and processors in Louisiana has been reduced by 50 percent in the last decade.

Although the hurricanes of 2005 had a devastating effect, the main reason for this decline is the impact of imported shrimp into the United States, which is the largest importer of shrimp in the world. The consumption of shrimp in the United States has tripled in the last 25 to 30 years, making shrimp the most popular seafood item in the U.S. However, less than 10 percent of that shrimp is domestic product. Over the years, as world shrimp production grew from 3.4 billion pounds in 1980 to more than 13 billion pounds in 2005, the economic principles of supply and demand have come in to play driving down the price of farm raised shrimp and wild caught domestic shrimp.

The recent economic downturn has contributed to the extreme shrimp price drops seen in 2009. According to the National Restaurant Association Performance Index, a sharp drop in restaurant business occurred beginning in July 2007. For most folks in the U.S., when they eat shrimp, it is at a restaurant. Since that time the U.S. economy, including restaurant indexes, has been very slow. All the while, shrimp are being imported and landed domestically. When supplies exceed demand, the volume of shrimp in cold storage can create a bottleneck. This reached a critical point in the summer of 2009, when shrimp prices plummeted to 65-75 cents per pound for large shrimp.

Opportunities for stabilizing and sustaining the domestic shrimp industry were covered during the meeting. The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board is aggressively marketing Louisiana shrimp as being superior in taste and texture. Another project in the works is to build a state-of-the-art shrimp landing/processing facility in Cameron, using Louisiana Recovery Authority and private funding. The fisheries infrastructure project will employ the cold chain handling and processing technology to produce a high quality product which will demand higher market prices.

- Kevin Savoie



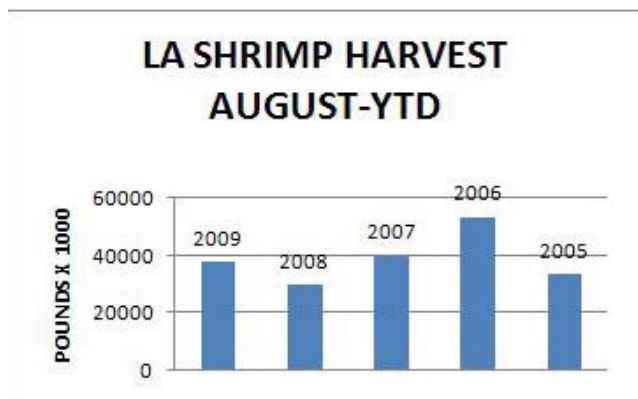
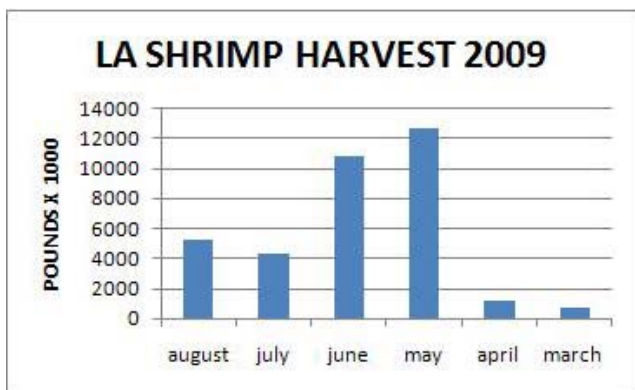
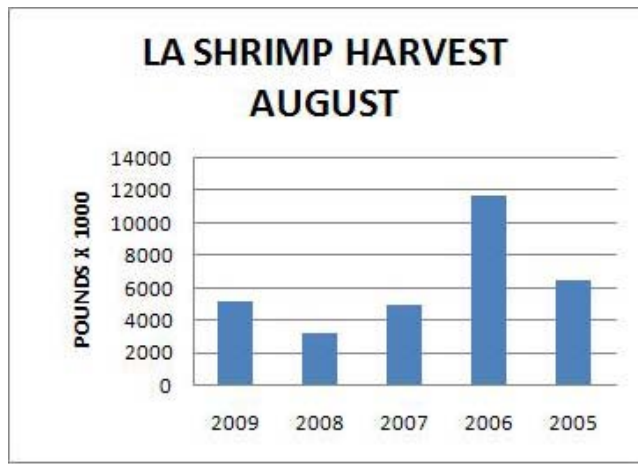
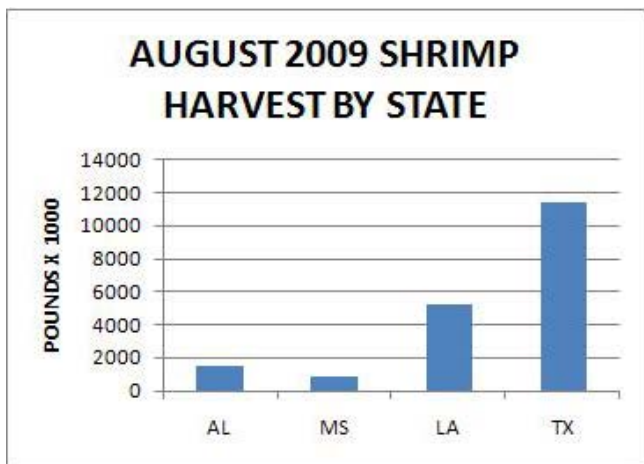
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## Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on their Website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as 'zero' in these graphics. Price graphics reflect central Gulf states only (Texas and Florida are reported independently). For more information, please refer to: [http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market\\_news/index.html](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html)

- Rusty Gaudé



## **Gulf Council Answers Questions about Catch Limits, Accountability Measures**

New provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require regional fishery management councils to develop annual catch limits and accountability measures by 2010 for species subject to overfishing and by 2011 for all other species to ensure that overfishing does not occur.

### What is an Annual Catch Limit (ACL)?

An Annual Catch Limit is the level of annual catch of a population or population complex that, if met or exceeded, triggers accountability measures such as a seasonal closure or quota closure. "Catch" includes the total quantity of fish, measured by weight or numbers of fish, taken in all fishing and includes discard mortality. Discard mortality is the total weight or number of fish that are released and subsequently die.

### What are Accountability Measures (AM)?

Accountability Measures are management controls to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded and to correct or mitigate overages of the annual catch limit if they occur.

### What is an Annual Catch Target?

An annual catch target is an amount of annual catch that serves as the management target, set below the annual catch limit to account for management uncertainty. The use of ACTs is recommended in the system of AMs so that ACLs are not exceeded.

### Why do we need ACLs and AMs?

As reauthorized in 2007, the Magnuson-Stevens includes these requirements to improve management of fishery resources. Regional Fishery Management Councils are required to develop annual catch limits for each of the fisheries managed, and include in each fishery management plan a mechanism for specifying a harvest level that prevents overfishing, which includes measures to ensure accountability. The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides limited exceptions to annual catch limit requirements; species not subject to overfishing with annual cycles and species managed under international agreements are not required to have annual catch limits or accountability measures.

### When are ACLs and AMs required for Gulf of Mexico Species?

Fishery Management Plans or Amendments must establish ACLs and AMs in 2010 for species subject to overfishing. ACLs and AMs must be established in 2011 for all other federally managed fisheries.

### How are ACLs developed?

ACLs may be set for the fishery as a whole, or for various fishery sectors (e.g., commercial or recreational). Separate state and federal ACLs may be set for populations that are targeted in state waters as well as federal waters. Setting ACLs begins with specifying an overfishing limit. An overfishing limit is an annual estimate of the maximum yield a stock can withstand without being

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put in jeopardy of overfishing. Once an overfishing level is specified, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommends to the Council an acceptable biological catch (ABC). The acceptable biological catch may not be set above the overfishing level and should take into account scientific uncertainty, which includes the uncertainty around the estimate of a stock's biomass and overfishing limit, among other factors. Once the Council accepts the SSC recommendation for ABC, it must then set an annual catch limit, which cannot exceed the acceptable biological catch. Annual catch limits should take into account management and scientific uncertainty. Management uncertainty occurs when there is insufficient information about catch, which may result from late catch reporting, misreporting, and underreporting of catch.

#### How are AMs developed?

NOAA Fisheries Service has identified two categories of accountability measures: in-season accountability measures that can be implemented during a fishing season, and postseason accountability measures that take effect in the following season. Examples of in-season accountability measures include: quota closure, trip or bag limit changes, gear restrictions, individual fishing quotas, and catch shares. Examples of post-season accountability measures include: seasonal closures, reduced trip or bag limits, shortening the fishing season, and reductions in the subsequent year's catch limit.

#### Which Gulf of Mexico species have ACLs and AMs?

Red Snapper	(IFQ Program/Amendment 27)
Greater Amberjack	(Amendment 30A)
Gray Triggerfish	(Amendment 30A)
Gag	(Amendment 30B)
Red Grouper	(Amendment 30B)
Shallow-Water Grouper	(Amendment 30B)

#### Which Gulf of Mexico species still need ACLs and AMs?

Stone Crab, Red Drum, Other Reef Fish Resources, Coastal Migratory Pelagics (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cobia), spiny lobster.

For more information, contact the Council at 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Phone: 888-833-1844. Fax: 813-348-1711. E-mail: [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org)  
On the Web at: [www.gulfcouncil.org-1](http://www.gulfcouncil.org-1)

## **NEW REGULATIONS FOR ELMER'S ISLAND REFUGE**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has established visitor regulations for public use of Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) proposed the formal regulations at the commission's monthly meeting. Elmer's Island is the state's newest wildlife refuge, located on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico across Caminada Pass from Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish.

LDWF's Enforcement Division will enforce the following regulations, effective Oct. 1, 2009:

1. Use of the refuge will be permitted from 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset. This includes any land access routes to the refuge. No person or vehicle shall remain

on the refuge or any land access routes during the period from 30 minutes after official sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

2. No person shall possess any glass bottles, glass drink containers or other glass products.
3. No person shall enter onto or be on the grounds of the refuge during a restricted access period; or alternatively shall do so only in accordance with restrictions set forth by the Secretary.
4. No person shall commercially fish, conduct any guiding service, hunt, pursue, kill, molest or intentionally disturb any type of wildlife on the refuge, except for the legal recreational harvest of living aquatic resources.
5. No person shall be in areas marked as restricted by signs posted by the department.
6. No person shall operate any vehicles in a restricted area. No person shall operate a vehicle in an unsafe or careless manner as to endanger life or property or at any speed in excess of five miles per hour.

There is no permit required for Elmer's Island access by anyone 15 years of age or younger. Those wishing to utilize the island for recreational purposes, ages 16 and above, must possess one of the following: a valid Wild Louisiana Stamp, a valid Louisiana fishing license or a valid Louisiana hunting license.



Marbled grouper *Dermatolepis inermis* are often found at 500-600ft depths. Photo provided by William Ruffin and LOWA

## LOWA ANNOUNCES FISH OF THE YEAR WINNER FOR 2008

The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) is pleased to announce the winner of their annual Fish of the Year award. The winner for 2008 is William "Ricky" Ruffin of Bay Springs, MS. He was chosen for the Fish of the Year award due to his catch of a 30.60 lb Marbled Grouper (*Epinephelus inermis*) in February of 2008. Not only was this catch a new state first place record, but is also potentially a new International Game Fish Association (IGFA) world record. Mr. Ruffin will be presented with his award at the LOWA annual convention awards banquet, Oct. 17, 2009 in Lake Charles at the Richmond Suites.

The Marbled Grouper was added to the LOWA list of eligible fish records species in 2002. Only five of the 10 available listings are filled with the number four place, Joe Castello's 14.50 lb catch also an IGFA World Record. According to fisheries biologists it is somewhat rare to catch Marbled Grouper in the 20-plus pound range although in the last few years larger fish are showing up as anglers now target the species.

Each year the LOWA Fish Records Committee selects anglers from the submitted records from the previous year to be nominated for the Fish of the Year. Nominees are then closely reviewed and a vote is taken. The Fish Records Chairman then announces the winner to the Executive Director and membership. Awards are presented in both Rod & Reel and Fly Fishing although in some years, as is

the case this year, only one award will be presented, as no eligible or outstanding catches were made in the Fly Fishing Division for the year 2008.

For further contact information you can email the fish records chairman at: [fishrecords@yahoo.com](mailto:fishrecords@yahoo.com) LOWA has been the curator for the state fish records since the 1940s. For further information concerning the records you email the fish records chairman at the above listed email address. View the current records and download applications (Rod and Reel as well as Fly Fishing) and rules at: [www.laoutdoorwriters.com](http://www.laoutdoorwriters.com).

## **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Closures**

### **Recreational Closures:**

#### Red Snapper

Recreational red snapper season closed at 12:01 a.m. local time Aug. 15, 2009. The season will reopen June 1, 2010, the beginning of the 2010 federal recreational red snapper fishing season.

### **Commercial Closures:**

#### Deep-Water Grouper

The commercial fishery for deepwater grouper in the Gulf of Mexico closed June 27, 2009, and will reopen Jan. 1, 2010. During the closure, vessels with commercial quantities of reef fish on board are prohibited from retaining a recreational bag limit. Thus, a vessel may only have a commercial quantity of reef fish or a recreational bag limit of reef fish.

#### Tilefish

The commercial fishery for Gulf of Mexico tilefish closed May 15, 2009, and will reopen Jan. 1, 2010. The commercial quota has been reached and the closure is necessary to protect the tilefish resource. NOTE: The tilefish fishery was closed on May 15, 2009, with the closure of deepwater grouper, both quotas will have been filled and the the use of bottom longline gear to harvest reef fish in water of all depths east of 85°30'W longitude is prohibited as of June 27, 2009.

#### King Mackerel

The commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed Jan. 30, 2009, through Jan. 19, 2010. The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the western zone closed Sept. 12, 2009 and will reopen July 1, 2010.

## **Underwater Obstructions**

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 14 claims in the amount of \$59,611.14 were received for payment during the period August 1, 2009 - August 31, 2009. There were 14 claims paid and 0 claims denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

26 26.602	91 15.588	ST. MARY
29 01.239	90 26.565	TERREBONNE
29 07.869	90 30.303	TERREBONNE
29 13.103	90 00.205	JEFFERSON

29 16.349	89 58.213	JEFFERSON
29 16.383	89 56.265	JEFFERSON
29 22.956	90 27.857	TERREBONE
29 40.313	90 14.222	JEFFERSON
29 41.218	89 22.028	ST. BERNARD
29 41.458	89 28.159	ST. BERNARD
29 41.977	89 30.397	ST. BERNARD
30 02.636	89 48.317	ST. BERNARD
30 03.398	90 17.918	ST. CHARLES
30 03.404	90 17.943	ST. CHARLES

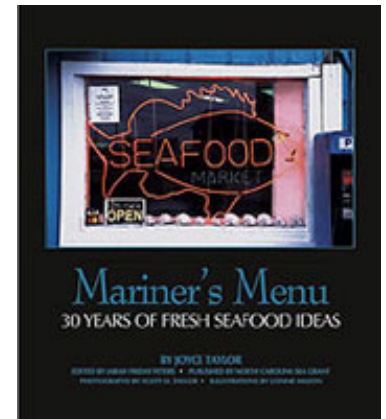
A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Gwendolyn Thomas, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call (225)342-0122.

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## THE GUMBO POT

### Baked Grouper with Green Onion and Mushrooms

- 1 pound grouper fillets
- 1 tablespoon melted margarine or butter
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 1 cup thinly sliced green onion
- 1/2 pound small mushrooms, sliced
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh dill (or 1 tablespoon dried)



Place fish in greased baking dish. Brush with melted margarine [or butter]. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

In small saucepan, melt 3 tablespoons margarine [or butter]. Add green onion and mushrooms and saute' lightly. Add dill and mix well. Spoon over fish. Bake at 425° F until done, about 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 3 to 4.

Reprinted from *Mariner's Menu: 30 Years of Fresh Seafood Ideas*, courtesy of the North Carolina Sea Grant College Program. Copies can be ordered at [www.ncseagrant.org](http://www.ncseagrant.org), or by calling 919-515-9109.

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