



Oyster Outlook

Oysters are one of the hardest hit species with regard to the Deepwater Horizon disaster; however, the oil itself is not the only culprit.

In May, Gov. Bobby Jindal directed his Office of Coastal Activities to deviate from its 2010 freshwater diversion plan to increase the flow of the Caenarvon and Davis Pond diversion structures in an effort to prevent oil from entering interior bays, bayous and marshes. The increased freshwater combined with the spring crest of Mississippi River and increasing summertime water temperature resulted in extensive mortality of oysters on public and private oyster grounds both east and west of the river. Unfortunately for oysters, not only does the freshwater stress and then kill them, but the marsh-building sediments may smother the oyster beds, inhibiting recruitment of spat, which require clean, hard substrate for settlement.



Oysters. Photo credit: Paula Ouder

The oil spill required precautionary closures of oyster growing areas, as well as all commercial fishing, in order to protect public health. The closures had a ripple effect, extending to oyster growers, harvesters, shuckers and restaurants. One of the oldest oyster businesses, P&J Oyster Co. of New Orleans (est. 1876), ceased shucking oysters until the oil spill and response abates. With oysters typically taking about two years to reach market size, the repercussions may be felt for a few years. The good news is that the oysters that did survive are ready to spawn, according to John Supan, director of the Louisiana Sea Grant Bivalve Hatchery on Grand Isle. Additionally, while past diversions have had a short-term negative impact on oyster production, the net effect of these diversions is typically an increase in oyster and all fisheries harvests over the long-term.

Over half of the oysters produced in Louisiana water come from private grounds. Oyster farms utilize public seed grounds as a source of seed to transplant to private leases. However, this version of extensive (low input) aquaculture is just one way to grow oysters. Supan has been researching methods to increase the production efficiency of oysters for three decades. He has developed a



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special broodstock for creating triploid oysters at the hatchery, which have three sets of chromosomes instead of two as traditional oysters.

This chromosome condition causes reproductive sterility, so they retain their fat winter meat condition, typical of all oysters, throughout the summer, and have great potential as a new “summer crop” for growers to switch to when traditional oyster meat yield declines due to spawning. Triploid oysters can be grown extensively on-bottom by linking hatchery production to traditional growing methods, but are better suited for off-bottom culture. While this type of culture technique is more intensive, involving new harvesting techniques and resolution of permitting and zoning issues to reduce coastal use conflicts, it does have its benefits.

This technique helps to keep away predators like the oyster drill snails and black drum. The greatest benefit is that the mobility of the cages allowed him to relocate the oysters to a research hatchery in Alabama and a wildlife preserve in western Louisiana during the worst parts of the oil spill.

Efforts such as the research being performed by Supan and the preventative diversion actions to keep the oil at bay are helping to ensure the long-term health of the oyster industry in Louisiana. While the oysters occasionally negatively affected from freshwater inundation to suffocation by hurricanes, they are a resilient species that will assuredly remain one of the most treasured of Louisiana's seafood bounty.

- Craig Gothreaux

Sources:

Associated Press
USA Today
Louisiana Sea Grant

LSU AgCenter Promotes MarketMaker

The LSU AgCenter has launched a new, online marketing initiative called MarketMaker. It's a free, user-friendly marketing tool for Louisiana fishermen, shrimpers, farmers, ranchers and other food enterprise entrepreneurs provided by the AgCenter and other supporting organizations. Food-related businesses can set up their own profiles at La.FoodMarketMaker.com and can modify their profiles at any time to keep consumers up to date on product availability, other information and business announcements.

For buyers, MarketMaker is a convenient Internet search tool to locate products they want, either directly from producers or through another channel. MarketMaker already is being used successfully in 17 states, including Mississippi and Arkansas.

MarketMaker enables producers to find buyers who value differentiated food products and allows producers to sell more product at higher prices. Typical sellers are direct marketers of agricultural goods, such as vegetables, fruits, grains, meats and seafood, and value-added food products. Sellers promote through written descriptions, postings and Web links, and can use a set of market information to locate potential customers.

Buyers use keywords to search for products. Typical buyers might be individuals, farmers markets, wholesalers or institutions looking for goods with special attributes such as being locally produced, heritage varieties, organic and more. MarketMaker provides basic and advanced market analysis options, including a database with demographics that can be used to discover untapped markets.

To register a business on MarketMaker requires following three easy steps. The whole process takes only a few minutes. Anyone needing assistance with getting started with MarketMaker can contact their parish extension office.

- **Kevin A. Savoie**

Cocahoe Minnow Workshop

Production, distribution and selling cocahoe minnows as live baitfish will be the focus of a workshop hosted by the LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Sea Grant from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Aquaculture Research Station, 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge. The program is open to the public but registration is required by Sept. 20. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

The workshop will focus on pond and tank culture. Topics to be covered include: history of cocahoe aquaculture; fish diseases; advantages and disadvantages of captive breeding; brood stock and reproduction methods; proper holding, handling and transportation of live minnows; infrastructure considerations; and culture system diversity/scenarios.

Live bait for saltwater angling in Louisiana is a seasonally available commodity, due to the reliance on wild-caught bait. Cultured cocahoe minnows could help supplement the wild-caught baitfish supply, and be a valuable revenue source for cocahoe growers. The cocahoe minnow is popular bait for redfish, speckled trout, flounder and many other species.

If the weather does not permit, the workshop rain date is Oct. 26.

For more information or to register please contact Sunny Brogan at: Phone: (225) 765-2848, Fax: (225) 765-2877, Email: sbrogan@agcenter.lsu.edu. Registration forms as well as additional information can also be found at www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Aquaculture/News/Cocahoe-Minnow-Workshop.htm

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council August Update

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Pensacola, FL, Aug. 16-20, 2010, to address a host of fishery issues, including a supplemental red snapper season and the overfished status of gag. During the weeklong meeting, the council took the following actions:

Red Snapper

The council agreed to reopen the recreational red snapper season beginning at 12:01 a.m. Oct. 1, 2010, to be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday only, through 12:01 p.m. Nov. 22, allowing for an addition 24 fishing days. The measure will be reviewed and, if approved, implemented by NOAA Fisheries.

In June, the council requested that NOAA Fisheries Service institute rulemaking to reopen the recreational red snapper season later this year if it was determined that the 2010 quota was not filled before the fishery closed on July 24, 2010. The rationale is that the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and subsequent federal fishing area closure resulted in reduced fishing effort, leaving the recreational red snapper quota unfilled. NOAA Fisheries has determined that approximately 2.3 millions pounds of the 3.4 million pound recreational quota remains.

In other red snapper news, the council discussed possible regional management of red snapper and asked staff to continue working on a draft discussion paper that explores options for dividing the stock into sub-units.

The council also discussed an increase in red snapper total allowable catch for 2011-2012. The council directed staff to proceed with a regulatory amendment, selecting as its preferred alternative setting total allowable catch at 7.185 million pounds for 2011. That would mean commercial and recreational quotas of 3.664 million pounds and 3.521 million pounds, respectively.

Gag

The council approved a request that NOAA Fisheries Service publish an interim rule that will prohibit the recreational harvest of gag beginning Jan. 1, 2011, with a 100,000-pound commercial quota. The commercial quota was established to allow fishermen targeting other species to retain some bycatch of gag. A reopening is dependent upon a reassessment that will soon be underway and available for council review during its February 2011 meeting in Gulfport, MS. The council will decide at that time whether it is necessary to request an extension of the interim rule or a new revised interim rule that would allow for some recreational harvest of gag.

The interim rule also suspends the red grouper multi-use individual fishing quota shares, in order to prevent a possible overrun of the gag annual catch limit. Without the suspension, it is likely the commercial gag annual catch target and annual catch limit would be exceeded, triggering accountability measures on the commercial sector.

Gag is one of the four species under the management of the council that is overfished, and the council is developing an amendment to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan – Reef Fish Amendment 32 – to end overfishing and rebuild the stock within 10 years. But because that amendment is not scheduled for implementation until mid-late 2011, an interim rule is necessary to minimize regulatory discards and reduce overfishing of gag.

Amendment 32 will establish accountability measures for both the recreational and commercial fisheries; make adjustments to multi-use individual fishing quota shares for the commercial sector; look at modifying bag limits, size limits, and closed seasons for gag and red grouper; address both commercial and recreational bycatch issues; consider recreational data collection and monitoring programs, and; consider time and/or area closures.

Public hearings will be scheduled early next year, with final action expected during the June or August 2011 Council meeting.

Greater Amberjack

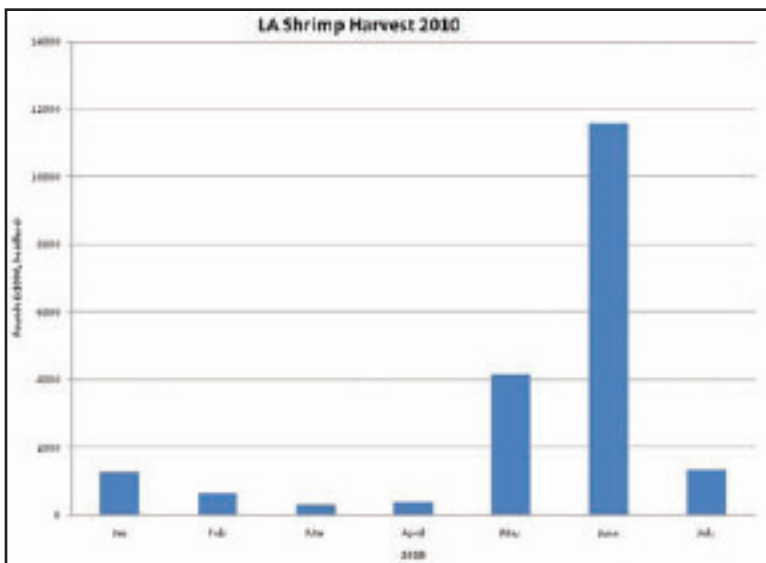
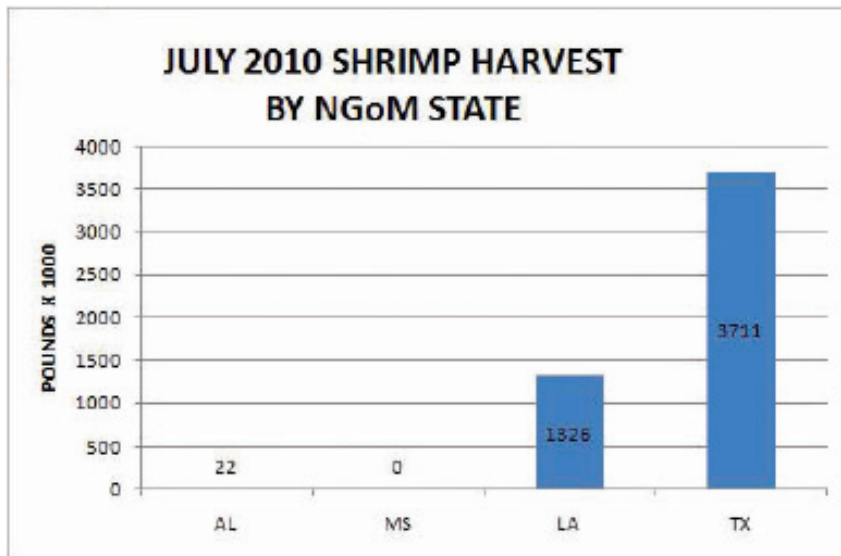
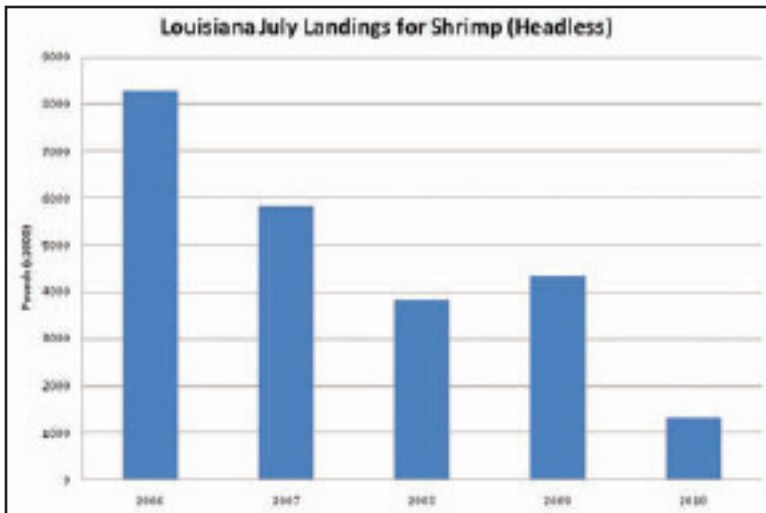
The council is considering a regulatory framework action that could result in a recreational season closure for greater amberjack in an effort to avoid in-season quota closures during peak fishing months and maximize social and economic benefits. Last year the recreational greater amberjack season closed Oct. 24, after the 1.368 million pound quota was exceeded. The council has tentatively chosen a recreational seasonal closure of June 1 through July 31, as its preferred alternative, and is expected to take final action on the amendment during its October meeting in Baton Rouge, LA.

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

- Rusty Gaudé





Trade Adjustment Assistance for Louisiana Shrimpers

This notification is being provided as a courtesy for shrimpers who may qualify for assistance being administered by the Farm Service Administration (FSA). Qualified Louisiana shrimp fishermen may receive up to \$12,000 in cash benefits and obtain technical training under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program. This program is designed to help shrimpers in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic adjust to increased competition through training and payments to implement new business strategies. Shrimp fishermen will be required to attend workshops offering technical assistance in developing a business plan and cash benefits are provided to implement your business plan using what was learned from the training workshops.

Individual shrimpers in Louisiana, interested in applying for technical training and up to \$12,000 in cash benefits must complete and submit a written application to their local Farm Service Center by Sept. 23, 2010. To find the nearest Louisiana FSA Center, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=la&agency=fsa>.

When applying for TAA benefits, fishermen must provide documentation that they caught or harvested shrimp (i.e. LDWF trip ticket reports) in the 2008 marketing year and during at least one of the three previous marketing years (2005, 2006 or 2007). Fishermen may also need to certify that either their production or price per pound declined from previous years. Interested family members or business partners may be listed as an alternate on the application form if fishermen are unable to attend training. Applications (form FSA 229-1) are available on the FAS Website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taafoms.asp>.

For more information call a local FSA office or www.taafarmers.org.

Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target Control Rule Working Group to Meet

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene two meetings of its Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target Control Rule Working Group to review and further develop a draft control rule to be included in the Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment.

The first working group meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, and conclude by 3 p.m., and will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council office – 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607. The second meeting will be held via webinar, convening at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, and concluding by 12 p.m. Every attempt will be made to webcast the in-person meetings, and webinars will be open to the public for monitoring.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630. Materials can also be downloaded from the council's ftp site – <ftp://ftp.gulfcouncil.org>. For direct access to the meeting materials visit <http://ftp.gulfcouncil.org?user=anonymous> and navigate to the folder titled *ACL-ACT Control Rule Working Group*.

A control rule is a specified approach to setting catch targets and limits. Having a standard, specified approach allows management decisions to be made with respect to catch targets and limits in a consistent and objective manner. Development of control rules requires interaction between fisheries

managers and scientists, as well as input from the public in order to determine the appropriate approach and level of acceptable risk under any given situation.

The control rule will be used by the council in setting a buffer that accounts for management uncertainty between the acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit, or between the annual catch limit and annual catch target. For fisheries that have the annual catch limit allocated into sectors, the control rule will determine the buffer for each sector individually.

Annual catch limits and accountability measures are now required by the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 to end and prevent overfishing. Implementation of annual catch limit and accountability measure provisions must begin in 2010 or earlier for stocks subject to overfishing, and in 2011 or earlier for all other stocks under federal management.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the working group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the working group will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Youth Journalism Contest Results

The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) honored the winners of its 2010 Youth Journalism Contest (YJC) at its 65th annual conference held in Covington on Saturday, Aug. 7. An annual event, the contest focuses on building literacy among outdoor youth while promoting involvement in the outdoors.

Winning entries can be viewed at the LOWA website, www.laoutdoorwriters.com. The Louisiana Chapter of Safari Clubs International (SCI) also publishes the winners in their newsletter.

Students share personal experiences in hunting, fishing, boating, camping, horseback riding, hiking or any other activities where they engage with nature and the environment. Judges look for literate and enthusiastic work along with photography that captures the essence and spirit of Louisiana.

Prize monies are donated by the Louisiana Chapter of Safari Clubs International, and the Baton Rouge Advocate provided advertising and press releases in the promotion of the contest. First through fourth place winners receive award certificates and cash prizes. The categories are Photography (18 and under), Senior Essay (14-18), and Junior Essay (13 and under).

For more information about LOWA and its membership guidelines visit their website at www.laoutdoorwriters.com.

NOAA Fisheries Service Requests Comments on South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Amendment 17A, Comment Period Ends Sept. 27

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17A), which addresses overfishing of red snapper in the South Atlantic.

Actions contained in Amendment 17A include:

- Annual catch limit and accountability measures for South Atlantic red snapper;
- A rebuilding plan for red snapper;
- A prohibition on all harvest and possession of South Atlantic red snapper;
- An area closure off southern Georgia and northern Florida where fishing for all snapper-grouper species would be prohibited, except when using spearfishing gear or black sea bass pots to fish for species other than red snapper;
- A requirement for circle hooks in the snapper-grouper fishery north of 28° latitude; and
- A requirement for a program to monitor red snapper.

Request for Comments

Written comments on Amendment 17A must be received no later than Sept 27 in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the *Addresses* section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of Amendment 17A may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>, or for hard copies contact:

NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions, on Amendment 17A can be found online at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> using the following docket ID in the search box: NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail: Kate Michie
 NOAA Fisheries Service
 Southeast Regional Office
 Sustainable Fisheries Division
 263 13th Avenue South
 St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Flynet Turtle Excluder Device Voucher Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) are partnering to help members of the Mid-Atlantic flynet fishery reduce bycatch of threatened and endangered sea turtles. NOAA Fisheries Service has issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to require turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in the flynet fishery.

NOAA Fisheries Service and commercial flynet fishermen have collaborated to develop and test TED designs that are customized for and proven in the flynet fishery. NFWF will be sponsoring a program to help flynet fishermen acquire these new TEDs. NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Fisheries Science Center is helping to coordinate the program with fishermen.

Fishermen can receive a voucher good for \$3,000 toward the purchase of one flynet TED. Thirty (30) vouchers will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested fishermen may contact the NOAA Fisheries Service Beaufort Laboratory in Beaufort, NC, after Aug. 16 to request a voucher. Vouchers may be redeemed at Wanchese Trawl and Supply in Wanchese, NC, or Tide Marine in Bayou LaBatre, AL. The deadline for use of the vouchers will be Sept. 30. For more information, contact Jeff Gearhart at 228-369-0660, or Blake Price at 228-369-8194.

Underwater Obstructions

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 12 claims in the amount of \$44,978.70 were received for payment during the period June 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010. There were 12 claims paid and 0 claims denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 03.954	89 24.719	PLAQUEMINES
29 09.787	91 01.482	TERREBONNE
29 11.011	90 27.676	TERREBONNE
29 11.517	90 21.330	TERREBONNE
29 17.076	89 59.799	JEFFERSON
29 17.205	89 52.038	PLAQUEMINES
29 18.379	90 30.550	TERREBONNE
29 37.833	89 33.087	ST. BERNARD
29 38.600	90 04.080	JEFFERSON

29 49.414
29 50.275
29 51.809

89 39.900
89 32.946
93 19.552

ST. BERNARD
ST. BERNARD
CAMERON

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. Due to technical errors, April and May coordinates are available in hard copies.

The Gumbo Pot

Silver Fin Almondine. 4 servings

By Chef Philippe Parola

4 fillets of silver fin fish
2 tablespoon of olive oil
2 oz of unsalted butter
3 oz of white wine
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
½ cup roasted almonds
Seasoning to taste

Season silver fin to taste. In a sauté skillet, preheat olive oil and butter until very hot. Place seasoned silver fin fillet in skillet and brown both sides, Add white wine and lemon juice. Cook over medium high heat for 5 minutes or until done. Top silver fin filets with sauce and roasted almonds.

<http://www.chefphilippe.com/silvercarp.html>

If you have a favorite seafood recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Julie Anderson janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu for inclusion in future issues.



For more information, contact your local extension agent:



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We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management is encouraged to do so.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Julie Anderson at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu

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