



New Invasive Species Causing a Roar

There is a new species of fish being spotted across the Gulf of Mexico. Red Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) are members of the Scorpionfish family (Scorpaenidae) and native to the Indo-Pacific. The red lionfish is invasive in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico representing one of the most rapid marine finfish invasions in history. Primarily inhabiting reefs, and found in depths ranging from 1 to 175 meters, they feed on small fish and crustaceans. A well camouflaged, nocturnal species, lionfish range from 6-12 inches in length and are covered with venomous spines on their dorsal, ventral and anal fins. Juveniles tend to live in small groups, but adults are solitary creatures.



Red Lionfish in Captivity. Photo Credit: Julie Anderson

Not adapted to swimming halfway around the world, lionfish were most likely introduced in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico through the aquarium trade. During Hurricane Andrew in 1992, six fish were known to escape in the storm. Also, lionfish have been intentionally as well as accidentally released by owners. Their first reported sighting in the Florida Keys was in January 2009, but red lionfish were established in Bermuda by 2004. In September 2010, lionfish were reported near oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana. Cool water was expected to limit the range of lionfish in the Northwestern Atlantic, but lionfish have been found in water as cold as 56 °F.

Many reefs throughout the Caribbean have been altered by lionfish. They are predatory, meaning they will consume many reef fish including damselfish and cardinal fish. Lionfish can significantly reduce native fish populations on a coral or artificial reef, affecting the ecosystem's balance. And with its characteristic venomous spines, very little else will eat lionfish, making them an upper-level predator in the Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean. Their spines are poisonous to humans as well, creating new hazards for snorkelers and scuba divers.

If you encounter a lionfish, be careful! Red lionfish are harmful and can sting humans. Use extreme caution if you choose to handle these fish. PVC gloves or gaff are recommended. Additionally, you can help by reporting any fish you see to:

- USGS at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/sightingreport.aspx>, or call 1-800-STOP-ANS

- Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) at www.reef.org/programs/exotic/lionfish
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at reportlionfish@noaa.gov

You can help prevent the spread of this invasive and others in several ways. First, do not release aquarium pets and fish into the wild. Aquarium animals are often not native and can lead to problems if they survive in the wild. Even if it is a native fish or animal, it is no longer adapted to the wild. Additionally, you can eat them. Like nutria, Asian carp and other invasive animals, humans can serve as a predator to keep populations under control. On the lionfish only the spines contain the venomous toxin. If cleaned carefully, the flesh is edible. For additional information and for updates please visit the Louisiana Sea Grant Lionfish website: <http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/biological/redlionfish.htm>.

- Julie Anderson

Two Vehicles, One Goal: Gulf Restoration

As we begin to envision a fully restored Gulf of Mexico, there are two vehicles designed to help deliver that restoration: the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The damage assessment, commonly referred to as NRDA (pronounced *nerd-uh*), is required by the Oil Pollution Act to measure the impact of environmental damage from the oil disaster; and, to establish a plan aimed at restoring the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources and the public's uses of those resources to their pre-disaster conditions. The task force is a new entity created by an executive order from President Obama that is responsible for developing a restoration strategy that addresses environmental degradation in the Gulf of Mexico before the BP oil disaster. It will also support the NRDA Trustee Council's work dealing with BP disaster-related damages.

Both the NRDA and Task Force processes are worth following. They'll be approaching post-disaster restoration in unprecedented ways, and both have unique sets of challenges before them.

The body that will define the scope of post-BP oil disaster restoration is the NRDA Trustee Council. The NRDA process, as Ocean Conservancy scientist Stan Senner noted in last month's *Lagniappe* column, is well under way, having held four public information meetings already in Louisiana and one public meeting in each of the other four Gulf states.

The NRDA process is administered by a trustee council, which consists of federal and state officials who are designated as trustees for the publicly owned natural resources injured by oil. Their work follows a well-established template, but there are some important distinctions that will define this particular NRDA process. For example, the large geographic scale and multi-jurisdictional nature of this disaster will require complex interactions, not only between the states and the federal government, but also among the states themselves. As the primary responsible party, BP has been working cooperatively with trustees to assess the extent, significance and nature of injury to natural resources exposed to oil from the disaster. To date, tens of thousands of sediment, water and tissue samples have been collected; more than 6,000 of them have been analyzed with the data available to the public on NOAA's website.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force is charged with developing a strategy plan consisting of sweeping activities that will tackle problems like marine hypoxia (low-oxygen) zones and coastal habitat restoration, though initially without a dedicated funding source. In August, Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus released a report, "America's Gulf Coast: A Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill," suggesting that restoration activities be funded with money from Clean Water Act fines and possibly other sources, such as Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act penalties. Giving the task force the resources it needs to be effective will require national legislation.

Their first meeting was held Nov. 8, in Pensacola, Fla., where the task force members introduced themselves and their goals to an audience of roughly 250. Comments from the public indicated a wide range of expectations for Gulf restoration, but one issue the task force will not be addressing is public health, which will be covered separately by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Many members of the audience, however, voiced concerns about human health and the need to remove the remaining oil from the environment.

The task force has announced plans to release a Gulf restoration strategy in October of next year. The NRDA Trustee Council will also produce a restoration plan, though it may be a work in progress for years as the damage assessment findings are evaluated and transformed into possible restoration projects. Coordination between the task force strategy and the NRDA restoration plan will be facilitated by the departments of Commerce and Interior – both of which have representatives on the task force and trustee council. It remains unclear what level of authority each group will have to shape the work of the other or how their interrelated goals will be carried out. It also remains unclear in both vehicles what the formal mechanism will be for considering public input beyond public meetings.

It is critical that the public participate early and often in public meetings. New opportunities for civic engagement will arise when NRDA begins its "scoping process," an essential part of restoration planning when ideas for recovery projects are submitted and evaluated. The law requires that input from communities affected by the disaster and local stakeholders must be invited by the trustee council at various points in the process. The task force leadership has announced its intention to actively pursue citizen engagement, as well. However, neither has announced a formalized citizen advisory approach. Our experience working on restoration from the *Exxon Valdez* oil disaster in Alaska has taught us that formal public engagement is crucial to developing a restoration plan that reflects the public's interests and knowledge.

To learn more about the work of Ocean Conservancy's Gulf Restoration Program, please visit: http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=program_gulfdisaster. For information on the NRDA process, visit <http://www.laseagrant.org/nrda/index.htm>.

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Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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NOAA Fisheries Service Publishes Final Rule to Modify the Seasonal Closure of Bajo de Sico in the U.S. Caribbean

NOAA Fisheries Service has published a final rule to the Regulatory Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands modifying the Bajo de Sico seasonal closure. The Caribbean Fishery Management Council submitted the regulatory amendment and associated finding of no significant impacts for review, approval, and implementation by NOAA Fisheries Service. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 2, (75 FR 67247), and the provisions are effective Dec. 2, 2010.

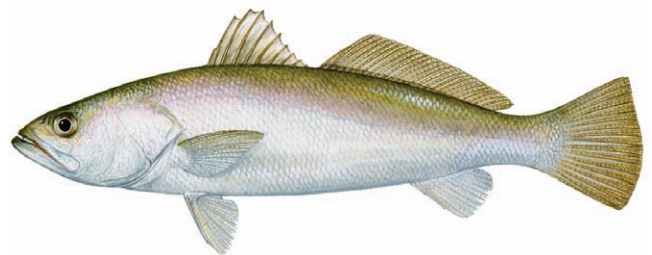
The final rule modifies the Bajo de Sico seasonal closure from a three-month closure to a six-month closure, and prohibits fishing for and possession of Caribbean reef fish in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) portion of Bajo de Sico from Oct. 1 through March 31 each year. The final rule also prohibits anchoring in the Bajo de Sico EEZ year-round. This final rule also adds spear to the list of allowable gears in the commercial sector of the Caribbean reef fish fishery.

For the 2010-2011 fishing year, Bajo de Sico will be closed for Caribbean reef fish from Dec. 2, 2010, through March 31, 2011. For each consecutive year, the full six-month closure, Oct. 1 through March 31 will be in effect. This notice provides only a summary of the information pertinent to the rule. Any discrepancies between this notice and the rule as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Sand Trout or Silver Trout

Louisiana's coastal waters are blessed with a myriad of fish species. In estuaries across the state, anglers catch many members of the drum or sciaenid family, such as red drum, black drum, spotted seatrout and what many call sand trout or white trout. There is a little bit of confusion when dealing with the latter two, since the terms are used interchangeably to describe sand trout, *Cynoscion arenarius*, and silver trout, *Cynoscion nothus*.

Sand trout, *Cynoscion arenarius*, is also commonly called white trout and is frequently found throughout the Gulf from the slightly brackish upper reaches of estuaries out to waters of 300 feet. Deep Gulf waters are where the larger brood fish congregate to spawn. Anglers often find these spawning schools of 2- to 5-pound fish offshore at oil and gas platforms. Most of the fish found in inland waters are less than 1 pound. The easiest way to distinguish the sand trout from its

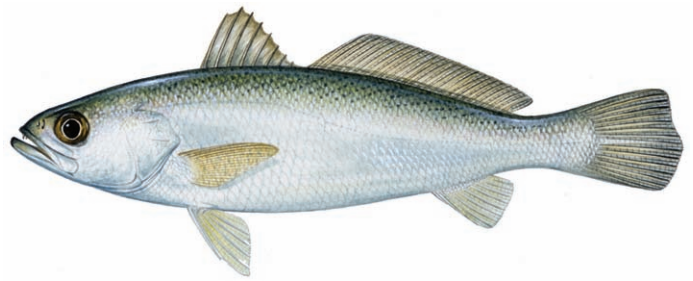


Sand Trout. Photo Credit: Diane Rome Peebles

cousin, the silver trout, is the sand trout will have a yellowish tint to its upper body and its fins are yellow. The silver trout, *Cynoscion nothus*, is entirely silvery white with no yellow coloration on its upper body or fins. It is found throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico in estuaries as well as out to depths of 100 feet.

Both species can be found in Louisiana's inland bays and lakes, and they are commonly taken by anglers along with spotted seatrout. Generally, the sand trout and silver trout will inhabit deeper waters

such as ship channels, turn basins or deep holes. They both feed heavily on shrimp and small fish. Whether you call them sand trout, silver trout or white trout, they both make good table fare. However, extra care is needed when handling these fish in the field and during processing. They have a very delicate flesh and gets soft quickly when not iced properly. So, the recommendation is to ice the fish as soon as you catch them and clean them as soon as you can, keeping the fillets on ice or in a refrigerator until ready to cook. Freezing is a last resort for these fish as they tend to get mushy upon thawing.



Sea Trout. Photo Credit: Diane Rome Peebles

- Kevin A. Savoie

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Baton Rouge Oct. 25-29 to address numerous fishery issues, including a framework action for greater amberjack and a regulatory amendment for red snapper total allowable catch in 2011. During the weeklong meeting, the council took the following actions:

Greater Amberjack: The council received an update on MRIP amberjack landings through August and headboat data through July. The projected landings for all of 2010 are 1.1 to 1.2 million pounds, resulting in no quota overages. If the projections hold true, there will be no need for a recreational closure in 2010. The council also took final action on a regulatory framework action that creates a recreational season closure of June 1 through July 31. However, an update assessment for greater amberjack is underway, and if that update assessment reveals the total allowable catch can be increased, the council intends to reconsider the June 1 through July 31 season closure.

Red Snapper: A regulatory amendment to set red snapper total allowable catch (TAC) for 2011 was approved by the council and will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation. The amendment sets the 2011 TAC to 7.185 million pounds, resulting in a commercial quota of 3.664 million pounds and a recreational quota of 3.521 million pounds. The increase in TAC is contingent upon the 2010 landings not being exceeded. The council also requested staff begin developing a new regulatory amendment for red snapper that will change the Sept. 30 recreational season closure to Dec. 31, and explore a possible fall, weekend only, season. While the official red snapper season is currently June 1 through Sept. 30, accountability measures for the red snapper fishery require NOAA Fisheries Service Regional Administrator to close the fishery when the quota has been met or is projected to be met. The council requested this amendment because it provides additional management options, including a potential fall season.

Red Grouper: The council directed staff to include options in Reef Fish Amendment 32, that will allow for an increase in the recreational bag limit for red grouper. The rationale was that the recreational fishery has not been meeting its allocation, even with reduced total allowable catch. The new options will be presented to the council during its February meeting.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program: The council is recruiting members for an Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Program Five-Year Review Panel. Appointments will be made

during the February council meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the panel should send a resume and letter of interest to Phyllis.Miranda@gulfcouncil.org

Other Plan Amendments: The council will move forward with a plan amendment to address the crew size requirements for vessels with both a commercial and charter reef fish permit. A generic plan amendment to address issues related to the earned income requirement, including an option to eliminate the requirement altogether, will also be developed.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene Webinars of Gag Update Assessment Work Group

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled two webinars of the Gag Update Assessment Work Group to re-run the 2009 gag update assessment to address an incorrect size distribution estimate of undersized caught-and-released fish from the recreational fishery. The re-run will also address a discrepancy between the estimated dead discards from the commercial gag fishery based on logbook reports and recent estimates of dead discards based on observer data. Re-running the update assessment with adjustments to these inputs may result in a revision to the catch limits needed to rebuild the stock. The council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will review the results of the assessment re-run in January 2011. The council will review the results along with the SSC recommendations during its meeting in February 2011. The webinars are scheduled for Dec. 6 and Dec. 9. Both will begin at 9 am and conclude no later than 1 pm. During the first webinar, the work group and National Marine Fisheries Service assessment biologists will determine what changes to the assessment inputs are needed. During the second webinar, the work group will review the results of the assessment re-run.

Information on how to register for the webinar will be posted on the Gulf Council website – www.gulfcouncil.org - one week prior to the meetings. Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630, or can be downloaded from the council's FTP site at [ftp.gulfcouncil.org](ftp://ftp.gulfcouncil.org)

Reminder the Recreational Red Snapper Season in the Gulf of Mexico Ended 12:01 a.m., Nov. 22

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen that the recreational fishing season for red snapper ended 12:01 a.m., local time, Monday, Nov. 22. The 2011 red snapper season will open on June 1. NOAA Fisheries Service re-opened the 2010 recreational red snapper fishing season in the Gulf of Mexico for eight consecutive weekends beginning Oct. 1 because projections indicated the recreational quota had not been caught because of fishing closures from the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management council recommended a weekend-only extension of the fishing season to provide fishermen the opportunity to harvest any remaining recreational red snapper quota, achieve optimum yield for the fishery, and enhance social and economic benefits to the fishery.

Assessing Ocean Health

In the push to develop ecosystem-based approaches instead of individual species-based to fisheries management, scientists have worked to find models that can assess the past, current, and future status of various fisheries. One of the major tools used to manage marine fisheries, mean trophic level index (MTLI), is used as an indicator of ecosystems. This index, which is based on commercial landings data, is thought to provide a measure of the diversity and health of marine ecosystems, in our case the Gulf of Mexico. However, recent research has called into question the assumption that MTLI accurately measures changes in ecosystem health and diversity.

Popularized in 1998 by Daniel Pauly, a marine biologist at the University of British Columbia, the MTLI has been used to find trends in the human impact on fisheries. But something as small as the source of data can have a major effect on management policies, which is a major argument against reliance on commercial catch information. Louisiana State University researchers Dr. Kim de Mutsert, Dr. James Cowan and co-authors have examined data from the Gulf of Mexico and found that the supposed downward trend from 1950-2006 in MTLI (Figure 1 – listed as “Pauly’s trendline; calculated from Food and Agriculture Organization data) should actually be an upward trend based on catch data from the National Marine Fishery Service (Figure 1).

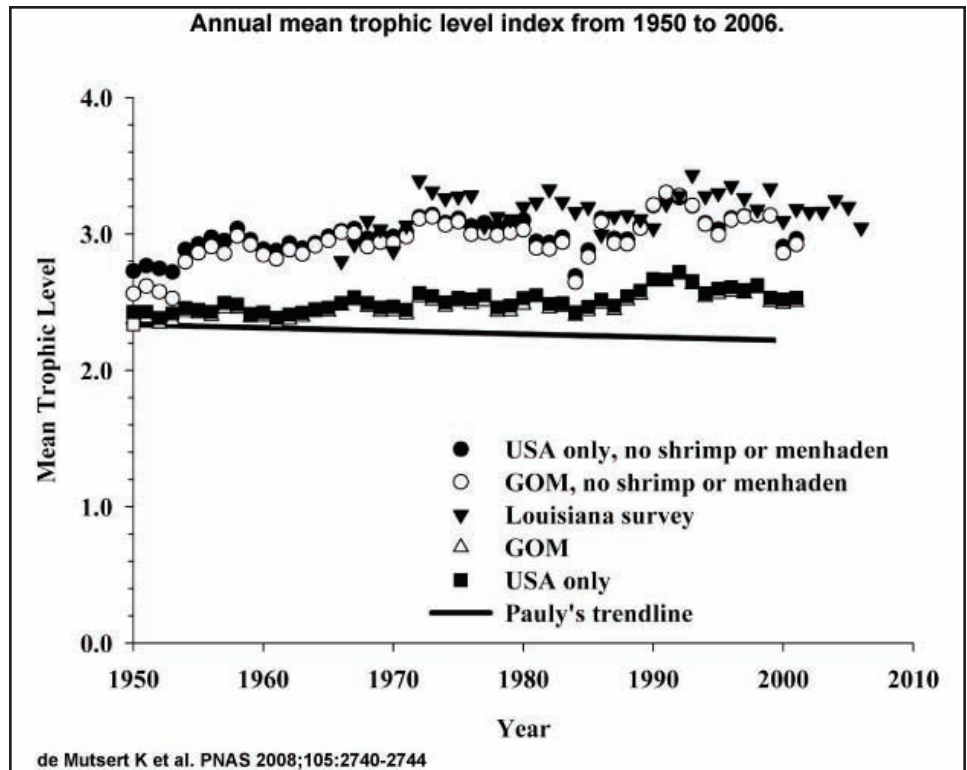


Figure 1. Annual mean trophic level index from 1950 to 2006. USA is only the northern Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic south of Chesapeake Bay. GOM is the Gulf of Mexico only. Overlap can be seen when comparing GOM with USA only, and when comparing all indices without shrimp and menhaden with Louisiana survey data. The solid line is the trend line from Pauly and Palomares (2005).

Although catch data covers a wide geographic area, it reflects not only the fish living in the ecosystem but also the type of fishing gear used and the economics of fishing. As illustrated in Figure 1, the LSU researchers identified that the seemingly low initial MTLI value for all landings from the Gulf of Mexico (≈ 2.4) is biased by the fact that the two major species targeted by commercial fishermen feed at low trophic levels (menhaden ≈ 2.2 ; shrimp ≈ 2.6). If those species are excluded from the MTLI calculations, then the initial value increases to ≈ 2.8 .

To test the accuracy of MTLI values based on commercial landings, recent studies have compared these values to data collected from trawl surveys and stock assessments. These scientifically derived data are of a much smaller scope than catch data, but they provide a valuable fishery-independent tool that can help paint a clearer picture of ecosystem health.

In the end, the goal is to ensure ecosystem health. The statistician George Box phrased it well, “all models are wrong, some models are useful.” While MTLI data can provide a picture of marine ecosystem health, one must ensure it is derived from reliable sources that take into account the nuances of the local fisheries. Mean trophic level index, whether derived from catch, survey or assessment data, is but a tool in a fisheries management chest that needs to be constantly cleaned and updated.

- Craig Gothreaux

Sources:

K. de Mutsert, J. H. Cowan, Jr., T. E. Essington, and R. Hilborn. 2008. Reanalysis of Gulf of Mexico fisheries data: landings can be misleading in assessments of fisheries and fisheries ecosystems. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*. 105: 2740-2744.

T. A. Branch, R. Watson, E. A. Fulton, S. Jennings, C. R. McGilliard, G. T. Pablico, D. Ricard, and S. R. Tracey. 2010. The trophic fingerprint of marine fisheries. *Nature*. 468: 431-435.

J. E. Powers. 2010. Fisheries: measuring biodiversity in marine ecosystems. *Nature*. 468: 385-386.

E. Stokstad. 2010. Key indicator of ocean health may be flawed. *Science*. 330: 1029.

New Oyster Farming Technique Increases Productivity, Offers Entrepreneurial Opportunities

A new oyster farming initiative has launched in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The goal of this effort, a collaboration between researchers from Louisiana State University and Auburn University, is industry adoption of off-bottom oyster culture to supplement the traditional harvest. Historically, oysters are grown on and harvested from reefs on the water bottom. In this new process, oysters are grown suspended in the water column.

Benefits of this new oyster farming technique include increased productivity; job creation; and continued production of a safe, sustainable domestic oyster supply, according to John Supan, Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter oyster specialist, and Bill Walton, Auburn University aquaculture and fisheries specialist. Off-bottom culture also protects oysters from predators, provides a means to reduce fouling, and allows complete harvests of planted oyster seed, a major advantage over traditional oyster harvesting.

“This could be an important addition to a traditional coastal industry,” said Walton. “It’s clean, green and energy efficient. And, it provides business opportunities to those already in the oyster industry as well as other coastal residents.”

“Through proper planning, off-bottom culture can work in harmony with other water uses and users,” added Supan. “It can support both part- and full-time incomes, just like natural fisheries, but with greater control over the natural variability that dominates bottom harvesting.”

Although this program was developed prior to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the oil spill prompted increased interest in oyster farming. “We have received more calls and questions about oyster farming in the last four months than we have combined over the prior 12 months,” said Walton. “The spill has created a window of opportunity where traditional oystermen are eager, even desperate, to find ways to get back to working on the water as soon as possible.”

“Catastrophe causes change,” added Supan. “The challenge is to direct change to improve conditions, not to settle for status quo. This project will attempt do just that.”

Both the Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory on Dauphin Island, Ala., and the Sea Grant Bivalve Hatchery at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Marine Research Laboratory on Grand Isle, La., will provide oyster seed for this tri-state project. Program funding is provided by the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

A series of workshops are planned during 2011 and 2012, addressing issues such as appropriate culture systems, oyster seed stock, growing market-quality oysters, and developing practices and regulations in collaboration with state agencies. For more information, contact Supan at jsupan@lsu.edu or Walton at billwalton@auburn.edu.

Commercial Fishing for Black Sea Bass to Reopen in the South Atlantic Federal Waters Dec. 1 – Dec. 15

The commercial sector for black sea bass in federal waters of the South Atlantic from 35° 15.19' N. lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, to Key West, Florida, will reopen, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) Dec. 1 until 12:01 a.m. Dec. 15. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2010-2011 commercial quota of 309,000 pounds has not yet been met. Commercial harvest of black sea bass closed on Oct. 7 because NOAA Fisheries Service projected landings would reach the quota by that time. However, an updated report shows that less fish were landed than expected. Based on 2010 daily landings rates and the pounds remaining on the quota, NOAA Fisheries Service has determined commercial harvest of black sea bass can reopen for 14 days. Dec. 1 was chosen as the opening day based on feedback from the fishing industry and weather concerns.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper may not fish for or possess black sea bass prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, Dec. 1, and must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such black sea bass prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, Dec. 15. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of black sea bass that were harvested, landed ashore and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, Dec. 15 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Commercial harvest of black sea bass will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2011. During the closure, all harvest and possession of black sea bass in or from closed federal waters of the South Atlantic is subject to the applicable bag and possession limits, and the sale or purchase of black sea bass taken from closed federal waters is prohibited. In addition, those bag and possession limits, and the prohibition on sale or purchase apply in state and federal waters of the South Atlantic for a vessel for which a valid federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued.

Gulf of Mexico Recreational Greater Amberjack Season to Remain Open through the End of 2010

The Gulf of Mexico recreational greater amberjack harvest is not likely to exceed the 2010 allocation of 1,243,184 pounds whole weight by the end of the year. The recreational fishing season will remain open through the end of the 2010. Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack are managed under regulations and quotas established by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and the NOAA Fisheries Service. Regulations implementing Amendment 30A to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan established, in part, annual catch limits and accountability measures for greater amberjack, modified the rebuilding plan, and set commercial and recreational quotas. The recreational quota for 2010 was reduced from 1,368,000 to 1,243,184 pounds whole weight to account for a nine percent quota overage in 2009. A greater amberjack update stock assessment is scheduled to be completed early in 2011 and will provide the information necessary to determine if overfishing is still occurring in the greater amberjack fishery.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Convenes its Louisiana/Mississippi Habitat Protection Advisory Panel

The Louisiana/Mississippi Habitat Protection Advisory Panel will convene a meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2829 Williams Boulevard in Kenner, La., at 9 am Wednesday, Dec. 14. The panel will conclude no later than 4 pm, and will discuss the following:

- Fishery modeling analyses for water resource projects
- Mitigation/restoration for damages to habitat from preventative oil spill protective work
- Louisiana State Master Plan prioritization process
- Status and future of the CWPPRA program
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment planning and restoration plan
- Long Term Recovery Plan After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
- Essential Fish Habitat five-year review report

The group is part of a three-unit Habitat Protection AP of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the AP is to assist the council in its attempt to maintain optimum conditions within the habitat and ecosystems supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Advisory panels serve as a first alert system and calls to the council's attention proposed projects being developed, as well as other activities that may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and supporting ecosystems. The panels may also provide advice to the council on its policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630. The meeting is open to the public and is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or

other auxiliary aids should be directed to Trish Kennedy at the council at least five working days prior to the meeting.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene its Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene its Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee Dec. 13-15 in Tampa, Fla. Every attempt will be made to broadcast the meeting over the Internet.

The committee will meet to review several issues related to development of the generic annual catch limit/accountability measures amendment. These issues include a review of the latest version of the draft acceptable biological catch control rule, as well as a discussion on the use of judgment calls and mean catch to define the overfishing limit when setting acceptable biological catch for data poor species.

The committee will also review the use of in-season accountability measures and proposed revisions to species groupings to be used in setting annual catch limits. Finally, the committee will develop recommendations for acceptable biological catch and potential overfishing limits for all stocks in the generic annual catch limit/accountability measures amendment.

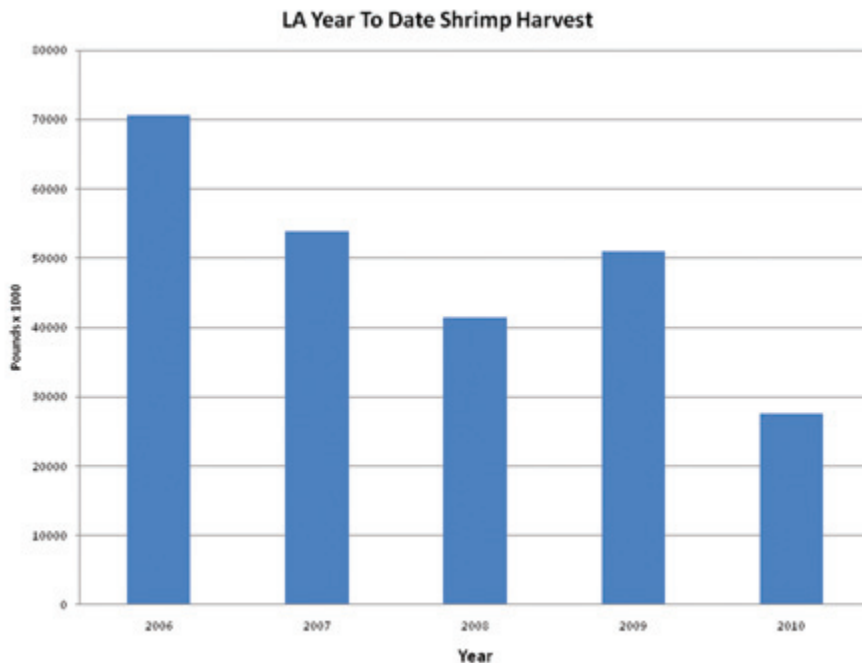
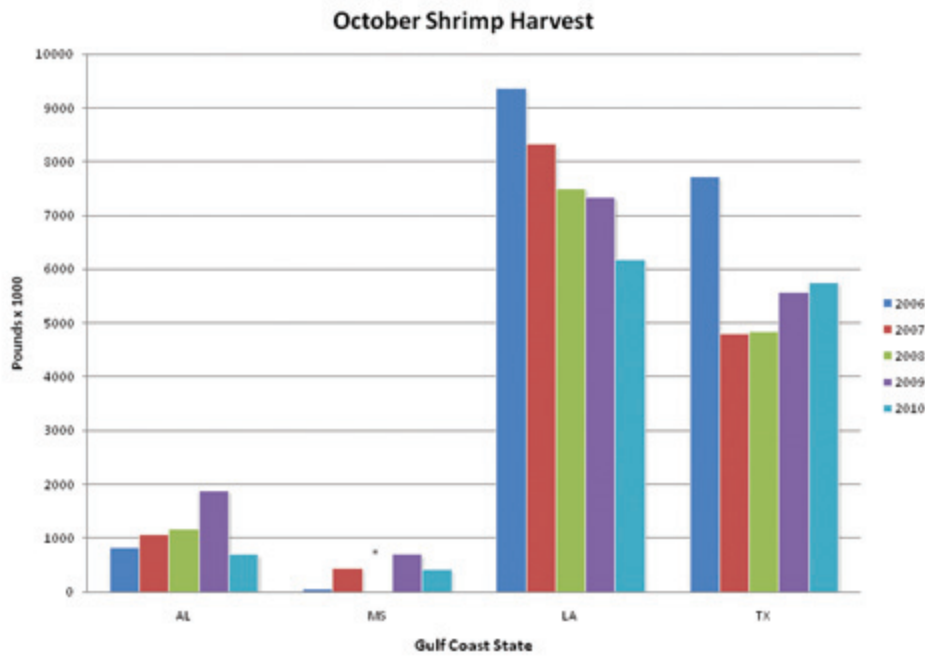
The meeting will be held at the Gulf Council office, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, in Tampa, Fla. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 am Monday, concluding no later than 3 pm Wednesday. Copies of the agenda and other related materials may be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630 or by visiting the council's FTP site at <ftp.gulfcouncil.org>.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Trish Kennedy at the Council office at least five working days prior to the meeting.

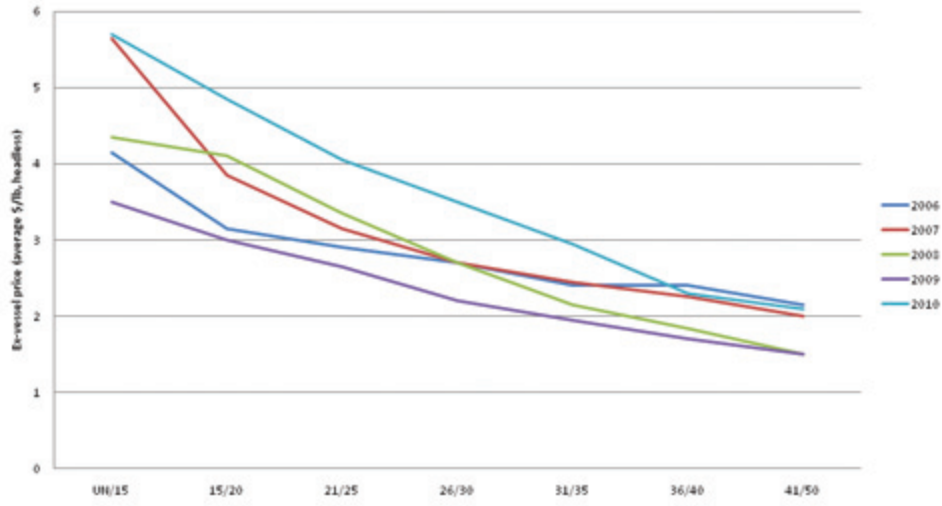
Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the committee, in accordance with the M-SFCMA, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda. Sign up to have these meeting notices, updates and other general information delivered straight to your inbox by sending a blank email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org. To discontinue receiving hard copies of these notices, please send an email request to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

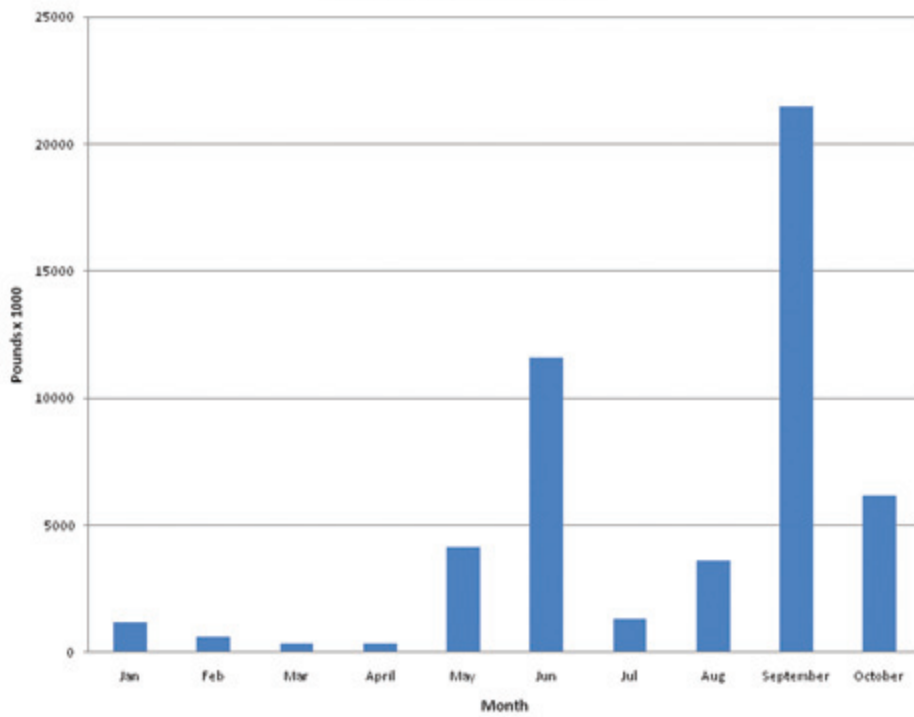
Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on their website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports 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: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html



October NGoM Shrimp Prices



LA 2010 Shrimp Harvest



Underwater Obstructions

October 2010 Coordinates:

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that six claims in the amount of \$24,770.47 were received for payment during the period Oct. 1 – Oct. 31, 2010. There were six paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 17.522	89 58.843	JEFFERSON
29 22.097	90 17.533	LAFOURCHE
29 28.714	89 58.744	JEFFERSON
29 32.608	89 54.565	PLAQUEMINES
29 50.530	89 41.467	ST. BERNARD
30 03.390	89 39.417	ST. BERNARD

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 call (225) 342-0122.

The Gumbo Pot Chesapeake Ray Saute

Source: Chef John T. Maxwell, program director at the Culinary Institute of Virginia, Norfolk

Serves: 1

½ cup olive oil

¼ cup cider vinegar

1 ounce lemon juice

1 tablespoon oregano leaves

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons honey

6 ounces Chesapeake ray fillet

Combine the oil, vinegar, lemon juice, oregano, salt, pepper and honey, mixing well to create a marinade. Marinate the ray in the dressing for about an hour. Grill or saute the fillet until medium.

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.



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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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