



A New Addition to Lagniappe

There is a new addition to the Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter. We have added an online blog, or website, at <http://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>. We will be using this website as a way to provide additional or timely information that just won't fit in the monthly newsletter. One of the great features of the blog is you can now provide us with comments and feedback about articles, topics you would like to see covered or anything else you would like to share. We always love when we get feedback, and we hope this will provide more opportunities for you to enjoy Lagniappe, as well as provide us a way to get you more information.



HACCP Letter to Industry for Fish and Fishery Products

Nov. 9, 2011 - The Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition has received multiple inquiries regarding the implementation timeframes of the guidance for industry titled "Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance, Fourth Edition."

FDA is already using the information in the Fourth Edition of the guidance to evaluate Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans for fish and fishery products. In the *Federal Register* of April 28, 2011, FDA announced the availability of the Fourth Edition of the guidance (76 FR 23823),

and indicated that it was “being implemented without prior public comment because the agency determined that prior public comment was not feasible or appropriate” (76 FR 23823). The agency made this determination because the updated information in the guidance significantly enhances the seafood industry’s ability to protect the public health and provides important recommendations for conducting a hazard analysis and implementing a HACCP plan.

The fish and fishery products industry should review the entire new edition, with emphasis on the summary of the changes from the Third Edition of the guidance, and should assess the adequacy of any HACCP plans which may be affected by these changes. This summary can be found in the discussion section of the Fourth Edition of the guidance.

Although FDA is using the information in the Fourth Edition of the guidance to evaluate HACCP plans for fish and fishery products, FDA intends to consider the extent to which a firm may have used previous recommendations from the Third Edition of the guidance when determining what actions will be taken when violations of FDA’s HACCP regulations are observed.

William R. Jones, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Office of Food Safety
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

The April 28, 2011 FDA Federal Register Notice is posted at:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/2011-10234.htm>.

The Guidance Document is posted at:
<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Seafood/UCM251970.pdf>.

Questions may be directed to Bruce F. Wilson who is with the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, Maryland at 240/402-2300 or 301/436-1425; e-mail: SeafoodHACCP@FDA.gov.

Retail Seafood Sales

Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program was asked to research the legal issues related to the creation of a direct seafood sales program. A significant amount of regulation falls on any individual selling seafood. This article only addresses state regulations. Retail seafood dealers will need to comply with public health requirements as well as Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries licensing requirements. Other requirements include parish and municipal regulations, sales tax provisions and the Department of Agriculture’s regulation of commercial scales. This article only addresses some of the issues regulated by the state and should be considered advisory research.

Any individual or firm that buys, acquires or handles any species of seafood for resale must have either a wholesale/retail license or a retail seafood dealer’s license. There are two main differences between a wholesale/retail license and a retail seafood dealer’s license: first, a retail seafood dealer may not acquire or purchase seafood from commercial fisherman and second, a retail seafood dealer may not make sales intended for resale.

Retail licenses must be purchased for each location the dealer plans to sell from. The LDWF has separate licenses for sales from a fixed business location and for sales from a vehicle. Each license costs Louisiana residents \$105 and is valid for one year. Retail license holders will need to purchase a transport license. This license allows the licensee to pick up seafood from a valid wholesale dealer and transport the product to their place of business. Whether sales occur from a fixed location or a mobile vehicle, retail license holders must have their scales inspected by the Department of Agriculture at least once a year. This is to ensure that the scale is accurate and suitable for commercial use.

If a retail dealer plans to sell from a mobile location, they must be in compliance with parish and municipal mobile vendor regulations. Please contact your local government for more information. License holders should also contact the Department of Health and Hospitals about a mobile vendors permit. In addition, dealers who are cleaning, shucking, picking, peeling or packing will need to contact the Department of Health and Hospitals for more information regarding a permit to operate. Retail seafood license holders must keep records of the type and quantity of seafood acquired, the date it was acquired and the license number of the wholesale/retail seafood dealer from whom the seafood was acquired. These records must be maintained for three years.

***It is important to comply with state, parish and municipal regulations. Please contact each local government for details regarding processing, sales tax and additional license requirements.*

Native Fish in the Classroom Project

The 2011-12 Native Fish in the Classroom (NFC) aquatic education stewardship project officially began for approximately 2,000 Louisiana students in grades 6 through 12 on Oct. 22 when NFC teachers picked up bluegill from the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery in Pineville.

The NFC project is in its tenth year and is a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Education Section, LDWF Fisheries Extension and the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. The project provides a hands-on learning experience that strives to teach students about aquatic ecosystems and develop an attitude of stewardship toward our natural resources. The bluegill will be used by NFC teachers in 17 schools, representing 11 parishes, to stock their classroom nursery tanks. The role of the bluegill is to stabilize water quality in nursery tanks until paddlefish eggs are received from Booker Fowler in the spring.

From March to early May, students will raise the protected paddlefish from eggs to fingerlings. During this time, students will learn about water quality and biology as they maintain habitat for their paddlefish. Teachers receive a *Native Fish in the Classroom Guidebook* which contains student aquatic activities, biology background information and problem solving solutions for the classroom.

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In May, the paddlefish fingerlings will be released at an LDWF approved site that provides suitable habitat.

Prior to receiving bluegill for their classroom tanks, students have been tested to determine their knowledge of aquatic ecosystems. Students will be tested again in the spring, after completing the project, to measure the effectiveness of the program. In prior years, students have shown a significant increase in overall content knowledge. The program was also shown to have a positive effect on students' attitudes towards Louisiana's natural resources.

Teachers participating in the NFC project attend two training workshops before receiving the paddlefish eggs in the spring. Veteran teachers mentor new teachers to the program. In addition, students and teachers are encouraged to contact LDWF biologists for guidance throughout the school year.



Photo credit: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

For more information about the NFC project, visit the Louisiana Marine Education Resources website at <http://www.lamer.lsu.edu/nativefish/index.html> or contact Angela Capello at 318/748-6999 or acapello@wlf.la.gov, or Diane Lindstedt at 225/578-1558 or dlindst@lsu.edu.

Whooping Crane Awareness

As waterfowl hunters head out hunting, LDWF reminds them to be alert for some new residents in our marshes and fields.

In February, 10 juvenile whooping cranes were released at White Lake Wetland Conservation Area as the first step in re-establishing a self-sustaining whooping crane population in southwest Louisiana. Four of those original birds have survived, and another 16 whooping cranes are scheduled to be released in early December. Although the original 10 birds were released in Vermilion Parish, the birds have frequently inhabited surrounding parishes including Acadia, Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, St. Martin and Evangeline, and have roamed over an area reaching from southeast Texas to West Feliciana Parish. Although whooping cranes in Louisiana are considered an "experimental, non-essential population" under the Endangered Species Act, they are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and cannot be pursued, harassed, captured or killed. Whooping cranes are easily identifiable as they stand at an impressive five feet and have a wingspan of seven to eight feet. Easily identifiable characteristics of whooping cranes in flight include black wing tips and fully extended neck and legs. Photos of the cranes can be seen on the LDWF website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes>.

New Life to Pearl River

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) biologists took the first step in restoring fish to the Pearl River by releasing thousands of fish into the river. Approximately 30,000 channel catfish and 24,000 bluegill fingerlings were stocked at sites along the river in St. Tammany and Washington parishes.

The stocking enhances the recovery of local fish populations following the Temple-Inland incident that killed more than 500,000 fish and freshwater mussels in the river. Although the fish population is expected to recover naturally, extra fingerlings were allocated to Pearl River to speed up the natural process. Anglers have already reported catching fish in the affected area prior to the stocking.

“The department recognizes how important fishing in the Pearl River is to the local communities and anglers of south Louisiana,” said LDWF assistant secretary Randy Pausina. “And we are making great efforts to restore the river as quickly as possible.”

The fish were raised and distributed from the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery in central Louisiana. The native fish were spawned this spring and are less than a year old.

“This is a healthy batch of fish. They are about four to five inches long and average 40 fish per pound. Because of their size, survival rates are expected to be high,” said director of inland fisheries Mike Wood. “The fish were dispersed in multiple areas with optimal habitat to increase their chances of survival.”

The department is currently in the preliminary stages of assessment following a fish kill caused by a discharge from Temple-Inland Paper Mill in Bogalusa. Prescribed values for each impacted fish and mussel were recently submitted to Temple-Inland for review.

Farm Service Agency Borrower Training Program

The LSU AgCenter will be offering farm financial management and marketing training through its Farm Service Agency (FSA) Borrower Training program on Jan. 23-27, 2012. Farm Bill legislation created the FSA Borrower Training program which requires certain producers who have obtained loans thru the FSA operating and farm ownership loan programs obtain in-depth farm financial management training. The program being made available by the LSU AgCenter, in conjunction with the Farm Service Agency, satisfies this training requirement. The specific topics to be discussed and covered in this program are:

- Developing Family Living and Operation Goals
- Record Keeping
- Inventory Management
- Developing and Understanding Cash Flow Statements
- Developing and Understanding Balance Sheets
- Developing and Understanding Income Statements
- Enterprise Analysis
- Financial Ratio Analysis
- Developing and Comparing Farm Plans
- Marketing Concepts (Including Hedging and Using Futures Options)

The training will be distributed through the LSU AgCenter's Distance Education system. The training will originate on the LSU AgCenter campus (Knapp Hall) and will be transmitted live to various distance education location sites. The following sites will be available for producers to attend the training:

- LSU AgCenter
102 Knapp Hall
Baton Rouge, LA
- West Carroll Parish Cooperative Extension
10284 Hwy 17
Oak Grove, LA
- Red River Research Station
262 Research Station Drive
Bossier City, LA
- Dean Lee Research Station
8105 Tom Bowman Drive
Alexandria, LA
- Calcasieu Parish Cooperative Extension
7101 Gulf Highway
Lake Charles, LA
- Scott Research and Extension Center
212 Macon Ridge Road
Winnsboro, LA

The training will be held each day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunch. Producers must attend each day to receive full credit for the program. There is a registration fee of \$130.

Given limited seating capacity at some of the Distance Education locations, producers will be required to pre-register by Friday, Dec. 16, 2011. To pre-register, producers are asked to contact Lynda Shoalmire at 225/578-2363 or Kurt Guidry at 225/578-4567. Producers may also register via email by sending their name and the location they wish to attend to Lynda at lshoalmire@agcenter.lsu.edu or Kurt at kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu.

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Seed-oyster Harvest

Seed-oyster harvest closed in selected public oyster areas east of the Mississippi River effective Monday, Nov. 14, at one-half hour past sunset.

The harvest of legal-size oysters (≥ 3 inches) for market sales is allowed to continue in these areas until further notice.

The following areas are affected by the seed-oyster harvest closure:

1. The public oyster seed grounds north of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; and
2. The public oyster seed grounds and reservations south of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and west of a line that generally runs from California Point northeast to Point Gardner.

These areas were determined by LDWF biologist to hold only small amounts of seed oyster stock and a significant portion of the available stock has been harvested thus far during the 2011/2012 oyster season. Additionally, sampling of seed-oyster loads on commercial vessels has determined that excessive amounts of non-living cultch material (reef shell, etc.) is being removed during seed

harvest. This activity threatens the long-term sustainability of the reefs by removing critical settlement substrate upon which oyster larvae settle and grow. Based on current harvest pressure and the estimated low oyster stock size, these areas should be closed to protect from further impacts.

All other details, rules and regulations of the 2011/2012 oyster season remain in effect until further notice.

For the latest on the 2011/2012 oyster season visit: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/oyster-seasons>

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

The 2011 Gag Recreational Fishing Season

The 2011 recreational gag fishing season closed at 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 16. Gag is considered overfished (population abundance is too low) and undergoing overfishing (rate of removal too high). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires action to rebuild overfished stocks and to end overfishing. The council has approved a long-term plan to address gag stock rebuilding through Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. If approved by the secretary of commerce, the 2012 recreational season will open July 1 and close Oct. 31, with a two-fish bag limit within a four-fish aggregate bag limit.

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 of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

Temporary Gag Regulations for the Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico to be Extended

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the extension of a temporary rule that set the commercial quota of gag, suspended the use of red grouper multi-use individual fishing quota commercial allocation and set the gag recreational season. The rule will be extended through June 2, 2012, or until long-term regulations are implemented to replace the temporary rule.

The temporary rule:

- Set the commercial quota at 430,000 pounds.
- Suspended the use of red grouper individual fishing quota multi-use allocation, which could be used to harvest gag.
- Established a recreational season from Sept. 16 through Nov. 15.

For commercial fishermen with gag individual fishing quota shares, extending the rule will mean the initial 2012 allocation will be based on 430,000 pounds and that no red grouper allocation will be designated multi-use. Amendment 32 supports an increase in the commercial quota to 567,000 pounds

as well as continues the suspension of the use of red grouper individual fishing quota multi-use allocation to harvest gag. For the recreational sector, the prohibition of harvest of gag will continue in 2012. Amendment 32 proposes a 2012 gag season from July 1 to Oct. 31.

Gag is considered overfished meaning the population abundance is too low and undergoing overfishing meaning the rate of removal too high. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that overfished stocks be rebuilt and that overfishing be halted. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council requested NOAA Fisheries Service extend the gag temporary rule. The council has submitted to NOAA Fisheries Service a long-term plan to address gag stock rebuilding through Amendment 32.

Copies of the temporary rule extension are available by contacting NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office at 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. The rule extension can be obtained in electronic form from the *Federal Register* website: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> (use advanced search using "BA04" as a keyword).

Final Rule Changes to the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Individual Fishing Quota Program: Online Account Application Requirements

NOAA Fisheries Service announces a final rule for the commercial Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery Individual Fishing Quota Program, which published in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 4 (74 FR 68339). This rule becomes effective on Dec. 4.

Regulations implemented in 2006 (Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan) stated that as of Jan. 1, 2012, all U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens are eligible to receive commercial red snapper shares and allocation. Prior to this date, only participants with a valid commercial reef fish permit could establish online accounts and purchase red snapper shares and allocation.

Regulations implemented in 2009 (Amendment 29 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan) established the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota program. Under the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2007, regulations require any new participant in individual fishing quota programs to be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens. Currently, information verifying U.S. citizenship is not collected on federal reef fish permit applications.

ELEMENTS OF THE FINAL RULE

Online Account Application: Participants of the individual fishing quota program are required to establish an online account. The final rule establishes the requirement that any U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien applying for participation, or any person previously issued an online account by NOAA Fisheries Service, must submit an online account application to obtain or maintain an online account. Information requested will include: certification that the applicant is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien, contact information (name, address and phone number), date of birth, tax identification number and any corporate shareholder information, if applicable. All participants in both the red snapper and grouper-tilefish programs will be required to submit the application every two years in order to keep an active online account. Should a participant no longer have a federal reef fish permit that was previously issued an online account, they will still be required to submit the online account application every two years in order to keep the account active. This information is required

to ensure participants meet the requirements of the program, provide an address to receive mail regarding the program and to ensure no single entity in the program acquires an excessive amount of shares.

Non-permitted participation in the red snapper individual fishing quota program:

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, any U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien will be eligible to purchase red snapper shares and allocation from current shareholders. A non-permitted participant in the program will be able to obtain and transfer red snapper shares and allocation only. Red snapper cannot be harvested with allocation alone; a federal commercial reef fish permit is required for commercial harvest of any reef fish.

Collection of citizenship information for permitted individual fishing quota program participants
All participants with a valid federal reef fish permit in the individual fishing quota program will be required to submit the application every two years in order to keep an active online account. This is in addition to the annual renewal of the application for the federal reef fish permit, which is required for an individual fishing quota participant to harvest and purchase allocation and shares.

Addresses: Electronic copies of the final rule may be obtained from the e-Rulemaking Portal at: <http://www.regulations.gov>, or from NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505. Mail: Catherine Bruger, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505.

For more information on the final rule please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Southeast Regional Individual Fishing Quota Web site: ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov.

Fish Gear Coordinates

October 2011 Coordinates:

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that two claims in the amount of \$7,303.44 were received for payment during the period Oct. 1-Oct. 31. There were zero paid and two denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

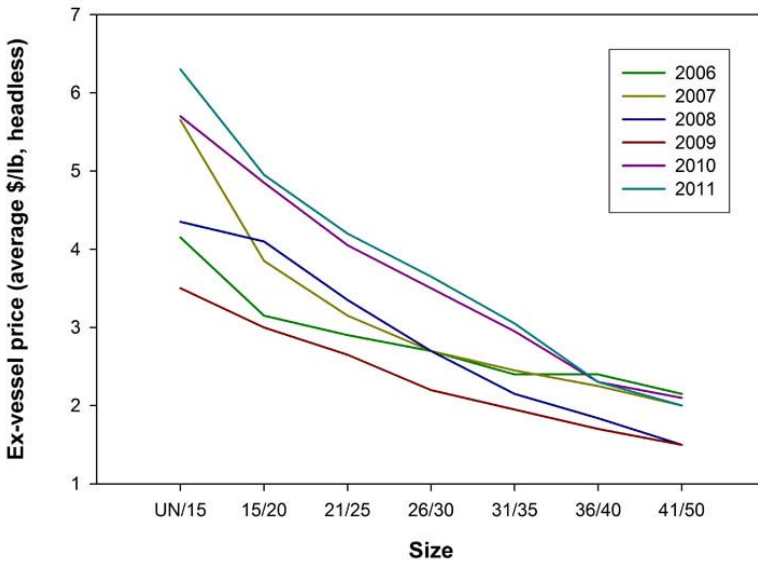
29 17.863	89 42.271	PLAQUEMINES
29 19.437	89 31.092	PLAQUEMINES

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 225/342-9388.

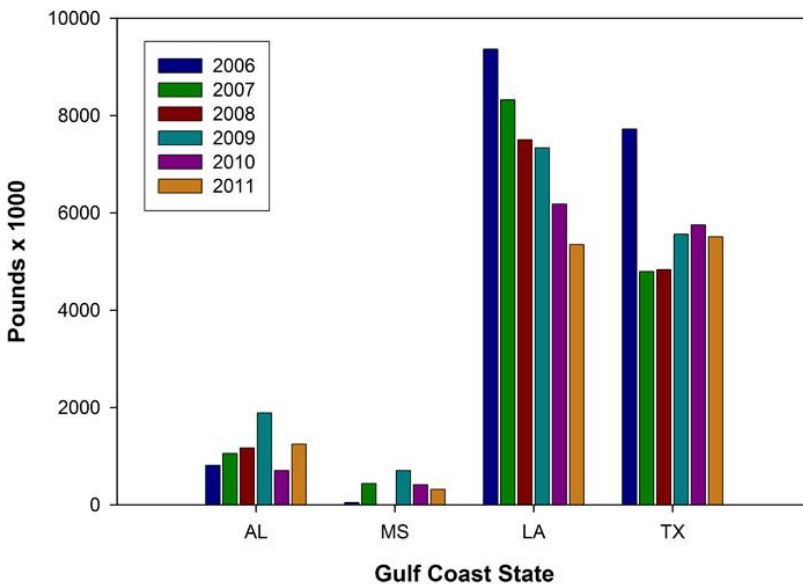
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

You may have noticed a few changes in the graphics over the last few months. We have been experimenting with different formats and layouts to make the graphs more clear and readable. Please give us any feedback on the new blog site. 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.

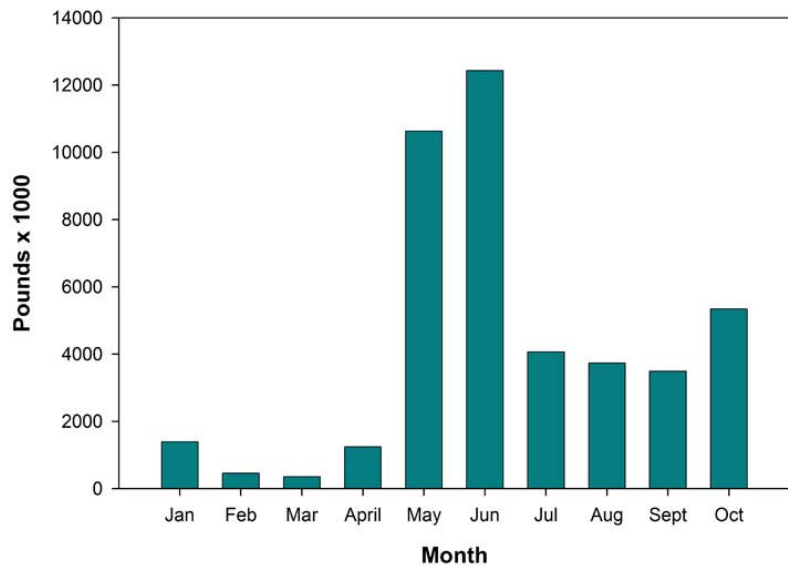
October Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



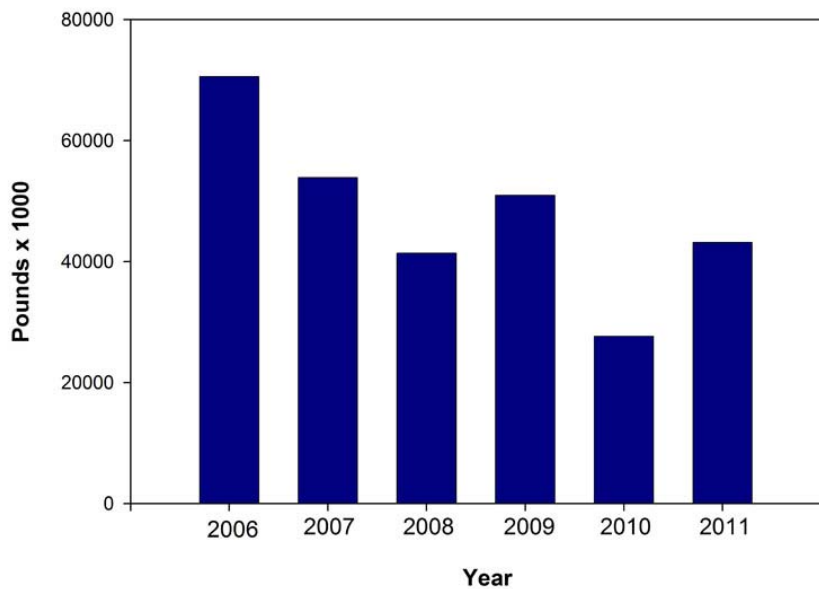
October Shrimp Harvest



Louisiana 2011 Shrimp Harvest



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest



The Gumbo Pot

Catfish Cakes

1 lb. Louisiana catfish fillets
1 ¼ c. bread crumbs
3 green onions, finely chopped
2 large eggs, beaten
½ c. green bell pepper, finely chopped
Vegetable oil
Creole seasoning to taste

Directions: Chop Louisiana catfish fillets into small pieces. Combine catfish and ¾ c. bread crumbs, green onions and green bell pepper, creole seasoning and eggs. Gently stir until well blended and chill together for two hours. Shape patties into desired amount needed, dredge patties in remaining ½ c. of bread crumbs. Heat oil in large non-stick skillet over medium heat and cook patties for 3 to 4 minutes on each side until golden brown. Drain excess oil on paper towels.

Compliments of Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival 2011 Cookbook Cameron, La.

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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4-H Youth Programs

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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