

LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

Recreational Red Snapper Season

The state recreational red snapper season closed at 11:59 pm on Dec. 31, 2014. Using real-time data from LA Creel, the recreational landings monitoring program, it was determined that Louisiana anglers have not yet landed the state's historic and projected share of the total Gulf of Mexico recreational red snapper harvest (14 percent, or 754,000 pounds).

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has continued negotiations with NOAA to recognize the validity of LA Creel and recently reached an agreement to "benchmark" LA Creel and officially establish it as a replacement for Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Through the benchmarking process, the LDWF will run the MRIP survey side-by-side with LA Creel for the 2015 recreational fishing season. NOAA will compare the results from both surveys and adjust



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historic recreational landings estimates accordingly. Once LA Creel is benchmarked, Louisiana will no longer run MRIP, and officials hope that NOAA will support LA Creel and use its more precise results to conduct future stock assessments. This process paves the way for other Gulf states to adopt their own recreational angler survey programs, improves data collection, and helps move management of the recreational red snapper fishery forward.

Beginning in January 2015, Louisiana anglers can expect to see an increased survey presence as LDWF personnel conduct both surveys statewide throughout the calendar year. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will determine Louisiana's 2015 recreational red snapper season in their early 2015 meetings.

Notice of Intent to Make Modifications to Recreational Offshore Landing Permit

The proposed rule would exempt anglers under the age of 16 as an adjustment in the program so that juvenile anglers who are not required to possess a recreational fishing license would have consistent rules, avoiding confusion. LDWF has implemented other survey methods to estimate the number of anglers under 16 participating in the harvest of those species requiring a ROLP.

Further proposed changes would clarify existing language in the rule that specifies that the ROLP term be the same as the annual saltwater license, as well as add language exempting anglers on a paid for-hire trip from the ROLP when the captain of that vessel has a valid ROLP.

Commercial Fishing for Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks

Commercial fishing for Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks opened in Louisiana waters Jan. 1, 2015; federal waters also opened in the Gulf of Mexico at this time.

The commercial and recreational season for the harvest of all sharks in Louisiana state waters will be closed from 12:01 a.m. April 1, 2015, until 12:01 p.m. July 1, 2015, per an existing fixed seasonal closure to protect shark pupping. The commercial season will remain open in Federal waters until 80 percent of the federal quota for a given fishery has been harvested or is projected to be harvested in the Gulf of Mexico.

During the open season, commercial harvest of Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks and Pelagic Sharks are regulated by the existing federal and state rules regarding trip limits, allowable species, and requirements for permits and landings, as laid out in federal and state regulations.

The Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark group is composed of the great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, silky shark, spinner shark, and tiger shark. While sandbar shark are a member of the Large Coastal Shark group, only specifically designated federally permitted vessels may take sandbar shark while operating under conditions of that research permit.

Commercial fishing for Small Coastal Sharks will also resume in Louisiana waters on Jan. 1, through Dec. 31, 2015, or until 80 percent of the federal quota has been met. The commercial Small Coastal Shark fishery consists of bonnethead shark, Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark and finetooth

shark. Blacknose sharks, though part of the Small Coastal Shark group, are managed under a separate quota that is linked to the overall Small Coastal Shark quota. The Small Coastal Group fishery remained open for all of 2014.

There is no allowable harvest at any time for all Prohibited Species, which include basking shark, white shark, bigeye sand tiger, sand tiger, whale shark, smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish, Atlantic angel shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, smalltail shark, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, narrowtooth shark, night shark, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher shark, longfin mako, sevengill shark and sixgill shark.

GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

Gulf Council to Hold a Workshop to Discuss King Mackerel Gillnet Issues

The workshop will take place at the Marriott Beachside Hotel, 3841 N. Roosevelt Boulevard in Key West and is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, beginning at 9 a.m., concluding no later than 5 p.m.

To access meeting materials visit <https://public.gulfcouncil.org:5001/webman/index.cgi>, or go to the council's website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) and click on the FTP link in the lower left column of our home page. The username and password are both "gulfguest". Simply navigate to the «King Mackerel Gillnet Working Group meeting - 2015 - 01» folder. This meeting is open to the public and will be streamed live over the Internet via webinar. To register for the webinar click here - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4126254196873136129>

2015 Red Grouper Recreational Bag Limit will be Four Fish in Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The 2015 Gulf of Mexico recreational red grouper bag limit will be four (4) fish per person per day in federal waters beginning Jan. 1, 2015, until further notice. In addition, the red grouper is part of the four-fish grouper aggregate bag limit and has a minimum total length of 20 inches for the recreational sector. Red grouper is also included in an annual shallow-water grouper season closure from Feb. 1 through March 31 when fishing beyond the 20-fathom depth contour. For regulation purposes, the 20-fathom depth contour is a series of point-to-point lines that approximate the 20-fathom depth contour. The specific coordinates for these lines are in 50 CFR 627.34.

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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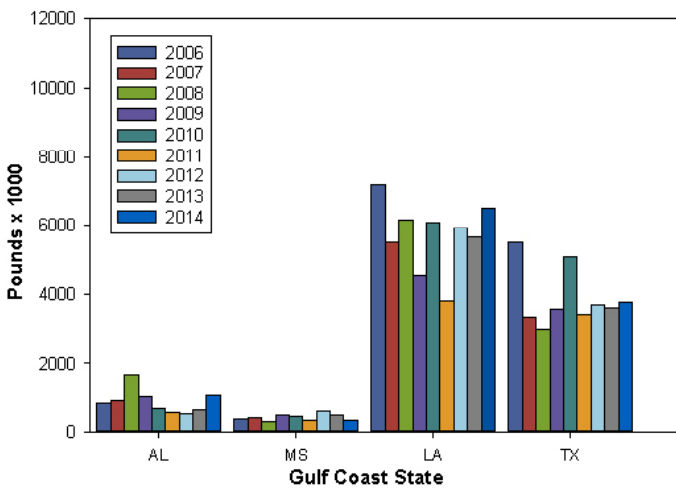
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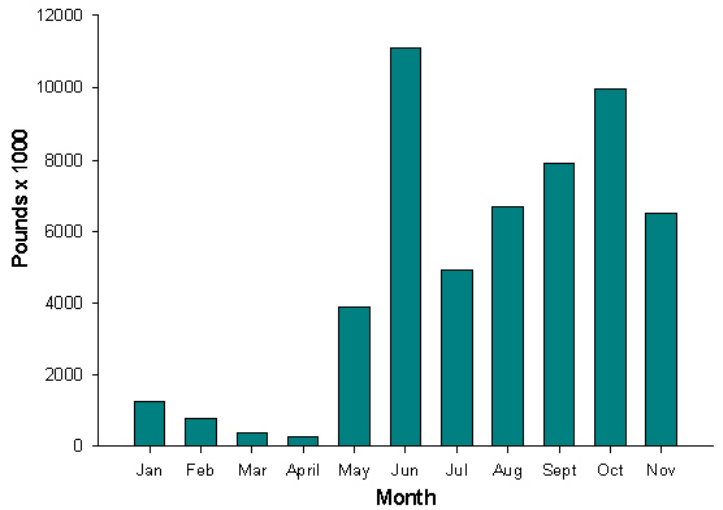
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on its 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.

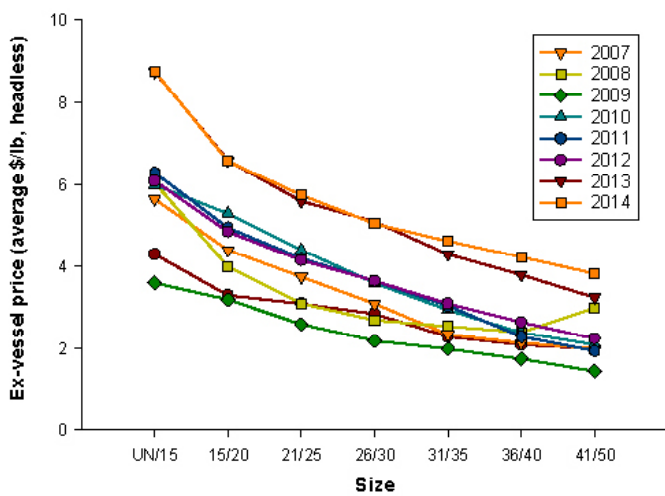
November Shrimp Harvest



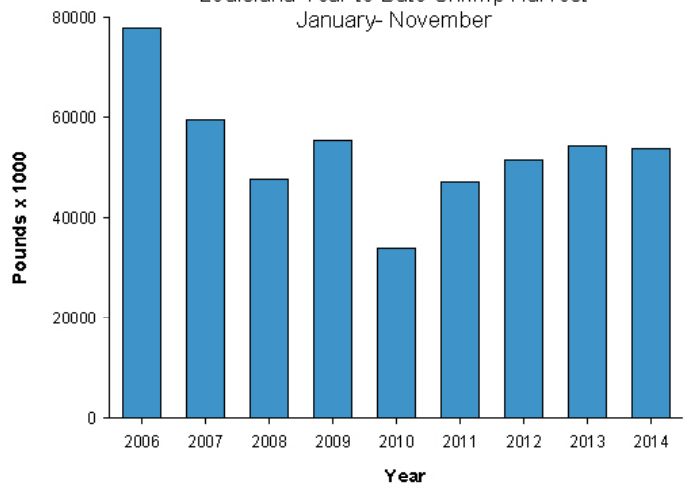
Louisiana 2014 Shrimp Harvest



November 2014 Northern GoM Shrimp Prices



Louisiana Year to Date Shrimp Harvest January- November



Fish Gear Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that five claims in the amount of \$14,076.40 were received for payment during the period Nov 1-30, 2014.

There were five paid and zero denied. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 17.506	89 53.513	PLAQUEMINES
29 18.735	90 00.726	LAFOURCHE
29 24.343	90 03.015	LAFOURCHE
29 41.224	89 46.561	PLAQUEMINES
29 93.580	89 53.412	SAINT 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 you can call (225) 342-9388.

The Gumbo Pot

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture*. For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>

Grilled Oysters

Ingredients:

- 1 quart oysters, in liquor (36 oysters needed)
- 1½ sticks butter, softened
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried whole-leaf oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried whole-leaf sweet basil
- 1/4 teaspoon dried whole-leaf thyme
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Method:

Preheat outdoor grill to 350°F with grill lid closed.

Drain oysters, reserve liquor for other uses. Melt three tablespoons butter in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Add garlic and black pepper; sauté one minute. Add oregano, basil, and thyme; sauté 30 seconds. Remove from heat and add remaining butter, whisking just until it melts; set aside.

Place three oysters in each of 12 reusable shells. Place shells on heated grill using long tongs. Grill two minutes or until oyster just begins sizzle. Carefully spoon two tablespoons seasoned butter evenly over oysters in each shell (watch out for grill-fire flare-ups). Sprinkle one tablespoon cheese evenly over oysters in each shell. Grill additional three to five minutes or until oysters are fully cooked. Serve immediately.

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



Photo courtesy of Louisiana Kitchen & Culture



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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 Lively at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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