



## 2016 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanups

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will again host its annual Derelict Crab Trap Rodeo with two volunteer cleanup events during the month of February. The volunteer-based program is funded through commercial fishermen gear fees, and since its inception has disposed of more than 24,000 derelict crab traps. Last year, LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant staff, CCA and volunteers from the recreational fishing community assisted in retrieving more than 400 abandoned traps. This year, LDWF is teaming up with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program to conduct two cleanup events as part of the NOAA Marine Debris Removal Program

In order to conduct the trap cleanups, licensed crab fishermen and seafood dealers received a notice informing them crab traps must be removed from within the closure areas during the closure period, and all remaining crab traps will be considered abandoned and may be removed by agency personnel or volunteers.

Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone may remove these abandoned traps from within the closed areas. Abandoned traps must be brought to LDWF designated disposal sites and may not be taken from the closed area.

These proposed trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property. Authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual landowners.

Maps of the closure areas can be found at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/derelict-crab-trap-removal>, and the use of traps will be prohibited in the following areas:

- Lake Pontchartrain: The use of crab traps will be prohibited beginning Friday, Feb. 12 at 6 a.m. through Sunday, Feb. 21 at 6 a.m.
- Barataria Basin: The use of crab traps will be prohibited beginning Friday, Feb. 19 at 6 a.m. through Sunday, Feb. 28 at 6 a.m.
- Sabine Lake: The use of crab traps will be prohibited in the following area beginning Friday, Feb. 19 at 6 a.m. through Sunday, Feb. 28 at 6 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to participate in this opportunity to remove abandon crab traps and conserve Louisiana’s marine resources. Volunteers are needed to assist with dockside activities including unloading and stacking traps. The greatest need is for volunteer boat owners to help maximize trap collection.

• Lake Pontchartrain: A dedicated volunteer day will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pelican Pointe Marina. This event is held in coordination with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and lunch and door prizes will be provided. In order to better coordinate volunteer activities, volunteers are encouraged to register in advance at the following website: <http://lpbj.wufoo.com/forms/derelict-crab-trap-registration/>

• Barataria Basin: A dedicated volunteer day will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Jean Lafitte Harbor. This event is held in coordination with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Foundation Program, and lunch and door prizes will be provided. In order to better coordinate volunteer activities, volunteers are encouraged to register in advance at the following website: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/F9C2L2G>



## LOUISIANA REGULATIONS

### Notice of Intent Regarding Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Penalties

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a notice of intent to promulgate rules that mirror the current federal rules and regulations for turtle excluder devices.

This action would allow infractions concerning the illegal use of TEDs to be handled in the state courts, as opposed to the federal system. This action is similar to those that the Commission has taken to have concurrent state and federal fishery management regulations. The Shrimp Task Force supported this action unanimously at their Dec. 9, 2015, meeting.

To view the full notice of intent, visit [http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/doc/noi\\_modify\\_turtle\\_excluder\\_devices.pdf](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/doc/noi_modify_turtle_excluder_devices.pdf).

Interested persons may submit comments relevant to the proposed rule by 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2016, to Jeffrey Marx, Office of Fisheries, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560 or via email at [jmarx@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jmarx@wlf.la.gov).

## GULF OF MEXICO REGULATIONS

### Gulf Council Update - January 2016

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Orange Beach, Alabama, Jan 25-28, 2016, to discuss a number of fishery issues, including electronic reporting for for-hire vessels, regional management for recreational red snapper, and the shrimp permit moratorium.

Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper - Reef Fish Amendment 39: After reviewing Reef Fish Amendment 39 and public hearing summaries, the council postponed further discussion of the Amendment as other options for recreational red snapper management are explored.

Reef Fish Amendment 43 – Hogfish: The council reviewed a document that proposes to set a management boundary between Gulf and South Atlantic hogfish stocks near the Cape Sable area of South Florida. The amendment also considers setting status determination criteria, revising the annual catch limit, and increasing the minimum size limit.

Yellowtail Snapper Framework Action to Modify Gear Restrictions : This framework action addresses inconsistencies between Gulf and South Atlantic councils' circle hook requirements for yellowtail snapper commercial fishing in Gulf waters and increase the operational efficiency of the commercial yellowtail snapper fishery. For this action, the council chose alternatives that would establish commercial and recreational seasons of August 1 - July 31.

### Reef Fish Amendment 36 - Red Snapper IFQ Modifications

The council reviewed potential management actions and decided to divide Amendment 36 into two Amendments in an effort to expedite items that can be addressed quickly. Amendment 36A will include actions related to the enforcement of commercial reef fish trips, inactive shareholder accounts, and mid-year quota changes and could apply to both the red snapper and grouper/tilefish IFQ programs. Amendment 36B will address issues such as eligibility requirements, caps on the use or possession of IFQ shares and allocation, and other issues.

### Reef Fish Amendments 41 and 42

For Amendment 42, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, and red grouper, in addition to red snapper and gag, were selected as preferred alternatives. An alternative to establish a fishing cooperative program was moved to the 'considered but rejected' section of the document. The council also requested the addition of an action to Amendments 41 and 42 that would allow both charter and headboat owners/operators to opt-out of the proposed programs.

### New Reef Fish Actions

The council initiated a new amendment to examine extending or eliminating the sunset provision on sector separation created by Amendment 40. Amendment 40 established a red snapper federal for-hire component that includes all for-hire operators with a valid or renewable federal reef fish for-hire permit and a private angling component that includes all other for-hire operators and private recreational anglers. It also established separate red snapper season closure provisions for the two components.

The council also initiated work on two new reef fish framework actions. One would adjust the red grouper annual catch limit. The other would develop a mechanism to allow the recreational red snapper season to reopen in the event that the annual catch limit is not met during the regular season.

## Data Collection

A proposed amendment was reviewed to modify the frequency and method of reporting for charter and headboats fishing for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico. After reviewing public comments on the amendment, the council decided to postpone taking final action while the Southeast Fishery Science Center develops a flowchart illustrating alternatives for implementing electronic reporting in the federally permitted for-hire component.

## Shrimp

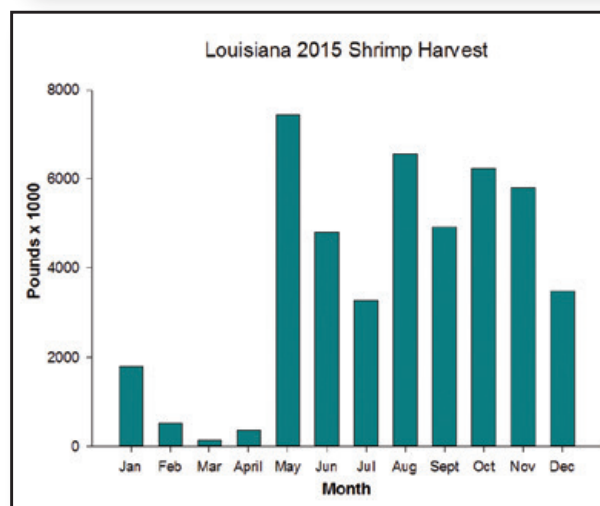
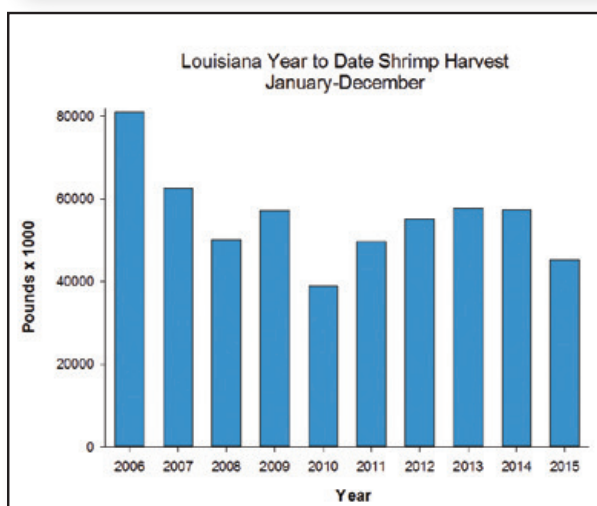
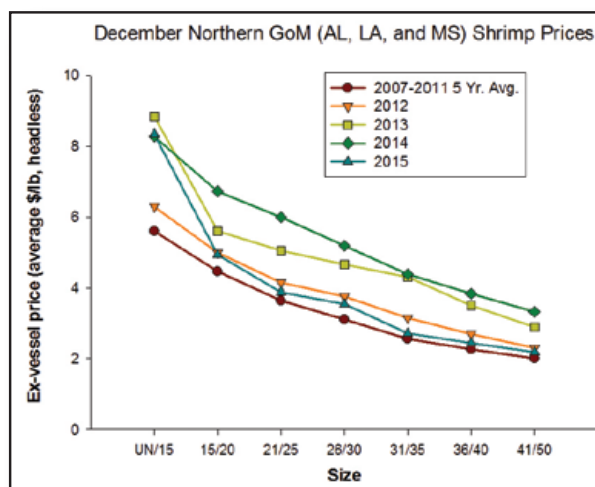
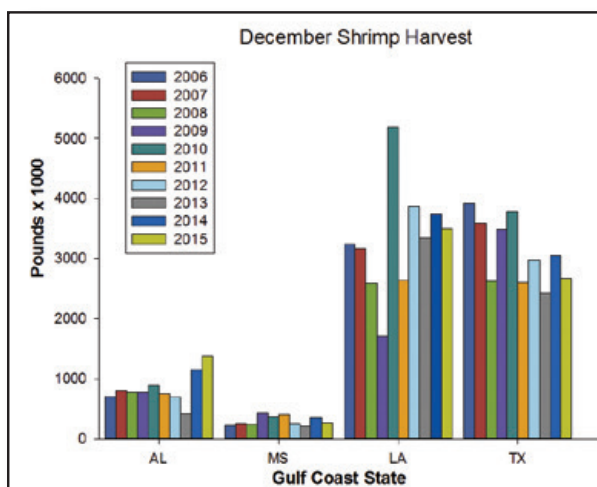
The council took final action on Shrimp Amendment 17A to extend the shrimp permit moratorium for ten years and maintains the endorsement requirement for royal red shrimp. Amendment 17A will be transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation.

## Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel)

The council reviewed and chose preferred alternatives for a public hearing draft of Amendment 26 which considers making modifications to allocations, stock boundaries, and sale provisions of king mackerel. Public hearings will be held Feb. 22, 2016 - March 3, 2016. The council is expected to take final action during the April Council meeting.

## 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](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html).



## Fish Gear Coordinates - January 2016

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 11 claims in the amount of \$49,735.39 were received for payment during the period Jan. 1-31, 2016.

There were 11 paid and 1 denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in Degree Decimal Minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 10.510	90 03.607	JEFFERSON
29 11.573	90 18.825	LAFOURCHE
29 12.906	90 52.106	TERREBONNE
29 15.248	90 46.793	TERREBONNE
29 16.282	89 25.518	PLAQUEMINES
29 24.553	89 47.043	PLAQUEMINES
29 35.080	91 41.705	IBERIA
29 39.050	89 19.875	SAINT BERNARD
29 41.716	89 47.058	PLAQUEMINES
29 48.446	89 38.709	SAINT BERNARD
29 56.547	93 45.692	CAMERON
29 56.551	89 49.555	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 call (225) 342-9388.



# THE GUMBO POT

## **BRIE & BACON CHARGRILLED OYSTERS**

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture*.

For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>



### **Ingredients:**

½ pound bacon  
½ pound brie, rind removed  
1 stick butter, chopped  
2 dozen chilled fresh Louisiana oysters  
rock salt

### **Method:**

Cook bacon until crisp, drain, chop finely into bits and set aside. Chop brie into small pieces and place in a mixing bowl along with chopped butter; let both come to room temperature. Once softened, stir until blended. When ready, prepare a grill to highest heat setting. Scrub oyster shells to remove grit. Open each oyster, discarding shallow tops; loosen oyster meat, leaving in bottom shell, and place on a tray. Divide brie mixture among oysters. Grill oysters 4 to 5 minutes or until bubbly. Carefully remove from grill and garnish each evenly with bacon bits. Serve immediately with crackers.

## **Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter**

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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](mailto:janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu).**

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