

# Lagniappe

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## Gentle Giants

There are two different species of manta ray that grace the oceans. The larger of the two species, *Manta birostris* or the giant manta ray, is thought to be highly migratory and can be found seasonally in the Gulf of Mexico especially on the Flower Garden Banks.

Mantas grow to immense sizes with some reports claiming wingspans of close to 30 feet. Despite their immense size they are harmless to man and lack the venomous tail barb of some other ray species. They feed on plankton and other small marine life which they filter from the water by swimming in circles or doing “loop-de-loops” with their enormous mouths agape.

The giant manta is found in tropical and temperate waters around the world yet very little is known about their life history. They are thought to be relatively long-lived creatures with longevity estimated at around 40 years. They are also thought to be very intelligent due to their large brain size.

Scientists know very little about their breeding behavior, mating is believed to occur during the summer months and has been observed off the coast of Japan. Females are thought to produce one offspring per litter.

The giant manta ray is listed as vulnerable to becoming endangered. This is largely a result of fishing. Mantas are targeted by small commercial fishing operations in many developing countries. A major driving force behind these operations is the high value of manta ray liver and gill rakers in Asian medicinal markets. Subsistence fisherman around the world also catch and often eat mantas or use them as shark bait.

Manta rays often swim with an entourage of bony fish such as remoras and cobia. Anglers in many parts of the world, including Louisiana, have learned that great sport can be had sight-casting to cobia as they trail a manta ray. Should you ever be lucky enough to find yourself in this situation take care not to snag the ray.

– Damen Pheiffer

[http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Manta\\_birostris/](http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Manta_birostris/)  
<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/science/mantaresearch.html>  
[www.iucnredlist.org/details/198921/0](http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/198921/0)  
[www.nola.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2017/05/louisiana\\_anglers\\_catch\\_cobia.html](http://www.nola.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2017/05/louisiana_anglers_catch_cobia.html)

Photo: Henrik Winther Andersen Creative Commons

## Oyster Harvest Closed In Hackberry Bay

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) closed oyster harvest in the Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation (POSR), located in Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes, on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.

The oyster population in Hackberry Bay is managed based on a harvest threshold, and the recommended harvest threshold has been reached. Continued harvest may threaten the long-term sustainability of the remaining oyster resources in this public oyster area. Protection of the remaining oyster resources is in the long-term best interest of the oyster populations in this area.

## Gulf Council Update

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Mobile, Ala., Oct. 22-25, 2018. The following is a brief summary of the Council's actions:

### COBIA

After hearing public comment at its October meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council chose to modify the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for Gulf cobia in federal waters. The council selected to increase the cobia minimum size limit to 36 inches fork length. The council decided to address Gulf cobia management measures after numerous anglers expressed concern about a decline in the Gulf cobia population. Increasing the Gulf cobia minimum size limit to 36 inches fork length is expected to reduce landings by 10.3 percent for the commercial sector and 26.1 percent for the recreational sector. The suggested Gulf cobia management changes will be finalized and transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation.

### RED GROUPE

Landings in recent years have been significantly below the annual catch limits, indicating that the stock may not be large enough to sustain current harvest levels. After hearing recommendations from its scientific advisors and listening to public testimony that indicated the stock is struggling, the council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service implement an interim or emergency rule to establish an annual catch limit based on the total 2017 landings. The council will initiate a framework amendment to reduce the catch limits beyond the expiration of the 180-day period covered by the interim or emergency rule.

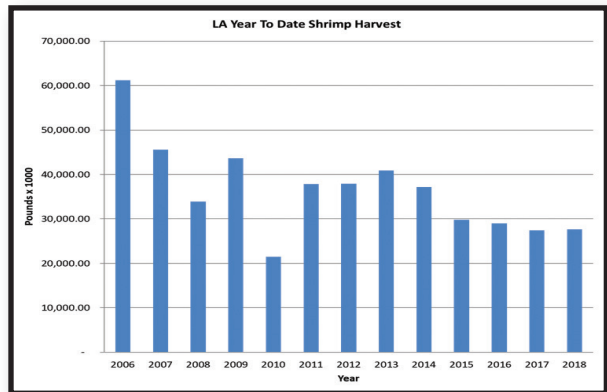
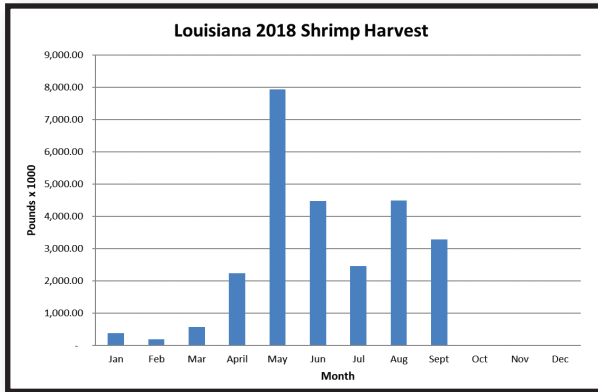
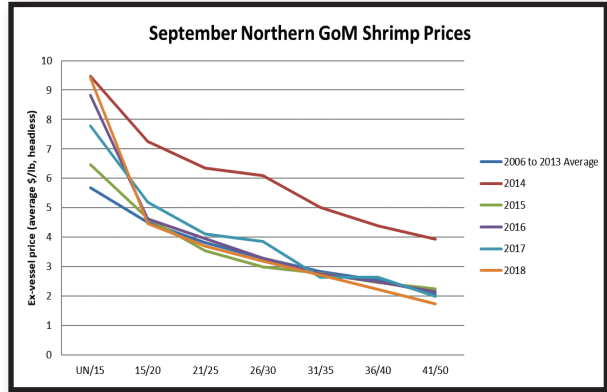
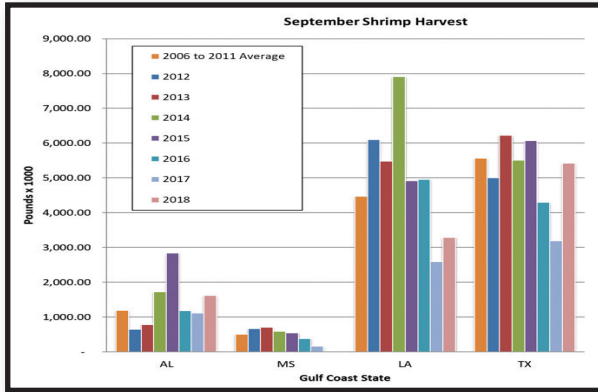
### STATE MANAGEMENT OF RED SNAPPER

The council reviewed draft amendments for establishing state management programs for recreational red snapper. The current preferred alternatives would allow each state to manage its private angling component of the recreational sector using the allocations set in the exempted fishing permits approved for 2018 and 2019. The council added a new alternative for allocating the private angling annual catch limit that uses the quota initially requested by each state in its exempted fishing permit application, plus the remaining 3.78 percent distributed to each state proportionally based on the amount of quota requested. Those values are as follows:

- Alabama: 26.298 percent;
- Florida: 43.730 percent;
- Louisiana: 19.843 percent;
- Mississippi: 3.684 percent; and
- Texas: 6.445 percent.

# 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 – August 2018

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 15 claims in the amount of \$55,635.85 were received for payment during the period Sept. 1-30, 2018.

There were 14 paid and one denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in degree decimal minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 06.549	90 26.569	TERREBONNE
29 10.450	91 01.200	TERREBONNE
29 14.226	89 55.826	JEFFERSON
29 15.057	90 21.571	LAFORCHE
29 16.985	89 49.387	PLAQUEMINES
29 17.868	89 47.848	PLAQUEMINES
29 18.838	89 49.916	PLAQUEMINES
29 19.914	89 44.526	PLAQUEMINES
29 24.699	91 53.205	IBERIA
29 34.201	89 33.164	PLAQUEMINES
29 41.704	89 46.698	PLAQUEMINES
29 48.701	89 40.420	SAINT BERNARD
29 50.522	89 41.449	SAINT BERNARD
30 05.729	89 47.881	ORLEANS
30 10.298	89 41.668	ORLEANS

## Fish Gear Coordinates – September 2018

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that ten claims in the amount of \$45,578.17 were received for payment during the period October 1-31, 2018.

There were ten paid and zero denied.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, in degree decimal minutes, of reported underwater obstructions are:

28 55.874	89 25.426	PLAQUEMINES
29 02.755	89 06.161	P LAQUEMINES
29 12.948	90 32.687	TERREBONNE
29 19.927	89 53.806	PLAQUEMINES
29 20.494	91 24.272	SAINT MARY
29 21.057	89 13.060	PLAQUEMINES
29 28.140	90 36.190	TERREBONNE
29 28.807	90 00.448	JEFFERSON
29 41.290	92 54.165	CAMERON
30 09.836	89 27.245	SAINT BERNARD

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Charles Reulet, administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, or call (225) 342-7591.

## Important Dates & Upcoming Events

**Jan. 22, 2019** – Sanitation Control Procedures (SCP) for Fish and Fishery Products, LSU AgCenter,

Registration: [www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/scp.htm#p5](http://www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/scp.htm#p5)

**Jan. 23-25, 2019** – Basic Seafood HACCP Training, LSU AgCenter,

Registration: [www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/haccp-seafood.htm#p5](http://www.lsu.edu/departments/nfs/outreach/haccp-seafood.htm#p5)

**Jan. 30, 2019** – Beyond the Boat Seafood Processors Conference, LSU 4-H Mini Barn, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm,

Registration: [www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-boat-seafood-processing-conference-tickets-49429287329](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-boat-seafood-processing-conference-tickets-49429287329)

# THE GUMBO POT

## BASIC SEAFOOD STOCK

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:

4 or 5 gumbo crabs, cut in half	2 bay leaves
Shells from 2+ pounds of shrimp, heads included	1 Tablespoon coarse black pepper
2 stalks of celery cut into 1" pieces, leafy tops included	1 gallon of water
1 large onion, chunked	

### Method:

Combine everything in a large stock pot, bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and cook 45 minutes, covered. Allow it to cool a bit, strain it and discard the solids - although some people put the crab claws back in the gumbo pot for interest. For a heartier stock, roast the shrimp shells at 375°F for 20 minutes or so before boiling

Be sure to visit the *Lagniappe* blog for additional news and timely events between issues.  
<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>

## 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.

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