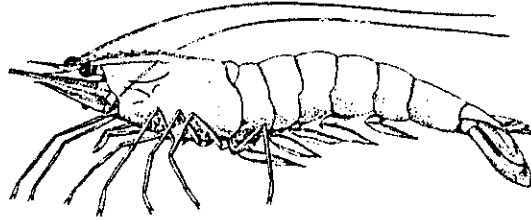


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

SHRIMP LIMITED ENTRY MEETING

Limited entry for the shrimp industry is becoming one of the hottest subjects going. Most shrimpers feel that there are too many boats in the business now. The trick is how to reduce those numbers in the future without hurting anyone presently in the business.

This subject will be discussed in detail at the upcoming Louisiana Shrimp Association meeting. The limited entry educational seminar will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, and will last until noon, March 25. The meeting is open to nonmembers as well as members and will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel at 300 Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

I would strongly encourage shrimpers who are concerned about the future of their industry to attend this meeting.

TED INFORMATION

There still seems to be some confusion about where TEDs are required in Louisiana. TED regulations are different for inshore and offshore areas. The line that divides the two areas is the Colregs line. This line basically follows the beach. Where it cuts across open water such as passes, it is a purple dashed line on the 1:80,000 NOAA charts.

All boats fishing in inside waters, no matter what size the vessel is or how large the trawl is, do not have to use a TED if tow times are less than 90 minutes.

In offshore waters, shrimp boats under 25 feet in length also do not have to use a TED, if they keep their tow times under 90 minutes. Any shrimp boat 25 feet long or longer, fishing in offshore waters out to 15 miles offshore, must use a TED. The Coast Guard will not measure the boat, but will go by the length listed on the boat's registration papers.

We have several publications at our office on TEDs. The booklet TEDS in LOUISIANA, contains all the current TED regulations, explains each of the approved TEDs and has a summary to the TED testing which has taken place. We also have two publications giving Installation Instructions for the Georgia Jumper and the Morrison Soft TED. For a free copy of these publications, call or write my office.

AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

The LSU Agricultural Center is sponsoring the second Louisiana Aquaculture Conference and Trade Show on April 28-29 at the Bellemont Hotel in Baton Rouge. The conference agenda includes discussions on production techniques, marketing and economics.

Topics include:

- * Marketing Strategies
- * Selling to Seafood Wholesalers and Retailers
- * Financing Options for Aquaculture
- * Tax Tips
- * Permits and Regulations
- * Softshell Crawfish Production
- * Commercial Feasibility Profiles by Species
- * Crawfish Farming
- * Catfish Farming
- * Redfish Farming
- * Alligator Farming
- * Water Quality Management

In addition to the seminars, some of the latest products and services available to fish farmers will be displayed at the trade show. Conference participants are also welcome to attend the Aquaculture Field Day on April 30 at Ben Hur Research Farm.

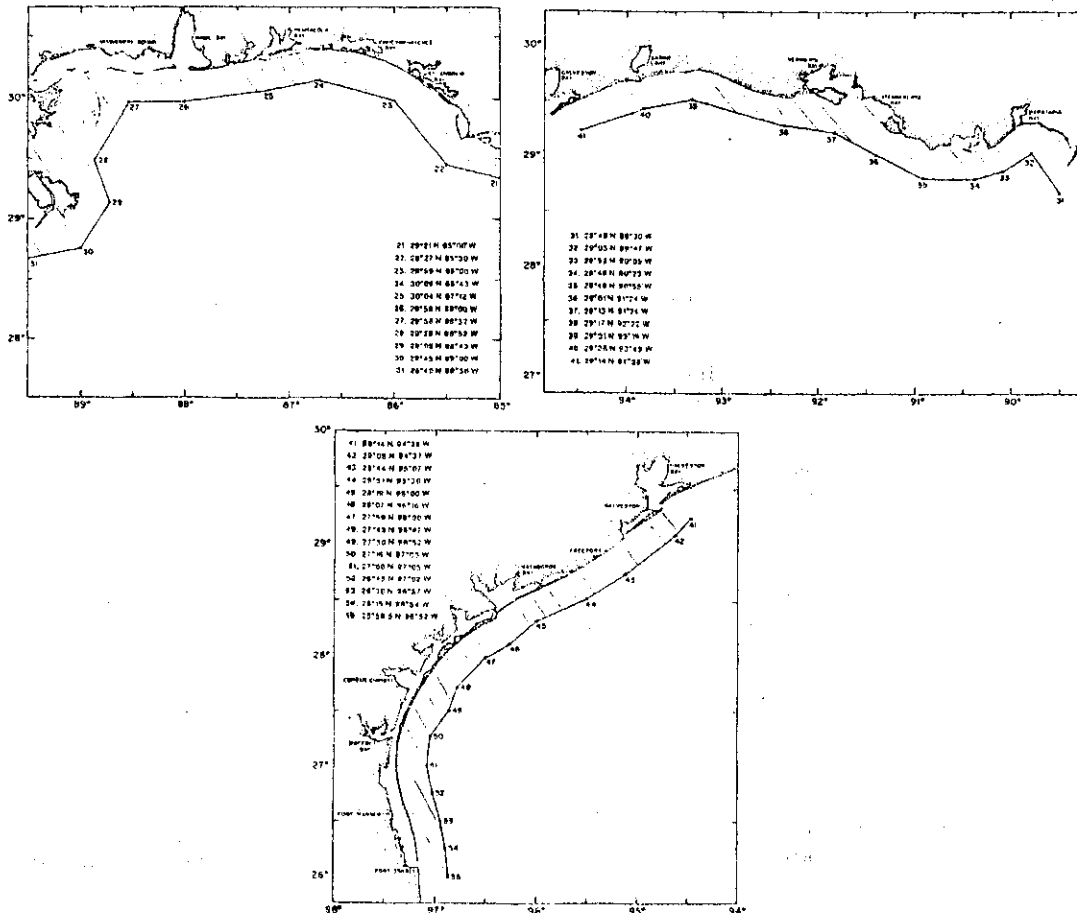
The \$30 registration fee covers conference materials, a copy of the conference proceedings, the conference banquet and the field day luncheon.

For a complete agenda and registration form, call or write my office. Pre-registration ends April 14, 1988.

TED BOUNDARIES

The current TED regulations extend from the Colregs line on the beach out to 15 miles offshore. Because of Louisiana's irregular coastline, the 15-mile boundary is hard to determine.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has determined the 15-mile line based on latitude and longitude and released the maps below. All boats 25 feet or longer fishing between this line and the Colregs line on the beach must use TEDs.



FUEL TAX CHANGE

Wholesalers will soon begin applying a 15.1 cents per gallon federal tax on all diesel fuel used on farms and commercial fishing operations on April 1, 1988. In the past this excise tax has been applied only to highway use of diesel fuel. This action is being taken as a result of Public Law 99-499. According to the Internal Revenue Service, while fishermen have lost the exemption previously enjoyed, they have not lost the credit.

Under the new system, wholesalers will begin applying the 15.1 cents per gallon tax which will be passed through the retailer directly to you, the end user. You may request a credit or refund of that tax in one of two ways. You may file a Form 4146 with your income tax returns at the end of each year requesting a refund of this tax, or you may apply for a refund every three months using Form 843, provided your usage exceeds \$1,000.00.

You should expect this increase to be applied to diesel fuel purchased after April 1, 1988, unless some action is taken to modify IRS regulations. Final regulations concerning this have not been published as of this date and may not be available until mid or late March. It is important to remember that while you have lost an exemption, you have not lost the credit. The net result is that you will now pay an excise tax on fuel but will be entitled to a credit or refund of that tax upon application.

Source: Gulf Coast Fisherman, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service

NEW LITTER CONTROL LAW IN EFFECT

One of the strongest litter control laws in the nation was enacted by the Louisiana Legislature (Regular Session, 1987) known as Act 235. The law calls for the suspension of motor vehicle driver's license as an additional penalty for littering with the exception of the first littering offense. The legislation permits judges to order convicted litterers to remove litter from public places, provides a penalty for littering from a water vessel, and places the responsibility for litter thrown from a motor vehicle or water vessel on the person driving the automobile or piloting the vessel.

Act 235 specifies no littering in public places, private properties in the state, rural areas, or waters within the state including any public highway, park, beach, campground, forest land, recreational area, trailer park, road, street or alley.

The first conviction calls for a fine not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). Second conviction fines range from a base of \$300-\$1500 and suspension of driver's license for thirty days. The third conviction fines consist of a base fine of \$500 nor more than \$3,000, suspension of driver's license for a year or be imprisoned for not more than six months or a combination of all penalties.

Fines collected are designated to the law enforcement agency issuing the citation, except for six percent reserved for the office of district or city attorney who prosecutes litterers.

Source: Louisiana Update, January, 1988.

SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

In recent years, both sport and commercial finfishermen have seen a lot of new regulations, both at the state and federal level. I've summarized some of the regulations which apply to sports fishermen below. Federal waters are those waters more than 3 miles off of the beach (except off of Grand Isle) where state waters go out a little over 8 miles.

Cobia (lemon fish) - Minimum size of 33 inches fork length and 37 inches total length, state and federal waters.

Red snapper - Minimum size of 12 inches fork length and 13 inches total length in federal waters. No restrictions in state waters.

Redfish - Closed in federal waters. Closed in state waters until June 1, 1988. The following laws will apply after June 1 unless changed by the state legislature. Possession limit of 50 fish (combined with speckled trout). Minimum size of 15 inches total length and no more than 2 fish which are over 30 inches total length.

King Mackerel - Closed in federal waters until July 1, 1988 when new quota period starts. No restrictions in state waters.

Speckled trout - No federal restrictions. State waters have a 50 fish possession limit (combined with redfish). Minimum size is 12 inches total length.

Spanish Mackerel - Closed in federal waters until July 1, 1988 when new quota period starts. Minimum size limit of 12 inches fork length and 14 inches total length in both state and federal waters.

Sincerely,

Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles Parishes

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT. LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE. LOUISIANA PARISH GOVERNING BODIES. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

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LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
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UNIVERSITY STATION, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1900

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300