

SEA GRANT PROGRAM

LAGNIAPPE

TED TESTING CONTINUES

Even though TED requirements have been delayed until May 1, 1989, the National Marine Fisheries Service is still actively testing the effectiveness of different TEDs in Gulf and South Atlantic waters. After six months of testing, some of the results on shrimp loss and gain are as follows:

Georgia/South Carolina	+10% to -16%
South Florida	-3% to -37%
Texas/Louisiana (Georgia Jumpers)	+8% to -37%
Louisiana (Saunders TED)	-25% to -49%

In these tests, TED equipped nets were towed in comparisons with standard nets. Seven sea turtles were captured in the standard nets and none in the TED-equipped nets.

Source: NMFS Newbreaker, September, 1988.

E.P.I.R.B.s FOR OFFSHORE BOATS

The fact that commercial fishing is considered one of the most dangerous jobs, has attracted quite a bit of attention in congress recently. The result was the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988. Included in this act were regulations requiring the use of EPIRBs (emergency position indicating radio beacons) on all fishing vessels running or working in federal waters.

According to new coast guard regulations, if a vessel has a Class A EPIRB purchased before October 3, 1988, they will be allowed to use them for six years. If a vessel does not have such an EPIRB, they will be required to use the new Category 1 EPIRB by August 17 of next year. These new EPIRBs cost between \$1,500 and \$2,500. This is quite a bit more than the old Class A EPIRB which cost \$300-\$400.

EPIRBs are designed to begin sending radio signal as soon as a vessel sinks, which would aid in early coast guard rescue of the crew.

NEW SNAPPER REGULATIONS FOR TRAWLERS

When minimum size limits were put on red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico trawl boats were exempted. This was done to prevent wastage of the few undersized red snappers caught by trawls fishing for other species.

This rule has been changed so that only trawlers with 5% or less of the catch being red snappers are exempted from the minimum size. This was done because some snapper fishermen were carrying trawls on board to get around the minimum size limit.

The minimum size on red snappers in federal waters is 13 inches total length or 12 inches fork length.

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

Seafood consumption in the United States has been steadily on the rise. Listed below are the amounts of meat, poultry and seafood eaten per person in the U.S. for the last 11 years. Seafood consumption figures are even larger than indicated, since recreationally caught fish are not included (estimated at 34.4 pounds per person) and the figures for meat and poultry include bone, skin and fat. The seafood figure only include edible weight.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Meat (lbs.)</u>	<u>Poultry (lbs.)</u>	<u>Seafood (lbs.)</u>
1977	152	53	12.7
1978	147	56	13.4
1979	145	61	13.0
1980	148	61	12.8
1981	145	62	12.9
1982	139	64	12.3
1983	144	65	13.1
1984	144	67	13.7
1985	144	70	14.4
1986	140	72	14.7
1987	137	78	15.4

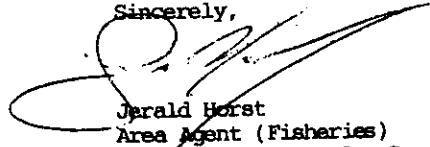
Much of the growth in consumption has been in seafood eaten at home. This is a new trend since seafood has usually been considered restaurant food by Americans. Some figures on where typical seafoods are eaten are shown below.

At home versus away from home consumption of seafood, 1985

	<u>§</u> <u>eaten at home</u>	<u>§</u> <u>eaten out</u>
groupers	32.6	67.4
shark	69.7	30.3
swordfish	40.4	59.6
all finfish (avg.)	57.7	42.3
blue crab	37.7	62.3
oysters	53.5	46.5
all non-shrimp shellfish (avg.)	38.3	61.7
shrimp	36.9	63.1

Sources: Seafood Market Trends by Kenneth J. Roberts and C. David Harper, 1988.

Sincerely,



Gerald Horst
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