

SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

FISHERIES FAMILY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

At the request of the state's commercial fishing leaders, especially Tee John Mialjevich, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service has created the "Fisheries Family Financial Management Program." This program is very similar to one done for farmers in 1986 and 1987 when they were in serious financial trouble.

Dr. Denver T. Loupe, the director of the Cooperative Extension Service, felt that as many as 25,000 to 30,000 of Louisiana's commercial fishing family businesses are in financial trouble. This program is not a loan or grant program. It is a family and business financial analysis program.

If a fisherman wants to use the program, he can call a toll-free hotline number. People who call the number will be visited by a specially trained two-person team, a fisheries agent and a home economist. They will prepare a detailed questionnaire that requests information on costs of business operations, possible earnings, assets and liabilities, family living expenses, and debt.

The results will be confidentially analyzed and the agents will bring back to the fishing family, a computer print-out, showing cash flow for the next year, a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities and a net income statement with a written analysis of the situation.

The analysis will help fishermen make better business and family financial decisions. It is possible the fishermen may, in some cases, be able to use the written analysis to show their banker that they have enough cash flow to stay in business, and possibly get a loan to work with.

Since many fishing families are also suffering from stress because of the financial situations, the assistance team will also be able to make recommendations to the family about getting counseling for family and personal stress. For many families, this may be more important than the business analysis program.

Anyone wishing to use this program, can call the toll-free hotline 1-800-256-5927 or our office directly in Marrero, 341-7271 during working hours on weekdays. If you would feel more comfortable requesting an agent from another parish rather than your regular fishery agent, you may do so.

PROFESSIONAL FISHERIES QUALIFICATION MEETING

The Joint Fisheries Task Force Committee will be holding a series of public meetings across coastal Louisiana for commercial fishermen concerning the proposed "Professional Fisheries Qualification Program."

Four task forces; shrimp, finfish, crab and oyster, have worked several months to develop this program. What the program does is define who is a commercial fishermen and who is not, using a percentage of income to separate them. Each task force felt that there were too many people fishing for full-time fishermen to make a living.

The local meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lafitte Civic Center and Thursday, April 19, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. in Slidell at the Slidell Auditorium.

WHO ENFORCES TED LAWS

Recently, I have been getting many calls on which agency will enforce TED laws in Louisiana. The primary enforcement agency will be the U.S. Coast Guard with the involvement of the National Marine Fisheries Service. At this time, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is not involved in enforcement of TED laws, as Act 891 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature prohibits them from enforcing these laws.

TEDs are currently required in each net used on a boat 25 feet long or longer, when fishing outside the Col-Regs line. Beginning May 1, 1990, boats fishing inside this line must either limit their tows to 90 minutes or use TEDs. All these rules apply to skimmers and butterfly nets also.

The Col-Regs line is the purple dashed line that in most places follows the beach-line on the 1:80,000 NOAA Navigational Charts.

UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTIONS

At the request of Virginia Van Sickle, of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, J. Rogers Pearcy, Regional Director of Mineral Management Service, has formed a committee to change regulations that make sure that bottoms are clean after drilling platforms have been removed from federal waters in the gulf. While final regulations are being hammered out, the new rules which are in effect immediately, require the following:

- 1) A bottom-scanning sonar search must be done by the oil and gas company.
- 2) The company must hire a shrimper to trawl over 100% of the bottom up to a quarter-mile of the platform site to show it as clean. The trawler must have held a commercial trawling license from a gulf state for the last two years and the boat must have two 50-foot nets or more. The vessel must also have a navigational plotter, which can produce a post plot map or video of the area trawled. The nets must not have TEDs in them, so that anything picked up in the trawl isn't lost.

Gulf trawlers have complained for some time that the old regulations were not strong enough and that many hangs were left behind when an oil or gas platform was removed.

The committee has representatives of the trawling and oil and gas industries, the state of Louisiana, Jefferson Parish and the Mineral Management Service.

Source: The Commercial Fisherman. March 1990.

REPORTING WATER POLLUTION

Recently, I have received several calls from people who didn't know where to call to report a water quality problem. The state agency that handles water pollution problems is the Department of Environmental Quality (D.E.Q.) and they do have a local field office in Metairie.

The local office has several inspectors who go in the field and check on reported cases of sewage pollution, chemical pollution and fish kills. The territory that the office is responsible for includes everything east of Bayou Lafourche. Their telephone number is (504) 838-5361. After working hours and on weekends an answering machine will take calls. If you would like to know the results of the inspector's findings, be sure to request a follow-up call from them when you make your call.

NEW MAGAZINE

A new commercial fishing trade magazine has been launched in Louisiana in March, 1990, called "The Commercial Fisherman." This is the only such magazine currently being published in Louisiana at the present time. It is designed to be informational and educational and covers all of the state's fisheries. For information on subscriptions, call (504) 391-1911 or 689-3743 (after work hours).

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

A new, specially trained and equipped "Oyster Strike Force" has been created by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to respond immediately to complaints of oyster violations. The money for this strike force comes from the new \$100 oyster harvester's license. Much of the work of this group will be undercover, using unmarked vehicles and boats outfitted with radar, loran, and night scopes.

The strike force moved immediately and on March 26, made two cases; one against a Mississippi resident and one against a Florida boat. Both cases involved undersized

oysters and failure to use or fill out tags correctly. The violators were fined \$1435 plus court costs and civil penalties of \$16,800 were slapped on them.

Source: Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries News Releases.

DRIFT GILLNETS BANNED

The use of drift gillnets in federal waters (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico has been prohibited for king, Spanish, and cero mackerel, little tunny (bonito), cobia, dolphin and bluefish. These fish may not be possessed on any vessel in the EEZ or any vessel that has fished in the EEZ which has a drift-gillnet aboard.

E.P.A. GULF OF MEXICO CONFERENCE

A four day conference, "America's Sea---A National Resource at Risk," has been scheduled for December 2-5, 1990 at the Clarion Hotel in New Orleans. Some very important subjects such as pollution, coastal erosion, fisheries management, freshwater diversions and tidelands ownership are on the agenda. Without a healthy habitat, Louisiana's great fisheries resources will be in trouble.

Preliminary registration has been set at \$45 (students \$25). For more information, call 1-800-726-4853.

THE GUMBO POT

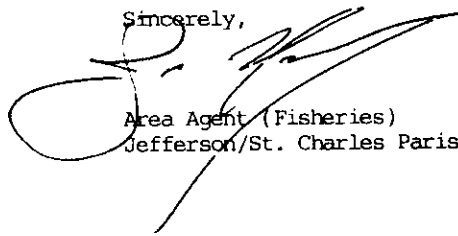
Cool Dude's Cajun Barbeque Fish

This month's recipe comes from Joey Peacher. He has won several cooking contests with it. Its a good one!

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| 1 black drum, red snapper or
redfish (5-7 pounds) | ½ tsp. garlic powder |
| ½ tsp. salt | 2 Tbsps. Season All |
| ½ tsp. pepper | 3 sticks butter |
| ½ tsp. onion powder | 1 head garlic (chopped fine) |
| | juice of one lemon |

Filet fish leaving skin and scales on. Coat fish with these ingredients: salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder and Season All. In a separate pan, add butter, chopped garlic and lemon juice. Saute. On barbeque pit over medium heat, place fish scales down. Cook for approximately 25 minutes, basting with butter sauce. CAUTION: When reheating, lift meat from skin and scales side. Watch out for bones! Serves 4-6 people.

Sincerely,



Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles Parishes

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300