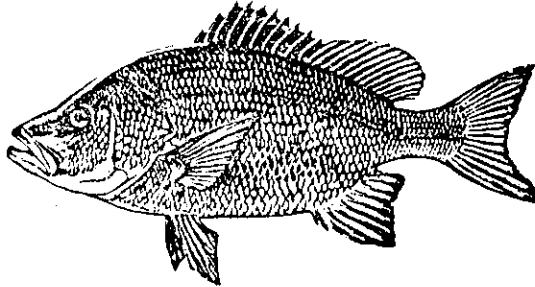


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

TWO THERIOTS

Last month's newsletter which listed the fishing bills in the legislature caused a little confusion over who introduced which bill. Two members of the Louisiana House of Representatives are named Theriot. The bills that show S.H. Theriot were introduced by Mr. Sam Theriot, a representative from southwestern Louisiana. The bills introduced by S.J. Theriot, were introduced by Mr. Steve Theriot, a Jefferson Parish representative. Next year I'll show the full name. Sorry about the confusion.

RED SNAPPERS IN TROUBLE

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has received a report from scientists that the red snapper fishery is so overfished that it cannot recover even with the new lower quota on commercial fishermen and daily bag limit on sportsmen. Their recommendation is that all fishing for red snappers be outlawed unless something can be done about the by-catch of red snappers in shrimp trawls.

PINK SHRIMP SEASON REPORT

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has reported that the special 5-day pink shrimp (hopper) season in Chandeleur Sound produced 110,471 pounds of pink shrimp worth \$259,606. The catches were made in the deeper 19 to 23-foot waters of the sound and ranged from 21-25 to 40-45 count shrimp. About 175 boats fished the area during the special season.

SOFTSHELL CRAB PRODUCER LIST UPDATE

Two years ago, John Supan with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, developed a list of Louisiana producers of softshell crabs. This list was designed to help market softshell crabs and is sent to buyers throughout the country.

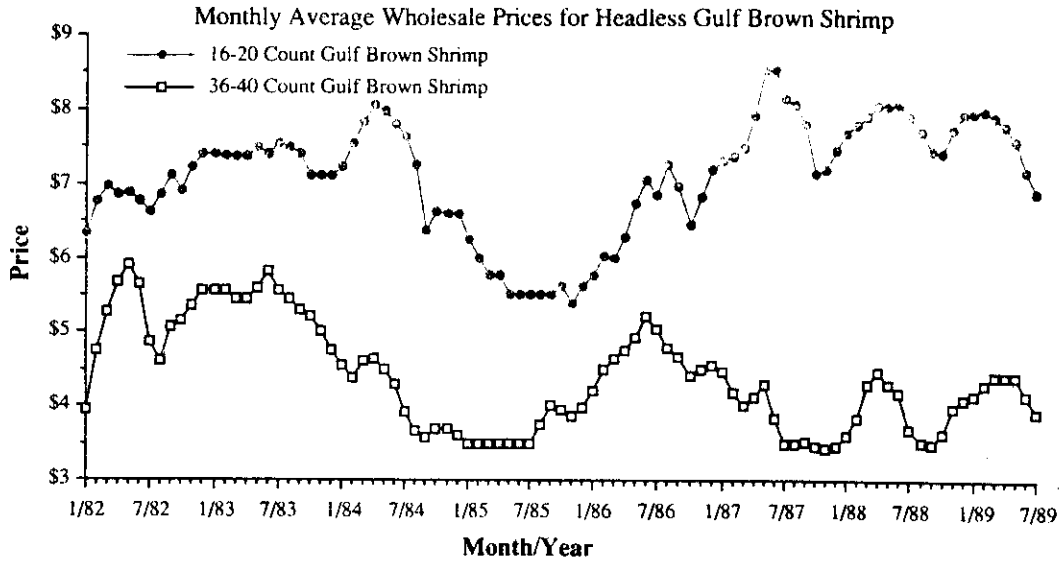
John is updating the list at this time. If you are interested in your name being on the list, please call or write my office. We will need your name, address and telephone number and whether you handle your crabs, live, fresh or frozen.

100 COUNT IS NOW THE LAW

Effective on May 31, 1990, all white shrimp taken in federal waters and landed in Louisiana, must be no smaller than 100 count. This rule was passed to bring federal law into line with state law and make enforcement easier and to let smaller shrimp grow to larger, more valuable sizes.

SHRIMP PRICES

The shrimp fishery is the most valuable fishery, both in Louisiana, and the United States. As imports have reached record levels, shrimp prices have been affected. Currently, 75% of shrimp eaten in this country are imported and 24% of world's production of shrimp is produced through aquaculture.



Much of this shrimp farm production has been in medium-sized shrimp and as you can see above, prices on these shrimp have trended downward since 1982. Larger shrimp have not been as seriously affected, but the growing production of large farm-raised black tiger shrimp may certainly affect these sizes also.

Source: Texas Commercial Fishery Profile by Michael Haby, Dewayne Hollin and Mel Russell.

FISHERIES FAMILY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STILL AVAILABLE

In April the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service began the "Fisheries Family Financial Management Program." While this is not a loan program, many fishing families have found the analysis useful in looking at their business in detail. Anyone wanting to use the program may call 1-800-256-5927 or my office in Marrero, 341-7271 during weekday work hours.

After filling out a detailed questionnaire that requests information on costs of business operations, possible earnings, assets and liabilities, family living expenses and debt, the Extension Service will prepare a detailed financial analysis for the family, including a cash flow sheet and a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities.

REGULATIONS DURING TROUT CLOSURE

Until September 1, 1990, when the speckled trout season reopens, possession of a speckled trout on board any vessel with a seine, gill net, trammel net or hoop net is illegal.

Also during the closure, the minimum mesh size on any seine, gill or trammel net used in saltwater is increased to 4½ inches stretched, except for strike nets. A strike net is defined as any seine, gill or trammel net which is "not anchored or secured to the bottom or shore and which is used off of a vessel and actively worked while being used." No person shall have in possession more than two strike nets.

Source: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries News Release 90-69.

S.B.A. LOAN UPDATE

I recently received an update on how many economic injury loans were approved for fishermen and seafood dealers as a result of the Christmas week freeze. SBA sent out 1557 applications and received 177 completed applications back. The results of the 177 applications were:

- 45 were approved for a total of \$1,220,000
- 110 were not approved
- 7 were withdrawn
- 15 are still being considered

Fishermen or seafood businesses still have until November 6, 1990 to apply for a loan. The SBA telephone number is 1-800-527-7735.

BLACK DRUM REGULATIONS

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has adopted a set of regulations for the commercial and sport harvest of black drum. Sport fishermen have a size limit of 16 to 27 inches on their fish and a daily bag limit of 5 drum, only one of which can be over 27 inches long.

A yearly commercial quota of 3,250,000 pounds has been set for fish between 16 and 27 inches. A separate commercial quota of 300,000 fish over 27 inches has also been set. A "Special Black Drum Permit" is required for anyone fishing these larger fish. Any commercial fisherman, including shrimpers, who possess fish over 27 inches long, must have this permit. Permit holders are required to file monthly reports on their catch. The quotas will begin on September 1, 1990 and when they are met, commercial fishing for black drum will stop until the next September.

EPIRBs NOW REQUIRED

Vessels fishing more than three miles from shore are now required to have a Category 1 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) on board. The only vessels that do not now have to have one are those that do not have a galley and berthing facilities on board. A galley is defined as a space equipped with an installed oven or range and mechanical refrigeration. A portable stove for heating coffee or soup is not considered a galley and neither is a portable ice chest. A berthing facility is defined as a space containing mattresses, sleeping bags or hammocks.

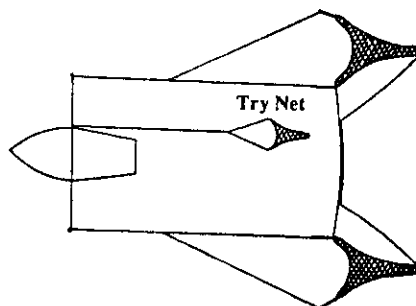
The reason for this exception is to exempt vessels that are only at sea one day from the expense of a Category 1 EPIRB. The Coast Guard is considering requiring the use of a cheaper Category 2 EPIRB on these boats.

Owners of vessels are considered responsible for getting EPIRBs, but operators are held responsible for their proper use, monthly testing and yearly inspection. The EPIRB must also be registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as it is a transmitter and the vessel's radio license must have it listed.

Source: Fresh Catch. Organized Fishermen of Florida. May 1990.

EASY RIG PUBLICATION

The easy rig is a different way of double-rig shrimping that is being used by many shrimpers in Cameron, Louisiana. The difference in this rig over a standard double-rig is that only two trawl doors are used instead of four. In place of the inside door on each net, a dummy door or sled is used. The two sleds are then connected together with a rope to spread the trawls.



Shrimpers using this rig report that because of less drag, they can trawl faster and cover more bottom and at a lower engine speed. If you would like a copy of the brochure on the easy rig call or write my office and I'll send you one.

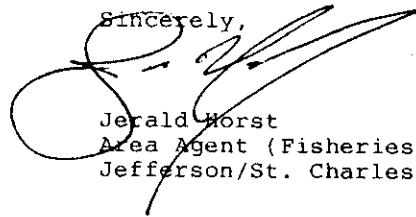
NEW OYSTER RULES

The Louisiana Department of Health has revised several rules on handling and harvesting of oysters. Beginning May 20, 1990, all boats that harvest or handle oysters must have a false deck or bottom to keep oysters away from bilge water. Decks, holds or bins used to store oysters must be washed daily. All harvesting boats must also have some sort of awning or canvas to protect the oysters.

Between and including the month of April to November, all harvesting boats without on board mechanical (not ice) refrigeration must deliver their day's catch to dockside no later than midnight each day. Same-day unloading during this period does not apply to shell-stock harvested for bedding purposes, if there are no sacks or other containers on board the vessel. Oysters must be put under refrigeration at 45 degrees or lower within three hours after a vessel docks.

According to the Department of Health, these rules will be strictly enforced by them and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Anyone with questions on these regulations should contact: Seafood Sanitation Unit, P. O. Box 60630, Room 209, New Orleans, LA 70160 (504) 568-8227.

Sincerely,



Gerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)
Jefferson/St. Charles

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. & M. COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY STATION, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1900

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300