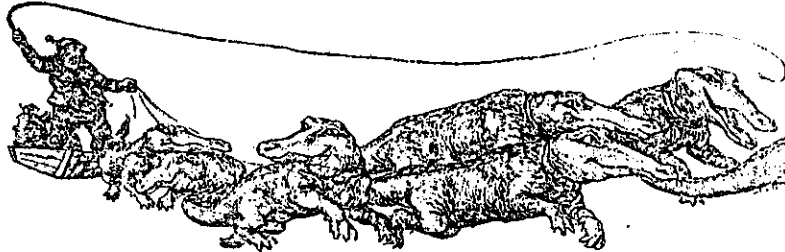


SEA GRANT PROGRAM



LAGNIAPPE

PUBLIC SHRIMP MEETING

The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force will be holding a meeting to gather public comment on two important shrimping issues:

- 1) Prohibiting night shrimping during the fall white shrimp season.
- 2) Increasing the current minimum mesh size of 1 1/4 inches on trawls, skimmers and wing nets during the fall white shrimp season.

The Task Force would like to hear from anyone who has feelings either way on the issues. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am on Thursday, January 17, 1991 and will be held in the Louisiana Room at Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters on Quail Drive in Baton Rouge.

MARICULTURE FORUM '91

The subject of mariculture or saltwater fish farming is one of increasing public interest in recent years. Louisiana has several such experimental projects in place now and several sport and commercial fishing organizations have expressed concern over their effects on natural fisheries production. The increasing use of levees, dams, gates and weirs for marsh management purposes also complicates the issue.

In order to bring into the open the effects of mariculture in Louisiana, the Nicholls State University Biology Department in cooperation with the Lafourche Parish Government, the Organization of Louisiana Fishermen, and the LSU Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant Program, will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, January 8 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Nicholls State University Student Union Ballroom in Thibodaux, LA.

The first half of the meeting will be educational, with speakers discussing all the issues and concerns about mariculture. During the second half of the meeting, the public will be able to state their opinions and ask questions on the subject.

Fisheries and wetlands are a strong part of Louisiana's heritage and economy. This promises to be a very interesting meeting to all concerned: landowners, commercial and sportfishermen, seafood dealers, biologists and government officials.

The public is encouraged to attend.

SHRIMP AND SHARK PANELS TO MEET

The Shark Advisory Panel to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will be meeting at 10:00 am on January 14, 1991, to review the proposed Shark Management Plan, which will reduce the Gulf Shark harvest.

On January 17, 1991 at 8:30 am, the Council's Shrimp Advisory Panel will meet to discuss improving the profits of the offshore shrimp fishery and goals for reducing finfish bycatch.

Both meetings will be held at the Airport Hilton at 901 Airline Highway in Kenner, Louisiana and are open to the public.

MORE RED SNAPPER REGULATIONS

The proposal to reduce the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper quota from 3.1 million pounds to 2.5 million pounds and the bag limit for sportfishermen from 7 red snappers to 6 has been changed by the Gulf Council at its November meeting.

The proposal is for a 2.0 million pound commercial quota and a 2 fish bag limit for sportfishermen. They also changed the target date for rebuilding red snapper stocks from the year 2000 to 2007. The new regulations are expected to reduce the catch for both sport and commercial fishermen by 48 percent.

The new regulations are expected to go into effect January 1, 1991.

Source: Gulf Fishery News. Vol. 10, No. 6.

MAGNUSON ACT CHANGED

The Magnuson Act which originally created the 200 mile limit and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has been reauthorized by congress with some changes:

- * Management responsibility for tuna, swordfish, sharks and billfish is given to the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- * Limits council members appointed after January 1, 1986 to 3 terms.
- * Increases the maximum civil penalties for violations of the act from \$25,000 to 100,000 and maximum criminal penalties from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
- * Allows the secretary of NMFS to take away the fishing permit of anyone who violates the law.
- * Requires that council membership be "fair and balanced" between commercial and recreational interests.
- * Requires the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to begin a study on shrimp trawl bycatch and prohibits regulations to reduce bycatch until January 1, 1994.

Source: Commercial Fisheries News. December 1990.

RELEASE BILLFISH ALIVE

Due to reports that some tuna longliners were killing marlins and sailfish accidentally caught on their lines, the National Marine Fisheries Service has issued a news release reminding fishermen that any such fish must be released alive.

A billfish caught by a longline must be released by cutting the line near the hook without removing the fish from the water. Violation of this regulation carries a penalty of \$25,000 per fish.

MARINE MAMMAL LOGS DUE

Gulf of Mexico longliners for tuna, shark and swordfish must send in their fishing logs by December 31, 1990. The logs must show where, when, and how long the vessel fished each day and any effects on marine mammals such as porpoises and whales. These logs will allow fishermen to renew their Marine Mammal Exemption Certificate for 1991.

Source: NMFS News Breaker, Southeast Region 11/16/90.

CIVIL PENALTIES

Civil penalties for the illegal taking of fish and wildlife are now in effect. These fines are put on top of the fines and jail time that a violator gets for breaking the law. What they amount to is paying the state back for fish or animals that are taken illegally. If a person is caught violating the law, all fish or seafood onboard, even that in the hold, will have a civil penalty applied to it. Listed below are the civil penalties for some of the more important species.

Fish Valued by the Pound

Shrimp.....	\$1.46	Sheepshead.....	\$ 0.18
Oyster.....	\$2.35	Black Drum.....	\$ 0.27
Blue Crab.....	\$0.41	Yellowedge Grouper.....	\$ 1.73
Mullet.....	\$0.64	Blacktip Shark.....	\$ 0.32
Swordfish.....	\$3.10	Yellowtip Tuna.....	\$ 1.52
Catfish.....	\$0.48	Bluefin Tuna.....	\$13.65

Fish Valued by the Inch

Redfish.....	From 37¢ per 1-inch fish to \$257.33 per 52-inch fish
Speckled Trout...From 37¢	per 1-inch fish to \$18.75 per 32-inch fish
Snapper.....	From 37¢ per 1-inch fish to \$123.34 per 42-inch fish
Croaker.....	From 37¢ per 1-inch fish to \$9.69 per 26-inch fish
Flounder.....	From 37¢ per 1-inch fish to \$15.55 per 29-inch fish
King Mackerel....	From 37¢ per 1-inch fish to \$262.07 per 66-inch fish

GAMEFISH BATTLE BREWING

With the 1991 session of the Louisiana State Legislature coming, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association has stated that they will be introducing legislation to make speckled trout and redfish, gamefish permanently. Already battle lines are forming. In a recent (December 3, 1990) letter to the Morning Advocate Newspaper, the President of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louisiana Restaurant Association asks for the resource to be shared between sport and commercial fishermen, pointing out that the restaurant industry is "Louisiana's single largest homogenous employer" with over 90,000 people directly employed in the industry and thousands more in the support industries.

Sport fishing interests who want to put commercial fishermen out of the business of catching specks and reds, also point to their many thousands of jobs created. When one puts a pencil to the numbers though, it makes you wonder what the fuss is about. If the entire commercial speckled trout quota were to be evenly divided among the 352,000 saltwater sportfishermen, (the number comes from a 1990 presentation by a D.W.F. administrator), each angler would get less than 3.6 pounds of speckled trout more per year. That is, of course, assuming that the legislature doesn't cut the sportsmen's daily limit during the debate.

Considering that the three year ban on commercial fishing for redfish expires in September, this may be a most eventful legislative session.

THE GUMBO POT
Quick Crawfish Jambalaya

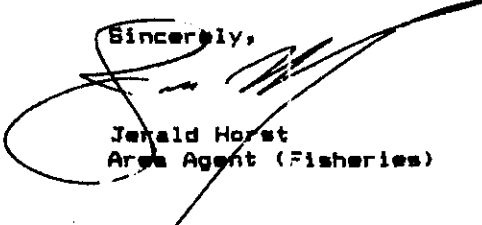
I borrowed this month's recipe from Dwight Landreneau, who is one of our fishery agents from western Louisiana. Besides being a crawfish expert, Dwight is famous for his cooking, so you should enjoy this recipe.

2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
1 c. chopped green pepper
1 c. each sliced celery and green onions including tops
1 clove garlic, minced
1 c. uncooked rice

1 1/2 c. chicken broth
1 can 14 1/2 to 16 oz. canned tomatoes (2 cups)
2 c. (8 oz.) crawfish tails
1 tsp. each salt and poultry seasoning
Ground red pepper to taste

Melt butter in a large skillet. Add green pepper, celery, and onions. Cook until tender but not brown. Stir in remaining ingredients. Bring to boil. Stir once or twice, reduce heat, cover and simmer 20 minutes or until rice is tender. Mixture should be slightly moist. Adjust seasonings, if necessary. Fluff with a fork. Make 6 servings.

Sincerely,



Jehald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)

kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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