



Louisiana State University

## **Agricultural Center**

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

July 18, 1992

Volume 16, No. 7

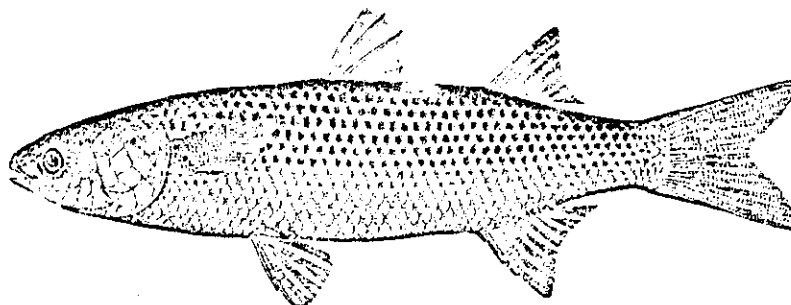
Jefferson Parish Office

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### **SEA GRANT PROGRAM**



### **LAGNIAPPE**

#### **STRIPED MULLET RULES RECOMMENDED**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its July meeting adopted as temporary and passed notice of intent to make permanent the following rules on the harvest of mullet.

- \* A 200 pound per day commercial limit between September 15 and October 15.
- \* A 1500 pound per day commercial limit the other 11 months of the year.
- \* A 100 pound per day recreational limit.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed rule should send their comments to Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P O Box 98000, Baton Rouge LA 70898.

#### **GULF REEF FISH PERMIT MORATORIUM**

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service have placed a three year moratorium on federal water permits to commercially fish reef fish (which covers snappers and groupers) while a permanent limited entry program is being developed. During this period, a person can only get a permit from another fisherman by buying his vessel and getting his permit transferred. The new owner will have a calendar year to meet the 50% proof of earned income from commercial fishing requirement if the seller met the requirement. Starting with 1993 renewals, a permit holder must show that he met the minimum income requirement in either of the two calendar years before the application.

## **BAYOU DES ALLEMANDS BRIDGE RULES CHANGED**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has asked the U.S. Coast Guard to change the rules on opening the Des Allemands Drawbridge over Bayou Des Allemands. The present rules require the bridge to open for vessels on signal between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. For openings after 9 p.m. and until 5 a.m. a 12 hour notice is required.

The proposed change would require a four hour notice from the vessel operator for the bridge to be opened at all times of the day. Comment on this proposed change should be sent to Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch, Hale Boggs Federal Building, Room 1313, 501 Magazine St., New Orleans LA 70130-3396 before July 27, 1992.

## **SHRIMP IMPORTS LAWSUIT**

The Earth Island Institute has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of State which may strongly affect the \$600 million shrimp importing industry. The suit charges that the Department is not upholding Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 which bans shrimp imports from countries whose commercial shrimp operations result in the capture and drowning of sea turtles.

Until now the Department of State has only applied the law to the 14 Caribbean countries that harvest shrimp rather than to the 80 countries worldwide that export shrimp to the U.S. The suit also charges that the Department of State has acted illegally by allowing a three year phase in period for foreign countries to adopt sea turtle conservation programs.

## **LOUISIANA OYSTER INDUSTRY CONVENTION**

The Louisiana Oyster Industry Convention will take place on Saturday, August 8, 1992 at the New Orleans Airport Hilton Hotel. The convention's educational program will heavily emphasize oyster marketing efforts. Registration is \$30 before August 1 and \$40 at the door. For information call 787-3131, 892-7525 or 947-2628.

## **ALLIGATOR SEASON SET**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has set the dates for the wild alligator season as September 5 through October 4. The season was set slightly later this year because the cool spring caused nesting and egg laying to be later.

Alligator harvest quotas will be set after biologists review the data gathered from aerial surveys of nesting grounds and night counts.

Last year 24, 546 tags were issued to 1,996 Louisiana harvesters. A total of 24,036 alligators were taken. Hide prices averaged \$32/foot resulting in about \$5,000,000 in income. In addition, about \$3,000,000 worth of meat was sold.

Louisiana has the largest harvest of the seven states which allow alligator hunting, with Florida coming in second with 8,436 alligators.

## **NEW FISHERIES LAWS**

The following bills were passed by the 1992 Louisiana Legislature and will go into effect August 21 (unless otherwise noted). If you would like more information on these new laws, call me at my office in Marrero.

**House Bill 198** (Act 44) - Jack Smith

Declares shrimp trawls, hoopnets and cast nets to part of Cajun and Creole heritage and as such, preserved in order to maintain Cajun and Creole culture.

**House Bill 201** (Act 162) - Jack Smith

Adds a representative of the wild catfish industry to the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

**House Bill 291** (Act 46) - Odinet

Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set aside areas east of the Mississippi River, not larger than 1/4 of the public seed grounds east of the river, for exclusive use of oyster sackers.

**House Bill 320** (Act 609) - Stelly

Creates a universal license which includes the basic fishing and hunting licenses, the saltwater trout, big game, special bow and muzzle loader licenses. Effective July 1, 1993.

**House Bill 365** (Act 81) - Triche

Outlaws the possession by fishermen of bowfin (choupique) eggs removed from the fish on land. (It's already illegal on the water.)

**House Bill 418** (Act 436) - Deville

Outlaws the use of yo-yos or trigger devices on Chicot Lake.

**House Bill 627** (Act 174) - Jack Smith

Legalizes the use of plumb staff beam trawls and defines them as "trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is under way".

**House Bill 654** (Act 851) - Sam Theriot and others

Repeals the prohibition on taking freshwater mussels in March, April and May and directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules on the harvest of freshwater mussels. Gives the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the power to revoke, deny or limit the number of mussel harvesting permits and outlaws the sale, trading or exchange of freshwater mussel meats.

**House Bill 656** (Act 49) - Odinet and others

Adds Chef Menteur Pass, the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac and that area of Calcasieu Lake where the Calcasieu Ship Channel meets the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, to the saltwater zone.

**House Bill 657 (Act 50) - Pierre and others**

Prohibits any person who possesses nets or traps from possessing freshwater gamefish.

**House Bill 658 (Act 852) - Sam Theriot and others**

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to use an adjudicatory hearing instead of a civil suit to recover the civil penalties on any fish or wildlife taken illegally. Also provides that anyone who does not pay the civil penalties shall lose his license and not be issued another one until the penalty is paid, including the cost of the hearing.

**House Bill 659 (Act 51) - Patti and others**

Allows sportfishermen to harvest oysters only in leased areas with written permission of the lease holder, in personal leased areas, and in public areas, and changes the limit from two sacks to one sack per person per day.

**House Bill 660 (Act 853) - Adley and others**

Creates a class three violation for purchase of any recreational fishing or hunting license or doing any recreational fishing or hunting that requires a license for a person who has had his license taken away. Limits the penalties to recreational fishing and hunting only.

**House Bill 661 (Act 855) - John and others**

Puts a penalty of \$25 per fish on any redfish or speckled trout taken over the recreational limit. (This law already applies to size limits.) Provides that all such monies collected shall go to the Conservation Fund of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries instead of to the local parishes.

**House Bill 662 (Act 854) - John and others**

Outlaws the use of elevated trotlines (often called high-water lines or fence lines locally). Defines them as any trotline with a staging over four feet long or one with any part of a hook above the water's surface.

**House Bill 665 (Act 52) - Durand and others**

Outlaws the use of stupefying (stunning) devices (equipment) to take fish.

**House Bill 671 (Act 53) - Schneider and others**

Includes marine finfish seasons in the rules that currently apply to the setting of seasons for shrimp, oyster, waterfowl and trapping.

**House Bill 673 (Act 859) - Sam Theriot and others**

Provides that the lifetime recreational fishing license shall only cover the basic and saltwater licenses and not freshwater trout and recreational gear licenses and that the lifetime hunting license only cover the basic, big game and bow hunting licenses. Increases the cost of non-resident combination lifetime licenses. Provides for proof of residency and penalties and creates rules for the Lifetime License Endowment Trust Fund. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 674 (Act 860) - Sam Theriot and others**

Outlaws dredging for clams at night.

**House Bill 679 (Act 551) - Quezairé**

Requires seafood peddlers to buy an occupational license of \$200, unless the peddler caught the products himself or bought them directly from fishermen or shrimpers, in which case the license shall be \$100. Effective January 1, 1993.

**House Bill 809 (Act 54) - Roach**

Increases the maximum size on recreational castnets from 6 feet to 8 1/2 feet radius.

**House Bill 895 (Act 55) - Montgomery and others**

Creates a Commission of Weights and Measures and amends much of the Louisiana Weights and Measures Law.

**House Bill 912 (Act 456) - Deano**

Removes the minimum size on softshell crabs and requires that buster crabs held by a fisherman must be held in a container separate from hard crabs and that the container be marked "peelers" or "busters". Provides that busters shall be recognized by being no further from molting than having a white line on the back paddle fin.

**House Bill 923 (Act 499) - Roach and others**

Clarifies the laws on alligator farming, hunting, processing and sales. Changes include repeal of the requirement that restaurants must have a license to sell alligator meat, outlawing the taking of alligators at night by any means, allowing for buyers to ship alligator eggs and parts out of state, and many others. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 994 (Act 619) - Bergeron**

Removes the 100 count minimum on white shrimp between October 15 and the third Monday in December. Effective immediately. Also requires the Shrimp Task Force to review this act and the mesh size laws on shrimp and recommendation for changes to the Legislature before next year.

**House Bill 1031 (Act 222) - Siracusa and others**

Outlaws the taking of oysters from unmarked oyster leases and that to prevent trawling in seeded areas requires that a lease be posted with a sign saying "NO TRAWLING OR SEINING--OYSTER LEASE".

**House Bill 1089 (Act 256) - Accardo and Landry**

Reduces the minimum commercial size on bullfrogs from 5 1/2 to 5 inches and lagoon frogs or grunners from 3 1/2 to 3 inches. Gives the power to stop the harvest of any reptile or amphibian to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, based on biology. Authorizes the Commission, after consultation with the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force to set rules and restrictions. Creates dealer and commercial collectors licenses for reptiles and amphibians. Outlaws the use of gasoline or chemicals to collect them and regulates the use of traps. Allows the collecting of greenfrogs, grassfrogs, leopardfrogs and springfrogs. Creates the Reptile and Amphibian Research Fund and the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force. Effective July 1, 1993.

**House Bill 1183 (Act 845) - Patti**

Outlaws the use of skimmer nets over leased oyster beds the year after seeding. (Trawls and seines are already outlawed.) Also, allows the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries to receive up to \$81,720 from private sources to develop predictive models for menhaden (pogies).

**House Bill 1213** (Act 874) - Farrar

Increases the basic nonresident sport fishing licenses by \$5.00 each and the nonresident temporary combination 2 day fishing license by \$4.00. Effective July 1, 1993. Also allows charter boats that are fishing in international waters and that don't carry more than 6 non-resident passengers to buy a \$200 license without the fishermen having to buy a license. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 1249** (Act 109) - Roach

Increases the limit that an oyster fisherman can take, in Calcasieu Lake, from 10 sacks to 15 sacks per day, for a 3 day period following any closure that lasts more than 7 days, during what is normally the open oyster season.

**House Bill 1314** (Act 528) - Sam Theriot and others

Changes many of the penalties for violations of laws concerning fishing, fur and alligator trapping and buying, and hunting. (The changes are too numerous to list here). Effective immediately.

**House Bill 1353** (Act 846) - Patti and Nunez

Allows any member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to hold or renew oyster leases, as long as they disqualify themselves on matters concerning the leases. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 1701** (Act 410) - McCallum and others

Prohibits the theft of an alligator and provides penalties up to 10 years in prison and \$3000 fine.

**House Bill 1733** (Act 187) - Triche

Outlaws the taking of bowfin (choupique) or their eggs in December, January and February.

**Senate Bill 215** (Act 537) - Johnson

Outlaws the disposal of used oil into city sewers and drainage systems, marine waters or any other surface or ground waters.

**Senate Bill 425** (Act 638) - Nunez and others

Removes the requirement that helpers on an oyster harvesting vessel must have a \$100 oyster harvesting license regardless of age. This law does not become effective until money is appropriated to offset the loss of funds caused by this act.

**Senate Bill 457** (Act 268) - Morial

Prohibits oyster container manufacturers, distributors, dealers, suppliers and wholesalers from selling containers to any person or company not certified by the Department of Health and Hospitals. Also prohibits resale of oyster containers.

**Senate Bill 594 (Act 641) - Chabert and Bergeron**

Changes the inside-outside shrimp line in Terrebonne Parish to the following lines starting on the north shore of Pass Wilson:

thence in a southeast direction to the most westerly point on the south shore of Pass Wilson lat. 29°03'56" N., long. 90°50'06" W.

thence in a southeasterly direction to the U.S. Coast Guard navigation light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca lat., 29°03'10" N., long. 90°50'27" W.

thence in an easterly direction along the south shore of Isles Dernieres to a tank battery on the east end of the Isles at Wine Island Pass, lat. 29°04'19" N., long. 90°38'29" W.

thence in a northeasterly direction to the most easterly point of Wine Island rock jetties, lat. 29°05'38" N., long. 90°36'30" N.

thence in a southeasterly direction to the tank battery on the west end of Timbalier Island lat. 29°05'26" N., long. 90°32'16" W.

**Senate Bill 595 (Act 568) - Chabert and Bergeron**

Requires the use of a LORAN to determine if a person is shrimping in inside or outside waters.

**Senate Bill 647 (Act 644) - Barro and others**

Regulates the taking of white alligators from the wild.

**Senate Bill 1073 (Act 998) - Nunez and others**

States that the Supreme Court decision on Phillips Petroleum Co. versus Mississippi does not give the state of Louisiana title over non-navigable water bottoms. Provides that the act is also not intended to change public access or use of such lands.

**Senate Bill 1113 (Act 590) - Nunez**

Changes the line in the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds where trammel nets, seines, gill nets and webbing is prohibited (The changes are too much to list here, call my office for a copy of the bill).

**House Resolution 2 - Sam Theriot and others**

Approves the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan.

**House Concurrent Resolution 33 - Roach**

Urges and requests the marking of the rock jetties at the south end of Calcasieu Lake.

**House Concurrent Resolution 34 - Roach**

Urges and requests state agencies to develop a job training program to teach displaced oyster fishermen other fishing methods, including oyster relaying.

**House Concurrent Resolution 35 - Roach**

Urges and requests state agencies to set up a pilot program for oyster relaying in Calcasieu Lake.

**House Concurrent Resolution 42 - Siracusa and others**

Suspends the receipt form requirement of the commercial fisherman's sales card until 60 days after the 1993 legislative session.

**House Concurrent Resolution 49 - Roach**

Urges and requests state agencies to expand the existing public oyster reef in Calcasieu Lake by creating a relaying and oyster seeding program.

**House Concurrent Resolution 59 - Sam Theriot and Landry**

Urges and requests the state Division of Administration to allow processors of river catfish to bid competitively on state contracts with processors of farm-raised catfish.

**House Concurrent Resolution 61 - Durand**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the eel population of the Atchafalaya Basin and determine if the use of eel pots should be allowed at certain times of the year.

**House Concurrent Resolution 70 - Siracusa and others**

Urges and requests state agencies to develop a program to classify Louisiana's water quality based on rainfall or other effects for the purposes of harvesting oysters and other mollusks.

**House Concurrent Resolution 71 - Siracusa and Bergeron**

Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop a permitting system to allow oyster lease holders to enter closed areas to check their oyster resources.

**House Concurrent Resolution 72 - Siracusa**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the effects of crab dredging and report to the Crab Task Force within one year.

**House Concurrent Resolution 134 - Alario, Roach and Ullo**

Urges and requests the Department of Natural Resources to complete the development of oil and gas site clearance rules on public water bottoms.

**House Concurrent Resolution 191 - Thompson**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of buying hunting and sportfishing licenses by credit card by telephone.

**House Concurrent Resolution 211 - Patti and others**

Allows commercial fishermen to take speckled trout on weekends during the open commercial season.

**House Concurrent Resolution 217 - Dewitt**

Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee of the Senate and House Committees on Natural Resources to study the duties, powers and functions of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and legal conflicts concerning them and report to the full legislature next year.



**House Concurrent Resolution 252 - Patti**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adopt and enforce vessel speed limits in Tiger Pass of the Mississippi River.

**House Concurrent Resolution 261 - Roach**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to do an aerial survey of the fourchette plant in coastal Louisiana and start an experimental control program.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 - Johnson**

Provides for the naming of a state amphibian.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 - Chabert**

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Governor's Task Force on Shrimp Management to study the use of shrimp sanctuaries.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 - Chabert and Bergeron**

Requests that the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees study the possibility of the legislature setting the offshore shrimping season.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 53 - Chabert**

Requests that the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees study whether to allow the offshore shrimping season to remain open year-round.

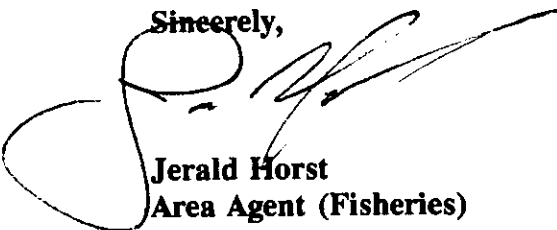
**Senate Concurrent Resolution 207 - Nunez and others**

Asks the US Congress and the Corps of Engineers to study the impacts of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and either abandon it or take action to lessen its environmental impacts.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 219 - Nunez**

Directs the Department of Natural Resources to renegotiate its contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers to allow the Plaquemines Parish local government to operate the Caernarvon Fresh Water Diversion Structure.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
Area Agent (Fisheries)

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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