Lagniappe

March 2020 • Volume 44, No. 3

State Management of Private Angling for Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico

A program to allow the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas) some management authority for recreational fishing of red snapper by private anglers in federal waters of the Gulf has been implemented effective Feb. 6, 2020.

Each Gulf state has limited authority to manage red snapper recreational private angling in state and federal waters off each state. Each state must:

- Set the fishing season
- Specify a bag limit
- Specify a minimum size limit (between 14- and 18-inches total length)

Each Gulf state has the option to establish a maximum size limit, and Florida, Alabama and Texas may request closure of areas of federal waters adjacent to state waters. The red snapper private angling quota will be allocated among the states as follows:

State	Louisiana	Mississippi	Alabama	Florida	Texas
Percentage of Total Private Angling Quota	19.1	3.6	26.3	44.8	6.2
Amount of 2020 Quota (pounds)*	816,233	151,550	1,122,662	1,913,451	265,105

**The amounts assume no state exceeds their 2019 annual catch limit.*

Increase in Cobia Recreational and Commercial Minimum Size Limit in the Gulf Zone

The final rule for Framework Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region will increase the recreational and commercial minimum size limit for cobia in the Gulf Zone (includes offshore of Louisiana) from 33 inches fork length to 36 inches fork length. The final rule will be effective on March 25, 2020.

Cobia Illustration by Diane Rome Peebles

Sea Grant Louisiana

A Joint Publication of Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter

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Changes to Allowable Fishing Effort in the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery

NOAA Fisheries announced an increase in the allowable amount of commercial shrimp trawl fishing effort in certain federal waters of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The increased allowable effort represents a relative maximum increase in Gulf-wide shrimp fishing effort of 21 percent. However, there is no expectation this action would result in a significant increase in effort.

The maximum possible increased shrimp fishing effort is unlikely to alter the red snapper rebuilding schedule and have little effect on future red snapper allowable catch due to increased bycatch of juvenile red snapper. The final rule will also revise the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery management plan framework procedure to allow changes to allowable fishing effort through an expedited process. Regulations will be effective March 9, 2020.

Online Ordering for Oyster Hatchery Larvae

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will be launching an online ordering portal to provide the oyster industry with hatchery-reared oyster larvae produced at the Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery.

Requests will only be taken via the online ordering portal and will be filled based on the order that they are received with prioritization given to in-state orders. Requests made in writing or by phone will not be accepted. Larger orders may be reduced or split based on the availability of larvae and seed. Payment will not be required at the time of request submission. LDWF will contact those requesting hatchery products at a later date for payment. The online ordering form can be found at *https://fs30.formsite.com/Jfroeba/form80/index.html*.

For more information, contact Program Development at (225) 765-3980, (855) 262-1764, or at *Oversightprograms@wlf.la.gov*.

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles

The most endangered sea turtle in the world, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), is found right here in the Gulf of Mexico. This endangerment is mainly from the disturbance of nesting sites and the disruption and selling of their eggs. A small percent of Kemp's Ridley die as bycatch, but this is easily eradicated by using Turtle Exclusion Devices on shrimp trawls.

Being the smallest sea turtle species, this turtle can weigh up to 100 pounds and become 20-28 inches in length. Their average life span in the wild is 50 years. Kemp's Ridley are bottom feeders, mostly eating crustaceans, squid, jellyfish and mollusks.

Although they have been known to migrate as far as Nova Scotia, they return back to the Gulf to nest on the beach where they were born. They may nest every year to every other year, unlike most sea turtles, and can lay over one hundred eggs per season. Louisiana might not have ideal beaches for these turtles to nest on, but coastal estuaries are known to be an important hibernation site for Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

– Sarah Hardy

Research Projects for 2020-2022 Omnibus Funding Cycle Announced

Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) is continuing to fund relevant research projects that address information gaps for coastal Louisiana communities and deal with our connection to water – from the Mississippi River to the coastal estuaries. For the 2020-2022 omnibus cycle, LSG will fund three integrated research teams and three core research projects. Below is a synopsis of the projects, along with a list of the investigators and their affiliations.

Core Research

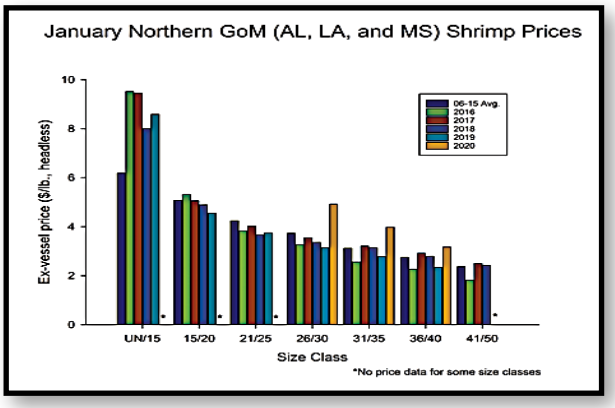
- Matthew Hiatt, Louisiana State University, Controls of Physical Drivers on Phytoplankton Community Adaptations in a River Diversion Influenced Estuary
- Aixin Hou, Louisiana State University, Innovative Biological Control of Vibrio Species in Gulf Oyster Hatcheries
- Beth Stauffer, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Understanding the Effects of Varying Prey Assemblages on Oyster Feeding in Restoration- and Climate-Impacted Estuaries

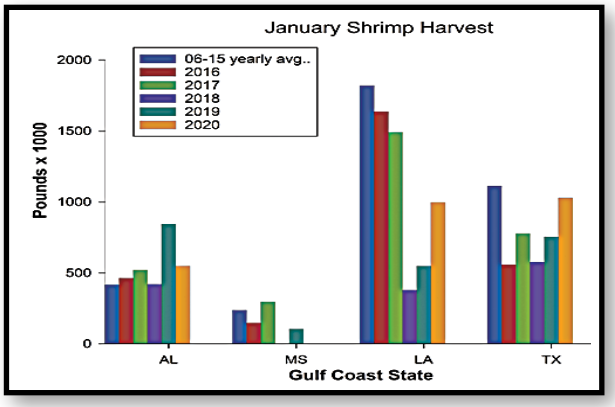
Integrated Research

- Zhiqiang Deng, Louisiana State University, Source Area-Based Monitoring, Modeling and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Pontchartrain (SAM3HAB)
- Carol Friedland, Louisiana State University, Incentives and Barriers to Increased Freeboard to Enhance Flood Resilience: Southeast Louisiana Perspectives
- Christopher Green, Louisiana State University AgCenter,Recovery of Louisiana's Iconic Shellfish: Diagnosis and Evaluation of White Spot Syndrome Virus Disease in Crawfish

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

Louisiana specific data portrayed in the graphics are selected from preliminary data posted by NOAA on its website. All data portrayed are subject to final revision and approval by NOAA. Shrimp landings are ex-vessel prices, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as "zero" in these graphics. Price graphics reflect central Gulf states only (Texas and Florida are reported independently). For more information, please refer to: *www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html*.





Important Dates & Upcoming Events

March 1 – Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish in federal waters opens.
March 11 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit 2020, The Pontchartrain Center, Kenner *www.lafisheriesforward.org/summit/*
March 17 – Shrimpers preseason meeting, Abbeville
March 18-19 – TED Checks, Intracoastal City
March 24 – Man Overboard Recovery Training, Intracoastal City
May 2 – Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish in federal waters closes

THE GUMBO POT

CREAMY CRAWFISH PASTA*

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture*.
For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit *http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/*.

Ingredients:

1 lb. fresh pasta
1 stick butter (do not use margarine)
½ c. chopped onions
3 to 10 cloves garlic, chopped (to your taste)
1 lb. Louisiana crawfish tails, boiled and peeled
1 pint half-and-half
1 to 2 tablespoons Creole seasoning
Note: depending on the size of the crawfish, it takes 3-5 pounds whole crawfish to yield 1 pound crawfish tails.

Method:

Cook pasta according to the directions on the package. Drain, then rinse under cool water. Drain again, thoroughly. Melt the butter in a large pot and sauté onions and garlic for 3 minutes. Add the seafood and sauté for 2 minutes. Add the half-and-half, then add several big pinches of Creole seasoning, tasting before the next pinch until you think it's right.

Cook for 5 to 10 minutes over medium heat until the sauce thickens. Add the pasta and toss well. Let it sit for 10 minutes or so over very low heat, stirring often.

Serve immediately with hot French bread.

*Serves 4-6

Be sure to visit the *Lagniappe* blog for additional news and timely events between issues.
https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management is encouraged to do so.

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