



## Current Fishery Related Bills for the 2023 Louisiana Legislative Session

Below is a very brief summary. Please visit <https://legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=current> for more information.

### **HB161 KERNER**

Pending House Ways and Means

TAX/SALES-USE, LOCAL-EXEM: Changes local sales and use tax exemptions for commercial fishermen and certain seafood processing facilities from optional to mandatory.

### **HB255 LANDRY**

Pending House Ways and Means

TAX CREDITS: Establishes a tax credit for restaurants that recycle oyster shells.

### **HB438 OWEN**

Pending House Natural Resources

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides relative to oyster seed ground vessel permits.

### **HB503 COX**

Pending House Natural Resources

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides relative to hull identification numbers issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

### **HB528 CORMIER**

Pending House Natural Resources

WILDLIFE/ENFORCEMENT: Increases penalties for violations of shrimp and crawfish labeling requirements in food service establishments.

### **HB570 SEABAUGH**

Pending House Natural Resources

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Establishes a monetary reward for feral hog tails (OR +\$2,027,716 SD EX See Note)

### **HB576 ORGERON**

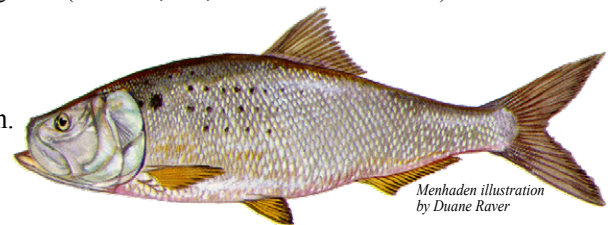
Pending House Natural Resources

FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Provides relative to the taking of menhaden.

### **HCR3 BEAULLIEU**

Pending House Natural Resources

WILDLIFE/REFUGES: Exempts users of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge from the requirement of completion of a self-clearing permit.



*Menhaden illustration  
by Duane Raver*

**SB33 B WHITE**

Pending Senate Finance

SUPPLEMENTAL PAY: Increases the amount of supplemental pay for eligible law enforcement and fire service employees.

**SB42 F. MILLS**

Pending Senate Transportation, Highways, and Public Works

WATER MANAGEMENT: Creates the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

**SB90 R. MILLS**

Pending Senate Natural Resources

WATER MANAGEMENT: Provides for Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for surface water.

**SB99 LAMBERT**

Pending Senate Natural Resources

FISH/FISHING: Provides for possession limits of certain species caught in saltwater areas of the state. (gov sig)

**SB103 LAMBERT**

Pending Senate Natural Resources

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT: Renames the Department of Natural Resources.

**SB133 HENSGENS**

Pending Senate Natural Resources

FISH/FISHING: Provides for the menhaden fishery.

**SB214 MCMATH**

Pending Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs

ECONOMIC DEVELOP DEPT: Renames and reorganizes the Department of Economic Development as the Department of Commerce, moves the office of multimodal commerce from the Department of Transportation and Development to the Department of Commerce, and transfers powers, duties and responsibilities with respect to multimodal commerce and corresponding department employees, equipment, facilities, funding and statutory entities from the Department of Transportation and Development to the Department of Commerce.

**Future Fishing, Seafood Industry Leaders Sought**

A one-year program to develop new leaders in the state's fishing and seafood industry is being spearheaded by Louisiana Sea Grant. The application process for the Fisheries & Seafood Leadership Program (FSLP) opened March 1.

"This program is perfect for emerging leaders in the seafood industry," said Julie Falgout, Louisiana Sea Grant seafood industry liaison. "Boat owners and captains, deckhands, docks and processors, individuals in the insurance and finance industries, fisheries managers – anyone interested in helping our state's seafood industry navigate the coming decades – should apply."

FSLP's first class will begin in the fall and graduate in Summer 2024. Participants will learn about:

- Leadership skill building
- Effective communication
- Emerging technologies
- Business and marketing trends
- Commodity policy issues
- National, state and community-level public policies
- Economic development

FSLP tuition is \$200, but scholarships may be available. Members of the first cohort will be announced in May.

"This program has been in the planning stages since before the pandemic," said Falgout. "We're excited about providing this opportunity to help our fishing industry become more resilient and advocate for their needs."

For more information, contact Falgout at [Jfalgout@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:Jfalgout@agcenter.lsu.edu), (985) 856-2477 or visit [www.laseagrant.org/outreach/fslp/](http://www.laseagrant.org/outreach/fslp/).

Program sponsors also are being sought.

## Louisiana Master Naturalist Program Marks 10 Years

Initially established in 2012 in the New Orleans area, the past 10 years of the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association (LMNA) has seen it grown from one to seven chapters and more than 700 active members across the state.

“Thousands of Louisianians have enhanced their environmental literacy, and their role as ‘citizen scientists’, through the cumulative efforts of chapters of the state LMNA program,” said Rusty Gaudé, the Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter extension agent who spearheaded the creation of the program. “As a Sea Grant and AgCenter agent, I’m proud to have had a hand in that outcome.”

Each chapter hosts classes and field days, getting chapter members and community partners out in nature to promote conservation, learn about local flora and fauna, as well as other environmental and ecological characteristics. Chapters are the Greater New Orleans Chapter (New Orleans), the Northwest Chapter (Shreveport/Bossier), the Northeast Chapter (Monroe), the CenLA Chapter (Alexandria), the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter (East Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes), the Southwest Chapter (Lake Charles) and the Acadiana Chapter (Lafayette).

In the last decade, the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans (LMNGNO) has obtained a physical headquarters and can now house and lend equipment to chapter members for events and research. Additionally, the New Orleans chapter hopes to develop specialist programs to further enhance competence of their members, as well as create grant application opportunities.

LMNGNO has also created a program to engage certified naturalists who have already completed the workshops but want to continue learning. The Continuing Education and Engagement Program will include study groups, seminars and outings and act as a qualifying event for the Master Naturalist continuing education requirement.

Master Naturalists chapter members focus on learning all about the geological, biological, botanical and entomological aspects of their locale. And through public outreach, Master Naturalists engage the community in the environment that surrounds them. Master Naturalist certification classes are open to the public who are 18 years or older. Expert Master Naturalists lead prospective members through eight to ten workshops. Each workshop is six hours long and consists of classroom training and field work.

If interested in becoming a Master Naturalist, the best place to start is by attending a general membership meeting. Chapter and other information can be found at [www.louisianamasternaturalist.org](http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org).

## Louisiana Private Recreational Red Snapper Season to Open May 26

The 2023 private recreational red snapper season will begin on Friday, May 26, 2023, in both state and federal waters. The season will run seven days a week with a daily bag limit of three fish per person and a 16-inch total minimum length limit.

The season will remain open until recreational landings approach or reach Louisiana’s annual private recreational allocation of 934,587 pounds while attempting to preserve enough allocation for the Labor Day weekend.

LDWF also reminds anglers that gray triggerfish season will overlap the red snapper season on the opening Memorial Day weekend, but will be closed from June 1 through July 30, 2023.

### Resident and Non-Resident Recreational Anglers:

- Must possess valid Louisiana basic and Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses as well as a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (free of charge) to fish for or possess red snapper, as well as other offshore species.
- Anglers can get a ROLP via the ROLP website. Once you have registered, save an electronic copy on your mobile device or print a copy of your ROLP indicating your valid ROLP and carry it on your person along with applicable licenses while fishing offshore.
- Anglers on a paid charter trip, do not need a ROLP, but a ROLP is required for charter captains.

### State For-Hire Charter Vessels:

- State for-hire charter captains (those who do not have a federal Gulf of Mexico charter/headboat permit for reef fish) are not allowed to fish in federal waters.
- Must also possess a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (free of charge) to fish for or possess red snapper, as well as other offshore species.
- May only fish for red snapper in state waters (within the nine nautical mile state water boundary), when the Louisiana recreational red snapper season is open.

### Federal For-Hire Charter Vessels:

- Vessels with federal reef fish for-hire permits will remain under federal regulations and may only fish during federally established seasons.
- May only fish in federal waters during the federal for-hire season – check the Gulf Council website for dates in the coming weeks.
- If a federal for-hire charter captain also holds a Louisiana charter license, s/he may also fish state waters only when the federal for-hire charter season overlaps with the Louisiana season.

All recreational offshore anglers will be subject to periodic, random LA Creel dockside surveys and associated online and phone effort surveys, as has been the case since 2014 when LA Creel began. While these surveys are voluntary, we strongly urge your participation, as this will be the primary method for tracking harvest. The accuracy and reliability of harvest estimates depend on angler participation in LA Creel, so LDWF needs as many anglers as possible to complete both dockside and phone and email surveys.

Those who fish for red snapper will also have the option to electronically report their catch via the ROLP mobile and desktop version of the ROLP website. LDWF hopes that voluntary use of electronic reporting will provide the department with a larger sample size than standard dockside and telephone sampling, possibly improving the quality of recreational landings data to make future management recommendations. If you opt into voluntary electronic reporting, you may also be contacted to participate in LA Creel.

## **Reminder: Recreational and Commercial Cobia Bag Limit Reductions**

Since April 20, 2023, recreational and commercial Cobia bag limits decreased from the two fish daily bag limit to one fish daily per person. Additionally, a two fish per vessel/per day limit was established regardless of the number of trips for both recreational and commercial harvest. The size limit will remain 36 inches.

These reductions are already in effect in federal waters. These limits will now be consistent across state and federal waters.

## **Modify Vermilion Snapper Catch Levels in the Gulf of Mexico**

NOAA Fisheries announces a final rule to increase catch limits for Gulf of Mexico vermilion snapper.

*When the Rule Will Take Effect:*

- Regulations will be effective May 25, 2023

*What This Means:*

The final rule and framework action will increase the catch limits as indicated below. The current and new overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC) and stock annual catch limit (ACL) are shown in pounds whole weight. However, because the new catch limits were derived, in part, using updated recreational landing estimates, they cannot be directly compared to the current catch limits.

Catch Limit Type	Current	New
OFL	3,490,000	8,600,000
ABC	3,110,000	7,270,000
ACL	3,110,000	5,452,600

## Temporary Rule to Implement Interim Measures to Reduce Overfishing of Gag in the Gulf of Mexico

- NOAA Fisheries is implementing a Temporary Rule that is intended to reduce overfishing of gag under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). These changes are based on the results of the most recent stock assessment and the recommendations of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee.
- The stock assessment used updated data, including data from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES), which replaced the MRIP Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS). The stock assessment concluded that the population of Gulf gag is too low (overfished) and that too many gag are being caught (overfishing is occurring).
- These interim measures became effective May 3, 2023.

Table 1: Current and new annual catch limits (ACL) and annual catch targets (ACT) for Gulf gag. All numbers are in pounds gutted weight.

	Stock ACL	Commercial ACL	Recreational ACL	Commercial ACT/Quota	Recreational ACT
Current*	3,120,000	1,217,000	1,903,000	939,000	1,708,000
New*	661,901	258,000	403,759	199,000	362,374

\*Note that the "Current" and "New" catch limits cannot be directly compared. This is due to the fact that "Current" recreational catch is estimated using MRIP-CHTS, while the "New" recreational catch limits are estimated using MRIP-FES. MRIP-FES estimates of effort and catch are substantially higher than MRIP-CHTS estimates. In addition, since the commercial catch limits are rounded in the "new" catch limits, the commercial and recreational ACLs do not add up to the stock ACL.

- The temporary rule changes the dates of the gag recreational fishing season as follows:
  - The 2023 gag season will open on September 1 rather than June 1.
  - The gag season closes on November 10, 2023, unless NOAA Fisheries projects that the gag recreational ACL will be harvested prior to that date, in which case, NOAA Fisheries would close the fishery to recreational gag harvest as of the projected date.
- This temporary rule is effective for 180 days (until October 30, 2023). NOAA Fisheries is expecting to extend the rule for up to an additional 186 days (366 days total).
- The reduction in harvest and modification of the recreational fishing season is necessary to reduce overfishing of gag in 2023 while maximizing the amount of fishing days. This is being done while a rebuilding plan for the Gulf gag stock is developed by the Council. The rebuilding plan would reduce the gag overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, ACLs, and ACTs, and is anticipated to be implemented in early 2024.



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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# THE GUMBO POT

## **Avocado & Shrimp Salad with Creole Seasoning & Avocado Ranch Dressing\***

Recipe courtesy of *Louisiana Kitchen & Culture*.

For more recipes or to subscribe to their magazine or free newsletter, please visit <http://louisiana.kitchenandculture.com/>



### **Dressing**

- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¾ cup buttermilk
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 large ripe avocado

### **Shrimp with Spice Rub**

- 1 ½ teaspoons dried thyme
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ teaspoon granulated onion
- ½ teaspoon granulated garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 20 to 25 large shrimp (about 1 pound), peeled and deveined
- 5 tablespoons canola oil

### **Salad**

- 6 to 8 ounces mixed baby salad greens
- 1 medium-large carrot, peeled and grated (about 1 cup)
- 1 skin-on English cucumber, thinly sliced
- 1 ripe avocado, halved and pitted
- 2 medium tomatoes, cut into wedges (about 10 wedges each)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### **Method:**

To make the dressing, in a blender, combine the sour cream, buttermilk, garlic, chives, cilantro, and salt. Using a spoon, scoop the flesh from each avocado half into the blender. Pulse until mixture is smooth but still thick. Pour the dressing into a bowl, cover, and refrigerate until needed; it will keep for up to 2 days.

To make the spice rub, whisk together spices and seasonings for the rub. Working a few at a time, toss the shrimp in the rub to coat and set aside.

Heat the canola oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil shimmers, carefully add the shrimp and cook for 1-2 minutes, until they start to turn pink. Flip the shrimp and cook until just done, 1-2 additional minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain.

To assemble, toss the salad greens, carrot, and cucumber. Stir the dressing and pour about ½ cup of dressing over the salad; toss to coat. Divide among 4 chilled salad plates. Slice the avocado halves into ¼ inch slices and remove the peel; use alternating pieces of avocado, tomatoes, and shrimp to evenly top each salad. Drizzle the remaining dressing over each salad and season to taste with salt and pepper.

\*Serves 4



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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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