



Lagniappe readers, it's that time of year again when we recount the current fisheries-related legislation that is currently being proposed in the Louisiana Legislature. All information on these bills is publicly available at <https://legis.la.gov/>. This information was updated on March 27, 2024.

House Bills

House bills in this legislative session include bills on storage, processing, and sale of seafood (Oysters HB342; Shrimp HB 584; Seafood Imports HB 676, 693, and 748).

HB 342 by Rep. Jerome Zeringue

Representing Parishes: Terrebonne
District 52

Prohibits holding or storing oysters in containers in unapproved or closed areas.

HB 584 by Rep. Timothy P. Kerner

Representing Parishes: Jefferson
District 84

Prohibits the sale of farm-raised shrimp in Louisiana.

HB 676 by Rep. Timothy P. Kerner

Representing Parishes: Jefferson
District 84

Establishes a seafood importer license for wholesale/retail dealers and retail dealers (OR INCREASE SD RV).

HB 693 by Rep. Mike Bayham

Representing Parishes: St. Bernard
District 103

Establishes a seafood import license for seafood dealers (OR INCREASE SD RV).

HB 748 by Rep. Jessica Domangue

Representing Parishes: Terrebonne
District 53

Provides relative to imported seafood safety fees (EG INCREASE SD RV).

House bills also include removal of gear restrictions for shrimpers targeting bait shrimp (HB 460).

HB 460 by Rep. Timothy P. Kerner
 Representing Parishes: Jefferson
 District 84
 Allows full size trawl gear for bait shrimp on permitted vessels.

Increasing the state's capacity to conduct research on state-owned property (HB 350).

HB 350 by Rep. Joseph Orgeron
 Representing Parishes: Jefferson and Lafourche
 District 54
 Authorizes the use of state property for seafood research.

House bills also include changes to recreational fishing licensing (HB 400, HB 543, HB 661) and relief for charter boat fishing guides that are obstructed from working (HB 540).

HB 400 by Rep. Neil Riser
 Representing Parishes: Caldwell, Catahoula, Franklin, La Salle and Ouachita
 District 20
 Provides relative to lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses (EG +\$1,158,500 SD RV).

HB 543 by Representative Jerome Zeringue
 Representing Parishes: Terrebonne
 District 52
 Provides relative to saltwater and charter fishing licenses and fees (OR NO IMPACT).

HB 661 by Rep. Marcus Bryant
 Representing Parishes: Iberia, Lafayette and St. Martin
 District 96
 Provides relative to charter boat fishing guide licensing.

HB 540 by Rep. Brett Geymann
 Representing Parishes: Beauregard and Calcasieu
 District 35
 Provides for eligibility of charter boat fishing guides for the Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund

House Concurrent Resolutions

House concurrent resolutions in this legislative session suspends trip tickets in commercial freshwater fish fisheries (HCR4).

HCR4 by Rep. Chad Boyer
 Representing Parishes: St. Landry and St. Martin
 District 46
 Suspends requirements for record keeping regarding wild-caught freshwater fish.

Looks to compel the federal government to impose changes to the seafood import industry (HCR 9 and HCR 10).

HCR9 by Rep. Timothy P. Kerner
 Representing Parishes: Jefferson
 District 84
 Memorializes Congress to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat and crawfish.

HCR10 by Rep. Timothy P. Kerner
 Representing Parishes: Jefferson
 District 84
 Memorializes Congress to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood.

Senate Bills

Senate bills this legislative session outline changes to several recreational fish size and bag limit changes (SB 211 and SB 320) as well as changes to gear restrictions in the shrimp fishery (SB 273).

SB 211 by Sen. Eddie Lambert

Representing Parishes: Ascension, Livingston, St. James
District 18

Provides for size limits for spotted sea trout and red drum. (8/1/24)

SB 273 by Sen. Bob Hensgens

Representing Parishes: Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion
District 26

Provides for bait shrimp. (8/1/24)

SB 320 by Sen. Caleb Kleinpeter

Representing Parishes: East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Landry,
St. Martin, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

District 17

Provides for largemouth bass bag and size limits. (8/1/24)

LDWF Is Announcing the Launch of the New Marine Aquaculture Grant Program Under 2019 Flood Disaster Assistance Funding

In August 2023, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) received approval for \$58 million in federal disaster assistance funds requested from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). To combat the aftermath of the historic 2019 Mississippi and Atchafalaya flood, funds were appropriated to aid in the implementation of a number of resiliency measures outlined in the spending plan developed by LDWF.

One of the resiliency efforts included in the approved spending plan is the establishment of the Marine Aquaculture Grant Program. This grant program, which was allocated \$1 million, is intended to encourage and create new forms of aquaculture in Louisiana. The introduction of new aquaculture methods will increase economic opportunities and enhance the sustainability and resilience of Louisiana's seafood industry.

Funding is available to any governmental and public entity as well as private organizations and companies interested in developing a marine aquaculture project on land or in territorial waters. Pilot projects funded under the program may include hatcheries, nurseries, grow out facilities, aquacultures parks or zones, or other related operations. Any saltwater species already on the Domesticated Aquatic Organism (DAO) list, or those capable of being added to the DAO list will be considered for funding. However, any oyster related aquaculture activity is not eligible under the program.

LDWF will conduct an evaluation process to identify the most advantageous and financially efficient projects. If a project is selected, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining all required permits and executing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with LDWF. The selected applicant(s) will be reimbursed only for eligible expenses under this program. Project-related costs incurred prior to the execution of the CEA are not eligible for reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted via email or hardcopy through May 31, 2024. You can obtain an application packet here or by emailing Jason Froeba at jfroeba@wlf.la.gov.

For further information regarding program details, please contact Jason Froeba at 225-765-0123 or jfroeba@wlf.la.gov.



LDWF Commercial Fishing License and Trip Ticket Staff Announce Locations and Dates

Beginning next month, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will offer new or renewal commercial fishing licenses and boat registration transactions at field offices. Additionally, trip ticket staff will be present to train new or existing seafood dealers on the process of filling out trip tickets, to answer questions regarding trip tickets, and to take trip ticket orders (trip tickets will not be distributed on site). LDWF offers this service as a convenience to our commercial fishermen who need a commercial license and in-person assistance without having to drive to Baton Rouge.

Staff will be available at the following dates and locations:

New Orleans Office

2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 438
New Orleans, LA
April 16 – 18
8 am – 3:30 pm

Lake Charles Office

1025 Tom Watson Rd.
Lake Charles, LA
April 29 – 30
9 am – 3:30 pm

Bourg Office

468 Texas Gulf Rd.
Bourg, LA
April 23 – 25
8 am – 3:30 pm

Lafayette Office

200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA
May 1 – 2
9 am – 3:30 pm



Commercial License Sales:

Acceptable forms of payment will include personal checks, cashier's checks, money orders and cash. Customers purchasing licenses are asked to bring their license renewal notices to avoid processing delays.

First-time applicants can apply by mail or in person. When applying in person, you must provide the following:

- Resident applicants must provide proof of residency such as a Louisiana driver's license (held continuously for 12 months), voter's registration, vehicle registration and state income tax.
- Non-resident applicants must provide proof of residency from their domiciliary state, such as a driver's license, voter's registration, vehicle registration, and state income tax.
- Applicants applying for a license in a business name must provide documentation showing proof of valid federal tax ID number assigned to the business name and proof of authorized signature, or an occupational license will be required.

For commercial license inquiries, contact (225) 765-2898.

Trip Tickets:

The Trip Ticket program requires wholesale/retail seafood dealers and wholesale/retail reptile and amphibian dealers to purchase or accept transfers of catch from commercial fishermen or reptile/amphibian collectors to submit trip tickets to LDWF. Trip tickets capture information about the catch – what it is, where it was caught, how it was caught and how much was caught. Fresh product license holders (commercial fishermen licensed to sell their catch directly to consumers) must also submit trip tickets.

The trip ticket information is confidential and protected under state and federal law. LDWF uses this information to improve assessments of fish populations and inform management.

More information about the Trip Ticket program, including how-to videos, is available on the LDWF website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/trip-tickets.

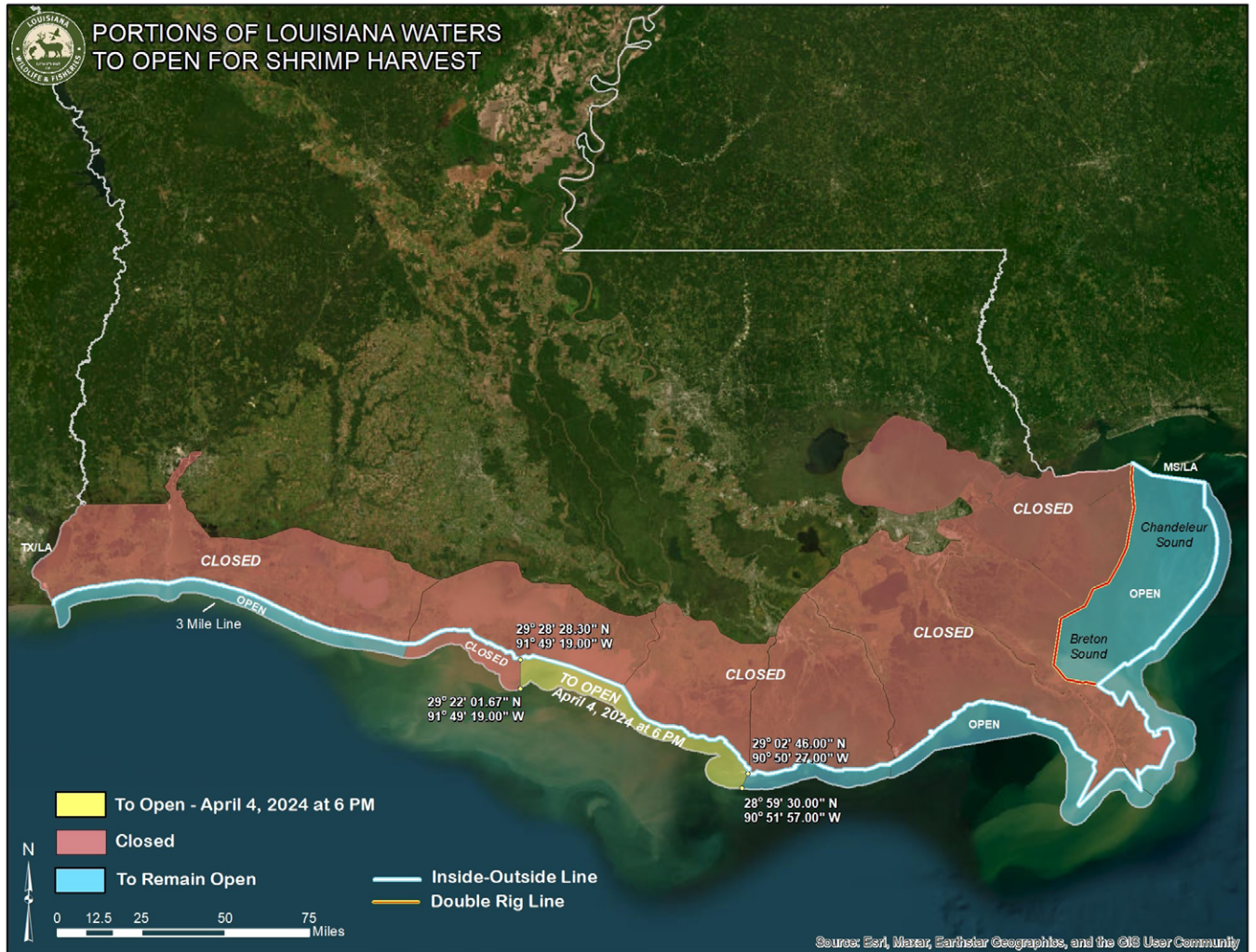
For trip ticket inquiries, call (225) 765-2449 or email triptickets@wlf.la.gov.

Shrimp Season to Open in a Portion of State Outside Waters on April 4

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced that the portion of state outside waters between Caillou Boca and Mound Point on Marsh Island shall reopen to shrimping at 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 2024.

The opening area is defined as follows:

The eastern boundary line originates on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at 29 degrees 02 minutes 46.00 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 50 minutes 27.00 seconds west longitude and ends at a point on the three-mile line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30.00 seconds north latitude, -90 degrees 51 minutes 57.00 seconds west longitude. The western boundary line originates on the inside/outside line at the southernmost point of Mound Point on Marsh Island at 29 degrees 28 minutes 28.30 seconds north latitude, -91 degrees 49 minutes 19.00 seconds west longitude and ends at a point on the three-mile line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) at 29 degrees 22 minutes 01.67 seconds north latitude, -91 degrees 49 minutes 19.00 seconds west longitude.



Recent biological sampling conducted by the department has indicated that small white shrimp, which have over-wintered in these waters from January through the present, have reached marketable sizes, and the closure is no longer necessary. Significant numbers of smaller-sized white shrimp still remain in the western portion of the Vermilion outside waters to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal, and these waters will remain closed to shrimping until further notice. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

For more information, contact Peyton Cagle at (337) 491-2213 or pcagle@wlf.la.gov.

Reminder Upcoming Oyster Season Closures for the 2023-2024 Public Oyster Season

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) would like to remind oyster harvesters that all public oyster areas, with the exception of Calcasieu Lake, will close at one-half hour after sunset on Monday, April 1, 2024.

For the full 2023-24 oyster season dates and the provisions that will be in effect, visit:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/the-louisiana-wildlife-and-fisheries-commission-sets-the-20232024-oyster-season>

Public notice of any opening, delay, or closing of a season will be provided at least 72 hours prior to such action unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health for public concerns.

Area / Public Ground	Season
East of MS River, North of MRGO Sacking only	Closes April 1, 2024
East of MS River, South of MRGO Sacking only	Closes April 1, 2024
Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/ Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds Sacking	Closes April 1, 2024

Interior Department Proposes Second Offshore Wind Sale in Gulf of Mexico

In another step by the Biden-Harris administration to support the growing momentum across America for a clean energy economy, the Department of the Interior announced its proposal for a second offshore wind energy auction in the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed lease sale includes four areas offshore Louisiana and Texas, totaling 410,060 acres, which have the potential to power 1.2 million homes.

The announcement is part of the administration’s commitment to expand offshore wind opportunities, building on investments made by the President’s Investing in America agenda to develop a clean energy economy, create good-paying jobs for American workers and make our communities more resilient.

“Today’s announcement is another step forward in the Biden-Harris administration’s pursuit of building a clean energy future and permitting 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2030,” said secretary Deb Haaland. “We are taking action to jumpstart America’s offshore wind industry and using American innovation to deliver reliable, affordable power to homes and businesses, while also addressing the climate crisis.”

“BOEM is proud to play a leading role in the Administration’s clean energy efforts,” said Bureau of Ocean Energy Management director Elizabeth Klein. “We look forward to receiving feedback from tribes, other government agencies, ocean users, local communities, and others to minimize any impacts to natural and cultural resources, reduce potential conflicts with ocean uses and maintain a healthy marine ecosystem.”

Since the start of the Biden-Harris administration, the department has approved the nation’s first six commercial scale offshore wind projects, held four offshore wind lease auctions – including a record-breaking sale offshore New York and the first-ever sales offshore the Pacific and Gulf Coasts, initiated environmental review of 12 offshore wind projects and advanced the process to access and establish additional Wind Energy Areas in Oregon, Gulf of Maine and the Central Atlantic. The Department has also taken steps to evolve its approach to offshore wind to drive towards union-built projects and a domestic based supply chain.

With today’s proposed sale, BOEM is seeking feedback on various aspects of the proposed lease areas, including size, orientation, and location of the four lease areas and which areas, if any, should be prioritized for inclusion or exclusion from this lease sale. BOEM is also seeking comment on potential lease revisions to include the production of hydrogen or other energy products using wind turbine generators on the lease.



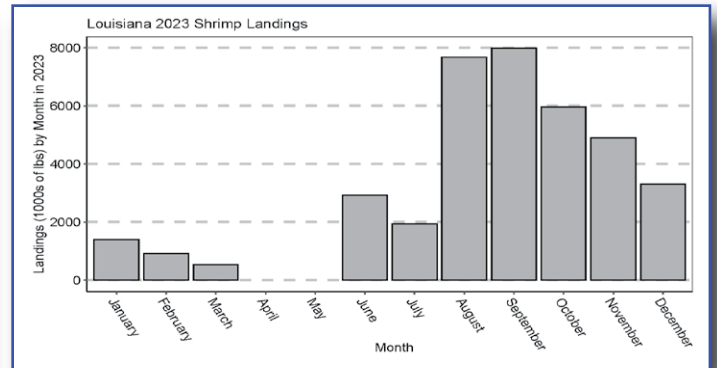
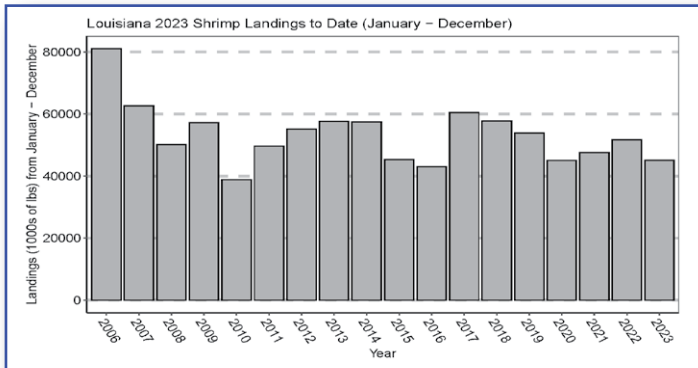
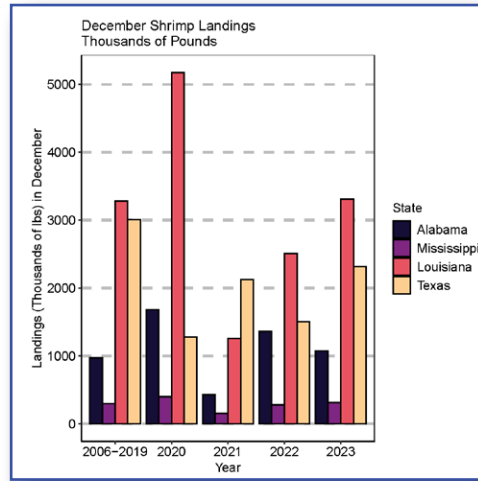
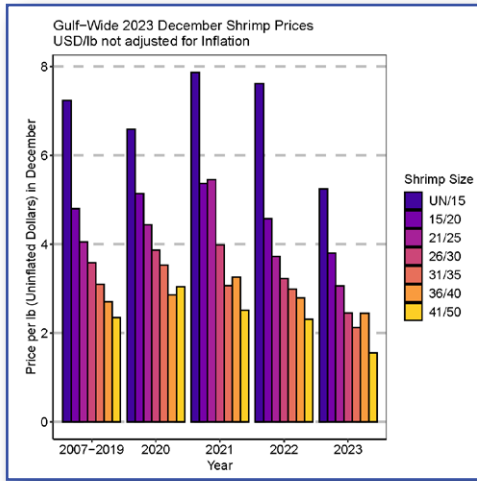
BOEM is considering lease stipulations to ensure that communities, particularly those which are historically underserved, are considered and engaged early and often throughout the offshore wind energy development process. Proposed bidding credits include funding for fisheries compensatory mitigation and workforce development.

BOEM is proposing to conduct simultaneous auctions for each of the four lease areas using multiple factor bidding. BOEM will use new auction software for enhanced efficiency, with minor adjustments to auction rules used in previous offshore wind lease auctions.

The Proposed Sale Notice will publish in the Federal Register March 21, 2024, initiating a 60-day public comment period ending on May 20, 2024. If BOEM decides to proceed with the auction, the next step would be publication of a Final Sale Notice.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the March issue includes data through November. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf states and no estimations have been made.



THE GUMBO POT

Blackened Grouper with Creole Mayonnaise*

Recipe adapted from Great American Cookbooks – Tennessee Hometown Cookbook



Ingredients:

Creole Mayonnaise

- ½ to ⅓ cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp finely chopped shallots
- ½ tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- ½ tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- ½ lemon juiced

Blackened Grouper

- 4 to 6 grouper fillets
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- ½ tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp ground cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp lemon zest

Instructions:

Creole Mayonnaise

1. In a bowl, combine all ingredients and stir; chill before serving.

Blackened Grouper

1. Rinse grouper fillets; pat dry with paper towels and set in a glass baking dish.
2. In a small bowl, stir together butter and oil; gently brush over fillets.
3. To make blackened seasoning, combine remaining ingredients in a small bowl; sprinkle about half over fillets.
4. Bake at 425° for 12 minutes.
5. Flip fillets and coat with remaining blackened seasonings; broil until golden and blackened on top.
6. Fish should flake with fork when done. Serve with Creole Mayonnaise.

**Serves 4 – 6*



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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.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Jeffrey Plumlee at jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu

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<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>

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