



April 2025 • Volume 49, No. 4

Louisiana Private Recreational and State Charter Red Snapper Season to Open May 1

The 2025 private recreational and state charter red snapper season will begin on Thursday, May 1, 2025, in both state and federal waters for private recreational anglers and in state waters only within nine (9) miles for state charter vessels. The season will run seven days a week with a daily bag limit of four 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 894,955 pounds, as monitored on a weekly basis by LA Creel. LA Creel is the active management method utilized by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to estimate recreational and state charter harvest of fish species landed in Louisiana with the goal of providing anglers increased fishing opportunity.



"We are excited to bring back another successful red snapper season to our sportsmen this year," said LDWF secretary Madison Sheahan. "Thanks to our LA Creel program, last year, Louisiana anglers experienced a historical red snapper season – fishing for a total of 151 days, and this year we are hoping to provide even more opportunity."



Resident and Non-Resident Recreational Anglers:

- Must possess valid Louisiana basic and Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses as well as a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP), 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 (<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/rolp>). 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.
- Recreational anglers onboard vessels that fish for or possess Gulf reef fish in Gulf of America federal waters must possess onboard and use (1) non-stainless steel circle hooks, (2) a dehooking device and (3) a descending device or venting tool. Additional information about these requirements can be found on the LDWF website or the printed version of the 2025 Louisiana Recreational Fishing Regulations.

State For-Hire Charter Vessels:

- State for-hire charter captains (those who do not have a federal Gulf of America charter/headboat permit for reef fish) are not allowed to fish in federal waters.
- Must also possess a Charter 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 boundary established for reef fish), 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 (<https://gulfcouncil.org>) 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 phone/email effort surveys, as has been the case since 2014 when LA Creel began to support active management of the red snapper season. 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/email surveys.

LDWF encourages anglers to reduce barotrauma while fishing for red snapper and other reef fish by using descending devices to return fish to a survivable depth before being released. Please see the LDWF website at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/barotrauma> for more information.

LWF Commission Adopts NOI to Establish Recreational Wahoo Regulations

At its March meeting, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) passed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to establish a five fish per person recreational bag and possession limit for wahoo.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) presented the following rationale to aid the commissioners with their decision:

- Trips with large amounts of wahoo landed in Texas from the Flower Garden National Banks have prompted discussions of potential federal management of the species at the Gulf Council level.
- Preferred management of the species should be at the state level to avoid potentially more restrictive federal regulations for isolated events.
- Proposed bag limit encompasses 100 percent of the retained bag limits LDWF has observed dockside and the majority of those trips are not to the Flower Garden Banks.
- Regulations provide a precautionary approach in terms of reducing large one-time catches from wahoo aggregations.

“This is a prime example of LDWF’s commitment to expanding state management and increasing fishing opportunities of offshore species for our sportsmen,” said LDWF secretary, Madison Sheahan. “I am a firm believer that the best management for Louisiana fisheries comes at the state level, as our anglers and biologists are the ones interacting with our natural resources on a daily basis which allows us to provide more active management to improve our fisheries and increase opportunity.”

A copy of the Notice of Intent can be found here. (<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/lwf-commission-adopts-noi-to-establish-recreational-wahoo-regulations>)

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov by May 1, 2025.

LDWF to Begin Online Ordering for Oyster Hatchery Larvae

On March 17, 2025, at 8 a.m., the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) opened its 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 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 www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/alternative-oyster-culture.

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

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with managing and protecting Louisiana’s abundant natural resources. For more information, visit us at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>.

LDWF to Hold Commercial Fishing License Sales at Select Offices: LDWF Trip Ticket Staff will Accompany Licensing Staff

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will offer new or renewal commercial fishing licenses and boat registration transactions at field offices in April. Additionally, trip ticket staff will be present to train new or existing seafood dealers on the process of filling out trip tickets, answering questions regarding trip tickets and taking 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:

Lafayette Office	Bourg Office	New Orleans Office
200 Dulles Drive	468 Texas Gulf Rd.	2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 438
Lafayette, LA	Bourg, LA	New Orleans, LA
April 16-17	April 22-24	April 29-May 1
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Closed 12-1 for lunch	Closed 12-1 for lunch	Closed 12-1 for lunch

Commercial License Sales:

Acceptable forms of payment will include personal checks, cashier's checks, money orders, cash and credit/debit cards. There is a 3 percent charge when using a credit/debit card. 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# 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 who 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.

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

Ribbon Cut at Port Wonder in Lake Charles, the New Lakeside Mome for a Pair of Museums

Port Wonder, an exhibit and discovery space for people of all ages, has cut the ribbon at its front doors in anticipation of two museums that will soon open inside. Port Wonder is located along the Lake Charles lakefront on North Lakeshore Drive near I-10.

The multimillion-dollar public-private partnership will be the upcoming home of:

- The Children's Museum of Southwest Louisiana, a hands-on experience for young people with exhibits that celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) topics and our world. It spans 15,000 square feet, or about two-thirds of the space inside Port Wonder.
- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Nature and Science Center, offering an up-close look at the remarkable wildlife, fisheries and ecosystem of Southwest Louisiana. It covers 5,700 square feet.

Both museums are completing final preparations. Once open, the two museums will have separate, ticketed admission.

The Children's Museum will feature four new gallery experiences for visitors to explore and will offer year-round educational programs and hands-on activities for all ages.

LDWF's Nature and Science Center will have hands-on learning opportunities, freshwater and saltwater aquariums and touch tanks.

The LDWF Nature and Science Center at Port Wonder is funded in part through the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (TIG), with dollars provided to help compensate the public for lost recreational use opportunities due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and associated response activities. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LAWFF) is a supporting partner in providing this experience to the community.

"Today we celebrate the first day of a new Lake Charles — a day where 80,000-plus visitors traveling the I-10 Corridor through Lake Charles are now welcomed by a vibrant, developed lakefront," said Mayor Nic Hunter. "As we prepare to welcome visitors to Port Wonder, we are also eagerly watching construction move at a rapid pace next door at Crying Eagle Lakefront."

Hunter added: "Our lakefront is one of our greatest assets. Today has been a long time coming. Citizens of Lake Charles and visitors are in for a real treat. Through Port Wonder and Crying Eagle Lakefront, we are making our lakefront a premier and unique destination for visitors along the Gulf Coast."

"This is the realization of a dream," said Children's Museum executive director Allyson Montgomery. "We appreciate everyone who is a stakeholder in this, and we are excited that we will be opening our doors soon."

"We are proud to partner with the City of Lake Charles, the Children's Museum of SWLA and LAWFF to bring this one-of-a-kind experience to Louisiana, especially to the children; the future hunters and fishers in our state," said LDWF acting secretary Tyler Bosworth. "Our mission at the department is to protect, preserve, and promote our valuable wildlife and fisheries resources, and the Nature and Science Center will provide the perfect opportunity to showcase the wonders of the Sportsman's Paradise and what our department does on a daily basis."

Port Wonder was designed by Cambridge Seven Associates of Cambridge, Mass. Lemoine Co. was the building contractor, and Randy Goodloe was the local architect. The iconic design is intended to enhance the new center's visibility and accessibility and to promote opportunities for the public to play and learn about Louisiana's rich natural heritage.

The City of Lake Charles has re-imagined a prime area of its waterfront into a family destination with the new complex. The site lies between the Cypress Alligator Pond habitat and a parking garage on city property.

Port Wonder is arranged around a view corridor from the street to the lake. The Children's Museum and the Nature and Science Center occupy separate wings on either side of this shared congregation space.

The undulating roofline suggests the winding waterways that culminate at Lake Charles. The two curved "crests" house the Children's Museum and the Nature and Science Center, respectively, and meet at the shared lobby, which will also serve as a program space.

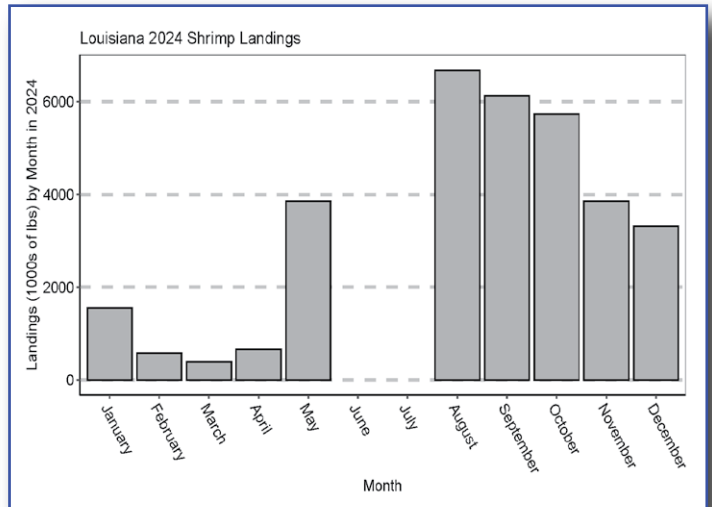
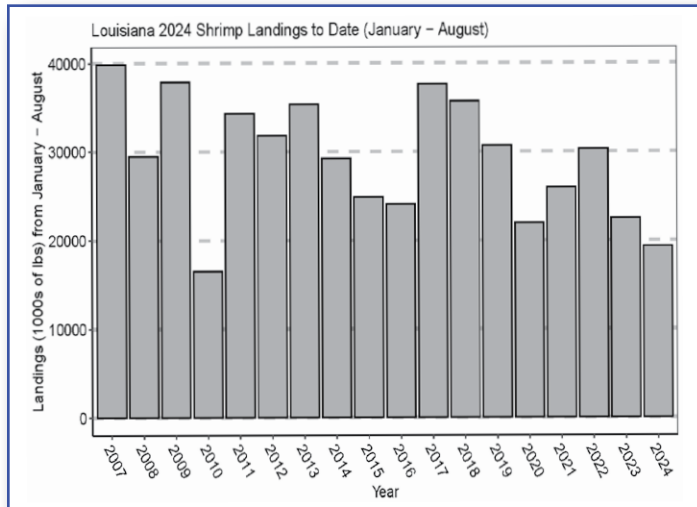
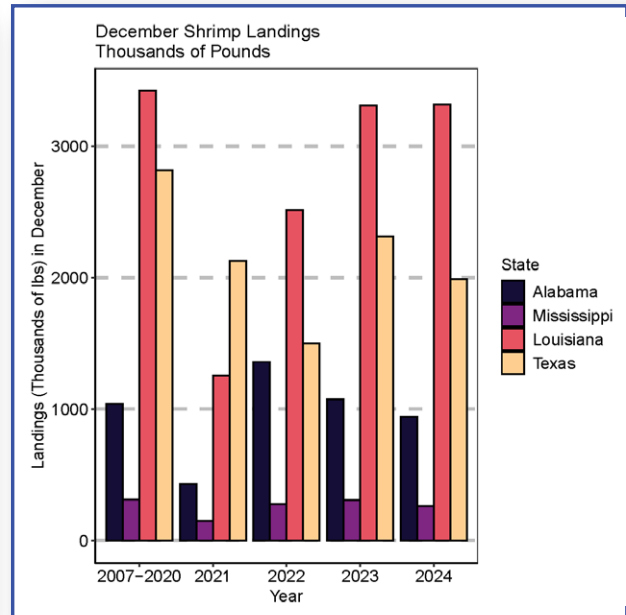
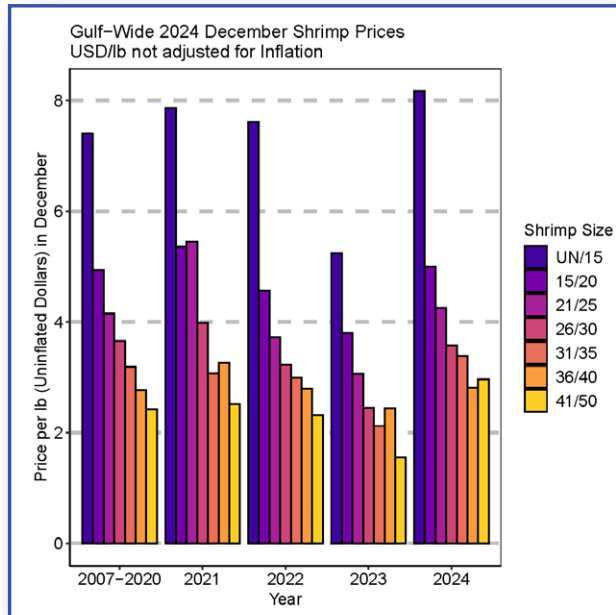
The new facility creates a STEAM-based, hands-on interactive center coupled with an immersive, experience for all visitors that is unique to Southwest Louisiana.

Children's Museum exhibits and galleries focused on technology, health and nature are balanced with the Nature & Science Center's marsh and barrier island fish tanks, a touch tank, and several Gulf-specific exhibits.

The site features outdoor play areas, a covered fishing pier and walking trails that connect to the existing alligator habitat.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the March issue includes data through November 2024. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States Fisheries Commission and no estimations have been made.



The Gumbo Pot

Crawfish Deviled Eggs*

Recipe courtesy of Ms. Sarah's Kitchen

From Ms. Sarah: Need ideas for those leftover eggs you bought for Easter?

Need an appetizer for your crawfish boil? How about combining the two?

I present: Crawfish Deviled Eggs. Please reach out to the editor on suggestions for recipes or ingredients to use in future editions. We are always looking for feedback and improvement!



Ingredients:

12 cooked Louisiana crawfish, peeled
 ¼ lb andouille, sliced
 6 eggs
 ½ cup mayonnaise
 2 tbsp mustard
 ½ tsp salt
 Hot sauce

Directions:

1. Bring a medium pot of water to boil, using enough water to cover the eggs. Once boiling, gently add the eggs one by one. Set the timer for 10 minutes once the water begins boiling again.
2. Once the eggs have boiled for 10 minutes, remove the pot and place under cold running water. Once the eggs are cool enough to touch, begin to peel them by gently tapping the egg until cracks form. Peel the shell from the egg white and set aside. Make sure to rinse the eggs after peeling, to remove any extra membrane or shell that might be left behind.
3. Once the eggs are peeled, slice the eggs from the top to the base of the egg. Remove the yolk into a separate container and set the egg whites to the side. Add the mayonnaise, mustard, and salt to the egg yolks. Use a hand mixer or a spoon to combine the yolk mixture together until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and set mixture aside.
4. Heat a pan over medium high and add sliced andouille. Sauté the sausage until nicely browned on either side. Set the sausage aside.
5. Add a few drops of hot sauce to the egg white hole. Next, using a spoon to scoop, fill the egg white hole with a dollop of the yolk mixture. Add a slice of cooked andouille and a crawfish tail.
6. Enjoy fresh or chill for two hours before serving.

**Total time: 25 minutes. Feeds six people.*

For more information, contact your local extension agent:

Thu Bui

Marine Agent
St. Mary, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes
Phone: (337) 828-4100, ext. 300
tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu

Carol D. Franze

Marine Agent
Southeast Region
Phone: (985) 875-2635
cfranze@agcenter.lsu.edu

Haley Gambill

Marine Agent
Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes
Phone: (985) 873-6495
mgambill@agcenter.lsu.edu

Albert 'Rusty' Gaudé

Marine Agent
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. John Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
agaude@agcenter.lsu.edu

Thomas Hymel

Marine Agent
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Landry and
Avoyelles Parishes
Phone: (337) 276-5527
thymel@agcenter.lsu.edu

D. Jordan Poole

Marine Agent
Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes
Phone: (337) 905-1318
dpoole@agcenter.lsu.edu

Dominique Seibert

Marine Agent
Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
dseibert@agcenter.lsu.edu

Mark Shirley

Marine Agent
Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry,
Evangeline, Lafayette, Beauregard and Allen Parishes
Phone: (337) 898-4335
mshirley@agcenter.lsu.edu

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

Jeffrey Plumlee

Fisheries Specialist
Louisiana State University AgCenter
334 Renewable Natural Resources Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: 225-578-4102
Email: jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu

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

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

Editor: Jeffrey Plumlee

Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry

Copy editor: Roy Kron