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Blue Marlin (Man in the Blue Suit)

Blue marlin, one of the world's most distinctive fish, are indigenous to warm and temperate waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. Often known as a bluewater fish, blue marlin spend most of their lives out in the open ocean miles from shore. These fish are known to be exceptionally migratory, following warm ocean currents for hundreds of miles.

Preferring warmer temperatures near the surface of the water, blue marlin primarily feed on tuna and mackerel, but will dive deep in short spurts to feed on squid as well. These unique fish are one of the fastest and largest creatures in the ocean, swooping through schools of prey at a whopping 60 mph. This method of hunting allows them to stun or kill prey using their lethal, sword-like upper jaws, then swim back and consume them with ease.

Blue marlin display dull blue, lightly striated colors on their backs and silvery-white colors on their undersides. Their bodies are covered in thick, boney scales with posterior points and tiny, file-like teeth coat the entirety of their mouths. These fish routinely grow up to 11 to 14 feet and can weigh more than 1,000 pounds, with females able to grow four times larger than males. Their long, stout bills average about 20 percent of their body length.

Once adulthood is reached, blue marlin have few natural predators. However, killer whales, large sharks and humans pose a significant threat to them. These fish are often coveted by sport fishermen due to their high-fat content and level of difficulty to catch. Blue marlin are currently listed as vulnerable with a decreasing population, likely due to overfishing and bycatch from tuna longline fisheries. Protecting these apex predators is vital for ocean ecosystems, as they are a keystone species that keep other fish at sustainable population levels.

– Bailey Pentz



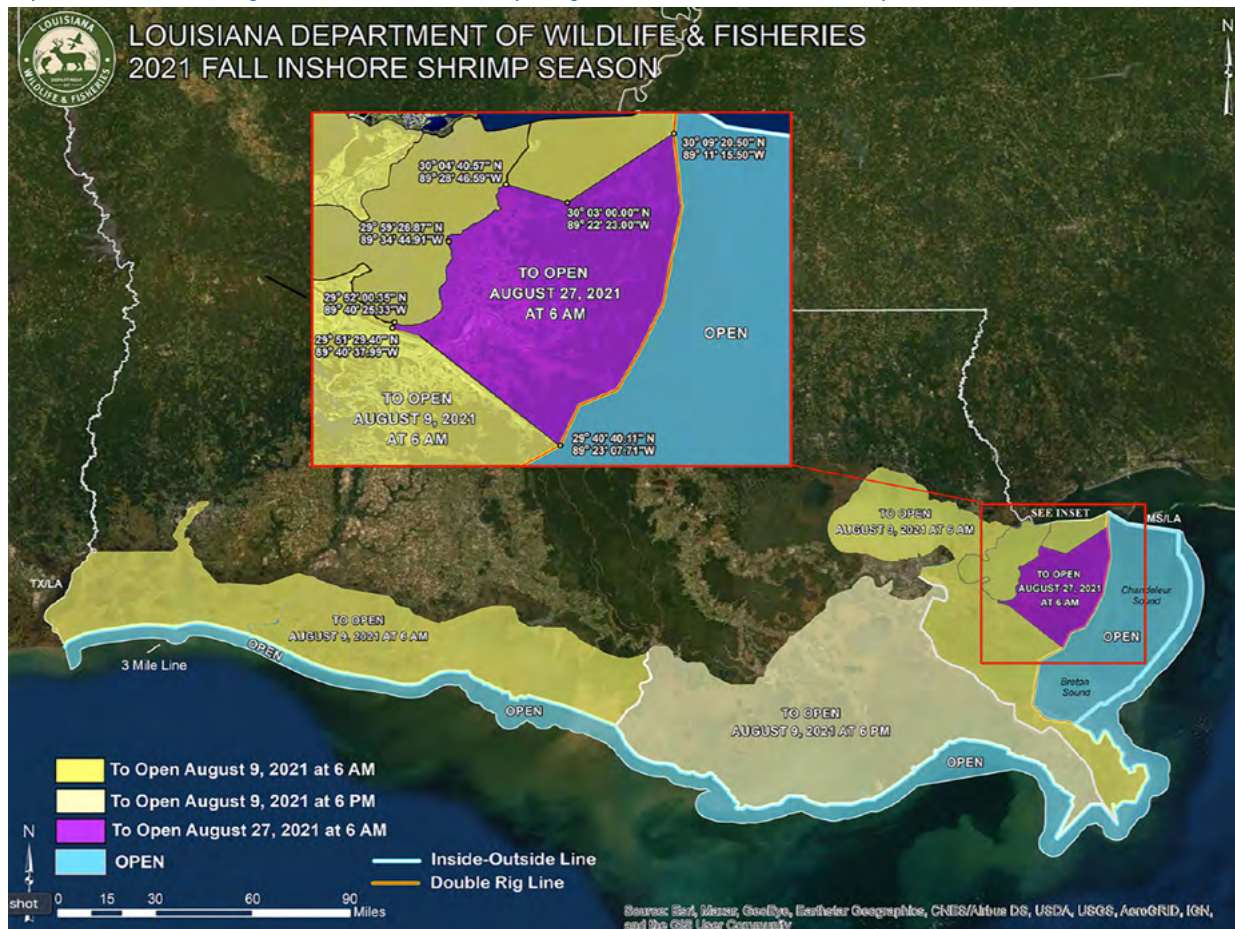
Fall Inshore Shrimp Season

Fall inshore shrimp season has been opened by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. LDWF biologists monitored hydrological parameters and conducted trawl samples throughout the state's estuarine and nearshore waters to develop the opening dates of the fall shrimp season.

The following are the current season openings as of Aug. 5, 2021:

- From the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to open at 6:00 a.m. Aug. 9, 2021, except for the area as described below which will open at 6:00 a.m. Aug. 27, 2021:
 - From a point at the intersection of the eastern shore of the MRGO and the Shell Beach Cut at 29 degrees 51 minutes 29.40 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 37.99 seconds west longitude; thence northerly to a point where Shell Beach Cut and the south shore of Lake Borgne intersect (29 degrees 52 minutes 00.35 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 25.33 seconds west longitude); thence easterly and northerly following the southern shore of Lake Borgne and the western shore of the Biloxi Marsh to Pointe Aux Marchettes (29 degrees 59 minutes 26.87 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 44.91 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to Malheureux Point (30 degrees 04 minutes 40.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 28 minutes 46.59 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly to a point on the western shore of Three-Mile Pass (30 degrees 03 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 22 minutes 23.00 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to a point on Isle Au Pitre (30 degrees 09 minutes 20.50 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 11 minutes 15.50 seconds west longitude), which is a point on the double-rig line as described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2; thence southerly following the double rig line to where it intersects with the MRGO (29 degrees 40 minutes 40.11 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 23 minutes 07.71 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the eastern shore of the MRGO to the point of origin.
- From the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00 p.m. Aug. 9, 2021.
- From the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6:00 a.m. Aug. 9, 2021.

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/ldwf-announces-opening-dates-for-the-fall-inshore-shrimp-season>



Six Fish Consumption Advisories in Southeast Louisiana

The Louisiana Departments of Health (LDH), Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) issued a series of updates to six existing fish consumption advisories. The state issues precautionary advisories when unacceptable levels of mercury are detected in fish or shellfish. The LDEQ conducts fish sampling. LDH then uses this data to determine the need for additional advisories or to modify existing advisories. Each advisory lists the specific fish, makes consumption recommendations and outlines the geographic boundaries of the affected waterways.

Advisories have been issued for the following areas and the full text of the advisories can be found at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/902>.

1. Amite River Drainage Basin
Includes Amite River from the Mississippi state line to its confluence with Lake Maurepas, Colyell Creek, the Amite River Diversion Canal and the Petite Amite River
2. Bayou Liberty
3. Blind River
4. Tangipahoa River
Includes Tangipahoa River from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to Lake Ponchartrain
5. Bogue Falaya and Tchefuncte Rivers
Includes the Bogue Falaya River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Tchefuncte River, and the Tchefuncte River from its headwaters to Lake Ponchartrain. All oxbow lakes associated with these sections of the Bogue Falaya and the Tchefuncte Rivers are included in this advisory.
6. Tickfaw River Drainage Basin
Includes the Tickfaw River from the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to Lake Maurepas; the Natalbany River, the Blood River, Lizard Creek and Ponchatoula Creek.

You may also access the information by downloading the Department of Environmental Quality's new app which is available through Google Play (DEQ Fish Advisories) and the App Store (LA Fish Advisories).

Life Jacket Safety Reminder from the Coast Guard

Life Jackets are the single most important piece of life saving gear on your boat. So important that everyone knows what type of life jackets they are required to carry right? Well, in the world of commercial fishing vessels, things are not always simple and sometimes the rules are clear as mud. Let's see if we can clear things up and simplify them a bit by first looking at the different types of Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) aka Life Jackets.

There are five types of PFDs:

- Type IV is a throwable seat cushion so we will leave it out of this discussion. Type I, II, III and V are all wearable PFDs and all have different performance requirements with Type I being the most functional and a Type III being the least.
- TYPE I PFDS/OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKETS: Are best for all waters, open ocean, rough seas or remote water, where rescue may be slow coming. This is the abandon-ship lifejacket for commercial vessels.
- TYPE II PFDS/NEAR-SHORE BUOYANT VESTS: Are a good economical choice for general boating activities. Good for calm, inland waters or where there is a good chance for fast rescue.
- TYPE III PFDS/FLOTATION AIDS: Are typically more comfortable to wear and are for general boating or the specialized activity that is marked on the device such as water skiing, hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and others. They are good for calm, inland waters or where there is a good chance for fast rescue.
- TYPE V PFDS/SPECIAL USE DEVICES: Only for special uses or conditions. This includes work vests and many inflatable PFDs. See the PFDs label for limits of use.

The type of life jack required on commercial fishing vessels (CFVs) is graded to the size for the vessel. On CFVs less than 40 feet, any type of Coast Guard approved life jacket can be carried and the minimum number is one for each person on board. For CFVs 40 feet in length and over, a Type I is required.

Every PFD on a CFV must have a Coast Guard (CG) approval number, 200 square centimeters of retro reflective material on the front and back, be labeled with the vessel or owners name and be stowed to be readily accessible. If you operate in coastal waters (in the Gulf) you have to have a Coast Guard approved light attached to the life jacket.

Finally, a note on inflatable PFDs. They are approved as either Type III or V, and while they do not meet the requirements for your primary PFD, on many CFVs they are a practical option to wear on deck while working where a Type I or II is not. Your local Coast Guard CFV safety examiner should be able to supply retro reflective material if you are in need and we are always available to answer questions regarding PFDs or any other CFV safety requirement.

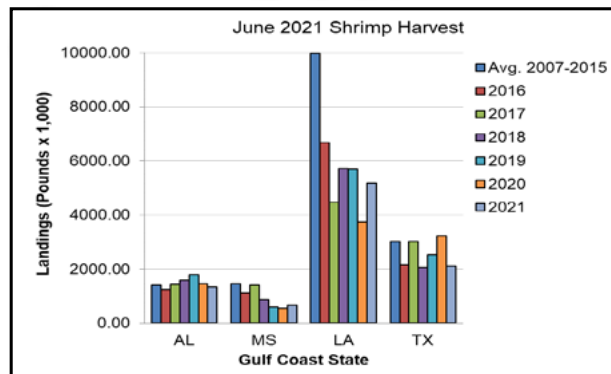
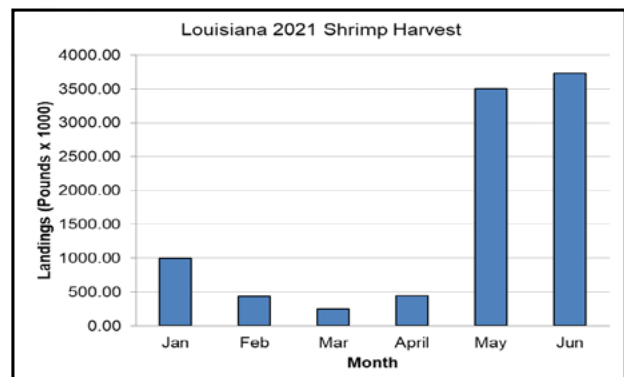
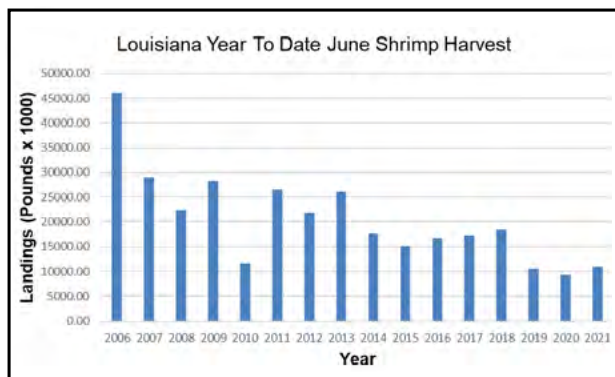
For more information on life jacket regulations, contact George Rau, Coast Guard Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner, at george.a.rau@uscg.mil.

– George Rau

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, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as “zero” in these graphics.

For more information, please refer to: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html.



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Aug. 1, 2021 – Grey Triggerfish Recreational Season Reopens

For more information: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/recreational-saltwater-finfish

Aug. 29, 2021 – Deadline to submit application to LDWF for COVID-19 relief funds.

March 9, 2022 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit



**LOUISIANA Fisheries Forward
SUMMIT 2022**

**Catch Up
On What's
New**

Save The Date
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
— AT —
The Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA 70065

More information will be available online,
at LaFisheriesForward.org/Summit

Join us in 2022 at the Gulf South's
premier fisheries event, featuring
industry experts, hands-on
demonstrations, and trade show.

**LOUISIANA
FISHERIES FORWARD**
Advancing Our Seafood Industry

Visit the
Beyond the Boat Pavillion,
a special expo for micro-processors!

THE GUMBO POT

ALLIGATOR HASH*

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 oz. extra virgin olive oil
 2 oz. green bell pepper, small dice
 2 oz. onion, small dice
 1/2 oz. garlic, fine dice
 1/2 oz. green onion, bias cut
 1½ oz. Creole seasoning
 18 oz. russet potato, small dice, blanched and fried
 6 oz. alligator tenderloin, oven roasted, and shredded
 4 eggs, poached
 6 oz. hollandaise sauce

Method:

Heat oil in a large fry pan, add the bell peppers, onions and garlic and cook until translucent. Add the Creole seasoning and fried potatoes. Let the hash cook for one minute and then add the alligator and the green onions. Continue to cook until the alligator meat is hot and then place in serving bowls.

Top each portion with 2 poached eggs.

Finish with 1½ ounce of Hollandaise covering eggs.

*Serves 2

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

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

Editors: Julie Lively and Elizabeth Robinson Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry Copy editor: Roy Kron



For more information, contact your local extension agent:

Thu Bui

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

Nicole Lundberg

Area Agent – Fisheries/Natural Resources
Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes
Phone: (985) 873-6495
nlundberg@agcenter.lsu.edu

Carol D. Franze

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

Kevin Savoie

Area Agent (Southwest Region)
Natural Resources-Fisheries
Phone: (337) 475-8812
ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu

Albert 'Rusty' Gaudé

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

Dominique Seibert

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

Thomas Hymel

Watershed Educator
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion,
St. Landry, & Avoyelles Parishes
Phone: (337) 276-5527
thymel@agcenter.lsu.edu

Mark Shirley

Area Agent (Aquaculture & Coastal Resources)
Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry,
Evangeline, Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette,
Beauregard, & 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 Julie Lively at julieann@lsu.edu

Julie A. Lively

Director, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
Associate Professor
237 Sea Grant Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507
Phone: 225-578-6710
Fax: 225-578-6331
julieann@lsu.edu