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## **New Juvenile Whooping Cranes at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area**

The state's whooping crane population got a boost when it received 11 juvenile whooping cranes.

The cranes were received Nov. 12 at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA) near Gueydan. Once the new arrivals are released into the wild they will bring the Louisiana population to nearly 80 cranes.

Of the new arrivals, six juvenile whooping cranes came from the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisc., and four cranes were hatched and reared at the Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center in New Orleans, part of the Audubon Nature Institute.

LDWF and Audubon Nature Institute have been longtime leaders in whooping crane conservation in Louisiana and are continuing to expand their partnership with the goal of developing a self-sustaining population of whooping cranes in Louisiana.

LDWF and Audubon are committed to the long-term growth and stability of the whooping crane population. That commitment is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, Cameron LNG, Coypu Foundation and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation.



**A Joint Publication of Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter**





The Louisiana flock began in 2011 when ten whooping cranes from the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland were released at White Lake WCA to develop the non-migratory flock. This marked a significant conservation milestone with the first wild whooping cranes in Louisiana since 1950.

Anyone encountering a whooping crane is advised to observe the bird from a distance and to report the sighting to LDWF ([www.wlf.louisiana.gov/webform/whooping-crane-reporting-form](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/webform/whooping-crane-reporting-form)). Whooping cranes are large-bodied, white birds with a red head and black facial markings. Birds measure a height of five feet and have a wingspan of seven to eight feet that makes them very distinctive. In flight, whooping cranes display black wing tips and a fully extended neck and legs, which extend well beyond the tail. For more information about the project please visit LDWF's website: [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lawhoopingcranes/](https://www.facebook.com/lawhoopingcranes/).



Photo of juvenile whooping cranes courtesy of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

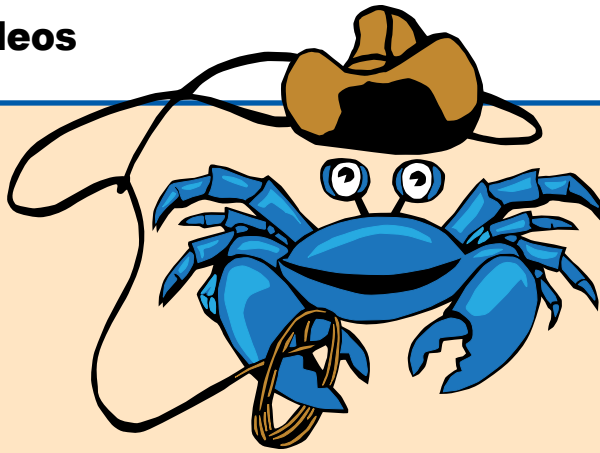
## **Prestige Texas and Louisiana Private Oyster Fishery Marine Stewardship Council Certification**

The final report and determination is now available for the assessment of Prestige oysters for Marine Stewardship Sustainability Certification. The report and updates can be viewed at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/prestige-oyster-texas-and-louisiana-private-oyster-fishery/>. If no major objections are made, this would be the first oyster fishery in Louisiana, or the Gulf, with Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certification.

## 2020 Crab Trap Rodeos

**Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020:**

Barataria Basin located at  
Jean Lafitte Harbor



**Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020:**

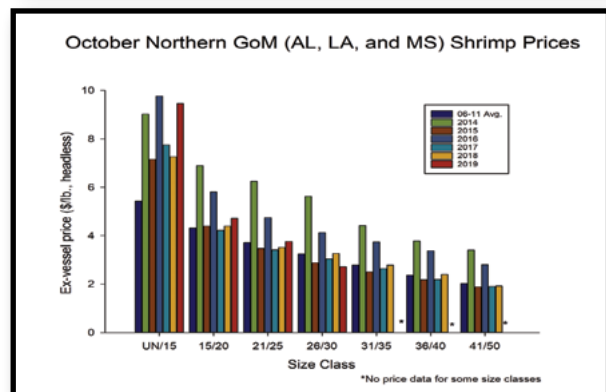
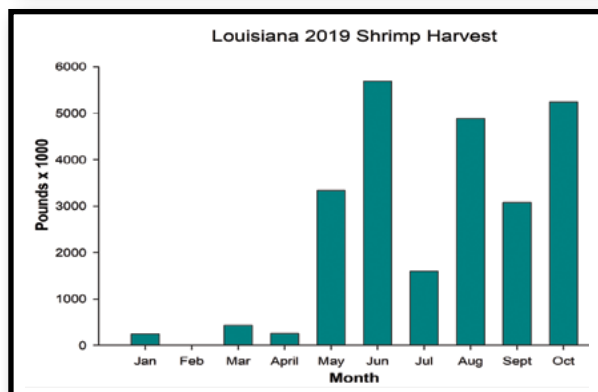
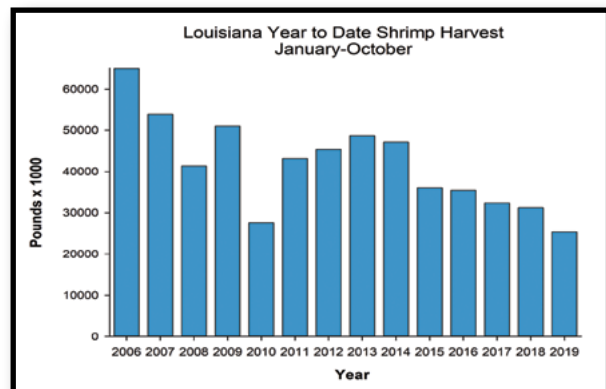
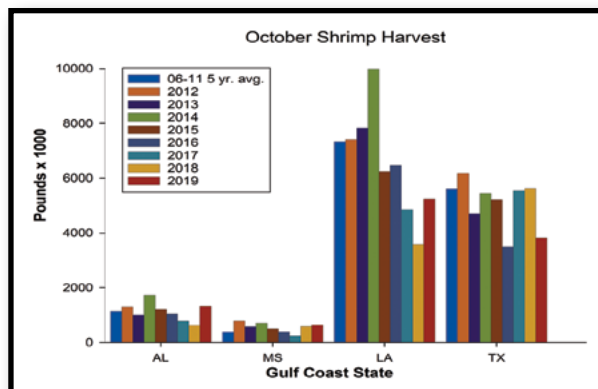
Calcasieu Basin located at  
Cameron Parish public boat launch

**For more information and to sign up:**

[www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps/](http://www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps/)

## 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](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html).



## Four New Artificial Reef Sites Underway in Lake Borgne, Mississippi Sound

The creation of the Lake Borgne Shell Pad, Grand Banks, West Karako Bay and Cabbage Reef artificial reef sites has begun. The reefs will eventually boost the availability of fish by increasing hard-bottom habitat in an otherwise soft muddy water bottom, allowing more opportunity for larval settlement and biological benefits in the area.

The newly constructed artificial reef sites will be created from 880 tons of limestone, 130 reef balls (perforated concrete domes) and over 80 cubic yards of oyster shells. These sites will be deployed across a broad range of salinities, which are within the optimum range for popular recreational saltwater species like speckled trout, redfish, and flounder.

These reefs are being built through a partnership involving the LDWF and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

All four reefs are marked with a large yellow-lighted buoy. Coordinates are as follows:

- Lake Borgne Reef: 30° 04' 17.004", 89° 35' 06.396"
- Grand Banks Reef: 30° 08' 50.064", 89° 22' 51.708"
- Cabbage Reef: 30° 07' 59.4120", 89° 14' 49.524"
- West Karako Reef: 30° 01' 00.012", 89° 16' 29.064"

For more information, including additional reef locations and maps, please visit the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program site at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program).



## Important Dates & Upcoming Events

**Nov 25** – Oyster harvest in the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation closed

**Nov 26** – Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in federal waters closed

**Nov 27** – Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in Louisiana state waters closed

### 2020

**Jan 14** – Crab Task Force meeting, St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal, 100 Port Blvd., Chalmette, 1:00 pm

**Jan 27** – Sanitation Control Procedures for Fish and Fisheries Products, 212 Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge

**Jan 28-30** – Basic Seafood HACCP, 212 Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge

**Feb 8** – Crab Trap Rodeo, Jean Lafitte Harbor, 4932 Kenal Rd, Lafitte, 8:00 am

**Feb 15** – Crab Trap Rodeo, Cameron Parish Boat Launch, north of the Highway 82 Cameron Ferry, 8:00 am

**March 11** – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit 2020, The Pontchartrain Center, Kenner [www.lafisheriesforward.org/summit/](http://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



# **THE GUMBO POT**

## **SIMPLE OYSTER SOUP\***

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 ½ c. milk

½ c. heavy cream

1 ½ pint freshly shucked oysters (about 30 minimum), reserve oyster liquor

1 ½ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. black pepper

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

3 Tbsp. butter

2 Tbsp. scallions, thinly sliced

### **Method:**

Combine the milk, cream, oyster liquor in a 2 to 3-quart saucepan and warm over low heat. Add salt, pepper and cayenne, raise heat to high. Bring just to a boil, quickly lower heat and add the

oysters. Cook just below a simmer for 4 to 5 minutes or until oysters curl around the edges. Remove the pan from heat; add the butter and scallions, stir well.

\*Serves 4

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

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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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