



LWFC Passes Notice of Intent to Establish Allowable Sizes of Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum Fillets under Certain Provisions

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to establish rules for allowable sizes of spotted seatrout and red drum fillets while on the water as directed in Act 36 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. This rule will only apply to licensed anglers who can demonstrate to the department’s satisfaction use of a boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 and that the angler has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The rule will allow anglers to possess up to twice the daily bag limit of filleted red drum and spotted seatrout.

The commission intends to establish a minimum and maximum fillet size limit for spotted seatrout of eight inches and 13 inches, respectively, with an allowance of eight individual spotted seatrout fillets over 13 inches to account for the two spotted seatrout allowed over the slot limit. The commission further intends to establish a minimum and maximum fillet size limit for red drum of 10 inches and 18 inches, respectively. The commission also intends to establish an allowable number of spotted seatrout fillets at 60 and an allowable number of red drum fillets at 16, with an allowance for undersized and oversized fillets.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed rule upon publication in the State Register on Feb. 20 to Jason Adriance, LDWF Finfish Program Manager, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, or via email to jadriance@wlf.la.gov through March 27, 2026.



Spotted seatrout
Illustration by Diane Rome Peebles



Red Drum
Illustration by Diane Rome Peebles

LDWF to Host Several Reef Rodeos, Giving Christmas Trees a Second Purpose as Fish Habitat

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is hosting several Christmas Tree Reef Rodeos across the state. These events recycle live Christmas trees into underwater fish habitats that build structure to support fish populations and create better fishing opportunities.



How it works:

The LDWF Reef Rodeos will allow a mix of dropping off your used live Christmas tree or picking up Christmas tree reefs and reefing material. Bring your tree or take one, help create fish-friendly structure and be part of a community effort supporting fisheries conservation and aquatic habitat improvement throughout Louisiana.

Check local dates and details below for Christmas tree drop-off sites and reefing material pickup locations.

Reef Rodeo Locations:

- **Lake Bistineau (Pickup Location Only)**
 Date: Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026
 Time: 9 – 11 a.m.
 Location: Parish Camp public boat launch, Lake Bistineau
 Contact: Biologist Manager Jeff Sibley at (318) 371-5294 or jsibley@wlf.la.gov
- **Lake Providence (Pickup Location Only)**
 Date: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026
 Location: Airport Ramp off of Schneider Ln
 Contact: Biologist Manager Ryan Daniel at (318) 343-4044 or rdaniel@wlf.la.gov
- **Poverty Point (Drop Off Location Only)**
 Date: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026
 Location: State Park office at South Entrance
 Contact: Biologist Manager Ryan Daniel at (318) 343-4044 or rdaniel@wlf.la.gov
- **Lake Lafourche (Pickup Location Only)**
 Date: Monday, Jan. 26, 2026
 Location: Hwy. 848 launch at Cat Island Store and Arrowhead Pt. ramp on Boeuf River WMA
 Contact: Biologist Manager Ryan Daniel at (318) 343-4044 or rdaniel@wlf.la.gov
- **D'Arbonne Lake (Pickup Location Only)**
 Date: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026
 Location: Terral Island ramp off Terral Island Rd.
 Contact: Biologist Manager Ryan Daniel at (318) 343-4044 or rdaniel@wlf.la.gov
- **Bussey Brake Reservoir (Drop off only)**
 Location: TBD
 Date: Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026
 Contact: Biologist Manager Ryan Daniel at (318) 343-4044 or rdaniel@wlf.la.gov

Several other Christmas tree drop sites are available throughout the state for the next few weeks. For more information on those sites, please contact your local LDWF Inland Fisheries regional office (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/contact-us) or email Raynie Harlan (rhharlan@wlf.la.gov).

Gulf Council Holds Public Hearings on Shallow-Water Grouper

The Gulf Council will hold three in-person and one webinar public hearings to gather public comments on Draft Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Modifications to Shallow-Water Grouper Management Measures.

The other shallow-water grouper complex includes scamp, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper and black grouper. The complex can no longer be managed together because a stock assessment and catch recommendations were completed for scamp and yellowmouth grouper separate from the remaining species. Catch limit recommendations for scamp and yellowmouth grouper represent a considerable decrease in allowable harvest, while catch limit recommendations for black grouper and yellowfin grouper remain unchanged. The council is considering splitting the complex and setting catch limits and management measures for the new complexes.

The council is also considering removing the seasonal recreational closure of shallow-water grouper beyond 20-fathoms in a separate document (Reef Fish Amendment 62).

The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude no later than 9 p.m., local time. Dates and locations are as follows:

Lafayette, Louisiana

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Large Conference Room #2039
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70508



Virtual Hearing

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2971736290388436831>

Gulf Council Convenes a Three-Day Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana Jan. 26-28

The Gulf Council will meet at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. The three-day council meeting will be held from January 26 – 28.

Public comment will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. The council welcomes public comment from both in-person and virtual participants. Instructions on how to join both sessions and provide comment will be located on the meetings materials webpage as soon as it's available.

During this meeting, the council plans to take final action on two issues. First, Reef Fish Amendment 62 which considers increasing red grouper catch limits based on the results of a recent stock assessment. Second, Reef Fish Amendment 58A which considers splitting the shallow-water grouper complex into two separate complexes to address the results of a scamp and yellowmouth stock assessment. Catch limit recommendations for scamp and yellowmouth grouper represent a considerable decrease in allowable harvest, while catch limit recommendations for black grouper and yellowfin grouper remain unchanged.

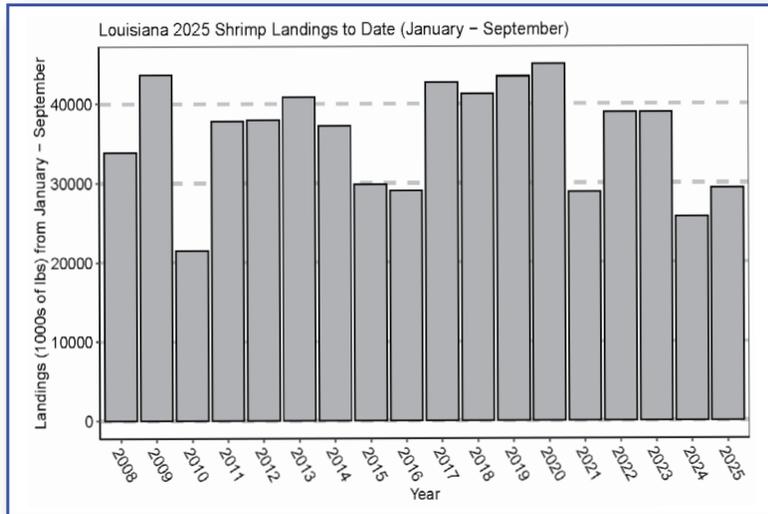
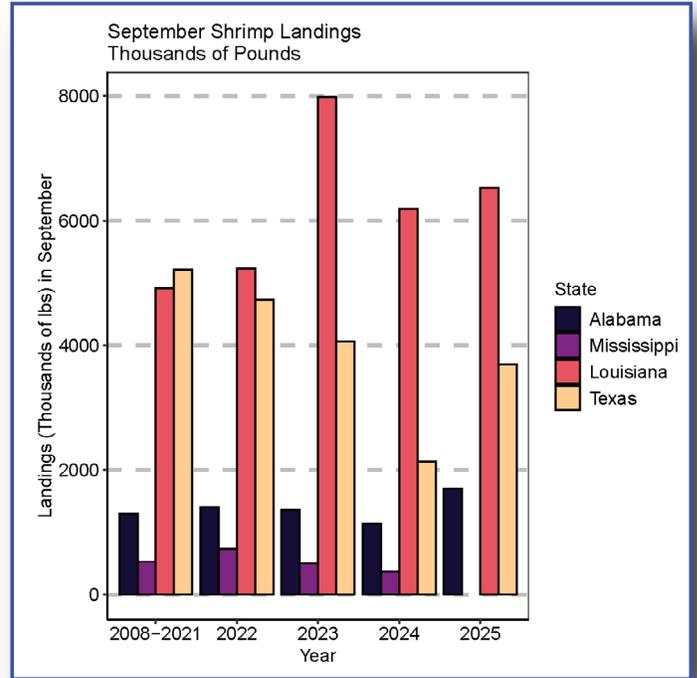
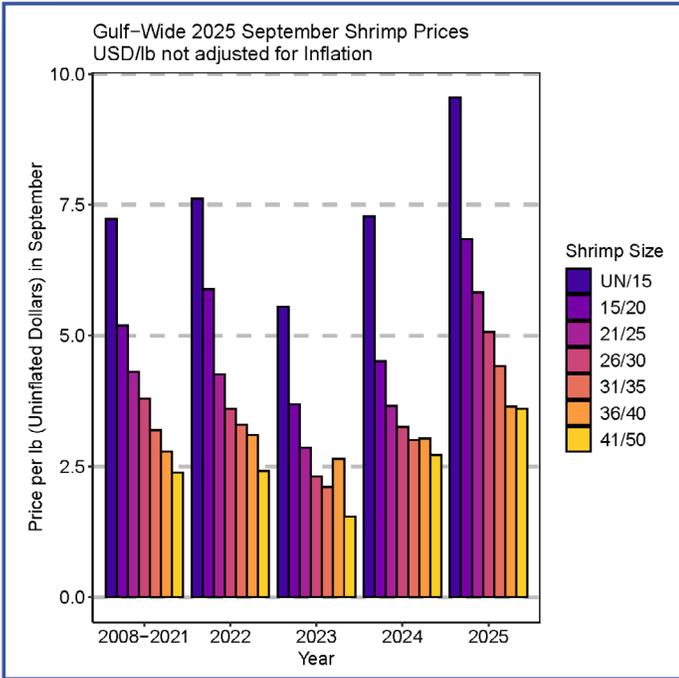
The council also plans to review its proposed 2026 activities and budget; continue work on developing an electronic reporting program for federally permitted for-hire vessels; discuss a mandatory recreational reporting program for deep-water grouper; consider regional management of greater amberjack; and discuss recreational management priorities.

Register for the webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/#register/6490313136984503646>

Full committee and council agendas and meeting materials will be posted as they become available.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the December issue includes data through September 2025. 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 Étouffée

Recipe provided by Addie K. Martin, chef for Culicurious

This is my family's unique crawfish etouffee recipe. It's cream based and contains no tomatoes. Try it, and you'll love it!

Prep: 20 min Cook: 40 min Total: 1 hour



Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 5 to 7 cups already cooked crawfish boil “extras” (any combination of cubed potatoes, corn kernels, chopped onions, sliced mushrooms, minced garlic, and/or chopped sausage – keep the items separate, though)
- 1 quart whole milk
- Two 10¾ oz. cans of concentrated cream of mushroom soup
- 2 to 3 cups crawfish tails (3 cups = 1 pound of tails)
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced chives or green onions
- 3 cups cooked rice, white or brown (your choice)

Method:

1. In a soup-sized pot, melt butter over medium high heat. Once the butter is melted, add any sausage, onions, and/or mushrooms. Stir well and allow to heat through, about 3-5 minutes.
2. If you have garlic, add it at this point. Stir well and allow to cook for about one minute, until fragrant. If you have corn kernels, add them, and stir well to incorporate. Cook for another 2-3 minutes until corn kernels are heated.
3. Add the milk and cream of mushroom soup. Stir well until it's thoroughly blended.
4. Bring the mixture up to a near boil, but do not let it boil. This can take about 10 minutes or so. Once the mixture is near boiling, lower the heat to keep the étouffée at a simmer.
5. Add potatoes, stir well, and cook 20 minutes uncovered, stirring occasionally to avoid sticking.
6. After 20 minutes, stir in the crawfish and green onions.
7. Serve and enjoy.

My “extras” mix for this version:

- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup corn kernels
- 2 cups cubed potatoes



For more information, contact your local extension agent:

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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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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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