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LDWF Releases 5,500 Striped Bass into Pearl River to Restore a Native Fish Species

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and the Gulf Striped Bass Working Group, released 5,500 Gulf Strain Striped Bass into the Pearl River on June 4 to as part of a



larger goal to restore a robust population of Gulf strain striped bass capable of supporting a recreational fishery.

These striped bass fingerlings originated from Blackwater Fish Hatchery in Holt, Fla., where they were spawned and later transported as fry to Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, Miss. There, they were raised in grow-out ponds until reaching approximately two inches in length before being released into the Pearl River. In addition to stocking these fingerlings, LDWF biologists have placed acoustic tags into adult striped bass for a telemetry and movement study and have collected genetic samples to monitor this strain of striped bass in the Pearl River Basin.

Anglers can assist LDWF's Striped Bass restoration efforts through the Striped Bass Collaborative Anglers Project (SBCAP). Anyone fishing waters east of the Mississippi River, including Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne (as well as all rivers that drain into those lakes), and the entire Pearl River system, is encouraged to submit

biological information from their striped bass catches. To submit catch data, or view existing genetic and age results, visit the Striped Bass Collaborative Anglers Project (SBCAP) webpage (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/hot-topic-striped-bass-collaborative-anglers-project-sbcap).

For more information about this stocking or the ongoing Gulf strain striped bass projects, contact biologist manager Matthew Duplessis at (985) 847-2421 or e-mail at mduplessis@wlf.la.gov.



Louisiana Spring Inshore Shrimp Season Closed July 6 in State Inside Waters

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) announced the 2026 spring inshore shrimp season closed at official sunset on Monday (July 6, 2026), in all Louisiana waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line, except for the following areas:

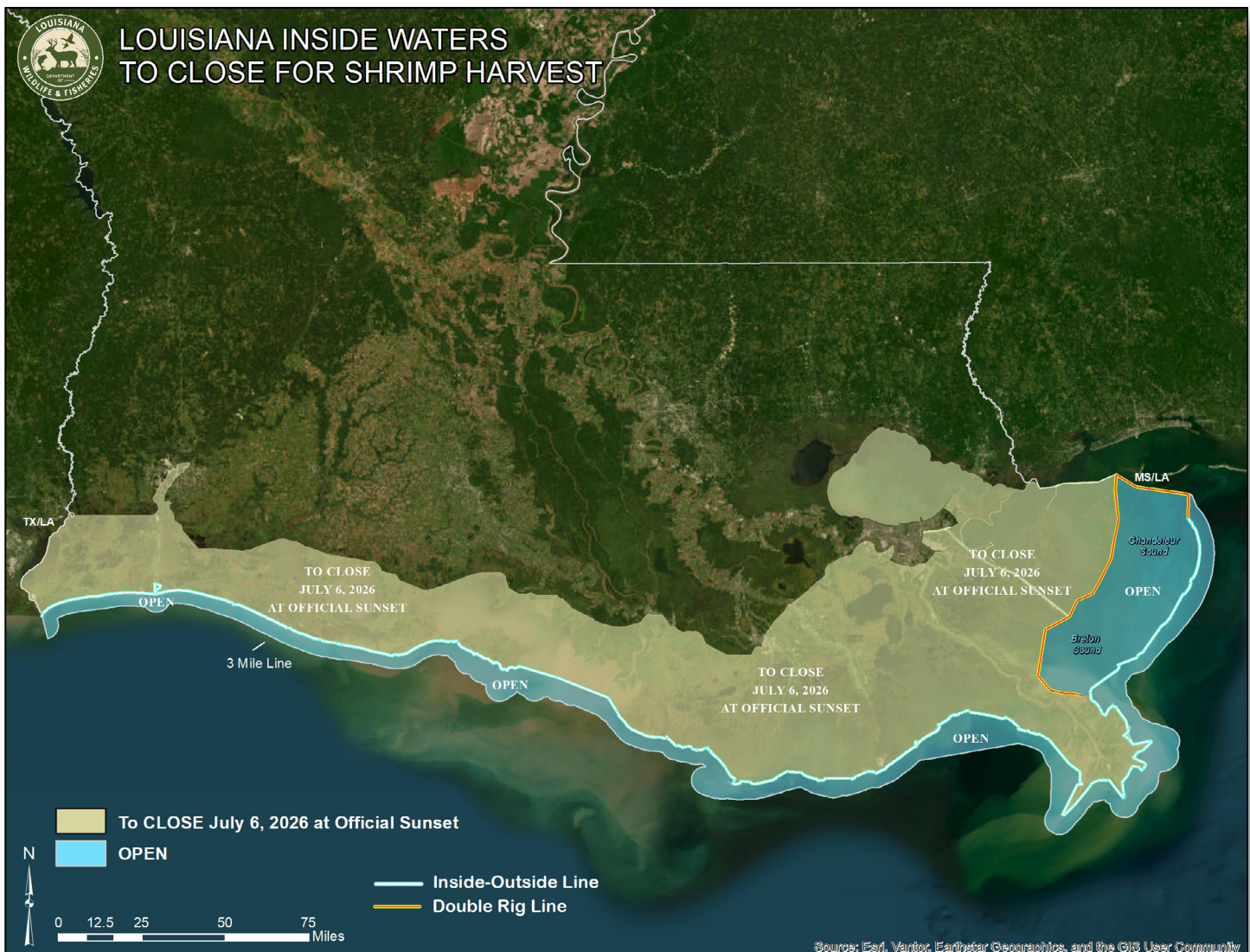
The open waters of Breton and Chandeleur sounds as bounded by the double-rig line described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2, and all state outside waters seaward of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in LAC 76:VII.370.

Data collected in recent weeks by LDWF biologists indicate an increased quantity of small, juvenile white shrimp within these waters. The decision to close inside waters was made to protect these developing shrimp and provide an opportunity for growth to larger and more marketable sizes. The areas that remain open will be monitored and closed if biologically appropriate.

LDWF reminds shrimpers there is a size restriction on saltwater white shrimp taken in the inside and outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana. Saltwater white shrimp must be 100 count (whole shrimp per pound) or larger. This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, except from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December, when there is no possession count on saltwater white shrimp, taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the saltwater shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed should not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total saltwater shrimp taken or possessed. If compliance issues develop, remaining open areas will be closed.

See the map below detailing this closure or view the LDWF shrimp season webpage for current shrimp season information.

For more information, contact Konner Lockfield at (504) 286-4184 or klockfield@wlf.la.gov.



The Gulf Council Solicits Proposals for Development of Regulatory Streamlining Procedures

The Gulf Council is seeking a qualified contractor with biological expertise and experience in the development of fishery management plans and amendments. The contractor will work closely with council staff and its partner agencies to develop the processes and supporting documents to implement the following regulatory streamlining measures:

1. Expand flexibility in the framework procedures that are used to make modifications to existing management measures
2. Develop framework procedures to allow a more automated process for updating catch advice and other routine management changes for a suite of pilot species

The council expects work on this project will be completed by Fall 2027 and the maximum available funding for the work is \$150,000.



The request for proposals, including the full scope of work and instructions on how to apply, can be found at the RFP Development of Regulatory Streamlining Procedures webpage (<https://gulf-council-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2026/06/RFP-Gulf-Council-call-for-Regulatory-Streamlining-Management-Flexibility.pdf>).

Proposal Submission Deadline: July 10, 2026. For information contact: regulatory.contractor@gulfcouncil.org.

Key Message:

NOAA Fisheries is implementing a final rule for a framework action under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf to reduce catch limits and implement a recreational fixed-closed season for the Gulf Other Shallow-Water Grouper (SWG) complex. The Gulf Other SWG complex consists of scamp, yellowmouth grouper, black grouper and yellowfin grouper. The changes are based on recommendations of the Gulf Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. The final rule will:

- Reduce the Other SWG complex acceptable biological catch by 54.7 percent.
- Set the stock complex annual catch limit (ACL) at 322,000 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).
- Set the commercial ACL at 255,000 lb gw.
- Set the commercial annual catch target (ACT; or quota) at 245,000 lb gw.
- Set a fixed closed season for recreational harvest of Other SWG complex species from Jan. 1 through June 30 each year (season open July 1 through Dec. 31).

When Rule Will Take Effect:

The management measures contained in the final rule will be effective on Jan. 1, 2027.

Formal Federal Register Name/Number: 91 FR 36545 (www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/17/2026-12175/reef-fish-fishery-of-the-gulf-of-america-shallow-water-grouper-management-measures?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), published June 17, 2026.

NOAA Shares Gulf of America Individual Fishing Quota Program Reminders

Key Message:

- NOAA Fisheries is sending this reminder to ensure Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program participants are informed about new and important requirements, such as management actions, IFQ system functions and how to participate in the program.
- For further information, IFQ participants can contact Catch Share Support at (866) 425-7627 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.



Fishery Management Updates:

- Amendment 63 to the Gulf Fishery Management Council's (council) Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) proposes the development of a red grouper quota pool. At their June 2026 meeting, the council took final action on Amendment 63 to establish a quota pool using a proportion of the red grouper annual catch limit. The quota pool program would establish a three-year commercial quota pool beginning in 2027 and only become applicable if the quota is set above 4.28 million pounds (mp) gutted weight (gw). The Amendment would designate 50 percent of the quota above 4.28 mp gw to the quota pool program. If the red grouper catch limit increase the council recently proposed through Amendment 62 is implemented, the quota pool

would be allocated 0.275 mp for 2027 and 0.545 mp in 2028 and 2029. Qualified candidates must have landed at least 500 pounds of red grouper during a rolling two-year reference period and hold a federal commercial reef fish permit. Half of the quota pool would be distributed to active red grouper fishermen without red grouper shares and half would be distributed to active fishermen with red grouper shares. Allocation would be distributed proportionally based on red grouper landings within each pool. Annual allocation from the quota pool would be in a new allocation category and would be non-transferable.

The following amendments to the Reef Fish FMP are in the scoping phase and pertain to participation in the IFQ programs and the redistribution of IFQ shares:

- **Amendment 59A** is considering requiring a commercial reef fish permit to obtain and maintain an IFQ account. This would make the Gulf programs similar to other catch share programs nationwide.
- **Amendment 59B** would add a requirement to show landings activity in the fishery in order to maintain shares.
- **Amendment 60** considers reclaiming and redistributing shares from accounts that fail to meet new criteria specified in Amendments 59A and 59B and from accounts that have not been accessed or used in several years. These shares and agency reclaimed shares would be redistributed to participants. Amendment 60 also considers future quota increases for new (replacement) fishermen.

The following amendments are in the rule making phase:

- **Amendment 58B** proposes modifications to the deep-water grouper complex catch limits and management measures for yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, and speckled hind. The council developed Amendment 58B to end overfishing of yellowedge grouper. The purpose of Amendment 58B is to update catch levels, management measures, and sector allocations for the deep-water grouper complex consistent with the best scientific information available. The proposed rule published in May 2026 for public comment. This rulemaking, and any related reduction in quota, is expected to be finalized in time to affect the 2027 commercial season.
- **Amendment 62** contains modifications to management measures for Gulf red grouper. If implemented, this amendment would raise the red grouper commercial quota to 4.28 mp in 2026, 4.83 mp in 2027, and 5.37 mp in 2028 onward. It would also modify sector allocations.

For more information on council motions, upcoming meetings, and to submit comments, visit [GulfCouncil.org](https://www.gulfcouncil.org).

Catch Shares Online System Updates:

Catch Share Program staff have implemented several new features within the Catch Shares Online System in an effort to expand functionality and improve the user experience, including:

- An automated email will be sent to the primary email address of a shareholder account when it reaches 60 days from the date it would become “suspended” due to an out-of-date IFQ online account application. Reminder emails will be sent 45 days, 30 days and 15 days before the account becomes “suspended.” The “Validity Date” under the “Account Status” tab indicates when your IFQ online account application renewal, including citizenship verification, is due. Please update your information before that due date or you will be restricted from accessing your IFQ account.
- An automated email will be sent to the primary email address of a shareholder account when the account PIN, vessel signature PIN or secret questions are changed.
- Upon logging into a dealer account, a pop-up message will appear reminding you to pay any outstanding cost recovery fees. Cost recovery fees are due on a quarterly basis and notifications will appear starting the first month of each quarter (April, July, October, January).
- Upon logging into a dealer account, a pop-up message will appear notifying you that your cost recovery fees are delinquent if you have not paid them during the month in which they were due (April, July, October, January).
- Street addresses have been added to dealer facilities on the Landing Transaction entry screen.
- Under “View Landings” and “View Landing Notifications,” you can download an entire year of data in an Excel spreadsheet or PDF.

Many of these changes were prompted by user feedback. If you have a suggestion to improve the Catch Share Online System, please email nmfs.ser.catchshare@noaa.gov.

Southeast Fisheries Permits Office:

For Permits Office customer support, call (877) 376-4877. To leave a voicemail, select option #6. Please leave a detailed message including your name, callback number, the reason you are calling, and, if applicable, your application number. If you do not have an

application number, please provide your vessel's official number (state or US Coast Guard documentation number) or dealer number as an alternative identifier. All voicemails will be returned in the order received, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Alternatively, you may email your questions to nmfs.ser.permitssupport@noaa.gov. Please take precautions to protect your personal information by refraining from including any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Business Identifiable Information (BII) in your email. This will help ensure the security and confidentiality of your sensitive data.

You may begin the permit renewal application process up to 60 days in advance of your permit expiration. Starting the application process early can help to prevent a lapse in permit validity.

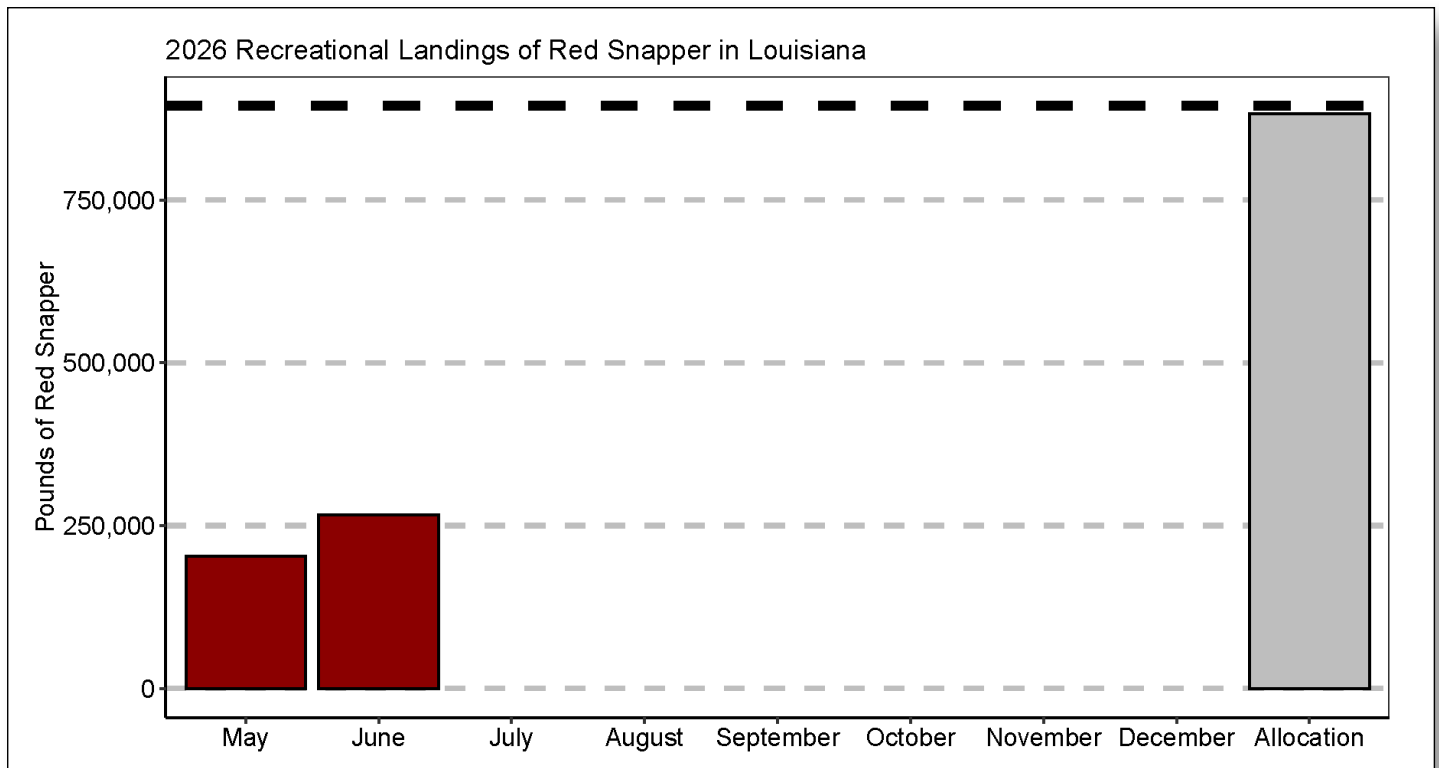
For more information, visit Southeast Fisheries Permits (www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/resources-fishing/southeast-fisheries-permits?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).



Louisiana Snapper Watch

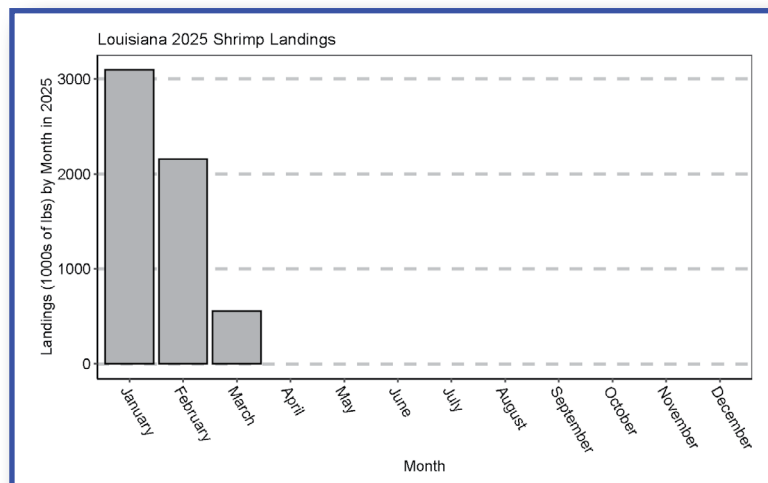
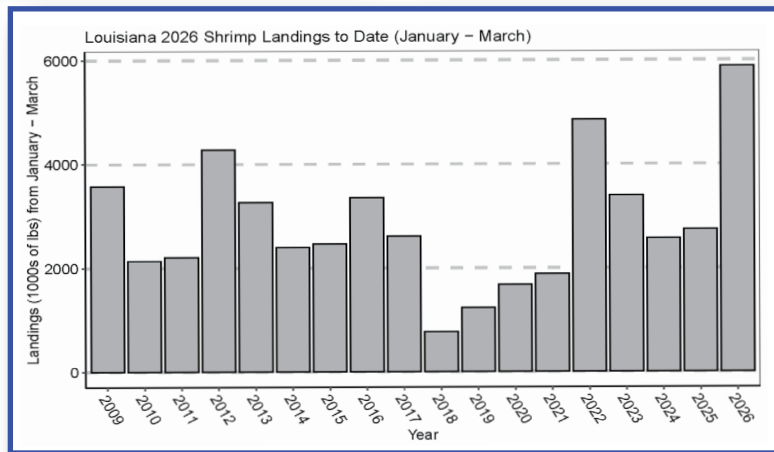
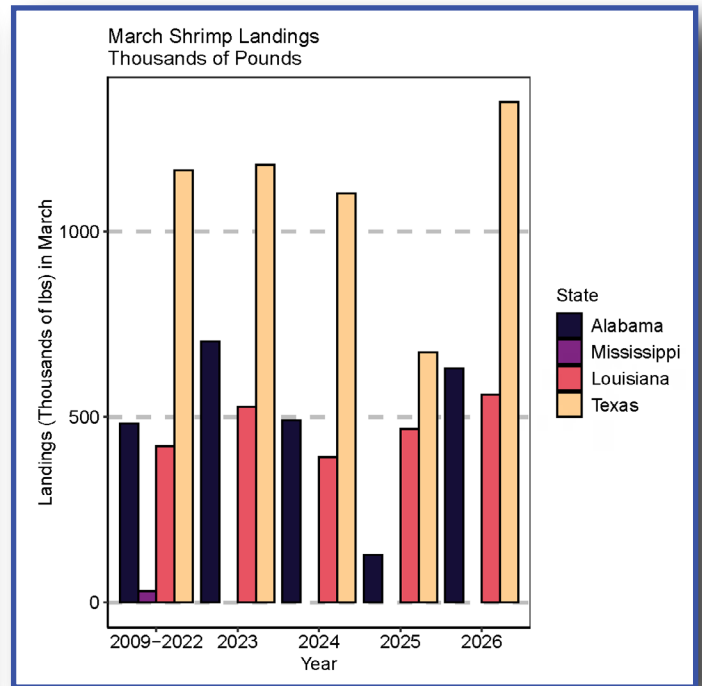
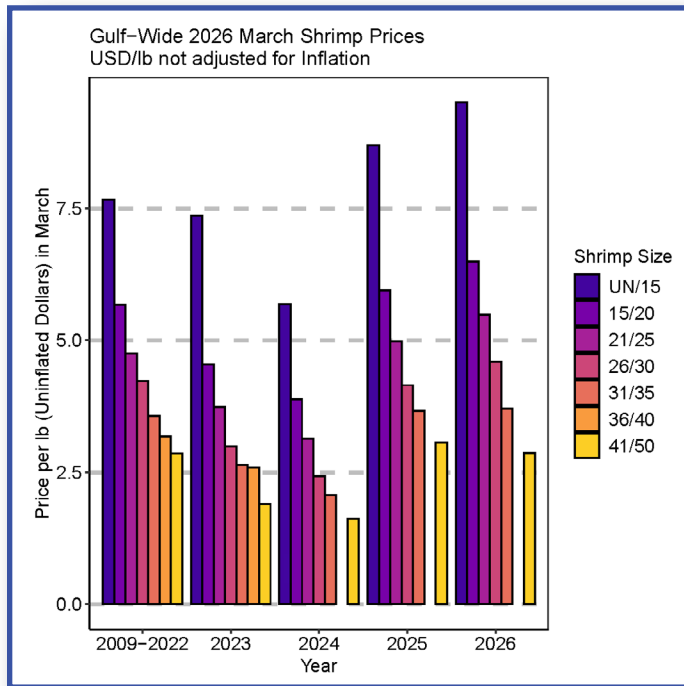
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) released the recreational red snapper landings estimate through June 14, 2026. LA Creel, LDWF's near-real-time landings data collection program, indicates that 266,420 pounds, or 30.2 percent of Louisiana's 2026 annual private recreational allocation of 882,439 pounds, have been landed.

The private recreational red snapper season began May 1 in both state and federal waters, running seven days a week with a daily bag limit of four fish per person and a 16-inch total length minimum size limit. The season will remain open until recreational landings approach or reach Louisiana's allocation.



Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the July issue includes data through March 2026. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by NOAA Fisheries and no estimations have been made.



The Gumbo Pot

Pan-Fried Redfish Recipe with Sautéed Shiitake Mushrooms and Purple Potato Salad

This pan-fried redfish recipe is accompanied by buttery shiitake mushrooms and a fresh purple potato salad that includes tomato, arugula and cane vinegar.

Recipe provided by Addie K. Martin, chef for Culicurios

Prep: 15 min Cook: 15 min Total: 30 min



INGREDIENTS:

Purple Potato Salad:

- 1-pound small purple potatoes, halved
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup sliced Roma or cherry tomatoes
- 2 cups arugula, tightly packed then chopped
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
- 2 tablespoons cane vinegar (substitute white wine or white balsamic vinegar if needed)
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Sautéed Mushrooms:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 cup thinly sliced shiitake mushroom caps

Pan Fried Redfish:

- 1 cup leaf lard
- 12 ounces to 1 pound of redfish filets (substitute perch, trout, snapper or drum fish if needed)
- 2 cups fish fry
- Kosher salt - for sprinkling after frying

METHOD:

Purple Potato Salad:

1. To prepare the potatoes, place them (with the first teaspoon of kosher salt) in a microwave safe container fitted with a cover and cook them on high for 10 to 12 minutes. Refrigerate until cool.
2. Once the potatoes are cooled, cut the bigger pieces into halves. Most of the potatoes should end up “quartered” from their original whole state.
3. Finally, combine the prepared potatoes with the remaining ingredients in the “Purple Potato Salad” section.
4. Place in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Sautéed Mushrooms:

1. Heat the butter in a medium-sized skillet. Once warm, add the shiitake mushrooms, kosher salt and thyme.
2. Stir well and cook 3-5 minutes, until mushrooms are softened and shiny.
3. Remove from heat and set aside until ready to serve.

Pan Fried Red Fish:

1. Heat the leaf lard in a large skillet.
2. While lard is heating, coat the filets with fish fry and set on a clean plate. Be sure to shake off the excess fish fry before setting in the hot lard.
3. Once lard is sufficiently hot, add the fish filets. For thicker filets, cook 5 minutes on the first side. Flip carefully and then finish for 3 minutes on the second side. For thinner filets, cook 2:30 minutes per side.
4. Set the fish to drain on a clean plate lined with paper towels. Sprinkle fish with kosher salt while still hot.
5. To plate up the entree, place a fish filet on a plate then top with sautéed mushrooms. Finish plate with a serving of the arugula potato salad.



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/>

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