



Feared and Ferocious

Great barracudas, or cudas for short, can be found worldwide in tropical and subtropical shores. They are common in the western Atlantic but can also be found in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Indo-Pacific and Red Sea. Barracudas are rare in most areas of the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Barracudas can reach a length of six feet and weigh up to 110 pounds. *Sphyrna barracuda* have a large mouth with two sets of razor-sharp teeth that fit perfectly into holes in the jaw. The outer row of teeth is used for tearing apart prey while the inner row is used for piercing. Barracudas have long, slim bodies that have proven to be perfect for speed. Their top speed has reached 36 mph. Due to few natural predators, barracudas in the wild can live up to 14 years.

You may recall the terrifying barracuda attack in the opening scene of Disney's *Finding Nemo*. Although they appear intimidating, barracudas rarely attack humans. Because they are inquisitive and sight-orientated, they do often follow snorkelers and divers. Attacks are usually caused by shiny objects in the water, such as knives or jewelry, being mistaken for glimmering fish. These incidents often result in single quick strikes, and fatalities are extremely rare.

There are few predators large and fast enough to prey on large adult barracudas. Sharks, tuna and goliath grouper have been known to feed on smaller barracudas.

Barracudas 3.5 feet long and smaller are usually safe to eat and many people find them delicious. Larger barracudas found farther from shore are more likely to accumulate a toxin called ciguatera. Because this toxin can cause food poisoning and cannot be destroyed by cooking, the consumption of large barracuda is not advised.

– Amelia Larroque



Information Needed on Protecting Vessels During Storms

Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) is asking commercial fishermen to take a 10-minute online survey about how they seek refuge from hurricanes and tropical storms. The survey can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/harbor-refuge>.

“We want to know where commercial fishermen get their information about approaching storms; have they considered finding a harbor of refuge or tie-up location when a storm is approaching; and if they have access to a safe place to tie-up until a storm passes,” said Niki Pace, lead principal investigator on the project and sustainability coordinator for the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program.

Commercial fishermen aged 18 or older can participate in the survey, which is part of a larger Sea Grant project on harbors of refuge.

“Every vessel lost has a direct economic impact on the owner, the navigability of our waterways and those ultimately charged with removing the vessel,” Pace added. “While extensive research has been conducted on terrestrial evacuation needs and routes, little has been focused on aquatic evacuation needs.”

The overall goal of the project is to develop the beginnings of a framework that policy makers and elected officials can use for establishing harbors of refuge in Louisiana and possibly across the Gulf of Mexico. Researchers on the project include Matt Bethel, LSG associate executive director; Pace; and Jennifer Scott, assistant professor in the College of Human Sciences and Education at Louisiana State University.

Webinars to Assist Skimmer Trawl Fishermen with Turtle Excluder Device (TEDs) Installation

By Aug. 1, skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length (in the Southeastern United States) that are rigged for fishing are required to install turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in their nets. Vessel length is the length specified on the vessel’s state registration or the U.S. Coast Guard vessel documentation.

To assist in TED installation and training, fishing gear specialists with NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisher Science Center’s Gear Monitoring Team will host question and answer webinar sessions and a virtual workshop summarizing the requirements and assist participants with program information and compliance. Tuesday webinars will provide a comprehensive summary of the new regulations, gear requirements and research results. Question and answer sessions will be conducted at the end of each webinar. Virtual workshops will also summarize regulations and gear requirements but will have longer question and answer sessions focused on technical aspects of TED construction, installation and handling. During these workshops, model TEDs will be available to aid gear specialists in answering questions and illustrating technical details of TED construction and measurements.

TED Tuesday Webinar:

July 27, 2021 @9:00 AM, CST

- Event address for attendees:

<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec6d91d0880e35c9657d2e6c4e679994e>

- Event number: 199 526 3257, Event password: noaa (case sensitive)
- Audio conference: US Toll, 1-415-527-5035, Access code: 199 526 3257

Friday Virtual Workshop: (To register for the virtual workshop please the link below.)

July 30, 2021 @9:00 AM, CST

- Event address for attendees:

<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed8be8cf96b66f13cb4501d61bc1b303f>

- Event number: 199 551 0988, Event password: noaa (case sensitive)
- Audio conference: US Toll, 1-415-527-5035, Access code: 199 551 0988

New Protected Species Handling and Reporting Information for Shrimp Trawl Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries has produced new outreach materials for the safe handling, release and reporting of protected species incidentally captured by shrimp trawlers. The outreach placards for sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish and giant manta ray are available at www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/endangered-species-conservation/sea-turtle-smalltooth-sawfish-and-giant-manta-ray-release.

Louisiana Inshore Shrimp Season

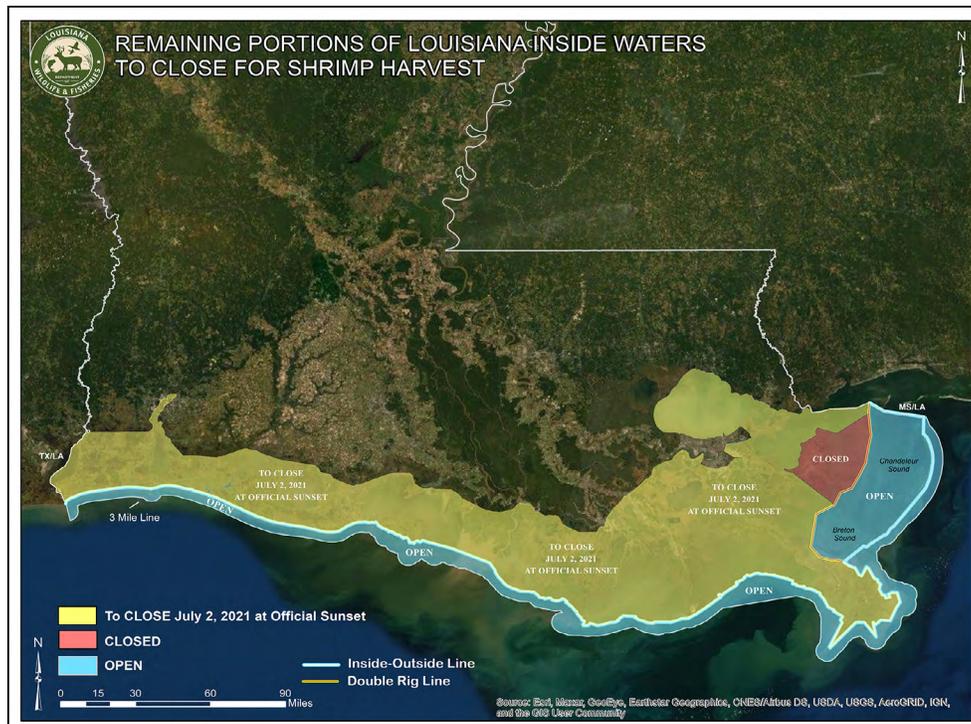
The 2021 spring inshore shrimp season closed at official sunset on June 28 in the Biloxi Marsh area of Shrimp Management Zone 1. All remaining inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line closed at official sunset on July 2.

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 will remain open to shrimping until further notice.

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

LDWF would also like to remind 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.

For more information, please visit LDWF's Shrimp Season site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/shrimp-season.



Women's Fishing 101 Workshop

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF) are teaming up to present Women's Fishing 101 Workshops this fall. The workshops are open to women over the age of 18 who are looking to learn about fishing.

LDWF biologists and aquatic volunteer instructors will train 15 women per event in fish identification, best fish handling practices, preparing fishing equipment, basic fishing skills, as well as cleaning, storing, and cooking fish. Seven to eight participants will be randomly selected from each workshop and get the chance to apply their newly learned skills on an overnight weekend fishing trip under the direction of LDWF biologists and volunteer instructors during the summer of 2022.

Fall Workshop Dates:

Aug. 28, 2021 (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM) – LDWF Waddill Wildlife Refuge, Baton Rouge

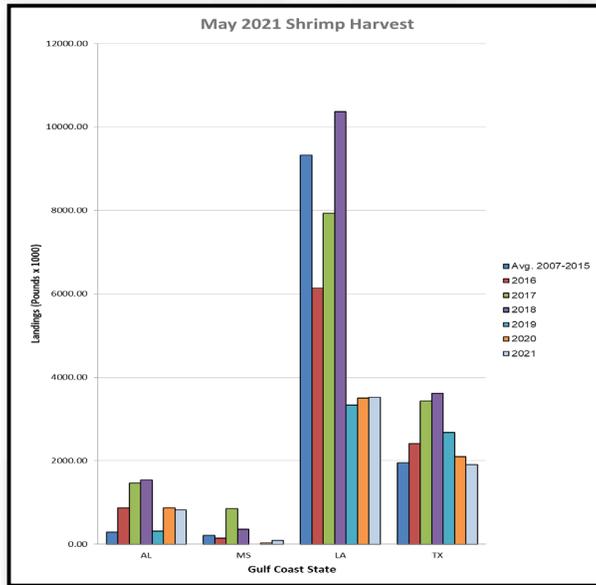
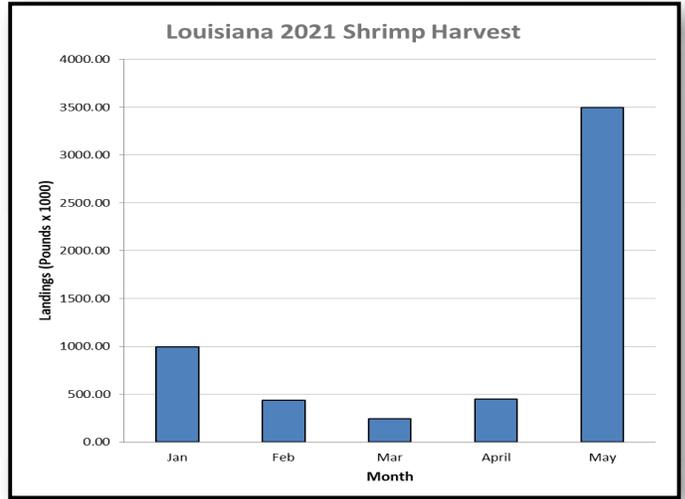
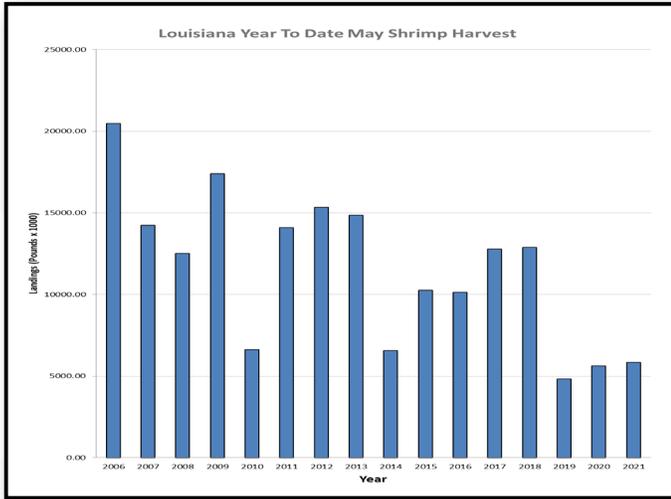
Sept. 11, 2021 (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM) – LDWF Waddill Wildlife Refuge, Baton Rouge

To apply by July 23, visit: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/womens-fishing-101-workshops.

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 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

March 9, 2022 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit.

THE GUMBO POT

COMMANDER'S TURTLE 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:

2 ½ sticks of unsalted butter, in all
 ¾ cup of all-purpose flour
 1 lb. turtle meat, cut into ½-inch cubes
 1 cup minced celery
 2 medium onions, minced
 1 ½ teaspoons garlic, minced
 3 bay leaves
 1 teaspoons oregano
 ½ teaspoons thyme
 ½ teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
 1 ½ cups tomato puree
 1 quart beef stock (add turtle bones when making stock, if available)
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste as needed
 ½ cup lemon juice
 5 hard boiled eggs, finely chopped
 1 tablespoon minced parsley
 6 teaspoons dry sherry

Method:

Melt 2 sticks of butter in a heavy saucepan. Add the flour and cook, stirring frequently, over medium heat until the roux is light brown. Set aside.

In a 5-quart saucepan, melt the remaining butter. Add turtle meat. Cook over high heat until the meat is brown. Add celery, onions, garlic and seasonings. Cook until the vegetables are transparent.

Add tomato purée, lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the stock and simmer for 30 minutes. Add the roux and cook over low heat, stirring, until the soup is smooth and thickened.

Correct seasoning with salt and pepper to taste. Add lemon juice, eggs and parsley. Remove from heat and serve.

At the table, add 1 teaspoon sherry to each soup plate.

**Serves 6. Recipe courtesy of Commander's Palace*

**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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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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