



LWFC Adopts Notice of Intent to Amend Freshwater, Saltwater Recreational and Commercial Passive Hooked Gear Tending Requirements

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to change the required time to check and rebait passive hooked gear, including yo-yos or trigger devices, limb lines, floating devices containing a hook or hooks (jugs and noodles) and trotlines, from the current 24 hours to 48 hours. This rule applies to all users of the listed gears including recreational, commercial, saltwater and freshwater.

The expanded time to check gear will allow for extra time to check passive hooked gear following unforeseen circumstances such as weather or mechanical issues, while maintaining the intent of the rule to reduce hazards, litter and ghost fishing of abandoned gear.

The notice of intent can be viewed here (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/Freshwater-and-Saltwater-Passive-Hooked-Fishing-Gear-NOI-062026-48-hours.pdf).

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898, or via email to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to 3 p.m. on July 28, 2026.



LWFC Adopts Notice of Intent to Modify Permitted Gear for the Special Bait Dealer's Permit

On June 2, 2026, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to amend the Special Bait Dealer's Permit. The amendment removes the sunset provision of the current rule and establishes the use of commercial fishing gear during closed seasons when fishing under a valid Special Bait Dealer's Permit provided by the department. Previous regulatory action allowed for larger commercial nets to be fished under this permit during closed shrimp seasons to provide live bait for recreational fishermen, while allowing uninterrupted operation for the commercial establishments that sell live bait. The use of this expanded gear was originally authorized through the 2023 commercial license year, and then extended through the 2026 commercial license year, to allow for the effects of the regulation to be evaluated. The effects of the regulation were evaluated, with no indication of negative impacts on the resource or industry.

The commission intends to remove the language referencing the smaller gear allowance and remove the sunset provision of the currently permitted larger commercial gear. The commission further intends to establish the currently permitted commercial gear as rule:

- One trawl not to exceed 50 feet in length along the cork line and 66 feet in length along the lead line with a mesh size of 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched. During the fall inshore shrimp season from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River, trawl mesh must be 3/4-inch bar or 1-1/2 inches stretched.
- Double skimmer nets may have an opening circumference of no more than 72 feet for each net and a maximum lead line length of 33 feet. Skimmer nets may be mounted to the horizontal net frame at any distance from the gunwale of the

vessel as long as the mounting distance and horizontal length of the net frame does not exceed 20 feet from the gunwale. Mesh size must be at least 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched and 3/4-inch bar or 1-1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule to Konner Lockfield, Marine Fisheries Biologist DCL-B, Marine Fisheries Section, 2045 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 403, New Orleans, LA 70122, or via email kllockfield@wlf.la.gov, prior to July 28, 2026.

A copy of the NOI can be found here (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/bait-permit-NOI-2026.pdf).

2026 State Gag Grouper Season to Open Sept. 1 and Close Oct. 1

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries issued a declaration of emergency to modify the gag grouper season. The season for the recreational harvest of gag grouper in Louisiana state waters shall open at 12:01 a.m. on Sept. 1, 2026, and remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2026.

The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the 2026 recreational season for the harvest of gag grouper in the federal waters of the Gulf of America has been modified to open on Sept. 1, 2026, and close on Oct. 1, 2026. Compatible season regulations in state waters are often enacted to facilitate efficient enforcement of the fishery and to prevent long-term overfishing of the species.



LDWF Biologists Work to Restore Critical Fish Habitat on Toledo Bend

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Inland Fisheries biologists are working to restore critical fish habitat on Toledo Bend Reservoir by planting native submersed aquatic vegetation in strategic locations.

Over the past two weeks, LDWF crews have stocked 110 containers of native eelgrass (*Vallisneria* spp.) totaling 220 square feet of habitat. Plantings have focused on areas that provide the best opportunity for long-term establishment – near Negreet Creek and North Toledo Bend State Park.

These plants are important to the Toledo Bend Reservoir, as they provide critical habitat for juvenile fish, forage species and invertebrates – while also improving water quality.

Restoration efforts began after two consecutive years of high, muddy water in 2016 and 2017 caused the lake's native vegetation to decline. In response, biologists began exploring habitat restoration methods that have worked in reservoirs across other southern states.

Some early attempts to plant eelgrass in past years did not succeed because of several challenges, including strong wave action, muddy water, changing water levels and animals feeding on the plants. However, by testing different approaches and choosing more sheltered planting areas, biologists are now seeing patches of eelgrass successfully growing in several parts of the reservoir.

Additional weekly plantings of approximately 100 square feet each are planned throughout the next month.

LDWF biologists remain committed to improving and expanding fish habitat to help sustain the world-class fishery anglers enjoy on Toledo Bend.

For additional information regarding Toledo Bend, contact Villis Dowden, LDWF biologist manager, at vdowden@wlf.la.gov or (318) 357-3214.

Gulf Council Asks Fishermen for Information on King Mackerel

The Gulf Council would like to gain a better understanding of what’s happening with king mackerel in the Gulf. The council recognizes that as active fishermen, you may notice trends or interesting things happening in the Gulf that the scientists and managers may not be aware of yet.

They rely on your on-the-water expertise to guide our current understanding of what’s happening. A scientific stock assessment of king mackerel is just beginning. The information you provide through our Fisherman Feedback Tool will help to inform scientists and managers as they formulate a current understanding of the stock.



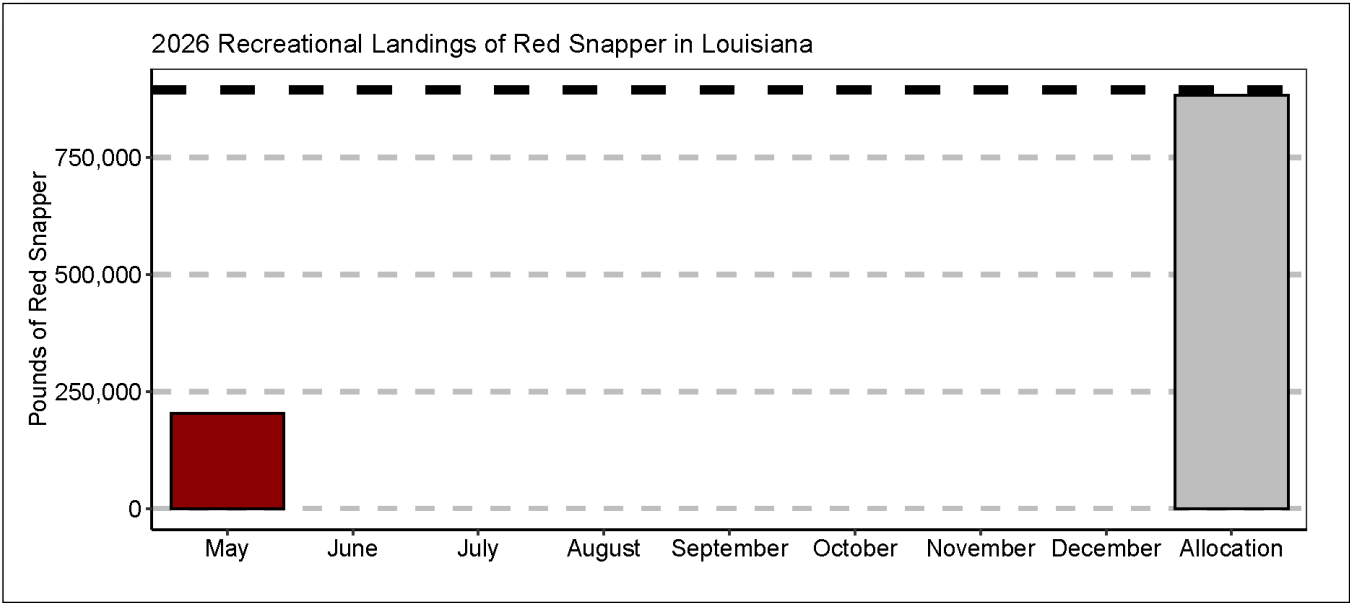
Please submit your responses to our Fisherman Feedback Tool for King Mackerel (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG25LKrNHbZsSbnBtkWOwE67a6rZjXK3i337lnvmRa-Hl-dw/viewform>).

Responses are due by 5:00 PM, EDT on July 12, 2026.

Louisiana Snapper Watch

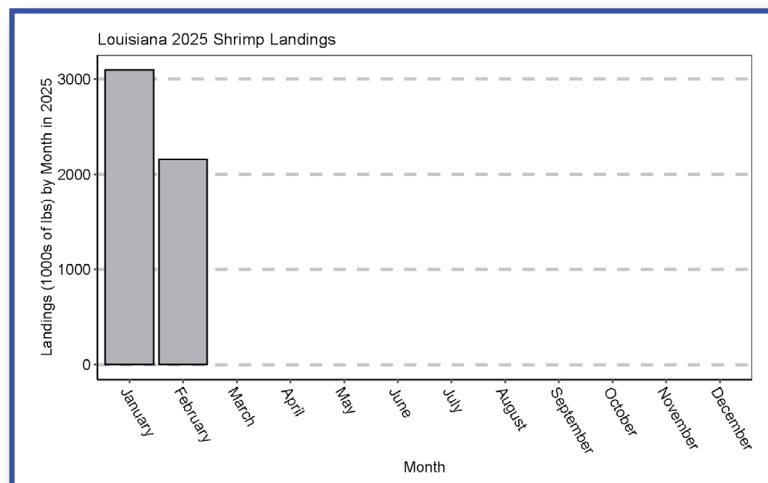
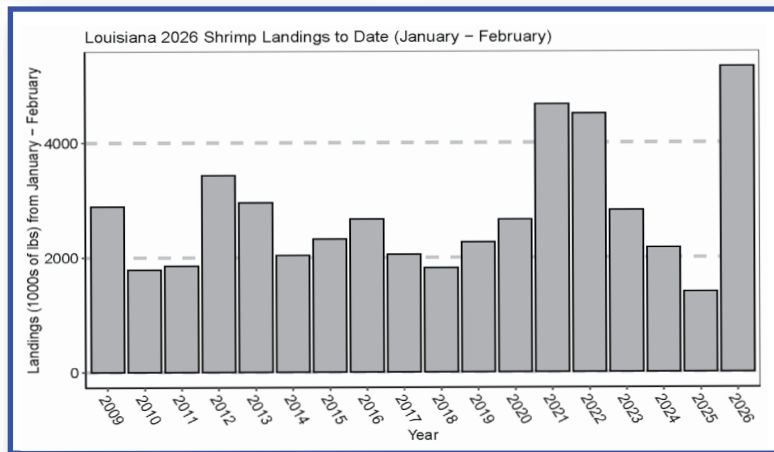
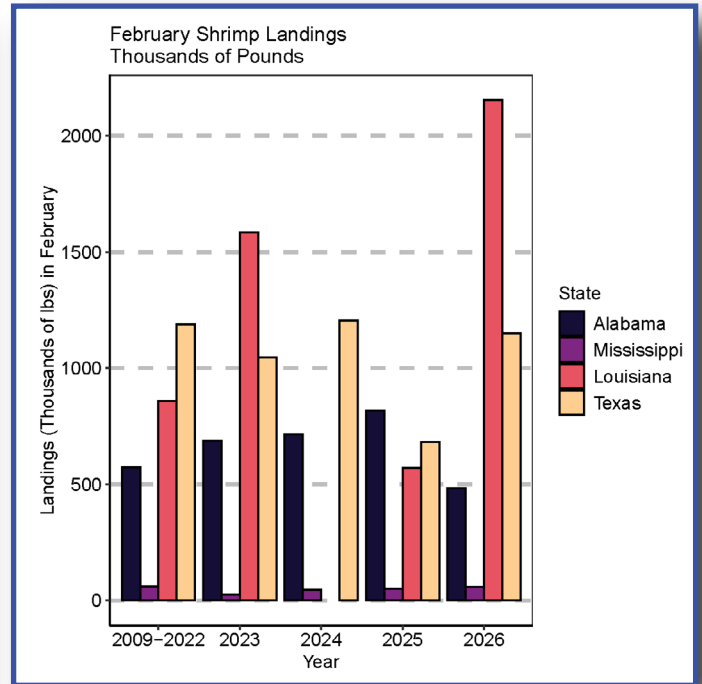
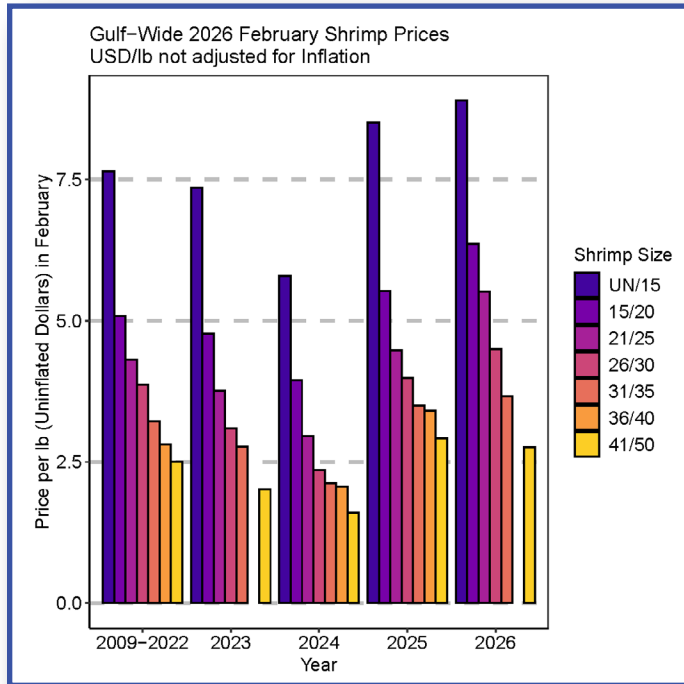
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) released the recreational red snapper landings estimate through May 31, 2026. LA Creel, LDWF’s near-real-time landings data collection program, indicates that 202,954 pounds, or 23 percent of Louisiana’s 2026 annual private recreational allocation 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 May issue includes data through January 2026. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States Fisheries Commission and no estimations have been made.



The Gumbo Pot

Oyster and Artichoke Soup Recipe

Recipe provided by Addie K. Martin, chef for Culicurious

Prep: 20 min Cook: 45 min Total: 1 hour, 05 min



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 2 cups onions, chopped (one large onion)
- 1 cup celery, chopped (three celery ribs)
- 1 cup chopped green onions, tops and bottoms mixed
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped garlic
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cans of large artichoke hearts, drained, rinsed and chopped with rough outer leaves removed beforehand
- 1 quart chicken stock
- 3 dozen oysters + oyster liquor (in a separate container)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. In soup pot, melt butter over medium high heat.
2. Add the onions, celery, green onions, kosher salt and cayenne. Cook until onions are wilted and shiny, about 8 minutes.
3. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about a minute.
4. Add the artichokes and flour and stir thoroughly to combine. Once the flour and artichokes are stirred in, add the chicken stock and oyster liquor. Stir well to ensure that it's thoroughly mixed and nothing is sticking to the bottom of the pot.
5. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer until mixture is heated through and thickened a bit. Total cook time here should be about 20 minutes.
6. Remove from heat and puree with an immersion blender. Make sure to thoroughly blend all of the artichoke hearts.
7. Put back on the stove over medium-high heat. Add heavy cream, parmesan cheese, oysters, and chopped parsley. Stir well and simmer for another 5 minutes, until heated through and oysters begin to curl at the edges.
8. Serve hot.



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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additional news and timely events between issues.
<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>

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