



## Louisiana Fisheries – Part I Marine Fisheries

Marine finfish landings for food are varied and complex, with about 60 different species being landed for a total of 10.3 million pounds in 2018\*, excluding menhaden. This was a 9 percent decrease from 2017, when 11.3 million pounds of marine finfish were landed in Louisiana. With the exclusion of menhaden, the top five landed species were black drum, herrings, sheepshead, red snapper and king mackerel.

By value, (also, excluding menhaden), the top five species were red snapper, black drum, yellowfin tuna, herrings and king mackerel. Total saltwater finfish landings, excluding menhaden, have continued to decline. The value in 2018 totaled \$17.4 million, a 10 percent drop from \$19.3 million in 2017. The 2017 values were 10 percent lower than those in 2016.

Menhaden (or pogey), a low-value, but high volume finfish species is caught for its value outside of human consumption. Landings in 2018 were around 855 million pounds, an increase of 19 percent from 716 million pounds in 2017. The catch was valued at \$90.3 million in 2018 a rather significant (48 percent) increase from \$60.9 million in 2017. The value of the fish in terms of price per pound increased from 8.5 cents per pound in 2017 to 10.6 cents per pound in 2018. This is closer to the value back in 2014 and 2015 of 10.8 and 9.5 cents per pound, respectively. While this fish is too small and oily to eat, it is used in a variety of different ways including



*Menhaden or pogey. Photo by Julie Lively*

fertilizers, animal feeds, omega-3 dietary supplements, cosmetics as well as bait. The prices of these products is a function of the world supply of oils and meals, particularly by the fisheries for the anchoveta of the Pacific Coast of South America.

In 2018, 11.1 million pounds of oysters were harvested by 907 fishermen, or about 1.7 million sacks. This is a 17 percent decrease from 13.3 million pounds in 2017. In 2018, the price per pound for oysters was \$7 (\$45.18 per 40-pound sack), an increase from \$6.33 in 2017 (\$40.96 per 50-pound sack). To calculate prices per sack, an assumption of 6.47 pounds of shucked oyster meat per sack was used. The gross value of oysters harvested in 2018 was \$77.5 million, a decrease of 8 percent from \$84.4 million in 2017.

Louisiana hard crab landings usually range from 40 to 50 million pounds annually made up of almost 100 percent blue crab with less than 0.1 percent of stone crab claws. However, recent stock assessments have shown stocks fell below acceptable levels in 2012 and

*\*Note: Most recent data. Fishery landings are on a one-year lag to ensure data accuracy. Sources: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries & National Marine Fisheries Service*

2014, while being overfished in 2013 and 2015. Blue crab landings were just over 45 million pounds, fished by 2,475 license holders and valued at \$63.6 million in 2018. This was a 3 percent increase in landings from 43.9 million pounds and a 17 percent increase in value from \$54.2 million in 2017.

There was a spring restriction on female blue crabs to help with the overall population, but this did not have an impact on overall annual landings.

Peeler or buster crabs are blue crabs that are close to molting their shell. These crabs are sold to soft shell facilities to produce soft shell crab. For many years now, the soft-shell industry has been in decline. In 2017, 10,171 pounds of soft shell were produced. In 2018, 14,466 pounds were produced valued at \$114,194.



*Blue crab. Photo by Julie Lively*

Louisiana shrimp landings in 2018 consisted mainly of four species: white shrimp, brown shrimp, northern pink shrimp and Atlantic seabob shrimp. Historically, Louisiana shrimp harvest landings and values have been dominated by white shrimp. In 2018, white shrimp landings contributed 55 percent of the total landings (49.9 million pounds) and 70 percent of the total value (\$78.3 million). In the same year, brown shrimp made up 44.4 percent of the harvest (40.2 million pounds) and 29.7 percent of the total value (\$33.3 million), with northern pink and Atlantic seabob contributing the rest (<1 percent in both categories). Total shrimp landings in 2018 were up 3 percent from 2017 from 94.4 to 97.2 million pounds while value decreased 10 percent from \$134 million to \$120 million. The average price per pound in 2018 was down nearly 20 cents from 2017 to \$1.23.

In 2018, marine fisheries landings in Louisiana were valued at \$368.9 million, and increase from \$352.9 million in 2017.

– Julie Lively and Lauren Carter

## Maintaining Personal Wellbeing during COVID-19

There are multiple moving parts when it comes to wellbeing – mental, physical, spiritual, social and emotional. By taking care of each of these areas, we stress less and enjoy life more. Whether you continue to shelter in place or are transitioning back into the world outside of your home, please look to Louisiana Sea Grant's Personal Wellness page for fact-based resources to help support your wellbeing – [www.laseagrant.org/resources/covid19/wellness/](http://www.laseagrant.org/resources/covid19/wellness/).

## Red Snapper Season

The 2020 recreational red snapper season began on Friday, May 22 in both state and federal waters. The season will run weekends only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including the Monday of Labor Day, July 4th falls on a Saturday and will be part of the season as designated) with a daily bag limit of two 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 annual private recreational allocation of 784,332 pounds. This is 19.1 percent of the Gulf-wide red snapper private angling quota and adjusted for last year's overage.

Louisiana is operating under its first year of state delegated management, which allows the LDWF to manage the private recreational red snapper season in state and federal waters.

## 2019 Freshwater Disaster Aid

Louisiana will receive \$58.3 million in federal funding to help the state's fishing industry rebound from the severe financial losses caused by the 2019 freshwater flooding event, in addition to the funding allocated for COVID-19.

The economic impact to the fishing industry in Louisiana from the 2019 flood disaster was estimated at approximately \$338 million, which included \$177 million in current losses and \$161 million in projected future losses. The full scale of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Louisiana fisheries has not been determined.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is working with Louisiana Sea Grant to develop spending plans and gather input from members of the fishing industry. After industry input and program development, the plans will be submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for final approval before any funds can be disbursed to the fishing industry.



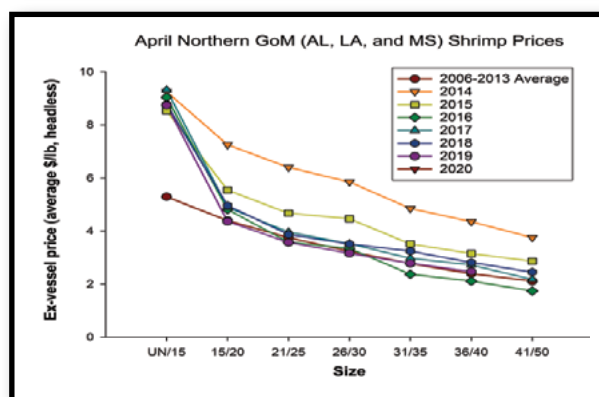
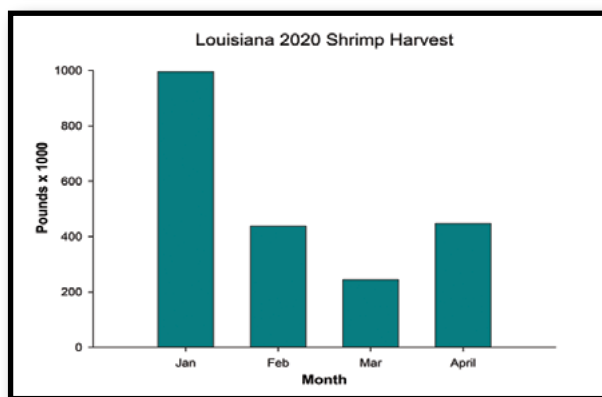
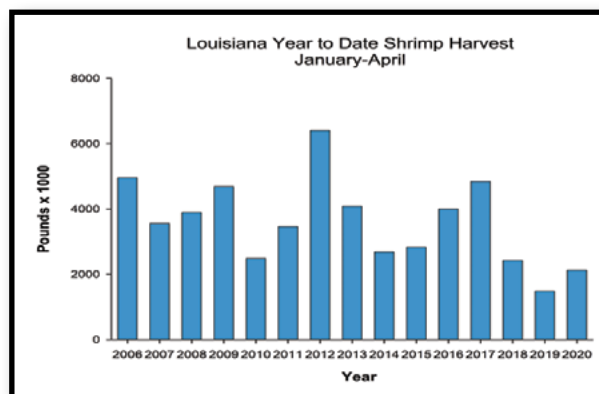
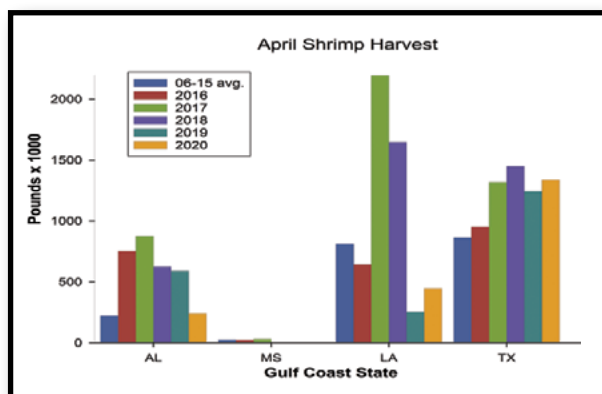
Of the total, \$58.3 million of federal recovery funds will be directed toward the fisheries disaster resulting from 2019 freshwater flooding in Louisiana. The Bonne Carré Spillway was opened an unprecedented two times, diverting river water into the fishing areas affecting oysters, shrimp, blue crab and finfish. The purpose of the fisheries disaster funding is to help fisheries resources and fishing industries become more sustainable and resilient to future disasters. The spending plan will be complex and may not be finalized until later this year.

A more immediate relief fund of \$14.6 million has been directed to Louisiana as part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Its purpose is to assist Louisiana fishermen and other parts of the industry affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through direct aid payments. It is part of a larger national federal funding package to assist all states' fishing industries affected by the pandemic.

LDWF assistant secretary Patrick Banks said he hopes the spending plan will be approved by NOAA and in play by late July. His staff is working with LSG to develop criteria for the delivery of the CARES funds.

## 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), but only limited information was available for April. 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).



## Important Dates & Upcoming Events

**June 15-18, 2020:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet by webinar. Join and find the details at <https://gulfcouncil.org/meetings/council/>.

**June 20, 2020:** St. Bernard Seafood Market at Delacroix Pier. 9am-1pm. Contact Dominique Seibert for more information: 504-458-2397.

**July 9, 2020:** Comments due for Louisiana notice of intent to change cobia size limit from 33" to 36" fork length. To view the full notice of intent, please visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/resources/category/commission-action-items](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/resources/category/commission-action-items).

# **THE GUMBO POT**

## **BARBEQUE SPECKLED TROUT FILLETS\***

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 sticks melted butter  
4 lemons  
Dash Worcestershire sauce  
5 pounds Louisiana speckled trout fillets  
Salt, and cayenne and black pepper to taste

### **Method:**

Bring 4 quarts water to boil in large pot for pasta. Add pasta and prepare a charcoal grill for indirect cooking. Cover grill rack with aluminum foil and lower it as close as possible to coals, approximately 4 inches away. Every 2 inches, punch holes in aluminum foil. This will let small amount of butter sauce drip on the coals. This will result in a slightly smoky taste.

Mix butter, lemon juice and Worcestershire. Season fish fillets with salt and peppers to taste. Put the fish on grill and baste with butter, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce mixture, taking care not to let fish stick or burn.

Cook fillets for 10 to 15 minutes until they flake easily with a fork.

\*Serves 6-8.

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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