



## LDWF to Begin Accepting Applications for Commercial and Charter Vessel Access Grant Program as part of the Louisiana 2019 Flood Disaster Grant

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will start accepting applications for the Commercial and Charter Vessel Access Grant Program funded through the LDWF 2019 Flood Disaster Grant. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) allocated funding to Louisiana's fishing industry to minimize the impacts of widespread freshwater flooding, which affected the state's saltwater resources.

Following the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway in 2019, floodwaters restricted the use of some boat ramps, mooring docks and fuel docks and created navigational obstacles for fishing vessels. Under the state's approved disaster spending plan, LDWF will award grants of up to \$500,000 to public and private entities to construct new facilities, acquire land or make improvements that increase public access for saltwater commercial fishing and charter vessels.

Projects funded under this program must be located in a coastal area impacted by the 2019 Flood event and cannot restrict access to the public. Applicants applying for the program must have ownership rights or have a lease/land control agreement for the project. If awarded funding, applicants are responsible for maintaining facilities for a minimum period of 20 years.

Interested entities can submit online applications for funding to LDWF beginning April 1, 2024. The application period will end on May 15, 2024. To access the online application submission form, visit <https://fs30.formsite.com/Jfroeba/pdpzur68ir/index>.

A five-member committee will evaluate all submitted applications to determine the most beneficial and cost-effective projects. Each project will be scored based on pre-determined criteria established by LDWF. Projects will be ranked with a priority level and funded according to the assigned rank. LDWF will inform applicants of finalized project selections and award amounts.

For further information regarding program details and application processing, visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/commercial-and-charter-vessel-access-grants](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/commercial-and-charter-vessel-access-grants), or contact LDWF at (225) 765-3980.



## LDWF Fishing Course Series Announces Spring Dates

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is kicking off the spring season of the Fishing Course Series with a brand-new course: Intermediate Bass Fishing – Spring! LDWF will also be hosting a Beginner Bass Fishing course in preparation for the 75th annual Big Bass Rodeo in City Park. Along with these courses in the New Orleans area, the Fishing Course Series will offer several more bass and catfish courses around Baton Rouge and Lafayette this spring.

Intermediate Bass Fishing – Spring course will be geared towards participants with basic fishing knowledge or anglers that have completed an Intro to Fishing or Beginner Bass Fishing course, but the prerequisites are not required to register. Participants will dive deep into bass behaviors, weather effects and lure selections for fishing Largemouth Bass throughout the spring season, followed by an hour of fishing with LDWF staff and volunteers.

Each two-hour class will be open to all ages and limited to 10 participants, with a waitlist option. Equipment will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own gear as well. All in attendance will also receive a take-home bag with useful information and sample lures related to the course. Anglers 18 and older must possess a valid recreational fishing license to participate, and anglers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Upcoming dates:

March 9, 9:00 a.m. at City Park, New Orleans, La. – Intermediate Bass Fishing

March 9, 2:00 p.m. at City Park, New Orleans, La. – Intermediate Bass Fishing

March 22, 5:00 p.m. at City Park, New Orleans, La. – Beginner Bass Fishing

To register for one of the FCS courses, visit [Louisianaoutdoors.com/events](https://louisianaoutdoors.com/events) and select the event type “Fishing Ed” to see all available FCS courses. If you need assistance registering, contact [outreach@wlf.la.gov](mailto:outreach@wlf.la.gov) or call Joshua Porter (225) 763-3540. For more information on the Fishing Course Series, visit [wlf.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-workshops](https://wlf.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-workshops).

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with managing and protecting Louisiana’s abundant natural resources. For more information, visit us at [www.wlf.la.gov](https://www.wlf.la.gov), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ldwffb](https://www.facebook.com/ldwffb) or follow us on Twitter @LDWF.

The Fishing Course Series is hosted in conjunction with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LAWFF). The LAWFF was formed to help expand and support LDWF education and research programs with additional resources developed through its own facilities. Encouraging support for LDWF programs is the major focus of the foundation, accomplished by connecting people and businesses with Louisiana’s natural resources. For more information, visit [www.lawff.org](https://www.lawff.org).

The Fishing Course Series is funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, a USFWS grant program that provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for fishery projects, boating access and aquatic education.



## Louisiana Shrimp Season Closed Feb. 25 in Remaining State Inshore Waters

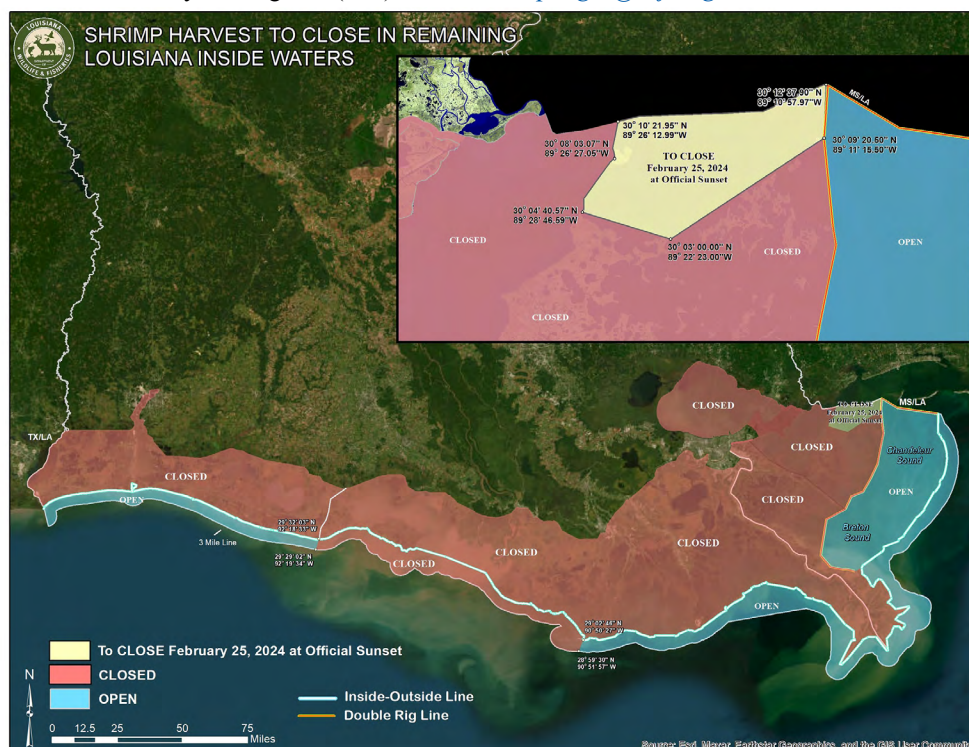
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced that the 2023 fall inshore shrimp season closed at official sunset on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, in the remaining state inside waters, except for the following:

The open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sound as bounded by the double-rig line described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2.

Recent biological sampling conducted by the department indicates a decrease in marketable white shrimp and that the average white shrimp size within these state inshore waters is smaller than the minimum possession count allowed by law. A closure is needed to protect the small white shrimp in these waters and provide an opportunity for growth to larger and more valuable sizes. R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) per pound, except from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December.

Notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season by the secretary will be made by public notice at least 72 hours before such action.

For more information, contact Peyton Cagle at (337) 491-2213 or [pcagle@wlf.la.gov](mailto:pcagle@wlf.la.gov).





## LWF Commission Amends Notice of Intent to Modify Rules for Menhaden Fishery

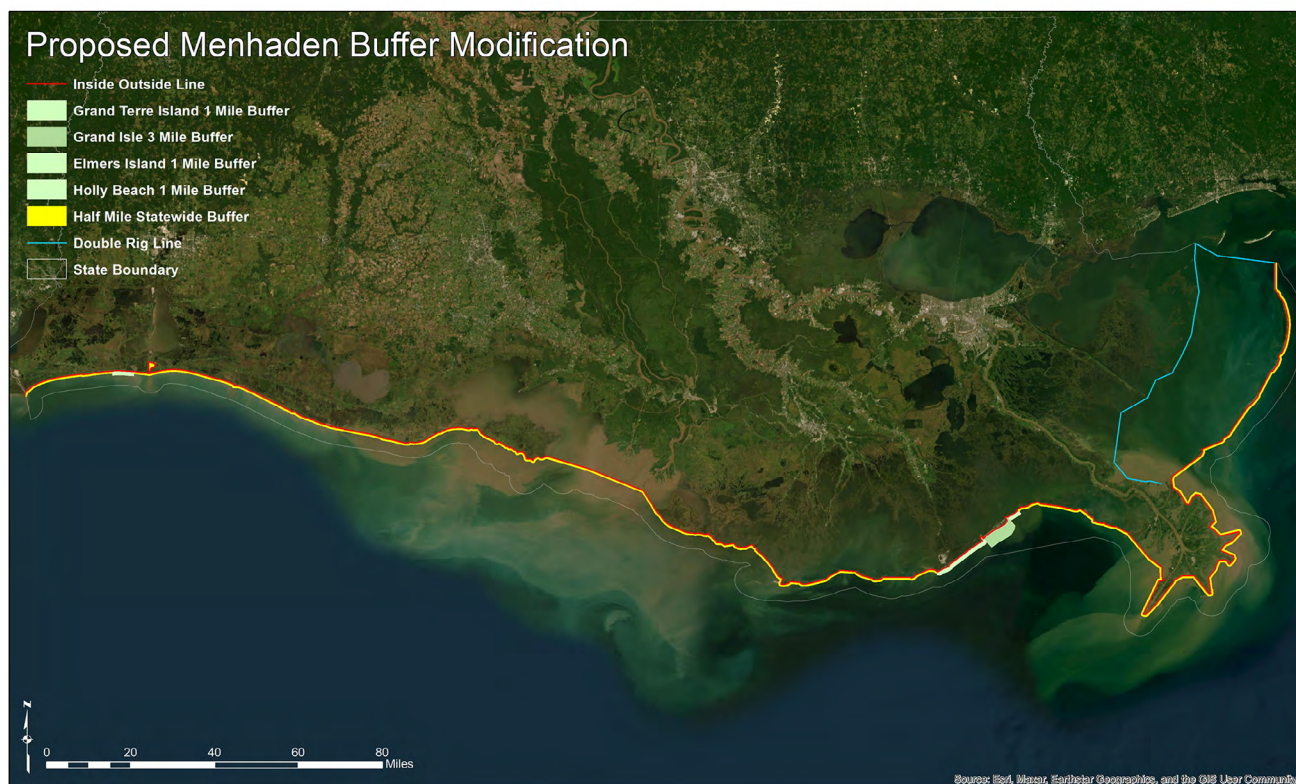
The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took action to amend the current Notice of Intent (NOI) to modify regulations governing the commercial menhaden fishery, including the statewide fishing buffer, restricted areas off southwestern Louisiana, and requirements following the release of gear or fish. The commission concurrently adopted a Declaration of Emergency to make the amended rule effective for the duration of the 2024 commercial menhaden season.

This action occurred at a special meeting of the commission after stakeholder meetings held last week. The commission received public comment for the current proposed rule at its regular meeting on Feb. 1, but declined action on the proposal at that time pending additional stakeholder engagement.

The original NOI adopted by the commission in October 2023, proposed a statewide buffer of one mile, added provisions that establish a buffer zone three miles off the area between Holly Beach and Rutherford Beach in southwestern Louisiana and clarified when the retrieval of any menhaden or bycatch released into the environment must begin and the conditions and penalties associated with such a release.

### Buffer Zone Amendments:

The amended NOI reduces the proposed one-mile statewide buffer to one-half mile, eliminates the proposed buffer off Rutherford Beach, and reduces the buffer off Holly Beach from three miles to one mile.



## Gulf Council Seeks Applicants for its Reef Fish and Shrimp Advisory Panels

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is accepting applications for membership on its Reef Fish and Shrimp Advisory Panels.

Advisory panels are comprised of individuals who are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of the fishery resources, or who are engaged in the harvest of Gulf of Mexico managed species. Membership provides individuals with an opportunity to become more directly involved in the management process by making formal recommendations to decision makers.

Advisory panel members are appointed by the council and serve a three-year term. Advisory panel members generally meet once or twice per year and are compensated for travel expenses. No person may serve on more than two advisory panels at any one time. However, membership on an ad hoc advisory panel does not count towards this limitation.

If you are currently a member of the Reef Fish or Shrimp Advisory Panel you must re-apply to be considered for continued membership.

To apply for the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, complete this online application – <https://forms.gle/28kcfwoyJNsVYICC6>.  
To apply for the Shrimp Advisory Panel, complete this online application – <https://forms.gle/84GgXFDYxrLMYsAXA>.

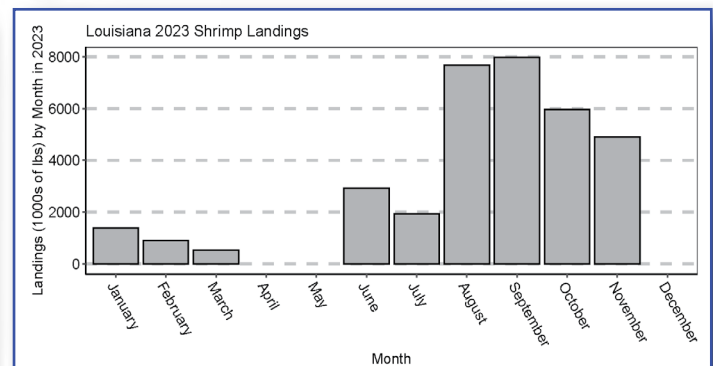
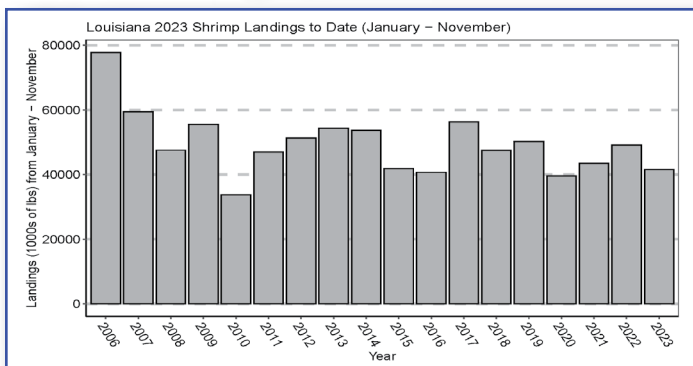
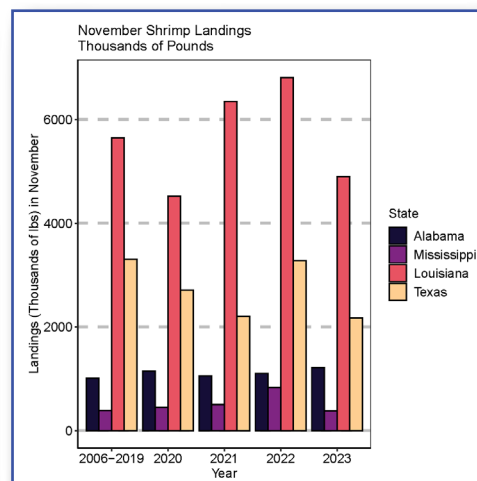
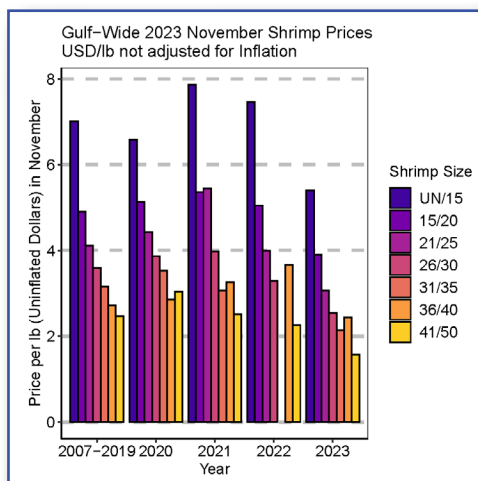
Applications must be received by 12 noon EDT on March 18, 2024, for consideration by the council during its April meeting. Selected applicants will be subject to background checks for federal fishing violations after the April meeting and final selections will be confirmed at the June council meeting. All applicants will be notified of their application status immediately following the June council meeting.

For questions, email [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org) or call the council office at (813) 348-1630.



## Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the March issue includes data through November. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States and no estimations have been made.



# **THE GUMBO POT**

## **Shrimp Po' Boys with Pineapple Slaw\***

*Recipe adapted from Best American Recipes*



### **Ingredients:**

- 1/3 cup egg substitute
- 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons reduced-sodium Creole seasoning
- 1-pound uncooked Gulf shrimp (16-20), peeled and deveined
- 2 cups broccoli coleslaw mix
- 1 cup unsweetened pineapple tidbits, drained,  
3 tablespoons liquid reserved
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup reduced fat mayonnaise
- 6 hoagie buns, split and toasted
- 4 tablespoons reduced-fat tartar sauce
- 3 medium tomatoes, sliced

### **Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Pour egg substitute into a shallow bowl. In a separate shallow bowl, mix breadcrumbs and Creole seasoning. Dip Gulf shrimp in egg substitute, then in crumb mixture, patting to help coating adhere. Bake in a greased 15 x 10 x 1-in. pan until Gulf shrimp turn pink, 7-9 minutes. Keep warm.

2. Meanwhile, combine broccoli slaw, pineapple and green onions. In a small bowl, whisk together mayonnaise and reserved pineapple liquid until smooth. Add to broccoli mixture; toss to coat.

3. To serve, spread hoagie buns with tartar sauce. Divide tomato slices and Gulf shrimp among buns. Top with pineapple broccoli slaw.

*\*Serves 6*



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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](mailto: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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