



Sperm Whale (The Cachalot or Great White Whale)

From the Arctic to the Antarctic and across all the world's oceans, the sperm whale is the largest toothed whale, both in terms of pure size and distribution. They hunt for food at depths of nearly 2,000 feet, with diets largely of deep-water species such as squid, skates and sharks. The whale gets its name from spermaceti, a wax-like substance that can be found in a sac inside the whale's head that they use to help focus sound. Spermaceti was used by humans for fuel in oil lamps, lubricants and even candles. Because of this commercial value to humans, the sperm whale was hunted to near extinction in the early 1800s until 1987. This practice largely came to an end with the passing of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

At approximately nine years of age and 29 feet in length, the female sperm whale reaches sexual maturity. Once the female reaches this point in her life growth begins to slow and she will produce a single calf every five to seven years. These



Sperm whale. NOAA Photo Library

calves are about 13 feet in length at birth and continue to nurse for several years. In contrast, the male sperm whale has a prolonged puberty stage, reaching sexual maturity after nearly 20 years. While the males may be capable of reproducing at this point in their lives, they usually do not participate in breeding until their late 20s.

Interestingly, male and female sperm whales travel in separate pods as adults. The females will form lasting bonds with other female members of their families forming pods consisting of approximately 12 female whales and their young. These female pods will spend most of their lives in tropical waters, including the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Female whales and immature whales of both sexes have been seen within 60 miles of the Mississippi River Delta. Between the ages of four to 20, male sperm whales will leave their mothers' pods and form their own schools of "bachelors" who are all approximately the same age and size. These "bachelors" will migrate towards the poles as they age and grow but occasionally return to the warm, tropical waters to breed.

– Bailey Pentz

2022 Derelict Crab Trap Clean Up Events; Volunteers and Sponsors Needed

Volunteer clean up events for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Derelict Crab Trap Clean Up Events will occur in February in Calcasieu and Barataria Basins.

- **Barataria Basin:** A dedicated volunteer day will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Jean Lafitte Harbor located at 4932 Kenal Road Lafitte, LA 70067. Contact Peyton Cagle at 337-491-2575, or pcagle@wlf.la.gov for directions. To better coordinate volunteer activities, volunteers are encouraged to register in advance at the following website: http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emKwDve0uxrIFgG
- **Calcasieu Basin:** A dedicated volunteer day will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge West Cove Public Launch (north side). The launch is across the street from Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Admin Building and Visitor Contact Station at 3000 Holly Beach Highway Hackberry, LA 70645. Contact Peyton Cagle at 337-491-2575, or pcagle@wlf.la.gov for directions. To better coordinate volunteer activities, volunteers are encouraged to register in advance at the following website: http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emKwDve0uxrIFgG

Volunteers will help collect traps in the field, unload traps at the dock and count traps as they are unloaded. Commercial fishermen are highly encouraged to participate, as their experience with the local waters and ability to stack traps on their vessels is valuable. Event organizers will provide boat owners with the equipment needed to collect the traps; however, boat owners are responsible for transporting traps in their vessels. Removing abandoned crab traps is a wet and dirty job, so volunteers should wear appropriate clothing and water-resistant gear. Volunteers should bring their own personal floatation device, which should be worn at all times while on the water.

Sponsors: In previous years, sponsors have provided lunch and/or drinks for all the event participants, breakfast, random gifts for door prizes, portable bathroom facilities and dumpsters. If you are interested in sponsoring the rodeo event, contact Peyton Cagle before Dec. 31, 2021, at pcagle@wlf.la.gov. Please use the words “2022 DCTR Event” in the subject of the email and state how you, your business, or organization would like to sponsor this event.

For more information on the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program, contact Peyton Cagle at 337-491-2575 or pcagle@wlf.la.gov.

New Commercial Fishing Licenses Now Available

The following new commercial fishing licenses went into effect on Nov. 15, 2021.

Freshwater Charter Guide License – Louisiana freshwater charter guides are required to have a Freshwater Charter Guide license. This year, LDWF will allow freshwater charter guides to obtain their licenses without the required insurance documents and U.S. Coast Guard captain’s license. This will allow freshwater charter guides the time necessary to meet those requirements before the next license year, beginning Nov. 15, 2022, when those items will be required to obtain the Freshwater Charter Guide License.

Additional information about charter guide requirements can be found at:

https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Fishing/For_Hire_Charter_Fishing/Files/Steps-to-Become-a-Charter-Boat-Captain.pdf.

The Gulf Seafood Traversing and Offloading License allows commercial fishermen that fish in federal water to traverse Louisiana state waters with their fishing gear and catch and sell their catch in Louisiana.

For commercial license inquiries, contact LDWF at 225-765-2898.

For a complete review of the changes to all commercial and recreational licenses during the 2021 legislative session, visit:

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/understanding-our-license-fee-changes.

Delayed Implementation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Reporting Requirements

Federal charter and headboat owners and operators have until March 1, 2022, to install NOAA Fisheries approved hardware and software with GPS capabilities that, at a minimum, archives vessel position data during a trip and transmits those data to NOAA fisheries. Owners and operators must comply with reporting requirements no matter where the vessel is fishing. The location position portion of the hardware must be installed by a certified installer, permanently affixed to the vessel and turned on at all times, unless a power-down exemption is granted. A list of approved VMS units can be found at, www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-vessel-monitoring-system-vms-units-reporting-southeast-hire-integrated.

Renew 2021-2022 Oyster Lease Agreements by Mail

LDWF is allowing the renewal of oyster lease agreements by mail for the 2021-2022 season. Renewals can also be completed in person at the LDWF office in New Orleans.

To renew an oyster lease by mail, return the following documents:

1. A notarized application
2. A copy of your state-issued ID
3. Check or money order made out to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

If you would like to renew your lease by mail, contact the Oyster Lease Program at 504-284-5279, or Marc Maniscalco at 504-284-5277.

Documents can be mailed to the address below:

LDWF
 Attn: Oyster Lease Program
 2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 422
 New Orleans, LA 70122

Reduction of Farm Alligator Releases into the Wild

A notice of intent has been adopted by LDWF reducing the number of farm-raised alligators required to be released into the wild from 10 percent to 5 percent.

The reduction of release is in response to the increased number of nests, which is surveyed each year by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). The estimate has grown from less than 10,000 in the 1970s and '80s to more than 60,000 in recent years. The nesting increase has produced a wild population that can be sustained with a much lower farm return rate.

To see the complete NOI, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/resources/category/commission-action-items.

For more information or to comment on the NOI, contact Jeb Linscombe at jlinscombe@wlf.la.gov, or write to LDWF, 200 Dulles Dr., Lafayette, LA., 70506. Comments on the NOI will be accepted until Jan. 4, 2022.

October 2021 Gulf Council Meeting Summary

Cobia: The council chose to reduce Gulf Group Cobia stock overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, and annual catch limits with an increasing yield stream for the years 2021-2023. The council also chose to modify the stock apportionment between Gulf and Florida East Coast Zones to 63 percent and 37 percent respectively. The council chose to modify the Coastal Migratory Pelagic framework procedure to match our current management practices and expand the South Atlantic Council's responsibilities in managing cobia in the Florida East Coast Zone.

In the Gulf Zone, the council chose to use its Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target (ACL/ACT) control rule to calculate the ACT buffer. The council also chose to retain the 36-inch fork length minimum size limit, reduce the daily possession limit to one-fish per person and create a two-fish vessel limit for both commercial and recreational sectors.

Shrimp: The council heard a summary of its Shrimp Focus Group meeting that was held to reconcile issues with the technical specifications, data collection and security needs, and the needs of the industry before moving forward with a draft Framework Action that aims to transition the federally permitted Gulf shrimp fleet to a new platform for vessel position data collection and transmission. The council recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluate and consider paths for reinstating the historical cellular electronic logbook (cELB) program, since it is a scientific data collection program and not a law enforcement program. The council also recommended that NMFS test approved cellular Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) units on federally permitted commercial shrimp vessels in the Gulf. The council plans to continue work on the Framework Action during its January 2022 meeting.

Greater Amberjack: The council was presented with results of the recently completed greater amberjack stock assessment (SEDAR 70). The assessment showed that greater amberjack is both overfished and experiencing overfishing.

Gag: The council was presented with results of the recently completed gag stock assessment (SEDAR 72). The assessment showed that gag is both overfished and experiencing overfishing.

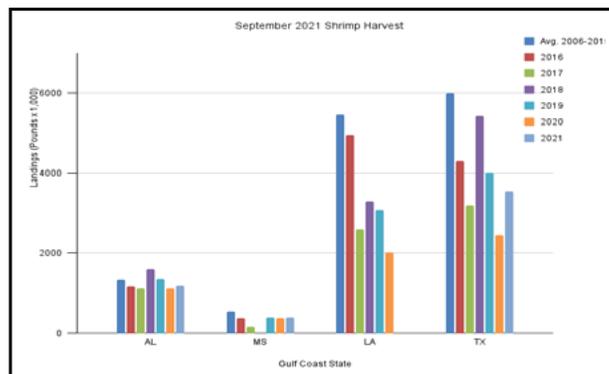
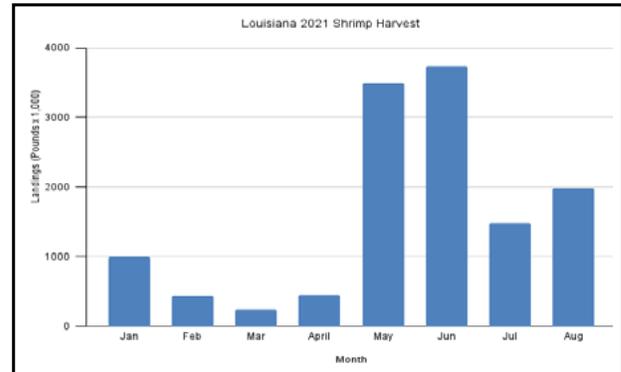
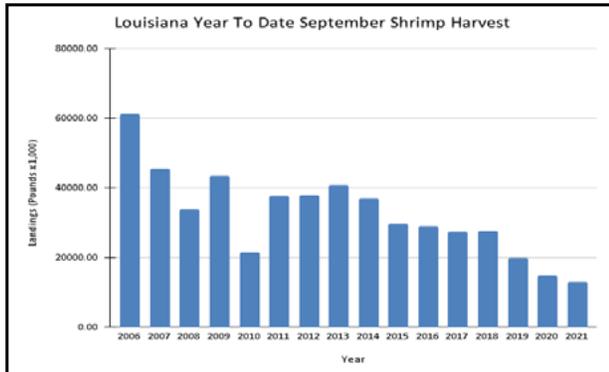
Vermilion Snapper: The council reviewed a framework action that considers increasing vermilion snapper catch limits. A recent stock assessment (SEDAR 62), which used the new Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) data and identified exceptional recruitment in 2015 and 2016, determined that vermilion snapper is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing.

Gray Triggerfish: The council heard an overview of the commercial gray triggerfish landings and current management measures and directed staff to add an action, to an ongoing framework action, that considers increasing the commercial trip limit for gray triggerfish.

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

Feb 1, 2022: TEDs required in skimmer vessels 40 feet in length or greater in Louisiana inshore waters

THE GUMBO POT

BRONZED FISH TACOS*

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:

- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon lime zest
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- salt to taste
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 4 tablespoons minced cilantro
- 4 tablespoons minced red onion
- diced jalapeños, to taste
- 1½ pounds Louisiana drum, snapper, or other mild white fish
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning mix
- black and red pepper, to taste
- 8 small flour tortillas
- sliced avocado, diced tomato, cilantro sprigs, lime wedges, for garnish

Method:

Make a crema: Mix together sour cream, mayonnaise, lime zest, and lime juice; taste and adjust seasoning and set aside.

Mix cabbage, cilantro, red onion, and jalapeños; add enough of the sour cream mixture to moisten, reserving remaining crema.

Heat a cast iron griddle over medium-high heat. Sprinkle fish evenly with cumin, Creole seasoning mix, and peppers to taste; cut into ½-inch strips across the grain. Spray griddle with cooking oil and, working in batches if necessary, bronze fish on all sides, turning carefully; keep warm.

Working one at a time, place tortillas on hot griddle and warm, turning once, until softened and browned slightly.

To serve, divide cabbage mixture among tortillas. Top with fish, then garnish with avocado, tomato and cilantro. Drizzle with reserved crema; serve with lime wedges.

*Serves 4

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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