



## Summary of October 2022 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting

### Greater Amberjack

The council took final action on Reef Fish Amendment 54: Modifications to Greater Amberjack Catch Limits and Sector Allocations. The most recent greater amberjack stock assessment (SEDAR 70 2020) determined that greater amberjack is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. The stock is scheduled to rebuild by 2027.

Additionally, new recreational catch estimates collected using the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES) indicated that recreational landings are greater than previously estimated. This revises the understanding of historical participation by both sectors and prompted reconsideration of sector allocations.

The council chose to revise the allocations between commercial and recreational fishing sectors by using MRIP-FES adjusted recreational and commercial landings from 1993 through 2019 to calculate the percent of total landings from each sector during this reference period. This results in a sector allocation of 20 percent commercial and 80 percent recreational. The council also chose to establish a reduced constant catch level for the greater amberjack overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limits (ACL) based on the most recent stock assessment. These catch limits represent an 83 percent reduction from current stock catch limits in order to meet the rebuilding target of 2027.

The council also decided to apply its ACL/ACT control rule using the years 2016 – 2019 to revise the buffer between the ACLs and annual catch targets (ACTs) for both sectors. This results in a 17 percent recreational buffer and a 7 percent commercial buffer.

The resulting catch limits expressed in pounds whole weight are:

OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Commercial		Recreational	
			ACL	ACT	ACL	ACT
2,033,000	505,000	505,000	101,000	93,930	404,000	335,320

Original table from <https://gulfcouncil.org/press/2022/october-2022-council-meeting-summary/>

Reef Fish Amendment 54 will be transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation as soon as practicable.

The council also began work on a Framework Action that considers modifying recreational and commercial management measures to ensure that harvest is constrained to the new catch limits during the rebuilding period. The council will continue to consider options to modify the recreational fishing season duration and commercial trip limit during its next meeting.

### Gray Triggerfish

The council began work on a Framework Action that considers increasing the gray triggerfish commercial trip limit. In recent years, the commercial sector has not harvested its annual catch target and fishermen have asked the council to increase the 16-fish per trip commercial limit. The council selected a preferred alternative that would increase the commercial trip limit to 25-fish and plans to take final action on this document during its January 2023 meeting.

### **Gag Grouper**

The council continued work on Reef Fish Amendment 56, which considers revising catch limits, sector allocation, the rebuilding timeline, and the recreational fishing season duration for gag grouper. The most recent gag grouper stock assessment (SEDAR 72 2022), which included new recreational landings data from Florida's State Reef Fish Survey and an ecosystem-based red tide analysis, determined that gag grouper is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Additionally, the assessment identified that the proportion of males in the gag grouper population is less than 2 percent, which negatively impacts the stock's ability to reproduce.

### **Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper**

The council reviewed the results of a scamp and yellowmouth grouper stock assessment (SEDAR 68 2021). The assessment examined both species because it is difficult to tell the difference between the two when they are small, and because they share similar life histories. The assessment determined that they are not overfished or experiencing overfishing.

### **Shrimp**

The council received presentations with updates of the onboard testing of the ability of cellular vessel monitoring system units, and P-Sea WindPlot software, to collect and transmit data from shrimp industry vessels for use in the shrimp effort algorithm. After testing is completed and final results are presented, the council expects to continue work on a document to transition the federally-permitted Gulf shrimp fleet to a new platform for vessel position data collection and transmission.

### **King Mackerel**

The council decided to take no action and cease work on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 33, which considered modifying the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group king mackerel sector allocation. The council also worked on draft Framework Amendment 12, which considers allowing the commercial Southern Zone gillnet fleet to fish on weekends and federal holidays. This would allow them to harvest their king mackerel quota as quickly and efficiently as possible. The council plans to gather public comment on the document before taking final action during the April 2023 council meeting.

## **LDWF to Close Oyster Harvest in a Portion of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds East of the Mississippi River**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) closed oyster harvest in a portion of the public oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River, in St. Bernard Parish, at one half-hour after sunset on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022.

The portions of the public oyster seed grounds to be closed are as follows:

The cultch plants within the following coordinates:

3-Mile Pass (2013) – St. Bernard Parish

30 degrees 03 minutes 56.09 seconds N  
 89 degrees 22 minutes 32.52 seconds W  
 30 degrees 03 minutes 56.70 seconds N  
 89 degrees 22 minutes 15.40 seconds W  
 30 degrees 03 minutes 18.00 seconds N  
 89 degrees 22 minutes 06.30 seconds W  
 30 degrees 03 minutes 30.49 seconds N  
 89 degrees 22 minutes 38.17 seconds W

Shell Point (2009) – St. Bernard Parish:

30 degrees 1 minutes 15.89 seconds N  
 89 degrees 21 minutes 19.51 seconds W  
 30 degrees 1 minutes 11.42 seconds N  
 89 degrees 21 minutes 12.30 seconds W  
 30 degrees 1 minutes 29.77 seconds N  
 89 degrees 20 minutes 52.48 seconds W  
 30 degrees 1 minutes 34.63 seconds N  
 89 degrees 20 minutes 58.81 seconds W

The recommended threshold in this portion of the public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River has been met. The closure is necessary to protect undersized oysters, allowing growth for future harvest opportunities. Continued harvest might threaten the long-term sustainability of remaining oyster resources in this area. Protection of the remaining oyster resources is in the long-term best interest of the oyster populations in this public oyster seed ground.

To view a map of the current oyster closure areas see above or visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/oyster-season](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/oyster-season).

The commission authorized Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Secretary Jack Montoucet to take emergency action to close areas, on an as-needed basis, based on biological data or if enforcement problems are encountered. The secretary was also authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended and to open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Public notice of any opening, delay or closure of a season will be provided at least 72 hours prior to such action, unless the Louisiana Department of Health orders such closure for public health concerns.

For more information, contact Carolina Bourque at (337) 735-8726 or [cbourque@wlf.la.gov](mailto:cbourque@wlf.la.gov).

## **LDWF Commercial Fishing License Sale Locations and Dates**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will offer new or renewal commercial fishing licenses and boat registration transactions at the following locations:

### **New Orleans Office**

2045 Lakeshore Drive Suite 438  
New Orleans  
Nov. 29 – Dec. 1  
8am – 3:30pm

### **Lake Charles Office \*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***

1025 Tom Watson Rd.  
Lake Charles  
Dec. 5 - 6  
9am – 3:30pm

### **Lafayette Office**

200 Dulles Drive  
Lafayette  
Dec. 7 - 8  
9 am – 3:30 pm

### **Bourg Office**

468 Texas Gulf Rd.  
Bourg  
Dec. 12 – Dec. 14  
9am – 3:30pm

Acceptable forms of payment will include personal checks, cashier's checks, money orders and cash. To avoid processing delays, customers purchasing licenses are asked to bring their license renewal notices with them.

First-time applicants can apply by mail or in person. When applying in person you must provide the following:

- Resident applicants must provide proof of residency such as a Louisiana driver's license, (held continuously for 12 months) voter's registration, vehicle registration and state income tax.
- Non-resident applicants must provide proof of residency from their domiciliary state, such as a driver's license, voter's registration, vehicle registration and state income tax.
- Applicants applying for a license in a business name must provide documentation showing proof of valid federal tax ID number assigned to the business name and proof of authorized signature, or an occupational license will be required.

For commercial license inquiries, contact (225) 765-2898.

## LDWF Trip Ticket Staff Available During Remote License Sales

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) trip ticket staff will be available at the commercial fishing license locations as listed in the announcement above.

The Trip Ticket program requires wholesale/retail seafood dealers and wholesale/retail reptile and amphibian dealers purchasing or accepting transfers of catch from commercial fishermen or reptile/amphibian collectors to submit trip tickets to LDWF. Trip tickets capture information about the catch – what it is, where it was caught, how it was caught, and how much was caught. Fresh product license holders (commercial fishermen licensed to sell their catch directly to consumers) are also required to submit trip tickets.

The trip ticket information is confidential and protected under state and federal law. LDWF uses this information to improve assessments of fish populations and inform management.

You can find more information about the Trip Ticket program, including how-to videos, on the LDWF website at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/trip-tickets](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/trip-tickets).

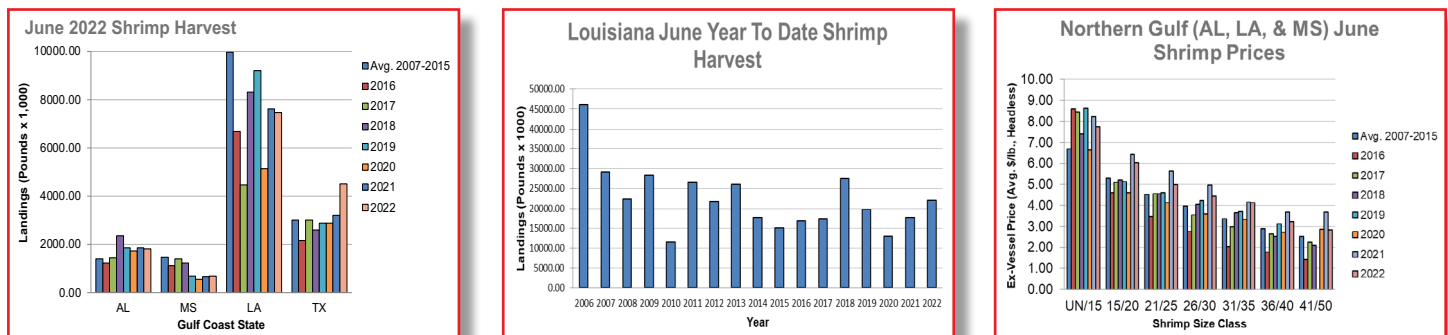
For trip ticket inquiries, call (225) 765-2449 or email [triptickets@wlf.la.gov](mailto:triptickets@wlf.la.gov).

## Louisiana Shrimp Watch

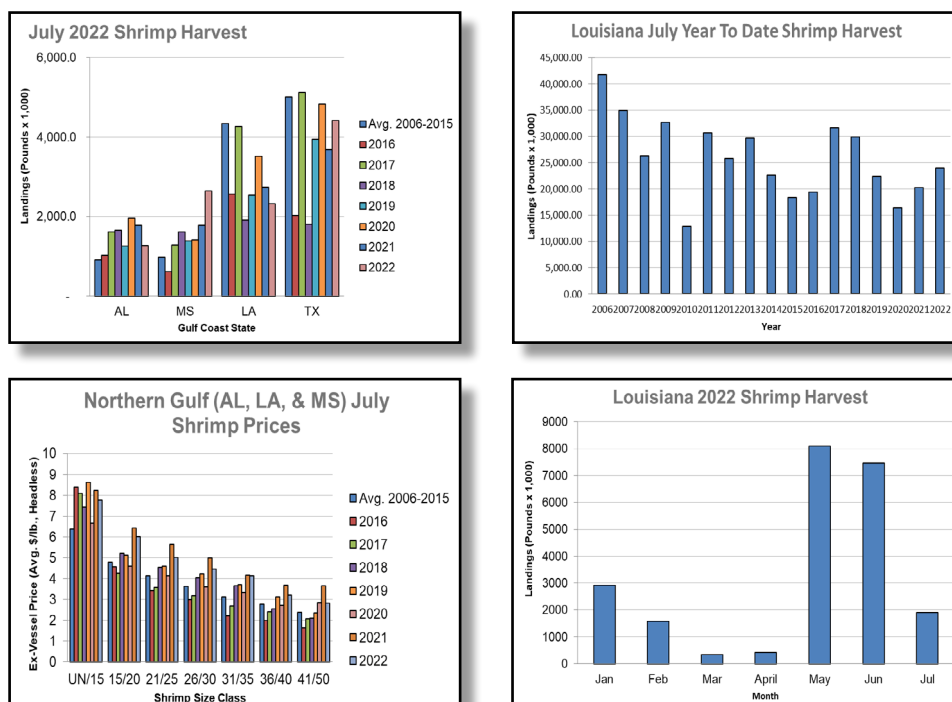
The Shrimp Watch data is back, but there are some changes to the Monthly Gulf Coast Shrimp Statistics report by NOAA Fisheries. Changes were being made to make the report more consistent and reliable. All landing data will be based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States and no estimations will be made.

June 2022 data has been updated from the previous report.

### JUNE 2022 DATA



### JULY 2022 DATA



# THE GUMBO POT

## GULF OF MEXICO SEAFOOD STEW\*

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:

- zest of 1 lemon
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon meat seasoning (method below)
- 4 filets of fish, skinless, sliced 1 inch thick
- 1 pound jumbo shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, chopped
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 1½ teaspoons dry oregano
- 1½ teaspoons dry thyme
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1½ teaspoons black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ¾ cup white wine
- 28 ounces diced tomatoes
- 1 quart seafood stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 basil leaves, chiffonade
- 1 bunch parsley, chopped

### Method:

In a bowl add lemon zest, lemon juice, meat seasoning and fish. Toss gently to coat evenly.

In a large pot over medium heat, heat oil and butter. Add onion, bell pepper, celery and jalapeño and cook for 2 minutes. Add garlic, oregano, thyme, salt, pepper and sugar, cook for 1 minute.

Add white wine. Reduce by ¼. Add tomatoes, bay leaf and stock. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to simmer. Cook for 15 minutes.

Add fish and shrimp, cook for 5 minutes, covered. Uncover, remove bay leaf. Turn off flame and add basil and parsley.

Taste and adjust seasoning; serve hot.

### Meat Seasoning:

- 3 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons black pepper
- 1 tablespoon white pepper
- 1 tablespoon cayenne
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon granulated onion
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin

\*Serves 4 to 6

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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