



High Schoolers Learn the Importance of Wetlands

This year marks the 32th year anniversary of Marsh Maneuvers, an educational summer camp highlighting Louisiana's coastal wetland.

Louisiana Sea Grant, the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries host the program, which provides high school-aged 4-H students from across the state an opportunity to combine classroom knowledge and first-hand coastal experiences. Over the month of July, four camp sessions are held with about 16 students each week.

“Marsh Maneuvers is a coastal ecology camp for high school kids. We bring them out to the marsh for a week and teach them all about estuaries, and about the productivity of the environment,” stated Mark Shirley, the Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter Extension agent who established the camp in 1987. “We look at some of the interactions with man, how channels have been built, the hydrology changes that have been made. We talk coastal restoration and coastal protection.”

Marsh Maneuvers originally was held at State Wildlife Refuge on Vermilion Bay and later in the Barataria watershed at Grand Terre Island. In 2005, the camp moved to the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. That move provided the program with a curriculum makeover and further expanded it to include coastal biodiversity.

“We take the kids on night hikes to shine for alligators and look at animal activity. We do some crabbing, fishing and look at some water control structures. We talk about restoration projects such as bank stabilization and oyster reef development,” Shirley said.

Those activities happen over four days, giving the young minds a rush of knowledge that will help prepare them for activities such as 4-H presentations and demonstrations at club meetings or at school. “The immediate impact is that, these teenagers, can go back and actually use some of this knowledge in writing term papers and giving speeches, and just letting others know how important the coastal wetlands of Louisiana really are,” Shirley noted.

Campers like Elena Templet, a 4-H student from St. Bernard Parish, said she will never forget her experience.

“Marsh Maneuvers is the best trip I've ever been on. It not only teaches you about Louisiana's marshes, but also immerses you deeper into the reality of our coast. With new friendships, a beautiful wildlife refuge to explore and a one of a kind education, there is never a boring moment,” she said.



“Long-term, we have had students that five, 10 and 15 years after the program have gone on to become wetland scientists, teachers and science teachers. So, they actually used this knowledge and it’s spurred some of the kids’ interests in a long-term career,” said Shirley.

Attending Marsh Maneuvers can create doors of opportunity, like an Advanced Marsh Maneuvers camp that is open to a select group of 16 past participants. The winter camp gives students a more in-depth look into the value of freshwater marshes further inland from the coast. The focus is on managing this habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, in addition to alligators and freshwater fisheries.

To learn about Marsh Maneuvers, visit www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/kids_teens/projects/youth_wetlands_week.



Derelict Crab Trap Rodeos

Two derelict crab trap rodeos are planned for 2020. One will be in Lafitte on Feb. 8, and the second is planned for Feb. 15 in Cameron. For more information and to sign up as a volunteer, visit www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps/. Since the derelict crab trap program began in 2004, more than 35,000 derelict crab traps have been removed from Louisiana waters. Note: Additional derelict crab trap closures are planned.

Visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/derelict-crab-trap-removal to see the complete maps and dates of the 2020 closures.



LDWF Data Updates Loss of Aquatic Resources from Historic 2019 Flooding

The lingering effects of the 2019 record floodwaters on Louisiana’s aquatic life continue to be measured by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Mississippi River remained above flood stage for a historic length of time, with records dating back to 1900. Additionally, local rainfall also impacted other drainages. Although rivers are finally returning to seasonal levels, the state is still feeling the effects in some of its fisheries.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway opened an unprecedented two times this year for a total of 123 days, and flooding in the Atchafalaya Basin and other areas continued into August. Statewide biological sampling continues to indicate a notable reduction in the availability of oysters, shrimp, crab and finfish in those waterways

Results of Departmental monitoring of oysters on public reefs using data available as of Aug. 31, 2019 show that oyster mortality on those reefs ranged as high as 100 percent in several areas across the state.

Statewide volume and value of brown shrimp landings were down 34 percent and 44 percent, respectively when compared to the five-year average. White shrimp fared slightly better with landings up two percent overall.

Commercial blue crab landings have decreased across the state in all basins, with declines ranging from 14 to 84 percent in individual basins.

Concerning finfish, the most recent data show that commercial black drum landings are down by 51 percent in the Vermilion/Atchafalaya Basin. Department sampling also indicates the catch per unit effort of spotted seatrout was 66 percent below average in the Vermilion/Atchafalaya Basin and 50 percent below average in the Pontchartrain Basin.

To date, measurable negative impacts on the state’s freshwater fisheries are minimal. Fish kills, resulting from low oxygen levels in the water, may become more common until the water temperatures cool in the fall. Visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/floodinfo.

LA Fisheries Forward Trip Ticket Videos

Louisiana Fisheries Forward has produced four helpful videos for wholesale/retail dealers and fresh products licensees on how to fill out trip tickets. One for each series, these videos go step-by-step through the process.

To view them, visit www.lafisheriesforward.org/trip-ticket-videos/.



Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Solicits Participants for 2020

MREP provides fishermen and others interested in federal fisheries with an opportunity to gain insight into how fisheries data are collected and how those data lead to regulations. MREP brings together commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen with scientists, managers and other marine resource professionals from the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean to learn, share insights and network in a neutral and professional setting. Participants leave the program empowered and better prepared to participate in federal fisheries management.

The two-part workshop series is free to selected participants and includes meals, travel and accommodation. Seats are limited.

MREP Southeast Fisheries Science Workshop

St. Petersburg, FL | Feb. 18-20, 2020

MREP Southeast Fisheries Management Workshop

Tampa Bay, FL | April 28-30, 2020

Applications to participate can be found at: gmri.org/mrepsoutheast.



While the basics of the fishery remain the same, regulations, policies, economics and research continue to change in the blue crab industry. This workshop series is designed to cover topics important to crab fishermen, processors, shedders and anyone else interested in the crab industry.

Crab Industry Workshop

Lunch Provided
with advance
registration

Wednesday
Oct. 23, 2019
11:00a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lafourche Parish Extension Office
LSU AgCenter
115 Texas Street
Raceland, LA 70394

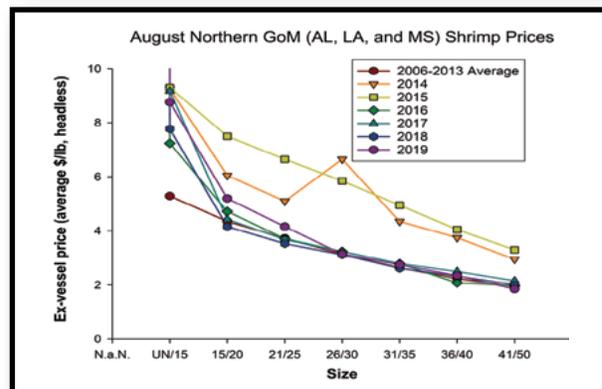
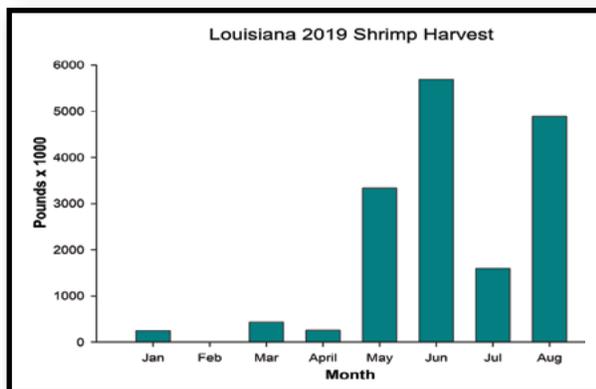
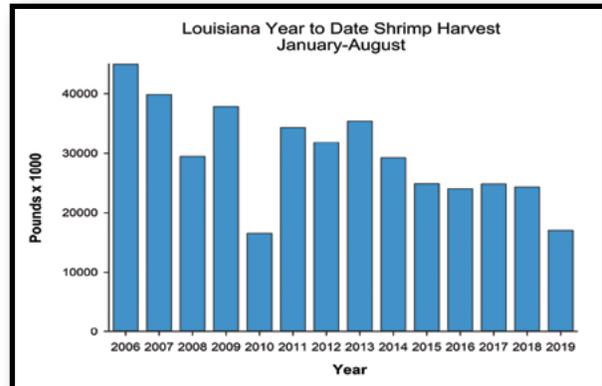
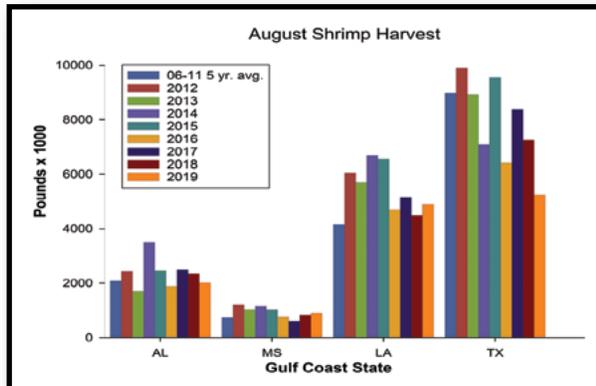
TOPICS:
Updated Blue Crab Regulations
Handling Peelers and Busters
Derelict Crab Trap Closures
Shedding System Water Quality
Recirculated Shedding Demo

Please register by Oct. 16
To register or for more information, contact:

Nicole Lundberg (985) 873-6495,
Carol Franze (985) 222-4962,
or Julie Lively (225) 578-0771

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). For more information, please refer to: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html.



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Oct. 23, 2019: Crab Industry Workshop, AgCenter Office, Raceland, 985-873-6495 to register. 11am-3pm

Nov. 7, 2019: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting, LDWF Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, 9:30am

Nov. 12, 2019: Crab Task Force Meeting, 4747 W Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 1pm

Nov. 13, 2019: Finfish Task Force, LDWF Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, 10:00am

Dec. 5, 2019: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting, LDWF Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, 9:30am

March 11, 2020: Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit 2020, The Pontchartrain Center, Kenner www.lafisheriesforward.org/summit/

THE GUMBO POT

BAKED STUFFED CRABS*

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:

1/4 cup flour
 1/4 cup cooking oil
 1 cup chopped onion
 1/2 cup chopped bell pepper
 2 pounds Louisiana crab meat

6 slices of sandwich bread, crusts removed
 1/4 cup sliced green onion tops
 1 tablespoon minced parsley
 salt, pepper, and cayenne to taste
 bread crumbs, for topping

Method:

Whisk together flour and oil in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, until light brown; add onion and bell pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 10 minutes. Add enough water to thin slightly and cook for another 20 minutes, stirring and adding water as needed. Stir in crab and cook for 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Process bread in a food processor to a fine crumb and add to crab mixture along with parsley and green onion. Season to taste with salt, pepper, and cayenne. Stuff into cleaned crab shells on a baking sheet or a buttered casserole dish; transfer to the oven and bake until lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Serve hot.

*Main course. Serves 8.

Be sure to visit the *Lagniappe* blog for additional news and timely events between issues.
<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

Editor: Julie Lively

Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry

Copy editor: Roy Kron



For more information, contact your local extension agent:

Thu Bui

Assistant Extension Agent, Fisheries
St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion Parishes
Phone: (337) 828-4100, ext. 300
tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu

Nicole Lundberg

Area Agent – Fisheries/Natural Resources
Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes
Phone: (985) 873-6495
nlundberg@agcenter.lsu.edu

Carol D. Franze

Marine Agent
Southeast Region
Phone: (985) 875-2635
cfranze@agcenter.lsu.edu

Kevin Savoie

Area Agent (Southwest Region)
Natural Resources-Fisheries
Phone: (337) 475-8812
ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu

Albert ‘Rusty’ Gaudé

Area Agent, Fisheries
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. John Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
agaude@agcenter.lsu.edu

Dominique Seibert

Area Agent - Coastal Advisor
Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
dseibert@agcenter.lsu.edu

Thomas Hymel

Watershed Educator
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion,
St. Landry, & Avoyelles Parishes
Phone: (337) 276-5527
thymel@agcenter.lsu.edu

Mark Shirley

Area Agent (Aquaculture & Coastal Resources)
Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry,
Evangeline, Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette,
Beauregard, & Allen Parishes
Phone: (337) 898-4335
mshirley@agcenter.lsu.edu

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 Julie Lively at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu

Julie A. Lively

Associate Professor
LSU Agcenter & Louisiana Sea Grant
114 RNR Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: 225-578-0771
Fax: 225-578-4227
janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu