



Changes for the Shrimp Skimmer Fleet and Reimbursement Program

On April 1, 2021, federal law will require that Turtle Excluder Devices, commonly called TEDs, must be installed in skimmer vessels 40 feet long and longer. A \$250,000 program will pay part of the cost shrimp fishermen will have to pay for mandated devices to protect sea turtles and other animals from getting trapped in nets. Louisiana fishermen could need from 1,200 to 1,500 TEDs manufactured by the mandated date.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will operate the Skimmer Turtle Excluder Device Reimbursement Program (STEDRP), which will reimburse up to 60 percent of the cost for two skimmers. A TED is a metal grid installed inside of a shrimp net. Shrimp are captured as they pass through the grid. TEDs prevent the capture and subsequent drowning of sea turtles listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The cost of the devices vary from \$150 to \$350.

The goal of STEDRP is to provide some financial relief to fishermen who have to purchase the devices prior to the effective date. Eligible participants include fishermen who have current residential skimmer gear licenses, vessels that are 40 feet in length or longer, and have reported landings from 2018 to 2020.

Program participants will be required to attend an informational meeting, facilitated by LDWF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Gear Monitoring Team. Meeting topics will include specifications for the skimmer TEDs, a review of the sea turtle regulations, and where to purchase TEDs that meet specifications and details on the STEDRP.

Fishermen will be registered and tracked for reimbursements through an online system used by LDWF in administering similar programs. LDWF will provide more information on applying for the program and registering for a meeting in the upcoming weeks.

Funding sources for this project include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Deepwater Horizon Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project.

If You Commercially Fish Tuna, Herring, Squid, Flounder, You May Qualify for Funding

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is helping U.S. fishermen who have been impacted by retaliatory tariffs from foreign governments through the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP).

STRP is part of a relief strategy to support American producers while the administration continues to work on free, fair and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers and fishermen compete globally.

STRP is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA is accepting applications for STRP from Sept. 14, 2020 to Dec. 14, 2020. For more information, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/Seafood>.

Louisiana CARES Act Relief

LDWF is alerting the public that there is only one LDWF application available for commercial fishing industry assistance via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

LDWF has been accepting applications since Sept. 14 from Louisiana commercial fishermen and others in the industry who have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. LDWF has received \$14.6 million in federal CARES Act funding.

Applications for commercial fishing industry funds from LDWF must be done via the LDWF website (<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cares-act-assistance>). LDWF has received questions from individuals who have applied for other CARES Act funds believing they had applied for the LDWF-managed program, but had not.

LDWF is requesting that persons applying for commercial fishing industry assistance through this agency be sure that their application says “Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries” at the top. Those applicants getting businesses to help with their application should have them verify it is the LDWF-managed CARES Act funding.

LDWF-managed CARES Act fund applications are free and must be completed online. To access the application, visit <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cares-act-assistance>.

If you need language assistance or assistance submitting an application, contact the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) at 800-630-3791. SCPDC is contracted by LDWF to assist in the application process.

The deadline to apply for LDWF-managed CARES Act funds is 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 26. All applications submitted before the deadline will be considered.

LDWF is aware that Hurricane Laura and Delta have adversely impacted many individuals wishing to apply for this program. LDWF will continually assess the application process and make adjustments as necessary. Updates will be announced soon.

Seafood HACCP Training Adapted Due to COVID-19

Training in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) is mandated for seafood processors, packers, wholesales, importers, harvesters and warehouses by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Basic HACCP courses teach the principles of HACCP and empower processors to develop HACCP plans specific for each seafood product they handle or produce.

Due to restrictions with COVID-19, the next two-and-a-half day, in-person class offered by the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Nutrition and Food Sciences will be in January 2021. However, if industry professionals need HACCP certification in the meantime, there is another option available.

Segment One of HACCP training may be taken online through the Cornell University website. It includes a series of 12 modules, each of which take about an hour to complete. Once registered, processors have up to six months to complete all modules followed by the Segment Two workshop.

Historically, Segment Two of the training was required to be given in person; though a virtual protocol to fulfill this segment is offered.

LSU staff will re-assess COVID restrictions at the beginning of December 2020, and decide at that time whether HACCP classes can move forward on campus. If classes must continue virtually, processors will have the time to complete Segment One online and then Segment Two within the six-month timeframe. The charge for Segment One is \$75; Segment Two is \$125.

Participants who complete both segments receive a certificate issued by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that fulfills the FDA requirements for seafood HACCP training and USDA requirements for HACCP training targeting Siluriformes.

For more information about HACCP in general, visit <https://nfs.lsu.edu/outreach/haccp-seafood.htm>.

For more information about virtual classes, contact Dr. Evelyn Watts, egwatts@agcenter.lsu.edu.

September Council Update

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met virtually from Sept. 28-30, 2020. The following is a brief summary of business. Visit the council website for more details: <https://gulfcouncil.org/>.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum Advisory Panels: The council populated these panels.

Status Determination Criteria and Optimum Yield for Reef Fish and Red Drum: The council decided to modify the range of percentages of maximum sustainable yield that could be selected to define optimum yield. The council selected preferred alternatives that would define optimum yield as 90 percent of the maximum sustainable yield for reef fish and shallow-water grouper. The council also selected preferred alternatives that would set the goliath grouper optimum yield at zero if the annual catch limit is zero and maintain the current optimum yield for red drum. The council will host a virtual public hearing and publish a public hearing video to solicit comments from the public before taking final action in November.

Cobia: The council was presented with results of an update stock assessment for cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. The assessment showed that cobia is not overfished but is currently experiencing overfishing.

Red Snapper

Private Recreational State Management: Each state provided the council with an update of its 2020 private recreational red snapper season.

Calibration State Data Collection Programs: Staff from NOAA's Office of Science and Technology presented the council with a review of a series of workshops held to work on the calibration of MRIP and state data collection programs for recreational red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recreational Sector Allocations between Private and For-Hire Fishermen: The council directed staff to develop a white paper that considers separate sector allocations between the private and for-hire components of the recreational sector for the following four reef fish species: red grouper, gag grouper, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish.

Shrimp: The council heard an overview of analytical requirements and reporting mechanisms for the shrimp fleet as the 3G logbooks discontinue at the end of the year.

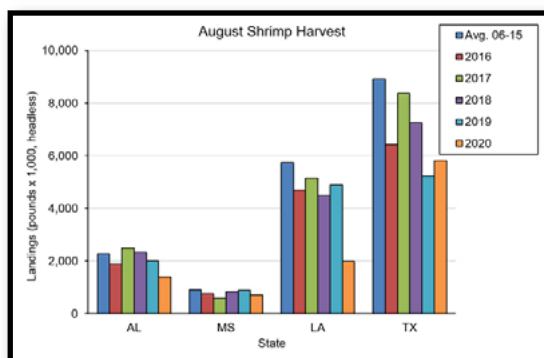
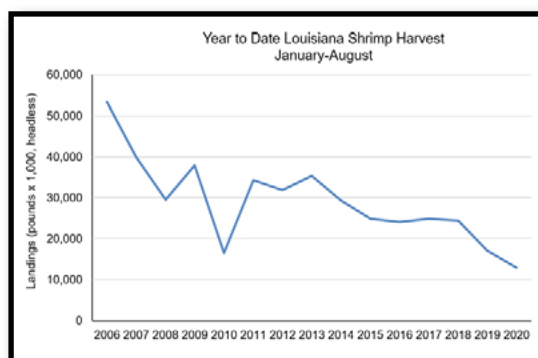
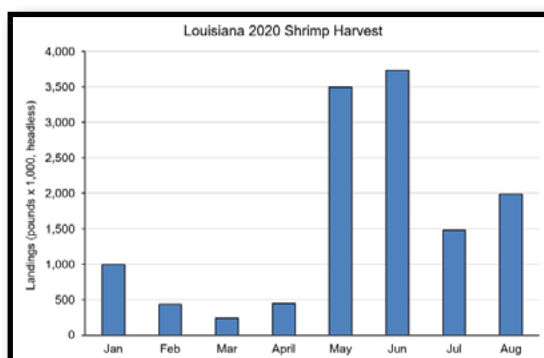
Red Drum: Currently, federal management of red drum begins nine miles from shore off the coasts of Texas and Florida, and three miles off the coasts of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The council directed staff to develop a document that considers allowing the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to manage red drum out to 9 nautical miles.

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, refer to: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/market_news/index.html.

Note: no price data was available for August 2020.



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Nov. 10, 2020: Commemorating 10 years of GoMRI science in Louisiana

<https://gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach/louisiana-gomri-showcase/>.

THE GUMBO POT

CORN AND SHRIMP CHOWDER*

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:

Ingredients:

- 4 slices bacon, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 8 scallions, white and green parts separated and thinly sliced
- 2 medium baking potatoes, peeled and cut into ½-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 cups water
- 6 ears corn, kernels removed
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper

Method:

In a stockpot, cook bacon over medium-high heat until crisp and browned, 4 to 6 minutes. With a slotted spoon, transfer bacon to paper towels to drain.

Add scallion whites and potatoes to pot; cook, stirring, until scallions are softened, 1 to 3 minutes. Add flour and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add milk, seafood seasoning, thyme and the water. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer, and cook, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Add corn, shrimp and scallion greens. Cook until shrimp are just opaque, 2 to 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately topped with bacon and crackers, if desired.

*Serves four

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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