



Field Day at New Seafood Processing Demo Lab, Nov 9

Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter will hold a field day Nov. 9 at their recently opened Seafood Processing Demonstration Lab in Jeanerette.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m., with lunch provided. The facility is located at the AgCenter Iberia Research Station, 603 LSU Bridge Road.

The lab – the only one of its kind in Louisiana – opened in July with the goal of helping potential and existing seafood processors explore opportunities and new concepts in processing, packaging and value-added seafood products. It features commercial processing equipment that is used for demonstration, training and research.

The field day will give attendees a chance to see the equipment and learn about educational and outreach programs.

The agenda for the day includes the following topics:

- Overview of the facility and future training opportunities
- Refrigeration equipment and techniques
- Seafood cleaning and cutting
- Packaging and labeling
- Freezing and storage

Specialized tools such as a flake ice machine, bandsaw, shrimp splitter, grinder, scales, vacuum packer, air freezing equipment and plate freezer will be showcased.

For more information, contact Thomas Hymel at THymel@agcenter.lsu.edu or Evelyn Watts at EGWatts@agcenter.lsu.edu.



Thomas Hymel and Evelyn Watts at the Seafood Processing Demonstration Lab.

REMINDER: Flounder Season Closed Oct. 15 to Nov. 30, 2022

An annual closed season for the recreational and commercial harvest of southern flounder from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30 of each year has been finalized. This statewide closure for southern flounder is for all sectors and all gear types, including any flounder caught as bycatch in any other fishery. Exemptions that previously existed for southern flounder caught as bycatch on a shrimping trip are no longer applicable. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) was granted the authority by the Legislature to modify the shrimping bycatch exemption if the flounder stock is overfished and/or undergoing overfishing.

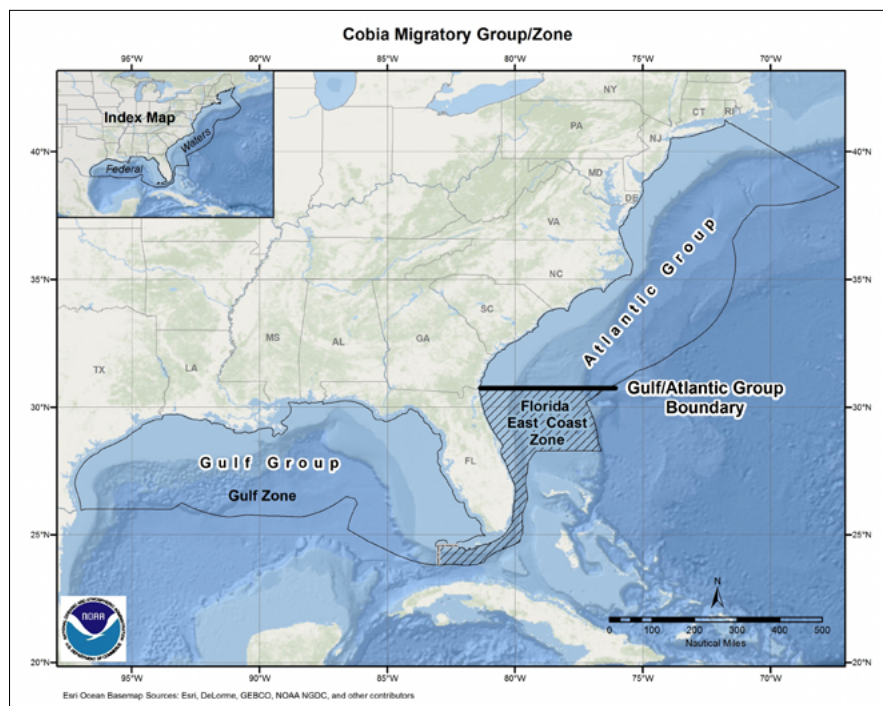
This closed season is necessary to attempt to recover the stock of southern flounder, which is overfished based on results from the most recent flounder stock assessment. At their March meeting, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) staff briefed the LWFC on management options necessary to recover the stock.

The LWFC chose to move forward with an annual closed season in the fall to allow mature female flounder to escape inshore waters and move offshore to spawn. This closed season is projected to create a 50 percent reduction in mature female southern flounder harvest. The closed season is an attempt to help the stock recover to a healthy biomass target by 2028.

NOAA Fisheries Announces Implementation of Amendment 32 to Revise the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Catch Limits, Possession Limits, Size Limits

Amendment 32

- Modifies the units used to monitor Gulf of Mexico migratory group cobia (Gulf group cobia) landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Coastal Household Telephone Survey to the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey,
- Modifies the Gulf group cobia population annual catch limit apportionment to 63 percent Gulf of Mexico Zone and 37 percent Florida East Coast Zone,
- Reduces the Florida East Coast Zone recreational annual catch target buffer to 10 percent,



- Specifies new overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch,
- Modifies the Framework Procedure to clarify the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council responsibilities for Gulf of Mexico group cobia and make some clarifying edits to language regarding the acceptable biological catch control rule.

The rule:

- Increases the minimum size limit to 36 inches fork length for both sectors in the Florida East Coast Zone,
- Creates a recreational bag limit in both zones of one fish per person per day, regardless of the number or duration of trips,
- Creates a recreational vessel limit in both zones of two fish per trip, not to exceed the per person bag limit,

- Creates a commercial trip limit in both zones of one fish per person per day, regardless of the number or duration of trips and a vessel limit of two fish per trip, not to exceed the per person limit,
- Clarifies Coastal Migratory Pelagic permitting requirements for sale and purchase provisions,
- Modifies the zone and sector annual catch limits and annual catch targets as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. 2022 and 2023+ overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), population annual catch limit (ACL), Gulf of Mexico Zone stock annual catch limit, and annual catch target (ACT), Florida East Coast Zone annual catch limit, sector annual catch limits, and recreational sector annual catch target in pounds landed weight.

	OFL	ABC	Population ACL	Gulf Zone Stock ACL	Gulf Zone Stock ACT	FLEC Zone ACL	FLEC Zone Comm. ACL	FLEC Zone Rec ACL	FLEC Zone Rec ACT
2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	2,600,000	1,638,000	1,474,200	962,000	76,960	885,040	796,536
2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	1,738,000	1,564,920	1,021,200	81,696	939,504	845,554

For more information, visit <https://gulfcouncil.org/press/2022/noaa-fisheries-announces-implementation-of-amendment-32-to-revise-the-gulf-of-mexico-migratory-group-cobia-catch-limits-possession-limits-and-size-limits/>.

LWFC Adopts NOI to Develop Menhaden Regulations

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prohibit the waste of fishery resources and abandonment of menhaden purse seine gear during fishing operations was adopted by the LWFC.

The proposed rule would:

- Prohibit abandoning menhaden purse seine gear during the course of fishing operations or while on the water and establish a 48-hour window to remove all gear before it is considered abandoned.
- Establishes marking requirements for gear that is released to facilitate retrieval and warn of navigational hazards by the released gear.
- Would require notification to LDWF within two hours of any release of menhaden.
- Requires that all reasonable attempts be made to retrieve menhaden and bycatch from the environment in the event of a release.
- Defines that a violation of these rules shall be considered a waste of a fishery resource subject to civil fine and restitution and abandonment of gear shall constitute a commercial littering violation.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via email to jadriance@wlf.la.gov before noon on Jan. 5, 2023. The full notice of intent can be found at https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/Menhaden-Gear-Abandonment-NOI-102022.pdf.

The commission's adoption of a Notice of Intent (NOI) is the first of many steps in promulgating a final rule, which can take between 90 days and one year. Once adopted, the NOI will be published in the State Register and begin the public comment period. The commission will consider all public comments received and may make any changes they deem necessary or appropriate. Absent any amendments to the NOI by the commission, the proposed rule will be sent to the Legislative Oversight Committee for their review. Upon expiration of the 30-day oversight period, or upon a favorable review by the Oversight Committee, the rule can be published as final in the State Register.

LWFC Adopts NOI to Modify Spotted Seatrout Size and Bag Limits

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to increase the minimum size limit of spotted seatrout to 13.5 inches total length from the current 12 inches minimum total length and to decrease the current 25 fish daily bag limit to 15 fish daily bag limit has been adopted by LWFC. Modifications in this rule create one statewide size and bag limit, removing the separate regulations in coastal western Louisiana.

At the October 2022 LWFC meeting, LDWF staff presented data indicating that spotted seatrout were continuing to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. Management options and recent survey results regarding public opinions toward those options were presented to the LWFC as well.

During the last 2.5 years, LDWF has held eight public meetings across the state, issued multiple surveys to the public, and collected hundreds of public comments on this topic via email.

"I really appreciate the effort of our anglers for taking the time to provide valuable input during our meetings and surveys," said LDWF Secretary Jack Montoucet. "While the process was lengthy, it allowed ample time for our anglers to voice their opinions on potential management options and allowed the commission to gather the relevant biological facts to make the difficult, but necessary decision about one of our most popular recreational species."

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via email to jadriance@wlf.la.gov before Dec. 30, 2022. The full notice of intent can be found at https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/Spotted-Seatrout-Size--Bag-Limit-NOI-102022.pdf.

Additional information on spotted seatrout can be found at: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/spotted-seatrout

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data is back, but there are some changes to the Monthly Gulf Coast Shrimp Statistics report passed 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.



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Nov. 2, 2022 – Shrimp Task Force Meeting, LDWF Headquarters – Baton Rouge, 10:00 AM

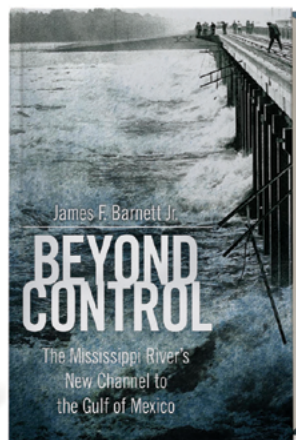
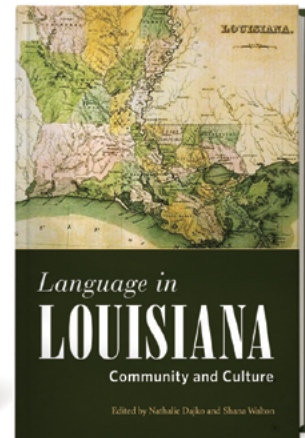
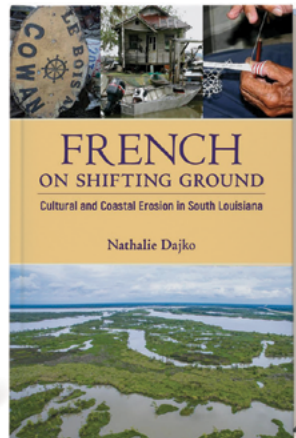
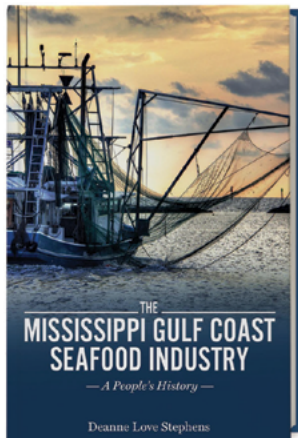
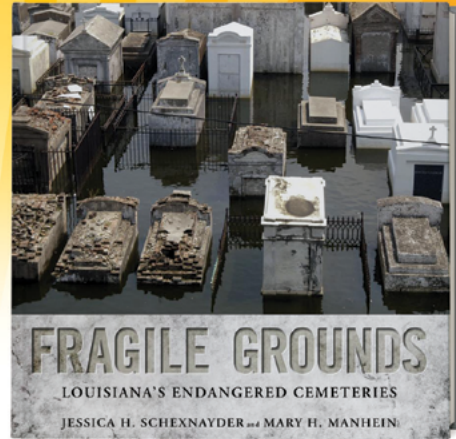
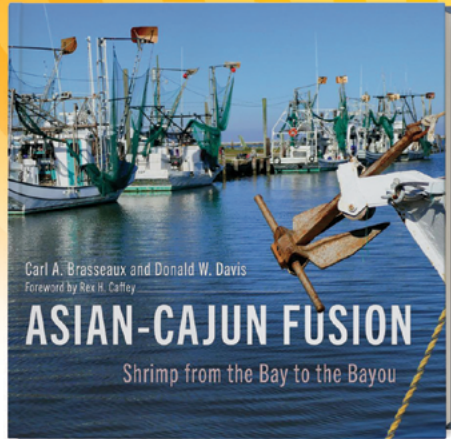
Nov. 15, 2022 – Oyster Health Committee Meeting – Baton Rouge, 10:00 AM

Nov. 15, 2022 – Oyster Aquaculture Committee Meeting – Baton Rouge, 11:00 AM

Nov. 15, 2022 – Oyster Task Force Full Meeting – Baton Rouge, 1:00 PM

Dec. 7, 2022 – Finfish Task Force Meeting – Baton Rouge, 10:00 AM

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AMERICA'S
**THIRD
COAST**



THE GUMBO POT

POTATO LEEK SEAFOOD 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:

- 2 strips of bacon
- 1 large leek, washed, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 medium rib celery, finely chopped
- 1½ lbs potatoes (about 3 to 4 medium), peeled, cubed
- 3½ cups chicken broth
- 1/4 lb medium shrimp, shelled, deveined, halved
- 1/2 lb thick fish fillets (use any meaty white fish e.g haddock)
- 1/2 lb bay scallops
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- fresh parsley for garnish

Method:

Sauté the bacon strips in a large saucepan over medium heat until crisp. Drain and dry bacon on paper towels, crumble and reserve.

Add the chopped leeks to the bacon drippings; cook over medium-low heat for about 1 minute. Add the garlic and thyme; cook for another 2 minutes. Add the broth and potatoes bring to a boil then reduce heat. Cook covered over medium-low heat until the potatoes are very tender, about 20 minutes.

Transfer about 1½ cups soup, mostly potatoes, to your food processor. Process until smooth and creamy. Stir this back into the soup and add the shrimp. Heat to boiling; reduce heat; cook for 1 minute. Now stir in your fish and scallops; cook 3 minutes more until fish and scallops are cooked through. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve hot with parsley garnish and French bread or crackers.

*Serves 4

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.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Julie Anderson Lively at julieann@lsu.edu

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