

CCA Louisiana, RFRI and LDWF Release 150,000 Redfish in Louisiana's First Redfish Restocking

Fish released into Calcasieu Lake, the Rigolets and Grand Isle with funding support from Cameron LNG and Sempra Infrastructure

More than 150,000 hatchery-raised red drum have been released into Louisiana waters in the first redfish restocking effort in state history.

The releases were conducted by CCA Louisiana, the Recreational Fisheries Research Institute and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with funding support from Cameron LNG and Sempra Infrastructure. The flagship release took place Sept. 11 at the West Cove Boat Ramp on Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, where more than 50,000 fingerlings went into Calcasieu Lake. Additional releases were conducted in the Rigolets and Grand Isle.

Research partners include the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at the University of Southern Mississippi, where the fingerlings were raised, and Southeastern Louisiana University. At each site the fish were acclimated to local water temperature and salinity before release.

At West Cove, volunteers, partners and elected officials transferred the fish by bucket from the hatchery transport trailer to waiting boats, which carried them into the surrounding canal system for release. The remaining fish were released directly from the dock.

"Our members have been working toward this for years, and it took the right science, the right partners and the right place to make it happen," said Rad Trascher, executive director/CEO of CCA Louisiana. "Cameron LNG and Sempra Infrastructure stepped up to fund it, LDWF and RFRI helped us get it right, and Louisiana anglers are the ones who benefit."

"LDWF is a proud partner with CCA and RFRI for this Redfish Stocking Pilot Study and will be contributing to these stocking events by testing the percent contribution of the fingerlings to the wild population through supplying fin clips from fishery independent sampled red drum for genetic testing," said Ryan Montegut, LDWF assistant secretary of fisheries.

"This program is about more than simply releasing redfish," said Randy Pausina of the Recreational Fisheries Research Institute. "Using Louisiana broodstock, genetic identification, strategic release sites and long-term monitoring, we will be able to measure how these fish survive, move and contribute to the wild population, helping determine the role stock enhancement can play in Louisiana fisheries management."

The West Cove site was selected in coordination with LDWF and hatchery staff because it provides suitable estuarine nursery habitat for young red drum. Red drum are among Louisiana's most important recreational species and a cornerstone of the state's coastal fishing economy.

"Calcasieu Lake is part of the fabric of this community, and redfish are an important part of what makes Southwest Louisiana such a special place to live and work. Cameron LNG is proud to support an effort that is happening right here in our backyard and could help strengthen this fishery for generations to come," said Stevie Trahan, public relations manager for Cameron LNG.

Sea Grant LOUISIANA
A Joint Publication of Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter
LSU AgCenter Research · Extension · Teaching

"As someone who calls Southwest Louisiana home, I know how much our waterways and fisheries mean to this community," said Jeanne Willson, community outreach advisor at Sempra Infrastructure. "For our company, doing the right thing includes supporting biodiversity and protecting the natural resources our communities value, and we're proud to partner with CCA Louisiana on an effort that can make a difference in the communities where we operate."

All of the fish released came from Louisiana broodstock and were genetically characterized, allowing researchers to link them back to their parents and identify hatchery-produced fish after release. Long-term monitoring will measure how the fish survive, move and contribute to the wild population.

CCA Louisiana Completes 70th Artificial Reef in Garden Island Bay

Shell and LDWF Lead Funding for the Latest REEF Louisiana Project, Built by CCA Louisiana, Natrx and Danos

The Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana (CCA Louisiana) has completed construction of its 70th artificial reef, deployed Sept. 15 in Garden Island Bay off the coast of Venice. The project was made possible through lead funding support from Shell and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), in partnership with Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA's National Habitat Initiative. The project was carried out in coordination with LDWF, Natrx and Danos.

Crews staged out of Cypress Cove Marina in Venice, deploying under clear skies on what partners described as a smooth, successful install. Natrx designed the 400 Cajun coral reef modules deployed at the site. In partnership with CCA Louisiana, Danos led planning, construction and project management for the installation, with boats and equipment provided by White Water Contractors.

"Every reef we build adds real structure to Louisiana's coast, habitat that redfish, speckled trout and the anglers chasing them will be using for decades to come. Hitting the milestone of 70 reefs is proof that the REEF Louisiana program works, and none of it happens without support from LDWF and private industry investors like Shell, as well as our construction partners, Natrx, Danos and White Water Contractors," said John Walther, chairman of habitat and conservation for CCA Louisiana.

"We greatly appreciate the work that CCA and BCT do in concert to continue to improve the quality of habitat for our fishery and the people and families who go out there and fish," said Joni Tuck, senior corporate relations advisor for Shell.

"LDWF's Artificial Reef Program really values this partnership. CCA Louisiana not only matches us with funding, but they have that local knowledge through their chapters that helps us find the best areas to do effective projects," said Mike McDonough, artificial reef coordinator for LDWF.

This reef adds to REEF Louisiana, CCA Louisiana's ongoing artificial reef program built with LDWF and private-sector partners to restore habitat and create new fishing opportunities along the Louisiana coast. GPS coordinates for the new site will be published on ccalouisiana.com once available.

Celebrate National Seafood Month by Choosing American Seafood

NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eugenio Piñeiro Soler kicks off NOAA's annual celebration of seafood by reaffirming commitment to American fishermen and seafood farmers.

October is National Seafood Month, a time to celebrate the essential role American seafood plays in feeding our nation, powering coastal economies and preserving a heritage built around our working waterfronts. I've been part of the seafood sector my whole life, so to me, my family, and my colleagues at NOAA Fisheries, every month is Seafood Month! But October gives us the welcome opportunity to swell the tide of national gratitude for the hardworking fishermen and seafood farmers who feed us. Thanks to them and our science-based management system, American seafood represents the gold standard for sustainability. And while 50 years of management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act has made the United States the model for sustainable fisheries, there is still work to be done.

In my time at NOAA Fisheries, I hope I've made my focus clear: I want to ensure our domestic seafood sector thrives in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. By increasing opportunities in our wild-caught domestic fisheries and

expanding seafood farming operations, we can get more American seafood on American plates. And NOAA has been empowered by the president's executive order on *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* to do just that. In recent months, we have committed to tangible agency actions to directly support the industry. We are confronting the economic headwinds facing our seafood sector by driving reforms designed to help our seafood producers. I believe we can go a long way toward meeting these goals by modernizing our regulatory framework, tackling market imbalances and highlighting the unmatched quality and sustainability of American seafood.

Effective management and regulatory relief must be anchored in solid science and real-world partnerships with those on the water. I have often said: If you don't have good data, you don't have good science. And if you don't have good science, you cannot manage. In order to meet the high standards, we've set for ourselves, NOAA Fisheries is transforming how we collect, analyze, and apply fishery data. We are investing in modern data infrastructure, evolving our approach to fisheries surveys, and expanding cooperative research partnerships that directly involve fishermen in data collection.

Looking toward the horizon, strengthening our domestic seafood supply chain also requires embracing the immense potential of marine aquaculture, or seafood farming. By fostering sustainable aquaculture development alongside resilient wild-capture fisheries, we can expand opportunities for coastal economic growth and make our working waterfronts more resilient, all while shoring up domestic seafood production for generations to come.

Our American seafood industry is a vital economic engine, but it's also so much more. It reflects our national heritage, community strength and food security. This National Seafood Month, NOAA Fisheries reaffirms our deep commitment to — and partnership with — America's fishing and seafood communities. I hope you will join us in this commitment by learning about the people who bring us sustainable seafood, trying one of our delicious recipes, and of course choosing American-caught seafood.

Thank you to everyone across our seafood supply chain for your hard work, dedication, and partnership. Happy National Seafood Month!

Final Louisiana Red Snapper Landing Estimates for 2026

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries estimates that 934,367 pounds of red snapper were landed during the 2026 private recreational season. These landings were 5.7 percent (51,928 pounds) above our 882,439-pound Louisiana allocation. The 2026 allocation of 882,439 pounds included a payback of 52,148 pounds from the 2025 overage. The Louisiana private recreational allocation would have been 934,587 pounds without an overage applied.

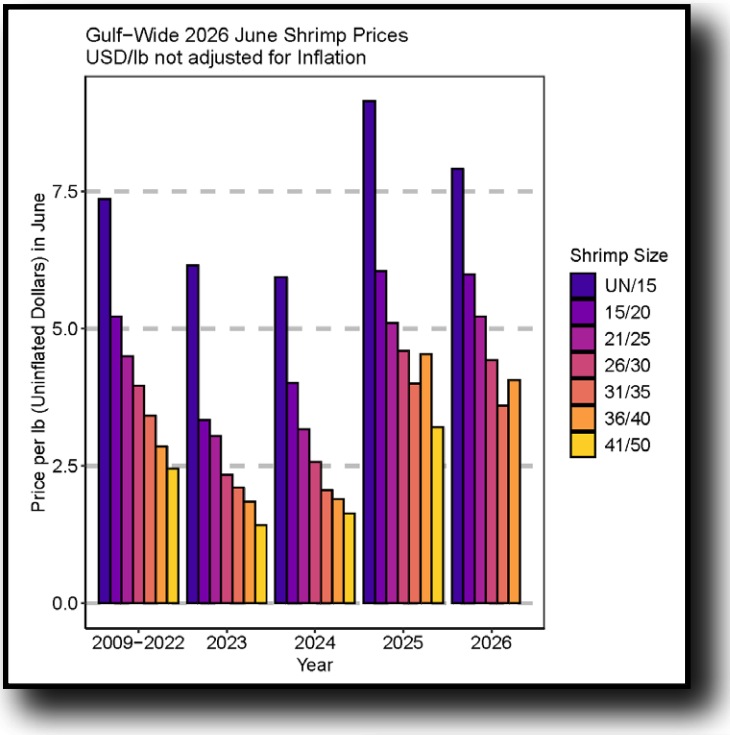
Anglers were able to fish red snapper for 109 days during the 2026 season in Louisiana. Our weekly average for the season was 49,177 pounds, which is nearly double what it was the previous two years, and we had three weeks (26, 27, 30) this season that accounted for slightly over half (50.7 percent) of our allocation.

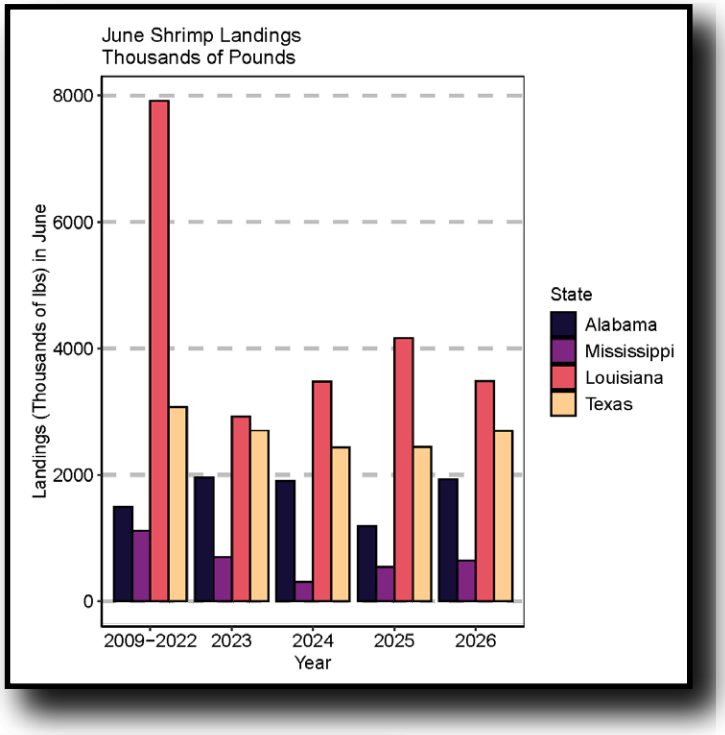
"We were excited to have an opportunity to offer a few extended holiday weekends with higher bag limits for our red snapper anglers this season," said secretary Tyler Bosworth. "We would like to thank all offshore anglers in Louisiana who have actively contributed to conservation and a very successful red snapper season by participating in the LA Creel process. We are looking forward to continuing this success in 2027."

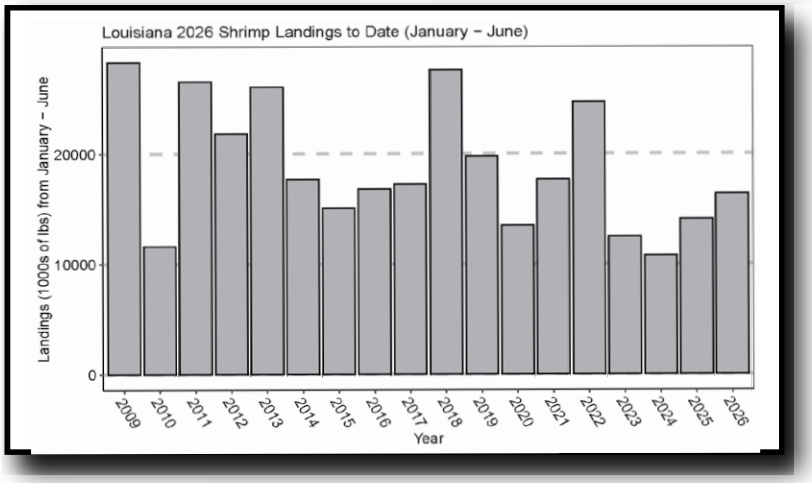
For more information on the 2026 red snapper season and detailed landing estimates, visit *www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/red-snapper*.

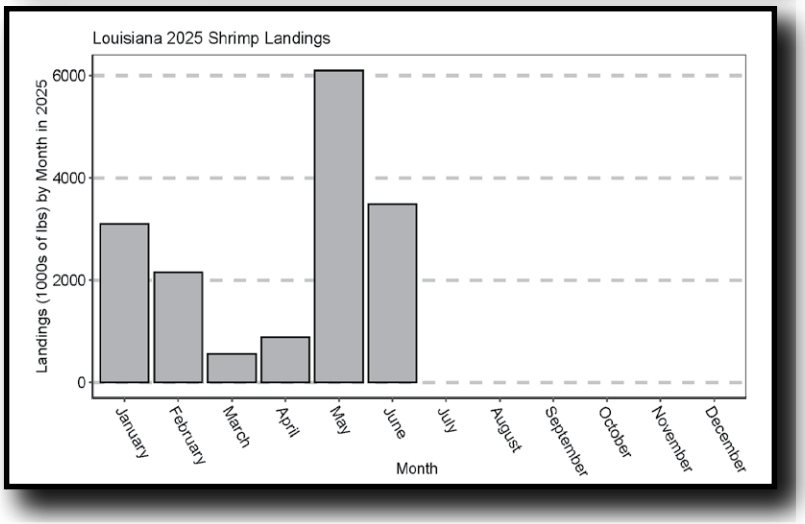
Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the October issue includes data through June 2026. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by NOAA - Fisheries and no estimations have been made.









The Gumbo Pot

Recipe provided by Addie K. Martin, chef for Culicurious

Okra and Tomatoes Recipe with Jumbo Shrimp and Tasso

This okra and tomatoes recipe is a version of the classic South Louisiana dish. Enhanced with jumbo shrimp and tasso, this dish is sure to please!

Prep: 25 min Cook: 35 min Total: 1 hour



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons pecan oil (substitute olive oil if needed)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup diced tasso
- 4 cups sliced okra
- 1 1/2 pounds tomatoes, diced (about 3 cups)
- 1-pound jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Optional garnish: cooked rice

METHOD:

1. Heat the pecan oil over medium high heat. Add the onion and kosher salt and cook for about 3 minutes until onion is softened a bit.
2. Add the tasso, stir well and cook for another three minutes, until onions are soft and tasso is slightly crispy looking.
3. Add okra and stir well. Turn flame down to medium-low and then cover pot. Cook for 15 minutes.
4. Add the tomatoes, cook another 10 minutes. Stir a couple of times to prevent sticking
5. Add shrimp, stir well and cover pot. Cook 5 more minutes.
6. Serve as is or over cooked rice.

For more information, contact your local extension agent:

Thu Bui
Marine Agent
Vermilion Parish
Phone: (337) 828-4100, ext. 300
tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu

Albert 'Rusty' Gaudé
Marine Agent
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. John Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
agaude@agcenter.lsu.edu

Thomas Hymel
Marine Agent
Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Landry and Avoyelles Parishes
Phone: (337) 276-5527
thymel@agcenter.lsu.edu

Wood Oglesby
Marine Agent
St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes
Phone: (252) 939-5654
WOglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu

G. Micah Patout
Marine Agent
St. Mary Parish
Phone: 337-828-0616, extension 1710
MPatout@agcenter.lsu.edu

D. Jordan Poole
Marine Agent
Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes
Phone: (337) 905-1318
dpoole@agcenter.lsu.edu

Dominique Seibert
Marine Agent
Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes
Phone: (504) 433-3664
dseibert@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 Jeffrey Plumlee at *jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu*

Jeffrey Plumlee
Fisheries Specialist
Louisiana State University AgCenter
334 Renewable Natural Resouces Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: 225-578-4102
Email: *jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu*

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

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter
Editor: Jeffrey Plumlee **Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry** **Copy editor: Roy Kron**