



Pretty in Pink

The roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) is one of the Gulf Coast's most conspicuous birds. With bright pink plumage and a spoon-shaped bill, it is hard to miss this bizarre creature. They are locally found all along the Gulf Coast in marshes and estuaries, often migrating to Central and South America to overwinter.

Roseate spoonbills can usually be spotted feeding in small flocks with other wading birds such as ibis and egrets. Preferring warm, shallow waters with muddy bottoms, these birds use their uniquely shaped bills to sift through sediment when searching for food.

Spoonbills' diets consist of small fish and aquatic invertebrates such as crustaceans. Pigments found in these crustaceans, called carotenoids, are the reason as to why their coloration is predominantly pink. After feeling their prey within the sediment, the roseate spoonbill snaps their bill shut and swallows whole.

The roseate spoonbill's mating season is primarily in the spring and summer months of March through June, and they reach sexual maturity after approximately 16 weeks. In order to attract a female partner, the male spoonbill will present her with gifts of nesting materials which are then used to construct a strong and deeply cupped nest above water in thick vegetation. Once the nest is complete, the female will lay up to five brown-speckled and white eggs with both the male and female birds contributing to sitting on the nest. The eggs will be ready to hatch after 24 days, with the young birds ready to fly after another eight weeks.



Photo: Gordon Leggett / Wikimedia Commons

While roseate spoonbill populations have since recovered from the brink of extinction due to overharvesting for their feathers during the 1800s, these birds still face immediate threats due to habitat loss.

– Bailey Pentz

Revised Reporting Requirements for Federal Seafood Dealers through Oct. 8, 2021

NOAA Fisheries has determined that catastrophic conditions exist in the following parishes due to Hurricane Ida: St. Tammany, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebone, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermillion, and Cameron.

Any federally permitted dealer in the affected areas who do not have access to electronic reporting, NOAA Fisheries is authorizing, through Oct. 8, 2021:

- Delayed reporting of trip tickets to NOAA Fisheries, and
- The use of paper-based reporting forms for red snapper and grouper-tilefish individual quota (IFQ) participants.
- Dealers are to report all landings through the state trip ticket program as soon as possible.
- Federally permitted dealers in affected areas are released from the weekly reporting requirement of trip tickets to NOAA Fisheries through Oct. 8, 2021, but must report all landings as soon as possible. For questions, contact the Fisheries Monitoring Branch: 305-361-4581.

For any federally permitted for-hire operator in the affected area who does not have access to electronic reporting, NOAA Fisheries is authorizing, through Oct. 8, 2021, the delayed reporting of for-hire logbooks.

Federally permitted for-hire operators in affected areas are released from the prior to offload reporting requirement of logbooks to NOAA Fisheries through Oct. 8, 2021 but must report all logbooks as soon as possible. Participants should continue to use the electronic reporting systems if it is accessible.

Four Crab Trap Closures Along Louisiana Coast in 2022

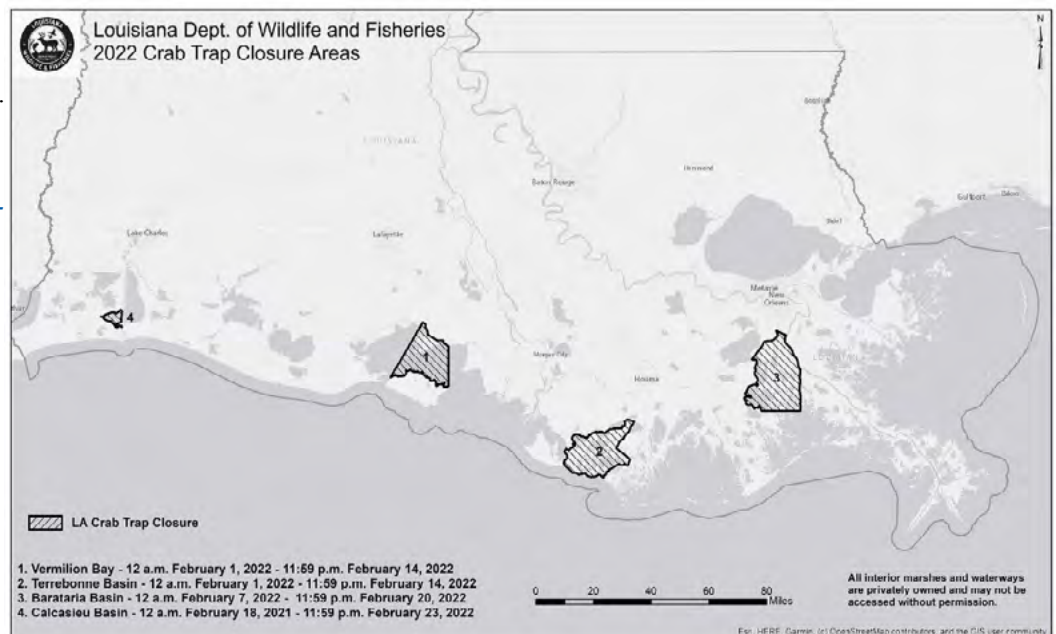
A Notice of Intent (NOI) was approved allowing the removal of derelict crab traps along Louisiana's coast in 2022 from the four following described areas:

1. The first closure will take place in the Terrebonne Basin, in an area southwest of Dularge, from 12 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, through 11:59 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.
2. The second closure will take place in the Vermilion Basin, in an area between the Acadiana Navigational Channel and East Cote Blanche Bay, from 12 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, through 11:59 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.
3. The third closure will take place in the Barataria Basin, in an area south of Lafitte, from 12 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.
4. The fourth closure will take place in the Calcasieu Basin, in the West Cove portion of Calcasieu Lake, from 12 a.m. Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022.

All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period will be considered abandoned. Details and coordinates of the closures can be found at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/derelict-crab-trap-removal.

In the weeks leading up to the closure, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will mail notices to all commercial crab trap license holders and crab buyers within the affected parishes as well as non-resident licensed crab fishermen who landed blue crab within the previous year from Louisiana waters.

These proposed trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property. Authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual landowners.



Crab traps may be removed only between one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Only LDWF or those designated by LDWF will be authorized to remove derelict crab traps in the closure areas. Abandoned traps must be brought to LDWF designated disposal sites and may not be taken from the closed area unless otherwise specified by the LWFC.

Additional Meeting Dates for Skimmer Turtle Excluder Device Reimbursement Program

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is extending the Skimmer Turtle Excluder Device Reimbursement Program (STEDRP), which will reimburse up to 60 percent of the cost for two skimmer TEDs. The goal of the Louisiana cost-share program is to provide financial relief to fishermen who need to purchase skimmer TEDs as a result of the recently amended federal regulations. The extension will allow more fishermen into the program who would like to receive Turtle Excluder Device reimbursement funds.

Eligible participants include those fishermen who have current residential skimmer gear licenses, vessels that are 40 feet in length or greater and have reported landings between 2018-2020.

Participants are required to attend an online informational meeting, facilitated by LDWF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Gear Monitoring Team. The meeting topics will include specifications for the skimmer TEDs, a review of the sea turtle regulations, and details on the skimmer TED reimbursement program. Fishermen will be registered and tracked for reimbursements through an online system used by LDWF in administering similar programs.

Register for a meeting at: https://appengine.egov.com/apps/la/LDWF/Skimmer_TED_Reimbursement_Program. If you need assistance with registration or don't have Internet access, please contact Julia Lightner at (504) 286-4041 or jlighner@wlf.la.gov.

Modifications to Vessel Monitoring System Reporting Requirements for Gulf Federally Permitted Charter and Headboat Vessels

NOAA Fisheries announced a final rule that will establish Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reporting requirements for charter and headboat vessels with Gulf reef fish and Gulf coastal migratory pelagic federal permits.

Regulations will be effective Dec. 13, 2021.

What This Means:

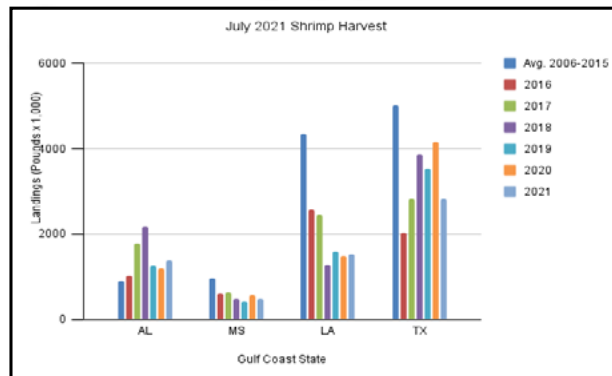
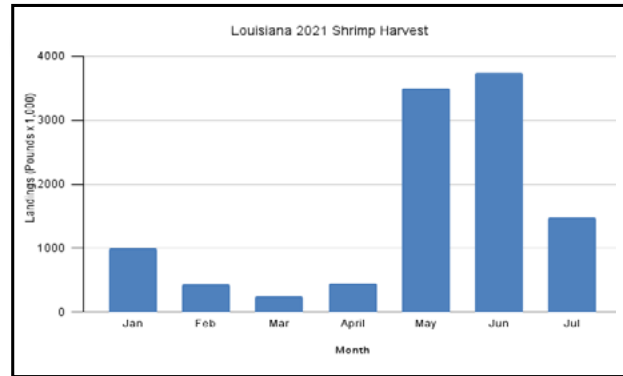
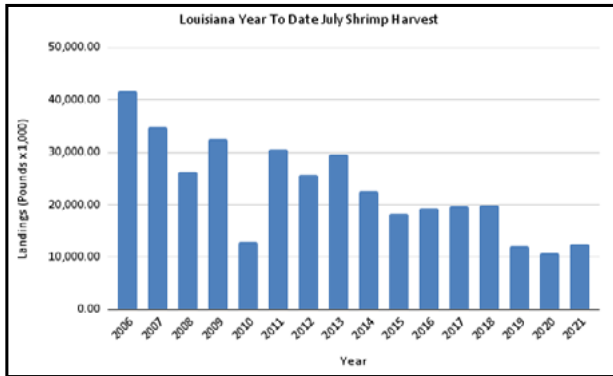
- The vessel owners or operators must install NOAA Fisheries approved hardware and software with global position system capabilities that, at a minimum, archives vessel position data during a trip and transmits those data to NOAA Fisheries.
- The location positioning portion of the hardware must be installed by a certified installer, permanently affixed to the vessel and turned on at all times, unless a power-down exemption is granted.
- The owner or operator of a vessel with a Gulf for-hire federal charter/headboat permit must comply with these reporting requirements no matter where the vessel is fishing.
- A list of approved VMS units can be found at: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-vessel-monitoring-system-vms-units-reporting-southeast-hire-integrated.

Formal Federal Register Name/Number: 86 FR 51014, published Sept. 14, 2021.

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, inclusive of all species harvested. Missing, inadequate or withheld reports are portrayed as “zero” in these graphics.

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



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Sept. 15, 2021: Recreational gray triggerfish season closed in state and federal waters

Sept. 15, 2021: Recreational red grouper season closed in state and federal waters

Sept. 18, 2021: Commercial and recreational harvest of mid-water snapper in Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) federal waters closed

THE GUMBO POT

BBQ SHRIMP SLIDERS*

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:

24 peeled Louisiana shrimp, medium size
 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 1½ tablespoons coarsely ground black pepper
 2 teaspoons Creole seasoning
 1 teaspoon minced fresh garlic
 3 tablespoons water, or as needed
 ½ lemon, seeded
 1 stick butter cut into 6 to 8 pieces
 12 soft dinner rolls, for serving

Method:

Place the shrimp, Worcestershire, pepper, Creole seasoning, garlic, and 1 tablespoon water in a heavy 10-inch stainless steel pan. Squeeze the juice from the lemon half over the shrimp and add the rind and pulp to the pan.

Cook over high heat, stirring gently and occasionally turning the shrimp; when the shrimp begin to turn pink, reduce the heat to medium-high. Gradually add butter, swirling to incorporate into the pan juices.

The sauce will turn light brown and creamy as it simmers; add water if necessary to make a saucy sauce. Do not overcook the shrimp.

To serve, slice the rolls in half; spoon a bit of the sauce over the roll, top with 2 shrimp, and serve hot. Be prepared for guests to drink the pan juice!

** Makes 12*

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

Lagniappe Fisheries Newsletter

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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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