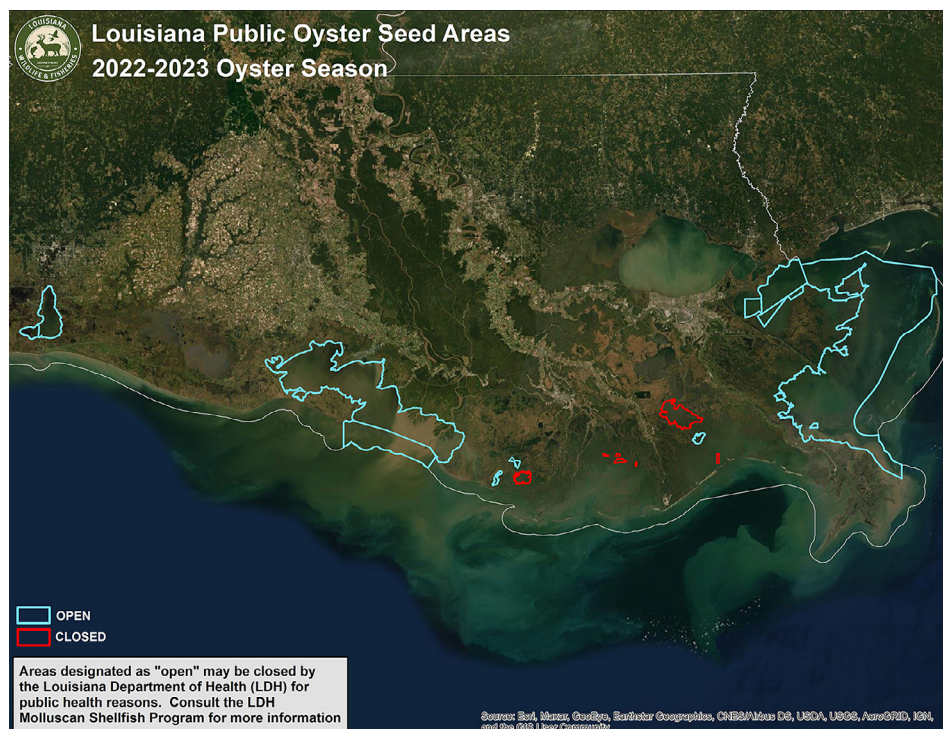




2022-2023 Oyster Season

The 2022-2023 oyster season has been set based on the annual oyster stock assessment provided by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) biologists and comments received from members of the public, including the oyster industry. The following dates were set for the upcoming oyster season:

- The Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area will open solely for sacking of market size oysters: the West Cove shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, and East Cove shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.
- The Hackberry Bay, Lake Mechant and Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation and Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for bedding purposes only one half-hour before sunrise on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022, and will close one half-hour after sunset that same day.
- The Hackberry Bay, Lake Mechant, Bay Gardene and Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation, Vermilion/East, West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, including all areas east of Mississippi River, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Shellfish Harvest Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 will open for sacking of market size oysters only one half-hour before sunrise on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2023 (or if biological data indicates that harvest levels have been met).



Map from: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?action=pagebuilder&pageID=oyster-season>

The Louisiana Department of Health may periodically close areas for public health concerns. Check the Louisiana Department of Health's website (LDH's website) or call 800.256.2775 for more information.

During the 2022-23 oyster season, the following provisions will be in effect:

- Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds and reservations described above shall be limited to a daily limit not to exceed 30 sacks of oysters per vessel, except for Calcasieu Lake. The daily limits for Calcasieu Lake shall not exceed 15 sacks of oysters per vessel per day in aggregate between West Cove and the East Side, with no more than five sacks coming from the East Side per day. The possession limit shall be twice the daily limit. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this Declaration of Emergency shall be defined as the size described in R.S. 56:440. If sacks smaller than the size described in R.S. 56:440 are used, the daily harvest and possession limit shall be based on the number of sacks used, not the size of the sack or other measures. The daily take and possession limit shall not apply to vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes. The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit, and these vessels shall not harvest oysters.
- All vessels harvesting on the open public oyster seed grounds on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022, shall be harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes only and shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel, except for Calcasieu Lake.
- A vessel is limited to either harvesting market oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically prohibited from doing both.
- If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations described above, all oysters contained on that vessel will be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.
- The harvest of seed oysters from a public oyster seed ground or reservation is for the purpose of moving the live oyster resource. The removal of more than 15 percent of non-living reef material in bedding loads is prohibited. All vessels must allow on-board inspection and sampling of seed oyster loads by LDWF biologists and/or agents.
- All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market must be uncontaminated, sealed and not gaping.
- All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market sales must measure a minimum of three inches from hinge to bill.
- Market oysters harvested from any public oyster area (including Calcasieu Lake), seed ground or reservation must be sacked, the number of sacks recorded in a log book and each sack properly tagged prior to leaving said public oyster area, seed ground or reservation, with the exception of bedding vessels.
- All vessels located in public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations during those times between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise must have all oyster scrapers unshackled.
- The use of oyster scrapers is prohibited in Calcasieu Lake. Oyster harvesting shall be limited to using hand tongs on vessels harvesting oysters, or collected by hand. Oyster tongs shall be made as a grasping device consisting of two pieces joined by a pivot or hinged like scissors used for picking up objects.
- Every vessel harvesting oysters from the Public Oyster Areas for market shall report harvest information to the LDWF before 9 pm each day fished. Vessels shall provide the following information: Captain's name, oyster harvester number, boat number, the total number of sacks harvested that day and the public oyster area fished. Call 1-800-442-2511 or oyster@wlf.la.gov to submit harvest reports. This reporting does not substitute for trip ticket reporting.

The following areas will remain closed for the entire 2022-23 oyster season:

1. The Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservations Public Oyster Seed Ground as described in R.S. 56:434.
2. The 2022 Drum Bay Cultch Plant with the following coordinates:

North Plant	South Plant
29° 53' 24.837", -89° 17' 08.500"	29° 52' 32.400", -89° 19' 18.340"
29° 53' 50.990", -89° 16' 30.541"	29° 52' 36.238", -89° 18' 40.818"
29° 54' 12.658", -89° 16' 43.889"	29° 53' 07.579", -89° 19' 36.541"
29° 53' 55.360", -89° 17' 30.601"	29° 53' 18.409", -89° 19' 07.703"
3. Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake and Barataria Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:517.
4. The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:521.

5. Oyster harvest on the Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area is prohibited as described in R.S. 56:435.1.

6. The Calcasieu Lake artificial reef with the following coordinates:

29° 53' 16.5" N, 93° 16' 56.9" W

29° 53' 16.4" N, 93° 16' 34.8" W

29° 52' 57.2" N, 93° 16' 34.7" W

29° 52' 57.2" N, 93° 16' 56.8" W

The secretary of the department was authorized by the commission to set closure dates and adjust sack limits and/or sacking-only areas based on biological harvest data or if enforcement issues are encountered. The Secretary is also authorized to take emergency action to close, or reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended and to open public areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Public notice of any opening, delay or closing of a season will be provided at least 72 hours prior to such action, unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health for public concerns.

For 2022-2023 oyster season maps, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/oyster-season.

For more information, contact Carolina Bourque at cbourque@wlf.la.gov or 337-735-8726.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council August 2022 Council Meeting Summary

Red Snapper

The council took final action on a framework action to modify red snapper catch limits. The council chose to decrease the overfishing limit and increase the acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits and annual catch targets from its previously submitted, but not yet implemented, Framework Action transmitted in June 2021. The state-specific private angling annual catch limits are calculated based on the assumption that the Framework Action to calibrate state recreational landings data and recreational catch limits is approved and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce. The catch limits are expressed in pounds whole weight as follows:

Catch Limit Type	Current	Newly Recommended
Overfishing Limit	15,500,000	18,910,000
Acceptable Biological Catch	15,100,000	16,310,000
Total Annual Catch Limit	15,100,000	16,310,000
Commercial Annual Catch Limit	7,701,000	8,318,100
Recreational Annual Catch Limit	7,399,000	7,991,900
Federal For-Hire Annual Catch Limit	3,130,000	3,380,574
Federal For-Hire Annual Catch Target	2,848,000	3,076,322
Private Angling Annual Catch Limit	4,269,000	4,611,326
Private Angling Annual Catch Target	3,415,200	3,689,061
Florida Private Annual Catch Limit	1,913,451	2,066,889
Alabama Private Annual Catch Limit	1,122,662	1,212,687
Mississippi Private Annual Catch Limit	151,550	163,702
Louisiana Private Annual Catch Limit	816,233	881,686
Texas Private Annual Catch Limit	265,105	286,363

This Framework Action to modify catch limits for red snapper will be transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation as soon as practicable.

Note: the private angling annual catch target, set 20 percent below the private angling annual catch limit, is not used as long as Regional Management (Reef Fish Amendment 50) is in effect.

Greater Amberjack

The council continued work on Reef Fish Amendment 54 which considers modifying greater amberjack catch limits and sector allocations. The most recent greater amberjack stock assessment (SEDAR 70 2020) determined that greater amberjack is both overfished and experiencing overfishing.

Gag

The council began to work on an amendment that considers revising catch limits, sector allocations, accountability measures, and other management measures for gag grouper. The most recent gag grouper stock assessment (SEDAR 72 2021), which included new recreational landings data and an ecosystem-based red tide analysis, determined that gag grouper is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Additionally, the assessment identified that the proportion of males in the gag grouper population is less than 2 percent, which negatively impacts the stock's ability to reproduce.

Wenchman

Wenchman landings associated with the commercial butterfish mid-water trawl fishery have increased in recent years. Wenchman is part of the mid-water snapper complex, which also includes queen snapper, blackfin snapper and silk snapper. The mid-water snapper complex was subject to early closure in 2021 when the stock annual catch limit was met. The council requested that the Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission, with the five Gulf states, compile historical landings for wenchman, butterfish, scad and other associated species from the mid-water trawl fishery, so the Scientific and Statistical Committee can review the historical data and better understand wenchman landings.

New Rules on Freshwater Net Marking, Passive Hooked Gear to Take Effects Soon

The freshwater net marking rule will go into effect on Sept. 20, 2022. This new rule, which duplicates and expands upon a similar established rule in saltwater, requires that:

- Gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, slat traps, and wire nets must be marked with a waterproof tag or waterproof ink/paint on the buoy (if the gear has a buoy).
- Markings shall include the full name of the user, as well as the user's recreational/commercial license number.
- Gill and trammel nets must have buoys greater than six inches long in "international orange" color attached to each end of the net. The buoys can also act as gear tags.

The passive hooked gear rule will go into effect on Oct. 20, 2022. The rule, which is applicable statewide, includes freshwater recreational yo-yos, trigger devices, trotlines, limb lines, jugs and all other passive fishing devices containing a hook or hooks (hooked passive gear). The rule requirements are:

- Waterproof tags with name, fishing license number, and phone number must be attached to all hooked passive gear. Tag information may be written directly on the device.
- All hooked passive gear must be rebaited every 24 hours, and hooked, entangled or ensnared fish and wildlife must be removed.
- Except for those devices that are attached to a privately owned pier, boathouse, seawall or dock, all passive hooked gear shall be removed from the waterbody immediately by the owner or user when not in use.
- No metal object may be driven or attached to the water bottom, stump, tree or shoreline, except for those located above the water that are affixed to a private pier, dock, houseboat or other manmade structure which is designed for fishing. Metal anchors not attached to the bottom are permitted.
- The existing prohibition on driving any (metal or non-metal) objects in the water bottom on Black Lake, Clear Lake, Prairie Lake, Caddo Lake, Chicot Lake, D'Arbonne Lake, Lake St. Joseph and Lake Bruin is included in the proposed rule.
- Objects driven or attached to the lake bottom, stump, tree, or shoreline used to hold passive gear shall not be wider than two inches by two inches or two inches in diameter, and shall be removed when not in use.
- Trotlines are limited to 150 hooks total per person and a cotton leader must be used on each end of a trotline.

To view the full notice of intent regarding the freshwater net marking rule, visit <http://ow.ly/SjPb50KJ9cP>. To view the full notice of intent regarding passive hooked gear, visit <http://ow.ly/SjPb50KJ9cP>. For more information, contact Robby Maxwell, Inland Fisheries Section, at rmaxwell@wlf.la.gov.

LDWF Announces Stock Assessment Schedule

Stock assessments on important recreational and commercial fish stocks, including Redfish (Red Drum), in Louisiana state waters are currently underway.

Stock assessments are computer-modeled simulations of fish populations that incorporate life history metrics (age, growth, reproduction), stock abundance information (survey catch effort) and fishery catch data (harvest and releases from LA Creel) to evaluate past, present and future stock status. Fishery managers use the stock assessments' results to determine the stock status (is the stock overfished and/or is overfishing occurring) and to make suitable fishery management recommendations to decision-makers.

LDWF conducts both legislatively mandated stock assessments and non-legislatively mandated stock assessments.

LDWF is conducting a non-legislatively mandated stock assessment of Redfish (Red Drum), using data collected through 2021. This stock assessment report will be available after the scientific peer-review process has been completed in late 2022 or early 2023. Previous stock assessments of Gulf of Mexico Red Fish were conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service, with the most recent federal assessment conducted in 2000.

Results of the earlier federal assessments were used to establish management thresholds at a minimum 30 percent escapement rate for juvenile fish from the inshore state fisheries to offshore waters. The most recent escapement rate estimates for Louisiana Redfish were reported in 2006 and indicated the stock was above the 30 percent escapement rate threshold. The redfish stock assessment LDWF is currently conducting will provide updated estimates of escapement rates and stock size to determine the current stock status.

Four legislatively mandated stock assessments for black drum, southern flounder, sheepshead and striped mullet are conducted every five years.

All stock assessments go through an external peer-review process before being presented to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC). These four mandated assessments will be presented to the LWFC in February 2025 before being provided to the Louisiana Legislature in March 2025.

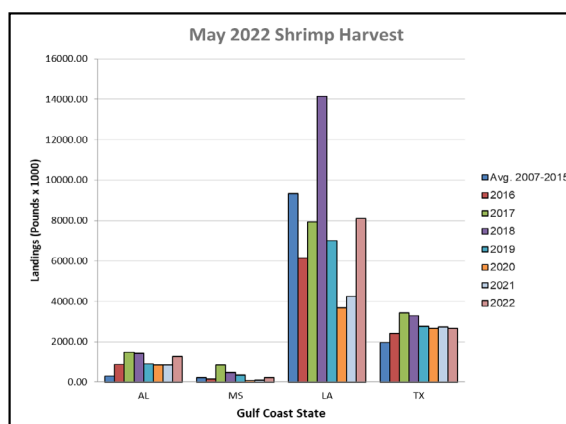
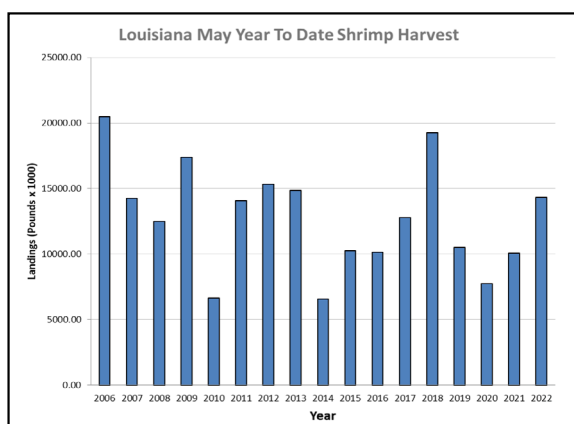
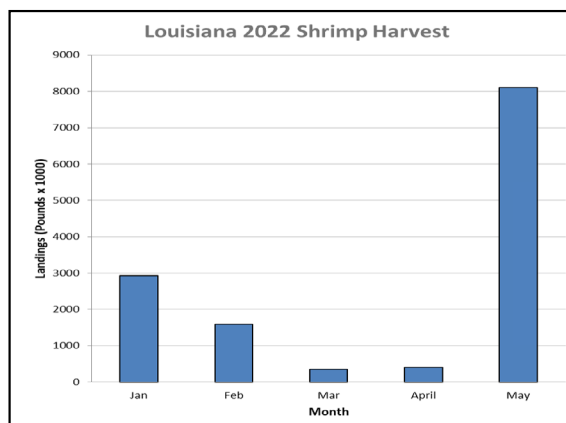
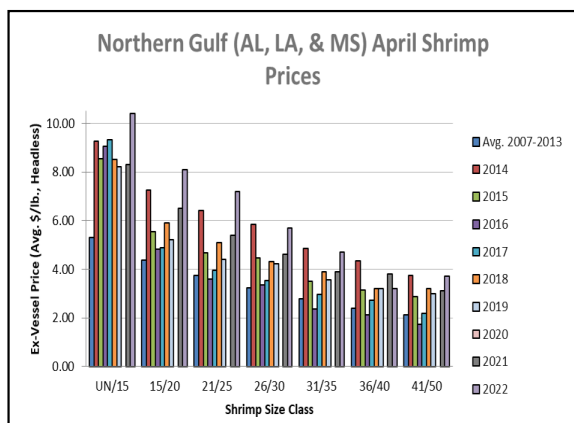
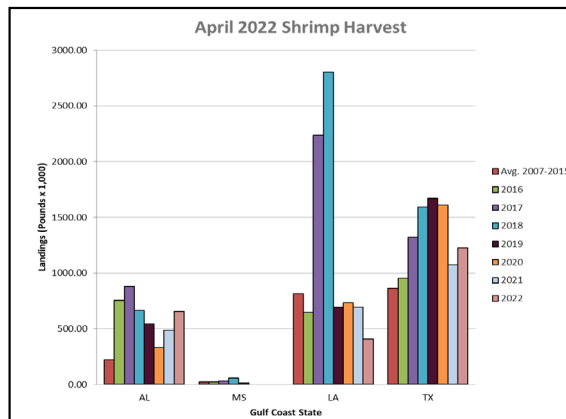
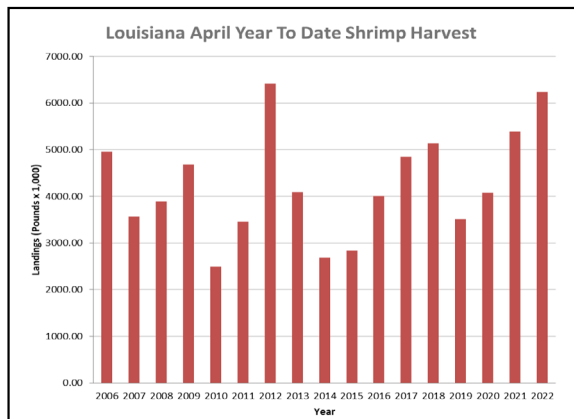
Stock assessments are also conducted on additional species of importance, such as blue crab and speckled trout (spotted seatrout). These assessments are typically conducted every three years or as requested by fishery managers or the LWFC. Some examples of these assessments are:

- Blue crab stock assessment was conducted in 2022 using data collected through 2021.
- Speckled trout (spotted seatrout) stock assessment was conducted in 2021 using data collected through 2020.
- Oyster stock assessments are conducted annually.
- Brown and white shrimp stock assessments are conducted at the federal level Gulf-wide.
- Gulf menhaden stock assessments are conducted at the federal level Gulf-wide.

For more information on the department's fisheries stock assessments, visit: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/resources/category/stock-assessments.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The Shrimp Watch data is back, but there are some changes to the Monthly Gulf Coast Shrimp Statistics report from 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

Oct. 25, 2022 – Blue Crab Task Force Meeting, Terrebonne Parish Library, 1:00 PM

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

THE GUMBO POT

TROUT ALMANDINE*

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:

- 6 large speckled trout fillets
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Cajun seasoning, to taste
- plain flour, for dusting
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) butter, in all
- 1 (4-ounce) package slivered, blanched almonds
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Method:

Season the fish fillets with salt, pepper and Cajun seasoning.

Lightly dust the seasoned fillets with flour and set to the side.

In a heavy-bottomed skillet over medium heat, melt the stick of butter, reserving 1 tablespoon. Sauté the prepared fillets in the butter until brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side, flipping only once.

Remove fillets to a plate, then add the remaining tablespoon of melted butter to the pan. When the butter begins to foam, add the almonds, cooking until toasted. Add the lemon juice, stirring until fully incorporated; taste and adjust for seasonings.

Pour almandine sauce over fillets.

Serve.

*Serves 6

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

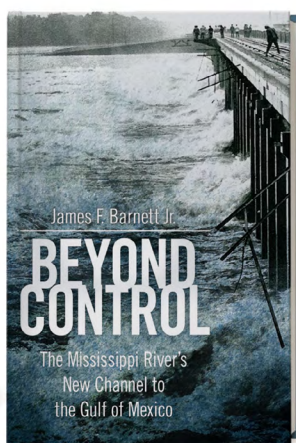
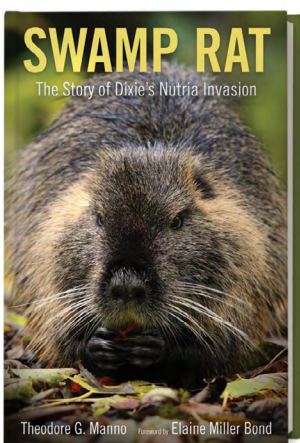
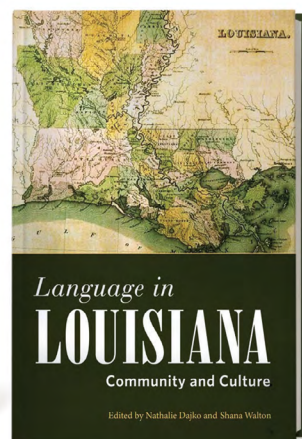
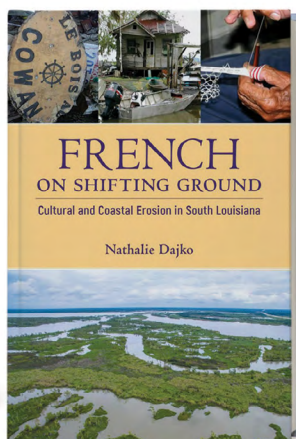
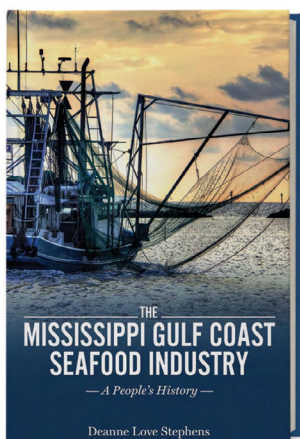
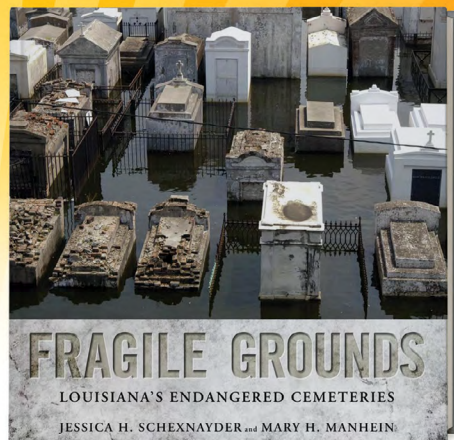
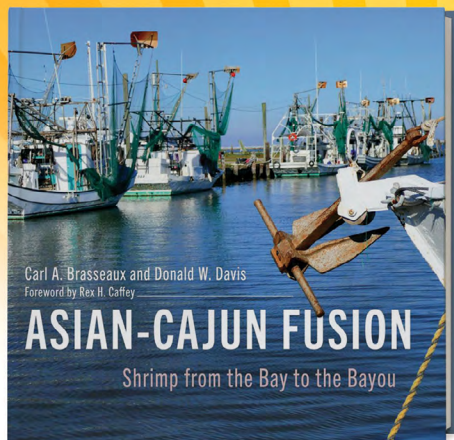
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We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials or photographs pertaining 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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