



LWFC Passes Resolution of Support for Amberjack Exempted Fishing Permit

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) passed a resolution supporting the department's application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office for an Exempted Fishing Permit to test state management of the recreational greater amberjack season using LA Creel harvest monitoring, as well as allowing the department to collect much-needed biological data critical to a stock assessment during times of higher encounter rates of greater amberjack.

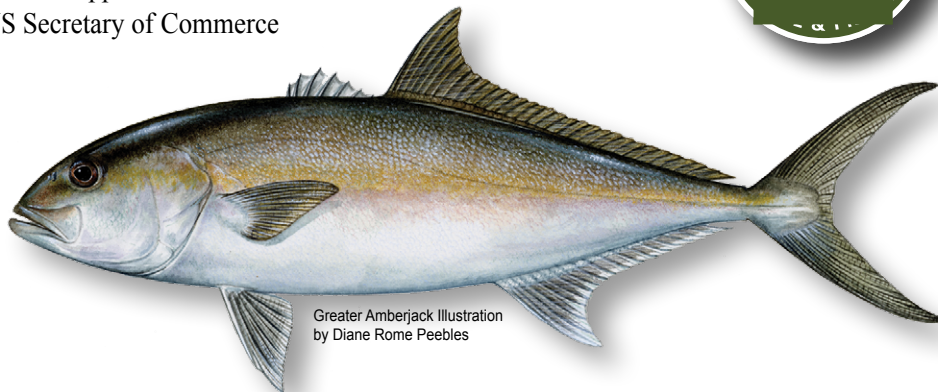
NOAA Fisheries issues these permits to authorize activities that would otherwise be prohibited by federal fishery regulations for limited testing, data collection, exploratory fishing and other purposes. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is proposing a 61-day greater amberjack season from June 1 through July 31 in 2027, 2028 and 2029. This management approach would maximize fishing opportunities for greater amberjack for private anglers and for-hire captains in Gulf waters off Louisiana while providing a defined annual season. This season structure will also likely reduce dead discards by allowing a predetermined fishing season during months of high interaction with greater amberjack, thus reducing the number of fish caught out of season that anglers would otherwise discard.

LDWF would monitor landings through Louisiana's existing recreational landings data collection program (LA Creel), which will allow for the near real-time monitoring of greater amberjack harvest. Using the current federal monitoring system, NOAA closed the federal recreational amberjack harvest on Sept. 27, 2025, after 2024/2025 landings reached 882,451 pounds against a 404,000-pound annual catch limit.

State management has proven successful for the red snapper fishery, with longer seasons, increased bag limits and more accurate harvest and effort monitoring.

Next Steps:

- LDWF Exempted Fishing Permit Application to NOAA - Completed
- Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Resolution of Support – Completed
- Gulf Council review and approval
- Signature of the US Secretary of Commerce



Greater Amberjack Illustration
by Diane Rome Peebles

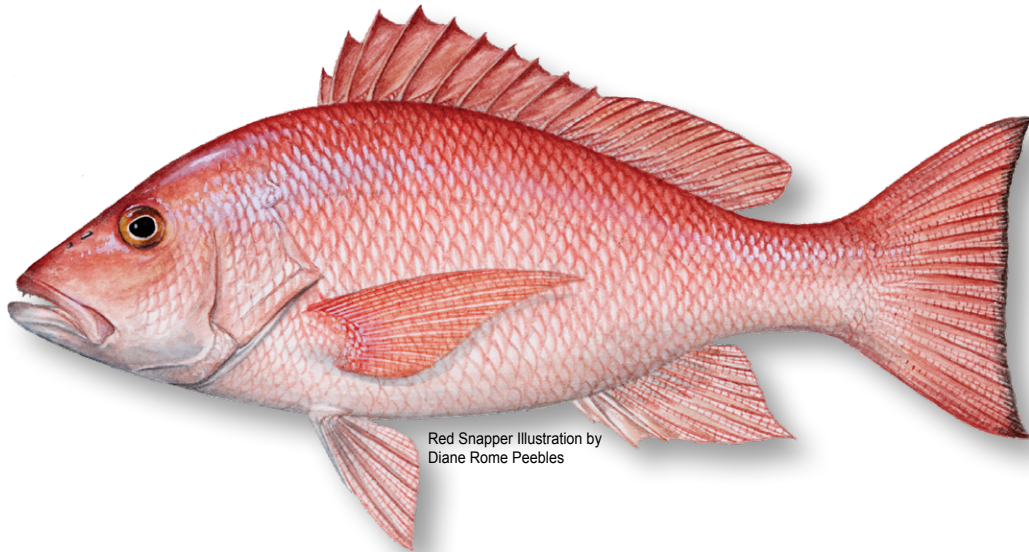
Recreational Red Snapper Season Closed Aug. 9, and Reopened Two Four-Day Periods

The recreational red snapper season closed on Aug. 9, 2026, based upon harvest estimates and projections at that time. LA Creel data indicates that 35,109 pounds, or 4 percent of Louisiana's 2026 annual private recreational allocation of 882,439 pounds remains, and a re-opening for two four-day periods is warranted.

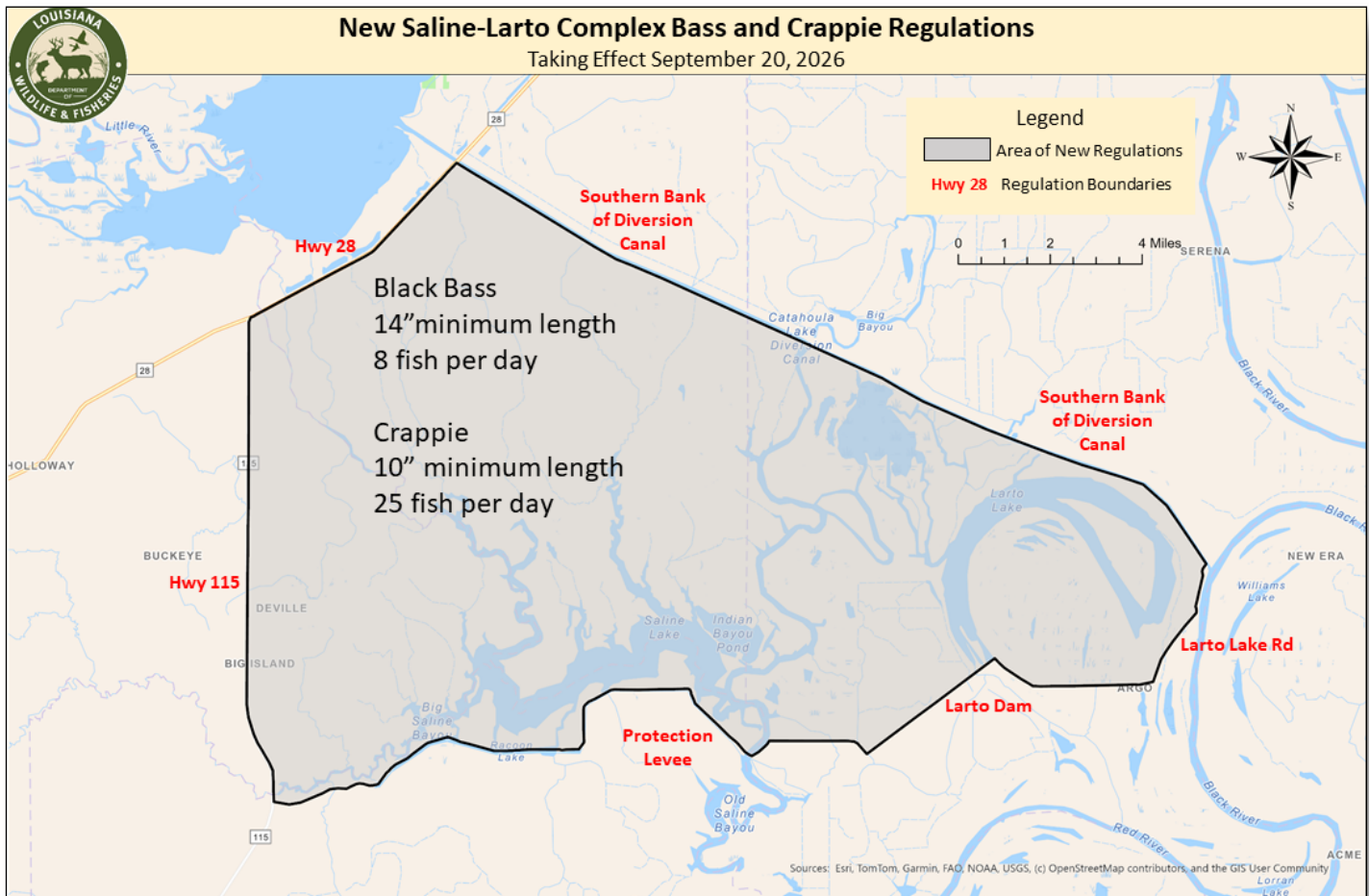
The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters and federal waters off Louisiana reopened at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 30, 2026, at which time closed again. The season reopened again from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, at which time it closes until further notice.

Size and bag limits shall remain at the currently established four-fish per day per person and a minimum size limit of 16 inches.

This modification does not apply to federally permitted charter boats operating under federal law during federally established seasons and under federally established rules for those vessels.



Red Snapper Illustration by
Diane Rome Peebles



Beginning Sept. 20, 2026, new recreational fishing regulations for black bass and crappie will take effect in the Saline-Larto Complex in central Louisiana.

The following regulations will apply to all waters within the designated area indicated below:

Black bass (*Micropterus spp.*)

- Minimum length limit: 14 inches
- Daily creel limit: eight fish

This regulation applies to largemouth bass, Florida bass, spotted bass and their hybrids.

Crappie (*Pomoxis spp.*)

- Minimum length limit: 10 inches
- Daily creel limit: 25 fish

This regulation applies to black crappie, white crappie and their hybrids.

The new regulations apply to the Saline-Larto Complex (Catahoula, LaSalle, Avoyelles and Rapides parishes) including Saline Lake, Larto Lake, Shad Lake and all associated waterbodies located south of southern bank of the Diversion Canal between Hwy 28 and the Black River, east of Highway 28 and Highway 115, north of the protective levee that borders the south end of the Complex from Highway 115 east to Larto Lake Dam, north of Larto Lake Road to Highway 124, and west of Highway 124 from Larto Lake Road to the southern bank of the Diversion Canal.

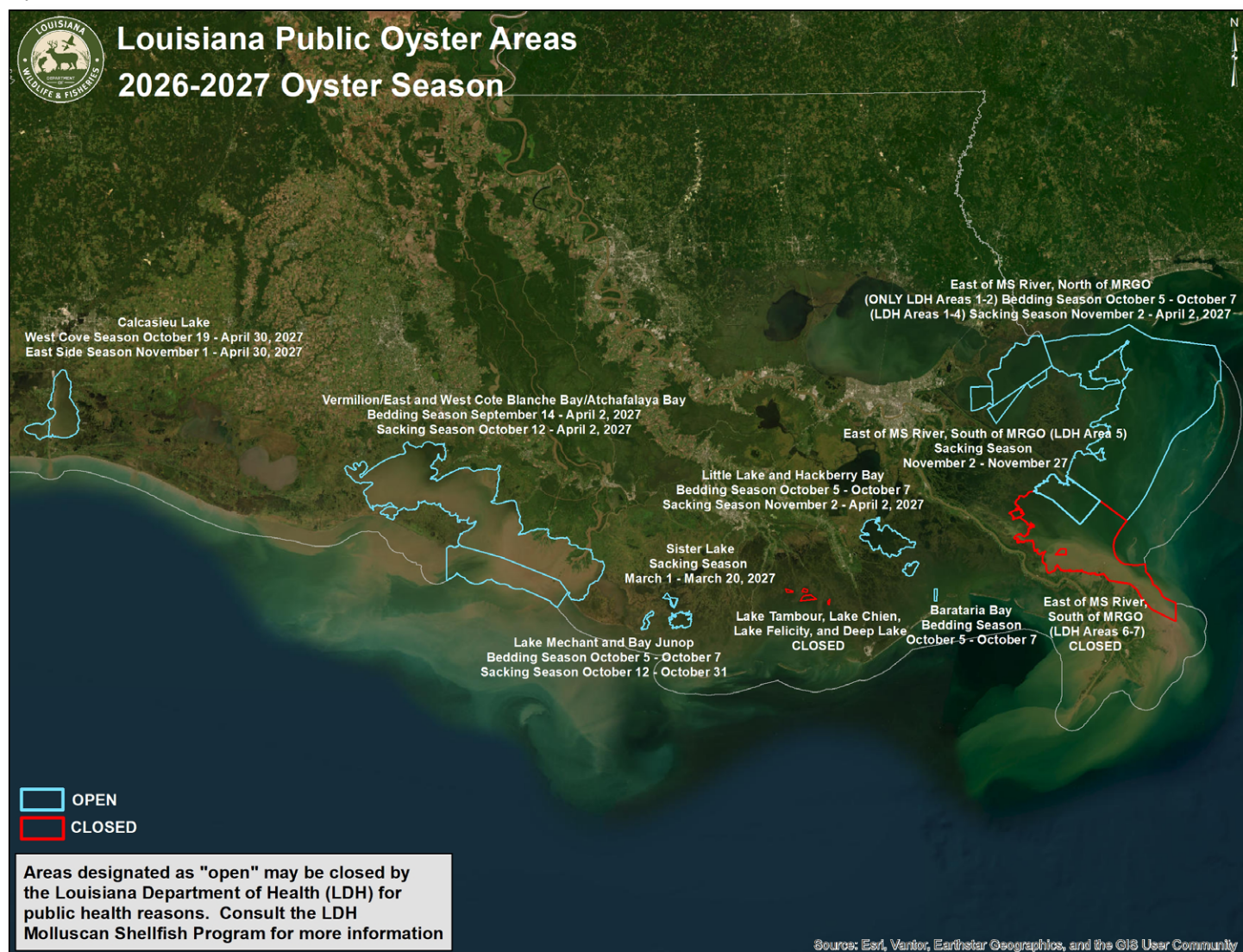
Areas outside of the designated area will maintain the statewide regulations for black bass and crappie with no minimum length limits, unless otherwise stated in the regulation pamphlet. The statewide regulations include a daily creel limit of 10 black bass and a daily creel limit of 50 crappie per licensed angler. Full recreational fishing regulations can be viewed on the LDWF website (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/seasons-and-regulations).

Anglers in possession of fish within the regulated area in the Saline-Larto Complex must be in compliance with the new regulations regardless of where their fish were caught.

For information regarding the Saline-Larto Complex, contact Shelby Richard at srichard@wlf.la.gov or (318) 487-5352.

The LWFC Sets the 2026-2027 Public Oyster Season

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) set the 2026-2027 oyster season based on the annual oyster stock assessment provided by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) biologists and input from the Louisiana Oyster Task Force.



The following dates were set for the upcoming oyster season:

- Portions of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds east of the Mississippi River, but including only the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Shellfish Harvest Areas 1 and 2, the Hackberry Bay and Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservations, Little Lake, Barataria and Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for the harvest of seed oysters for bedding purposes only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, and shall close one-half hour after sunset on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026.
- Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for the harvest of seed oysters for bedding purposes only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, and shall close one-half hour after sunset on Friday, April 2, 2027.
- Portions of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds east of the Mississippi River and north of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, to include the LDH Shellfish Harvest Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4, will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, April 2, 2027.
- Portions of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds east of the Mississippi River and south of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, to only include LDH Shellfish Harvest Area 5, will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, Nov. 27, 2026.

- The Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation, and the Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, April 2, 2027.
- The Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation and the Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026.
- The Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, March 1, 2027, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, March 20, 2027.
- Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds will open for sacking of market-size oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Friday, April 2, 2027.
- 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 Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, and the east side shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026. These areas shall close on Friday, April 30, 2026.

During the 2026-27 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 areas, seed grounds and reservations described above, except for those harvesting from the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, shall be restricted to a daily limit of sacks of oysters per vessel. The daily limit shall not exceed 40 sacks of oysters per vessel, and the possession limit shall be twice the daily limit for the Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Reservations east of the Mississippi River, the Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation, and the Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds. The daily and possession limits for the Sister Lake and Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservations and the Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Grounds shall not exceed 40 sacks of oysters per vessel per day. The daily and possession limits for Calcasieu Lake shall not exceed 10 sacks of oysters per vessel per day in aggregate between West Cove and the east side of the lake. A sack of oysters is 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 limits 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, at such times and in such public oyster areas where the harvest of seed oysters is allowed. The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit, and these properly permitted vessels shall not harvest oysters while operating under the cargo permit.
- All vessels on the public oyster areas, seed grounds and reservations for the purpose of harvesting seed oysters shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel.
- 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 on the same day.
- 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 shall be deemed to have been taken from said public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations, from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.
- The harvest of seed oysters from a public oyster areas, seed grounds and reservations shall be 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 shall allow on-board inspection and sampling of seed oyster loads by LDWF personnel.
- All oysters harvested from public areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of market sale shall be uncontaminated, sealed and not gaping as described in R.S. 56:433.
- All oysters harvested from public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations for the purpose of direct sale shall measure a minimum of three inches from hinge to bill as described in R.S. 56:433.
- Prior to leaving public oyster areas, seed grounds or reservations with oysters harvested from said areas, all oysters must be sacked, the number of sacks shall be recorded in a logbook, and each sack shall be properly tagged, with the exception of bedding vessels harvesting seed oysters. The Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Area is exempt from logbook requirements as described in LDH regulations.
- 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, shall have all oyster scrapers unshackled.

- In Calcasieu Lake, oyster scrapers are prohibited. Oyster harvesting shall be limited to oyster tongs or 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 public oyster areas, seed grounds and reservations for oyster resource shall report harvest information to the LDWF no later than 9 p.m. each day fished. Vessels shall provide the following information: Captain's name, date of harvest, oyster harvester number, vessel number, the total number of sacks harvested that day, total barrels of seed removed and the LDH Harvest area fished. Electronic reporting shall be required and shall be through the eReporting application via smart phone. The eReporting app is supported by both iOS and Android. Fishermen will need to download the app from these links at the Apple Store or Google Play Store then create an account using an email. The registration page requires name, commercial fishing license number and type of license to register. Once the account is created, the fisherman will add their vessels. Follow this link for more information on the eReporting app (www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/oyster-e-reporting) and how to use it. This reporting does not substitute for trip ticket reporting.

The following areas shall remain closed for the entire 2026/2027 oyster season:

1. The Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservations, as described in R.S. 56:434.
2. That portion of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds east of the Mississippi River, as described in LAC 76:VII.511, within the LDH Shellfish Harvest Areas 6 & 7.
3. The 2023 Drum Bay spat-on-shell broodstock reef with the following coordinates:
 - 29 degrees 52 minutes 50.471 seconds, -89 degrees 16 minutes 38.502 seconds
 - 29 degrees 52 minutes 54.871 seconds, -89 degrees 16 minutes 25.121 seconds
 - 29 degrees 52 minutes 49.018 seconds, -89 degrees 16 minutes 21.173 seconds
 - 29 degrees 52 minutes 44.382 seconds, -89 degrees 16 minutes 34.559 seconds.
4. The Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Deep Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.517.
5. The 2025 Sister Lake Cultch Plant with the following coordinates:
 - 29 degrees 14 minutes 22.68 seconds, -90 degrees 55 minutes 14.40 seconds
 - 29 degrees 14 minutes 34.41 seconds, -90 degrees 54 minutes 19.87 seconds
 - 29 degrees 14 minutes 17.19 seconds, -90 degrees 54 minutes 13.28 seconds
 - 29 degrees 14 minutes 06.59 seconds, -90 degrees 55 minutes 11.65 seconds.
6. The 2026 Johnson Bayou Cultch Plant with the following coordinates:
 - 30 degrees 05 minutes 55.51 seconds, -89 degrees 18 minutes 39.93 seconds
 - 30 degrees 05 minutes 35.60 seconds, -89 degrees 18 minutes 12.60 seconds
 - 30 degrees 04 minutes 39.23 seconds, -89 degrees 18 minutes 55.74 seconds
 - 30 degrees 04 minutes 58.32 seconds, -89 degrees 19 minutes 24.73 seconds.
7. Oyster harvest on the Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area is prohibited as described in R.S. 56:435.1.
8. Oyster harvest is prohibited on artificial reef sites, as described in LAC 76:VII.537.
9. The 2026 Bay Eloi spat-on-shell broodstock reef with the following coordinates:
 - 29 degrees 43 minutes 27.30 seconds, -89 degrees 24 minutes 21.39 seconds
 - 29 degrees 42 minutes 42.61 seconds, -89 degrees 24 minutes 22.25 seconds
 - 29 degrees 42 minutes 43.59 seconds, -89 degrees 25 minutes 17.92 seconds
 - 29 degrees 43 minutes 28.27 seconds, -89 degrees 25 minutes 17.30 seconds.
10. The 2026 Point Gardner spat-on-shell broodstock reef with the following coordinates:
 - 29 degrees 40 minutes 58.21 seconds, -89 degrees 24 minutes 54.69 seconds
 - 29 degrees 40 minutes 19.69 seconds, -89 degrees 24 minutes 03.87 seconds
 - 29 degrees 39 minutes 52.95 seconds, -89 degrees 24 minutes 35.10 seconds
 - 29 degrees 40 minutes 31.02 seconds, -89 degrees 25 minutes 22.57 seconds.

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 LDH for public concerns. Remember to check LDH closure lines before harvesting. Review the current closure lines at LDH (<https://ldh.la.gov/page/molluscan-shellfish-program>).

Area / Public Ground	Season	Limit
East of MS River, North of MRGO Public Oyster Seed Grounds (LDH Harvest areas 1-2) Bedding only	Opens Oct. 5, 2026 (Closes Oct. 7, 2026)	No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads.
Hackberry Bay and Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservations, Little Lake, Barataria and Lake Mechant Public Oysters Seed Grounds Bedding only	Opens Oct. 5, 2026 (Closes Oct. 7, 2026)	No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads.
Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds Bedding	Opens Sept. 14, 2026 (Closes April 2, 2027)	No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads.
East of MS River, North of MRGO Public Oysters Seed Grounds (LDH Areas 1-4) Sacking	Opens Nov. 2, 2026 (Closes April 2, 2027) ¹	40 sacks/vessel/day (2 day possession) ²
East of MS River, South of MRGO Public Oysters Seed Grounds (LDH Area 5) Sacking	Opens Nov. 2, 2026 (Closes Nov. 27, 2026) ¹	40 sacks/vessel/day (2 day possession) ²
Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservations, and Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Ground Sacking	Opens November 2, 2026 (Closes April 2, 2027) ¹	40 sacks/vessel/day (2 day possession) ²
Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation Sacking	Opens March 1, 2027 (Closes March 20, 2027) ¹	40 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)
Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation and the Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Ground Sacking	Opens Oct. 12, 2026 (Closes Oct. 31, 2026) ¹	40 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)
Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds Sacking	Opens Oct. 12, 2026 (Closes April 2, 2027) ¹	No Daily Limit No possession limit
Calcasieu Lake (West Cove)	Opens Oct. 19, 2026 (Closes April 30, 2027) ¹	10 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession) ³
Calcasieu Lake (East side)	Opens Nov. 1, 2026 (Closes April 30, 2027) ¹	10 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession) ³
Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Deep Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds	Closed - No Season	Closed - No Season

¹Season closure may occur sooner if harvest threshold is met.

²The possession limit shall be twice the daily limit.

³No more than 10 sacks of oysters per vessel per day for the entire Calcasieu Lake. No scrapers: Tong or hand only.

For 2026-2027 oyster season maps: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/oyster-season>

For more information, contact Robert Caballero at rcaballero@wlf.la.gov or (504) 286-4054.

LWFC Passes NOI to Change Commercial Menhaden Reporting Requirements

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) approved a Notice of Intent (NOI) to change the commercial menhaden reporting requirements as a result of Act 444 of the 2026 legislative session. Companies taking menhaden by vessels equipped with purse seines for the purpose of reduction are required to provide monthly harvest reports. This NOI removes the requirement to report length measurements, in millimeters fork length, of 15 randomly selected menhaden (five from the beginning of set pump out, five from the middle of set pump out and five from the end of set pump out).



Additionally, to conform to Louisiana R.S. 56:325.5(D) (enacted via Act 444 of the 2026 legislative session), this NOI establishes that commercial Menhaden harvest reports provided to legislative committees are not confidential.

A copy of the NOI is available here. www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/NOI-to-Change-Commercial-Menhaden-Reporting-Requirements-9-3-26.pdf.

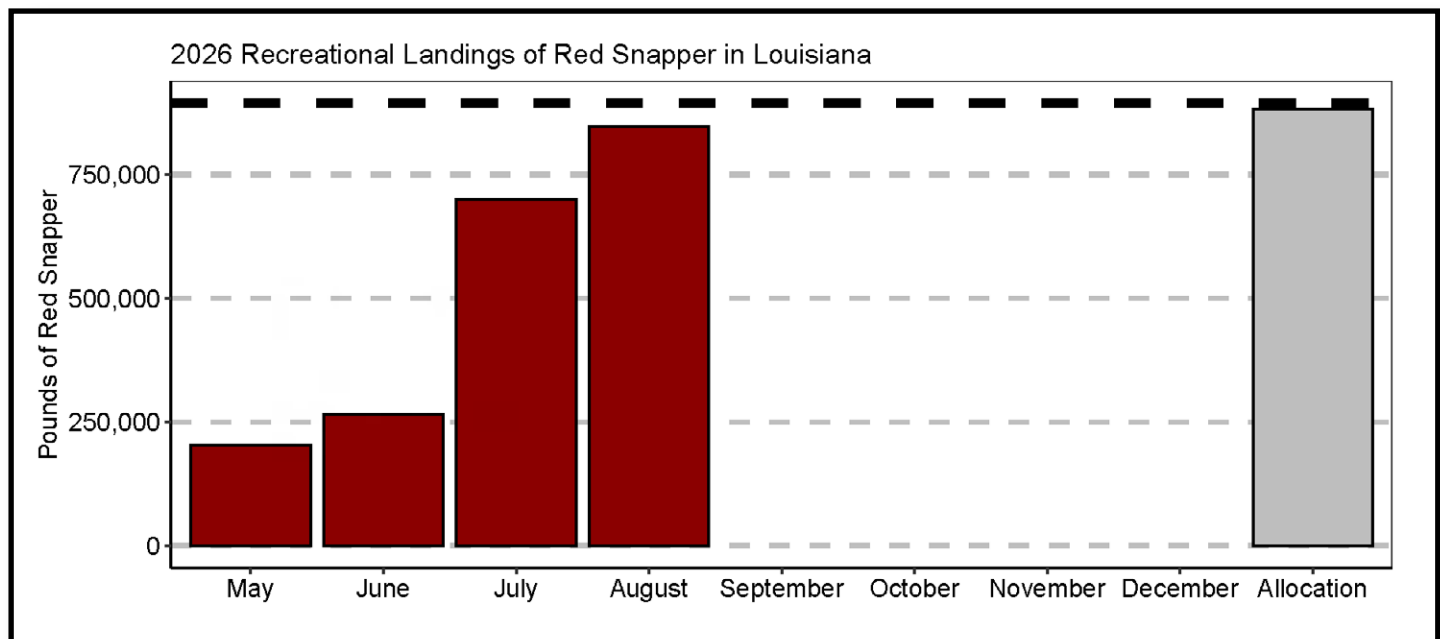
Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov by 3:00 p.m. on Oct. 26, 2026.

Louisiana Snapper Watch

The recreational red snapper season closed on Aug. 9, 2026, based upon harvest estimates and projections at that time. LA Creel data indicates that 35,109 pounds, or 4 percent of Louisiana's 2026 annual private recreational allocation of 882,439 pounds remains, and a re-opening for two four-day periods is warranted.

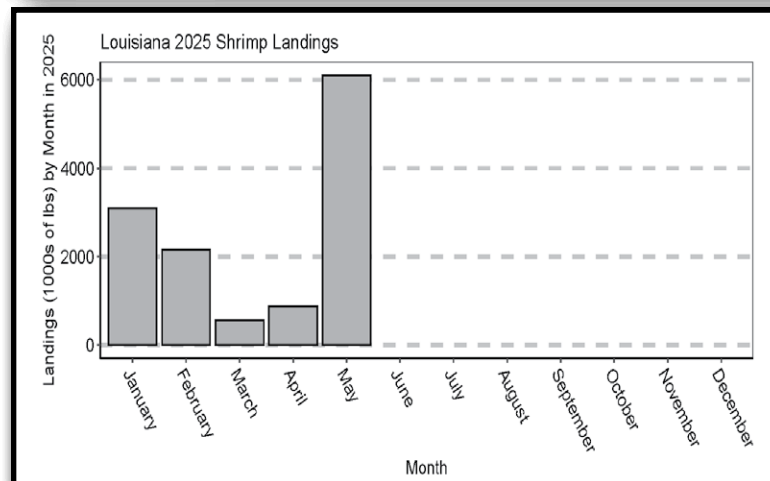
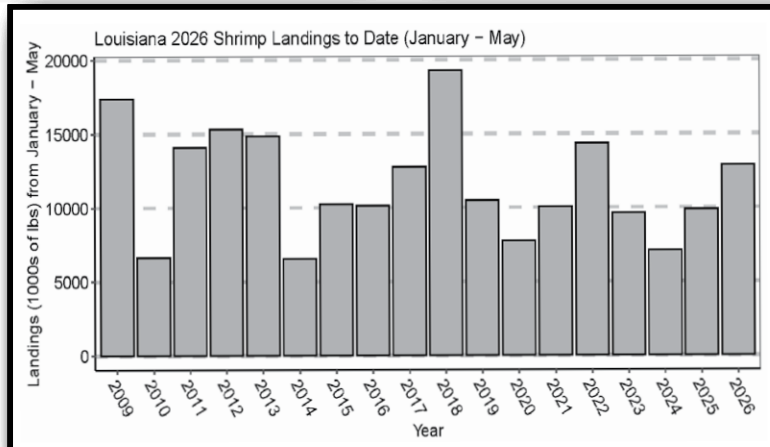
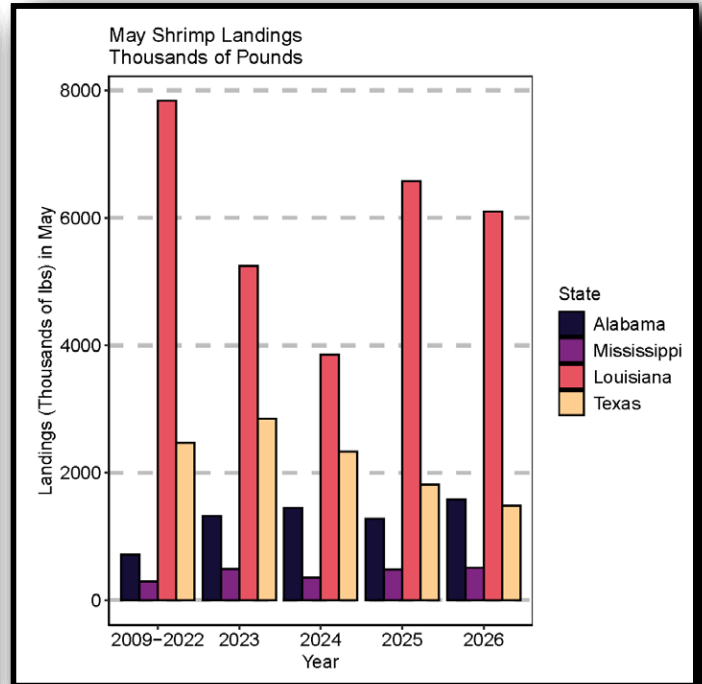
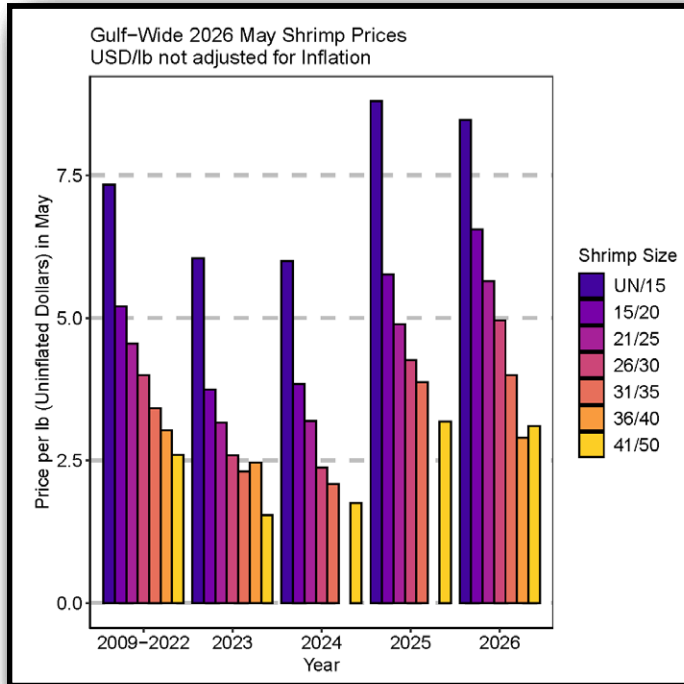
The season for the private recreational and state charter harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters and federal waters off Louisiana reopened at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 30, 2026, at which time it closed. The season reopened again from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, at which time it will close until further notice.

Size and bag limits shall remain at the currently established four-fish per day per person and a minimum size limit of 16 inches.



Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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



The Gumbo Pot

Chipotle Shrimp with Mango and Summer Corn Salad Recipe

Recipe provided by Addie K. Martin, chef for Culicurious

Smoky, spicy chipotle shrimp top this mango and corn salad.

The salad also contains grape tomatoes, lime, cilantro, red onion, queso fresco and jalapeño.

Prep: 35 min Cook: 5 min Total: 40 min



INGREDIENTS:

Shrimp Marinade:

- 1 tablespoon pecan oil (or olive oil)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 lime, zest and juice
- 2 pounds jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined

Summer Corn and Mango Salad:

- 4 ears of fresh corn, kernels removed from cob
- 1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, halved lengthwise
- 1 cup chopped mango (about 1 large mango)
- 1 cup diced red onion (about 1 small red onion)
- 1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro leaves
- 1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco
- Juice of 2 limes
- 3 tablespoons pecan oil (or olive oil)
- 2 teaspoons chopped jalapeño, stems and seeds removed
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon chipotle pepper powder

Chipotle Shrimp:

- 1 tablespoon pecan oil (or olive oil)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onion bottoms (the white part)
- 2 teaspoons chopped canned chipotle in adobo (remove seeds and stem)
- 2 pounds of marinated shrimp, drained of excess marinade

METHOD:

Marinating the Shrimp:

1. First peel and devein the shrimp (if not already done).
2. Combine all the marinade ingredients, mix well then add shrimp. Stir to evenly coat shrimp with marinade.
3. Set in refrigerator to marinate while prepping the mango and corn salad (about 30 minutes).

Mango and Summer Corn Salad:

1. Add all ingredients to a large mixing bowl. Stir well to combine.
2. Set in the refrigerator to chill a little while cooking the shrimp.

Chipotle Shrimp:

1. Remove shrimp from marinade and be sure to drain off excess marinade from the shrimp. Too much liquid will make it difficult for the shrimp to cook properly.
2. In a large skillet over a medium high flame, add the pecan oil and heat for about a minute.
3. Add the sliced green onion bottoms and chipotle. Cook about 2 minutes until both are softened.
4. Add the shrimp in a single layer and cook about 30-45 seconds on the first side.
5. Carefully flip and finish cooking another 30-45 seconds on the second side. Shrimp cook very quickly so take care to not over-cook.
6. Serve shrimp on a bed on mango and summer corn salad.

For more information, contact your local extension agent:

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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 Jeffrey Plumlee at jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu

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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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