



At Louisiana Sea Grant, we often follow the work of researchers and graduate students working on topics aligning with our strategic initiatives. Mischa Schultz (center) is one of those students. Mischa is a Ph.D. student co-advised in Steve Midway and Michael Dance's labs in the College of the Coast & Environment at LSU. I asked Mischa, as a service to the interested public, to write about her graduate work for the Lagniappe and she happily obliged.



Greater Amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico

By Mischa Schultz

Greater amberjack, known by various names like AJ, jack, reef donkey or how we call them in Louisiana, the “rig donkey”, is a predatory fish found off Louisiana’s coast and in temperate to tropical seas globally. These large, elongated fish range from amber-brown to greyish-blue with a silver to white belly and a dark stripe running from their nose to their dorsal fin. Distinguishing them from other jack species like almaco jack, lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish can be challenging, but the greater amberjack is the

largest, reaching up to six feet and more than 200 pounds. Popular among recreational anglers for its size and fighting abilities, the greater amberjack is also targeted by a commercial fishery. It is considered good table fare, suitable for grilling, smoking, baking or pan frying.

Off Louisiana's coast, greater amberjack can be found on artificial reefs, oil rigs and natural bottom reef habitats. Their life cycle begins with an open-water larval phase, followed by an association with drifting seaweed, such as sargassum mats, for five to six months before transitioning to rocky bottom habitats. Their diet shifts with changes to habitat. Younger individuals feed on plankton, crustaceans and squid, and older amberjack primarily eat fish. Similar to other reef fish, adult greater amberjack aggregate on spawning grounds during their peak reproductive season, which spans from March through May. Recent research indicates that the Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack population utilizes spawning grounds in various locations, including coastal waters and around oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana.

In the Gulf of Mexico, management of the greater amberjack fishery is overseen by NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) through the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Plan. The GMFMC's primary objective is to achieve sustainable harvests while ensuring the long-term health of fish stocks. In the 1980s and 1990s, increased commercial interest in greater amberjack, driven by consumer demand and declining red drum catches, led to overfishing, and the stock was declared overfished in 2001. Despite management interventions such as seasonal closures, size limits and reduced bag limits, the stock remained overfished and subject to overfishing as of 2021. A rebuilding plan has been implemented to restore the stock to target levels by 2028. The next assessment of the population of greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico is scheduled for 2026. Current efforts in the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are focused on enhancing data collection methods, assessment techniques and overall understanding of greater amberjack populations. This includes utilizing technologies like underwater video surveys and hydroacoustics to improve abundance estimates and inform sustainable management practices.

Anglers are permitted to harvest greater amberjack from May 1 to May 31 and from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, as regulated by the GMFMC. The daily bag limit is one fish per person, and each amberjack must measure at least 34 inches in length to be harvested. Experienced anglers often use vertical jigging techniques with diamond or butterfly jigs, although large live baitfish like blue runner or pinfish are also effective. The greater amberjack is highly prized off Louisiana's coast, valued both for its sport and culinary qualities. Ongoing conservation efforts are crucial to sustain the stock and ensure its recovery for future generations of anglers to enjoy.

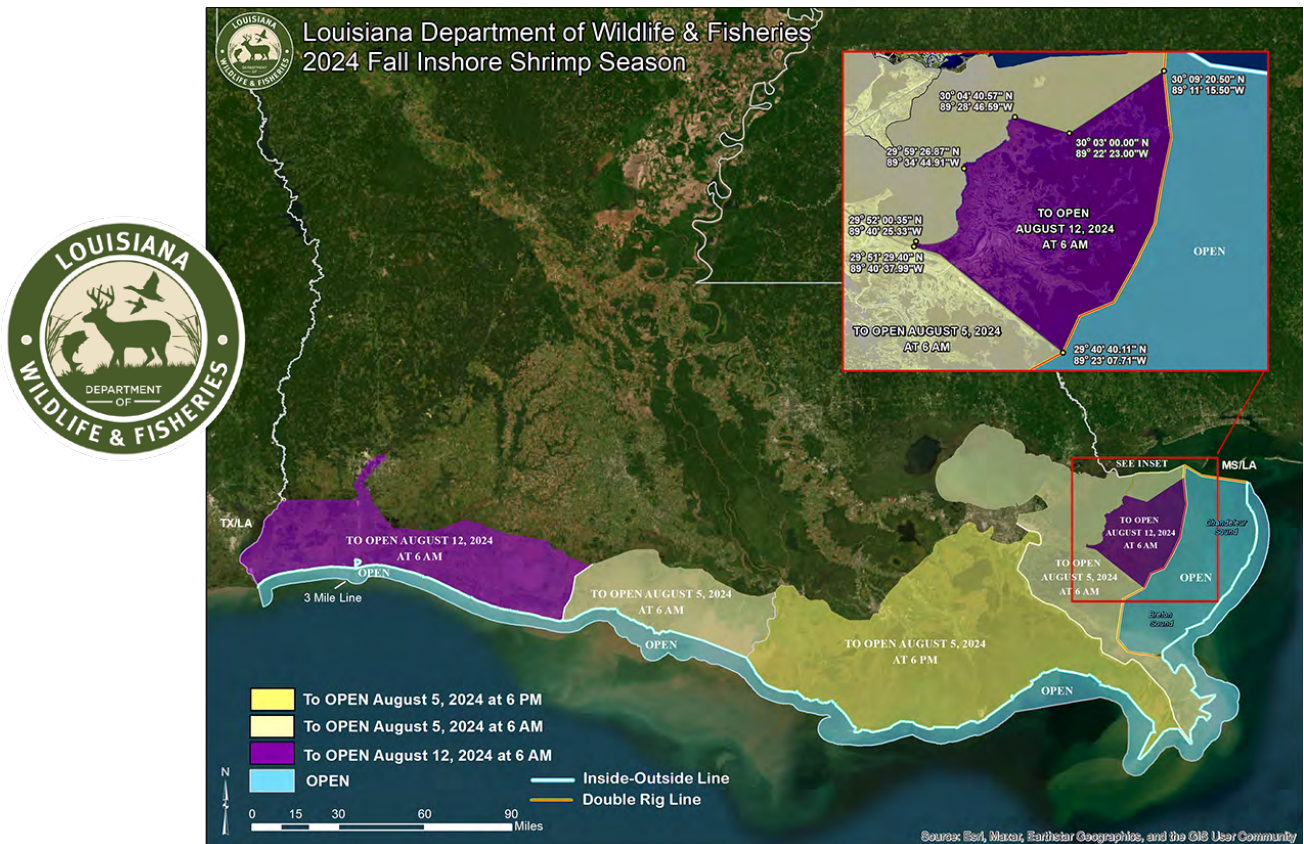


LDWF Announces Opening Dates for the Fall Inshore Shrimp Season

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the opening dates for the fall inshore shrimp season based on information provided by biologists from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), input from the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, and public comments.

Season openings are as follows:

- From the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River opened at 6 a.m. Aug 5, 2024, except for the area as described below, which will open at 6 a.m. Aug. 12, 2024:
- From a point at the intersection of the eastern shore of the MRGO and the Shell Beach Cut at 29 degrees 51 minutes 29.40 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 37.99 seconds west longitude; thence northerly to a point where Shell Beach Cut and the south shore of Lake Borgne intersect (29 degrees 52 minutes 00.35 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 25.33 seconds west longitude); thence easterly and northerly following the southern shore of Lake Borgne and the western shore of the Biloxi Marsh to Pointe Aux Marchettes (29 degrees 59 minutes 26.87 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 44.91 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to Malheureax Point (30 degrees 04 minutes 40.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 28 minutes 46.59 seconds west longitude); thence southeasterly to a point on the western shore of Three-Mile Pass (30 degrees 03 minutes 00.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 22 minutes 23.00 seconds west longitude); thence northeasterly to a point on Isle Au Pitre (30 degrees 09 minutes 20.50 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 11 minutes 15.50 seconds west longitude), which is a point on the double-rig line as described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2; thence southerly following the double rig line to where it intersects with the MRGO (29 degrees 40 minutes 40.11 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 23 minutes 07.71 seconds west longitude); thence northwesterly along the eastern shore of the MRGO to the point of origin.
- From the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island, delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line opened at 6 p.m. Aug. 5, 2024.
- From the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the red Channel Buoy Line westward to the western shore of the Freshwater Bayou Canal to opened at 6 a.m. Aug. 5, 2024.
- From the western shore of the Freshwater Bayou Canal westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at 6 a.m., Aug. 12, 2024.



LDWF biologists have monitored hydrological parameters and conducted trawl samples throughout the state’s estuarine and nearshore waters to develop recommendations for the opening of the fall shrimp season. These results were used to calculate when white shrimp will reach marketable size.

The commission granted authority to the LDWF secretary to delay or advance these opening dates and to close any portion of Louisiana inside waters to protect small, juvenile white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or if enforcement problems develop. The commission also granted authority to the secretary to close shrimping in all or portions of state outside waters if significant numbers of small, sublegal size white shrimp are found in biological samples, and the authority to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary. Notice of any opening, delay, or closing of a season by the secretary will be made public at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Tow Time Regulations Reminder

Federal Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations require skimmer net fishermen with vessels less than 40 feet in length to limit tow times. Maximum tow times are 55 minutes from April 1 to Oct. 31 and increase to 75 minutes from Nov. 1 to March 31.

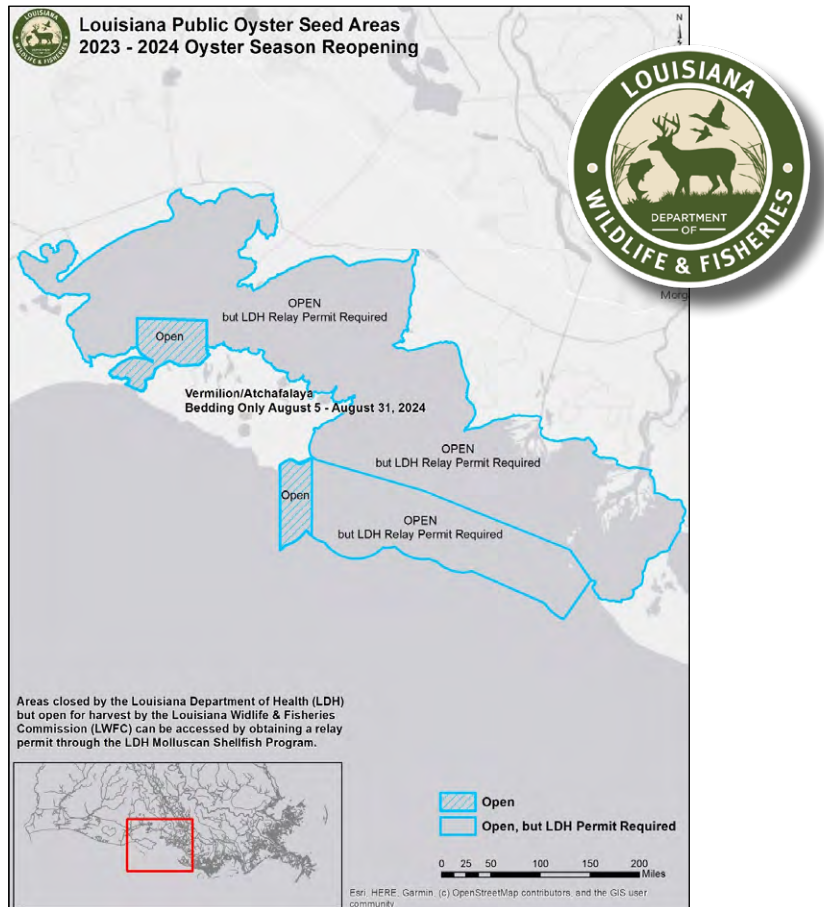
White Shrimp Count Remainder

R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) per pound except during the time period from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December.

For more information, contact Peyton Cagle at (337) 491-2213 or pcagle@wlf.la.gov.

LDWF to Reopen Oyster Season in Vermilion Bay

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) will reopen the oyster season in designated portions of the public oyster seed grounds in the Vermilion/Atchafalaya Bay area to allow bedding of oyster resource to private leases. This oyster season is based on the annual oyster stock assessment provided by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) biologists, recommendations by the Oyster Task Force, and comments received from members of the public.



- The Vermilion/East, West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds reopened for harvest/bedding of seed oysters one half-hour before sunrise on Monday, Aug. 05, 2024, and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024.

During this oyster season reopening, the following provisions will be in effect:

- Every vessel harvesting oysters from the public oyster areas for oyster resources shall report harvest information to the LDWF before 9 p.m. each day fished. Vessels shall provide the following information: Captain's name, oyster harvester number, vessel number, the total number of sacks harvested that day, total barrels of seed removed and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Harvest area fished. Electronic reporting will be completed through the e-Reporting application via smartphone. The eReporting app is supported by both iOS and Android. Fishermen should download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store then create an account using an email address. 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 and how to use it: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/oyster-e-reporting.
- If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds 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 at their lease.
- No harvester shall sell, or transport with his vessel, oysters intended for direct market sales from the public seed grounds described above.
- All vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes from the open public oyster areas shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel.
- The harvest of seed oysters from these public areas 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 biologists and/or agents.
- 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.
- Any individual actively harvesting oysters in the public oyster seed grounds designated as "closed" by LDH shall be properly permitted for such transplant by LDH in accordance with the state sanitary code.
- Taking oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations without an oyster seed ground vessel permit shall be a class two violation subject to the penalties provided in RS 56:32 and to the requirements of RS 56:424.1.

The LDWF secretary was authorized by the commission to adjust closure dates based on biological harvest data or if enforcement issues are encountered. The secretary is also authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended and to open public areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Harvesters are encouraged to consult with LDH prior to fishing this area as some areas opened by LDWF may be closed due to water quality concerns by LDH.

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

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

LDWF Announces Funding Availability for Large-Scale Alternative Oyster Culture Projects

Utilizing funding provided by the Louisiana Legislature through the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is announcing funding availability for large-scale Alternative Oyster Culture (AOC) projects in Louisiana. This grant program is focused on providing economic assistance to projects that have the ability to produce at least two million oysters per year utilizing off-bottom oyster production techniques.

Funding may be available to any public or private entity interested in developing an AOC project on land or in territorial waters through a competitive grant process. Projects to be considered for funded under the program may include hatcheries, nurseries or grow out facilities.

LDWF will conduct an evaluation process to identify the most advantageous and financially efficient projects. If a project is selected, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining all required permits and executing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with LDWF. The selected applicant(s) will be reimbursed only for eligible expenses under this program. Project-related costs incurred prior to the execution of the CEA are not eligible for reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted via email or hardcopy through Aug. 31, 2024. Obtain an application packet by emailing Patrick Banks at pbanks@wlf.la.gov.

For further information regarding program details, contact Banks at (225) 765-2370 or pbanks@wlf.la.gov.

LDWF's Fish Hatcheries Stocked 4.2 Million Freshwater Sportfish Statewide This Spring

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) hatcheries produced and stocked approximately 4.2 million freshwater sportfish into 50 waterbodies statewide during the spring 2024 stocking season. The stocked fish primarily consisted of Florida bass (4.2 million) and hybrid striped bass (67,100).

LDWF owns and operates Booker Fowler, Beechwood, Huey P. Long and Monroe Fish Hatcheries. Hatcheries also partner with the USFWS' Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery and the City of Shreveport's Cross Lake Fish Hatchery to meet statewide fish production needs. Fish are requested annually by LDWF's nine fisheries management districts primarily to enhance or improve sportfishing opportunities.

"We are proud to be able to stock such a large quantity of freshwater sportfish throughout the state for the benefit of our fisheries habitat and recreational anglers," said LDWF secretary Madison Sheahan. "Our goal for fish stockings is to have a healthy population of sportfish statewide and to provide ample opportunity for recreational anglers to try their hand at catching large trophy bass in our Sportsman's Paradise."

While Louisiana hatcheries support various fish stocking needs throughout the state, most of today's hatchery resources are directed to the production of Florida bass. The Florida Bass can grow larger than Louisiana's native largemouth bass species. The two species readily hybridize, and individuals reaching or exceeding ten pounds in Louisiana usually have some degree of Florida bass genetic influence due to LDWF's stocking efforts. Stocking this species into existing native populations of largemouth bass, where successful, increases the potential for anglers to catch quality and/or trophy bass. Below are a few examples of the Florida bass genetic influence in some of our most notable bass lakes.

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Lacassine Pool | 96.4% | Indian Creek | 36.7% |
| NOLA City Park | 80.2% | Chicot Lake | 32.5% |
| Poverty Point | 71.0% | False River | 29.6% |
| Cypress Lake | 43.2% | Bundick Lake | 26.5% |
| Toledo Bend | 42.1% | Lake Claiborne | 26.1% |

Stocking of Florida bass focuses hatchery resources on areas with the best likelihood for success. Stocking is no longer done in areas where introgression of the Florida gene into the native bass population has been unsuccessful or in habitats where bass do not generally live to an age where they can reach trophy size.

Below are the results of stocking activities completed by LDWF hatcheries from January to June of this calendar year.

| Body of Water | Species | Size | Quantity Stocked |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Bayou Bartholomew | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 20,000 |
| Bayou D'Arbonne Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 271,700 |
| Black Bayou Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 15,000 |
| Black Bayou and Black Bayou Reservoir | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 38,000 |
| | | Fingerlings* | 12,200 |
| Bussey Brake | Black Crappie | Fingerlings | 4,200 |
| | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 9,100 |
| | White Crappie | Fingerlings | 132 |
| Caddo Lake and James Bayou | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 151,000 |
| Calcasieu River | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 29,500 |
| Caney Lake (combined) | Florida Bass | Fingerlings* | 4,200 |
| Chatham Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 3,100 |
| Cheniere Brake Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 62,500 |
| | | Fingerlings* | 214,900 |
| | | Fry* | 405,000 |

| Body of Water | Species | Size | Quantity Stocked |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chicot Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 32,000 |
| Corney Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 14,000 |
| Cotile Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 24,800 |
| Crooked Creek Lake | Bluegill | Fingerlings | 1,000 |
| | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 8,000 |
| Cross Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 99,000 |
| | | Fingerlings* | 7,100 |
| Dubuisson Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 4,000 |
| False River | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 6,000 |
| Fullerton Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 500 |
| Grand Bayou Reservoir | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 30,000 |
| Gretna City Pond | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 200 |
| Hardwater Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 10,000 |
| Iatt Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 71,000 |
| Ivan Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 6,000 |
| Kepler Creek Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 25,300 |
| Kincaid Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 38,000 |
| Lake Bistineau | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 139,900 |
| Lake Bruin | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 20,200 |
| | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 6,700 |
| Lake Buhlow | Florida Bass | Fry* | 206,400 |
| Lake Claiborne | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 80,000 |
| | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 16,100 |
| Lake Concordia | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 2,700 |
| Lake Fausse Point and Dauterive Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 100,000 |
| Lake Providence | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 39,700 |
| | | Fry* | 515,400 |
| Lake St. John | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 5,000 |
| Larto Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 80,200 |
| Mermentau River | Paddlefish | Fingerlings | 1,039 |
| Mill Creek Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 7,900 |
| Nantachie Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 31,000 |
| Parc Des Families | Florida Bass | Phase II Fingerlings | 400 |
| Parc Natchitoches | Florida Bass | Phase II Fingerlings | 44 |
| Pearl River Navigation Canal | Florida Bass | Phase II Fingerlings | 2,300 |
| Perez Park Pond | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 200 |
| Poverty Point Reservoir | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 20,000 |
| | Hybrid Striped Bass | Fingerlings | 7,100 |

| Body of Water | Species | Size | Quantity Stocked |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Rockefeller Refuge | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 150,100 |
| Ruston Sports Complex | Bluegill | Fingerlings | 1,000 |
| Sibley Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 22,000 |
| Spring Bayou | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 54,000 |
| | | Fingerlings* | 163,600 |
| | | Fry* | 197,400 |
| Toledo Bend Reservoir | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 620,000 |
| | | Fingerlings* | 41,900 |
| Valentine Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 1,000 |
| Vernon Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 84,000 |
| Woolen Lake | Florida Bass | Fingerlings | 5,000 |

More information about the LDWF Freshwater Fish Hatcheries can be viewed at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/freshwater-fish-hatcheries.

For more information about stocking, contact Hatchery Biologist Manager Chase Chatelain at (318) 748-6914 or cchatelain@wlf.la.gov.



LDWF Constructs New Oyster Reef in Morgan Harbor

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has completed the construction of a 288-acre oyster reef in Morgan Harbor (St. Bernard Parish) to increase oyster habitat and fisheries production. The construction process, known as cultch planting, is a proven habitat improvement technique used by LDWF.

This project was constructed using 2019 flood disaster funding. The primary goal of this project was to create oyster reef on public oyster areas in St. Bernard Parish to aid recovery of oyster habitat that was stressed and/or diminished by the historic openings of the Bonne Carré Spillway in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Since 1917, LDWF has placed more than 1.5 million cubic yards of cultch material on nearly 30,000 acres with positive results. The 2024 Morgan Harbor project placed approximately 35,400 tons of crushed limestone onto the Morgan Harbor Public Oyster



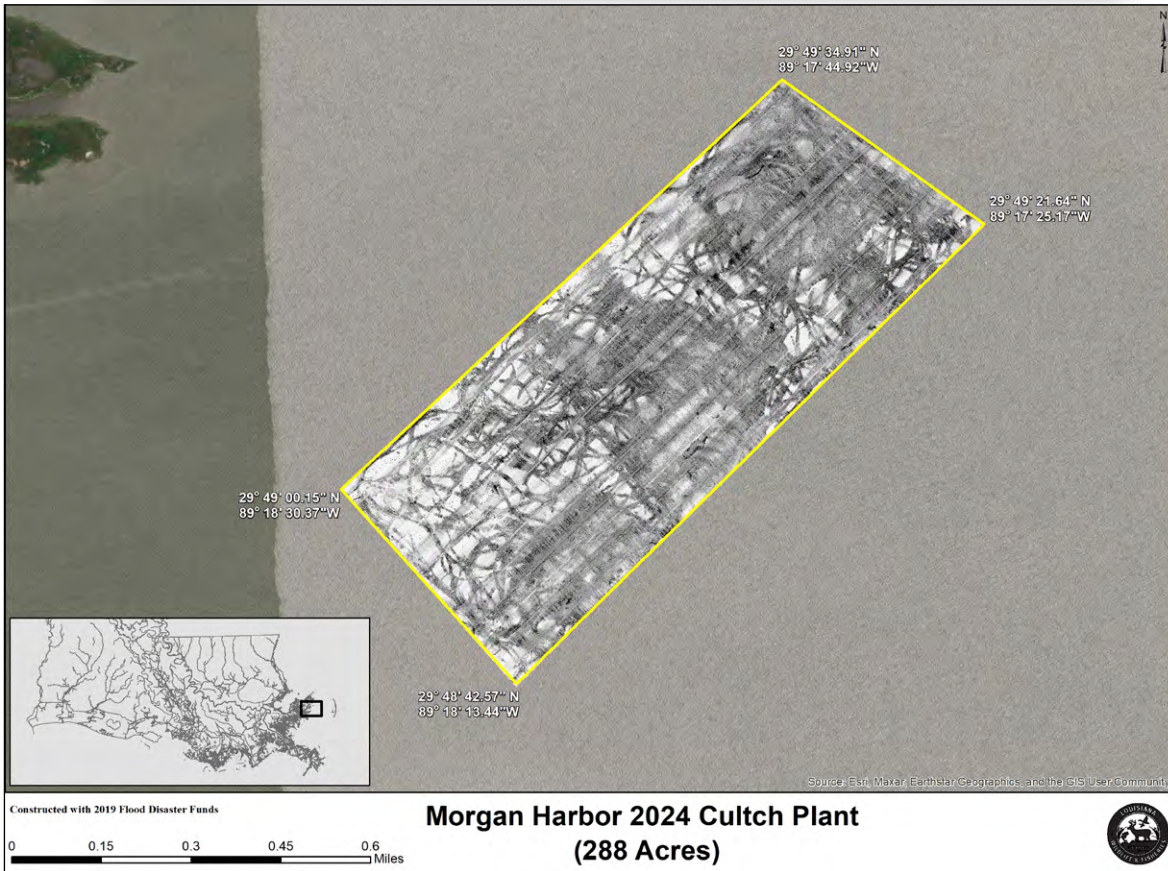
Areas to create a total of 288 acres of artificial oyster reef. Planting was completed in a manner to create an approximately four-inch to 12-inch layer of material throughout the project area.

Oyster populations provide many important benefits to the estuary east of the Mississippi River. The new cultch plant is located within historic Public Oyster Seed Grounds, and the site was chosen for its suitable water conditions and its proximity

to nearby oyster populations. The site also provided sufficient firm water bottom to support cultch material and minimize reef subsidence. When placed in suitable areas, the cultch material provides a substrate for free-floating oyster larvae to attach and grow, resulting in a mature, productive oyster reef. Potential long-term benefits from increasing available cultch material include: increased oyster production and oyster population connectivity, resilience and stability. Healthy, interconnected oyster populations form reefs that provide the natural hard substrate needed for oyster larvae to settle, grow and sustain the population. In addition to providing habitat for oysters, these reefs serve as a habitat for various marine organisms, ranging from small invertebrates to large

recreationally and commercially important species. Furthermore, oyster reefs provide structural integrity, improve water quality and potentially reduce coastal erosion.

Following standard protocol, new oyster cultch plants are closed to recreational and commercial oyster harvest for at least two years to allow time for oyster recruitment and growth. LDWF will monitor the productivity of the new reef through regularly scheduled sampling events to assess project performance and help guide corrective actions, if any, to achieve the project's goals and objectives.



Final Rule to Revise the Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Recreational Fixed Closed Season and Commercial Trip Limit

Key Message:

NOAA Fisheries announces implementation of the final rule for recreational and commercial greater amberjack management measures in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). Regulations modifying the recreational fixed closed season become effective on Aug 1, 2024. All other regulations in this rule become effective on August 21, 2024.

Summary of Changes:

The final rule will:

- Revise the Gulf greater amberjack recreational fixed closed season from Nov. 1-April 30 and June 1–July 31 (open Aug. 1– Oct. 31 and May 1–May 31) to the new fixed closed season of Aug. 1–Aug. 31 and Nov. 1–July 31 (open Sept. 1–Oct. 31), and
- Reduce the commercial trip limit from 1,000 pounds (lb) gutted weight (gw) with a step down to 250 lb gw when 75 percent of the annual catch target is reached to seven fish (estimate 210 lb gw equivalent).
- Clarify language related to the Gulf red snapper federal charter vessel/headboat component fishing allowances.

Recreational Fixed Closed Season Being Implemented

| Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | July |
|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| X | Open | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the recreational fixed closed season changing?

- Gulf greater amberjack has been in a rebuilding plan since 2002.
- The most recent Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) population assessment for Gulf greater amberjack, known as the SEDAR 70, showed the stock continued to be overfished and was now subject to overfishing.
- To meet the current stock rebuilding timeline of 2027, catch limits had to be substantially reduced.
- NOAA Fisheries implemented Amendment 54 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Reef Fish FMP), which revised the Gulf greater amberjack catch limits, sector allocation and rebuilding plan.
- During public comment, recreational fishers indicated a preference for as long of a fishing season as possible.
- A recreational fixed closed season of June 1-July 31 was established in 2011 and modified to Jan 1-June 30 in January 2018. This closed season was later modified to Nov. 1-April 30 and June 1-July 31 in April 2018 as a means to extend the fishing season under reduced catch limits, provide access to the resource and assist with rebuilding the stock. However, substantial decreases in the catch limits implemented with the final rule for Amendment 54 require further modification of the fixed closed season to extend the fishing season.
- Under the current fixed closed season, which would allow fishing to begin on Aug. 1, a fishing season of only three weeks per year is projected.
- The revised fixed closed season of Aug. 1-Aug. 31 and Nov. 1-July 31 will provide for the longest possible open season (estimated two months) under the substantially reduced catch limits recently implemented by the final rule for Amendment 54, protect the greater amberjack population during its spawning season, and allow for stock rebuilding.

What is the new commercial trip limit?

- During public comment, commercial fishers indicated a preference for as long of a fishing season as possible, since incidentally caught greater amberjack must be discarded if the season is closed.
- A commercial trip limit of 2,000 lb whole weight (1,923 lb gw) was established in 2013, was reduced to a trip limit of 1,500 lb gw in 2016, and again to 1,000 lb gw with a step-down provision to 250 lb gw when 75 percent of the quota is harvested in 2020, with the intent to extend the fishing season under reduced catch limits. However, substantial decreases in the catch limits implemented with the final rule for Amendment 54 require further reductions in the trip limit to extend the fishing season.
- Under the current commercial trip limit, a fishing season of only two months per year is projected.

- The reduction in the commercial trip limit to seven fish is expected to extend the Gulf greater amberjack commercial fishing season into June or beyond, while still protecting the population during its spawning season and allowing the stock to rebuild.

Where can I find more information on the Framework Action?

Contact NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office

By Mail: Daniel Luers

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office

Sustainable Fisheries Division

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

By FAX: (727) 824-5308

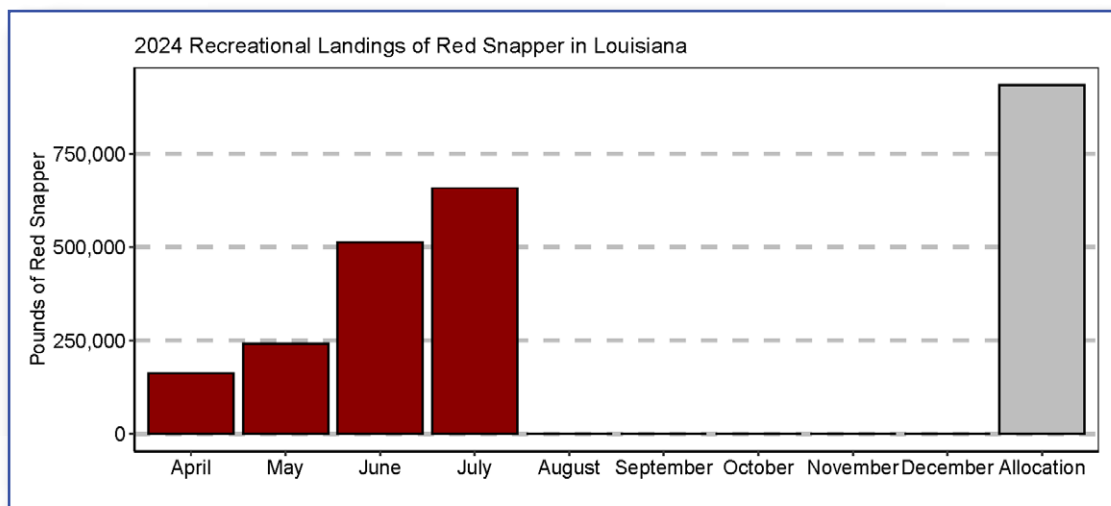
By Phone: (727) 824-5305



The Framework Action for greater amberjack may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office website at: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/framework-action-modify-greater-amberjack-recreational-fixed-closed-season-and-commercial.

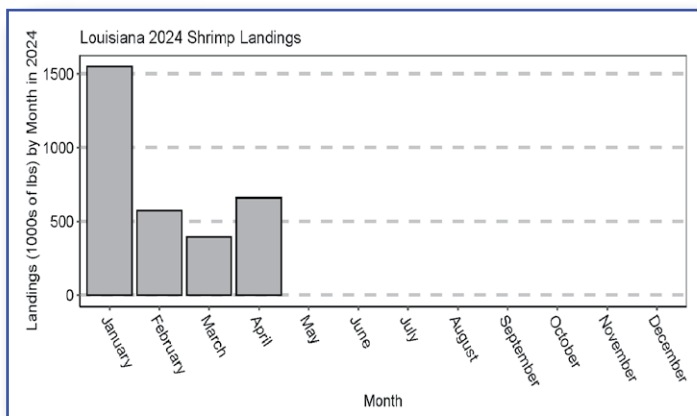
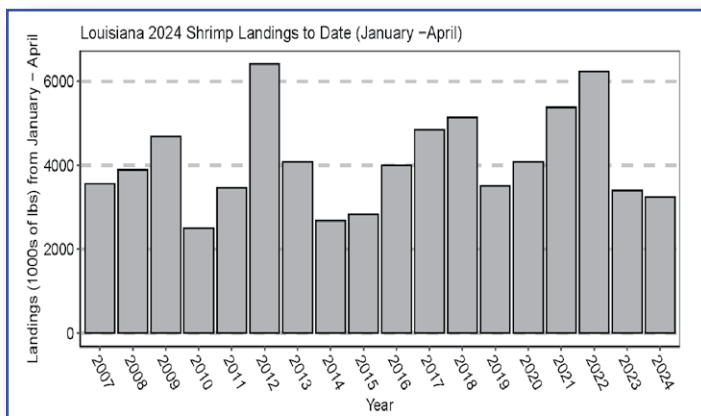
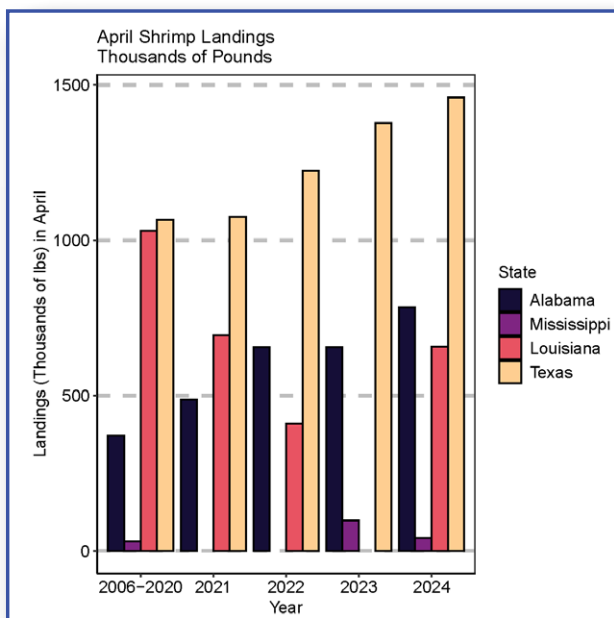
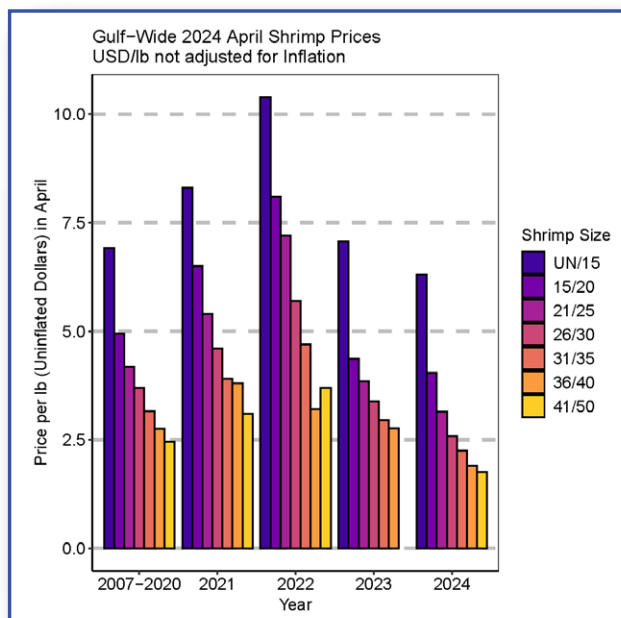
Louisiana Snapper Watch

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) released the latest private recreational Red Snapper landing estimates through July 21, 2024. LA Creel, LDWF's near real-time landings data collection program, indicates that 657,996 pounds, or 70.4% percent, of Louisiana's 2024 annual private recreational allocation of 934,587 pounds have been harvested during the 2024 Red Snapper season.



Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the August issue includes data through April 2024. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States Fisheries Commission and no estimations have been made.



THE GUMBO POT

Blue Crab Sliders*

Recipe courtesy of Ms. Sarah's Country Kitchen

From Ms. Sarah: These sliders are a favorite at my house.

You can't beat fresh Gulf caught blue crab!

Pair with dirty rice or potato wedges and you've got yourself a dinner or a fast lunch!

Please reach out to the editor with suggestions for recipes or ingredients to use in future editions.

We are always looking for feedback and improvement!



Ingredients:

8 oz shredded Gulf blue crab meat
 24 crackers, such as saltines or Ritz
 1 celery stalk
 ½ cup mayonnaise
 1 ½ tsp Cajun seasoning
 12 slider buns

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut the stalk of celery lengthwise and thinly slice. Crush the crackers into dust.
2. Combine crackers, mayonnaise, Cajun seasoning and sliced celery. Gently fold in the crab meat.
3. Make 12 even patties by scooping the mix and rolling into a ball. Gently place on the parchment lined baking sheet and press down to form into a patty shape.
4. Bake until golden brown, about 30 minutes.
5. Serve the cakes on the slider buns and garnish to your liking.
6. Enjoy!

*Total time: 40 minutes, Feeds 4-6 people



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

Editor: Jeffrey Plumlee Web coordinator: Melissa Castleberry Copy editor: Roy Kron