



The Atlantic Brief Squid (*Lolliguncula brevins*)

The Atlantic brief squid is a common squid with a wide distribution range extending from southern Canada to South America. This squid is particularly common in Louisiana's nearshore, shallow coastal waters (less than 18 meters depth), coastal lakes and bays due to its tolerance to brackish waters. These squid can tolerate salinities as low as 6 to 8 parts per thousand (PPT). This is supported by catch data showing major concentrations of brief squid on both sides of the Mississippi River Delta. This squid is unique compared to other species of squid in that it can osmoregulate their body salinity changes to match ambient water salinity. Other species of squid are uncommon in estuarine environments because they are unable to osmoregulate.



Photo of Atlantic brief squid: E. Woodward, UNC Institute of Marine Sciences

Brief squids are typically 3 to 5 inches in length, have a stout mantle (body) with a rounded

tip and are typically dark reddish brown to brownish yellow in color. Like other squids, these squids use chromatophores, pigment-containing cells, to change coloration patterns for camouflage. These squids do not have a light-producing organ. Squids swim by jet propulsion, drawing water into their mantle and squirting it out through a funnel in front of the head. This method of swimming is effective in changing direction quickly in order to escape predators or catch prey.

When attacked, brief squid can discharge a black "ink" to confuse the predator. This "ink" is composed of melanin, mucous, amino acids, and metals like lead, copper and cadmium. Humans have been using squid ink for centuries in medicine, writing, cosmetics and as a food additive.

These squids live in schools and are short-lived (less than a year). Brief squids spawn year round and females lay gelatinous egg masses on hard bottom surfaces in shallow waters. Fully formed squid hatch from the squid eggs. Male and female adults usually die shortly after spawning.

– Elizabeth Robinson

NOAA Fisheries Extends Use of Limited Tow Times in Lieu of TEDs by Shrimp Trawlers in Specific Louisiana Waters

Due to Hurricane Ida debris, shrimp fishers can continue to use limited tow times as an alternative to Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in specific Louisiana state waters from 91° 23' West longitude eastward to the Louisiana/Mississippi border, and seaward out three nautical miles.

This is in effect from Dec. 7, 2021, to Jan. 5, 2022.

Fishers may tow without TEDs installed no more than 75 minutes, as measured from the time that the trawl doors enter the water until they are removed from the water. This tow time limit is designed to minimize the level of mortality of sea turtles that are captured by trawl nets not equipped with TEDs.

NOAA Fisheries encourages fishers in the affected area to continue to use TEDs if they can do so effectively, even though they are authorized under this action to use restricted tow times. NOAA Fisheries studies have shown that the problem of clogging by seagrass, algae or by other debris is not unique to TED-equipped nets. When fishers trawl in problem areas, they may experience clogging with or without TEDs. Fishers that continue to use legal TEDs in the affected area do not have to limit their tow times. However, fishers choosing to use tow-time limitations may not simply sew the TED flaps shut; they must remove the TEDs from the trawls.

For more information, visit www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/bycatch/turtle-excluder-device-regulations/ or email ted.info@noaa.gov.

Alternative Oyster Culture Grant Applications Accepted through Jan. 13, 2021

The first round of Alternative Oyster Culture (AOC) grant applications opened Dec. 8, 2021, and will close Jan. 13, 2022. Applications can be found at www.laseafoodfuture.com/aoc. A public meeting to review eligibility and the scoring process will be held Dec. 16, 2021, at 6 p.m. via Zoom; register by Dec. 15 at http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhghhTt4pOlgJo.

Grant categories include oyster parks, seed nurseries, grow-out farms, and hatcheries. Applicants are required to meet several eligibility requirements, such as possessing a Louisiana oyster harvester license and commercial fishing license, be a resident of the state, and not have been convicted of a Class 4 or greater oyster-related violation. Grant recipients also will have to develop their businesses according to an established timeline, periodically report on how the grant contract is being fulfilled in a timely fashion and demonstrate that a marketable oyster product is being grown and cultivated.

Once the first round of applications closes on Jan. 13, each applicant will be notified of the timeline for application review, approval, and contract signing. The objective is to have contracts signed no later than early February so AOC fishermen can order equipment and have it available for the spring.

AOC is when oysters are grown in floating cages or in bottom-placed cages attached to pylons. This method allows the cages to be raised and lowered to protect oysters from predators, fouling and the burial effects of disasters like hurricanes. The goal of the grant program is to begin expanding AOC operations across the state. That includes establishing AOC seed nurseries and grow-out facilities, hatcheries, and areas legally designated as AOC Management Units (parks) that contain multiple farms in one location.

Funding for the grant program comes from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

Input Wanted on Development of Offshore Wind Energy Projects

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is developing guidance to mitigate potential impacts from offshore wind projects on commercial and recreational fisheries. BOEM has issued a Request for Information (RFI) in order to collect knowledge from the people and organizations who know and use the areas that could be affected.

The comment period closes on Jan. 7, 2022. The comments and information received in response to this RFI will inform BOEM's development of draft guidance. Once complete, the draft guidance will be shared with the public for review and input for a 45-day comment period.

To get additional information, including the RFI, meeting agenda, full list of meeting dates and topics, visit www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement.

To submit comments, visit www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2021-0083-0001.

Modified Gear for Special Bait Dealer's Permit Becomes Rule

A new rule went into effect Nov. 20, 2021, which allows fishermen operating under the Special Bait Dealer's Permit to use gear that is currently legal during the inshore shrimp season. Its intention is to increase the availability of live bait and was designed for the sole purpose of providing live bait to the recreational and charter fishing sectors.

The rule will expire sunset Dec. 31, 2023, to allow LDWF staff to assess the impacts of these changes on the resource.

The requirements for the permit are as follows:

- A 15-minute tow time restriction will be required for those fishermen operating under this permit.
- One trawl not to exceed 50 feet in length along the cork line and 66 feet in length along the lead line with a mesh size of 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched. During the fall inshore shrimp season from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River, trawl mesh must be 3/4-inch bar or 1-1/2 inches stretched.
- Double skimmer nets may have an opening circumference of no more than 72 feet for each net and a maximum lead line length of 33 feet. Skimmer nets may be mounted to the horizontal net frame at any distance from the gunwale of the vessel as long as the mounting distance and horizontal length of the net frame does not exceed 20 feet from the gunwale. Mesh size must be at least 5/8-inch bar or 1-1/4 inches stretched and 3/4-inch bar or 1-1/2 inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.

To view the rule printed in the Louisiana Register, visit: www.doa.la.gov/media/2orlea3o/2111.pdf.

For more information on this rule, contact Peyton Cagle at (337) 491-2575 or via e-mail at pcagle@wlf.la.gov.

Decision on the Management of Spotted Seatrout Postponed Until October 2022

Current fishing limits of spotted seatrout will remain until October 2022. The current limit for spotted seatrout is 12-inch minimum total length and 25 fish daily bag limit (except in defined areas of Cameron and Calcasieu parishes where there is a 15 fish daily bag limit, with no more than two over 25").

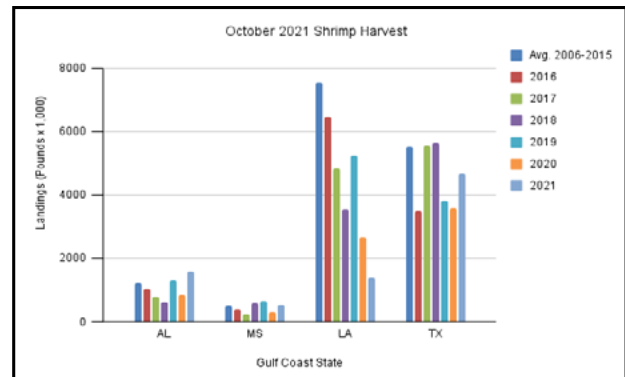
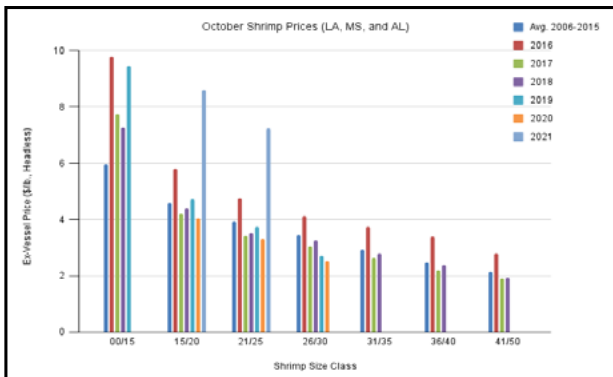
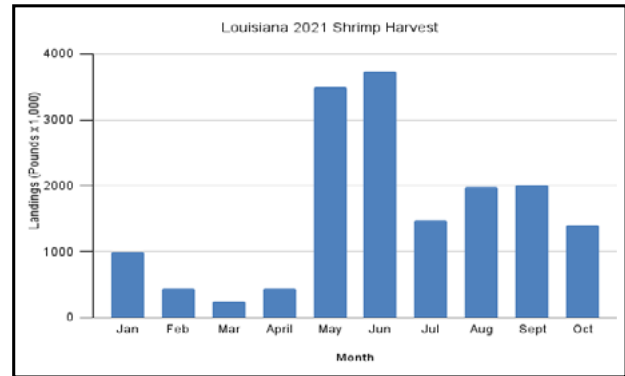
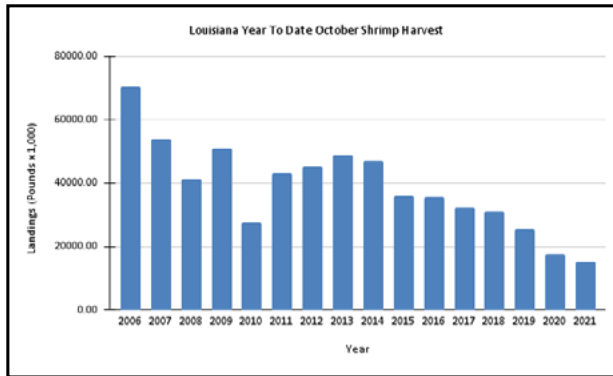
LDWF will be presenting updated seatrout data to LWFC at the February 2022 commission meeting, and then at quarterly intervals thereafter. Stakeholder groups are encouraged to provide any information or data they feel is relevant at those public meetings.

For more information and access to a public comment form, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/spotted-seatrou.

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

Jan. 13, 2022 – Venting tools or descending devices required for all fishermen targeting reef fish in federal Gulf Waters begins (DESCEND Act 2020)

March 1, 2023 – Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit. Summit in March 2022 was postponed in order to focus on Hurricane Ida relief efforts.

THE GUMBO POT

LOUISIANA CORN & CRAB BISQUE*

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:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 cup blond roux (1/4 cup vegetable oil and 1/4 cup flour)
- 3½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup cooked corn
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 pound lump crabmeat
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion
- 16 crab claws, optional for garnish

Method:

Heat the butter over low to medium heat in a 4-quart saucepot. Add onion, green bell pepper, celery, red pepper and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add chicken broth, white wine and thyme. Bring to boil.

In a small bowl, make a blonde roux by combining oil and flour and stirring until a smooth paste is formed. Whip roux into butter mixture until mixture begins to thicken. Whip in cream, reduce heat to a simmer and continue to cook until cream is blended in and beginning to thicken. Add salt, hot sauce and corn. Simmer 5 minutes.

Very carefully in order to not break up lumps, stir in lump crabmeat, parsley and green onions. Simmer until heated. Divide into 4 large bowls. Garnish with crab claws (optional).

Chef's Note (Chef Patrick Mould): This is the quintessential Louisiana qisque. You can use any fresh seafood, but jumbo lump crab, in my opinion is the best. The flavor obtained when it is simmered in the cream is to die for; worry about the calories later.

*Serves 4

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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