



New Red Drum Regulations went into Effect June 20

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reminds anglers that the new red drum size and daily creel limits went into effect and will be enforced beginning June 20, 2024.

The new regulations are as follows:


- Daily Creel:** four – fish daily limit per angler
- Size Limit:** 18-inch minimum and 27-inch maximum total length
- Bull Reds:** keeping red drum over 27 inches is prohibited


The retention of red drum by captain and crew on charter or head boats while on a for-hire trip will be prohibited.


Charter captains and crew will still be allowed to engage in fishing on charter trips to demonstrate how to catch red drum but will not be allowed to retain red drum towards any limit on the vessel.

For more information on the status of the Red Drum stock in Louisiana, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/hot-topic-red-drum.

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Recreational Red Snapper Season to Close July 7, Reopen on July 12 as a Weekends-only Season

To provide ample fishing opportunity for anglers throughout the summer months and into Labor Day, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) secretary Madison Sheahan signed a declaration of emergency to close the recreational red snapper season in state and federal waters off Louisiana at 11:59 p.m. on July 7, 2024, until 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.

When the season reopens on July 12, it will reopen as a weekends-only season (weekends are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including the Monday of Labor Day) until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, at which time it will close until further notice. Daily creel (four per person) and size limits (16 inches minimum total length) will remain as previously established. LA Creel data indicates that harvest rates of red snapper were greater than anticipated and a season modification was necessary in order to maximize the season for anglers.

“LDWF’s ability to actively manage red snapper allows us to quickly adjust the season to continue providing quality fishing opportunities to anglers throughout the summer,” said LDWF assistant secretary of Fisheries Ryan Montegut. “The season modification shows the flexibility that state management provides to Louisiana, something that all other gulf states do not have the luxury of. By transitioning to weekends only, we expect to see red snapper season continued well into August and likely past Labor Day.”

The latest private recreational red snapper landing estimates through June 16, 2024, indicate that 513,444 pounds, or 54.9 percent, of Louisiana’s 2024 annual private recreational allocation of 934,587 pounds have been harvested during the 2024 Red Snapper season between April 15 and June 16.

The private recreational red snapper season previously opened early than usual on Monday, April 15, in both state and federal waters, as a daily season with a bag limit of four fish per person and a 16-inch minimum size limit. With the July 7 closure, the season will have been open for 12 consecutive weeks, providing Louisiana anglers with 84 days of uninterrupted fishing access. Additional fishing opportunities will be allowed during the weekends-only season beginning on July 12 until further notice.

For more information on the 2024 red snapper season and detailed landing estimates, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/red-snapper.

Resident and Non-Resident Recreational Anglers:

Must possess valid Louisiana basic and Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses and a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (no cost) to fish for or possess red snapper and other offshore and reef fish species.

Anglers get a ROLP via the ROLP website: <https://ldwf.wlf.la.gov/rolp/loginchoice?ReturnUrl=%2Frolp>

Once anglers have registered, they can save an electronic copy on their mobile device or print a copy of the ROLP indicating their valid ROLP and carry it on their person along with applicable licenses while fishing offshore.



State For-Hire Charter Vessels:

State for-hire charter captains (those who do not have a federal Gulf of Mexico charter/headboat permit for reef fish) are not allowed to fish in federal waters.

They must also possess a ROLP (no cost) to fish for or possess red snapper, as well as other offshore and reef fish species.

They may only fish for red snapper in state waters (within the nine nautical miles state water boundary), when the Louisiana recreational red snapper season is open.

Federal For-Hire Charter Vessels:

Vessels with federal reef fish for-hire permits will remain under federal regulations and may only fish in federal waters during the federal season, which will open June 1.

If a federal for-hire charter captain also holds a Louisiana charter license, he/she may also fish state waters, but only when the federal for-hire charter season overlaps with the Louisiana season. When the federal for-hire season closes, the federal for-hire captain may not fish state waters.

LDWF encourages anglers to reduce barotrauma while fishing for red snapper and other reef fish by using descending devices to return fish to a survivable depth before being released. Please see the LDWF website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/barotrauma for more information. Federal regulations require that anglers have a descending device or venting tool rigged and ready for use while fishing for reef fish in federal waters.

Louisiana Inshore Shrimp Season Closed July 1 in State Inside Waters

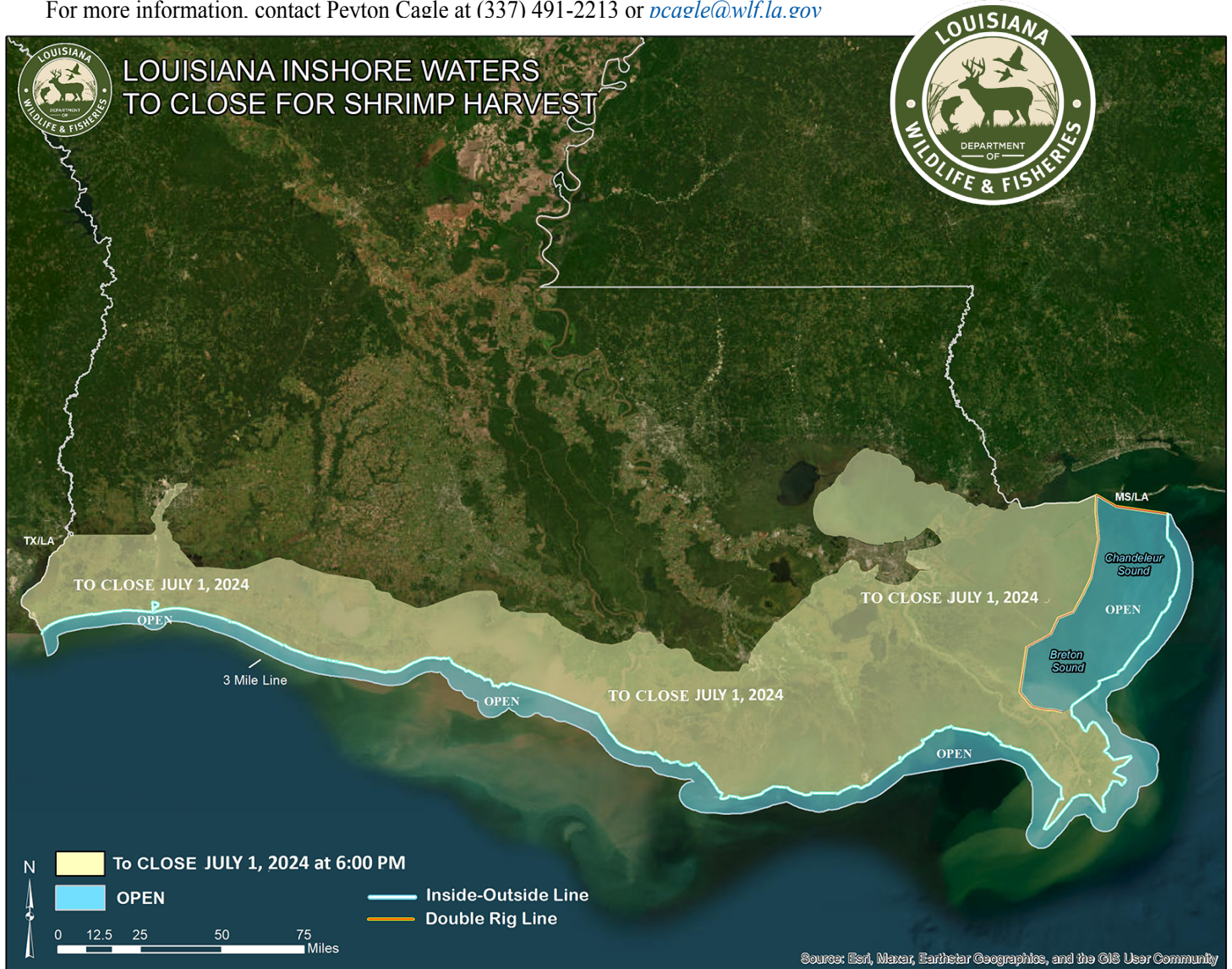
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced the 2024 spring inshore shrimp season closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2024, in all state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line.

The open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as bounded by the double-rig line described in R.S. 56:495.1(A)2 and all state outside waters seaward of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, as described in LAC 76:VII.370 will remain open to shrimping until further notice.

Data collected in recent weeks by LDWF biologists indicate an increased quantity of small, juvenile white shrimp within these waters. The decision to close inside waters was made to protect these developing shrimp and provide an opportunity for growth to larger and more marketable sizes. The areas that remain open will be monitored and closed if biologically appropriate.

LDWF reminds shrimpers there is a size restriction on saltwater white shrimp taken in the inside and outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana. Saltwater white shrimp must be 100 count (whole shrimp per pound) or larger. This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, except from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December, when there is no possession count on saltwater white shrimp, taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the saltwater shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed should not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total saltwater shrimp taken or possessed. If compliance issues develop, remaining open areas will be closed.

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



LDWF Commercial Greater Amberjack Season Closed June 30

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) issued a Declaration of Emergency closing the commercial greater amberjack season at 12:01 a.m. on June 30, 2024. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries announced that the commercial season for the harvest of greater amberjack closed in federal waters at 12:01 am on June 30, 2024, and remain closed until the start of the regularly scheduled 2025 season, currently Jan. 1, 2025.

This closure is necessary because NOAA Fisheries is projecting the commercial annual catch target of 58,650 pounds whole weight was met on June 30, 2024.

After the closure, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell greater amberjack. Nothing shall prohibit the sale of greater amberjack legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing greater amberjack taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records.

Recreational Red Grouper Season Closed June 30

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) issued a Declaration of Emergency to align the recreational red grouper season closure with modifications recently made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This action modifies the state recreational fishing season for Gulf Red Grouper so that it closed on June 30 instead of Dec. 31 in order to match the federal season closure.

This change is necessary because NOAA Fisheries projected the recreational annual catch target of 1,840,000 pounds gutted weight was met on June 30, 2024.

After the closure of the season, recreational harvest or possession of red grouper is prohibited in state and federal waters. The prohibition on possession of Gulf of Mexico red grouper also applies in Gulf of Mexico state waters for a vessel issued a valid federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf of Mexico reef fish. According to NOAA, the closure is necessary to prevent overfishing of the red grouper resource.

NOAA Fisheries Announces the 2024 Gag Recreational Season in Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

What/When/Why:

- Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will open to gag recreational harvest at 12:01 a.m., local time, Sept. 1, 2024, and will close at 12:01 a.m., local time, Sept. 16, 2024.

Why The Gag Closure Is Happening:

- NOAA Fisheries projects the 2024 recreational annual catch target will be harvested as of Sept. 15, 2024.
- In accordance with the regulations, NOAA Fisheries must close harvest when the recreational annual catch target has been met or is projected to be met. Therefore, this closure will begin on Sept. 16, 2024.

During The Closure:

- During the recreational closure, the bag and possession limits are zero for gag in or from federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
- The prohibition on possession of Gulf of Mexico gag also applies in Gulf of Mexico state waters for a vessel issued a valid federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf of Mexico reef fish.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the catch levels for gag in the Gulf of Mexico?

- The 2023 recreational annual catch limit for gag was 403,759 pounds gutted weight. This annual catch limit was derived, in part, using landings estimates for Florida from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Final 2023 landings estimates from MRIP were 737,706 pounds gutted weight.
- On June 1, 2024, NOAA Fisheries implemented a final rule for Amendment 56 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 56). The final rule revised the commercial and recreational catch levels, the recreational accountability measures, and the recreational fishing season for gag based on the results of the SEDAR 72 (2022) stock assessment, which determined that gag is both overfished and experiencing overfishing.



- The new catch limits, which represent a reduction in allowable harvest, are based on the projections from SEDAR 72, which included estimates of recreational landings in Florida derived from and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS).
- The 2024 recreational annual catch limit for gag is 288,000 pounds gutted weight and the recreational annual catch target for gag is 230,000 pounds gutted weight.
- Because the catch limits in the final rule for Amendment 56 were derived, in part, using estimates from SRFS, these catch limits are not directly comparable to the 2023 catch limits. To determine the magnitude of the 2023 overage as compared to the 2024 annual catch limit, NMFS calibrated the 2023 recreational annual catch limit and recreational landings to be consistent with the estimates produced by SRFS. This calibration results in a 2023 recreational ACL of 211,588 pounds gutted weight and 2023 recreational landings of 336,182 pounds gutted weight.
- The calibrated 2023 annual catch limit was exceeded by 124,624 pounds gutted weight.
- Accountability measures require the recreational sector to be closed when the annual catch limit is met or expected to be met. In addition, if gag is overfished and the annual catch limit is exceeded then the annual catch limit and annual catch target is reduced by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.
- Because the recreational landings in 2023 exceeded the annual catch limit and the accountability measures in place for gag require the overage from the prior year to be paid back because the stock is overfished, the 2024 recreational annual catch limit and annual catch target will be reduced to 163,376- and 105,376-pounds gutted weight, respectively.

How was the recreational gag season determined?

- NOAA Fisheries worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to project the fall season length for gag based on the 2024 recreational annual catch target of 105,376 pounds gutted weight.
- The closure date is based on projected harvest rates using recreational landings from 2020 through 2023, and the evaluation of five scenarios that generated predicted closure dates ranging from September 13, 2024, to September 22, 2024.
- NOAA Fisheries chose to be conservative by selecting a closure date near the low end of the season duration projections, due to the large overage of the catch limits that occurred in 2023 and the impacts that would be imparted on the recreational sector in 2025 if an overage of the annual catch limit was to occur in 2024.
- This closure will reduce the likelihood of the 2024 annual catch limit being exceeded.

Sign Up for Text Message Alerts

The Text Message Alert Program allows fishers to receive important fishery related alerts via text message (SMS). Standard message and data rates may apply. Fishers may opt-out at any time. Text alerts you may receive include immediate fishery openings and closures and any significant changes to fishing regulations that happen quickly.

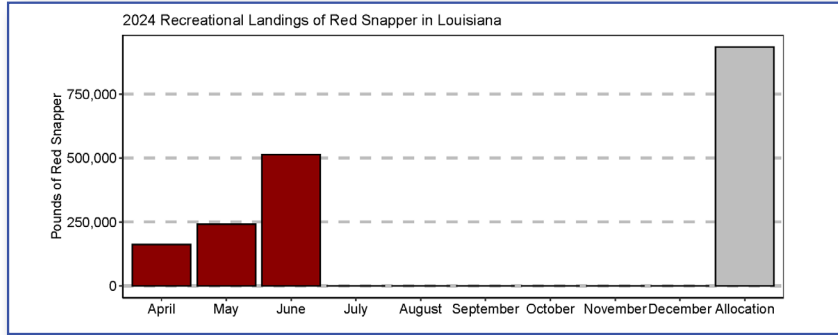
Sign up for one or more of the fisheries-related alerts below by texting the following to 888777:

- Gulf of Mexico Recreational: Text GULFRECFISH
- Gulf of Mexico Commercial: Text GULFCOMMFISH
- South Atlantic Recreational: Text SATLRECFISH
- South Atlantic Commercial: Text SATLCOMMFISH
- Caribbean: Text CARIBFISH

Louisiana Snapper Watch

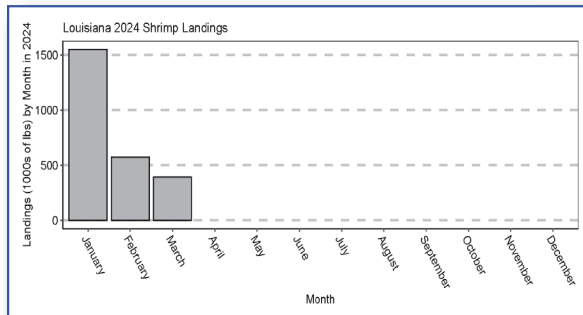
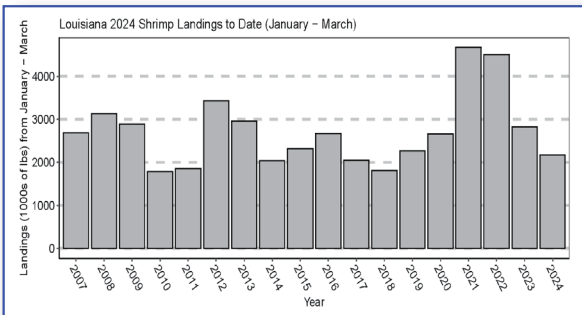
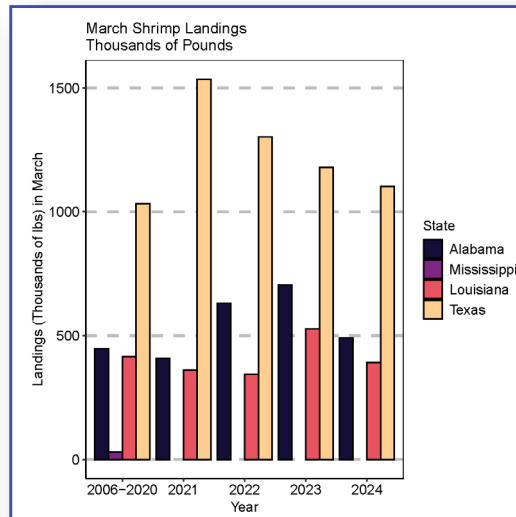
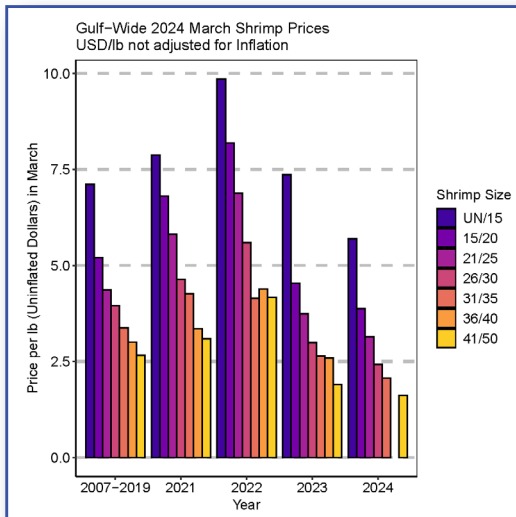
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) released the latest private recreational red snapper landing estimates through June 16, 2024. LA Creel, LDWF’s near real-time landings data collection program, indicate that 513,444 pounds, or 54.9 percent, of Louisiana’s 2024 annual private recreational allocation of 934,587 pounds have been harvested during the 2024 Red Snapper season.

The private recreational Red Snapper season previously opened early than usual on Monday, April 15, in both state and federal waters, as a daily season with a bag limit of four fish per person and a 16-inch minimum size limit. With the July 7 closure, the season will have been open for 12 consecutive weeks, providing Louisiana anglers with 84 days of uninterrupted fishing access. Additional fishing opportunities will be allowed during the weekends-only season beginning on July 12 until further notice.



Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the July issue includes data through March 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

Red Snapper Piccata*

Recipe courtesy of Ms. Sarah's Country Kitchen

From Ms. Sarah: This lightly breaded, pan-fried fish pairs well with pasta or rice.

Please substitute for your favorite white fish if snapper isn't on hand.

Please reach out to the editor on suggestion for recipes or ingredients to use in future editions.

We are always looking for feedback and improvement!



Ingredients:

4 Gulf red snapper filets
 2 tbsp olive oil
 ½ cup flour
 1 tsp Italian seasoning
 ½ tsp paprika
 ½ tsp salt
 ½ tsp ground pepper
 1 cup chicken broth
 4 tbsp butter
 1/3 cup lemon juice
 ¼ cup capers

Directions:

1. Pat the fish filets dry with a paper towel. In a shallow bowl, combine the flour, Italian seasoning, paprika, salt, and pepper, together and mix.
2. Add oil to a skillet and heat over medium high. While the skillet is heating, dredge the filets in the flour mixture, covering the whole filet. Add floured filet to the skillet, and cook for about 4 minutes on each side, making sure to reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees.
3. While the fish is cooking, make the sauce. Add the chicken broth and lemon juice to a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Once boiling, reduce to a simmer and whisk butter in until dissolved. Add capers.
4. Serve the fish with your choice of pasta or rice.
5. Enjoy!

**Total time: 20 minutes, Feeds 2-4 people.*



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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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