



## LDWF Updates LWFC on Cold Weather-Related Fish Mortality in Louisiana Coastal Waters

At Thursday's Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff presented a preliminary report on cold weather-related fish mortality in Louisiana coastal waters

Beginning on Jan. 20, 2025, we experienced record cold temperatures, leading to periods of freezing air temperatures for several days, with record snowfall and frozen precipitation throughout the state's coastal areas as far south as Grand Isle. Saltwater fish species begin to show lethal impacts when water temperatures fall below 40 degrees (°) Fahrenheit (F) and remain below that threshold for more than a day. The state's coastal waters recorded water temperatures below 40° F in all basins, with some areas recording water temperatures as low as 32° F in very shallow areas, resulting in widespread fish kills

LDWF began searching for freeze-related fish kills and investigating those reported to the agency or observed on social media as soon as travel advisories were lifted on Friday, Jan. 25, 2025. As of Feb. 6, 2025, LDWF had investigated approximately 77 fish kills statewide and observed approximately 12,552 spotted seatrout, 6,568 red drum, 2,142 black drum, 2,657 sheepshead and 19,107 striped mullet that were dead, as well as other saltwater species.

Ultimately, the impacts of this freeze event and any unobserved fish mortality may not be evident for at least one to two years after the event through regular LDWF monitoring data, which tracks the relative abundances of key species. Estimates of the total number of fish killed during this freeze event may not become available with any high degree of confidence, given the widespread and sporadic nature of observed fish kills and associated mortality. Anglers should expect fishing for common and popular inshore saltwater species to be below average in the coming months based on similar impacts shown following the comparable freeze event of 2018.

To view the full report, including charts go to this link: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/ldwf-updates-lwfc-on-cold-weatherrelated-fish-mortality-in-louisiana-coastal-water>



## LDWF Requests Angler Feedback to Help the Commission Set the 2025 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) asks for angler participation in a survey to learn about preferences for setting the 2025 recreational red snapper season. The responses will help the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission evaluate options for setting bag limits, season structure, and opening and closing dates for the private recreational and state charter Red Snapper season in state and federal waters off the Louisiana coast.



Please follow the link below to a short, three-minute questionnaire. Your answers are completely confidential and anonymous [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMLRX5J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMLRX5J)

## LDWF Opens South Central Louisiana Freshwater Fishing Survey to Public, Requests Participation

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is conducting a survey of freshwater anglers to gather information about fishing preferences and opinions, primarily concerning the current state of the Atchafalaya River Basin (ARB).

The survey is available on the LDWF website for a period of two weeks beginning Feb. 24. To access the survey, go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPK86QB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPK86QB).

Participation will assist LDWF's Inland Fisheries Section in better managing fishing in the ARB for Louisiana anglers.

For more information about the survey or Freshwater Fisheries Management in the Atchafalaya River Basin, contact fisheries biologist manager Brac Salyers, [bsalyers@wlf.la.gov](mailto:bsalyers@wlf.la.gov) or (337) 735-8711.

## Gulf Council Convenes its Reef Fish Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will host a one-day meeting of its Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP). The meeting will convene on Monday, March 17, 2025, from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, EDT. The meeting will be broadcast via webinar and is open to the public. The meeting will be held at the Council Office located at 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33607.

The Reef Fish Advisory Panel will review and provide recommendations on a draft amendment that considers management changes to the shallow-water grouper and deep-water grouper complexes. The panel will also hear results of stock assessments for mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper and red grouper. Finally, the panel will discuss headboat data collection and research on discard mortality and the use of descending devices produced by the Return 'Em Right program.

Public comment will be taken in-person and via webinar before the meeting adjourns.

The full agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the advisory panel meeting webpage when it's available.



## Gulf Council Hosts Virtual Meeting to Gather Input on Recreational Reef Fish Management

As part of its Recreational Initiative, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is hosting a virtual public engagement session from 6:00 – 9:00 PM EDT on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Recreational Initiative is an effort to evaluate past and current recreational reef fish management strategies and explore potential innovative management approaches that could be applied in the future. The effort focuses on five species as examples that might be applied to other reef fish species: red snapper, red grouper, gag grouper, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish.

The primary work of the Recreational Initiative will be performed by a working group comprised of individuals representing key Gulf recreational fishing interests, including private anglers, for-hire operators, associated marine industries and advocates. A public engagement session is being held after each working group meeting to share meeting outcomes and offer the public an opportunity to provide insight and input.

This third public engagement session will specifically focus on exploring alternative management strategies for reef fish species using the five focal species — a topic discussed during the Recreational Initiative Working Group's third and final meeting held on Feb. 19-20 in Tampa, FL.

More information on the council's Recreational Initiative, including links to join the public engagement session, can be found on the Recreational Initiative webpage.

## Gulf Council Convenes its Ad Hoc Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will host a one-day meeting of its Ad Hoc Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel (AP). The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, EDT. The meeting will be broadcast via webinar and is open to the public. The meeting will be held at the Council Office located at 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33607.

The Ad Hoc Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel was formed to advise the council as it works on modifying the individual fishing quota programs.

The panel will evaluate and provide recommendations relative to requirements for participation in the red snapper and grouper/tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs considered in Reef Fish Amendment 59A and to modifications to IFQ shares and

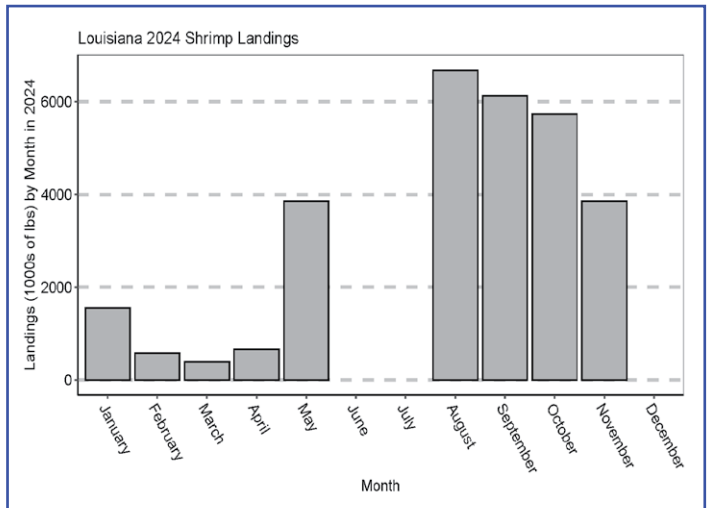
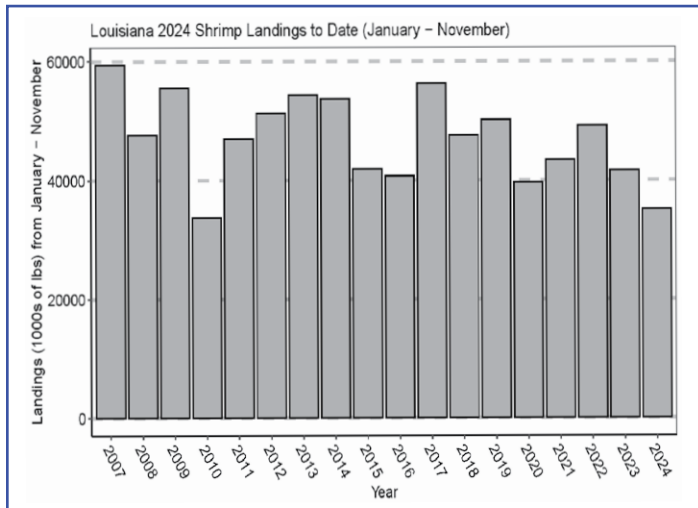
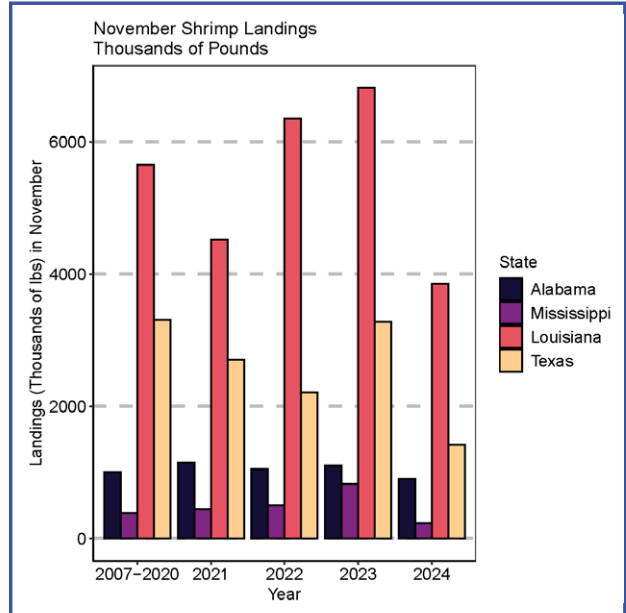
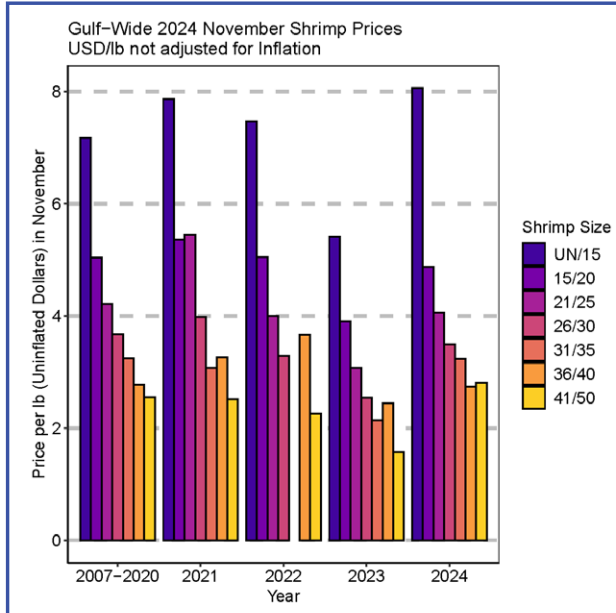
annual allocation distribution approaches proposed in Reef Fish Amendment 60. The panel will also discuss considerations for active participation in the programs.

Public comment will be taken in-person and via webinar before the meeting adjourns.

The full agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the advisory panel meetings webpage when it's available.

### Louisiana Shrimp Watch

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

## **Crawfish Nachos\***

*Recipe courtesy of Ms. Sarah's Kitchen*

From Ms. Sarah: It's crawfish season! Please enjoy my quick and easy take on nachos. Add toppings to your heart's content! Please reach out to the editor on suggestions for recipes or ingredients to use in future editions. We are always looking for feedback and improvement.



### **Ingredients:**

- 12 oz cooked unseasoned Louisiana Crawfish tail
- ¼ cup taco seasoning
- 1 lb. lightly salted tortilla chips
- 1 1/2 cup white cheese (cheese such as: mozzarella, Monterrey Jack, Mexican style blend, or my favorite Chihuahua)
- 1 1/2 cup cheddar cheese

### **Suggested Toppings:**

Sliced black olives, guacamole, salsa, sour cream, pickled or fresh jalapenos, lettuce, cilantro, chopped tomatoes, pineapple, chopped green onions, hot sauce, chopped onions

### **Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine the crawfish tails with the taco seasoning and heat over medium in a medium size pot. Once the taco seasoning has fully coated the crawfish, turn the heat to the lowest setting, so as not to burn the crawfish
3. While the crawfish is warming, line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil.
4. Spread about a third of the bag of tortilla chips on the parchment paper. Evenly sprinkle half a cup of both cheeses onto the chips. Bake in oven for 5 minutes or until the cheese has melted.
5. After five minutes, remove the baking sheet from the oven and repeat step 4 with the next third of tortilla chips and cheeses.
6. Repeat step 5.
7. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and immediately top the nachos with the seasoned crawfish tails
8. Plate and top with your favorite toppings!
9. Enjoy!

*\*Total time: 20 Minutes. Feeds 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](mailto: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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