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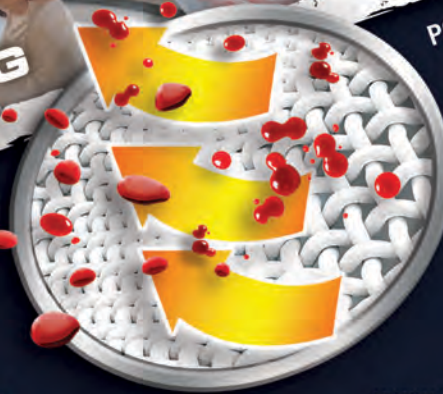
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HOW TO FISH
BARATARIA BAY

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You'll find Joann Benenate Vidrine fishing with husband Tommy nearly every week in June. She caught this nice trout along the backside of Grand Isle.

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ANGLER LANDS BULL SHARK IN SPILLWAY

BUT YOU'LL NEVER GUESS HOW MANY HE ACTUALLY CAUGHT IN ONE DAY

By Ryan Arena

Josh Chauvin's never been one to take the easy road.

"I like to challenge myself," Chauvin said. "To do things the hard way, because when you do it the easy way, the reward is less significant, to me at least."

So while many anglers would likely file sharks and alligators among the list of creatures to avoid, Chauvin takes a 180 on that idea in terms of approach.

He doesn't run from them, but goes toward them instead — and, in fact, frequently catches them.

Such was the case recently when out on an excursion in the Bonnet Carre Spillway in Norco, when Chauvin landed a real whopper, a 130-pound bull shark.

"We caught seven or eight of them that day, including several big ones," said Chauvin, who writes "The Apex Predator" column for *Louisiana Sportsman*.

This particular shark didn't come quietly. "I was in the water, about waist deep ...

and that big ol' shark swam up right on side of me," Chauvin said. "When we were in shin-deep water, that's when it turned on me. He spun around and actually was about a foot from my foot.

"I jumped as fast as I could and got really lucky. He woulda really tore me up ... nearly bit me. I learned my lesson. You need to get all the way out of the water before you try to land the big one. I'm used to swimming with the sharks, but in that area, it's hard to see them in muddy water."

Still, he and some fellow anglers with him on the outing were able to land the shark on the bank — eventually.

"He actually snapped the pole in half," said Chauvin. "Then, we got him and were able to take a quick picture before we let him go. We didn't want to kill the shark ... I'll tell you what, though, he was really big."

That's par for the course for Chauvin, who's out there for the sport of it more often than not.

"I like trophy animals. I don't really target

fish to eat them now ... I really don't eat them much anymore," Chauvin said. "If I do, it's the smaller ones to eat. With the bigger ones, I like to see what's out there."

Chauvin says it's just how his personality is wired. He likes to explore the road less ventured.

"I like going after things that haven't been done," said Chauvin, who landed a 6½-foot alligator later on the same day that he hauled in the 7-foot shark. "I like to push the envelope and use different tactics."

That extends past fishing and hunting — even on days where he does fishing or hunting. Chauvin is also an avid fan of "ultra marathons," or marathons that extend past 26 miles and can extend up to 100. The wrinkle he adds is he'll join in those runs after having gone hunting or fishing earlier in the day.

"The challenge for myself is to push through the exhaustion," Chauvin said. ■



LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN LEAPS FORWARD

It's been almost 40 years. This month, after tons of work by some dedicated folks, *Louisiana Sportsman* leaps forward in delivering the fishing and hunting news we love. We are grateful beyond belief for the trust you have placed in *Louisiana Sportsman* to deliver the best hunting and fishing news over the years. We have transitioned to

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Thanks for your trust! See 'ya on the water. ■

7-POUND MULE TROUT CAUGHT AT GRAND ISLE

Tommy Vidrine caught and released this 7-pound mega-trout on Tuesday, April 23, along the back side of Grand Isle. The catch was preceded by the full moon on April 19 that triggered trout to start moving toward coastal waters to spawn. Conditions were optimized for big trout at the beginning of the week, as strong incoming tides on Monday and Tuesday and strong southeast winds pushed green, salty water into waters surrounding the island. Vidrine caught this beauty while freelining a 4-inch pogie on a No. 2 silver khale hook in about 2 feet of water. "He was basking in the sun and ready to spawn," he said.



Whenever Danny Malone of Mandeville goes fishing in the Park, he's been catching a lot of cichlids.

LDWF ISSUES KILL ORDER FOR AQUARIUM FISH

Invasive Rio Grande Cichlids are taking over City Park

By Brian Cope

Anglers at City Park in New Orleans have always had a healthy population of bluegill and other sunfish to catch, but that's changed within the past few years. The Rio Grande cichlid, a highly invasive species of fish, is taking over.

Lately, whenever Danny Malone of Mandeville goes fishing in the park, he's been catching a lot of cichlids. He would rather catch native sunfish, but he said they are being overshadowed by cichlids.

"Most cichlids I've been catching are big enough to eat, but any other panfish species are undersized. You can still catch plenty of bluegill and other panfish, but

they are all very small," he said.

Malone has been catching the invasive fish on ultralight gear while using red worms and earthworms for bait on long-shank No. 8 hooks under a cork. That's a normal rig for the native panfish, too, so he said anglers don't have to do anything different to catch cichlids. He finds the cichlids like to hang out under lily pads and other surface weeds.

"If you fish so that your cork rests up against the edge of a mat of grass or lily pads, you'll catch plenty of cichlids," he said. "These are tropical aquarium fish, so they are actually quite beautiful fish. It's really kind of a shame that they are invasive fish. They are fun to catch and are really good-looking fish."

And while many other anglers also enjoy catching these fish and admiring their beauty, Malone said plenty of folks don't realize that it's illegal to release these fish.

"They are under a kill order from the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries," he said. "You can't throw them back. You are required by law to either take them with you or dispose of them. Anyone who throws them back is breaking the law and contributing to the decline of our native fish."

It's taken some anglers a while to come to terms with eating fish that they're more likely to see in an aquarium, but many anglers say it's just like eating a bluegill or

other sunfish. Malone said the fish seem a little oilier when cleaning them, but he believes most anglers will agree that the



A stringer of cichlids looks very much like a stringer of any other panfish.



Cichlids are pretty fish, but they are illegal to release in Louisiana waters.

taste is much like any other panfish.

The cichlids are in all the ponds at City Park, but it's unclear if any populations exist in other bodies of water throughout Louisiana. Malone hopes not, and plans to do his part to thin the herd in City Park.

"I want to do all I can to help get the word out that anglers need to help keep these fish in check," he said. ■

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ARE WILD HOGS HURTING OUR TURKEY POPULATIONS?

By Brian Cope

Before the 2019 turkey season started in Louisiana, Cody Cedotal, wild turkey program manager for the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, predicted a slightly better season than last year. But for many hunters, the season was much worse.

Could wild hogs be the reason for the low success rate of these turkey hunters? According to the the Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, hogs contribute to lowering turkey populations in a variety of ways. They say wild hogs compete with turkeys and other wildlife for the same food sources, but also by eating the eggs of ground-nesting birds like turkeys.

Wild hogs are the most adaptable animals in Louisiana. They can not only live, but thrive, in any environment and under any conditions. Aside from eating turkey eggs and the same food that turkeys eat, wild hogs also destroy mature crops and uproot hayfields. This removes food from other animals, spoils food and takes away nesting and breeding sites.

WILD HOGS OUTNUMBER TURKEYS 14 TO 1

And wild hogs far outnumber wild turkeys in the state. Cedotal said Louisiana's statewide turkey population is between

Hunters can help with the wild hog population by trapping, shooting or hunting hogs with dogs. Brice Jones killed this wild boar in West Monroe on Nov. 28. It weighed approximately 350 pounds.



50,000 to 60,000. Wild hogs, which are present in all 64 parishes, number around 700,000.

For turkeys, breeding is a delicate process that requires certain conditions. Bad weather can wreak havoc on not just individual turkeys, but on whole year-classes. Their eggs and hatchlings — if they make it that far — must make it past a number of predators including foxes, raccoons, and wild hogs.

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Darrell Barker of Krotz Springs has been chasing wild hogs with shotguns and dogs for quite a few years. Recently, he's moved to hunting at night with a Pulsar Apex thermal scope to help local farmers. He even put his dad, Harold Barker (pictured), on his first hog ever.



Hogs, on the other hand, reproduce early and often. At 6 months, swine can begin reproducing, and most females have at least two litters per year; they average six piglets per litter. So in a year's time, 12 new pigs are added for every breeding-age sow. That's an astounding number.

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Because of the high reproductive rate of wild hogs, the LDWF has determined that hunters must harvest 75 percent of the current swine population each year just to keep the numbers in check. In other words, the annual wild-hog harvest we would have to be 525,000 wild hogs, just to keep the population at 700,000!

Hunters have put forth a good effort but haven't come close to that number in any recent years. In 2014-2015, Louisiana hunters killed 299,500 wild hogs. That number dropped to 172,300 in 2015-2016, and it

dropped even more in 2016-2017, when hunters harvested 130,600 swine. While these number do not include numbers killed by professional trappers, farmers, and the agency, it still represents why it's so difficult to get wild hog numbers under control.

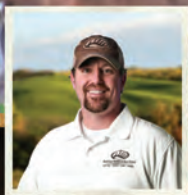
VORACIOUS EATERS

Hogs have a voracious appetite. A recent study of five immature sows captured, collared, then released and tracked in East Feliciana Parish showed that pigs gained an average of nine pounds per month. Their home ranges were between 6 and 10 square miles, so they cover a lot of ground, giving them the potential to encounter multiple nesting sites for turkeys.

Hunters can help by shooting, trapping or hunting hogs with dogs. Night-hunting is legal on private land from March 1

through Aug. 31. Trapping with cages is the most-effective means of control, as each trap can attract and hold multiple hogs day after day. Consult the Louisiana Hunting Regulations Guide for complete information. ■

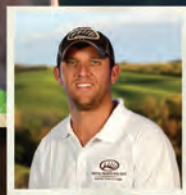
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NEW REEFS PLANNED FOR LAKE BORGNE/ MISSISSIPPI SOUND

By Patrick Bonin

Reefballs like this one, along with large chunks of limestone and some shells, will be used in construction of new artificial reefs proposed for four sites in Lake Borgne and the Mississippi Sound.

CONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN LATER THIS SPRING

Lake Pontchartrain area anglers will soon have four new areas to target speckled trout and redfish, after a permit filed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in January was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Construction of four artificial reefs in and around Lake Borgne and the Biloxi Marsh — the Shell Pad Reef, Grand Banks Reef, Cabbage Reef and West Karako Bay Reef — could start as early as this spring, depending on weather and contractor availability, according to Ashley Ferguson, inshore artificial reef biologist with the LDWF.

"I'm excited," Ferguson said. "I think they're going to be really great fishing spots, and we also plan to have these reefs off-limits to oyster harvests, so that's going to have them serve as a sort of brood stock for the surrounding oyster population, an added benefit."

The project, a partnership between the LDWF and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, allows for each site to be

expanded to about 10 acres. Ferguson said that, initially, each reef — made up of large limestone chunks, shells and reefballs — will be cover an acre,

A PLAN TO EXPAND

"That leaves a lot of room for us to go in and put more material in the future," she said. "Adding hard substrate to areas with

that soft bottom is going to be very beneficial for those settling organisms and will establish a location for that food chain to set up and enhance fishing opportunities, which is the whole mission of the Artificial Reef Program."

The total construction cost for the project is expected to be about \$300,000, which will be split between the



Sheepshead swim near reefballs that are part of an existing artificial-reef site in Lake Pontchartrain.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Ferguson/LDWF

foundation and the LDWF, she said.

"We're paying for half, and they're paying for half," Ferguson said. "Our half comes from the Artificial Reef Trust Fund."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Several factors, including water temperature, rainfall and larval availability in the system, help determine how soon fish are attracted to a reef, but Ferguson said it can happen quickly.

"Settlement usually happens pretty fast with organisms like mussels, barnacles and things like that," she said. "Then, that draws the cryptic species of fish and crabs that look for crevices in those rocks; they'll typically start hiding in there pretty soon after the material is deployed, within a month. Food will start to develop in the spring and throughout the summer, which then draws in predatory fish that anglers are seeking."

REEF DESIGN

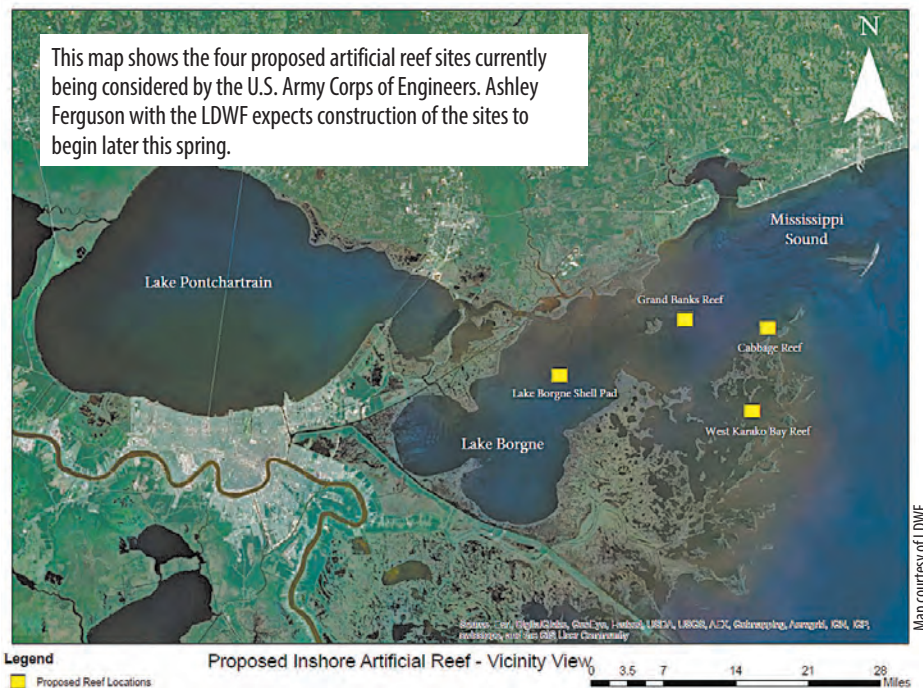
Plans call for 50 reefballs to be used at the Lake Borgne site, which is being constructed over an existing shell pad. The other three sites will feature 30 reefballs each, which Ferguson described as perforated concrete domes — almost like a cement whiffle ball.

The Grand Banks, Cabbage and West Karako Bay sites will be composed of three rows of 2- to 3-foot high limestone in depths ranging from 8 to 10 feet, according to the permit.

With the addition of these four sites, Ferguson said that brings the total number of inshore artificial reefs statewide to 33, and additional projects are slated for 2019. The permit for these four has already been approved by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, so all that remains is the Corps' blessing.

"We've been planning these for quite a while, so very soon after we have the permit in hand, I expect we'll start

This map shows the four proposed artificial reef sites currently being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ashley Ferguson with the LDWF expects construction of the sites to begin later this spring.



Map courtesy of LDWF

deployment," she said. "And these four are really accessible, too. That's one thing we always try to make sure of: that the reefs are in areas where people can get out there and reasonably fish them."

The U.S. Coast Guard will ultimately determine whether the reefs will be

marked with permanent buoys, Ferguson said, or if anglers will have to rely on updated NOAA charts or GPS coordinates to locate the sites. ■

The floating boom has been deployed at two locations in Lake Bistineau: at Fairview Point and just north of Plum Orchard.

LDWF ATTEMPTS TO COLLECT SALVINIA IN LAKE BISTINEAU

From News Reports

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has deployed 1,800 feet of floating boom, which is being used in an experimental way to

help aid in giant salvinia control efforts. The boom is intended to help control the drift of floating aquatic plants by providing a location for the plants to collect and

allowing more effective herbicide application.

The boom is highly visible and will be marked with additional lights to improve visibility at night.

The experimental boom will be monitored regularly. Vegetation collected by the boom will be sprayed with herbicide. The boom must be used carefully to avoid creating navigation hazards or concentrating salvinia in areas that would restrict boating access. The success of the boom will be determined by the amount of salvinia collected.

Invasive aquatic plants such as giant salvinia spread rapidly, threatening the diversity and abundance of native plant species as well as the ecological balance of lakes and ponds. In addition to reducing the habitat quality for aquatic life, invasive species can limit recreational use of waterbodies for activities like boating, fishing, hunting and swimming. Invasive aquatic plants are aggressive and can be very difficult to control. ■

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ARE YOU TRESPASSING?

CHANCES ARE IF YOU'RE FISHING THE MARSH,
YOU PROBABLY ARE ACCORDING TO LOUISIANA LAW

By John Smith
Smith Shanklin Sosa, LLC
Sportsman-At-Law

The shot was just a bit high, and the 8-pointer ran off. Jimmy trailed the buck to a fence line that he knew to be a property boundary. He did not have permission to cross the fence, but he did anyway. He found the deer another 100 yards away.

Mike ran his 21-foot bass boat through an open bay to fish the marsh. He did not have permission to enter the privately owned marsh and did not know he had left "navigable" waters.

Both of these sportsmen have something in common: they are in violation of Louisiana's criminal trespass law. Neither are outlaws, but they are both trespassers under Louisiana Revised Statute 14:63 (LA-R.S. 14:63) Criminal Trespass law.

LONG-HELD MYTHS

An examination of the statute will help to dispel some long-held myths and keep us on the legal side of the fence.

Louisiana's trespassing law is relatively straightforward. With few exceptions, if someone enters another's property without

express permission, that person has committed trespass (See statute at end of article).

Contrary to popular belief, there are no exceptions to the statute for retrieval of wounded game on the property of another without permission of the landowner. This fact was confirmed recently with a representative of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries who stated that LSA-R.S. 14:63 was the "trespass law" in Louisiana, and LDWF regulations do not allow for any exceptions to the statute. Although LDWF agents have the authority to cite someone for trespassing, the representative stated "Unless there are other wildlife or fisheries violations, 9 out of 10 times, we refer trespassing violations to the local sheriff's office."

ANGLERS CAN BE CONVICTED, EVEN IF PROPERTY ISN'T POSTED

Posting of private property is no longer required by landowners. In earlier versions of the law, a person charged with trespassing could defend against the charges by proving that the land was not properly

posted. That defense is no longer available.

If someone is on a property that does not belong to them and does not have the owner's or owner's representative/agent's permission to be there, then they can be convicted of criminal trespass. The statute applies equally to land and water.

WHAT IS "NAVIGABLE"?

Waterways that are considered "navigable" — capable of transporting goods and services in commerce — continue to be open to the public for boating, fishing, commercial and recreational pursuits. However, defining a "navigable waterway" has become an exhaustive legal exercise.

What was once thought to be "navigable" might not be navigable any longer and vice versa. What is navigable at high tide, may not be navigable at low tide. What was once dry land, is now under 5 feet of water. Is it "navigable"?



John H. Smith is an experienced attorney. Growing up in Houma molded an avid outdoorsman. He now lives in St. Amant and works out of his office in Baton Rouge. John's law firm has a superlative record representing those requiring legal assistance, redressing any number of civil wrongs committed against their life, limb or property. His website is www.smithshanklin.com.

Posting of private property is no longer required by landowners.

The problem for boaters is that it is nearly impossible to determine unmarked property lines on the water. But you are still subject to fines and possibly jail time if you get caught on submerged private property. The prosecution will have to prove that you were on "private property", but you will have to prove the waterway was navigable or that some exception to criminal trespass applies.

Given the difficulty in proving "navigability" and determining property lines, you might find yourself in deep legal waters.

Another very important feature of the criminal trespass law is that it provides lawsuit immunity to a landowner against trespassers who claim they were damaged by or while on the property. This immunity from liability is very similar to the immunity granted to owners of "recreational use" property.

Landowners can only be held responsible for gross negligence or intentional acts that cause injury or damage to a trespasser.

A search of Louisiana Appellate Court and Louisiana Supreme Court cases indicate the courts have invoked "trespasser immunity" to dismiss a number of cases brought by

trespassers against landowners. There is no reported decision in Louisiana that allowed a trespasser to successfully sue a landowner for negligence after the landowners were granted immunity under the statute.

LAW IS BROAD

Louisiana's criminal trespass law is very broad and allows very few exceptions. Unless some exception applies, you are in violation of the law if you retrieve that deer or run your boat onto someone else's property without permission.

Landowners are not required to post their property in order to prosecute someone for trespass. Under the law, people are presumed to know where property lines are drawn and required to stay off of that property unless they have permission to be there. And while it is difficult at times to determine property lines on land, it is nearly impossible to determine every private property line while on the water.

Accidental or unintentional trespass is not a legally acceptable defense under the law and provides no excuse. Bottom line is if you don't have permission to be there, you probably shouldn't be. ■

CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW

§63. Criminal trespass

A. No person shall enter any structure, watercraft, or movable owned by another without express, legal, or implied authorization.

B. No person shall enter upon immovable property owned by another without express, legal, or implied authorization.

C. No person shall remain in or upon property, movable or immovable, owned by another without express, legal, or implied authorization.

D. It shall be an affirmative defense to a prosecution for a violation of Subsection A, B, or C of this Section, that the accused had express, legal, or implied authority to be in the movable or on the immovable property.



A problem for boaters is that it is nearly impossible to determine unmarked property lines on the water.

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BAYOU BLACK MAPS SHOW PRIVATE BAYOUS

HIGH SCHOOL BASS ANGLERS ARE TOLD TO STAY OUT

When the Louisiana High School Bass Fishing Association planned a tournament on Bayou Black, they used maps created by Media Bass showing restricted areas.

The maps show that a large number of the smaller navigable bayous, many in which the bass move into to spawn and feed, have been gated or posted.

According to current laws, many more of the areas in green could become off-limits if something isn't done.

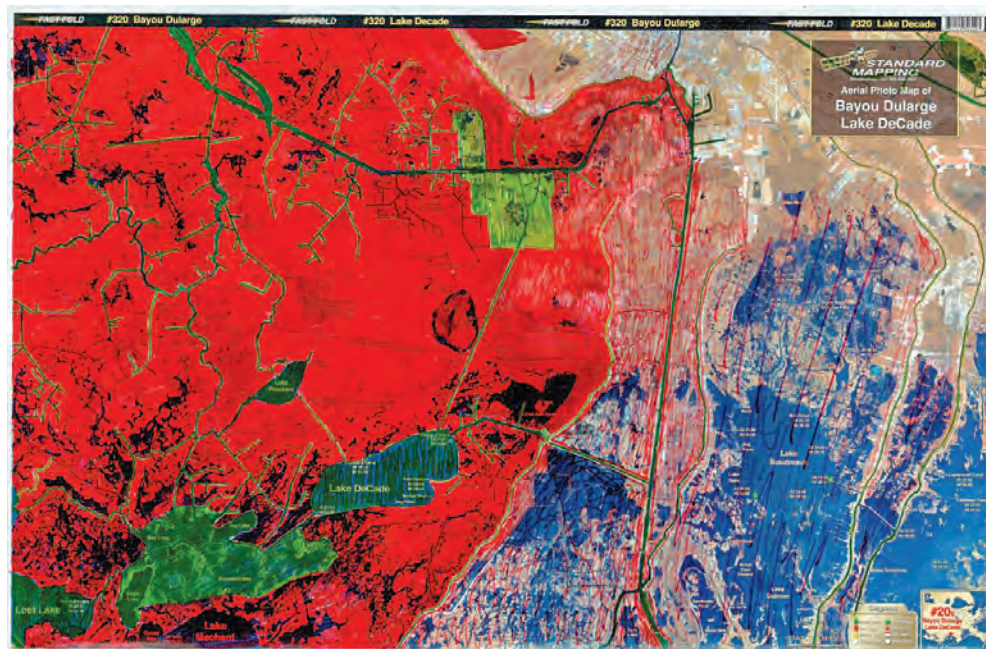
"We know that there are so many 'grey' areas when trying to fish the Bayou Black area and the concerns that people have trying to stay within "legal" areas to fish," said the association on their website.

"These two maps were made by Media Bass, and they are the best maps out there to show people what areas are within legal fishing areas and those that are off limits."

"The areas in red are off limits. The areas in green are legal areas. Make sure that you zoom in, because some areas have red lines and are not colored in all the way. Those are also off limits even though the color isn't solid.

"It doesn't matter where you go in South Louisiana; it's just like this everywhere. That's why we need the public involved in trying to change the laws that keep us from fishing our state waters that are deemed private by old, outdated laws.

"If the laws aren't changed, every river system and lake in Louisiana might be affected," they warned. ■



Map of Bayou Dularge and Lake Decade. Waters that are off limits are in red or have a red line through them.



Map of Bayou Black. Waters that are off limits are in red or have a red line through them.

*View the maps online at LouisianaSportsman.com/private-bayous.

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Summer is right around the corner, and saltwater tournament action will be heating up. Here is a calendar of saltwater fishing tournaments in the state this summer and fall. If your tournament isn't listed, please send info to tournaments@louisianasportsman.com, and we'll add it online.

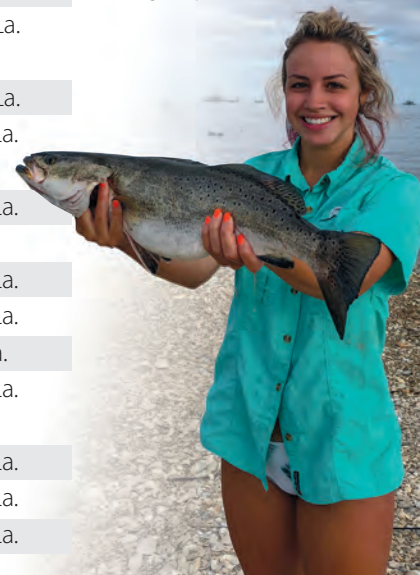
FISHING RODEO CALENDAR



Cobia caught south of Grand Isle during the Bloody Decks Rodeo held Labor Day weekend.

May 16-18.....	ABC Fishing Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle La.
May 17-18.....	Stan Brock Black & Gold Classic	Bridge/Wake Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
May 24-26.....	Grand Isle Speckled Trout Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
May 25.....	E.D. White Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
May 25.....	Alstarz Cheer Academy	Moran's Marina, Fourchon, La.
	Fishing Rodeo and Cookoff	
May 28 -June 2.....	Cajun Canyons Billfish Classic	Cypress Cove Marina, Venice, La.
May 30 - June 1.....	New Orleans Electric	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
	Association Rodeo	
May 30 - June 1.....	Catholic High Alumni Fishing Rodeo	Moran's Marina, Fourchon, La.
June 5-8.....	Swollfest Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
June 6 - June 9.....	Fishing For Memories Fishing Rodeo	Intracoastal City near Abbeville, La.
June 7 - June 8.....	Cut Off Fishing Club Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle La.
June 10 - June 16.....	Louisiana Billfish Classic	Hurricane Hole, Grand Isle, La.
June 15.....	Hargrove Foundation Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
June 21-22.....	LA Pipeline Association Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
June 21-22.....	Creole Classic Fishing Tournament	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
June 28 - June 29.....	Wounded War Heroes Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
July 4-6.....	Golden Meadow/Fourchon	Moran's Marina, Fourchon, La.
	Tarpon Rodeo	
July 11 - July 13.....	Fourchon Oilman's Association	Moran's Marina, Fourchon, La.
	Fishing Rodeo	
July 12 - July 13.....	Blue Boot Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
July 18 - July 20.....	Louisiana Dental Rodeo	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
July 19-20.....	Inaugural sky high fishing rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
July 20.....	Hooks and Leaders Fishing Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
July 25 -27.....	International Grand Isle	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
	Tarpon Rodeo	
August 2-3.....	Salty Kids Fish Fest	Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La.
August 3.....	Mike Bourgeois (Big Daddy)	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
	Fish On Rodeo	
August 10.....	4th Annual Bow Fishing Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
August 17.....	Patrick F. Taylor 1st Annual Fishing Rodeo	Nick's Marina, Lafitte, La.
August 17.....	Dufrene Building Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
August 24.....	Ride the Bull Kayak Fishing Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
Aug. 29 - Sept. 1.....	Bloody Decks Rodeo	Wake Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1.....	59th Original Grand Isle	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
	Original Redfish Rodeo	
Sept. 12-14.....	IFA Champion Kayak	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
Sept. 27-29.....	Caminada Redfish Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.
Oct. 11 - Oct. 12.....	Ladies Fishing Rodeo	Bridge Side Marina, Grand Isle, La.

Rachel Fersch of Mandeville caught this 6-pound trout while surf fishing off a shell reef near Four Bayou Pass in Barataria Bay. She was using live shrimp and caught the huge trout in only 2 feet of water. Proud boyfriend Connor Seibert took this great photo!



DON'T FORGET TO BUY 2019-2020 FISHING LICENSES

CURRENT LICENSES EXPIRE JUNE 30

With the weather finally (hopefully) starting to stabilize enough to allow you to get out and experience the great fishing opportunities around Louisiana, don't get so caught up in the preparation and planning that you forget to buy your 2019-20 fishing license.

Yep, it's that time of year. The fishing license that has been riding around in your wallet since last year expires June 30.



Bruce McDonald of Luling with a nice red he hooked at the Grand Isle bridge.

Purchasing a license is pretty easy these days — instead of having to drive to your local Walmart or bait shop, you can log onto the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' website and make the purchase from the comfort of your desk.

And the folks at LDWF have made it even easier to ensure you have the license handy when the game warden pulls up to the boat by offering e-licenses — an electronic version of your license that can be stored on your phone.

Remember, anglers 16 years or older must possess a valid fishing license. Here's a quick rundown of the licenses and associated costs:

- Basic Fishing License — \$9.50 (resident); \$60 (non-resident)
- Saltwater License (Basic Fishing License required) — \$13; \$30
- Basic Fish Trip (1 day) — \$5
- Saltwater Trip (1 day) — \$17.50
- Hook and Line (cane pole) — \$2.50
- Charter Passenger License (3-day) — \$10
- Charter Skiff (3-day) — \$30
- LA Sportsman's Paradise License — \$100
- Senior Fish/Hunt (60 years old or older) — \$5
- Non-Resident Student Basic Fishing — \$9.50
- NR Student Saltwater Fishing (Basic Fishing License required) — \$5.50
- Resident Disabled Basic Fishing — \$2.50
- Resident Disabled Saltwater — \$2.50



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Tensas Par.

- 183 +/- ac. — 150 ac. is 17 r. old CRP w/\$18,000 annual pymts., loaded w/deer, 25 ac. pecan orchard, cypress brake for ducks, 3BR 2BA home. \$530,000. Call Bill.
- .25 +/- ac. — Fine 2 story camp at Tensas Refuge, w/back porch & overhangs/slabs for RV's. \$127,600. Call Bill.
- 4 +/- ac. — Newellton. 3 nice rental units w/room for more. All rented w/waiting list. \$1,950 month rent. Adjoining 3 ac. w/store & warehouse. \$265,000. Call Bill.
- Big Camp on Lake Bruin, deep water, nice pier. \$250,000. Big beautiful lot 112' wide with rock sea wall. \$180,000. Call Bill.
- 25 +/- ac. — Split by Choctaw Bayou, excellent deer & duck hunting. \$81,000. Call Bill.
- Neat waterfront camp, deck & dock with great views of Lake Bruin \$99,750. Call Bill.

West Carroll Par.

- 13 +/- ac. with nice home, hwy. frontage and great deer and duck hunting. \$45,000. Call Bill.
- 80 +/- ac. - Near Oak Grove, 1/2 can be flooded for ducks. Excellent deer & duck hunting. \$160,000. Call Bill.
- 50 +/- ac. — Macon Front Rd. w/flooded timber for ducks, 23 ac. CRP pays \$1,669 & 7 ac. shallow lake. \$144,000. Call Bill.
- 120 +/- ac. — Select cut hdwd. timber loaded with deer & great duck potential. \$210,000. Call Bill.
- 82 +/- ac. of fine hdwds. for excellent home/campsite. Nice bottoms for ducks and fine habitat for deer. Adjoining CRP and farmland. \$217,300. Call Bill.
- 108 +/- ac. of approximately 20 yr. pine plantation. Needs thinning. Hdwd. bottoms for ducks/deer. \$286,200. Call Bill.

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MISSISSIPPI HUNTER KILLS SOLID WHITE TURKEY

By Brian Cope

HE TRACKED THE BIRD FOR 3 YEARS

Hunter Waltman of Kiln, Miss., killed a solid white gobbler on March 17. By then, he was intimately familiar with the animal.

Waltman's first indication of a rare bird on the property came before he purchased the land. He was walking through the tract with his fiancée when they found a white feather. Waltman recognized it as a turkey feather.

"I picked it up and told her, 'I know what this is.' And then when I met the neighbor, he said he'd seen a white turkey on the property for about three years. Once I purchased the land, I put up trail cameras and started getting photos of it," Waltman said.

On March 17, Waltman and his friend, Toby Cagle of Saucier,



Hunter Waltman of Kiln, Miss., killed this solid white gobbler on March 17, 2019.

Miss., got into the woods early.

"We knew where he was roosting and had a good plan for where he would come out. I knew his morning routine thanks to the trail cameras," he said.

They heard the bird gobble before it left the roost. Then, the

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Hunter Waltman (left) and Toby Cagle pose with the rare white gobbler that Waltman killed on March 17, 2019.



hunters patiently waited throughout an hour-and-a-half of silence. They decided it was a lost cause and got up to leave, and that's when they saw the gobbler.

"When we got up to leave, we saw him with three hens. He was all fanned out about 80 yards away from us.

That was too far for Waltman to attempt a shot, so they hunkered down and watched the gobbler work the hens for about two hours.

"When he was done with the hens, he headed straight to us," said Waltman, who was using a 12-gauge, Remington 870 with an extra-full, extended choke. He knew the gun was on target out to 60 yards. So when the bird reached that distance, he pulled the trigger and sent a load of Winchester XR pellets on their way. The turkey dropped.

"That was definitely one of the hardest turkeys I've ever killed. It was really awesome. I was just shaking I was so worked up," he said.

The bird weighed 17 pounds, had a 9¼-inch beard, and spurs that measured slightly longer than an inch.

The turkey had solid white plumage, and its spurs and nails were also white. It had a black beard and normal-colored eyes. It wasn't an albino, but had a condition known as leucism, a partial loss of pigmentation which results in white, pale or patchy skin or feather coloration.

A few people on social media questioned whether the gobbler was a domestic turkey, but Waltman's taxidermist confirmed it was a wild turkey. Wildlife biologist Bob Eriksen with the Natural Resources Conservation Service agreed that the turkey was definitely a wild one. And a very rare one at that. ■



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TOLEDO BEND YIELDS 11-POUNDER

JARRELL'S LUNKER BIT A MAGNUM TRICK WORM IN THE MID-LAKE AREA By Patrick Bonin

Eddie Jarrell's previous personal best bass was a 10-plus-pounder caught in the mid-lake area of Toledo Bend.

As of late afternoon on April 16, he upped the ante and bumped his PB north of 11 pounds when he hauled in another lunker in the same general area where he caught his first double-digit fish.

"I'm sure it was probably on a bed, but I couldn't see a bed," said Jarrell, 60, of Evans. "It was up shallow."

The bass inhaled his Carolina-rigged watermelon/red 7-inch Zoom Magnum Trick Worm late that afternoon, after 5 p.m.

"I knew it was a big fish to start with,

but I didn't know it was that big," Jarrell said.

As is often the case, the giant bass didn't put up a tremendous battle when it was hooked.


"It really wasn't that long," he said. "She didn't fight real hard and gave up pretty quick. She came out of the water one time, then I pulled her down and didn't let her back up."

At Fin & Feather Resort, the giant bass, which measured 24½ inches, tipped certified scales at 11.15 pounds. It easily qualified Jarrell for the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program, which awards anglers who return 10-pounds or larger fish to the reservoir with a complimentary mount. ■



Photo courtesy of Eddie Jarrell

Eddie Jarrell shows off the massive, 11.15-pound large-mouth bass he caught April 16 in the mid-lake area of Toledo Bend. The big female devoured a Carolina-rigged 7-inch watermelon/red Zoom Magnum Trick Worm in the shallows.



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DUSTY J. GUIDRY APPOINTED TO WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

From News Reports

Dusty J. Guidry, Director of Pretrial Services for the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's office, has been appointed to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Guidry, who will serve as an at-large member of the Commission until April 30, 2025, replaces Bart Yakupzack of Lake Charles.

Guidry, a lifelong Louisiana resident who lives in Lafayette, made his first appearance on the Commission its May 2 meeting in Baton Rouge.

"I consider it a great honor and privilege to continue serving the people of the state of Louisiana," Guidry said. "I am blessed to have parents who exposed me to our state's natural resources and instilled in me a passion and appreciation for wildlife."

Guidry has two children, Isabella and Cruz. A Scott native, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Guidry serves on the Cajundome Commission and is a member of several boards. He is a member of Ducks Unlimited, the Coastal Conservation Association and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

"I aim to assist the commission in the ongoing coastal restoration and conservation efforts," Guidry said. "Doing so will aid in keeping the natural resources of this state viable and in better shape for generations to come." ■



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John Gillard shows off the 10.98-pound bass he caught on April 27 during the Toledo Bend Oilman's Classic. The lunker bit a blueberry Texas-rigged Zoom lizard in 2 feet of water in the San Miguel area, and it won Gillard Big Bass honors for the tourney.

LIZARD WORKS ON 10.98-POUNDER DURING OILMAN'S CLASSIC

By Patrick Bonin

GILLARD FINALLY LANDS FIRST TOLEDO BEND LUNKER, WINS BIG BASS HONORS

John Gillard has been hooked on bass fishing since he was just a kid, making trips up to Toledo Bend with his dad when he was only 10 years old. "The lake was still filling up in 1967-68 when he used to bring me up here," said Gillard, who turns 66 next month. Retired, the Lake Charles resident actually lives on Toledo Bend. But with more than 55 years of fishing under his belt, and a few

An advertisement for Cottonmouth Boats. The top left features the brand name "Cottonmouth BOATS" in a stylized font. Below it is a photograph of a green aluminum boat with a motor, floating on a body of water with green vegetation in the foreground. The boat has "cottonmouthboats" written on its side. On the right side, there is a green triangular graphic with the text "HANDCRAFTED ALUMINUM BOATS FOR THE ALL AROUND OUTDOORSMAN". At the bottom, there is a black banner with the text "EXPERIENCE THE BITE.COM" and the phone number "225.478.8709".

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close calls along the way, a double-digit bass had always eluded him — until his number finally came up on April 27, when he and tournament partner Randy Pennington were in the San Miguel area during the Toledo Bend Oilman's Classic.

It was getting close to weigh-in time, and the anglers were focused on a big bedding female in just a couple feet of water.

"She was almost like in a trance," Gillard said. "I know it sounds weird, but it was almost like she was trying to stand on her head, because her tail would almost come out of the water. She was fanning, kind of moving around like that."

The water wasn't really clear, and Gillard actually noticed the lateral lines of another big bass, not 10 feet from the boat. He thought the second fish was about a 5-pounder, and started throwing his blueberry Texas-rigged Zoom lizard its way.

"I could tell when she'd spin around real fast that I was upsetting her," he said.

About 2:30, Pennington said it was about time to head for the scales.

"I said, 'Let me try to mess with her one more time.' So I tossed it over there and drug it about where I thought her head was, and I could see her swimming off real slow and then I could see my line moving off slow.

"Podnah, when I set the hook, all hell broke loose."

LANDING FISH WASN'T EASY

But landing his first lunker didn't prove easy — the big bass took off for the buck brush, which provided for some tense moments before getting it into the boat.

"She was around some bushes, and I was fighting the trolling motor trying to hurry up and get in there," Gillard said. "She was sawing the line in the buck brush, but I finally got the boat over there close enough and was able to turn her head and get her coming

back to the boat."

Pennington netted the big bass, but Gillard didn't realize then that his 55-year pursuit of a double-digit fish was about to come to an end.

"I've caught a lot of 8-pounders, and any big fish I catch seems to be 8 pounds, so I was thinking 8 pounds again," he said. "But (Randy) has caught two 10s, and he said, 'You finally got your 10.'"

On non-certified tournament scales, the big bass weighed 10.77 pounds, good enough for Big Bass honors for Gillard, first place for Saturday and a seventh-place overall finish for he and Pennington.

On Toledo Town and Tackle's certified scales, the bass officially weighed 10.98 pounds, and measured 25½ inches long with a 19¾-inch girth, easily qualifying Gillard for entry into the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program, which awards anglers who catch and release double-digit fish with a complimentary mount.

"The way it all happened was so unbelievable.... In a million years, I'd have never thought anything like that would have ever happened," Gillard said. "It was just meant to be." ■

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2019 CCA STAR CRANKS UP MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

\$10,000 LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN BONUS PRIZE IS BACK!

The 2019 Coastal Conservation Association's Louisiana STAR Tournament — which once again features 100 tagged redfish and more than \$500,000 in prizes — is slated to begin on Saturday, May 25.

The first 10 STAR-registered anglers who catch one of those tagged reds will have some great prize options, including a 2019 Chevy Silverado pickup, a 35-foot travel trailer from Bent's RV, 21-foot NauticStar boats with Mercury outboards and Gator-Tail boats, motor and trailer packages.

"This is our 25th year of competition and thanks to some new great sponsors, we are giving away even bigger and better prizes," said tournament director Rad Trascher. "We had four tagged redfish winners last year and a total of 8 fish caught.

This could be your year, so get registered now!"

"We want more people to go home with some great prizes."

And once again this year, Louisiana Sportsman is sweetening the pot in the Tagged Redfish Division, offering a \$10,000 bonus prize to the first STAR-registered angler who catches a tagged red and is also a current subscriber to the magazine. Family members and spouses must also be subscribers. (Anglers must have subscribed to Louisiana Sportsman at least 24 hours prior to catching any eligible tagged redfish to claim the bonus, so don't put it off. Subscribe now at



Gary Kinler left the Star banquet last year with more than a brand new 21-foot NauticStar. The Luling angler was the first Louisiana Sportsman magazine subscriber also registered for the STAR to reel in a tagged redfish — and he collected a cool \$10,000 Louisiana Sportsman subscriber bonus for his efforts. His wife Stacey actually caught a tagged red on Grand Isle four years ago and was in line to win a new Chevy truck that year — but wasn't registered for the STAR.

louisianasportsman.com/subscribe/.

Licensed Louisiana charter fishermen can sign up for the tournament at no cost — and if one of their clients wins, they do, too.

"If one of their clients ends up as a winner on the final leaderboard, that captain will get a \$1,500 tackle package, plus be featured in a full-page ad in Tide magazine," he said.

Interested captains should contact Trascher via email at rad@ccalouisiana.com. Entering the tournament costs \$35, and you must be a current member of CCA to enter, which also costs \$35. Spouses can also enter the STAR for \$35, but their CCA membership only costs \$15. Youth memberships for those 17 and under cost \$10, but their tournament entry is free.

The event concludes on Labor Day, Sept. 2. For details and a complete look at 2019's updated rules, visit the STAR website at www.ccastar.com. ■



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JIMMIE DAVIS STATE PARK CLOSED AFTER DIRECT HIT FROM TORNADO

By Kinny Haddox

Mother Nature continues to play havoc this spring on the north Louisiana outdoors.

Wednesday evening, May 8, around 6 p.m., tornadoes and torrential rainfall swept through the area, causing considerable damage resulting in the closure of Jimmie Davis State Park on Caney Lake near Chatham. Rising waters also caused flooding on nearby Lake Claiborne at Homer, leading to the issuance of a “no wake” advisory for boaters.

At Jimmie Davis, fortunately there were less than 50 people at the state park midweek when the EF1 tornado and 110 mile per hour winds made a direct hit on the park. At peak weekend times in the spring, there can be up to 4,000 people in the park. Miraculously, even though trees caused structural damage to 12 of the 17 cabins and eight RV’s were totally destroyed, no one suffered serious injuries.

“Local first responders were tracking the storm and arrived at the park within five minutes after it hit. They did a remarkable job,” said Brandon Burris, Interim Assistant Secretary of Louisiana State Parks. “Emergency personnel had to extricate one



This is one of the campers that got crushed by falling trees on Caney Lake.

Photo courtesy of Chantay Ramsey

Burris, who spent the day helping with recovery at the park, estimated 500 or more trees are down on the 300 acre park site. The park is totally closed at this time and will be until further notice.

Burris said people with upcoming reservations have been notified and either given the option of refunds or to rebook. Cleanup crews worked through the night Thursday, May 9, to clear trees off buildings so the roofs can be tarped before

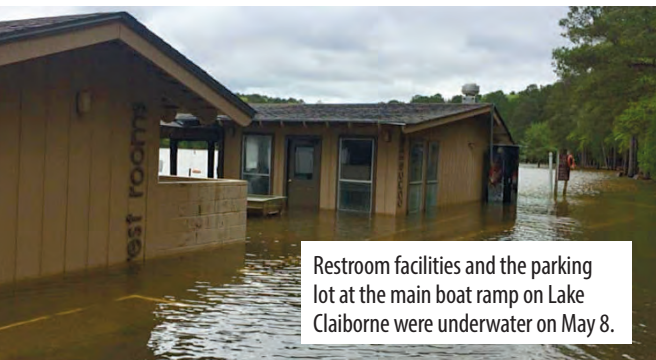
further rainfall and damage if possible. Insurance adjusters will be on site Monday to do an official estimate of damages and a gameplay for moving forward will be developed midweek, Burris said. There is hope that some of the park can be reopened as soon as it is considered safe even though many of the repairs will take weeks if not months.

At Lake Claiborne, rising waters closed some low-lying roads and went into facilities at the lake’s main boat

ramp. As of that Friday morning, the lake was not closed, but boaters were being warned not to run a motor and create a wake that will further damage seawalls and boathouses. Boating is also dangerous because of numerous logs and floating debris in the lake.

Downstream from Claiborne, Lake D’Arbonne at Farmerville has been flooded twice this spring and was closed for five days in April when the water went almost five feet above pool stage. Currently the lake is okay, but D’Arbonne is also downstream of Lake Claiborne. Previously this spring, there was considerable damage to lakeside and other Union Parish property on April 25 from the same tornado that caused millions of damage and the loss of two lives as it hit Ruston.

D’Arbonne isn’t the only other worry in the area. It drains into Bayou D’Arbonne and then the Ouachita River. Major flood stage on the Ouachita is 45.0 feet and the river is currently at 46 feet. Several boat ramps on the river are underwater and closed while thousands of acres along the river are flooded. ■



Restroom facilities and the parking lot at the main boat ramp on Lake Claiborne were underwater on May 8.

family from a cabin and other individuals from an RV, but they were not injured.”

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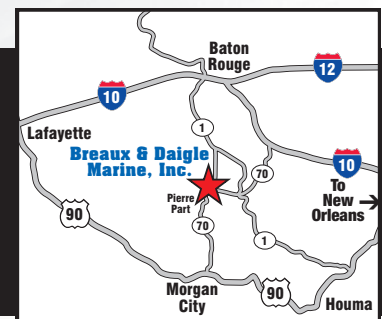
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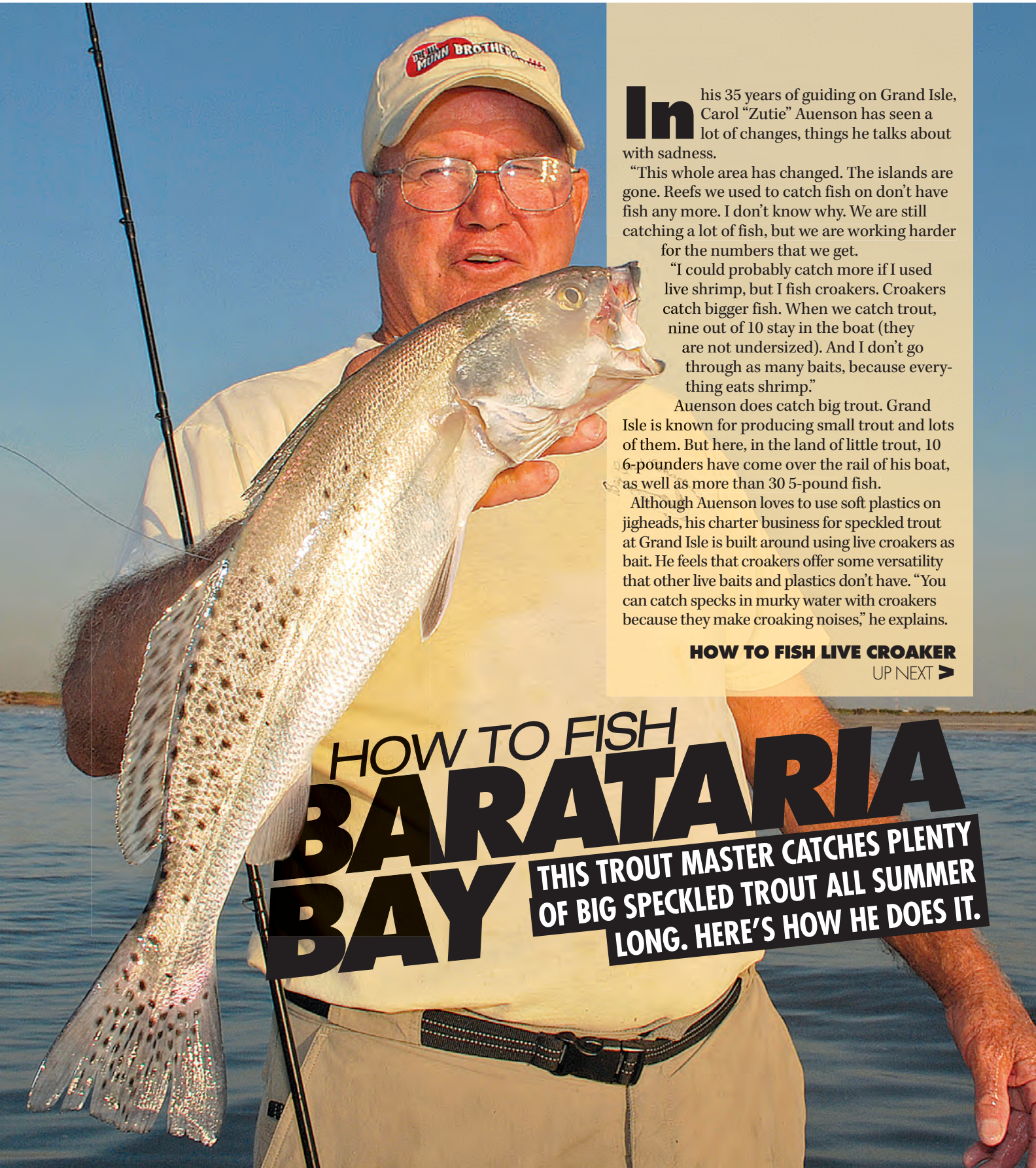


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In his 35 years of guiding on Grand Isle, Carol "Zutie" Auenson has seen a lot of changes, things he talks about with sadness.

"This whole area has changed. The islands are gone. Reefs we used to catch fish on don't have fish any more. I don't know why. We are still catching a lot of fish, but we are working harder for the numbers that we get.

"I could probably catch more if I used live shrimp, but I fish croakers. Croakers catch bigger fish. When we catch trout, nine out of 10 stay in the boat (they are not undersized). And I don't go through as many baits, because everything eats shrimp."

Auenson does catch big trout. Grand Isle is known for producing small trout and lots of them. But here, in the land of little trout, 10 6-pounders have come over the rail of his boat, as well as more than 30 5-pound fish.

Although Auenson loves to use soft plastics on jigheads, his charter business for speckled trout at Grand Isle is built around using live croakers as bait. He feels that croakers offer some versatility that other live baits and plastics don't have. "You can catch specks in murky water with croakers because they make croaking noises," he explains.

HOW TO FISH LIVE CROAKER

UP NEXT >

HOW TO FISH BARATARIA BAY

**THIS TROUT MASTER CATCHES PLENTY
OF BIG SPECKLED TROUT ALL SUMMER
LONG. HERE'S HOW HE DOES IT.**



HOW TO FISH LIVE CROAKER

Auenson usually hooks his croakers through the flesh beneath the rear of the dorsal fin. He will also occasionally jab the hook through the baitfish's lips, but he feels croakers swim more actively when hooked through the back.

He uses a delicate touch with his rod, very slowly and gently jigging and retrieving the slack. He is always in touch with his bait. Instead of striking immediately when he feels a trout bump the croaker, he will set the hook only when he feels that the fish has the bait fully in its mouth.

His basic rig for fishing live croakers is a Carolina rig: an 18-inch leader with a 3/0 Kahle hook on one end and a swivel on the other. Threaded on the main line above the swivel is normally a ½-ounce egg sinker, although he will use a ¾-ounce weight if the surf is rough and he has to make longer casts to reach his favored fishing spots near the beach. The leader is 30-pound monofilament.

"Nothing special like fluorocarbon," he said. "I just don't see no difference, and (mono) is a lot cheaper."

HOW TO FISH PLASTICS

UP NEXT >

When fishing on a beach, fish as close in as possible early in the morning to catch the biggest fish, so close, in fact, that the bait can be cast on the beach and retrieved into the water. The target area is between the beach itself and where the waves are breaking. The water may only be a foot deep. If the fish don't hit the bait in close, fish it carefully all the way back to the boat. If they don't hit it inside, they will probably hit it outside.



AUENSON'S TIPS

- If you fish with live shrimp, use a medium-sized shrimp, not the little bitty weenies and not the jumbos.
- Finger mullet and pogies are also good bait. Trout will hit larger pogies than croakers, often as big as a human hand. "As a guide, I can't guarantee getting pogies every morning, so I buy croakers. But I carry a cast net all the time. If I see them while fishing, I will get them."



A Carolina rig is Auenson's bread-and-butter setup for using croakers as bait.

- Croakers 2½ to 3½ inches long are best for general trout fishing. Croakers longer than 3½ inches are good for big trout at offshore rigs and for mangrove snapper.
- Don't sit in one place too long. If you don't get a bite in 15 minutes, move. The fish don't find you — that's a fact.



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HOW TO FISH PLASTICS

Auenson uses soft plastics on ¼-ounce jigheads secondarily to live bait. He keeps his selections simple, his favorite being smoke/glitter split-tail beetles. Other colors he uses include glow, white and blue moon. On occasion, he will also use plastic cocahoe minnow-type lures and straight-tails.

He may or may not use an 18-inch shock leader tied line to line when he fishes with jigs. If he doesn't, he reties frequently. Plastics are useful in places with too many obstructions to fish Carolina rigs, such as near rock riprap. He fishes plastics using a slow, steady retrieve with an occasional twitch.

Auenson also always keeps a rod rigged with plastics for fishing under birds. While he quickly admits he isn't crazy about fishing under diving birds in bays and lakes, he will stop to fish them along the beaches because the schools don't move as much as do those inside. He cautions, however, to know the difference between "liar birds," as he calls smaller terns, "which are always dipping and diving," and larger gulls that only dive in groups on feeding fish.

He also uses plastics on jigs to find fish because he can cover a lot of water with them. But when he finds trout, he picks up a rod with a Carolina rig and a croaker on it. "You can catch more," he said, "and you catch bigger fish. You gotta remember that I like bigger fish."

Auenson's favorite reels are Shimano Curado baitcasting reels, which he fills with 15-pound Berkley Big Game monofilament.

"Some people like that braided line," he said. "I don't. It has no stretch, and you can pull the hook out of their mouth."

Favored rods for years were Falcon, but Auenson didn't like a recent style change and has shifted over to Castaway rods. His rods are either medium- or medium-heavy action in 6½- or 7-foot lengths. "You need a rod with a little backbone for croakers," he said.

Schools of trout don't move as much when they're just off the beach compared to inside waters.

A simple artificial presentation is a split-tail beetle on a jighead.



TIDES AND MOON PHASES MATTER

As a guide, Auenson must fish all moon stages and all tides, but he does have definite preferences.

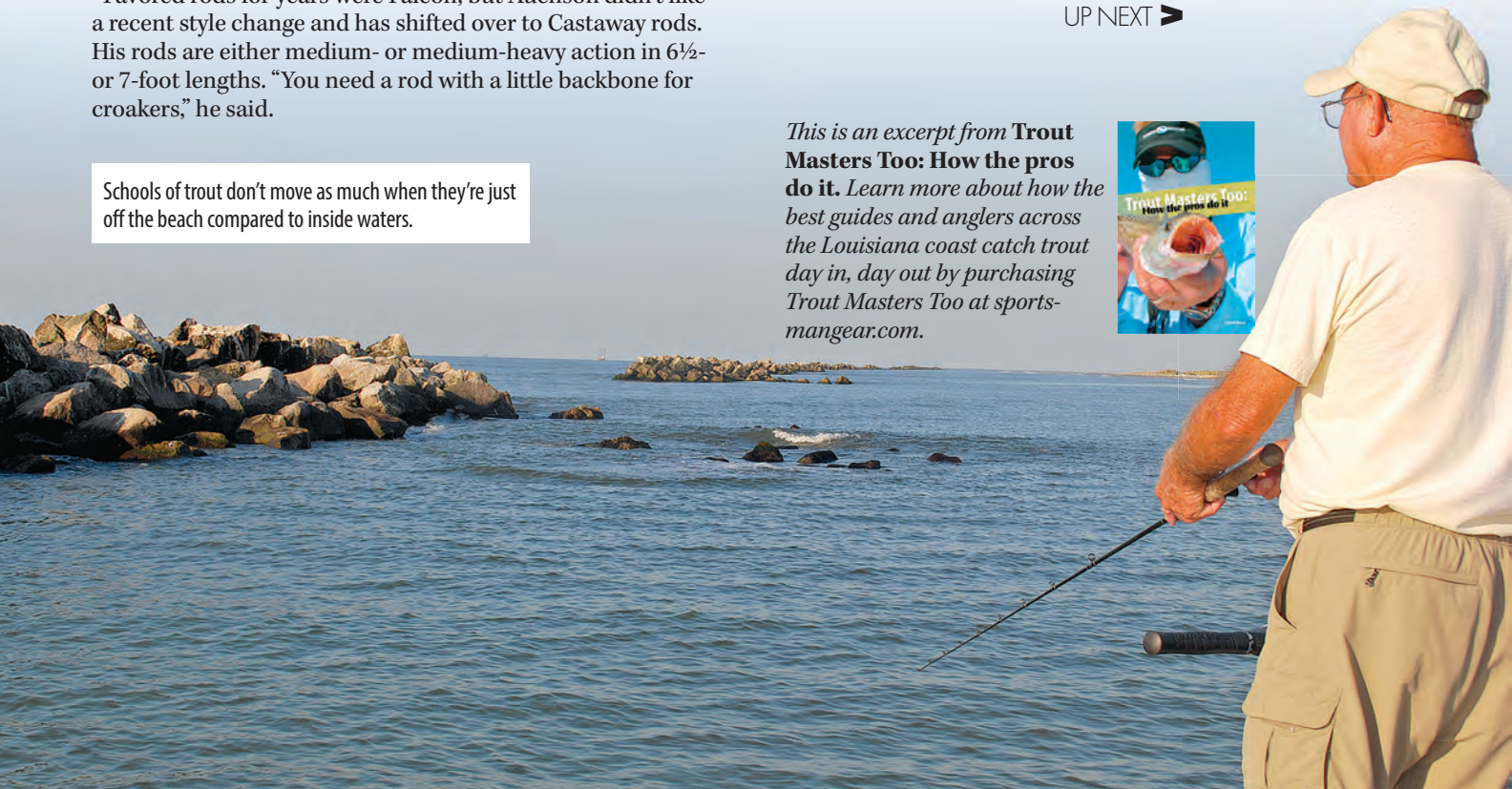
"We like to fish the climbing (increasing) moon. After the full moon, fishing starts going down," he said.

As for tides, he said, "I prefer an incoming tide. I like it to start at 4 a.m. and run until noon. You get clearer water. As for range, I really don't like a heavy range. Fish don't feed too much. We like .7 to 1.2 feet. A 1.9(-foot) range is too much. I will often move spots to get ahead of a real strong tide — go inside until the tide catches up; then go inside more." ■

ZUTIE AUENSON'S CALENDAR

UP NEXT >

*This is an excerpt from **Trout Masters Too: How the pros do it**. Learn more about how the best guides and anglers across the Louisiana coast catch trout day in, day out by purchasing *Trout Masters Too* at sports-mangear.com.*



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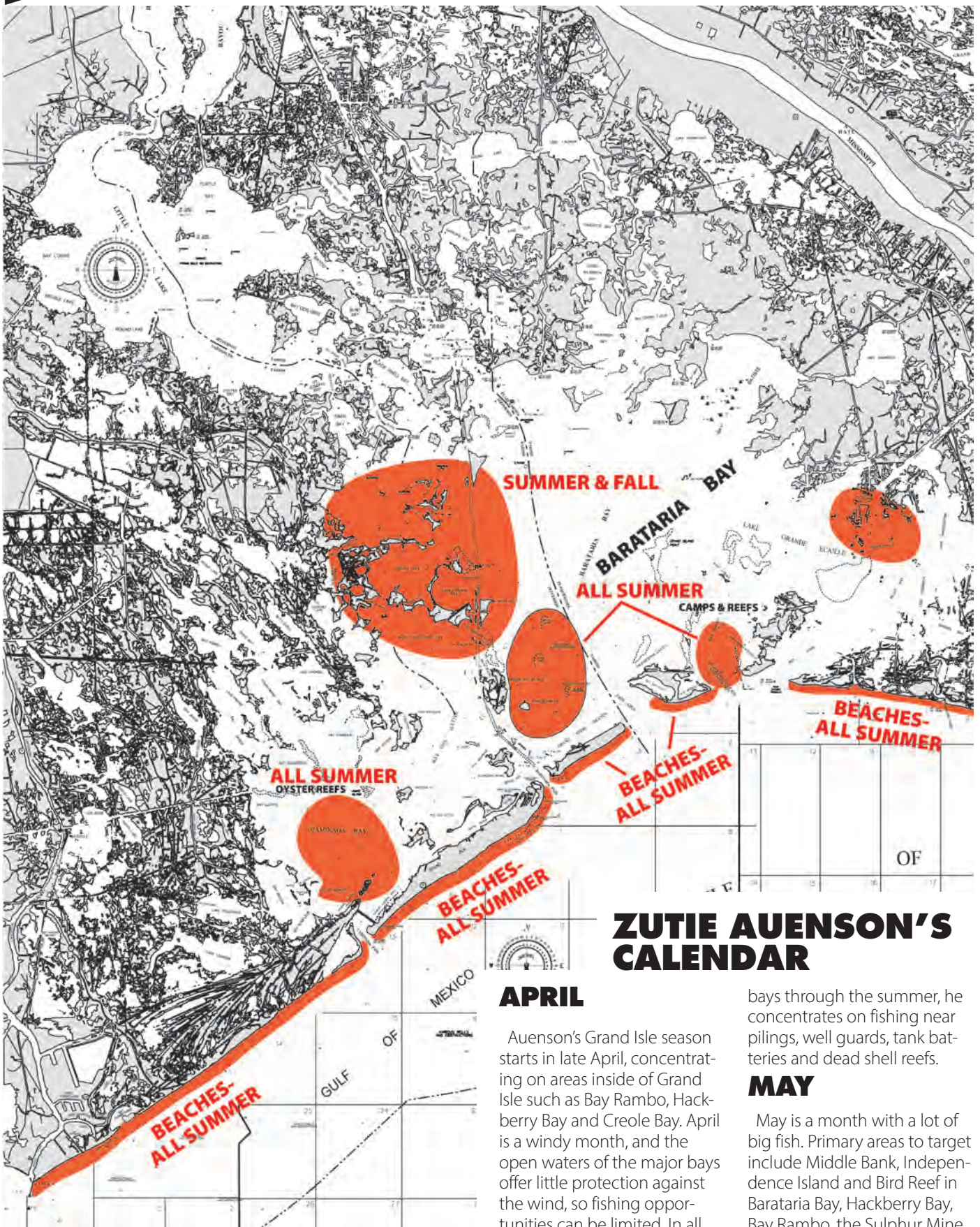
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ZUTIE AUENSON'S CALENDAR

APRIL

Auenson's Grand Isle season starts in late April, concentrating on areas inside of Grand Isle such as Bay Rambo, Hackberry Bay and Creole Bay. April is a windy month, and the open waters of the major bays offer little protection against the wind, so fishing opportunities can be limited. In all

bays through the summer, he concentrates on fishing near pilings, well guards, tank batteries and dead shell reefs.

MAY

May is a month with a lot of big fish. Primary areas to target include Middle Bank, Independence Island and Bird Reef in Barataria Bay, Hackberry Bay, Bay Rambo, the Sulphur Mine, Lake Grand Ecaille and Lake

Washington. Auenson heads for the beaches from Barataria Pass to Chaland Pass as soon as the weather is calm enough to fish the shallow waters of the beaches, usually in late May. Fishing the coast is not yet at its prime this month.

JUNE

June is also a good month to catch large speckled trout. Fishing is very much a repeat of what occurs in May, but the weather is better. Big trout can be caught on the beaches along the coast, but beach fishing in June is still not at its best.

JULY

July is a month for focusing on beach fishing, because shrimp are moving from inside bays to the beaches. During the first half of the month, fishing is best from Four Bayou Pass to Chaland Pass. After mid-month, best fishing shifts to the west of Caminada Pass along Elmer's Island and Fourchon Beach, although speckled trout may be caught anywhere along the coast at any time. Fishing inside is best near the Gulf, including lower Barataria Bay, the camps inside Four Bayou Pass and Lake Washington.

AUGUST

Auenson concentrates his fishing in August on the beaches of the coast, especially west of Grand Isle along Elmer's Island and Fourchon Beach, but also to the east as far as Chaland Pass.



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Fishing in lakes and bays is concentrated in those areas near the Gulf.

SEPTEMBER

September produces fewer but larger trout. Auenson's fishing is done almost exclusively on the beaches of Elmer's Island and Fourchon Beach. ■



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LIVE BAIT

A cast net is a primary tool for fishermen to catch live bait of all kinds.

You can save tons of money by catching your own — here's how

By Marty Cannon

Check out a video of Capt. Herk Bergeron teaching you how to throw a cast net at: Louisianasportsman.com/throwing-a-cast-net

If live bait is what you want to fish with these days, you're probably going to have to go out and get it yourself, especially if you want to fish with anything other than live shrimp.

For some, that reality may cause beads of sweat to form because they have to finally unravel that net and rekindle the memory of those horrid taco-shaped casts that draw howls of laughter.

Fortunately, there are those who don't mind sharing what they know about catching live bait with a cast net, trap or trawl, and then keeping it all so that it works when the fish get hungry.



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Capt. Mike Parks of Slidell spends his fair share of days on the water. When he needs fresh bait, the cast net is the only

way to get the best.

“The cast net is my only tool,” said Parks. “Get the heaviest one that you can. I like a 7- to 9-foot net thrown Frisbee-style by grasping the mesh from underneath and placing one weight in my mouth.

LEAVE THE LEAD

“Never throw by the lead, and don’t assume that a 7-foot net is harder than a 3-foot net. Anything smaller than 6 feet is more difficult, won’t catch much and will reduce the distance you are able to throw.”

Read the manufacturer’s instructions, and then get out and throw, throw, throw until you get it down. Sore back and abdominal muscles are well worth it.

When Parks is fishing, he uses a cast net to draw in all sorts of bait for inshore and offshore fish alike. His strategy for catching bait will cause some to scratch their heads and others to laugh — until they start loading up on bait.

DIG THE DOG FOOD

“People around here sometimes catch 30 pounds of shrimp a night with a cast net and Tops dog food. Tops is the key because it sinks like a rock. Throw about four Mardi Gras cupfuls in each place you can cast a net, and give it an hour.”

Parks says the fast-sinking dog food brings in shrimp, pogies, mullet, pinfish, flounder, white trout and much more.

Capt. Keith “Herk” Bergeron (985-860-7855) of Pair-A-Dice Charters takes his shrimp-catching in Grand Isle a step further with crushed crab.

“I first find an area where the water is either funneled into another body of water like a culvert or a cut in the marsh, and I’ll make several casts there and catch what I can,” he said. “The big secret is crushed crab. I drop that in the water out of the current line off to the side. Shrimp love the jelly meat of crab, and the scent draws them instantly.”

Bergeron says current is the key to keeping shrimp alive after you catch them. In fact, current is the key to catching and keeping bait. He stresses it over and over.

“First of all, you have to be set up with the right livewell for shrimp,” he said. “Shrimp will not live long at all in a livewell if it is not a round tank. That’s very important. You have to have air or water pumping in the tank because shrimp have to be swimming in a current. And it does no good to catch live bait if you’re not set up to keep it alive.”

CAMP COCAHOE

Another bait that Bergeron likes to use is a live cocaho.

“Cocaho minnows are easy to keep alive,” he said. “I use very inexpensive traps that you can buy at most sport shops. The best bait for them is cut pogies.”

Tide plays a key role in where Bergeron will trap them.

“Look for a tide that leaves an area real shallow at low tide — not empty, just very low,” he suggested. “Cocahoes are eaten by everything, so they look for cover, and when the tide rises, they go into the marshes. When the tide drops, they harbor in shallow waters near the marshes so you want to put your traps at the cuts near shallow marshes.”

For croakers, Bergeron moves to deeper, moving water, and he uses the cast net or a trawl.

“Croakers,” he continued, “Now you’re dealing with very sensitive bait. They’re easy to kill.”



When you are proficient at throwing a cast net, buy the heaviest one you can find for catching bait.



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LIVE BAIT

Bergeron emphasized the need for a good livewell system with moving, aerated water for croakers.

“I find an area that has current in about 5 to 7 feet of water, and I throw cut-up rib cages from the fish I cleaned the day before in the area,” he said. “Then I start cast netting again, or I use a 14-foot trawl. The key to catching them with a trawl is you can’t drag long. Five to 10 minutes and that’s it, and you have to hurry and get them out of the net especially if there are jellyfish in the catch. The jelly will get in their gills and kill them quick.”

POGIE PERFECTION

Want pogies? Bergeron and Parks both have their stories to tell about catching these.

Parks will load up the freezer with pogies, aka menhaden, when they stack up in nearby waterways. Later, he uses them on big-game outings.

“Pogies stink,” he said, “but they’re easy to obtain if you have some time and



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can cast a big net. Over here, the Eden Isle canals, Tchefuncte and West End get stacked with them. All pogies make 'nervous' water, and small ones tend to flip on the surface.

"You can see them when they're big and can catch them by the hundreds, big or small.

"With a chest freezer handy, you can take them straight from your net into 5-gallon buckets — take my advice and get lids — and freeze them.

"In their own slime, they will last much longer than the cardboard flats you get commercially. I try to fill everyone's freezer available when pogies come around."

If live pogies are what you need, find moving water and keep that bait tank clean.

"I cast-net for them in current lines off of points where the current is ripping around a bend," Bergeron said. "Pogies regurgitate when they are caught, just like any fish that gets a hook in its mouth — they throw up to try and spit the hook. Well, the bile they throw up will kill everything you just caught if your livewell is not in continuous circulation.

"If you're putting them in a portable livewell, you'll have to let them purge. To do that, you have to put them in a 5-gallon bucket of water first for about three to five minutes, and then transfer them into the good water in the portable tank."

In addition to pogies, there's another easily attainable bait that Bergeron loves.

MULLET MOVES

"Live mullets are an excellent bait," he said. "Amberjack love them, and cobia think they're Tic Tacs. When they're cut up, they stay on the hook very well for snapper and white trout.

"I cast-net for them around almost any fishing pier. Mulletts are like cows at night — they can't see very well, so they harbor around structure for protection from predator fish. Again, it's very important that they be kept in a round tank with circulating water." ■



Menhaden are a smelly, oily baitfish that makes up a good part of the diets of many inshore and nearshore predator fish.

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BANK ANGLER LIMITS ON SPECKLED TROUT

LAFOURCHE MAN SAID THIS KIND OF ACTION IS HAPPENING FROM GOLDEN MEADOW TO GRAND ISLE

Reggie Legendre of Lafourche has been catching plenty of limits of speckled trout between Golden Meadow and Grand Isle recently — and he doesn't even use a boat. Legendre keeps things simple by fishing from the bank with just a few pieces of tackle.

"I am strictly a land fisherman. It's a great way to get in 20 minutes of fishing, or an hour or more, without having to worry about all the time it takes to launch a boat and get to a fishing spot. We are blessed

with plenty of fish and lots of great fishing spots that you can walk to," said Legendre, who says he catches fish along the banks of LA1 through August.

Legendre doesn't get bogged down with lots of tackle, either. What he fishes with works just fine, and he only takes as much as he can carry.

"I fish with a 2500-series spinning reel, a 4 Horsemen popping cork and a Matrix Shad or Matrix TKO Shrimp on a 1/16-ounce Deathgrip jighead. That's all you need to catch a limit of trout," he said.

When it comes to lure colors, Legendre has a few favorites: shrimp creole, pink champagne and lemon head.

His most recent catches have come on the rising tide in fairly clear water, but that's just because he happened to be fishing then. He said his technique will work on any tide, and in any conditions.

"Whether it's windy, high tide, low tide, raining, whatever, the fish are still there. You have to find them, but once you do, you can catch them this way no matter what the tide is," he said.

Using a 16- to 18-inch leader

Reggie Legendre of Lafourche with a limit of trout he caught while bank fishing down LA 1.



between the cork and jighead, Legendre said the trick is to work the bait back to you at a steady pace with a pause in between double pops of the cork.

"I work it in a pop-pop, pause, pop-pop, pause method — two quick pops of the cork, followed by a pause," he said. "That pause is the key, because it lets the lure sink to its maximum depth below the cork. If you just pop it all the way back without a pause, then the lure isn't sinking in a natural way."

While Legendre doesn't mind keeping some trout for the supper table, he also catches, tags and releases plenty of trout. The tags he uses are blue with Matrix Shad's website and a printed tag number printed. If you catch a fish with one of these tags, take a photo of the tag and post it on the Matrix Shad Facebook page to win some great prizes.

— Brian Cope



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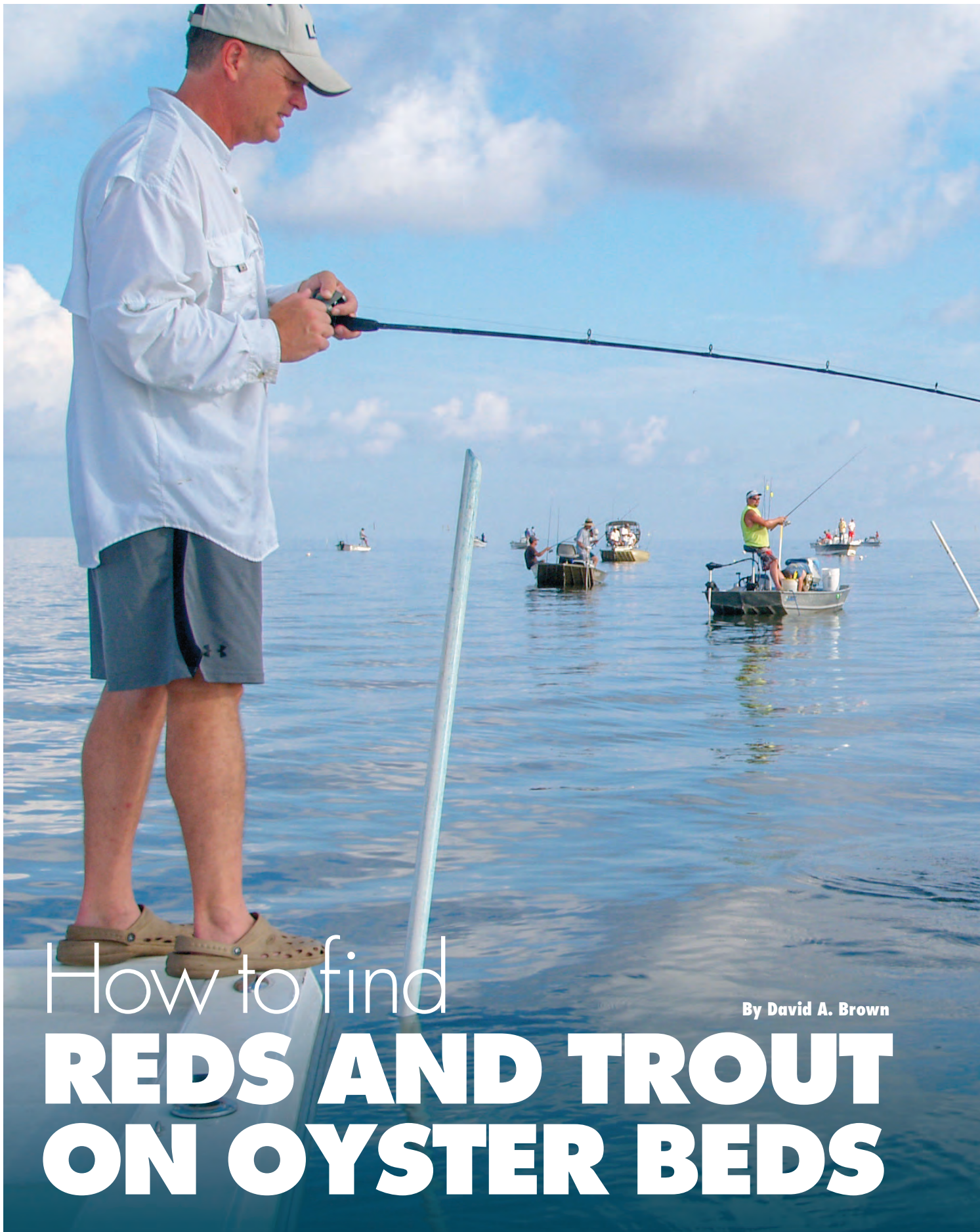


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How to find
REDS AND TROUT
ON OYSTER BEDS

By David A. Brown



Everything you need to know to catch trout, reds and more over these fish .

Rockefeller, po boy, half shell — it doesn't matter how you like your oysters, you'll love their fish-friendly appeal.

Indeed, with abundant forage, breaks and ambush potential, shell reefs peppering the coastal shallows present prime fishing opportunities.

Here are some thoughts on how to make the most of these fish factories.

WHERE TO GO

Capt. Ross Montet of Cajun Fishing Adventures in Buras said you'll find a broader distribution of oyster reefs on the west side of the Mississippi River, but don't overlook any marked areas to the east.

Oysters need a mix of salt and freshwater, so noting where passes and diversions allow consistent brackish mingling will guide you to the better areas.

For visual reference, look for PVC pipe or willow branches marking these private or state-owned sites.

WHO SITS WHERE?

It's not quite as rigid as a formal dinner, but various oyster reef regulars definitely have preferred seating.

Redfish and trout typically patrol above and around the reefs in search of tide-born shrimp and baitfish.

Sheepshead and black drum like to nibble on crustaceans and invertebrates hiding amid the shells, while the drum also crunch some of the smaller oysters.

Flounder aren't considered a target species around oyster reefs, but you might encounter flatfish along the soft perimeters, where shells don't scrape their bellies.

>

OYSTER BED TROUT AND REDS

Speckled trout will typically patrol the water column above oyster reefs. They'll be shallow in the spring and move to deeper reefs as the water warms.

>

DEPTH DIVERSITY

Montet said trout spawn over shallow oysters in 1 to 2 feet of water in May and June.

After that, it's all about temperature and comfort for these delicate fish, as well as their neighboring species.

As the year warms, trout reposition over progressively deeper reefs to find cooler water. Each day's sun influences certain shallow opportunities.

"You might catch them on the shallow reefs in summer, but it's going to be a first-light thing," Montet said. "When the sun comes up, they get deeper."

SIGNS OF LIFE

Capt. Anthony Randazzo of Venice-based Paradise Plus Guide Service dials in his oyster reef attack by scanning for



indications of activity.

Fish pushing, boils/busts and reds or drum tailing on a reef all point to promising spots.

Most exciting, though, is a flock of birds hovering near the water, screeching and dipping toward the surface. Gulls are quick to pick off shrimp and baitfish driven topside by feeding predators.

Spotting such gatherings usually means trout and/or redfish on the feed.

Just don't fall for the wiles of liar birds, or you'll be spinning your wheels.

WIND AND WATER

Montet uses the wind for his initial approach until he determines current direction.

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Redfish are a regular resident of oyster reefs, knocking off both baitfish that pass by and also tiny crabs that leave the shelter of the shells.

at his back for a steady, silent drift. But if the wind pushes him too fast for efficient presentations, he'll head into it and use his trolling motor to balance the blow and hold his boat on the spot.

Once he determines a productive area, Montet drops his Power Poles and work his baits with the current.

BEST BAITS

For trout, redfish, drum and the occasional sheepshead, you simply can't go wrong with a live shrimp with a split shot under a cork.

Just set the float to hold your bait about a foot over the reef or off to the side of a shallow spot, and present the bait with the current.

Artificial shrimp like those from Vudu, D.O.A. and Unfair Lures offer cost- and time-effective options, mostly for trout and reds.

Light jigs (1/8- to 1/4-ounce) with cocahoe minnows like Matrix Shad, curlytails or soft-plastic swimbaits get plenty of attention from trout and reds,

but keep them moving to avoid shell snags.

For extra appeal — particularly with drum and sheepshead — use scented soft plastics like Gulp or added scent gels, pastes or sprays to standard plastics.

Bumping any of these jig packages along the silty perimeter might yield a flounder bite.

Topwaters often provoke incredibly violent strikes. Low-light conditions are best for trout, but fired-up reds will bust mullet imitators round the clock. ■

How to gain
**THE ADVANTAGE
ON OYSTER REEFS >**



A full-time freelance writer specializing in sport fishing, David A. Brown splits his time between journalism and marketing communications (www.tightwords.com).



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How to gain

By Todd Masson

THE ADVANTAGE ON OYSTER REEFS

If it weren't for oyster reefs, anglers would spend a lot of boring days in the summer doing menial home-improvement projects like painting the shed, mowing the lawn or weeding the garden.

But thank heavens oyster reefs exist, and because they do, fishing them is as much a staple for summer speckled trout anglers as fried rice is at an Asian buffet.

THEY'RE ALIVE!

And there's good reason: oyster reefs in salty bays are alive with organisms at every level of the marine food chain, and with specks being at or near the trophic position in most bays, they are particularly drawn to these vibrant communities.

Oyster reefs attract baitfish because they provide relief.

Imagine you're a young croaker swimming around on the bottom of the sea floor. There's nothing but flat, sandy bottom for acres around. You'd feel pretty exposed, wouldn't you?

Now imagine you come across an oyster reef 20 yards in diameter with dimples, bumps, slits, coves and a big hump right in the middle. There are plenty of places for a young croaker to hide, aren't there?

Apparently so, because you instantly see so many of your brothers and sisters.

Well, here's the dirty little secret that you're probably not aware of: the trout also know oyster reefs are great places for bait to hang out, so the very structure that

provides you safety also seals your doom.

THINK LIKE A TROUT

Each trout knows that if he waits long enough, he'll pick off croakers one by one as they leave the safety of their hidey holes and mill about for food.

But specks also know there are hot spots on any reef, places where the bait congregates for one reason or another.

These are often found on the edges of humps.

Much like points on islands, humps

on oyster reefs provide current breaks behind which weary baitfish can hide. Specks crowd these areas to feast on the resting baitfish, as well as pick off new ones being swept against and around the hump by the tides.

This is why there might be five boats fishing a particular reef, but one is outcatching all the other boats three to one. That boat is likely located in casting distance of some type of current break on the reef.



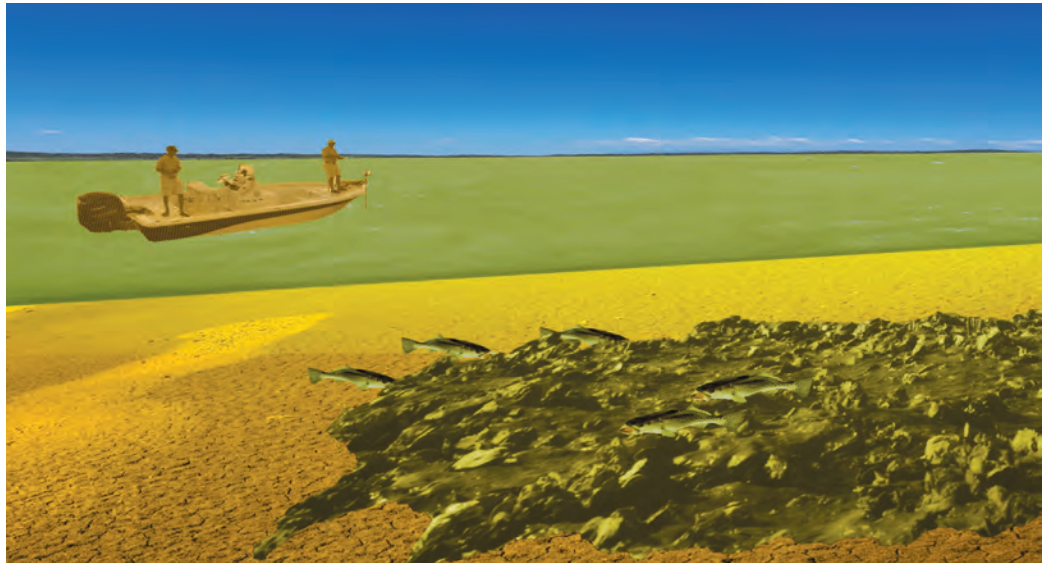
FISHING OYSTER BEDS

Oyster beds and reefs provide habitat for many species, including some favorite foods of speckled trout: croakers, menhaden, anchovies and shrimp. These species not only find protection from predators within the oyster bed structure, but some of their favorite food also lives on and around the oyster shells: barnacles, mussels and crabs. A healthy oyster bed is a smorgasbord for some species of larger fish, such as black drum and sheepshead, which not only feed on the small fish and crustaceans, but also on shellfish and in the case of black drum, on the oysters themselves.

Although a healthy oyster bed is prime feeding ground for speckled trout and redfish, even shell pads can create a productive feeding habitat. For instance, the shell pads built to support oil and gas rigs have many of the same habitat characteristics of oyster beds and can be very productive fishing spots for inshore anglers.

Oysters are filter feeders and have an incredible capacity to clean the water around them. A single oyster can filter particles out of as much as 50 gallons of water per day. Since speckled trout are primarily line-of-sight, ambush predators, the water cleaning capacity of oyster beds alone make them prime fishing spots for anglers during years of abundant river water in the estuary.

Speckled trout are often found at the edges of oyster beds and shell pads, where they can hide below the plateau of the bed or pad. From this position, their dark tops camouflage them against the bottom, and they can ambush



Graphics by Jon Miller

bait that swims over the edge. Match the movement of baitfish by positioning the boat off the bed and casting onto the bed. Working the bait back to the boat will cause it to swim over the edge of the bed and initiate a trout strike. At times, shoals of trout will hunt across the surface of the oyster bed or shell pad, so a long cast onto the bed or pad will ensure that

your bait finds these shoals also.

A variety of baits are used to fish oyster beds including swimbaits on jigs, jerkbaits and live bait such as shrimp and croakers. If the oyster beds are in water less than 6 feet of depth, swimbaits under popping corks can also be very effective. ■

By Jon Miller

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SPECKLED TRUTH

Chris Bush

How do moon phases affect the feeding behavior of speckled trout? Not as much as you'd think.

DOES THE MOON AFFECT THE TROPHY TROUT BITE?

WHAT DOES THE CATCH DATA TELL US ABOUT THESE FACTORS?

Solunar. Despite being a simple keyword search, neither Google nor "Alexa" cannot describe its impact to the inshore angling world. Perhaps, it's because it deals with the sun, space, planets, gravity and a majority of other "nerdy" things I tuned out of while in my high-school science classes. As it turns out, it's pretty important. Actually it's really important when it comes to trophy trout, and here's why.

MOON PHASE, TROPHY SPECKS

As the son of a fanatical trout fisherman, one thing we were quick to discard was the Solunar rating. Instead, I learned that productivity directly centered around moon phases and was a great precursor to success on the water. Often, Solunar ratings leading up to a full or a new moon would be abysmal, yet we would still launch the boat and have great success on numbers of fish. Additionally, we would fish days rated as stellar, not associated with an optimal moon phase, and we would struggle to

catch a handful of fish.

So why does this matter? The longer I've pursued and studied trophy class trout, the less I've seen a correlation with certain moon phases. Don't get me wrong, it's important, and moon phase is a direct contributor, but the more I study trophy trout catch data, the broader that scope becomes.

Here's what I mean. Speckled Truth runs Dirty 30 and Trophy Trout citation programs and captures catch data for trout 27 inches or longer across nine states.

In Texas alone, there have been 71 Trophy Trout citations registered since Oct. 1, 2018, and part of registering is divulging the day a huge speck was caught. In this particular instance, I grouped Dates of Catch (DOC) in one of four quarters. For example, the first quarter was the 1st through the 7th, the second was the 8th through the 15th, the third quarter the 16th through the 22nd and fourth quarter is the 23rd through the End of the Month (EOM).

I divided months in four pieces to give

me a good indication of a higher periods of production. For example, Pre New Moon would accurately be reflected by catches happening during the the first quarter. Post New Moon/Pre Full Moon would coincide with second quarter, Pre Full Moon with the third and Post Full/Pre New with the fourth quarter.

As the Trophy Trout Citation data revealed, 19 fish were registered in Quarter 1, 15 in Quarter 2, 13 in Quarter 3 and 24 in Quarter 4. To try and validate my initial notion, I did the same with the Dirty 30 list, which has 47 entries, and honestly, I was shocked; it was almost the exact opposite. Quarter 1 had 11, Quarter 2 had 13, Quarter 3 had 12 and Quarter 4 had 11.

What does that tell me? First, we have a very small but maturing data set. However, what it suggests, which we hope to validate over the course of time, is that big fish aren't as predictable to moon phase as I initially thought.

Far too often I hear, "The week before the full moon is your best chance at catching a trophy." While I won't dispute that

theory based on my own successes, my aperture is far wider now than it once was. There in lies the importance of Solunar.

SOLUNAR AND FISH-OF-A-LIFETIME

The Solunar theory is actually a pretty old concept. Hypothesized by John Alden Knight back in 1926, the theory centered on “fish and animal movement based on the location of the moon and their bodies.” Starting with more than 30 factors, Mr. Knight kept only three to provide ground truth to his concept: the sun, moon and the tide, the latter for tidal waters. After years of study and refinement, Solunar charts accompany most, if not all, outdoor journals.

The idea is that moon overhead and moon underfoot can attribute to feeding behavior just as much as sunrise and sunset. Of course, these gravitational effects have impact on tide, but not all inshore estuaries have tidally influenced water. For example, the infamous Baffin Bay in Texas has almost no tidal influence. Additionally, East Matagorda Bay as well as the Lower Laguna Madre near Port Mansfield also have very little tidal influence. However, if you examine both lists, 87 of the 118 total entries, 74 percent, came from estuaries with extremely limited water movement.

What does that tell me as an angler? Big fish feeding behavior is more closely related to Solunar times, the major and minor feeding periods, rather than moon phase. In other words, if your lifelong goal is to catch a giant trout, statistically, your odds are better fishing higher-rated days based on the Solunar versus a certain moon phase, but that’s under the presumption your fishing high-potential water, a different conversation for another time.

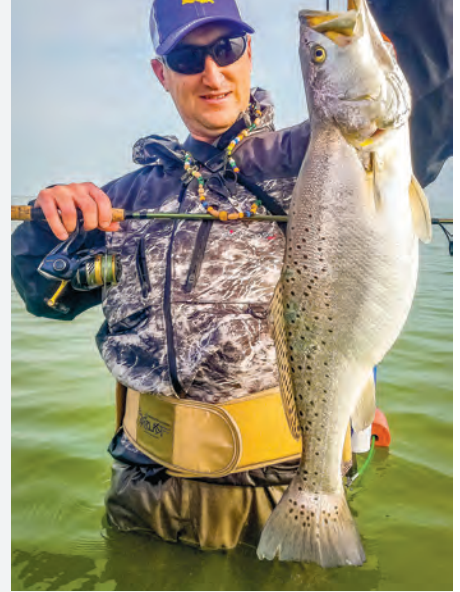
Anyway, let’s hope this information is helpful and at least gets the wheels turning to maybe explore the subtle nuances of targeting these big bites. ■



Chris Bush is an Air Force officer and a licensed charter captain, husband and father. He spends his time targeting big speckled trout and sharing knowledge on his website, *Speckled Truth*.

WHERE'S THAT MOON?

Solunar tables predict fish and wildlife feeding behavior based on the location of the moon. When it's overhead and underfoot, you're more likely to run into a big speckled trout, so keep an eye on those major and minor feeding periods.



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GUIDE CHANGES HOOKS

TO CATCH MORE SPECKLED TROUT

By Patrick Bonin

Laboureur abandons trusty kahle in favor of live-bait hook

For better or for worse, a fishing guide's day is all about results and filling up the box.

So when Capt. Jakamo Laboureur — a long-time user of a No. 1 kahle hook to catch speckled trout out of Shell Beach — decided to switch hooks this spring, it wasn't a decision he made lightly.

"I feel like I changed my religion," he said with a laugh. "Kahles are tradition down here. I grew up with them. Every other guide uses kahles."

So why in the world did he make the move to a No. 2 live-bait hook by Owner?

He credits a deer hunting buddy who used them with great success on a fishing trip the two took that initially opened his eyes to the possibility of making just such a switch.

"He was using them and talking them up one day," said Laboureur, who operates Jakamo South Fishing Adventures. "He kept saying, 'See how this one's hooked? See how this one's hooked?'"

An Owner live-bait hook performs more like a circle hook, resulting in better hookups.



The kahle-style hook has been and is used by thousands of saltwater fishermen.

"There were all hooked right in the corner of the mouth."

But Laboureur didn't switch hooks on his charters until he tried them out with a client who was struggling to catch anything one day.

"He was super nice, but he couldn't catch a fish to save his life," Laboureur said. "At the end of the day, I was like, 'You know what? Let's just see what happens here.' I gave it to him, and it was like night and day.

"I've been sold ever since."

The live bait hook is shaped more like a circle hook, but it's a little thicker and what Laboureur describes as more "heavy duty."

"The fact that it's smaller in size helps," he said. "It can get deeper in the trout's mouth and they don't seem to notice it as much."

It works equally well under a cork, with a Carolina rig or with a drop-shot rig, he said.

"It's especially good for Carolina-rigged fishing because you basically let them eat it, and then you just kind of lift and reel," Laboureur said. "You don't jerk real hard, and you catch them in the corner of the mouth every time."

Not aggressively setting the hook — particularly for speckled trout — is a big key to catching more fish.

"Nine times out of 10, you hook them in the corner of the mouth. I find my hookup ratio is much better if I let them eat and lift and reel, especially with the trout," he said. "With the redfish, you can go ahead and set it.

"But with the trout, it's definitely a lighter hookset." ■





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APEX PREDATOR

Joshua Chauvin

Huge blue crabs are the main objective of most of the author's trips to the marsh in June. Fish are just a bonus.



SIGHT-FISHING CRABS, REDS IN THE SAME SPOTS

IN ADDITION TO CRABBING GEAR, TAKE A COUPLE OF FISHING RODS ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO THE MARSH

Once the year's warmer temperatures arrive, one of my favorite adventures has become "sight-crabbing" with a fishing pole. Yet it's not only the crabs that love crystal-clear marsh waters; gamefish stay stacked up in these areas as well. So when the crabbing doesn't go as planned or there's boiling action on the water's surface, having a few fishing lures can take a crabbing trip to the next level.

On one trip, while I was catching one redfish after another, big crabs were scurrying all through the moss. Before long, I had a limit of hard-pulling marsh redfish, and then I filled the rest of the ice chest with select crabs without really moving. On another crabbing trip, I had a limit of reds and nearly a limit of bass to go along with my potful of crabs.

Passing up all the smaller crabs and spotting those super-sized ones fighting

with another one under the surface is remarkable to watch. I flip out in their direction using my long fishing pole, and there's soon to be tasty crab aboard.

Last summer I did a detailed article and video on my sight-crabbing method and gear for catching giant blue crabs which can be found here: <https://www.louisianaspportsman.com/fishing/apex-predator-goes-sight-crabbing-for-monster-blues/>

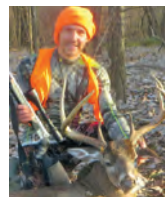
SNORKELING ANYONE?

I have tried snorkeling in the marsh in order to get crabs, but the long hours swimming and crawling through the shallow, mossy ponds left me with only cuts from the random oyster shells hidden in the soft muck. The quick crabs outmaneuvered me, but seeing all the crabs and baitfish while swimming under the water was a cool experience.

However, this activity left onlooking fishermen completely baffled as to why a guy was swimming out over a half-mile away from the launch with a camera on his head. I still haven't given up accomplishing my snorkel crab-grabbing goal.

CRABS ARE SKITTISH

When not frightened by a crazed snorkeler, crabs tend to run off from unnatural motor noise, any boat noise and from anything clanking around. I'm careful with my gear and movement in the boat. The stealth from paddling my 10-foot aluminum boat, which remains ultralight with no motor attached, is the ticket to



Joshua Chauvin is a health-focused ultramarathon runner who goes on solo, manual-powered public-land adventures focusing on hunting big game and large fish by using challenging methods and weapons. He enjoys self-filming and sharing the tactics and details from his expeditions to help others learn from his unique techniques.

padding for hours on end.

I stand in the front of the boat so I can view crabs before the boat runs them over. The back-end seating and low view of a pirogue or kayak makes them less efficient for sight-crabbing.

Many people told me they have failed to do well with sight-crabbing from larger boats since being able to quickly maneuver the heavy vessel toward crabs is difficult in these shallows, and in strong currents or windy conditions. Also, many motored vessels scare numerous schools of fish farther into back-marsh pockets; with no one crabbing these shallows, the bottom is crawling with jumbo selects.

Usually wherever I'm seeing the most crabs, I'm usually seeing the most baitfish. I just need to wait for the gamefish to show themselves in these 1½- to 3-foot deep areas with mud bottom exposed sections among the moss. I rarely cast a lure until I see a fish, since my main objective is giant crabs. The fish are bonuses.

Sometimes, I bring multiple poles in my tiny boat, but one is really all that's needed. Since I fish the crabs with a fish head on a leadhead jig, I simply switch out the chunk of dead crab to



any type of soft-plastic paddletail minnow. Redfish and largemouth bass (left) inhabit many of the same clear, brackish-water marshes as crabs.

I like to use a dark color with a bright tail on an overcast day or in low-light hours. I'll use bright colors on a sunnier day. These hungry marsh fish aren't that picky, as long as you put a piece of plastic in front of their noses.

When the grass is really thick, I use a weightless Fluke Texas-rigged to dart back and forth at the surface. The reds and bass really swallow these lures. Working the Fluke more slowly allows the lure to stay stationary for a second or two in the tiny, open holes. This gives big fish lurking in the moss a chance to come out of hiding and explode on it.

When weeds are more spaced out, I do well with a gold spinner attached to my plastic lure. The Cajun-style spinnerbait really brings in fish from long distances. It's fun to see them wake across the marsh heading for the lure.

Early in the summer, reds love to get in large schools and feed with a fury. Seeing them explode on the surface by the dozens

continues on page 74

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APEX PREDATOR

Joshua Chauvin

Chauvin stands in the front of the boat so he can see crabs before the boat runs them over.

is quite the spectacle. Once spotted, a limit of reds is achieved in short order. However, it's so much fun, that I'll often catch and release many reds before getting back to crabbing.

Reds can be anywhere, but bass can school up as well on points and breaks in these brackish water moss or marsh lines. These fat marsh bass devour the same lures redfish hit.

Bass and reds show themselves on the surface and bite well when it's cloudy or during low-light hours when they are swimming in more open areas away from the thickest moss. A hard-running tide gets them biting as well.

Another species to look out for are large lake runners that seem to tolerate the brackish water. The bigger redears, pushing a pound in size, are easy to spot when seeking crabs. They also let you get pretty close before spooking, as they are working their spawning beds, so totting along a panfish pole can be a wise move.

GET OUT OF THE BOAT

Sometimes, the muddy bottom is hard enough to walk on. In these areas, I like to get out of the boat and slip up on the fish for maximum stealth. I focus on hard, mudbottom spots more when I'm fly-fishing so I can walk up closer to the fish. It's a very cool experience standing in the marsh grass with reds exploding in the water on all sides.

However, other boaters, having never seen anyone in the act of such a tactic, have ridden up to make, thinking I was stranded in the middle of the pond, needing help, and scared



the fish away. I just love being out of the boat, experiencing the harshest elements. For crabbing, it hasn't been productive, but for fishing, it is a very stealthy way to sneak up on the fish.

Next time you head to the marsh, I suggest bringing sunglasses with polarized lenses and giving this type of dual-action, sight-fishing adventure a try before the moss grows too thick later in the summer, reducing the crabbing visibility. Sure, there are many ways to catch crabs and reds, but sight-hunting both on the same trip from a tiny dinghy really takes marsh fishing up a notch. The other ways I grew up crabbing and fishing simply pale in comparison. ■

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We caught up with a few flounder pounders that consistently bring flatfish to their kayaks. While several of their overall strategies are similar, they have little differences unique to their fishing styles. By following their advice, you can increase your success rate and actually target flounder rather than stumbling into one. >

Mike Malone shows off a flat fatty he landed to put him in the lead for the Elite Kayak Club's Hunting Doormats catch/photo/release flounder tournament. Malone finished in 1st Place with five fish that totaled 83 inches.

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Mike Malone lives near Lake Charles and mostly fishes the Big Lake area. Malone recently took first place in the Elite Kayak Club's "Hunting Doormats" tournament. Anchored by a 20½-inch bruiser, Malone clinched the win with 83 total inches.

"My big-picture strategy is to find points or cuts with water moving either in or out. I decide what to throw depending on the bait I'm seeing," Malone said.

To make changing lures quickly, he uses a Norton Lure Quick Twist clip. "The clip lets me easily go between shrimp or bait-fish imitations," he said.

"Last week I was seeing small pogies, so I fished a white swimming mullet. However, the next day I saw lots of shrimp popping so I threw a Vudu shrimp."

Malone's strategy is a mixture of location, awareness and technology. "I actually saw the big flounder I caught on

Benton Parrott with a nice stringer of flounder. Parrott's proven flounder tips are to find moving water and slowly bounce a soft-plastic bait rigged on a jighead.

my side-scan image. There was a point that went from 6 inches down to 4 feet. There were rocks all around, but the point was a smooth mudflat. Looking at the screen, I saw something and zoomed in. I could see the fish lying on the bottom and pitched nearby and got the thump," he added.

Pitching a Gulp or plastic tail on a ⅛-ounce jighead or Vudu shrimp, Malone tries to keep the bait in the strike zone as long as possible, slowly bouncing it off the bottom. He prefers to tight-line using braid and a fluorocarbon leader.

Brock Miller made his mark on the kayak tournament scene in 2016 by winning the Ride the Bull Tournament at only 16 years old. Although that tourna-



ment targeted only bull redfish, Miller has proven he knows how to catch flounder and took fifth place in this year's Cajun Slam category at Paddle Palooza.

"My go-to flounder bait is a chartreuse,

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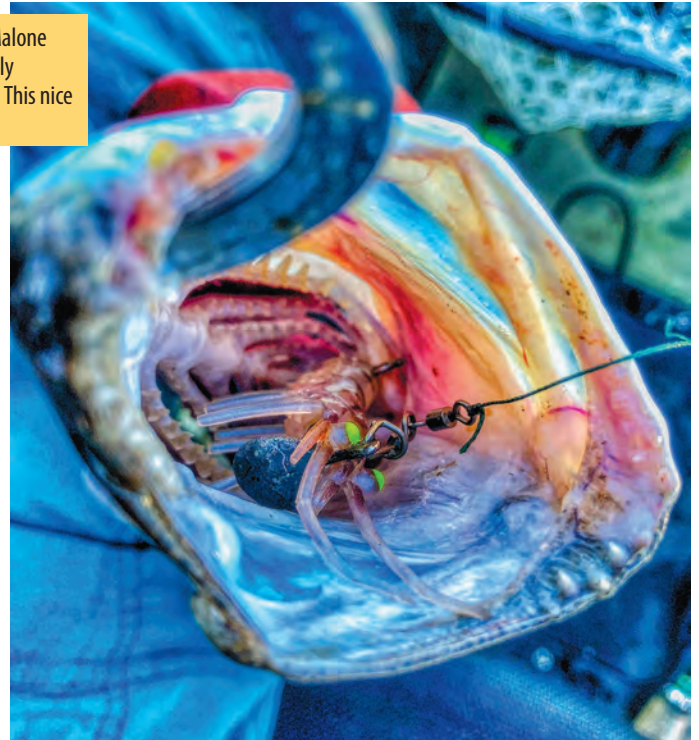
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Depending on the bait he's seeing, Mine Malone uses a Norton Quick Twist lure clip to quickly change between shrimp or fish imitations. This nice flounder inhaled Malone's Vudu shrimp.



4-inch Gulp swimming mullet rigged on a ¼-ounce jighead. I use 20-pound braid and a 15-pound fluorocarbon leader.” Miller said. “If I’m fishing shallow water, I’ll use a popping cork with only 12 to 18 inches of leader to make sure the bait is hitting the bottom. For deeper areas, I’ll simply tight-line the lure.”

Miller looks for obvious ambush points, either cuts, coves or pilings.

“If there are docks around, I use the advantage of the kayak to get up close and shallow where boats cannot go and pitch to all of the pilings,” he said.

Being aware of his surroundings is one of Miller’s keys to locating flounder. For Paddle Palooza, he noticed several glass minnows scattering along the bank. He put his bait in the zone and came away with two nice flounder in only a few casts. In addition to the swimming mullet, Miller also catches flounder using Vudu shrimp and Matrix Shad.

Benton Parrott is from Navarre, Fla.,

but he fishes Louisiana so often that he can almost be considered a resident. A regular at the winners’ podium in various kayak tournaments, Parrot finished ninth at Paddle Palooza.

“Flounder are flounder, and the biggest difference fishing them in Louisiana versus Florida waters is clarity,” he said. “For Louisiana, I love fishing either paddletail or curlytail baits in either white or predominantly white. Something about that white just makes the bait almost glow in Louisiana waters.

Paired with either a red or black jighead, I just find that color contrast to make the lure more attractive.”

continues >

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PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

While some anglers prefer lighter jigheads, Parrott likes a ¼-ounce to make sure his lure is contacting the bottom.

“I like to stay tight against the grassline to keep my lure in the zone as much as possible.



Fishing obvious ambush points, Brock Miller likes to work a 4-inch Gulp Swimming Mullet on a 1/4 ounce jighead when hunting flounder.

“If I come to a small channel, I hit both sides as well as the middle before leaving,” he said. “I like to do what I call a ‘flutter bounce,’ I lift and drop, making sure to take up slack each time so I’m in direct contact when the strike happens.”

Parrott’s go-to set up is a spinning rod with braid and a 15- pound fluorocarbon leader.

“Do not overlook any structure be it pil-

ings, piers or natural features of the bank,” he added.

Parrott’s key element is flowing water.

“I look for running water with an eddy flowing around or across a point,” he said. “Flounder are ambush predators and lie in wait for a meal to come to them,” he said.

In just a few months, Devon Beltz of Ama has taken first place in Louisiana’s two largest Cajun Slam kayak tournaments: Fall ‘N Tide and Paddle Palooza. To say he knows how to catch flounder is an understatement.

“The day before a tournament, I look at the weather and tide forecasts and also Google Earth to get a look at the area I’ll be fishing,” Beltz said. “I’m looking for areas where water will be pushed up a canal or broken marsh and looking for eddies on the back side.”

When allowed by tournament rules, Beltz always carries live shrimp; however, it’s not always a sure bet. For Paddle Palooza, Beltz worked a promising washout with a live shrimp to no avail.

“I just couldn’t believe there were no flounder in that spot, but my live shrimp went untouched,” he said. “I was about to leave and decided to toss a chartreuse and white plastic just to be sure. I caught three flounder in three casts. The moral of the story is to try several different baits before you give up on a spot.”

Beltz’s favorite technique is finesse fishing with his trusty 3-inch, chartreuse Gulp swimming mullet on a ⅛-ounce jighead. He keeps his bait up against the grass and in the strike zone as long as possible.

“I use a slow, pop-and-drop movement that only moves the bait about one foot in 30 seconds,” he said.

Next time you are searching for flounder, take a cue from these guys and give their techniques a try. You will be glad you did. ■



Chris Holmes has kayak fished in the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and many places in between. He can be reached at cholmes@att.net.



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LOCAL ANGLERS DISCOVER PLENTY OF HONEY HOLES, SHARE TIPS

“Think like a flounder,” Jason reminded John and I as he looked around at a possible new spot to try. It was a cut between a strip of vegetation, water was flowing through and a lot of birds were gathered.

A few shrimp jumped at the sound of the trolling motor as we cruised into casting distance to anchor the boat. We began casting along the edge of the eddy with 4-inch, pearl/white Gulp! grubs on a ¼-ounce jighead.

It took a few minutes, but my line got heavy, and there was a familiar thump. I let the flounder chew on my grub before setting the hook. The flounder were there and they were hungry -- attacking our lures for the next hour. We left them biting.

Jason Lewis and John Muller have been targeting flounder in the Lake Charles system, which extends from Prien to

Cameron, for a few years, and it shows. They know where the flounder are, and they aren't afraid to try new locations that look promising. If you ask nicely, they are more than willing to give a few tips for seasoned fishermen and beginners alike on how to have a successful trip.

FINDING FLOUNDER GATHERING HOLES

Before heading out, look through satellite maps for cuts in the marshland — areas where the vegetation crumbles or washes away. It will look like two strips of land

that should be connected, but there is a space between where water flows in and out depending on the tide. Points, where pieces of marsh extend into the lake, are also places where flounder gather. Flounder will be on the edge of the eddy where the current and still water meet, as long as the bottom is a sand or mud flat.

Presentation is key, so where you drop anchor does matter. A good rule of thumb is to be within casting distance and not on top of the cut. The best spot to anchor is on the outside of where the water is flowing.

BEST BAIT

Gulp! is their go-to swimbait. They prefer 4-inch grubs in pearl/white or chartreuse with a ¼-ounce jighead.

If the jighead is heavier, the flounder will be more hesitant to bite, and you are more likely to get hung on structure., they cautioned.

Bounce the swimbait slowly off the bottom on the retrieve. When a flounder is on, your line will get heavier after the



Flounder are usually in places where current and still water meet, often in an eddy area.

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A soft-plastic grub and a piece of live shrimp threaded onto a jighead is a great flounder combination.

drop, and/or there will be a few firm bites.

A medium-fast tip rod in the range of 6-foot-6 to 7-foot will allow you to feel the bite better. Do not immediately set the hook. Wait for the flounder to eat the grub a bit. Count to one-Mississippi, two-Mississippi, loosen the tension and give them the rod before setting the hook. Fish on!

Flounder should still be in the marshes through June.

According to local fishermen, the regular flounder run was missing last fall. Fish usually gather in channels heading to the Gulf where they will spawn, typically happens

from late October to the end of November.

Lewis suggests planning a flounder trip around high tide; he said to be flexible when it comes to switching techniques, lures, and baits. Some days, the flounder will bite only jigs baited with live shrimp, and other days they want only jigs baited with shad.

If you want to diversify your catch with redfish and speckled trout, the easiest way is to look for schooling activity. Topwater activity and diving birds are key



Flounder should be in the marshes around Lake Charles through June.

indicators. A popping cork with shrimp or a shrimp lure will work magic, as will noisy topwater lures such as a Super Spook Jr. Prime conditions include clear water and light to no wind. ■

- Dora Lambert

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A man wearing a cowboy hat and a life vest is smiling while holding a large bass. The background shows a body of water with marshes.

BASSMASTER CLASSIC WINNER JACK HAINS LOVES THIS LAKE. HERE'S WHY

The big-bellied, dark green and black bass smashed the Chatterbait being pulled along a point in one of the most pristine marshes in the country, Lacassine Pool inside the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge. The man on the other end of the fishing line, a man who made a name for himself by becoming the first bass angler from Louisiana to win the Bassmaster Classic Championship, set the hook as hard as the bass hit the Chatterbait.

Jack Hains of Crowley, who was born and raised in Rayne, was in his element, even in the elements, which were yucky that April morning in southwest Louisiana. Hains drove his Toyota pickup truck pulling the long, narrow aluminum boat powered by a Gator-Tail slowly on the highway through heavy rain and thunderstorms with beau coup lightning and hail to get to the Lacassine Pool he started fishing at age 15.

FISH LACASSINE LIKE A PRO

By Don Shoopman



The 69-year-old outdoorsman wasn't in the boat he borrowed from his son when he caught that beautiful 3-pound class bass under stormy skies.

It still was on the boat trailer until the last of the lightning crackled and cleared the area.

He was fishing from shore during a lull in the inclement weather, which prompted him to delay launching his boat more than two hours after his storm-related late arrival at the south landing at 8:11 a.m.

"Oh, yeah, he nailed it. That was fun," Hains said soon after catching the bass.

He released the bass immediately after a quick photo session in the rain, then turned his attention to catching more bass from one of his favorite places to fish. He did get another good, hard bite from the shoreline on the Chatterbait brandishing a large, shad-colored swim bait but didn't connect.

CLOSEST THING TO FISHING IN FLORIDA

Hains has caught many more bass than he has missed since he started fishing at Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge. He likens the Lacassine Pool, loaded with Florida bass that grow to double-digit weights, to prime bassin' waters in the Sunshine State.

Jack Hains looks around while fishing April 4 at the Lacassine Pool, where he and his son, Joey, have caught double-digit bass on the same day.

"This is the closest thing to Florida that I have ever seen. It has the same grasses," said the man with an accomplished professional bass fishing career, one that took him several times to tournaments throughout Florida.

The personable bass angler never, ever forgot where he came from. He continued to fish southwest Louisiana, including Lacassine NWR, which was created in 1937, the 123rd refuge established within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Hains has a deep appreciation for one of the true bass fishing jewels of the state, one that emphasizes providing migratory waterfowl habitat.

BANK FISH OR BOAT FISH

"There's a whole lot more to it (than ponds). This (Lacassine Pool) has a whole lot of Florida bass, big ones. You never know if it's going to be a 4-ouncer or a 15-pounder," Hains said as he drove the roads adjoining the pool on an impromptu tour because of the lingering storm system.

"That's one thing about this place. You can fish up and down the levee, 'bank fish.' There's some awful big fish caught at times (from the levee)," he said as he warmed up to his tour guide role. "There's a lot of canals to fish. See, you can fish the banks all through this. All there is is fish-able water."

Boaters, of course, are able to probe the interior's flats, pools and canals. The results are amazing as double-digit bass after double-digit bass are recorded from the time the Lacassine Pool opens March 15 and closes Oct. 15.



Joey Hains weighs his 11.46-pounder on Oct. 7 at Lacassine Pool.



On Oct. 7, 2017, Hains and his son, Joey Hains of Carencro, 41, enjoyed a trip to Lacassine Pool that won't be forgotten. The elder Hains boated a 10.51-pounder and his son got his hands on an 11.46-pound hawg, both hooked and boated within an hour of each other while they were "punching" with soft plastic creature baits. "That was absolutely insane. We caught a bunch of other big bass that same day," he said.

"It's a fun place to fish. Fish are all over it but the fish ain't everywhere. Does that make sense? Find the right color (artificial lure), find the right bottom, fish are in it. There's a lot of sandy bottom in here," he said. "Normally, these fish are in schools. You find one and there's others together."

That it all looks ultra-bassy can be intimidating inside the 16,000-acre impoundment. Like fishing vegetation? There's plenty of bulltongue, primarily, as well as maidencane, water-shield, waterlily, spikerush and southern bulrush.

"There ain't nowhere in here that don't (look bassy) is the problem," Hains said with a knowing smile.

PLACES TO FISH

That bass he caught from the shoreline earlier in the day was the biggest of the trip targeting two large areas on the north end, he said, and the south end of the west side. He also caught bass on a Stanley Ribbit, one of his all-time favorites, and a black flip-tail plastic lizard once he finally cranked up the Gator-Tail and ventured to his favorite spots in the Lacassine Pool. He also threw with a great deal of confidence a black buzz bait and a whitish Spro soft plastic frog, the bigger, popper model.

Where will a majority of the bass be at the start of this summer?

"Well, they seem to hem up in some of the ponds in June, 5- to 6-foot deep, instead of the flats. As it gets warmer, they go deeper," he said.

He'll be back then and, hopefully, there won't be a toad-floater the same day.

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- June 15 - Hartgrove Foundation Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina
- June 21-22 - LA Pipeline Association Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- June 21-22 - Creole Classic Fishing Tournament, Bridge Side Marina
- June 28-29 - Wounded War Heroes Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina

JULY

- July 6 - Annual Fireworks and Band at 10:00 p.m., Bridge Side Marina
- July 12-13 - Blue Boot Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- July 18-20 - Louisiana Dental Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- July 19-20 - Inaugural sky high fishing rodeo, Bridge Side Marina
- July 25-27 - Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion Sand Dollar Marina
- July 27 - Ducks Unlimited Banquet, GI Community Center

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BEST SPOTS AND BAITS FOR JUNE

“There are tons of stuff (habitat) available there. There’s not just one particular area. There are several,” he said.

In June he’ll probably point the bow of his boat to the bottom pool, he said, because normally it has deeper water. After fishing that area thoroughly, he’ll target the north and south sides and concentrate mostly on milfoil and peppergrass.

As for the deeper waters, Hains said, “Everywhere there’s a bridge and levee, there’s a ditch cut. Most of the deeper holes are manmade.

While the bass generally transition to the deeper areas of the Lacassine Pool, many can be caught in shallow water early and late, he said from experience.

Dark-colored GYCB Senkos and Zoom Super Flukes, as well as similarly colored 10-inch plastic worms, should put bass in the boat this time of year, he said. Black or purple colors are most effective. And large shad-colored swim baits trigger many bites in early summer, he said.

His favorite topwaters are watermelon red/pearl Stanley Ribbits and a white Spro Bronzeye Baby Popper Frog. Also, a 3/8-ounce black Snagless Sally with a gold blade triggers bites in and around the various grasses, he said.

Joey Hains hoists an 11.46-pound bass he caught at Lacassine Pool. The father-and-son team was fishing the pool and caught two 10-pound plus bass the same day.

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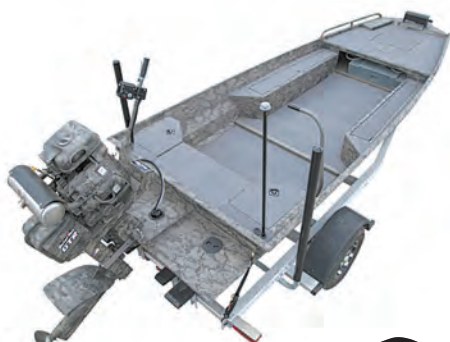
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Jack Hains steers the Gator Tail while switching fishing locations in the Lacassine Pool on April 4.

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TRY NOT TO TROLL

A majority of the time, he stopped the motor and let the wind blow the boat.

“Mostly, this is how I fish, drifting (the flats). The less you can hit the trolling motor, the better off you are. You don’t spook them. There’s so much vegetation the trolling motor (blade) is going to hit a stem,” he said.

The early morning deluge that dropped 4 inches of rain in a two-hour period on nearby Lake Charles, which is to the northwest, also raised the pool level considerably, perhaps by about a much a foot.

“I think we can go just about anywhere we want to go. Very seldom do you see that much water here,” Hains said.

“We needed a little rain ... not a flood. I would have taken about 3 inches in three days, not 3 inches in three hours.”

That he was able to get on the water finally was a relief. However, it did rain more around midday but that didn’t deter Hains.

“I’m ready. I’ve been ready. I’ve already changed baits three times in my mind. It’s going to be windy. But it’s all right. They’re going to be hungry. They better be. There’s no reason for them not to be,” he said as he launched the boat.

Hains gave the pool’s bass every opportunity to eat all of the



artificial lures he had tied on, his favorites over recent years. They have changed significantly since those days before the two state-of-the-art boat launches were built, the days when he pulled over the rollers.

“We used to fish (and catch on) Hawaiian Wigglers, Jitterbugs and other vintage artificial lures of the era, the late 1960s and early 1970s, he said, noting Snagless Sallies also were boss at the time. ■

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LIFE AFTER WINNING THE **BASSMASTER'S CLASSIC**

The former Bassmaster and FLW pro grew up on his family's farm in Rayne, where he fell in love with catching bream and bass in a pond on the property. The Hains family also had a camp at Lake Arthur, where there was a small flat-bottom boat, very convenient for a young bass angler who wanted to fish area waters, including Lacassine NWR.

He focused on bass and did more fishing, especially after high school, he said. The Rayne outdoorsman funded his bass fishing ventures as a crop duster pilot working over the agricultural fields in Acadia Parish, earning his pilot's license at age 18.

His passion for bass fishing grew. He became a competitive bass angler in a bass club, fished locally and regionally, and naturally found his way to the pro ranks. He was 25 years old when he was crowned Bassmaster Classic champion in 1975, which happened to be his rookie year in B.A.S.S.

Hains won \$15,950 with 18 bass for 45 pounds, 4 ounces, in the fifth annual Classic, held at Currituck Sound, North Carolina, on the fledging circuit run by Ray Scott of Arkansas. He qualified for seven more Bassmaster Classics and also fished the FLW. In 152 tournaments he had 24 finishes in the Top 10 and 35 showings in the Top 20, good enough for more than \$300,000 in prize money.

He retired from professional bass fishing in the early 2000s. He also was a bass fishing guide 18-20 years at Toledo Bend, where he also loved to hunt deer and wrote the Toledo Bend column for the Louisiana Sportsman, then in 2000 became a deer hunting guide at The Silos Hunting Lodge in St. Francisville.

Later, Hains worked as director of Broussard Parks and Recreation, designing the state-of-the-art Broussard Sports Complex, which opened under his watch in

July 2017. After January this year, he decided to return to guiding at Toledo Bend, where he will target sac-a-lait mostly as a member of the Living the Dream Guide Service. ■



Don Shoopman fishes for freshwater and saltwater species mostly in and around the Atchafalaya Basin and Vermilion Bay. He moved to the Sportsman's Paradise in 1976, and he and his wife June live in New Iberia. They have two grown sons.

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Eugene Ledet lips a bass he caught while on a fishing trip with John Dean. Ledet's son also enjoyed the fishing, which was good as they dead stuck Zoom Super Flukes over the Easter weekend.



RISING WATER FLOODS

Toledo Bend's bass cover. Find these and you'll find plenty of bass this month.

April showers did more than bring May flowers. They raised the water in Toledo Bend, providing more cover for bass as the spawn headed into its final stages after the full moon in April.

The lake level has risen steadily since the weekend before Easter, especially after the upper end of the Sabine River system was drenched by that twister-producing storm on April 25, the one that smashed its way from St. Augustine, Texas, across the lake, through Converse and on to Ruston, causing fatalities there.

The water rose about one inch a day the last week of April. I'm of the opinion that we will have high-water conditions in presummer. It'll happen if more storm systems make their way through the region

before Memorial Day.

My friend, Dusty Angers, a guide and retired firefighter from Alexandria, said he caught three bass at the base of cypress trees on the southern end of the lake the last week of April.

TOPWATER TIME

The unseasonably higher water can be good or bad, depending on how you look at it. Me? I look at it as topwater time coming. I don't mind higher water, because fish follow the water whether it's coming in or going out. And with higher water, more structure, including underwater vegetation, has water over it, which is perfect for running topwaters across and most of the time, for me, that'll be either a

plastic frog or a buzz bait.

Keep one of those topwaters tied on, because they will get bit.

BEDDING BREAM WILL ATTRACT BASS EN MASSE

I'm waiting for the bream to move up, which hasn't happened around this part of the lake as far as any of us know. Of course, some bream-bedding action, which brings the bass en masse, could be taking place on the extreme upper end of the lake.

Bream are the last species to make a move to the shallows and spawn. Angers hasn't seen any evidence — any tell-tale signs — that panfish are making the transition, and neither have I. The water just needs to warm up above the middle and upper 60s. I'm sure it'll happen in May and into June.

As for bass, the spawn is 85- to 90-percent finished. June will be postspawn, and summer will be knocking on June's

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Trey Ledet, out on Toledo Bend with his dad, Eugene Ledet, holds a chunky bass caught while dead sticking a Zoom Super Fluke while fishing with John Dean over Easter weekend.



door, with daytime highs consistently in the middle to upper 80s. The warmer the water, the more it enhances the topwater bite with plastic frogs — including Stanley Ribbits, Stanley Top Toads and the Spro Bronzeye Baby Popper Frog — buzzbaits, including smaller profile, 1/8-ounce models that I've been using lately, Chug Bugs, Spittin' Images and Yellow Magics.

FISH THESE ON DEEPER POINTS

Of course, I can always get out ol' faithful, the Carolina rig, and drag the deeper points, ridges and dropoffs, to catch bass. I'll put a Zoom Super Fluke on that C-rig.

Another top choice if anglers intend to target bass in deeper water is a shad-colored or chrome/blue crank bait.

And no matter where I am on Toledo Bend in June, when schooling bass action usually gets under way as the shad move out over drains in 18- to 25-foot depths and bass follow and push them to the surface, I'll have at least one of these tied on:

Tiny Torpedo, Rogue, Zara Spook. As for color, the clearer the better. Yes, I ain't kidding. Back in the heyday of schooling-bass catches, we didn't throw anything with paint. Clear was the best bet. And before the days of suspending Rogues, we used to take those clear Rogues and drill a small hole behind the lip, in the belly, dead center of the artificial lure, and that would serve to make it a lethal suspending artificial lure as water filled it on the retrieve.

Whether the bass are schooling or not, I find myself more and more fishing on the deeper side of drains rather than the shallower side of a slow-tapering point. It seems bass set up on that side with more consistency.

June is bona fide white perch, aka crap-pie or sac-a-lait, time. This is the time of year those popular panfish move to deeper domains, get on and around brush tops in 18- to 25-foot depths, where they can be caught on minnows, mostly, as well as soft-plastic and hair jigs.

I've been guiding on this lake most of my

life. June should be a prime time to catch bass on topwaters. Give me a call at 936-404-2688.

— John Dean



John Dean has been guiding on Toledo Bend most of his life. If you'd like to join him on a trip, give him a call at (936) 404-2688.





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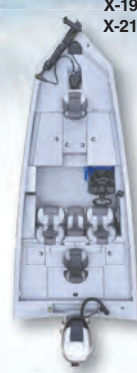
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LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

A long, fat and sassy bass that made the mistake of biting a Zoom Super Fluke offered by Louisiana Sportsman publisher Tony Taylor was one of the larger bass he caught during the six-day trip for an early April bass club tournament at Toledo Bend.

THESE FLUKES REMAIN SUPER

TRY THESE DIFFERENT METHODS OF RIGGING ZOOM'S PREMIER SOFT-PLASTIC JERKBAIT

As serious as Tony Taylor is when it comes to fishing the Zoom Super Fluke on Toledo Bend, there's always a light moment after that venerable, time-proven soft-plastic jerkbait nets him a victory in a Gramercy-based bass club's tournament each spring.

How light? Taylor has won twice in the past five years, and he does have fun when he defends his victory the following year. Taylor, a 57-year-old, all-around outdoorsman, stops at the Burger King in Natchitoches, the turning point from I-49 west to Louisiana, and makes sure to get one of those gold cardboard crowns, which he wears for about a half-day around other club members.

It's all in fun and well-received. At least one of the other guys confided they want to win just to wear a crown.

For sure, Taylor, publisher of *Louisiana Sportsman* magazine, is the king, or one of many kings, of fishing with a Zoom Super Fluke.

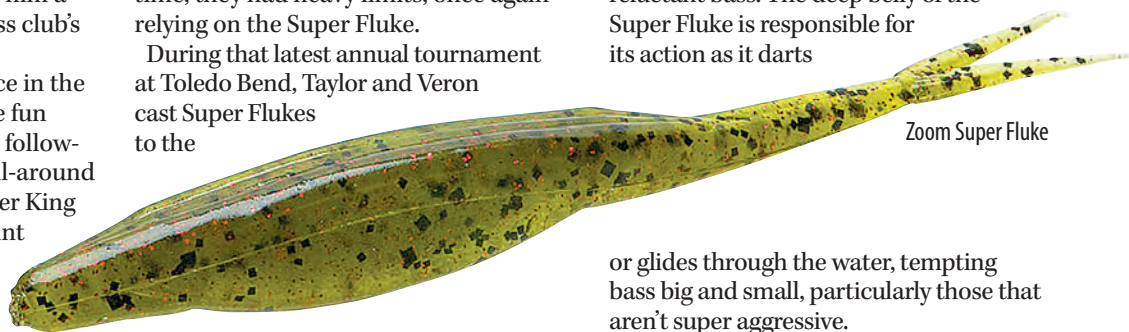
Entering this year's Road Runner Bass

Club tournament the first week of April, Taylor and Greg Veron of Gramercy had finished first in two of the previous four contests at Toledo Bend. While they didn't have the weight to win a third time, they had heavy limits, once again relying on the Super Fluke.

During that latest annual tournament at Toledo Bend, Taylor and Veron cast Super Flukes to the

on the bank and work it out. When it got to the dropoff, they'd bite."

The Super Fluke is billed as a realistic, super-soft, salt-impregnated soft plastic with seductive action to sucker the most reluctant bass. The deep belly of the Super Fluke is responsible for its action as it darts



Zoom Super Fluke

water's edge and worked them out to deeper water. The bassin' buddies had the perfect answer to bass on the verge of moving shallower to spawn. The bass they caught were in the 6-foot depth range.

"I caught a 5½ and a 6½ that week. Me and my partner, we fish exclusively with a Fluke," Taylor said. "Our fish were staged a little farther out. We'd throw it

or glides through the water, tempting bass big and small, particularly those that aren't super aggressive.

With the shad spawn in its early stages at the time of his last annual six-day trip to Toledo Bend, Taylor touted the soft plastic's shad-like shape.

"It's very indicative of a shad, a minnow or a bream. (Bass) likes to eat a small fish. This is a lot smaller profile," he said.

Taylor loves any color as long as it is watermelon/red. He tips the tail end with a dab of chartreuse garlic scent/dye.



Tony Taylor, uses these Gamakatsu 2/0 Offset Shank Worm hooks to rig the soft-plastic jerkbait.



Wade Bourgeois likes to throw Super Flukes on these Owner TwistLock 1/16-ounce, 3/0 hook.



Wade Bourgeois proudly hefts two lunker bass, both caught on Zoom Super Flukes, he caught while fishing the Road Runners Bass Club tournament the first week of April on Toledo Bend. His biggest weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces.

His love for the Super Fluke and other Fluke-style soft plastics began almost 10 years ago when he visited John Dean at Toledo Bend. Dean, who writes about Toledo Bend for *Louisiana Sportsman*, designed and created the U99 Twitch Bait and convinced Taylor to fish it on that trip to the border lake shared by Louisiana and Texas. The U99 looks like a Fluke but has a longer split in the tail.

Taylor said he was hooked from the start. Soon, he added Super Flukes to his arsenal, thanks to Dean, a fishing guide and member of the old, notorious group of pro bass anglers known as the Hemphill Gang.

Successful anglers pay attention to details when they fish the Super Fluke. For nearly a decade, Taylor has paid attention and added to the details he has perfected all those years.

For example, he fishes Super Flukes with a 2/0 Gamakatsu Offset Shank Worm Hook. Some bass anglers may think that's small, but has done the job on bass up to 8¼ pounds, the weight of a "hawg." Taylor caught four years ago, his personal best, while fishing at Indian Mounds. When it is Texas-rigged, the 2/0 hook is hidden inside the pronounced split belly.

Taylor usually fishes a Super Fluke without any weight and often is rewarded with bites from finicky fish.

Taylor changes out the hook at least once a day because he realizes a dull point, which can develop from the rigors of bass fishing, is bad news on a hookset and the aftermath.

continues on page 98

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LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

The coup de grace to his setup is when he clamps a 1/32-ounce weight 10 to 12 inches above the hook, the same way legendary bass pro Peter Thliveros of Jacksonville, Fla., fishes it. Thliveros, however, pegs the weight the same distance from the Texas-rigged bait in what became known as the "Petey Rig."

There's more to Taylor's method of putting keeper-sized bass in the boat consistently with a Super Fluke.

Taylor fishes the Super Fluke on 12-pound fluorocarbon. If he doesn't have a rod-and-reel combo handy that's spooled with fluorocarbon, he'll add a fluorocarbon leader to the monofilament line using a tiny Spro barrel swivel — which is small enough to pass through the guides of a fishing rod — to tie the two lines.

He believes with fluorocarbon, he can detect the subtlest of bites, which is often the case when fishing heavily pressured bass on Toledo Bend or anywhere else.

When Taylor adds the barrel swivel, he doesn't use or need a 1/32-ounce weight because the barrel swivel provides

enough weight.

Wade Bourgeois another Road Runner Bass Club member, caught an 8-pound, 7-ounce lunker on a Super Fluke that was the big bass in the recent club tournament at Toledo Bend. However, Bourgeois has his own method, one that he kept to himself but agreed to share with Taylor.

"(Bourgeois) was reluctant to have me talk about this," said Taylor.

But Bourgeois opened up, revealing that he uses a black chrome 3/0 Owner TwistLock 1/16-ounce weighted hook, which makes its free-fall descent more nose first. His go-to color is watermelon/blue/candy, Taylor said.

The Super Fluke is versatile. Dean religiously uses one effectively on a Carolina rig. ■



Don Shoopman fishes for freshwater and saltwater species mostly in and around the Atchafalaya Basin and Vermilion Bay. He moved to the Sportsman's Paradise in 1976, and he and his wife June live in New Iberia. They have two grown sons.

Greg Veron of Gramercy lips a bass caught on a Super Fluke in a bass club tournament the first week of April on Toledo Bend.



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DROP-SHOT THE LEDGES

By David Brown

Few rigs can achieve this level of consistent vulnerability like a drop-shot. The fish might scatter when too many crankbaits buzz past them, and they might get tired of watching a buddy yanked to topside after tipping down on that

football head. But a slender worm or small shad figure that just sits there wiggling in the current — now that's just too much to resist.

A couple of considerations:

- Take a good look at the spot you'll drop on, and if there's brush, timber or anything else that can snag an exposed drop-shot hook, Texas-rig your bait.
- If fish are suspending off the ledge, try a longer leader that keeps the bait at the fish's eye level.
- Use a weight sufficient for the depth and current of the spot you're fishing. ■

With today's advanced sonar units boasting the ability to see detailed images of not only what's under the boat but also the bottom, it's pretty easy to locate the sweet spots for bass on a ledge.

Find a nice little nook or a hefty brush pile, and you have your target for casting and winding those crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs.

But what do you do when your hot bite suddenly cools? Unless you just enjoy looking for new spots, you should pull directly over the ledge

and take a good look at your targeted spot. Often, the fish are still there; they just got tired of seeing the same types of presentations.

This is where your drop-shot can really shine. Fish move up on the ledge to feed, so it's not surprising to smoke a bunch of them on reaction baits. However, they will wise up eventually, so the savvy anglers must shift gears to pick off a few more.

As long as the fish remain on the ledge, it's a safe bet that they're still in the food mood — so it's just a matter of keeping an easy meal available to them.



BREAM FISHING 101

FOLLOW THESE CRUCIAL TIPS TO BRING MORE BREAM TO THE BOAT

■ By Kinny Haddox

If you rank all the fish available to Louisiana anglers on an “excitement” scale of 1 to 10, the lowly bream would probably come in somewhere around a 2. And it’s easy to assume that one of the reasons is because bream are just about everywhere. They are easy to catch and don’t provide that much meat to eat, unless you like to fry them whole.

But the truth is, most Louisiana freshwater fishermen break into the sport by fishing for bream.

Not all are successful even at that. If they were, more fishermen might remain bream fishermen. Being able to pass the exit exam of Bream Fishing 101 might just be the key to enjoying more success bream fishing, whether you are an 8-year-old just starting out or a seasoned veteran looking to put some tasty fish in the fryer.

SMALL BUT POWERFUL
UP NEXT >

SMALL BUT POWERFUL

“Bream fishing is a great sport, although often overlooked,” said Mike Wood former heads of freshwater fisheries for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. “Bream are eager to bite and good to eat and they pull like fish three times their size.”

Understanding bream, their habits and the basic skills of bream fishing can help you enjoy the sport more, said Wood, who has been around fishing all his life. And he realizes how unique bream are.

“Bream are the nervous busybodies of the freshwater world,” he says. “They have lots of predators, so they have to stay together. And they’re constantly in each other’s business, hoping to score a tasty morsel or even a girlfriend from the other guy.”

There are bream in almost every body of freshwater in the state, from the largest reservoirs to small farm ponds. In many instances, you don’t even need a boat because you can catch them from the bank, boat docks or fishing piers.

GEAR DOWN

To catch more bream, Wood said to gear way down. If you want to use artificial bait, that’s okay, but keep the lure small and the line light. He likes 4-pound line because it casts farther and handles so much better than 6-, 8- or even larger line. The same applies for live bait. Use light line, small hooks, light weight and a tiny cork. A live cricket slowly falling in front of a bream is too much for one to resist, especially this time of the year.



CATCHING BREAM ON A “PLETHORA”

Okay, a “plethora” isn’t a hot new bream bait. By definition, plethora means a large or excessive amount of something. One of the best things about bream fishing is the “plethora” of lures that you can catch the little critters on. The list is excessive.

The personal favorite of most people is the cricket. Sorry, but you have to buy the little grey ones at the bait stand. Those black ones that you catch under the street lights just don’t work as good. In fact, you can’t find them like you used to, so that may be a moot point.

Worms are a close second. The regular red worm-variety wigglers are great and easier to use, but the big, cold worms have gained in popularity over the years. They have to be cut or pinched in half unless you are after 2-pound bream. Good luck with that. The cold worms also seem to be more well-favored by catfish, so many anglers choose them for the versatility.

If you are lucky enough to know someone with catalpa trees, that opens you up to a gourmet bream bait that bream love. Then you’ve got meal worms, wax worms, plastic spinners, and even bream bites — little fishy smelling gobs of bright colored “stuff”...

There’s more, like whole kernel corn, small pieces of hot dog weiners or Vienna sausage will work. The best rule of thumb is this: If a bream can see or smell it and it’s small enough to fit in its little mouth, he’ll bite it! ■

Catalpa worms (top) may be the favorite of all bream baits for fishermen in-the-know, but crickets, red wigglers, wax worms and artificially flavored baits will all draw strikes.



Bream are found in just about every body of fresh-water in Louisiana, so finding a place to catch them should be the least of an angler's concerns.

THINK SOCIAL

"Aside from fishing with gear that's too heavy, it's very common for people to leave actively feeding bream after they've caught one or two," Wood says. "Bream like to bunch up with others like them. If you catch one large one, there are probably others like him around. Catching a couple may scatter them, but they'll come back. Wait them out.

"And try to keep the bumping and thumping in the boat or on the pier to a minimum," Wood suggests. That's not always possible with kids, but it does make a difference with the larger bream bite.

SPAWNING HABITS
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SPAWNING HABITS

Understanding spawning habits of bream is also key to catching more fish.

“Most of the time when people are talking about spawning bream, it’s either bluegill or redear sunfish (aka chinquapins, shellcrackers). Both species have similar spawning preferences and behaviors, except chinquapin start a little earlier in the year,” Wood said. “Spawning beds will be on a firm bottom, usually some place that’s got some sand. Bream will dish out dead leaves and mud to make beds on sand, but they will not spawn if there’s not a firm bottom under there somewhere. The beds can be as deep as water clarity will allow. Sunlight is necessary for egg incubation. In most lakes, 2 to 4 feet is the norm. But, bream can spawn as deep as 18 feet deep in big lakes like Toledo Bend.

“The males move in first and make shallow depressions in the bottom as a nest. Then, females move in for a romantic free-for-all. They spawn in groups that may have a few as 10 or sometimes as many as 75 nests so close they’re almost touching. Bream will spawn multiple time a year, especially in the summer, and such activity is usually closely linked to a full moon,” Wood said.

When they are not spawning, bream usually scatter out a bit, but still like the same type of areas that they spawn in, just a bit deeper. They usually stay in fairly shallow water all summer, and they love stumpy areas, stands of cypress trees and the edges and holes of grass beds. They’ll get in brush tops and around



fallen logs as well. Again, they need some place where they can find cover and stay in a bunch. They’ll stay there until late summer when the shallower water gets unbearably hot.

The term “bream” is collective for the nine different species of sunfish native to Louisiana. Each has its own niche, but their preferred habitats overlap, and they are often found mixed in together. Chinquapin filter bottom grit through their gill rakers in their search for small crustaceans and tiny mussels. Bluegill like lots of protective cover. Submerged vegetation and tree roots are good for that. Warmouth (goggle-eyes) have a big mouth and they like to hang around cypress trees looking for anything they can swallow. There are other varieties of panfish, perch or sunfish that swim from one end of the state to the other in our lakes and rivers.

Chinquapins are a yellowish to white color with an orange or reddish edges on

their gill flaps. Bluegills usually red and dark bluish green colors. The smaller sunfish, especially those in rivers and bayous, come in a multitude of colors. These color combinations fall short as descriptions of adult male chinquapin and bluegill respectively. It’s just a fact that sunfish are among the most gorgeous fish. They have stunning color patterns and iridescences, particularly when first pulled out of the water.

And there is a reason they are called panfish. While they don’t provide big portions of meat, they are very sweet and tasty. Bigger bream can be filleted and fried or baked just like any other small gamefish. Many veteran anglers don’t mind picking out the bones and still love to eat them the old fashioned way — fried whole. Either way, when combined with your favorite seasoning, a dose of corn meal and a pan full of peanut oil, you’ve got a tasty fish dinner that can’t be beat. ■



Bream may not be big enough to fillet, except the biggest members of the species, but they’re a delicious centerpiece to any fish fry when dropped whole in the hot grease.



Giant bluegill bream like this one, that almost covers the top of an ice chest, battle like a five-pound bass.

CAN YOU HAVE TOO MANY BREAM?

To maximize your bream population, it's important to keep small lakes and ponds in balance with fisheries and water quality. Despite the best of plans, there are usually a number of potential problems that can upset the health and quality of a small-water fish population. Bream populations play a key role in that.

"One of the most-common small water problems is an unbalanced ratio of predator fish to prey fish," said biologist Mike Wood. "Left unchecked, these situations never get better on their own. However, there are often remedies to get things back on the right track."

If you have a lake or pond that needs a simple fisheries management plan for bream or other freshwater fish, Wood works directly with property owners to offer experienced advice. You can contact him through his website, <https://mikewoodfisheries.com> ■

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Dr. Ray Jones never wastes time getting to the lake when he thinks the bream are biting. He's always ready to go. And he doesn't waste any time standing in line at the bait shop, either, especially when the summer bite is on.

Witness his 2,000-cricket capacity cricket "box." We've seen all kinds of bream buckets, cages, tubes, etc., but as his nickname, "Dr. Bream" indicates, Ray undoubtedly has the ultimate cricket bucket when he needs it. It was born of necessity a few years ago when he and some fishing partners ventured back into the wilderness of north Louisiana for several days in a row to fish lakes that weren't close to any bait shops.

But he's apt to take it along on any trip now, loaded with crickets, just to strike up conversations with other bream fishermen in case they ask, "How are they biting?" He'll give that sly old smile and say, well, they are biting pretty good or I wouldn't have this big cricket box with me! ■



Dr. Ray Jones can carry up to 2,000 crickets in his cricket box, far more than most fishermen will use in a year's fishing — or longer.

TOP TEN BREAM TIPS
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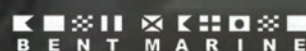

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TOP 10 TIPS TO BAG BREAM

SIMPLE TIPS FOR FINDING AND CATCHING MORE BREAM



- 1.** For beginners, fish somewhere shallow. Fishing in 4 feet of water or less helps your chances of locating fish. Starting out around a bank is a good bet. Look for stained water — not too clear, but not muddy.
- 2.** If you are taking kids fishing, this is by far the best way to fish. Use small spincast outfit or short cane poles that kids can handle easily. Catching bream is fun and much better than playing a video game.
- 3.** Use small hooks, small weights and small corks. A bream has a small mouth. Small corks also offer less resistance when you get a bite, so the fish are less likely to know you are on the other end of that line.
- 4.** Look for trees, brush tops or grassbeds that hold bream. Fish around the open edges of the cover, then just keep working areas until you get a few bites. Bream also like sandy or gravel beds along the banks if there is cover to hide in.
- 5.** The easiest baits to use are crickets. Red worms come in second and actually produce more bites, but they are messy. Canadian cold worms, catalpa worms, meal worms, small spinners, even artificial fish bites,

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Catching a mess of big bream like these requires more than luck. Follow tried and true bream fishing tips to increase your catch.

and miss the fish, check your bait and dress up the hook as needed. That seems to make a difference with the fish, especially bigger ones. When your cork moves, don't set the hook too soon. Give them a second to "take it."

kernel corn or small bits of a hot dog will catch feeding bream.

- 6.** And speaking of Rule No. 5 — when things are slow, spit on your bait. No kidding. Hey, it works. I don't know why. But there is no scientific evidence disproving the theory!
- 7.** Always, always, always, make sure the point of your hook is covered up by the bait. If you get a nibble

8. The one exception to Rule No. 7 is when fishing with a red wiggler. You can hook it in the middle of the worm and that will let both ends of the worm... well, wiggle.

9. Bream bed up several times a year. When you catch one good one, stay there in the exact same place and keep trying to make sure you don't leave a bed behind. Sometimes a bedding area no larger than the size of a washtub can hold dozens of bream. But if you aren't getting a bite, don't stay too long. Move to a new spot.

10. Go fishing. Never been a bream caught yet that just swam up and jumped in the cooler. ■



Kinny Haddox has been writing magazine and newspaper articles about the outdoors in Louisiana for 40 years. He also publishes a daily website, lakedarbonnelife.com. He and his wife, DiAnne, live on Lake D'Arbonne in Farmerville.



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Sac-a-lait have moved into Lake Des Allemands and will remain there throughout the summer, according to local fisherman Mike White. **BELOW:** Mike White caught these sac-a-lait and lake runners fishing cypress trees located in 4 to 5 feet of water.

SAC-A-LAIT EMERGE IN LAKE DES ALLEMANDS

LOCAL ANGLER DISCOVERS HUNGRY FISH HAVE MOVED INTO THE LAKE, BUT THERE'S A SECRET TO CATCHING THEM

On Monday, April 23, Mike White of Paradis confirmed that sac-a-lait have moved into Lake Des Allemands.

"Every year, they show up in the lake in May. I have been searching for them for the past two weeks and finally found them yesterday. But I stopped at three different spots before I found them," said White, who has patterned the popular panfish after 30 years of fishing and found them on the east side of Lake Des Allemands.

"They like deep water, so I'm fishing cypress trees and stumps in 4 to 5 feet," he said.

White is targeting the deepest water in the area with structure. His bait of choice

is a blue/white jig with a brown Crappie Psychic trailer.

The key to catching these fish, according to White, is to fish a shaded area or fish on a cloudy day.

"Sac-a-lait have very sensitive eyes and do not like sunlight," he said.

White said the fish won't bite under sunny conditions, so he prefers to fish on overcast days.

Des Allemands isn't the only place to catch crappie this way. According to White, the fish should have moved into a similar pattern in the following areas and they should remain there throughout the summer: Lafitte, Bayou Black Copasaw and Lake Salvador. ■

— Ann Taylor



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SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Brian Cope

Ethan Cox shows off a chunky warmouth caught on ultralight gear in a millpond. Warmouth are often overlooked or misidentified by fishermen.



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: WARMOUTH SUNFISH

DON'T MISTAKE THIS SPORTING SUNFISH FOR ONE OF ITS CLOSE RELATIVES; IT'S SPECIAL

The warmouth is one of the more interesting and often misunderstood — and just as often, misidentified — species of the sunfish family.

This fish (*Lepomis gulosus*) is native to the southeastern United States, and while many people believe it is a cross between a crappie and a bass, a crappie and a bream, or a bream and a bass, it's actually not the product of any crossbreeding, but is its own species of sunfish. It is closely related to bluegill and redbreast.

The very name "warmouth" has some mystery behind it. Some believe the name comes from the markings that extend from the mouth to the eyes,

which resemble the war paint used by Native Americans. Others think the sheer size of its mouth, which is similar to the mouth of a bass, gives the fish its name: "Mouth so big you could have a war in it!" Still others believe it's the mispronunciation of "more mouth," which this fish has over its sunfish relatives.

Proportionately longer than most other sunfish, warmouths typically have red eyes, a mottled or splotchy body of olive brown with a purple sheen and prominent lines that run down the body, as well as away from the mouth. The dark ear flaps are short, stiff and sometimes sport a small, reddish spot. And previously mentioned, their mouths extend to

about the midway point of their pupils, allowing the lips to flare like that of a bass or crappie.

When spawning, male warmouths often display a bright red or orange spot at the base of the dorsal fin.

These fish are usually found in slower-moving water, like swamps, small streams or brown- and blackwater tributaries of rivers, but it's not unheard of to find them in ponds and some lakes. They have a high tolerance for dirty, muddy water. Warmouth do most of their feeding on smaller fish, insects, crayfish and shrimp.

Like most sunfish, the males build nests mainly by fanning out areas with their tails, and big groups of nests are often

built together, sometimes among dozens of other warmouth nests. In tight quarters, warmouth will also construct nests among the nests of other sunfish species. They spawn throughout late spring and summer as long as water temperature is warmer than 70 degrees.

Females lay between 2000 and 20,000 eggs and divide them up between multiple nests. Warmouth guard their eggs and stay with hatchlings for a short time period.

Anglers can catch them with live worms, crickets, small crayfish, minnows and small artificial lures like Beetle Spins, Roostertails, and ultralight crankbaits such as the Rebel Wee Craw and Crickhopper lures. Fishing tight to cover like stumps, logs, vegetation and river banks is a good bet for anglers. Incoming waterways like smaller creeks or even rainwater runoff are always promising spots, too.

Using ultralight rods and reels will ensure anglers a fun and good battle and will make these spunky fighters feel much bigger than they are. They are often caught among bluegill, redbreast shellcracker, and other sunfish.

These fish are often misidentified as bluegill, redbreast, smallmouth bass, crappie and green sunfish.

Warmouth are known by several other names across the south, including stump-knocker, limb bream, moomouth, molly, goggle-eye, red eye, red-eyed perch, and red-eyed bream.

The average warmouth ranges from 6 to 8 inches long and has a life expectancy in the wild of about 8 years.

The Louisiana state record is a 2.13-pound warmouth caught by Frank Dean, Jr. in the Atchafalaya River in July 1987.

The Mississippi state record was caught by Lillian Morris in Black Creek in June 1979. The fish weighed 1 pound, 8 ounces.

The world record warmouth was caught from the Yellow River in Holt, Fla., in 1985. It weighed 2 pounds, 7 ounces. ■



Brian Cope of Edisto Island, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and has been writing about the outdoors since 2006. He's spent half his life hunting and fishing. The rest, he said, has been wasted.



A short ear flap, a long mouth, red eyes and dark, vertical bars are markers of warmouth sunfish.

Image courtesy of SCDNR

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DO STINKBAITS REALLY CATCH MORE CATFISH?

By Hal Schramm

Blues, channel cats utilize keen sense of smell to locate food sources

Cutbaits. Stinkbaits. Dipbaits. Hot dogs, cheesebait, chicken livers, Uncle Cooter's-can't-miss catfish concoction and an endless list of other home brews are used to lure catfish.

For many catfish anglers, at least those pursuing channels and blues, success follows those in the right place at the right time with the right smell or flavor.

So just how good are catfish at sniffing out

your bait? Pretty darn good, according to some intricate and sophisticated studies.

Catfish detect chemicals in the water by smell and taste, and both senses are well developed. The two senses differ in the location of the sense organs and the part of the brain where the signals are processed, but both senses work the same in that a nerve cell fires when triggered by a certain chemical or family of similar chemicals in the water.

OLFACTION – THE SENSE OF SMELL

The catfish version of a nose is a pair of olfactory pits on the top of the head into which water enters, flows through an elaborate surface area covered with sensory cells and exits.

Channel catfish can detect certain amino acids at concentrations of 0.17 parts per million to 0.00017 parts per million. Let me put this low concentration in more meaningful terms: Channel catfish can detect certain amino acids at concentrations as low as a teaspoon of chemical in an acre pond that averages 3 feet deep.

Channel catfish's sense of smell has similar acuity to that of some mammals. I'm not talking about you and me: I'm thinking of mammals like whitetail deer that

can sniff you out 100 yards downwind or that bird dog that can smell a quail 30 yards away.

GUSTATION – THE SENSE OF TASTE

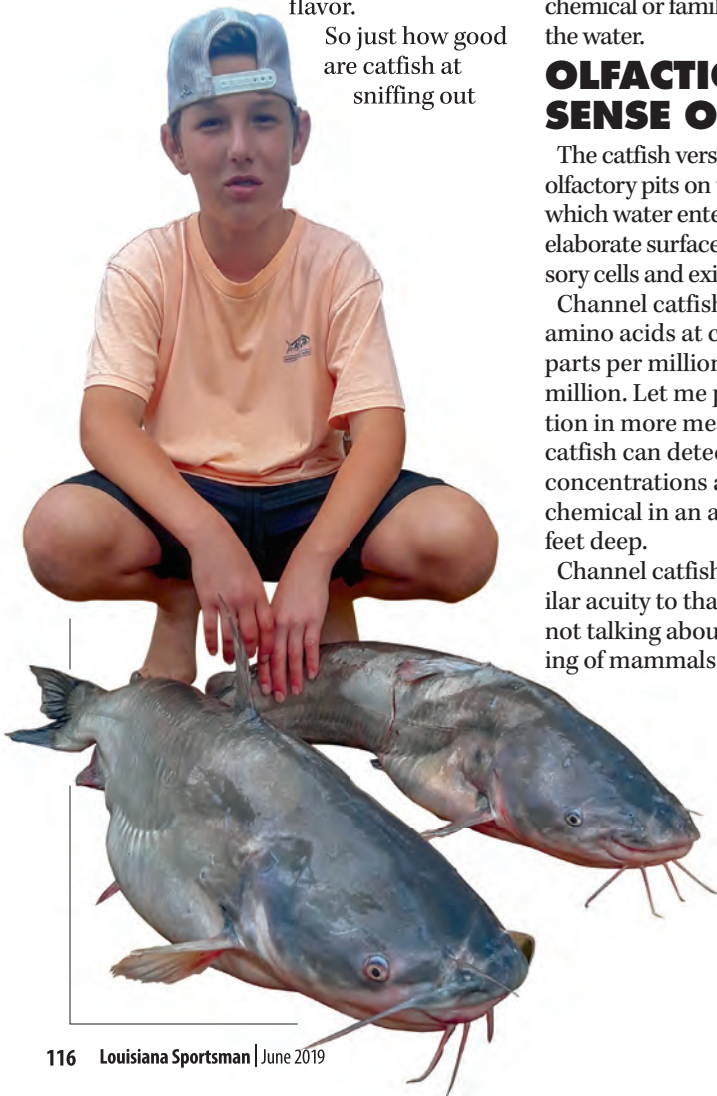
Cells that function for taste are concentrated in the throat and on the barbels (aka whiskers) but, in fact, they cover the entire body. Taste receptors on the skin and barbels allow the fish to taste a potential food item without ingesting it.

Catfish can detect "biologically meaningful" chemicals by taste at concentrations as low 1 percent of what can be detected by smell, and catfish have the most-sensitive sense of taste known among vertebrate animals. Channel catfish are able to detect a couple of drops of certain amino acids in the one-acre pond mentioned above.

EFFECTIVE CHEMICALS

The range of chemicals catfish can detect is far from fully explored.

Above, I mentioned "amino acids" and "biologically meaningful" chemicals. Amino acids are small molecules that are the building blocks of proteins, so all catfish food sources contain amino acids. Thus, amino acids make good "real-world" chemicals for testing detection thresholds. They are also chemical molecules to which catfish have high sensitivity.



Carson Landry, 14, with catfish caught fishing jug lines baited with live crawfish in Belle River.

continued >

Damon Cox holds up a Mississippi River blue catfish.



Detection of other chemicals, such as chemicals excreted by intact or injured fish, also allow catfish to zero in on prey. Different chemicals signal whether the prey is alive or dead.

Catfish can detect at least several different amino acids and, based on learning experiments, can discriminate among them. What is not clear is whether catfish can use chemical signatures — that is, the mix of different chemicals — to differentiate among food sources. However, differentiating different food sources might be unimportant, as blue and channel cats eat a wide variety of plant and animal materials. And blue cats are notorious scavengers.

FEEDING RESPONSE

Laboratory studies have shown that catfish will follow a chemical gradient to locate the source. When an amino acid is detected, a catfish begins swimming toward the source, increasingly turning, presumably to decipher the direction of the source.

As the concentration of the chemical increases, the catfish begins biting and snapping, but only solid objects trigger swallowing.

STIMULUS OVERLOAD

Catfish are clearly able to detect changes in concentrations of chemicals and, thereby, follow a scent trail. But lab studies suggest you can have too much scent.

Although catfish live in a variety of water conditions, many live and feed in deep, turbid rivers where there is zero light and finding food is solely a function of chemical detection.

While a lot of attractant might lure catfish from a larger area in standing water or a greater distance downstream in flowing water, a large, dense cloud of your chemical attractant might also hinder them finding your hook because they are unable to pinpoint the source of the scent.

Now, would someone please tell me how long to age a box of chicken livers to make them work best? ■

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CUT THE GRASS, RUN THE RIPS

Bluewater action is on the menu this month with red snapper, yellowfin tuna and the most-colorful battler in the Gulf, dolphin.

By Rusty Tardo

Photos courtesy of Home Run Charters



IF OFFSHORE ANGLING IS ON YOUR MENU, THIS IS THE MONTH TO FEAST!

Red snapper season is open again, and that means great fun at the rigs; yellowfin tuna action has been extra-good around the deeper, offshore rigs in 1,300 to 7,000 feet of water on out, and June and July are the two best months for some non-stop action along the bluewater rip.

GRASSLINES AND RIPLINES

There is a big difference between a grassline and the bluewater rip line, though fish can be caught at both. A grassline occurs when strong currents collide in the green water just off the coast. The competing currents collect anything that floats along them, and that makes for forage for dolphin — Hawaiians call them Mahimahi, meaning strong or very strong, because of their fighting ability — tripletail and even cobia. So a grassline is essentially a strong current line with green water on both sides.

A ripline occurs when the strong bluewater offshore current meets the greenwater current, forming a very distinct and sharp contrast between the two currents: a “ripline.” The contrast in color is profound. The bluewater side is clear blue, allowing you to peer deep into its depths, and the blue water also has cooler, sometimes much cooler, water. The greenwater side is dull and opaque by comparison. And just like a grassline, the ripline current is a surface vacuum cleaner, collecting everything that floats past: grass, trash, lumber, debris, logs... anything. The floatsam serves as a shelter for a variety of small fish and baitfish, which are a tasty target for toothy predators.

WHEN TO GO

According to John Pisa of Home Run Charters out of Venice (504-982-8862), a ripline can form at any time, but the best months for fishing them are June and July. “We’re seeing a lot of good grasslines

already forming up, and you can often find some dolphin along them,” he said. “Most of them are smaller fish, in the 20-inch size range, but the target will be the bluewater rip where the bigger fish will lurk, and the action will be fast and furious.

“If you really want to get somebody hooked on offshore fishing, few places offer more non-stop action than a good ripline. There are Mahimahi — large and small — occasional white marlin, blue marlin, wahoo, blackfin and yellowfin tuna (including some rogue big fish), occasional sailfish, and whenever I see a log floating in a rip current, I look for a nice tripletail beside it.

continued >

MAHIMAHI FAST FACTS

- **Keepers all.** There is no legal size or creel limit on Mahimahi, but many charterboats self-impose a per boat, per day limit.

John Pisa of Homerun Charters in Venice tries to only keep fish big enough to gaff — fish the 10-pound range and up — and they like to limit their creel to 20 to 30 fish per boat per day.

- **Live fast, die young.** Mahimahi grow so fast — the young ones up to 5 inches per month — that Pisa said you can afford to pass up the smaller ones early in the season because they’ll be gaffable by end of the season. Experts say the fish have a short lifespan, from as short as two to perhaps as long as four years, during which time the males, aka bulls, can grow to be 5 feet long and 50 to 60 pounds.

- **Voracious appetites.** The only way Mahimahi can sustain their incredible rate of growth is to eat constantly. They aren’t finicky eaters, either, so they’ll readily maul almost any bait you throw or troll.

- **Louisiana record.** According to the official state record, meticulously maintained by the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, the biggest Mahimahi ever caught in Louisiana waters was a 71-pound beast boated by Robert Prest IV in June 1976. All of Louisiana’s 10 biggest Mahimahi were caught in either May or June. ■



Mahimahi grow at an extremely fast rate; a 5-year-old fish can weigh 60 pounds.

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Wahoo are extremely strong, fast bluewater predators that are often caught by anglers trolling the bluewaters of the Gulf of Mexico.



Usually there are loads of chicken dolphin (smaller

Mahimahi) that will attack just about anything you throw in the water, and they put up a heck of a fight, running and jumping and twisting like acrobats," Pisa said. "And then there are the bull dolphin, averaging 25 to 50 pounds and even more. And nothing in the Gulf compares to the luminescent, neon-like colors of Mahimahi just out of the water.

"It's just a great way to catch a lot of fish, because along the ripline, there's usually not much down time."

Pisa said the tactics are easy to learn and put in play.

"You can just troll the ripline on the bluewater side, pulling artificial shaky baits (Rapalas, Russelures) or dead ballyhoo or hardtails, and you can sight-cast Nomad poppers at them when you see them swimming along the rip," he said.

"When you get one on the line, a group of others will usually follow them, so you can cast and catch a bunch."

LOCATING A BLUEWATER RIPLINE

Finding the ripline can be tricky, because currents move and change. A distinct ripline today can be broken up, dissipated or miles away tomorrow. You want to find a distinct line, because that's where the fish will be. A broken-up line holds less promise, and where the line between bluewater and greenwater is gradual and indistinct, don't waste your time, Pisa said.

- Subscribe to an app. "Most offshore anglers subscribe to apps like Ripcharts or Hilton's Realtime that provide real-time or near real-time satellite imagery, so you can look for those very distinct current color lines. Other free apps might be helpful, like MODIS," Pisa said.

- Call a friend, the marina you launch from, or an acquaintance who was offshore the previous day. "They can tell you where it was that day, but it doesn't mean it'll be there tomorrow. There are no guarantees. Rips can vanish quickly," Pisa said.

- The other thing you can do if you're fishing out of Venice

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YAMAHA

is just head south.

“Generally speaking, you can just make the run south out of Venice through South Pass and hope you run into it. The rip could be 20 or 30 miles out of the pass, or it could be 50 to 70 miles. Sometimes you just have to try your luck,” Pisa said.

“Of course we always hope the ripline moves close in for the summer, and it generally does. And then by late summer, the big Gulf loop current takes it back out into the southern Gulf, and we say good-bye to it. That’s why you want to take advantage of the now.”

SUMMER BONUS

“We love June and July because whether we’ve fished the ripline or the deepwater rigs offshore for big tuna, we always hit the rigs for red snapper on the way in, and usually some mangrove snapper as well. It’s win-win,” he said

Reminder when rig-fishing: Amberjack season and triggerfish seasons are closed.

You can check out Capt. John Pisa’s website at www.homeruncharters.com.



Rusty Tardo grew up in St. Bernard fishing the waters of Delacroix, Hopedale and Shell Beach. He and his wife, Diane, have been married over 40 years and live in Kenner.

BELOW: Anglers who get on the right grassline or current rip will often be rewarded with a great catch of dolphin and yellowfin tuna, and there’s always bottom-fishing for snapper.





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Rodeo winners detail how they target evasive fish and claim there's one thing you must have to catch them.

There's a fish worth as many points as a tuna or red snapper in at least one saltwater fishing rodeo along Louisiana's coast — and arguably as good or better tasting than those two popular species.

The Gulf of Mexico's tripletail generate plenty of sport and excitement for many offshore anglers, including Lannie Buteau of Jeanerette and Paul Migues of New Iberia.

Buteau, 58, has been fishing offshore since his mid-20s, many of them with the same crew and skipper. He has used each trip as a lesson on how to put fish in the boat.

"Through the years, we've learned how to target each species of fish," he said. "When we first started out, we didn't have a clue how to target tripletail. It was always a big challenge, even though they can be found outside Southwest Pass (just west of Marsh Island) to 100 miles out."

One bragging-sized tripletail he hooked and boated, he said, was within sight of Marsh Island.

"I've actually caught tripletail by Diamond Reef. One of the biggest tripletail I've ever caught I was fishing for redfish by Diamond Reef," he said.

The man at the helm on the offshore trips they take, for competition or for fun, is Jacques Hebert of Patoutville. *Sea Mistress*, his 36-foot Lafco hull, has been the top boat at the Iberia Rod & Gun Club Saltwater Fishing Rodeo every year since 2010 and for several years before. Sometimes, a tripletail or two make the difference.

Hebert takes the boat to where the fish are and joins his top-notch crew in

putting them in the boat. However, tripletail take a backseat to other species much of the time, he said.

CATCHING ONE IS A BIG DEAL

"We only target tripletail for the rodeo, and it's a big deal when we catch one," said Hebert, the 59-year-old owner of Streamline Industries LLC, which provides high-quality machining services and manufacturing of specialized equipment for the oil and gas, sugar and chemical industries.

Migues, 35, who owns Migues Electric LLC, said, "We don't see a lot of them. When we do see one, especially when we're fishing a rodeo, you get excited, and you've got to put them in the boat. On a good, sunny day, if you've covered enough ground, you can pick them up pretty good."

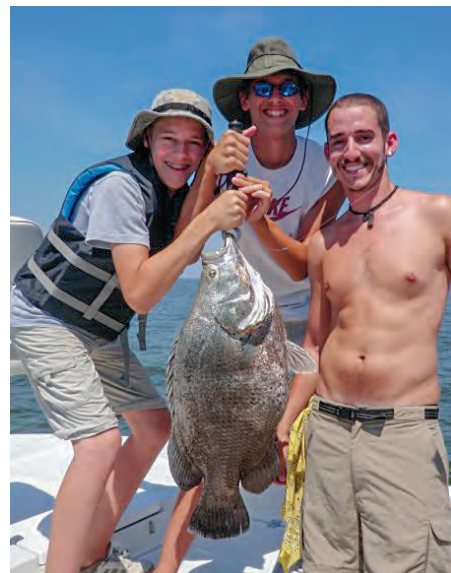
A floating pallet, he said, is a gold mine for tripletail.

Migues said he's often thought about going out to target just tripletail, then thought better about it.

"You're not going to spend a whole day and fuel looking for them. You don't ride around just to look for a pallet," he said.

Migues realized, after watching so many saltwater fishing television shows, that other Louisiana anglers target tripletail, and they boat sizeable fish, too, in the 20-pound range.

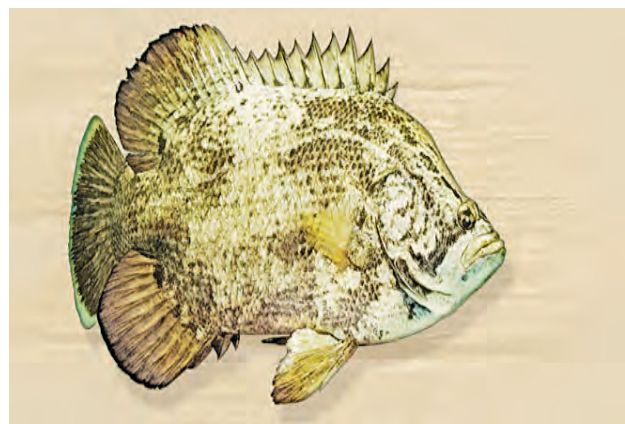
"Those guys in Venice, to the east, target just tripletail. They go to rigs and, I think,



Large tripletail like this one are common below Venice, but not so much below Cypremort Point. Offshore anglers who fish the South Marsh Island, Vermilion and Eugene Island blocks in that region of the Gulf of Mexico try to catch them off floating debris or grasslines, according to *Sea Mistress* crew members Lannie Buteau of Jeanerette and Paul Migues of New Iberia. As tough as it is, they are proficient and usually put the tasty fish in the boat, especially during the Iberia Rod & Gun Club Saltwater Fishing Rodeo on Fourth of July weekend.

use just live shrimp most of the time," Migues said. "They found out ways to get them consistently. More people target them there than they do here," Migues said.

A minimum-size change to 18 inches recently made it more difficult to get tripletail in the ice chest. Buteau said he caught one during last summer's IR&GC rodeo that was short and had to be released. It was the only one caught on the trip.



Tripletail are considered by many to be the best eating inshore fish.

The minimum size for tripletail is 18 inches.

Tripletail, with color patterns ranging from shades of yellow brown, to dark brown or black with spots and mottling, have rounded dorsal and anal fins extending almost to the tail. At first glance, the deep-bodied perch-like fish appear to have three tails, which gives them their name.

They are found in most subtropical and tropical waters as well as in coastal waters and murky or muddy estuaries.

MEAT IS DELICIOUS

"Tripletail are a very, very good-eating fish. I put it right up there with grouper. My wife (Elaine) might argue that point," Buteau said. "Her favorite fish is grouper."

Buteau's heaviest tripletail while fishing the Gulf out of Cypremort Point was an 8-pounder many years ago, he said. Migues' biggest was a 4- or 5-pounder, he said.

"The majority of all tripletail we catch are spotted long before one is hooked. You always need somebody to be on the lookout for debris on the water or a grass line," Buteau said.

"Paul and I work as a good team finding them and putting in the boat. Paul has an eye in spotting tripletail. It's hard to spot the debris, the grass line, out in the water," he said.

The anglers, at least two of them, including someone with a net, fish for them from the front deck of the Sea Mistrees.

"You present the bait a little way out and ease it right up to them, and they'll leave the debris if they like what they see. Then the biggest challenge is not to get (the fishing line) cut off under the debris or on the grass line," Buteau said.

And, he said, "They pull weight-for-weight, pound-for-pound, like a tuna."

LIVE BAIT IS KEY

Buteau said he uses a 4/0 hook on 20-pound monofilament line. As for the entrée that might lure the tripletail away from the floating structure, live

bait is the key.

"(Live) shrimp (is) one of their favorites," Buteau said.

Migues said while live shrimp often isn't available on an offshore trip, live menhaden or small baitfish from the rips will entice strikes from tripletail.

"Being alive and moving around normally triggers tripletail to strike," he said, noting that putting cut bait on a hook isn't effective because the fish nibbles all the meat around the hook.

"You have to have some kind of live bait when you pull up on them," he said. ■

— Don Shoopman



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NORTH DESOTO FISHING TEAM TAKES CHAMPIONSHIP



Eighth grade bass anglers Benton Miller and Kayden Meade from North Desoto High School in Stonewall won a 2-day North Louisiana High School Fishing League Championship tournament held on Toledo Bend.

The young anglers beat out 111 other North Louisiana high school teams and took home a new Ranger Aluminum fishing boat for their efforts. They won the tournament, sponsored by Bayou Outdoor Supercenter, with a 2 day total of 29.85 pounds and also won big bass with a 6.73-pound lunger.

FISHING REGULATIONS

2019

These regulations are unofficial. For official regulations, always check the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries pamphlet and/or the federal pamphlet. www.wlf.louisiana.gov



SALTWATER

STATE REGULATIONS (0-10.357 miles[^])

FISH Species	Minimum Length	Bag Limit (per person)
Greater Amberjack*~	34" FL	1/day*
Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish*	14-22" FL	5/day (aggregate)
Yellowfin Tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin Tuna	73" CFL	1 per vessel per year*
Bigeye Tuna	27" CFL	None
Blue Marlin	99" LJFL	None
White Marlin	66" LJFL	None
Sailfish	63" LJFL	None
Swordfish*	29" CL or 33 lbs. DW	5 per vessel per trip
Cobia (ling or lemon fish)	33" FL	2/day
Drum, Black	16" TL	5/day#
Drum, Red (redfish)	16" TL	5/day#
Flounder, Southern	None	10/day
Groupers* Gag [^] & Black [^]	24" TL	4/day (aggregate)*
Scamp [^]	16" TL	
Nassau & Goliath	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Yellowfin [^]	20" TL	
Red [^]	20" TL	2 of 4 grouper total
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead shark@	None	1/day
Other sharks (except prohibited species)@	54" FL	1/day/vessel/aggregate
King Mackerel*	24" FL	3/day
Spanish Mackerel*	12" FL	15/day
Striped mullet	None	100 pounds/day
Black seabass	None	None
Hogfish	14" FL	5/day
Seatrout, Spotted (Speckled Trout)	12" TL*	25/day*
Red Snapper*	16" TL	2/day*
Other Snapper		5 mutton in 10 snapper aggregate
Mutton Snapper	18" TL	
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray (mangrove)	12" TL	10 in aggregate*
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	
Schoolmaster, Dog, Mahogany	None	None
Gray Triggerfish*	15" FL	1/day in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8" TL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, & Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person/day in aggregate*
Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish	None	
Tripletail	18" TL	5/day

CFL = curved fork length LJFL = lower jaw fork length CL = carcass length
 DW = dressed weight LJTF = lower jaw to tail fork FL = fork length

FRESHWATER

FISH Species	Minimum Size Limit	Bag Limit (per person)
Crappie	None	50/day*
Buffalo Fish	16" TL	25/day
Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou)	12" TL	25/day
Channel Catfish	11" TL*	***
Blue Catfish	12" TL*	***
Bowfin	16" TL	None
Flathead Catfish	14" TL*	***
Crawfish	None	150 lbs./day
Paddlefish	30" max LJFL	2*
Shad	None	50 lbs./day
Black Bass (largemouth & spotted)	None*	10/day*
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass	**	5/day*
Sturgeon	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
White Bass	None	50/day*
Yellow Bass	None	50/day*

* see exceptions in pamphlet.

** no more than two may exceed 30 inches.

*** catfish limit is 100 in aggregate; however, 25 fish in aggregate may be undersized.

only one fish may exceed 27 inches. @ Shark season is closed between April 1 and June 30.

[^] Closed season for gag grouper Jan. 1 - May 31. Closed season for black, red, yellowfin, yellowmouth & scamp grouper from Feb. 1 - March 31. ~ Greater amberjack season is open Aug. 1 - Oct. 31. * Closed season on gray triggerfish May 11, 2019 - March 1, 2020.



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HUNTING LAND HACKS THAT BRING IN DEER

Want to have a successful hunting season? These **5 SIMPLE TRICKS** will attract more deer to your land.

By Joe Macaluso

OK, IT'S JUNE AND YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT FISHING TRIP, A VACATION TO COOLER CLIMES, ANY WAY TO BEAT THE HEAT, AND, SURELY, DREAMING OF THAT FIRST COOL AUTUMN DAY.

You know what happens then?

That night, in that minute before you go to sleep on that hot summer night, the memory of those cool mornings in a deer stand waiting for that buck you saw last year coming into gun range takes you into dreamland.

Admit it: you've done it, and the dream repeats almost nightly to the point where it becomes a haunting hunting nightmare. You know that trophy buck hears something stirring, or he catches wind of you, or, dammit, he just decides to do something big bucks like to do — like vanish.

So, these days, while you're dreading the next time you need to mow the lawn, think about those soon-coming days, and think about the things you can do to keep ol' Mr. Buck in your zone, things you can do today that could lead to successful hunting when the season opens — and it's coming faster than you think. >

THERE ARE FIVE RELATIVELY EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO IN JUNE TO HELP YOUR HUNTING LATER THIS YEAR, SOME SAFETY ORIENTED AND OTHERS HAVE BUILT-IN “SWEAT” EQUITY.

Now that the state has banned the use of doe-in-heat (deer urine) attractants, you’re going to have to come up with other ways to keep deer in your hunting area.



Anthony Hebert had been chasing this buck for five seasons on private land in St. Tammany Parish. When he and his life-long friend pulled camera cards and went checking on feeders, one of the feeders had a crack on the side and the corn had gotten wet and began fermenting, so they dumped almost 200 pounds on the ground. The next day, Hebert hunted over the fermented corn, and got this 8-point with a 21-inch inside spread, measuring 135 inches B&C and estimated at just over 200 pounds.

1. ADD LIME TO YOUR SOIL NOW

Mother Nature seems to have shorted our dirt on a valuable mineral — lime — and if you want fertilizers to have full effect when you plant the clovers and other deer-attracting succulents to your plots, then now is the time to let spring and summer rains dissolve this mineral into the soil.

It’s also a good time to collect a soil sample and send it to the LSU AgCenter. The website: lsuagcenter.com.

There you can find the “Services” pull-down, then find the “Soil Testing Lab” section to find out how to take samples and where to mail them. There’s a small fee, but it’ll be worth the effort and maybe a few dollars to find out exactly what you need to add to your plot’s soil.

You’ll have to know what’s there and what seeds you plan to use for a specific recommendation on how much lime and fertilizer to use. It’s always better to have the soil ready for the seed in August, but the downside will be stimulating growth of unwanted vegetation. You can take care of that problem when you’re taking the soil samples.

2. FERTILIZE THESE TREES

David Moreland, a veteran deer biologist and former chief of the wildlife division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, said the past two years have been first-rate mast producers in virtually every corner of the state. “Mast” is the term for acorns and other nuts most game animals use for food — nuts are high in fat — and the tannins present in acorns help clean our their insides. Yeah, feral hogs like ‘em, too.

Moreland has been around the block long enough to know heavy mast production is the best way to keep deer in your hunting locale.

While it’s usually good to let Mother Nature have her way in the woods, you can help the trees produce good crops.

First, find the white oaks, the trees like cow oaks that produce big acorns. Deer will eat the smaller red oak acorns but really like the big nuts, and if you listen closely during the fall, you can hear deer crunching down on this feast.

Fertilizers during the spring help: use a simple 8-8-8 or 13-13-13 fertilizer and use a heavy prod or pointed shovel around the tree’s drip line under the tree’s outermost

branches. Punch holes at the drip line and fill the holes with fertilizer. You’ll be amazed how this helps acorn production.

Fertilize briars, too, because heavy stands of briars can lead to keeping deer close. Deer browse on these plants, especially in swampy areas, and will eat the fruit and succulent new growth.

3. SET UP A SALTED STUMP

Old-timers swear by salt blocks, and there are enough companies making all sorts of this attractant. The best around is a mineral-laden salt block set on an old stump. Let summer rains wash the minerals and salt into the stump, and you’ve set up a spot, deer will visit almost day after day. I’ve seen stumps literally torn apart by salt-desiring whitetails that will return to the spot after the stump is worn down to the ground.

4. KILL THE HOGS

Problem is, feral hogs like salt, too, and hogs are destroying deer habitat across Louisiana. If you have hogs, take time to try to thin them out this summer. Yeah,

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it's hot, but not only will hogs eat like pigs, but they'll also use the salt and other deer food to breed like rabbits, and they'll wallow out good deer-food places. The state allows night hunting for hogs. Check out the Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet for the regulations. You might not know if hogs have invaded your spot; checking now could save you lots of problems in the future.



Braxton Rodrigue killed his first buck on family land in Concordia Parish on Dec. 8, 2018.

5. SUMMER-IZE YOUR STANDS

In past years, you've waited until the week before the season to head into the woods and make sure your stand is clear of all sorts of unwanted things. It's then when you've rattled around enough to let the deer know you're getting ready to come into their neighborhood. Get rid of the poison ivy vines and the creepers now. Clean out leaves that have fallen into the stand since your last trip, so little critters don't find a home. You remember you wanted to change out something in the stand when you left it. Now's the time to do it. ■

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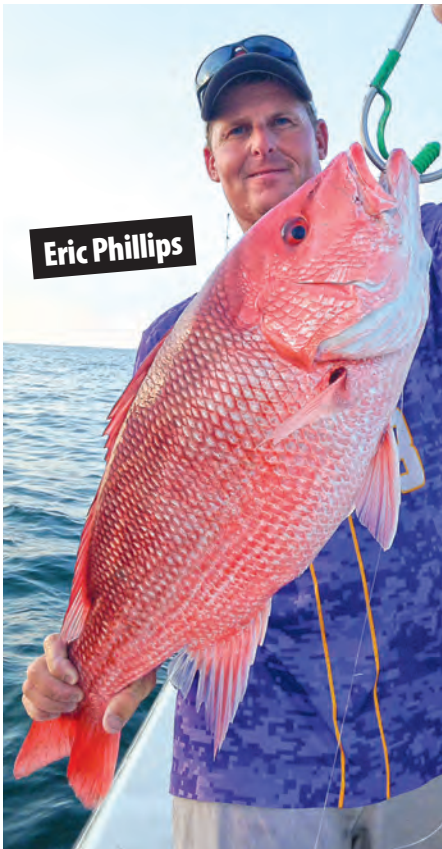
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RED SNAPPER SCRAPBOOK



Eric Phillips

This red snapper was caught by Eric Phillips on a trip out of Grand Isle. He was fishing with squid.



Logan Haines

Logan Haines, 15, of Morgan City with his first red snapper.



Chris Russo

Chris Russo with a pair of red snapper caught in Venice.

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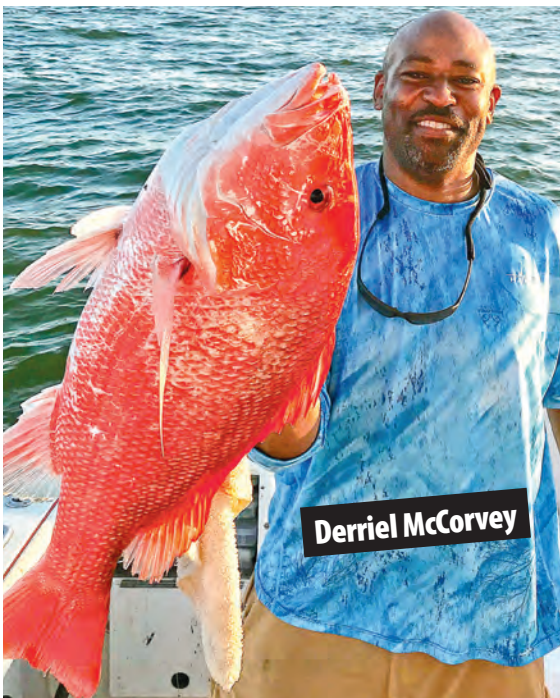
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Joey Plaisance

Joey Plaisance of Destrehan with a 12-pound red snapper from a June trip.



Derriel McCorvey

This red snapper was caught by Lafayette plaintiff attorney Derriel McCorvey while fishing out of Port Eads on July 14, 2018.



Joseph & Michael Thomassie

Joseph (left) and Michael Thomassie pulled in this big snapper from the Gulf on June 10, 2018 while fishing on the "T" Monster owned by Thomas Thomassie.

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**HOW TO HUNT
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By Jerald Horst

There really isn't any other way to put it: bullfrogs are aggressive, greedy predators.

They have huge mouths and will try to eat any living thing smaller than themselves. If a bullfrog can't get a whole critter in its mouth in one bite, it uses both hands to stuff it into its maw.

Food items found in their stomachs include crawfish, salamanders, mice, snakes, small turtles, ducklings, snails, insects, fish, tadpoles, smaller frogs and even bats.

Interestingly, most South Louisiana frogs' stomachs hold crawfish.

Most of the oddball stuff turns up in the stomachs of North Louisiana frogs that live in rivers, streams, lakes and farm ponds.

CATCH THEM WITH A LURE

Bullfrogs are so aggressive they are actually quite easy to catch on fishing lures during the daytime. A frog spotted at the water's edge is easy pickings for a Texas-rigged plastic worm: Expose the whole hook by pushing it through the body of the worm and cast it to land just above the water's edge about 18 inches to one side of the frog.

When the worm hits the bank, the frog will respond by immediately repositioning its body to face the worm. One twitch of the bait will send the frog into a head-first, mouth-open leap to pounce on the worm.



BULLFROGS





ne scientist called a bullfrog's strike a "ballistic lunge," and noted that bullfrogs always jump with their eyes closed.

Even with their eyes closed, they rarely miss. Setting the hook is simple.

Dangling a popping bug in front of a frog with a long fly rod is even more deadly than using a worm, but a fly rod isn't always handy.

A frog added to an ice chest will chill down nicely, and even one frog is a welcome addition to a plate of fried fish.

TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES

Louisiana froggers actually catch two species of frogs rather than one: the American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) and the pigfrog (*Rana grylio*).

Rana means "frog" in Latin. The species name *catesbeiana* was created by naming the frog for Mark Catesby, a well-known 18th century English naturalist. *Grylio* is a version of the Latin name for "cricket" or "grasshopper."



A full-grown American bullfrog can reach 8 inches in length; it doesn't take too many to make for a meal of frog legs.

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The American bullfrog is found statewide, and because it travels over land with ease, it will turn up in any and every waterhole — man-made or natural.

The pig frog, sometimes called a "cruk-cruk" because it produces a pig-like grunt, is limited to the state's freshwater marshes, the Cajun prairie region north of these marshes, as well as all of the Florida parishes — those parishes found east of the Mississippi River and north of Lake Pontchartrain.

While bullfrogs grow to a body length of 8 inches, pig frogs are smaller, with 6 inches being the maximum.

Pig frogs also have a more-pointed snout than do bullfrogs and are much more water-loving than bullfrogs. They seldom leave the water to sit on a bank, even when calling during spawning season.

Both species of frogs are generally olive-colored above and lighter below. Bullfrogs from the southern part of the state tend to have more-pronounced darker mottling marks than do those from North Louisiana.

Every year or so a rare "blue frog" is caught in Louisiana. More turquoise than blue, they create quite a stir amongst froggers when one is caught.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES

Froggers will also notice that some bullfrogs have bright-yellow throats. These are always males, as females have white throats.

The sexes can also be separated by looking at their tympani, the eardrums located immediately behind each eye. The tympani of males are much larger in diameter than their eyes, while female tympani are about the size of their eyes.

Females also grow larger than males.

What bullfrogs are known for, and what makes hunting them productive, is they gather into groups — called “choruses” by biologists and “spawns” by froggers — for the purpose of spawning.

There, they sing loudly to attract females, beginning in March when air temperatures rise above 70 degrees Fahrenheit and extending through the summer. Although to most people the singing all sounds the same — loud, base bellows — scientists have identified at least three different types of calls.

These include territorial calls made as threats to other males, advertisement calls to attract females and encounter calls made right before combat with another male frog.

While to froggers choruses appear to be just a group of randomly assembled frogs, they have a definite structure.

Older males stake out their territory in the center of a chorus, while younger males must settle for the edges. Dominant males that have a territory will sit more erectly on the bank or inflate their bodies to float higher in the water. Both actions more fully display their bright-yellow throats.

Non-territorial males remain in the water, with only their heads showing above the surface.

Some males adopt what scientists call a “satellite male strategy.” These males sit near territorial males, take a submissive posture and make no attempt to challenge the dominant male by intercepting females. They seem to be waiting for territories to become vacant.

Choruses are not permanent or even long-term structures. They frequently break up after a few days and reform in another spot. Individual males will often move from one chorus to another or change territories within a chorus.

When a female shows interest in a particular male, either because of his singing or because of the location of his territory, the male will climb on top of the female’s back, grabbing and holding her behind her forelegs with his own forelegs.

As she lays her eggs (up to 20,000 in a batch), the male releases sperm to fertilize the eggs. The egg mass forms a thin, floating sheet 5 to 10 square feet in size, and the eggs hatch in three to five days.

At first, the tadpoles feed by pumping water through their gills and trapping bacteria, algae and microscopic animals on mucous membranes. As they grow, they feed more actively with their mouths and use their teeth to rasp food from submerged plants and debris.



Female bullfrogs (top) have eardrums, aka tympani, about the same size as their eyes. On males (bottom), they are much larger.

They will also actively scavenge dead fish and other animals and have been known to feed on each other.

HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE?

Some tadpoles develop into frogs in a few months, while others overwinter as tadpoles.

The transformation is a major anatomical event. First, they grow rear legs. Then, as the front legs begin to develop, their bodies gradually absorb the tails.

As their gills shrink, their bodies develop the nerves and blood supply needed for internal lungs. As the gills disappear, it becomes necessary for the developing frog to come to the water's surface to breathe.

Bullfrogs can, however, "breathe" through their skins during periods of low temperatures, which is how they overwinter buried in the bottom mud. They do this through a network of large blood vessels that lie just beneath the skin, especially on their backs.

In the wild, bullfrogs are thought to live as long as eight to 10 years, although one frog in captivity was recorded to have lived to be 16 years old. ■



Jerald Horst is a retired Louisiana State University professor of fisheries. He is an active writer, book author and outdoorsman. Jerald may be reached at jerald@rockinghorst.com.

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PIG KILLER DROPS 47

BY 1:00 A.M.

By Josh Chauvin

His mission is to eradicate hogs, and he's pretty good at it

After working all day, most people enjoy sleeping at night but not Trey Dupre, aka atchafalaya_assassin on Instagram. Most nights of the week from March through September, nighttime hog hunting season, he is out there doing his best to help thin out the destructive and invasive wild pig problem that plagues Louisiana.

Dupre just doesn't go to take out a pig or two and call it a night; he goes to complete the mission of hog eradication. On average, he puts down around 20 pigs per night. One night this year, he took out 47 hogs by 1 a.m.

The photo of his truck bed loaded didn't even show five of the larger pigs he had already donated before heading to his final spot of the night. On that night, at the second spot, he put down 19 out of a sounder of 29 pigs.

Looking for an exciting hunt?

Dupre loves hunting and fishing and has been a diehard deer hunter. Now his passion is nighttime hog hunting; he said there is no type of hunting as exciting.

He enjoys eating the pig meat himself, but likes to donate as much as he can to members of his community.

This nighttime pig hunting endeavor started slightly more than two years ago, when Trey was instantly hooked when he looked through a thermal-imaging scope and saw all those hogs that were invisible to

the naked eye.

Want a place to hunt?

Talk to farmers. Dupre said to try talking to farmers to see if they have a hog problem that needs fixing.

“Be prepared and check aerial maps and drive the area in the daytime to see where it’s safe to shoot. Also search for hog sign,” he said.

However, not much scouting is needed with Dupre’s method. The farmers tell him where the fields have been getting destroyed and when fresh farming has been completed in a particular field. Dupre knows the hogs will show; all he needs is to apply his drive-around method to find them.

The pig problem hits home hard for these farmers. Sure, hogs destroy roads and forests, and they spread disease, but it’s the crops and cropland that incur the most financial damage.

Hogs damaged one farmer’s 5,500-acre tract to the tune of \$20,000 to \$30,000 in one year. And that farm isn’t even one of the major hog locations where Dupre sees the most pigs. At another farm not much larger, the estimates exceeded \$40,000 a year.

Hogs begin their destruction as soon as tractors till up the ground. The sound of a tractor and smell of dirt calls them in. Dupre often has success hunting freshly chopped fields without any crops yet planted.

HOGS WILL EAT ANYTHING

Hogs are not picky and will destroy every type of cropland, including rice, sugarcane, soybeans and corn.

But once the crops are nearly ready to

harvest is when the hogs really attack, eating the crops before the farmers get a chance to harvest.

BEST TIMES TO HUNT

Dupre calls both the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries DWF and local sheriff’s office before he goes hunting.

On full moon-lit nights, Dupre said pigs come out best in the middle hours of the night, but on dark nights, hunting as soon as it gets dark is most successful.

He wears whatever clothes he wore from work. Colors don’t really matter, but wearing lighter-colored clothes on brighter moon nights can keep a hunter from sticking out.



He likes to take out bigger boars and keeps some trophy skull mounts. He has taken down a few of these smart, elusive boars exceeding 300 pounds.

HOW TO SNEAK IN WITHOUT SPOOKING THE HOGS

Dupre usually takes one or two friends or kids to experience the action. They drive around the well-known roads through the fields using Pulsar thermal-imaging scopes that detach with quick-release mounts to spot hogs from the truck.

“The trick to seeing the most hogs is to keep moving,” he said. “Waiting around will only waste time, so I drive around until I spot a sounder. Then, I park my truck about

BEST EQUIPMENT AND AMMO

Travis Dupre sees all the action through his XQ38 Trail Pulsar scope with a traditional reticle; it’s the most-expensive part of his setup, costing \$3,400. He can see cows at 2 miles with the scope, and he can see defined leaves on trees at 400 yards in any night-time condition.

There’s never any question with thermal imaging if the animal is the intended target. He suggests spending at least \$1,800 on a decent thermal scope to night hunt. Cheaper night-vision scopes can work, but they have a much smaller range of effective use, said Dupre, who shoots an AR-15 chambered in 7.62 x39mm with 20-round clips.

Since he typically fires around 100 rounds a night, he opts for less-expensive, 122-grain hollow-tip ammo by Tulammo that cost only 20 cents a round when bought in bulk. These rounds will usually take down any pig within 200 yards with a 6-inch drop at 200.

The longest shot Dupre ever made on a hog was nearly a quarter-mile, but he doesn’t often take long-distance shots, most being within 100 yards. The pigs expire quickly from the hollow-tip bullets, seldom making it more than 30 yards after being shot. ■

Travis Dupre said a typical night’s hunt will result in the elimination of dozens of wild pigs from Louisiana farmers’ fields.

200 to 300 yards from the pigs and take to the field by sock. Sometimes I wear boots, but being quiet in the dark is important, so I'd rather the shoeless approach."

He sneaks up to 60 to 70 yards from the sounder before setting up.

The most important part in getting close is using the wind and constantly looking at the hogs in the scope as the group walks closer in a single-file line.

One pig usually stands on guard outside the sounder. That guard hog's body language is what Dupre focuses on because the other pigs are busy feeding. Also, seeing which direction the hogs are moving is important to getting set up at the correct distance.

WIND IS YOUR FRIEND

Since noise is a big concern, Dupre has greater success on windy nights with 10 to 15 mph winds. When downwind on a breezy night, the hogs simply can't hear or smell the hunters' approach.

The hunters set up in a tight pack kneeling 1 to 2 feet from each other using Primos trigger-stick tripods for their gun rest and over-the-ear style Walker headphones for hearing protection. The group goes for an initial neck shot on the first shot with a 3, 2, 1 countdown.

That's when the real action begins. After the first shot, pigs explode in all directions, and quick shooting is how Dupre takes down so many. "Aim around 5 to 6 feet in front of a pig's head on a hog at full sprint. A hog trotting slowly or in soft mud only needs about a 1-foot lead. It's similar to duck hunting, and the pigs are fairly easy to hit on the move," he said.

Dupre doesn't use a noise suppressor, but some of his friends do. The suppressors can definitely keep from scaring nearby hogs. However, nearby tree lines muffle the

sound, and Dupre often finds the next sounder of hogs feeding just a mile or so away. Sometimes, hogs come right back out into the open fields soon after he shoots.

COYOTE BYCATCH

Another problem animal is also sought on these nights — the coyote. Dupre has a dump site where the non-edible hog parts are hauled to, and he makes a pass with his truck to that area periodically. He usually shoots a coyote or two every night, once taking seven in one outing.

Additionally, the lack of hogs and coyotes seems to be helping the nearby hunters. One long-time rabbit hunter now sees five-fold the amount of rabbits he has ever seen. The nearby deer hunters are seeing and shooting far fewer pigs in the surrounding woods.

ARE HIS EFFORTS HELPING THE FARMER?

But are the hog numbers decreasing? Dupre is not so sure.

Last year, his group removed 1,187 pigs

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hog hunter

continues >

from these fields, yet on the first night of hunting the same fields this year, they found 105 hogs in one sounder, he said. In one 500-acre field, he counted more than 200. Dupre and his crew have already taken out 167 hogs this year, and he will continue to try his best to eradicate these destructive pests.

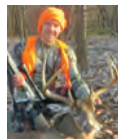
If any farmers near St. Landry Parish have a hog problem or anyone wishes to learn more about Dupre's hog-hunting adventures, they can find him on Facebook.

SHOULD WE HAVE A PIG BOUNTY?

Dupre wishes there was a bounty on pigs and thinks that's a potential solution to help with the Louisiana's huge pig problem.

But in the meantime, the Atchafalaya Assassin will be out there putting down pigs most nights for the rest of this summer nighttime hog season. Well, except for taking Sunday nights off since he says he actually needs some time to get some sleep.

"The gratification knowing how much we are helping our Louisiana farmers by saving their crops, mixed with the thrill of hunting hogs with a thermal, is unexplainable with words," he said. ■



Joshua Chauvin is a health-focused ultra-marathon runner who goes on solo manual-powered public land adventures focusing on hunting big game and large fish by using challenging methods and weapons. He enjoys self-filming and sharing the tactics and details from his expeditions to help others learn from his unique techniques.



HARD WORK STARTS AFTER THE HUNT

Most of the hard work starts after the shooting takes place. With flashlights, Travis Dupre carefully tracks any shot hogs that ran off. He drags all of the hogs out of the field and loads them up in his pickup truck, making sure he doesn't leave any mess for the farmers. Then, it's on to driving around some more until he sees more pigs.

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ONLY IN LOUISIANA

Take a trip back in time with Captain Paul Titus as he explores how many of Louisiana's hotspots got their names.

By Capt. Paul Titus

While talking to one of my avid fishing friends about a very successful fishing trip I made, I began to tease him when he asked where we caught the fish. I told him that we caught a big mess of fish in White Linen Bay.

Like the aggressive trout that soon would grace my dinner table, he took the bait.

"What? Where's White Linen Bay?" he asked.

Now I set the hook hard.

"It's just west of Bay Without Timber," I told him. "You know, we fished it before. It's out of Port Sulphur."

I really had him going. He was running deep and strong with the bait.

"You remember," I said. "The same place where we limited out over the oyster reefs year before last."

He still had that puzzled look on his face, and again asked, "Where?"

I didn't want him to shake the hook, so I asked, "Aren't you bilingual?"

"Heck, no," he said. "I'm Baptist, why?"

And then we both started laughing.

By then, he realized I was referring to Bay Batiste (White Linen Bay) and Bay Sansbois (Bay Without Timber).

Laughing together, we recalled our previous trip to Bay Batiste, where I had lost an expensive rod and reel while hitting a rogue wave in my boat. Boy, did I cry and moan over the loss of that rig.

As for the names of these bays, one could easily see how Bay Sansbois got its name. The only timber anywhere around the bay is that which is used in man-made camps and dams on the canals that parallel the shoreline of the bay.

>



As for Bay Batiste, I recall being on this very shallow bay one spring day trying to outrun a squall that turned the water into a white foam.

Remembering back then, it looked almost as if we were running on a large piece of white linen lace, hence White Linen, or Batiste Bay. Heck, if the bay hadn't already been named, I would have offered that name for it. It fit the occasion.

The names of these two bays caused us both to reflect and to ask each other how and why some of the features were named by the early settlers. We spouted out the obvious ones, like Baton Rouge (Red Stick), LaRose (The Rose), River aux Chenes (Oak River) and Ville Platte (flat town or village).

Then we began to realize there were many, many more names that described Louisiana sites. Some names were obvious, and we knew the translations, but we were both at a loss as how many of the other features got their names.

I became intrigued with the translation, the etymology and history of some of these Louisiana names. I began to keep a log of some of the locations along with their translated names. Whenever time allowed, I researched the name of the location

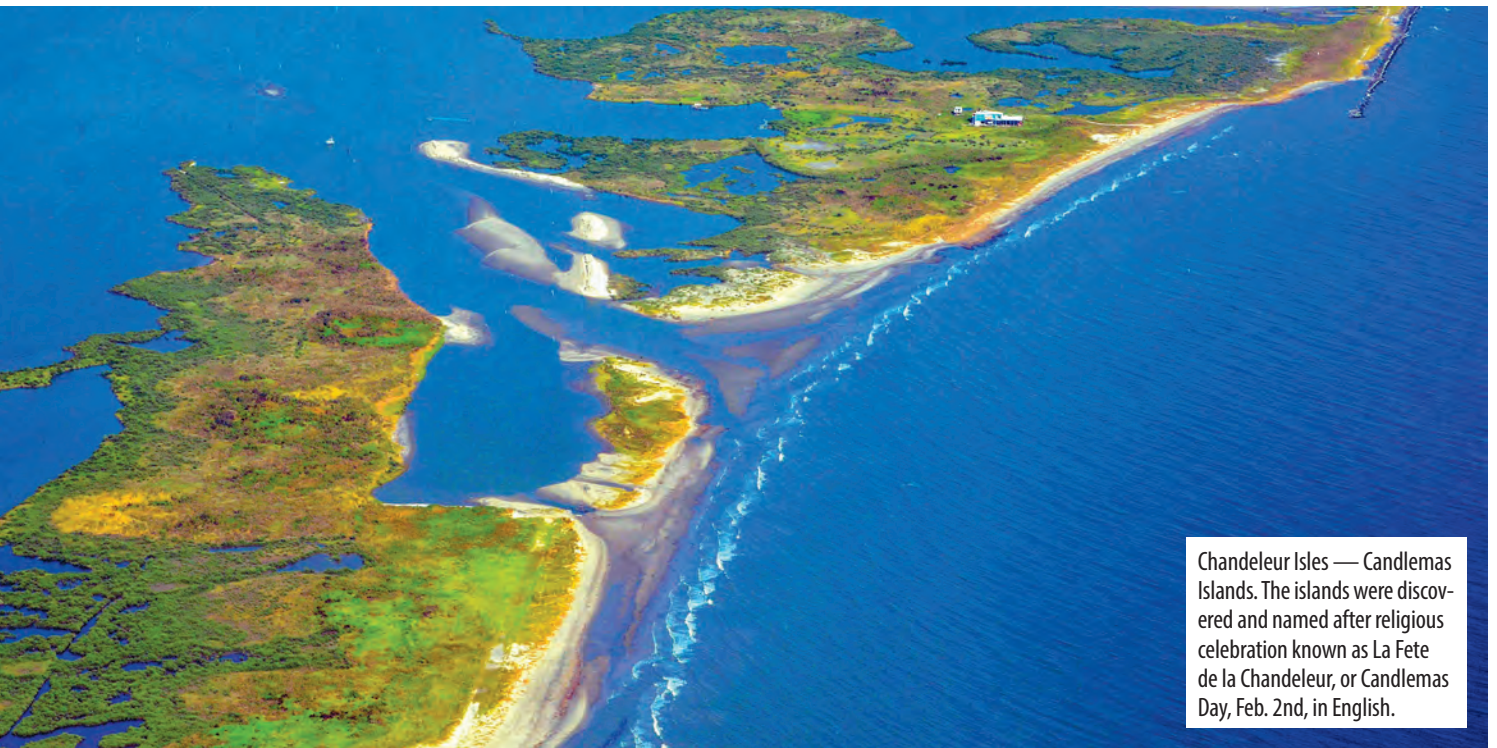
to determine how or why the place was named.

This endeavor made me keenly aware of the many, many different languages used to name our Louisiana cities, rivers, bayous, creeks, bays, lagoons and islands that are located throughout the state. I have grown to really appreciate the unique culture that we as Louisianans have.

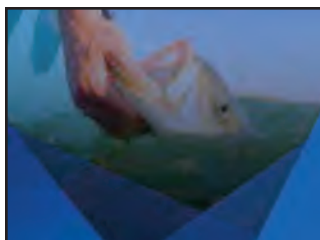
COLORFUL NAMES

Where else in the world can someone mention locations such as Brutus, Ram-Powell, Popeye, Cognac, The Midnight Lump, Lena, Horn Mountain, The Beer Can, The Milk Jug, Virgo, Macaroni, South Diana, Neptune, The Mississippi Canyon, Mosquito Hawk, Genesis, Blood Sweat & Tears, The Spider, Mars, The Black Tanks, The Dope Boat, the Concrete Rigs and Ursa, to name a few, and have the listener know that these are Gulf of Mexico offshore oil/gas fields and platforms and some favorite inshore fishing locations.

Use your imagination, and you can probably see how some of these platforms got their names, especially the "colorful" ones like The Green Monster, The Black Tank(s), The Mardi Gras Rig and The Red Chair. Although the Green Monster is actually no longer painted green, I doubt that it will ever stop being



Chandeleur Isles — Candlemas Islands. The islands were discovered and named after religious celebration known as La Fete de la Chandeleur, or Candlemas Day, Feb. 2nd, in English.



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referred to as the Green Monster. I can only guess what happened to name one of the platforms Blood Sweat & Tears.

Where else can you fish and hunt in places such as He Who Screams Like An Eagle Lake or River? Where is that you ask? Why, it's Calcasieu! It comes from the Atakapan Indian word for "Crying like an Eagle."

A REMINDER OF OUR HERITAGE

It was said that there was an Atakapa Indian chief who screamed as an eagle, hence the land occupied by those Indians was called He Who Screams Like As Eagle, or Calcsieu.

And where else can you fish or hunt the Those Who Gather Corn land (Tangipahoa) or and any one of over 30 bayous named with some form of the word Grand, or by any one of four Bird Islands, five Raccoon Islands, 15 Mud Lakes, or by or near two very different Southwest Passes and who knows how many Arpent Canals?

Not only do we have Native American, or Indian names, but also a lot of geological and topographical features, named by our early French, Spanish, German and English settlers. These names and their meanings have become part of our Louisiana heritage.

While there are certainly Native American "Indian" names that still exist for many locations, there are even more locations named by our first European settlers in their native tongue. These names were phonetically pronounced and spelled to emulate the sound of the Indian names.

Naturally when our early inhabitants referred to these sites, they did so in their own native language. These "corrupted" or translated versions of the Indian names persevered. This is probably only because the Europeans had a written language and used it in their communications. The Indians, for the most part, did not have such a means of communication. Their stories and histories were passed down verbally.

It was the European settlers who drew the maps and wrote letters and legal documents about the different locations, features and the Native American inhabitants. When they did so, they

naturally used these names as spoken and written in their own language, trying to make their words sound like the Indian words did.

A STORY TO TELL

I found that most of these names had a story to tell. During my task of solving some of the GPS position requests for my monthly column in Louisiana Sportsman and on its web site, I was afforded the opportunity to explore some of these many, many names. In doing my investigations, I found that some locations were obviously named for a prominent feature, event or individual, while others, for whatever reason, are totally lost to history.

Some of these locations were named after a person or a family name that founded or lived in the area, such as Wilkinson Canal or Jacks Canal; many more locations were named as our ancestors saw the site or how it related to a particular event, characteristic or topography.

continued >



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As an example, Bayou Sauvage meaning Untamed or Wild Bayou was used as a small-craft passage into New Orleans. It allowed the small boats to avoid the dangerous Mississippi River. Sometimes, the name was used to refer to the area as the Bayou of the Savages. No doubt, there were Indians in the area as there is an Indian burial ground on Oak Island that was alongside the bayou.

SPLIT PERSONALITY

I have even found that some maps and archive information use different names for the same location. Some maps have an Oak River while others list the same feature as River aux Chenes, and some publications list both the English version and the translated name for the feature. Cuatro Caballo Lake is often referred to as Four Horse Lake on many maps, as are two others that immediately come to mind — Last Island (Isles Dernieres) and Four Bayou Pass (Quatre Bayou Pass).

Generally you will find English names like Indian Village, Vincent's Landing, Persimmon Slough (Creek), Madden Creek, The Vale Hill, Muddy Bayou, Coon Gully and Driskill Mountain throughout the state. The Native American names or corruptions of those names are also scattered throughout the entire state, and those with French and Spanish names are usually prominent in the southern and Acadian parts of the state.

Yes, there are exceptions. I know there is a Bayou Lafourche (The Forked Bayou) in Caldwell Parish, but there are exceptions to everything.

If this sparked your interest, then continue on, as I have compiled a novice's translation and interpretation of what some of

the different names are for these uniquely Louisiana features. I am surely not a linguist or a competent etymologist, and those who may find some minor errors, but I hope all will enjoy reading this as much as I did researching it.

So, let's take a trip. Come with me on a voyage in time as well as to some of these Louisiana places. Put yourself in the shoes of our ancestors, return with me to the days of yesteryear and imagine yourself at these locations. See if you can visualize what our forefathers saw or what they heard to make them give these places the names they have today.

The journey begins

Let's start with some of the Native American names. Remember that many of these have been corrupted to sound similar to or like words in English, French, Spanish, German or even other Indian words as there was not one common Indian language among the Native Americans who lived in the region. These names were corrupted by one tribe describing another tribe in their own tribal language. ■

Abita Springs comes from the Choctaw word meaning "Source of Waters."

LOUISIANA INDIAN NAME DEFINITIONS

Abita — Source of Water, or Springs, Fountain from the Choctaw word Ibetap.

Acadia — Place of Abundance. Thought to be from Micmac Indians in Canada the word "acade," meaning a place where there is abundance.

Acolapissa (an Indian tribe) — Those Who See and Hear, "The Spies."

Adois (Adai) — Brushwood, from the Caddo language.

Alabama — Plant Gatherers, from the Choctaw word alba for vegetation; to gather.

Apalachee (an Indian tribe) — the Apalachee are originally from what is now Florida.

Atchafalaya River — Long River, from the Choctaw words hacha meaning river and falaia for long.

Attakapas or Atakapa — Man Eaters, Choctaw again; some reported there were Indians in the area who practiced cannibalism on their enemies.

Avoyelles — People of the Rocks; mainly flint-type stones, used in fire-starting and firearms of that day, in reference to a Native American nation that lived in the area.

Bayou — A Small, Peaceful River; from the Choctaw word for stream, river or lake, which is bayuk or bayok.

Bayou Bushley — Cut Off Bayou; from the Choctaw language.

Bayou Chicot — Sluggish Stream; from the Choctaw bayok for stream and the French spelling of the Choctaw word chicot for sluggish.

Bayou Goula, Bayougoula (an Indian tribe) — the River People Bayou; the hunting territory and village site of the Bayougoula Indians situated near the present-day town of Bayou Goula. Bayogola means "Bayou People." They called themselves Ischenoce, which means "Ours."

Bayou Louis — Black Bayou; from the Choctaw lusa, meaning black.

Bistineau — Big Broth in the Caddo Indian language, as describing a foam on the lake or bayou.



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Bogalusa — Black Creek; from the Choctaw words bok or bog for creek and lusa for black.

Bogue Chitto — Large Stream or Creek, as defined by the Choctaw Indians.

Bogue Falaya — Long River, similar to Atchafalaya.

Bonfouca — Friendly People Place; a corruption of Choctaw, Spanish and Creole French for the name of a friendly Choctaw chief.

Caddo (an Indian tribe) — Great Chiefs or True Chiefs; from Kadohadacho. The Caddo were made up of five tribes — the Adai, Doustoni, Natchitouches, Ouachita and Yatasi.

Cahoula — Beloved Water; a corruption of Catahoula.

Calcasieu — He Who Screams Like An Eagle; from the Atakapan Indian word for "Crying like an Eagle."

Castine Bayou — Flea Bayou; from the Choctaw kashiti meaning flea.

Catahoula — Beloved Lake; from Choctaw okhata, meaning lake and hullo meaning beloved.

Catalpa — Winged Head, referring to the blossoms of the catalpa tree.

Cataouatche (an Indian tribe) — Believed to be a corruption of cata in Choctaw for lake and Ouache for a tribal name.

Chacahoula — Beloved Home from the Choctaw chuka, for home and hullo, meaning beloved.

Chakanina — Place of Crying; from the Caddo language. It was a lake that was near the area where the Red and Mississippi once joined.

Chaoui — Raccoon (in a corrupted form).

Chawasha (an Indian tribe) — Raccoon Place; from the Choctaw language.

Chappepeela — Hurricane River; from the Choctaw hacha, for river and apeli for hurricane.

Chickima — Good; from the Choctaw language achukma, meaning good.

Chinchuba — Alligator; from the Choctaw hachunchuba.

Chipola — Feast; corrupted from the Choctaw word chepulli.

Chitimacha (an Indian tribe) — Originally lived on Grand Lake from Charenton to Bayou Portage.

Choctaw — Flat; an Indian tribe that was predominant in South Louisiana. Believed to have been so named because they flattened the heads of their infants.

Choupique — Mud Fish.

Chula — fox; from the Choctaw word chula. There was also a Yazoo Indian tribe called Chula.

Colapissa — Those Who Hear and See; corrupted from the Choctaw okla, meaning people, and pisa, meaning see. Figuratively translated as Spies.

Coochie — Little Great Water; believed to be corrupted from the Choctaw word Withlacochee, meaning Water of the Little Great River

Coushatta — White Reed Brake; believed to be a corruption of the Choctaw word kusha, meaning reed or reed-brake, and

continues >



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hata, meaning white. It was referring to a tribe living near the reed-brake. A separate belief holds that it means Black Haired, which is a corruption of Koasatie.

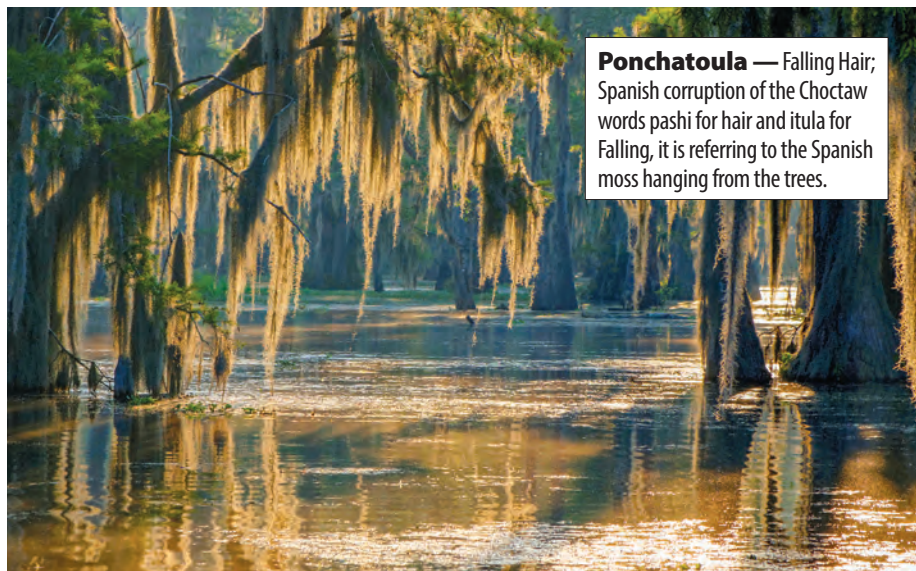
Fanilusa — Black Squirrel; from the Choctaw words fani and Lusa, meaning Squirrel and Black.

Genesse — Beautiful valley; from the Iroquois Indian word gen-nis-he-yo. Believed given to the area by Arthur Loranger, a Canadian who lived near Fall Brook, New York, near the Iroquois tribe and later moved to Louisiana. He was president of the Genesse Lumber Co.

Goula — River People.

Houma (an Indian tribe) — Red. The Houma Indians lived from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Angola. The tribal symbol was the red crawfish. Believed taken from the Choctaw word humma or homma, meaning red. It is alleged that the Houma Indians wore red leggings and moccasins.

Istrouma — Red Pole; believed to be corrupted from the Choctaw iti hamma,



Ponchatoula — Falling Hair; Spanish corruption of the Choctaw words pashi for hair and itula for Falling, it is referring to the Spanish moss hanging from the trees.

meaning red pole. A boundary marker between the Houmas and Bayougoulas Indian tribes. Called Baton Rouge by the French.

Keatchie — Panther; corrupted from the Caddoan Indian language word Kishi, meaning panther.

Kisatchie — Reed River or Long Cane; from the Choctaw “kusha” meaning reed and “hacha” meaning river.

Louis — Black; a corrupted form of the word lusa in Choctaw language.

Manchac — Rear Entrance or Short Cut; from the original Mobilian word “imashaka” and the Choctaw word ashaka, meaning behind or rear.

Mermentau — corrupted from an Atakapa name of a chief named Nementou.

Mississippi River — a Great River; Algonquian Indian name “misi” for great and “sipi” for water.

Mugulash (an Indian tribe) — People of the Other Side; Mugulash is a corruption of the Choctaw name Imongolosh.

Natchitoches — Paw Paw or Chinquapin Nut Eaters; Chinquapin is a variety of scrubby chestnut.

Natalbany — Only Bears; from Choctaw, “nita” means bear and “bano” meaning “only.” There was reported to be a dense bear population in the area at one time, and a particular site was referred to as the Bear Camp.

Natchez — another name lost to history but believed to mean Hurrying Man, Hurrying Warrior or Away From in the Muskogean Indian language.

Nottoway — Rattle Snakes; corrupted from nadowa in the Virginia Algonquian Indian language. Given to a plantation by John Randolph whose family was from Virginia.

Okaloosa — Black Water; from the Choctaw words oka, meaning water, and lusa, meaning black.

Opelousas (Okelousa, an Indian tribe) — Black Hair or Black Skull; believed derived from two lakes in the area they occupied. These lakes appeared black from the quantity of black leaves along the lakeshores.

Osca Bay — In the Cane; corrupted from the Choctaw language words oski, meaning cane, and abeha, meaning to be in.

Ouachita — Silver Sparkling Water, Good Hunting Grounds or Cow River People, depending on the dialect.

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Panola — Cotton in the Choctaw language.

Plaquemine — Persimmon; from the Mobilian Indian word piakimin.

Ponchatoula — Falling Hair; Spanish corruption of the Choctaw words pashi for hair and itula for Falling, it is referring to the Spanish moss hanging from the trees.

Poosheapatope Creek — Sandy Bottom Creek; from the Choctaw words pushi, meaning flour meal, and patapo, meaning bed.

Quinapisa (an Indian tribe) — Those Who See. The tribe lived near present-day Hahnville on the Mississippi River all the way down to the mouth of the river.

Santa Barb — Snake Creek; corrupted from Choctaw words Sinti bok, meaning snake creek.

Shongaloo — Cypress Tree; from Shankolo in the Choctaw language.

Talisheek — Gravel or Pebbles; corrupted from the Choctaw word talushik, meaning gravel or pebbles.

Talla Bena — Palmetto Camp; corrupted from the Choctaw words tala, meaning palmetto, and abina, meaning camp.

Tallulah — Leaping Water in the Choctaw language.

Tangipahoa — Corn Gatherers or Corncob People.

Tchefuncte — chestnut or chinquapin; a variety of scrubby chestnut whose nuts were used for food.

Tchoupitoulas — An extinct Indian tribe, once thought to be named Chapitoulas.

Tickfaw — Piney Rest in Choctaw from the words tiak for pine and foha for rest.

Tioga — Anything Between Two Others; from the Iroquois language, or At the Forks of Rivers from the word Indian word Teihohogen.

Tunica (an Indian tribe) — The Tunica were by far the best traders around. They were three tribes of Natchez speakers. The two Louisiana-based tribes were the Taensa and the Avoyel. The Natchez were mainly in what is now Mississippi.

Whiskey Chitto Creek — Big Cane Creek. The Choctaw

words were uski for cane and chito for large. I can see how uski would be misunderstood and written as Whiskey.

Winona — First Born in Dakota Indian language.

Yupon — Tree or Shrub; usually an evergreen, from the Catawba Indian word "yopun" or "yop," meaning shrub.

Washa (an Indian tribe) — "Hunting Place or Good Hunting Place."

Visit LouisianaSportsman.com for the European name definitions



Capt. Paul Titus has been responding to G.P.S questions on LouisianaSportsman.com since 2000. He has been fishing and hunting in Louisiana since 1957. Titus holds a USCG license and conducts instruction courses in the use of GPS for private individuals and government agencies.

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PASTALAYA, FISH TACOS ARE HITS

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DEVELOPER HAS A TASTE
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Even though New Iberia's Lynn Breaux is now a food "inventor," he didn't grow up as a hard-core cook.

"I was one of 9 kids, so we ate at home a lot because we had a lot of mouths to feed," he said.

"After school, I went to work for Exxon in Houston, but I was homesick. The day I began work in Texas, I started looking for a job back here. After 1½ years, I came back home to work at Affiliated Foods in Broussard. >

The sauce for the Savory Cajun Pastalaya is not a dense, heavy sauce, so rotini pasta's many folds are ideal for capturing it.



Granddaughter Adeline is obviously welcome in Lynn Breaux's test kitchen.

"Everybody there talked about food all the time. Every Friday, someone cooked. When it was my turn, I picked crawfish étouffée. That Friday, I cooked 30 pounds of tails. Everybody liked it, and I was hooked on cooking."

Now his day job is as a self-employed software developer, but with his wife, Christine, he owns "Savory Cajun LLC" which markets four meal mixes he has developed: Pastalaya, Shrimp and Grits, Potato Soup and Shrimp Boil Soup.

They also have their versions of Creole seasoning: Savory Cajun's Lynn's Creole Shake and Savory Cajun's Salt-Free Creole Shake.

"This started as a hobby and became a business," he said. "I like



the food business. I like it when people like to eat my creations. With my mixes, people get something with a good flavor profile, based on natural, not hot ingredients, with only a half-hour's effort." ■

SAVORY CAJUN PASTALAYA

Lynn explained that his pastalaya ambition hit him while taking a break at the Gumbo Cook-Off in downtown New Iberia.

"I saw a line of people waiting for someone else's pastalaya. I thought, 'I'll try it.' The flavor was good, but the bow-tie pasta was mushy.

"I said to myself, 'I can do better than that.' I tried other pastas, but rotini worked best. It was forgiving for overcooking. And all the folds in it capture the sauce. You need the sauce to cling to the pasta to taste it.

"We can hold it 6 or 7 hours at an event, and the texture will remain the same — not sticky or soft or mushy.

"Our sauce is not a regular jambalaya sauce. It has some Italian in it. It's pretty red — a cross between Italian and Cajun."

PREPARATION: Serves 4-6.

In a large pan, heat the roux until heated through. Add the sun-dried tomatoes and 1½ cups water. Stir to mix. Cook until the tomatoes soften, adding water as needed. In a separate pan, fry the sausage. Set aside until cool, then cut into ½-inch pieces. While the sausage is cooling, add the olive oil to the pan and sauté the onions, green and yellow

bell pepper in it until soft. Add the onions and peppers to the tomato sauce. Season to taste with Creole Shake. Stir in the bouillon over medium-low heat. Add the shrimp and sausage and simmer until the shrimp are pink and firm. Stir in the rotini and mix well.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp Savoie's Roux
- ¼ cup diced sun-dried tomatoes
- ½ pound fresh pork sausage
- 2 tsp Savory Cajun Seasoning Creole Shake
- 1 small onion, slivered
- ½ small green bell pepper, slivered
- ½ small yellow bell pepper, slivered
- 1½ tbsp olive oil
- ½ tbsp. bouillon
- 1 pound medium peeled and deveined raw shrimp
- 12 ounces rotini pasta, boiled al dente



The fresh pork sausage links should be pan-seared until done, because the will receive only moderately more cooking after being combined with the other ingredients.

LYNN'S FISH TACOS UP NEXT >



Jerald and Glenda Horst are the authors of six excellent books on Louisiana seafood — *The Seafood Bible: Shrimp*, *The Seafood Bible: Crawfish*, *The Seafood Bible: Crabs*, *The Seafood Bible: Oysters*, *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 1* and *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 2*. Jerald and Glenda may be contacted at jerald@rockinghorst.com.



LYNN'S FISH TACOS

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds white-fleshed fish fillets of your choice
3½ tsp Savory Cajun Seasoning Creole Shake, divided, plus more to taste
24 ounces large button mushrooms
¼ cup olive oil
2 tbsp avocado oil, divided
1 large onion, cut into strips
1 green bell pepper, cut into strips
1 yellow bell pepper, cut into strips
12 ready-to-cook soft tortillas
1 cup ranch salad dressing
2 tsp hot sauce
1 10-ounce package angel hair cole slaw
3 avocados, halved and seeded

**HOW
TO MAKE
IT!**

>

The avocados and mushrooms may be added to the tacos or eaten on the side.

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TIP!

Lynn Breaux serves his tacos without salsa because he wants to avoid disguising the flavor of the dish.

PREPARATION: Serves 6.

Season the fish fillets with the Creole Shake and set aside. Clean the mushrooms and place them in a bowl. Pour olive oil over the mushrooms, then season generously with Creole Shake. Toss to coat evenly. Grill the mushrooms on a barbecue pit, cap side down, over medium heat for 7 to 10 minutes.

Coat the bottom of a large pan with 1 tablespoon avocado oil. Pan-sear the fillets until golden brown on both sides. Remove them from the pan and set aside. In another pan, add 1 tablespoon avocado oil, onion and green and yellow bell peppers. Season with 1½ teaspoons Creole Shake. Sauté until tender and lightly browned.

Place tortillas, one at a time, in a non-stick pan and heat until they rise. Divide the fish evenly on the tortillas and top with onion and bell peppers. Whisk together the ranch dressing, 2 teaspoons Creole Shake and hot sauce to make a spicy ranch dressing. Toss the cole slaw with 2 tablespoons spicy ranch dressing. Top each tortilla with an equal amount of the cole slaw. Fold the tortillas over to make tacos. Cut the avocados into strips and serve with the mushrooms and tacos.

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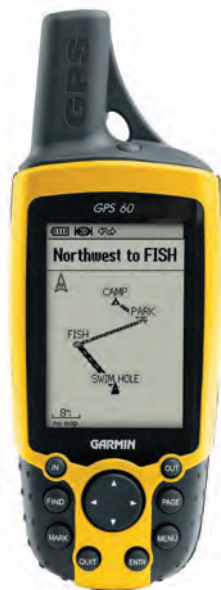


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ASTRO TABLES

Astro Tables is far more effective than "moon tables" because it takes into account critical solar energies as well as lunar.

The "Best Days" column is based on the ever-changing positions of the sun and the moon, rating each day on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more solar/lunar influence that day is experiencing (see "Value" column or corresponding black bars).

The two Primary periods (Moon Overhead and Moon Underfoot) vary in length from one hour to three-and-one-half hours, depending on a number of important lunar cycles, such as how close the moon is to the earth that day and how high its orbit is. The solar symbols alert you to when a Primary period overlaps a major solar period (eg: Dawn, High-Noon, and Dusk). The secondary periods of Moonrise and Moonset last about one hour each... 30 minutes before and after the listed time. (See key at bottom of each month for more detail.)

Astro Tables is a quick-reference version of its parent publication, the **PrimeTimes Wall Calendar**, which is recommended for those wishing more complete data on the best days and times to go fishing and hunting for the entire year (see "Available Products" below).

PrimeTimes' forecasts are based on solar/lunar research at a leading college of astrophysics and our own research pond/wildlife area. Annual data is supplied by the U.S. Naval Observatory. All times are adjusted to the center of your time zone and for Daylight Saving Time.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:

The 2019 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$13.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2019 with this information-packed, full-color, 11-inch by 17-inch, graphic peaks

and-valleys forecaster. Includes rise and set times for the sun and moon, space to log your catches, "Timely Tips," plus fish and game symbols showing you each month's don't-miss periods. Also includes exclusive summary charts revealing the best and worst days of 2019, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2020, and more. Comes with FREE 2019 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$8.95, plus \$3 s&h. **Book: "How to Know When to Go" by Rick Taylor.** \$14.95 (plus \$4 s&h). 100 pages, 43 illustrations. A comprehensive look at the main factors influencing fish and game activity periods, plus how to devise an effective when-to-go game plan using any year's PrimeTimes calendars. Individual assessments of bass, panfish, deer, turkey, and more.

2019 Ultimate PrimeTimes software for PCs. \$29.95 (plus \$3 s&h, or no s&h if downloaded from web). The world's best forecaster allows you to fine-tune the peak times to your exact location, quarry, and even weather. Too many features to list here, including making your own App. For more details, please call us or visit our web site (see below).

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BEST DAYS				LUNAR PERIODS					
POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	VALUE	TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED				
2019 JUN					MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT	
Sat 1	██	██	██	72	4:58 am	10:15 am - 1:15 pm	6:40 pm	10:40 pm - 1:40 am	☉
Sun 2	██	██	██	87	5:35 am	11:00 am - 2:12 pm	7:44 pm	11:25 pm - Midnight	☉ NEW
Mon 3	██	██	██	94	6:18 am	11:50 am - 3:12 pm	8:48 pm	Midnight - 2:37 am	☉
Tue 4	██	██	██	86	7:07 am	12:45 pm - 4:11 pm	9:51 pm	12:15 am - 3:37 am	☉ HIGH
Wed 5	██	██	██	77	8:04 am	1:43 pm - 5:13 pm	10:51 pm	1:10 am - 4:36 am	☉ Perigee
Thu 6	██	██	██	68	9:06 am	2:44 pm - 6:10 pm	11:44 pm	2:08 am - 5:38 am	☉
Fri 7	██	██	██	62	10:13 am	3:47 pm - 7:03 pm		3:09 am - 6:35 am	☉
Sat 8	██	██	██	59	11:21 am	4:50 pm - 7:52 pm	12:31 am	4:12 am - 7:28 am	☉
Sun 9	██	██	██	60	12:29 pm	5:51 pm - 8:37 pm	1:13 am	5:15 am - 8:17 am	☉ HALF
Mon 10	██	██	██	68	1:36 pm	6:50 pm - 9:20 pm	1:51 am	6:16 am - 9:02 am	☉
Tue 11	██	██	██	54	2:42 pm	7:50 pm - 9:58 pm	2:25 am	7:15 am - 9:45 am	☉
Wed 12	██	██	██	45	3:47 pm	8:48 pm - 10:40 pm	2:59 am	8:15 am - 10:23 am	☉
Thu 13	██	██	██	42	4:52 pm	9:45 pm - 11:21 pm	3:33 am	9:13 am - 11:05 am	☉
Fri 14	██	██	██	48	5:56 pm	10:45 pm - 12:03 am	4:08 am	10:10 am - 11:46 am	☉
Sat 15	██	██	██	57	6:59 pm	11:41 pm - Midnight	4:46 am	11:10 am - 12:28 pm	☉
Sun 16	██	██	██	65	8:00 pm	Midnight - 12:49 am	5:28 am	12:06 pm - 1:14 pm	☉ FULL
Mon 17	██	██	██	69	8:57 pm	12:37 am - 1:39 am	6:14 am	1:02 pm - 2:04 pm	☉
Tue 18	██	██	██	57	9:50 pm	1:32 am - 2:30 am	7:04 am	1:57 pm - 2:55 pm	☉
Wed 19	██	██	██	46	10:36 pm	2:24 am - 3:22 am	7:57 am	2:49 pm - 3:47 pm	☉ LOW
Thu 20	██	██	██	36	11:18 pm	3:12 am - 4:14 am	8:53 am	3:37 pm - 4:39 pm	☉
Fri 21	██	██	██	32	11:54 pm	3:55 am - 5:07 am	9:49 am	4:20 pm - 5:32 pm	☉ Summer
Sat 22	██	██	██	35		4:36 am - 5:58 am	10:44 am	5:01 pm - 6:23 pm	☉
Sun 23	██	██	██	37	12:27 am	5:15 am - 6:47 am	11:40 am	5:40 pm - 7:12 pm	☉ Apogee
Mon 24	██	██	██	46	12:57 am	5:49 am - 7:37 am	12:35 pm	6:14 pm - 8:02 pm	☉
Tue 25	██	██	██	51	1:26 am	6:24 am - 8:26 am	1:30 pm	6:49 pm - 8:51 pm	☉ HALF
Wed 26	██	██	██	58	1:54 am	6:58 am - 9:16 am	2:26 pm	7:23 pm - 9:41 pm	☉
Thu 27	██	██	██	50	2:24 am	7:32 am - 10:08 am	3:24 pm	7:57 pm - 10:33 pm	☉
Fri 28	██	██	██	53	2:55 am	8:10 am - 11:02 am	4:24 pm	8:35 pm - 11:27 pm	☉
Sat 29	██	██	██	67	3:30 am	8:51 am - 11:57 am	5:26 pm	9:16 pm - 12:22 am	☉
Sun 30	██	██	██	79	4:09 am	9:39 am - 12:55 pm	6:30 pm	10:04 pm - 1:20 am	☉

25 50 75
AVERAGE

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ANY LUNAR PERIOD IS ENHANCED WHEN IT OVERLAPS A KEY SOLAR PERIOD. THE BEST OF THESE OVERLAPS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SUN SYMBOLS:
 ☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK

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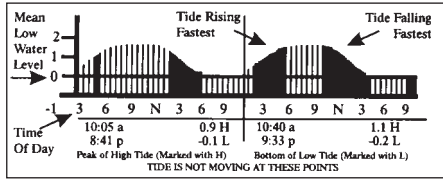
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How to use the **SPORTSMAN** Tide Guide

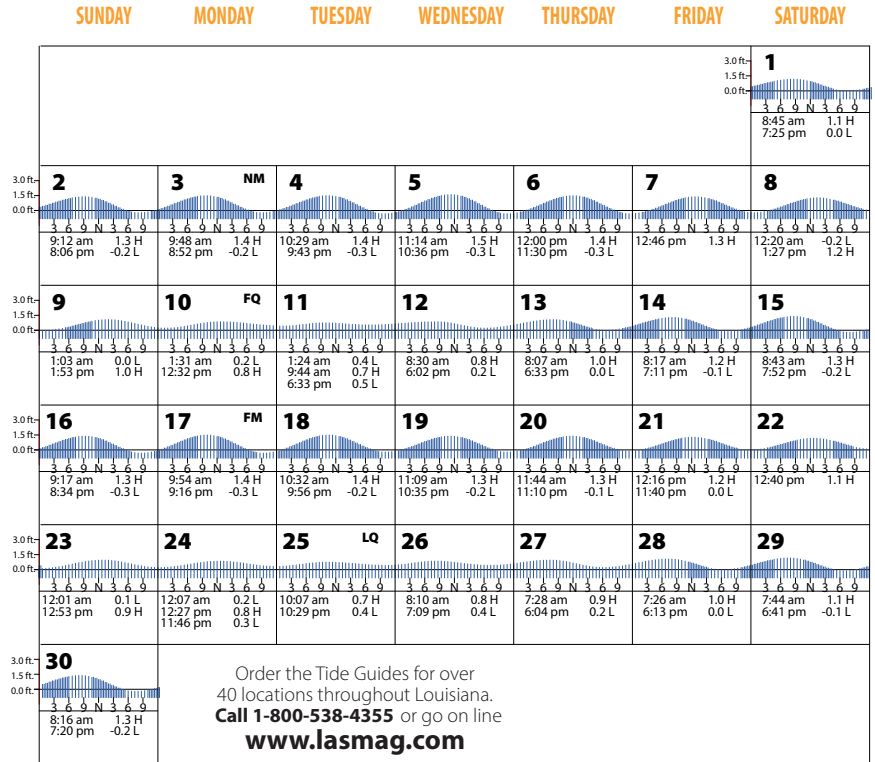


Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. Louisiana Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most-active feeding periods each day in the Tide Guide. Just fish those times indicated in black. To find the best time to fish your favorite honeyhole, find the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area, and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

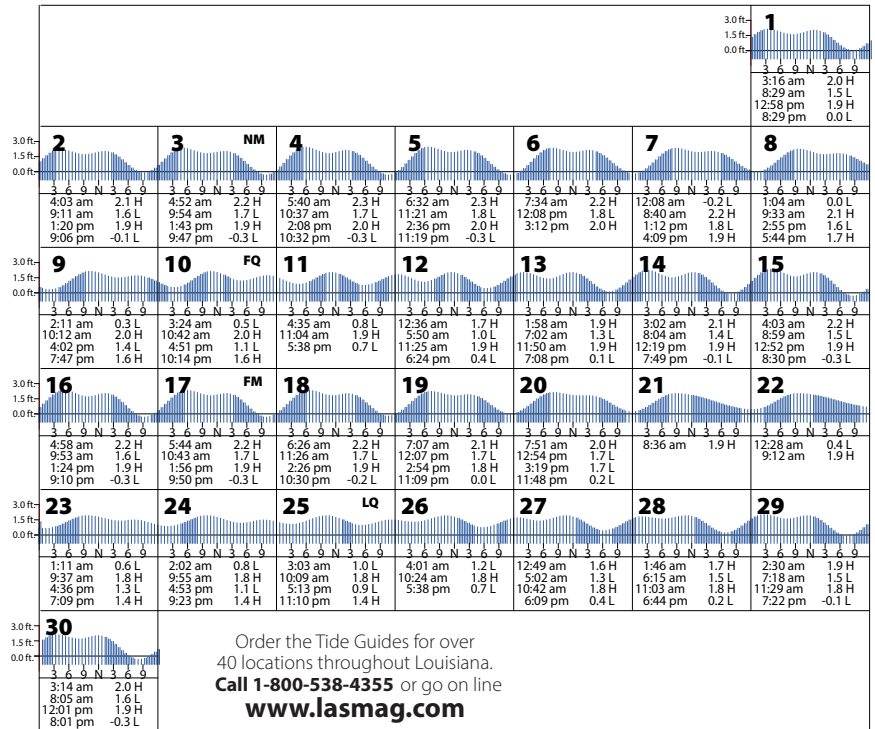
Tide Corrections

East Point, Grand Isle	HIGH	LOW
Barataria Pass	+1:00	-0:10
Bastian Island	+0:41	+0:12
Bay Gardene	+2:51	+2:44
Bayou Bonfouca	+9:59	+10:11
Breton Islands	+0:54	+0:48
Caillou Boca	+0:40	+0:48
Caminada Pass	+0:20	+0:12
Chandeleur Light	+0:37	+0:34
Chef Pass	+5:17	+5:07
Cocodrie	+1:22	+1:33
Comfort Island	+1:34	+0:54
Delacroix Island	+3:42	+3:31
Empire Jetty	-1:03	-1:45
Four Bayou Pass	+2:18	+0:17
Gardner Island	+0:40	+0:47
Grand Pass	+1:48	+1:16
Head of Passes	-0:48	+0:00
Hopedale	+4:17	+4:56
Independence Island	+2:29	+1:59
Jack Bay	+1:59	+1:28
Joseph Bayou	-0:36	-1:37
Lafitte	+1:45	+2:51
Long Point, Lake Borgne	+2:28	+2:11
Manila Village	+2:32	+3:13
Michoud Substation	+5:24	+5:02
New Canal (Bucktown)	+10:34	+10:49
North Pass	-0:31	-0:37
Paris Road Bridge	+5:53	+5:58
Pelican Islands	+2:26	+2:26
Pointe a la Hache	+3:12	+3:01
Port Eads	-0:17	-1:37
Raccoon Point	-0:03	-0:20
Shell Beach	+4:32	+4:25
Ship Shoal Light	-1:54	-1:50
South Pass, Miss. R.	-1:13	-1:20
Southwest Pass, Miss. R.	-0:38	-1:33
Tchefuncte River	+10:23	+11:01
Timbalier Island	+0:19	+0:23
Wine Island	+1:08	+1:02
Calcasieu Pass, Lighthouse Wharf	HIGH	LOW
Cote Blanche Island	+4:33	+3:40
Eugene Island	+1:49	-0:39
Lighthouse Point	+0:58	-0:53
Mermentau River ent.	+0:20	+0:25
Point Au Fer	+1:53	-1:02
Point Chevreul	+3:16	+0:30
Rabbit Island	+2:01	-0:36
Shell Island	+3:08	+0:45
South Point	+1:55	-0:33
Southwest Pass, Vermillion Bay	+1:42	+0:51
Weeks Bay	+3:58	+3:56

East Point Grand Isle



Calcasieu Pass Lighthouse Wharf



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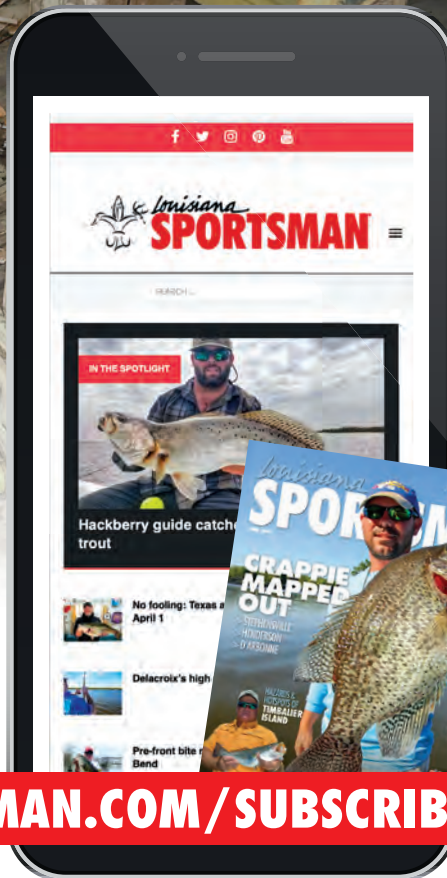
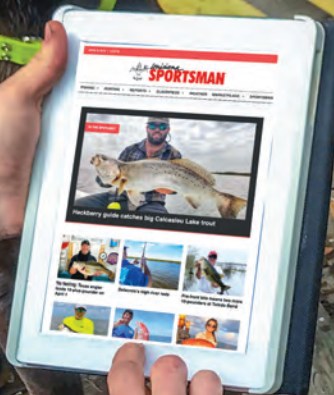
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