

COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCE NEWSLETTER



SOUTHEAST FISHERY BULLETIN

(Gulf of Mexico)

NOAA Fisheries Announces the Revised 2014 Red Snapper Recreational Season in the Gulf of Mexico

The 2014 Gulf of Mexico red snapper recreational season in federal waters is 9 days, opening at 12:01 a.m., **June 1, 2014**, and closing at 12:01 a.m., on **June 10, 2014**. The red snapper bag limit is 2 fish with a 16-inch minimum total length size limit.

At its April 2014 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council requested an emergency rule to revise the recreational accountability measures for red snapper by applying a 20-percent buffer to the recreational quota, which results in a recreational annual catch target of 4.312 million pounds whole weight. This emergency rule will not affect the commercial harvest of red snapper in the reef fish fishery. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's decision to request an emergency rule was made following the decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in *Guindon v. Pritzker*, (Mar. 26, 2014). After recalculating the season length based on the annual catch target and including the 2013 Marine Recreational Information Program data, NOAA Fisheries is setting a 9-day red snapper fishing season.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to better ensure red snapper recreational landings do not exceed the recreational quota established in the rebuilding plan, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Court's ruling. The method for calculating the dates for the federal season for each state are available in the Environmental Assessment in Appendix B. Electronic copies of the documents are available.

Final Rule and Environmental Assessment: Federal eRulemaking Portal search "NOAA-NMFS-2014-0055" www.regulations.gov and NOAA Fisheries <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. We encourage you to read the full text of the regulations, available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

For More Information on Consumption Advisories,
Possession Bans, and Rescinded Orders
Log on to www.dshs.state.tx.us

SUMMER GARDEN POND CLEANING TIPS



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- The first thing is remove excess debris. Use a pool skimmer or make a skimmer yourself by stretching an old pair a pantyhose over a wire clothes hanger. If the pond is really bad, you should empty the pond and then clean, but do this no more than once per year by removing fish etc. and draining the water for a thorough cleaning.

- Be sure to use a de-chlorinating agent for the water in the bucket or wading pool you'll be using as a holding tank for the fish while cleaning (use 50:50 fresh water and pond water). Remove silt and debris from the bottom of the pond. (It makes good fertilizer). If you have plants, remove and place in a shady area so they do not dry out. Use a brush to scrape down the sides. When refilling the pond pour half of the holding tank water into the pond to inoculate the pond with healthy bacteria for the fish. Fill the pond and be sure to use a de-chlorinating agent.
- Reintroduce the fish slowly by filling the fish holding tank with water of the same temperature as the water in the pond. Pour in half of the water from fish holding container into the pond, and then re-fill the holding container. Once it is full again, empty another 50% into the pond. Repeat this process to slowly change the water temperature, until the fish pond is full again.
- Be sure to also clean the filtration system. This is best done by rinsing only with water as any soap residue will harm the fish. Remove much of the pond water before trying to net the fish, as it will be easier than trying to catch them with the pond full. You shouldn't clean your pond more than one per year since it takes time for the beneficial bacteria to build up. If you want to clean without going to the extreme of emptying the pond, then use a rake and pull the debris and scoop it out, but be gentle so you don't stir up the pond too badly.
- The easiest way to keep the algae down maybe to increase the scavengers in the pond and regular skimming of the pond to remove leaves, etc. Snails, mussels and tadpoles all remove the wastes created and inhibit the growth of algae. A good rule of thumb is one scavenger per square foot of surface.



Houston's Langham Creek High School wins NOSB Sportsmanship Award

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The James D. Watkins Sportsmanship Award, which recognizes the team that best embodies the spirit of earnest competition while demonstrating exemplary decorum went to students from Langham Creek High School in Houston. They were honored as the most sportsmanlike competitors at the 2014 National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) national finals in Seattle, Wash., May 1-4. Langham Creek High School was the first place winner of the Dolphin Challenge in February. "This is the second year in a row that a Texas team has demonstrated the best of Southern manners. In addition, Langham Creek raised the most money for the NOSB 'Get in the Game' fundraising campaign," said Terrie Looney, NOSB regional coordinator. Austin's Chaparral Star Academy, the winners of the Loggerhead Challenge March 1 at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, took sixth place at the national competition.



The official dates for the 2015 Regional Competitions will be February 7, 2015 and February 28, 2015

RIP CURRENTS

Break the Grip of the Rip!

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ **Don't fight the current**
- ◆ **Swim out of the current, then to shore**
- ◆ **If you can't escape, float or tread water**
- ◆ **If you need help, call or wave for assistance**

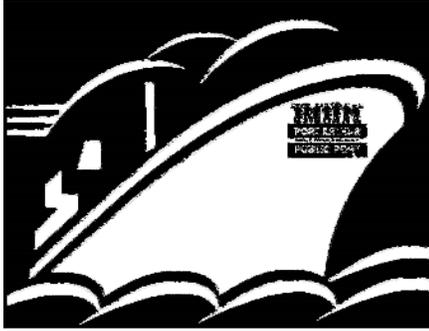
SAFETY

- ◆ **Know how to swim**
- ◆ **Never swim alone**
- ◆ **If in doubt, don't go out**

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usia.org





Summer Camp Promotes Maritime Jobs

High school students on the upper Texas Gulf coast will get a first-hand look at maritime careers in their own backyard this summer.

Camp SeaPort

Texas A&M University's Texas Sea Grant College Program is a partner in Camp SeaPort, a weeklong day camp run by the Port of Port Arthur. The camp is the brainchild of Port Commissioner Linda Turner Spears, who recognized that while existing career outreach programs in the area focused on the other major sectors of the local economy, the petrochemical and service industries, they did little to promote maritime job opportunities. With the support of the other Port Commissioners and the Port of Port Arthur, the camp was launched in 2008.

While the port has remained economically stable through the most recent economic downturn, the community of Port Arthur faces a 15 percent unemployment rate, decreasing high school graduation rates and a declining population. Camp SeaPort's aim is to encourage young people to stay in the community after they graduate from high school.

"It's an outreach opportunity for our local community, not just for at-risk kids, but all youth in our area," said Deputy Port Director Larry Kelley. "We want them to see that there are many, many jobs, and you don't have to go to sea for a month at a time, there are a lot of land-side jobs, too."

The teens interact with a wide range of maritime professionals, all of whom volunteer their time. Kelley said that while no two years are the same, past groups have met with tug boat and barge operators, listened to presentations from the local pilots' association, visited working shipyards and all the area's ports, been introduced to maritime programs at nearby universities, and spent time aboard U.S. Coast Guard vessels and at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit to learn about the skills needed for the different positions there.

He said the students are shown the vital role of a port as the nexus of multi-modal transfers — ship to barge, ship to truck, ship to rail, and vice versa — and the complicated logistics involved in moving cargo through the port.

"We hope that, after the camp is over, the students have a fundamental understanding of how the transportation system works in our area, and how dependent our region, state and national economy are on marine transportation."

Terrie Looney, the Jefferson and Chambers County Coastal and Marine Resources Agent for Texas Sea Grant and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, is a co-director of the program. She developed the marine science curriculum, helps with program logistics, and provides the activities for one day of the program, when the students board a waterborne education vessel and take an ecological tour of the Trinity River with hands-on activities to learn about coastal resource management.

"Most of the careers have specialized training, but many can bring the kids on pretty much out of high school," Looney said. "The students learn that they don't have to leave the area to find good-paying jobs."

Camp SeaPort takes applications from students in grades 8-12 during the month of May. The camp, which is free for the students and includes meals and a stipend, will be held July 7-11, 2014. More information is available from Judy Bettis at 409-983-2011 or jbettis@portofportarthur.com.

Texas Sea Grant is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas and universities across the state to create knowledge, tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of Texas. It is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is one of 33 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country. Texas Sea Grant is a non-academic research center in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University. The program's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas coastal and marine resources.



Four camp participants ride a Coast Guard response boat on the Sabine-Neches intercoastal waterway. For some students, Camp SeaPort is their first time aboard a boat.



Texas Sea Grant's Terrie Looney, second from left, leads students on a seining activity on the Trinity Bay marsh to teach them about the local ecology and some of the science behind maritime issues.



While touring a U.S. Coast Guard vessel, Camp SeaPort students learn about navigation and the operations in the wheelhouse.

Terrie Looney

Terrie Looney, CEA, Coastal & Marine Resource
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Visit our website
<http://Jefferson-tx.tamu.edu>

Baked Spicy Fish

Serves: 4

Serving size: 4 ounces

Preparation time: 10 minutes (doesn't count thawing fish if frozen) **Cook time:** 25 minutes

Tips: Thaw fish overnight in the refrigerator. Put on a plate to collect any dripping.

1 pound fresh or frozen cod fillets

1/4 tsp. paprika

1/4 tsp. garlic powder

1/4 tsp. onion powder

1/8 tsp. black pepper

1/8 tsp. oregano

1/8 tsp. thyme or basil

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1 1/2 Tbsp. margarine, melted

1. Thaw fish (if frozen) according to package instructions.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
3. Place fish fillets in an ungreased baking pan.
4. Combine seasonings in a small bowl and sprinkle over fish. Pour lemon juice and margarine over fish.
5. Bake fish for about 20-25 minutes or until it flakes easily with a fork.



*Just
for
Laughs*

An Irish priest loved to fly fish, it was an obsession of his. So far this year the weather had been so bad that he hadn't had a chance to get his beloved waders on and his favorite flies out of their box. Strangely though, every Sunday the weather had been good, but of course Sunday is the day he had to go to work.

The weather forecast was good again for the coming Sunday so he called a fellow priest claiming to have lost his voice and be in bed with the flu. He asked him to take over his sermon. The fly fishing priest drove fifty miles to a river near the coast so that no one would recognize him. An angel up in Heaven was keeping watch and saw what the priest was doing. He told God who agreed that he would do something about it.

With the first cast of his line, a huge fish mouth gulped down the fly. For over an hour the priest ran up and down the river bank fighting the fish. At the end when he finally landed the monster size fish, it turned out to be a world record Salmon. Confused, the angel asked God, "Why did you let him catch that huge fish? I thought you were going to teach him a lesson." God replied "I did. Who do you think he's going to tell?"

