

Coastal & Marine Resource

Volume 2, Issue 2
Aug 2011

NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE!

Next meeting of Port Arthur Area Shrimpers Association
Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 10 a.m.

Port Arthur International Seafarer Center
401 Houston Avenue
Port Arthur, Texas

IMPORTANT ITEMS COVERED

Hurricane Vessel Preparedness
Increasing Shrimp Value
Oil & Trash Handling
Coast Guard Updates
National Marine Fisheries Updates



CAMP SEAPORT 2011

Congratulations to Camp SeaPort 2011 graduating class! Twenty one students learned opportunities to explore maritime careers, during the week of July 11-16, 2011. They were given to opportunity to become educationally prepared for waterway careers through exposure, training, and mentoring. For more information contact, Terrie Looney, Coastal and Marine Resource Agent, at (409) 835-8461.

Old-Fashioned Fish Dinner in-a-Pot

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 pound drum fillets or other thick fillets | 1/2 teaspoon basil |
| 6 chicken bouillon cubes | 1/2 teaspoon oregano |
| 1 cup thinly slice peeled carrots | 1/8 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 medium onions, cut into eighths | 1 can (4 1/2 oz.) sliced mushrooms, undrained |
| 2 tablespoons cornstarch | 1 peeled tomato, cut into 8 wedges |
| 2 cups fresh broccoli pieces | 2 tablespoons sliced Spanish olives |



Cut fish into 2-inch chunks. Combine 6 cups hot water, bouillon cubes, carrots and onion in large stew pot or Dutch oven. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook just until carrots are tender. Combine cornstarch and 1/4 cup cold water. Add to hot liquid, stirring constantly until cornstarch is cooked. Add broccoli, basil, oregano and pepper and cook uncovered 5 minutes. Add fish chunks, mushrooms, tomato and olives. Stir carefully to mix. Cover and cook until fish flakes, 5 to 8 minutes. Makes about 10 cups. Approximately 121 calories per 1 cup serving.





READ AND FEED PROGRAM A SUCCESS!!

The Texas AgriLife Extension service participated in the **Read and Feed Summer Food Program** in conjunction with Precinct 4 Commissioner “Bo” Alfred. Presentations from the Better Living for Texans program series were used to teach kids to eat healthy snacks, and provided useful information to share with their family and friends, for example, students learned about pricing to help stretch their food dollars, and how to read labels to make healthier meal choices! The program lasted two months and was a huge success!!



Texas Launches Mandatory Boater Education, Additional Safety Measures

AUSTIN – A new state law from the recent legislative session will require mandatory boater education for more people in Texas, a move supporters say will save lives and make crowded waters safer. According to a legislative report by the state’s Advisory Panel on Boating Safety, the primary cause of boating deaths nationally is drowning, with 543 in 2009, of which 385 were not wearing lifejackets, usually in rough weather or on hazardous water.

Changes to Texas laws targeting boating safety include: mandatory boating safety education certification for anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993 to operate a vessel with a motor of more than 15 horsepower or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length. While all boaters are encouraged to take boating safety education, those born before Sept. 1, 1993, are exempt from required certification. Previously, only 13- to 17-year olds were required to complete a boating safety course to operate a vessel without adult supervision.

Texas’ state-approved boater education course is available as a one-day, classroom training, as a home-study course or as an online course at www.boat-ed.com . The course takes about six hours to complete. Costs range from \$13 for classroom course to about \$25 for the home-study course. Information about boater education, including schedules of upcoming classroom courses, is available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/ .

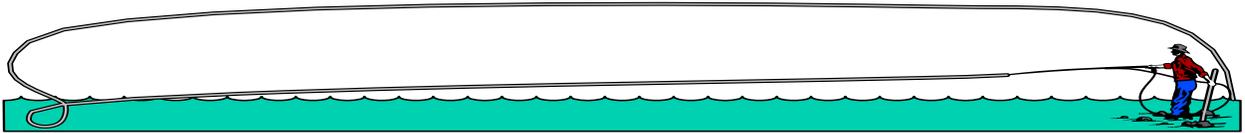
Boaters falling under the boater education requirement will be required to carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. Failure to meet the requirements is a Class C misdemeanor, and violators have 90 days to complete a boater education course to have the charges dismissed. The 82nd Texas Legislature during its regular session clarified the definition of a vessel to encompass such craft as standup paddle craft, kayaks and canoes. In Texas public waters everyone onboard a vessel that measures less than 26-feet in length must have a life jacket available and kids under 13 must wear one.





SHRIMPERS EXPECT ROUGH START TO OPEN SEASON

Gulf shrimpers have seen their industry all but gutted by high fuel costs, low market prices for their catch, a series of hurricanes and a devastating oil spill last year. When the Southeast Texas shrimpers who haven't been driven out of business set out for the beginning of the Texas season today, half an hour after sunset, it will amount to an act of faith. "Last Sunday, Father Sinclair (Oubre) had a Mass at his church to pray for us," said Port Arthur shrimper [Kim Tran](#), who is also vice president of the [Shrimpers Association](#) of Port Arthur. "So everybody is hoping for a good open season." Tran said shrimpers can use all the prayers they can get. "To tell you the truth, the shrimping business right now is very hard," she said. "Eighty-seven percent have given up the shrimping business and right now we have just a few left trying to survive." She and others noted that shrimping this summer in Louisiana coastal waters has been poor, with shrimpers burning expensive fuel and returning with only a few baskets of the tasty crustaceans. Unfortunately, shrimp in Texas waters might not be much more plentiful, although it is too soon to say for sure, fisheries officials say.



Still, humid nights bring out specks by Billy Halfin

Source: The Examiner

There has been much concern about the drought and our fish and wildlife. Sure we will get some showers and even possibly some heavy rains, but it will take several days of that to break the dry spell. Since there were so many folks concerned, I went to the most knowledgeable resource of information that I'm familiar with, Mrs. Terrie Looney is the Coastal and Marine Resource agent for both Jefferson and Chambers counties.

So far as the sea life is concerned, the oysters that are recovering from Hurricane Ike will be in trouble. Oysters can survive in pure saltwater, according to Mrs. Looney, but they will be susceptible to disease. This would also be the case in prolonged periods of too little fresh water. Dead oyster reefs do, however, attract many game fish. As of now, the local saltwater fishing action has been really good. With saltwater now in our rivers, there are saltwater fish being caught all the way up to the barrier on the Neches River. A heavy rain will serve to put more fresh water in the rivers and help move the fish back into the lakes and bays. Several tropical storms will move the fish down to the south end of Sabine Lake, Big Lake, and out to the jetty. Inland saltwater fishing has been best for speckled trout, sand trout, and in some cases, large croakers. There has also been some good flounder action taking place. Should there not be some major change in the weather and with so much bait around, the fish catching will remain top notch. The specks are attracting the most attention.

When heading out for some night speckled trout fishing, be sure to check on the wind and weather. Still, humid nights are best. Any windy or stormy weather would not be good times to head out.

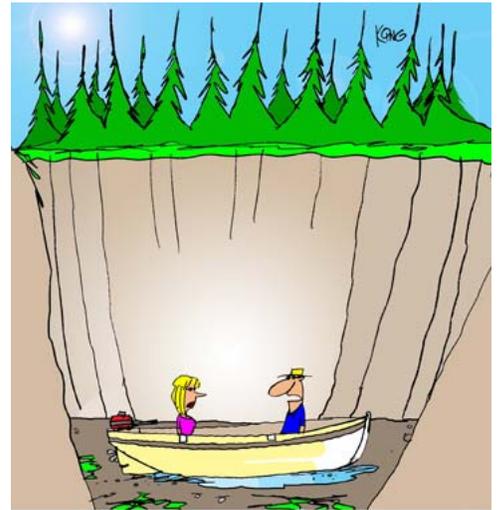


Visit our website
<http://Jefferson-tx.tamu.edu>

Terrie Looney

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*Just
for
Laughs*



*"This draught is taking all the fun out of
our boating trip."*

Programs conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service serves people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners' Court of Texas Cooperating.

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