

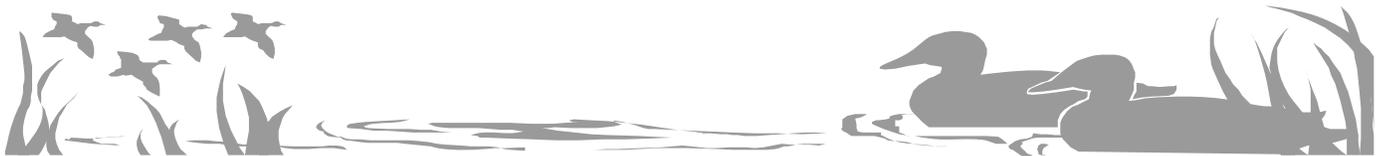
COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

January, 2011



POND MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

February 24, 2011
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Call (409) 835-8461
for more details!!



◆◆◆ Boiling Crawfish ◆◆◆



Boiling is the most popular method of cooking crawfish for home consumption in Louisiana. One method of boiling is as follows:

- Plan on cooking about 5 pounds of live crawfish for every adult eating.
- Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil. Use 1 gallon of water for every 2 pounds of crawfish. Do not overfill the pot to avoid overflowing.
- For the traditional crawfish boil where the crawfish are peeled and eaten immediately, the cooking water should be well seasoned. Typically, onions, lemon halves, red pepper, garlic, commercial crawfish/crab boil and salt are added. As a general rule, use 1 pound of salt for each 5 gallons of water. Add other seasonings to your own taste. The sky's the limit!
- It is also a Louisiana tradition to boil small red potatoes, sweet corn and whole onions in the seasoned water with the crawfish. These are eaten along with the crawfish. Try boiling large mushrooms, whole artichokes, cauliflower or smoked sausage in the same pot.
- Boil the crawfish for 10 minutes, turn off the heat and allow the crawfish to soak for another 10-15 minutes before removing from the water. This allows the crawfish to absorb the seasonings. The longer they soak the spicier they will be!
- Remove the crawfish from the water with a wire basket or sieve, pile on a paper-covered table, peel and **ENJOY!**



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Texas Boat Sewage Program

Why are the rules (30 TAC Chapter 321, Subchapter A) changing?

To implement Senate Bill 2445, which became effective on September 1, 2009. This bill redefined various terms, but in particular focuses on the “boat pump-out station” and “surface water in the state.” Other changes are also being made for consistency with federal regulations.

What are the changes under the new rules and regulations?

- The frequency that boat pump-out stations are required to register will change from annual to biennial. The initial fee will remain \$35 and renewals will cost \$25. The certifications will expire on December 31st of every odd-numbered year.
- Under the new rule, no discharge zones (NDZs) will include all inland fresh water bodies, rivers that do not support interstate vessels, and coastal waters and estuaries not recognized as NDZ's. An NDZ is a body of water that is protected from the discharge of treated or untreated sewage.
- If you have a permanently installed toilet on your boat, it must be connected to a marine sanitation device (MSD). An MSD is any device that is used to receive, retain or dispose of human body wastes. While operating on an NDZ, the MSD must be operated in accordance with federal regulations to ensure that discharges of sewage will not occur while the boat is located on the NDZ.

When will the new rules become effective?

The new rules are expected to become effective by November 11, 2010.

How will the new rules affect marinas and the boating community?

- Currently, there are only 25 lakes that are protected as NDZ's in Texas. As of now, there are roughly 2,400 TCEQ registered boaters in the state. When the new rule goes into effect, nearly 30,000 boaters will be required to register with the state and purchase a “Texas Clean Water Decal” by December 31, 2011.
- The increase in registered boaters has the potential to increase the need for designated pump-out stations.
- TCEQ will work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to enforce the new rules and regulations. Both agencies welcome the assistance from marinas and local river authorities to educate the public on proper boat sewage disposal.

How is TCEQ currently tracking registered boaters and pump-out stations?

- Currently, TCEQ receives applications for boat pump-out stations and marine sanitation device certifications through the mail. Payments can be received either via E-Pay, check or money orders. Upon receipt and confirmation of payment, TCEQ sends the boat or pump-out station owner a “Texas Clean Water Decal,” that expires on December 31st every odd-numbered year.
- The process of tracking the boater and pump-out information is currently performed manually through a TCEQ Access database. With the expectation that we will receive 10 times the number of applicants, an online system is in the process of being created. This online system is anticipated to be completed and functional by November 2011. This system will allow everyone to apply and pay (using E-Pay) online. This will expedite the process for a boat or marina owner to receive their decal.
- There will be “hardship” exceptions for applicants who do not have the ability or access to the internet. These applicants will be allowed to send their information and money so that their registration can be manually entered just like our current process.

What kind of outreach is TCEQ doing to publicize and advertise information about the new Rules and Regulations and the Texas Boat Sewage Program?

- Currently, TCEQ is working with TPWD to promote important boater and marina information to the general public. TPWD already educates the public on boater safety and TCEQ is combining efforts to release as much information about the Boat Sewage Program as possible. This includes pamphlets, newsletters, brochures and hand-outs.
- TCEQ is developing an in depth web page that is being finalized and should be out within a couple of months (ETA – beginning of September).

TCEQ Contact Information:

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THANKS FOR ASKING!!

Can I catch fish in public water and take them home to stock my pond?

Fish that are legally harvested from public water may be stocked in a private pond. "Legally harvested" fish are caught by someone who holds the required fishing license, observing all applicable length limits, daily bag limits, and gear restrictions. For more information on licenses and regulations, see the [Texas Outdoor Annual](#).

How can I estimate the weight of a fish that was caught and released?

You will need to have the length and girth of the fish to calculate an estimate. This formula works for all fish, although the example is for largemouth bass. To get weight in pounds, square the girth in inches (girth multiplied by itself) then multiply this times the length in inches. Divide this product by 800. For example, we can use one of the recent ShareLunker bass. The girth was 20.25 inches and the length was 26 inches. First, take 20.25×20.25 to get 410.06. Multiply this times 26 to get 10,661.6. Divide this by 800 to get 13.33 pounds.

What do I do if my fish are dying or have sores on their bodies?

Fish can be affected by parasites, bacteria, and water molds. Just like humans, they are more likely to get ill if something stresses them, such as unusually warm or cold temperatures, overcrowding, poor nutrition, or environmental pollution. It is not usually possible to diagnose a fish disease without having the specimen at hand, and even then it can be tricky. Your county agricultural extension agent may be able to identify the problem and help you correct it. If you're seeing large numbers of sick fish, you may want to contact a private pond consultant. The Texas Aquaculture Association has a list on the web at www.texasaquaculture.org/id86.htm.

Some of the fish I'm catching have small worms or grubs in their flesh. What's wrong with these fish? Are they safe to eat?

Although some parasites and diseases of North American fishes can be infectious, the vast majority will not develop in man even if eaten raw. All are killed by thorough cooking, pickling, or freezing. There is no danger of eating an infected fish if it is properly cleaned and prepared.

My pond is overgrown with plants. What should I do?

Some vegetation is desirable; however, too much can be a nuisance. Pond managers use a variety of mechanical, environmental, chemical and biological techniques to control undesirable aquatic plants. For more information, see our online brochure about [nuisance aquatic plants](#) or try the links on our [private lake management page](#).

*Just
for
Laughs*



"I got a new fly rod and reel for my wife.....best trade I ever made. "

"I think the only reason my husband likes to go fishing so much is that it's the only time he hears someone tell him, "Wow, that's a big one!"



"My doctor said I should do something relaxing. So I want you to grab a pole and some bait and go fishing for me for a couple of hours."

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.



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

FREE



2011 Sea Grant Calendars
available upon request!!!
Contact (409) 835-8461

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Jefferson/Chambers Counties
409-835-8461

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.