

Louisiana
LEC/LETC State Report – October 12, 2021
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Agency Overview

Include a very brief overview of activities since the last LETC/LEC meeting/update

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division (LDWF/LED) are continuing to work vessel and dockside fisheries enforcement inspections for any federal/state cooperatively managed species violations. We are also continuing to conduct TED compliance inspections as well as inspection of catch shares.

The Enforcement Division is in the hiring process for Academy 34, which is scheduled to begin on January 3, 2022. We intend to hire 30 Cadets.

State management for Red Snapper continues to succeed. LA Creel, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' near real-time landings data collection program, indicates that 594,769 pounds or 70 percent of Louisiana's 2021 annual private recreational allocation of 832,493 pounds have been harvested during the 2021 red snapper season which ended after Labor Day. A declaration of emergency was signed to re-open the recreational red snapper season beginning September 24, 2021 as a daily season until further notice. When the quota is reached or is projected to be reached, the season will be closed.

Grants/Projects

Briefly describe any recent projects since the last report.

We were approved to purchase satellite phones and we selected the Iridium 9575 Extreme Satellite Portable Phone Kit. Some of our Gulf States partners use this device and it has proven to be more reliable and cost effective. The bid process was opened through the Office of State Purchasing, a vendor was selected and 15 phones were purchased. The equipment has been distributed throughout our coastal regions and we are extremely satisfied with the capabilities so far.

Enforcement Issues

Share any issues or concerns of interest (regulations, new trends, etc.).

COVID-19 and the active hurricane season certainly impacted our Patrols hours in the Gulf of Mexico. However, we were still able to make a substantial patrol effort. Hurricane Ida has seriously damaged the Southeastern coast of Louisiana as well as several docks, processors and vessels. The enforcement division is currently involved with recovery efforts along the coast to assist with mitigation. We are currently assisting docks and processors with generators, fresh water and Ice production.

4. JEAs

Provide your state's JEA estimates for the period since the last LETC/LEC meeting/update

JEA Patrols	172
Vessel Hours Offshore	762
Vessel Hours Near shore	78
Dockside Hours	1,158
Commercial Fishermen Inspected	1,130
Recreational Fishermen Inspected	171
Public Outreach Hours	0
Dealers Inspected	10
Total Vessels Boarded	380
Commercial Vessels	221
Recreational Vessels	2
Charter Vessels	125
Total Violations	46
State	46
Federal	0

Regulatory Changes/Pending Legislation

N/A

Outreach/Community Education

N/A

IUU Concerns/Cases

N/A