

Louisiana
LEC/LETC State Report – October 18, 2022
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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. Our State is still seeing an impact due to Hurricane Ida from 2021. Fisheries activity are just starting to rebound to pre hurricane activity.

The Enforcement Division began Academy 35 on October 3, 2022. We intend to graduate 28 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 770,099 pounds Louisiana's 2022 annual private recreational allocation of 809,315 pounds have been harvested during the 2022 red snapper season which ended after Labor Day. A declaration of emergency was signed to re-open the recreational red snapper season beginning October 7, 2022 – October 14, 2022.

Grants/Projects

Briefly describe any recent projects since the last report.

We were approved to purchase a new vehicle to transport our 30-42 FT Metal shark patrol vessels, and four motors to outfit one of the 42'-Metal sharks. Additionally the agency is in the process of converting all operations to an Android handheld device. All officers will utilize the devices to document activity and JEA contact information for records purposes. This capability allows us to collect data in real time and streamline the administrative process. We were awarded some funds to support this ongoing project. Also related to funding we have been awarded some funds to improve our JEA contact application utilized by all officers.

Enforcement Issues

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

Hurricane Ida impacted our Patrols hours in the Gulf of Mexico due to infrastructure damage along our coast. 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. We have seen an increase in recreational and commercial activity in the Gulf of Mexico and are anticipating a significant increase in public interaction during upcoming JEA patrols.

JEA's

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

JEA Patrols	298
Vessel Hours Offshore	1,742
Vessel Hours Near shore	6,178
Dockside Hours	4,310
Commercial Fishermen Inspected	214
Recreational Fishermen Inspected	26
Public Outreach Hours	0
Dealers Inspected	9
Total Vessels Boarded	186
Commercial Vessels	137
Recreational Vessels	22
Charter Vessels	20
Total Violations	32
State	32
Federal	0

Regulatory Changes/Pending Legislation

N/A

Outreach/Community Education

N/A

IUU Concerns/Cases

N/A