

Louisiana
LEC/LETC State Report – March 11, 2021
Submitted by: Major Edward Skena

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. Most of our agents have completed SEFHIER training and we are waiting on a makeup date for our agents that could not participate on the previously scheduled dates.

The Enforcement Division graduated Academy 33 on December 1st, 2020 and we added 12 Agents to ranks.

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 740,268 pounds or 94 percent of Louisiana's 2020 annual private recreational allocation of 784,332 pounds have been harvested during the 2020 red snapper season to date. A declaration of emergency was signed to re-open the recreational red snapper season for one final weekend this year. Anglers had the opportunity to harvest the remaining 6% (roughly 44,000 lbs.) of Louisiana's annual quota beginning Friday, September 4, through Labor Day, Monday, September 7.

Grants/Projects

Briefly describe any recent projects since the last report.

The enforcement division is currently testing a new satellite communication system for the offshore patrol vessels. We selected The Globalstar Sat-Fi2 Remote Antenna Station, but the company discontinued this product. Since then, we have 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. We are currently working with the Office of State Purchasing to have the bid process opened.

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.

4. JEAs

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

JEA Patrols	99
Vessel Hours Offshore	268
Vessel Hours Near shore	196
Dockside Hours	225
Commercial Fishermen Inspected	235
Recreational Fishermen Inspected	39
Public Outreach Hours	0
Dealers Inspected	7
Total Vessels Boarded	101
Commercial Vessels	89
Recreational Vessels	11
Charter Vessels	1
Total Violations	5
State	5
Federal	0

Regulatory Changes/Pending Legislation

N/A

Outreach/Community Education

N/A

IUU Concerns/Cases

N/A