

MINORITY SEAFOOD PRODUCERS INFORMATION

In response to a request from the reporter who wrote the the related *Louisiana Weekly* article, this information wa prepared by:

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Limited English Proficiency Report:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducted a survey of is license holders in an effort to assess the degree of limited English proficiency among its user groups. A copy of this report may be found at:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/education/LEP%20Report.pdf>

also available at Communities on the Horizon's PDF page

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Recreational Users:

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, 82 percent of all sportspersons (persons who hunted or fished) were white and 18 percent were African-American. Further, 24 percent of the white population and 12 percent of the African-American population of Louisiana fished or hunted in 2005. (Their sample did not contain enough people of other minorities to provide reliable statistical results for the state of Louisiana.)

We have also compiled reports on senior recreational anglers in Louisiana. This may or may not be relevant to your topic but I provide you the link any way:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/education/Senior%20Survey.pdf>

also available at Communities on the Horizon's PDF page

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Recreational License Holders Who Fish Primarily for Food:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does not maintain statistics on its license holders' motivations for fishing. We cannot say how many people go fishing mainly to obtain food for themselves or for their families and who might risk suffering food or nutritional deficiencies without the seafood that they harvested directly from Louisiana's waters. (I believe

– but I am not sure – the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals refers to such fishermen as “subsistence fishermen” but I am not sure. You will probably want to check with somebody in the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to see if my recollection is accurate.)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Socioeconomic Research and Development Section, with the support of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, did conduct a survey of Louisiana recreational anglers to measure their perception and response to seafood health advisories. Among many other things, the questionnaire asked respondents to identify their reason for going fishing. The report’s author, Dr. Ebenezer Ogunyinka of LDWF, found that 87.1 percent of all respondents went fishing for relaxation, 85.2 percent to spend time outdoors, 77.6 percent for food, 49.4 percent for sport, and 10.3 percent to save on food expenses. Among the respondents’ who held a hook and line license, a low cost license with a disproportionate share of lower income respondents (see Note A), 87.9 percent went fishing for relaxation, 74.8 percent to spend time outdoors, 72.9 percent for food, 29.9 percent for sport, and 9.3 percent to save on food expenses.

These results, while interesting, do not necessarily provide any conclusive evidence about the number of people in Louisiana who go fishing mainly to obtain food for themselves and for their families and who might risk suffering food or nutritional deficiencies without the seafood that they harvested directly from Louisiana’s waters.

NOTE A: Among all survey respondents, 14.6 percent reported household income of less than \$25,000. Among hook and line license holders, 31.7 percent reported household income of less than \$25,000.

You may obtain a copy of this report at:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/research/Survey%20Report.pdf>

also available at Communities on the Horizon’s PDF page

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Commercial Fishermen:

You requested information regarding the number of commercial fishermen in Louisiana. It is hard to say how many active commercial fishermen we have but you can look at the number of individuals who hold commercial fishermen licenses: “resident commercial fisherman” licenses, type 11 in column K, I believe, in the attached file.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries serves all members of the community and does not keep track of the race, gender, or ethnicity of its license holders. There was, however, one project in which the one of the parameters of the study, the need to provide Vietnamese language translations, did lead us to count the number of individuals who had a name that suggested that he or she may be of Vietnamese heritage. We could not – and did not – make any assumptions about these individuals’ Vietnamese or English language skills based solely on their names.

The study was a survey of commercial shrimpers who held a commercial fishing or shrimping license in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Texas and who did not hold a Federal permit to harvest commercial shrimp in Federal Waters. After excluding individuals who we could identify as having a Federal shrimping permit, we drew samples from every state. In every state, we examined the names of license holders and, with the assistance of a LDWF student worker of Vietnamese-American heritage, we counted the number of individuals who had a name that suggested Vietnamese origin. We could not – and did not – make any assumptions regarding their place of birth or Vietnamese or English language skills based solely on their names.

Of the sample of shrimpers that we pulled, 13.6 percent of the Louisiana resident commercial shrimpers (whom we could not identify as holding permits to shrimp in Federal waters) had names that seemed to be of Vietnamese heritage. *I reiterate that the LDWF counted these individuals for legitimate research purposes, to assess the potential need for language translation services. I repeat, we could not – and did not – make any assumptions regarding their place of birth or Vietnamese or English language skills based solely on their names.*

Please note that this percent – 13.6 percent of a sample of resident commercial fishermen who landed shrimp in Louisiana and did not appear to hold a Federal permit to harvest shrimp in Federal waters – represents a portion of a select group of people. We should be very careful in extrapolating from that number to form any conclusions about all commercial fishermen in Louisiana or even all commercial shrimpers in Louisiana (since we excluded those with Federal shrimp harvesting licenses). Even within these constraints, however, this information may be of some use to you.