

Crawfish E-Newsletter  
September 19, 2008

### Storm Water from Ike

Hurricane Ike's storm surge pushed saltwater up into the coastal parishes flooding many crawfish ponds in Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. Many acres of ponds further inland were also flooded when bayous and canals overflowed or swamp water backed up into ponds.

If possible or when possible, the flood water should be drained from the ponds. The tremendous amount of decomposing vegetation in the water has used up all of the dissolved oxygen. If crawfish cannot get out of this water they will die. Producers who use surface water should wait until the water quality improves before flooding or flushing their ponds. Those who have access to well water can flood their ponds in the coming weeks as normal.

The full impact of Gustav and Ike will not be fully known until we get into the harvest season sometime this spring. Depending on the depth and duration of the flooding, brood stock survival and crawfish forage will be affected. Rainfall in the next few weeks will affect how soon the saltwater and "rotten" water will be drained and replaced by good quality water. Some ponds will probably not produce any crawfish this season and will have to be restocked in the spring.

If you have specific questions, contact any of the following LSU AgCenter Aquaculture Specialists:

Dr. Greg Lutz: 225-765-2848 or [glutz@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:glutz@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Dr. Robert Romaine: 225-765-2848 or [rromaine@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rromaine@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Mark Shirley: 337-296-6864 or [mshiely@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mshiely@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Richard Johnson: 337-788-7542 or [RDJohnson@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:RDJohnson@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### FSA and NAP

Details on the benefits available from the USDA's Farm Services Agency are not clear at this time. Crawfish is included in some programs that assist farmers with catastrophes like hurricanes but the regulations that spell out the specific benefits have not been written yet. Farmers should contact the FSA office in their parishes to report their crawfish acreage and pay any fees that qualify them for eligible programs. Deadlines for some programs are coming up soon.

### LCFA Event Postponed

The Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association Annual Meeting has been postponed until Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>. The National Guard is still using the Rayne Civic Center for storm recovery activities. The banquet/meeting will start at 6:00 PM and will include a crawfish etouffee meal, entertainment, door prizes and a fundraising auction. Single tickets include annual membership and corporate sponsorships are available. To purchase tickets or for more information contact Board Member Durel Romaine at [durelr@cox.net](mailto:durelr@cox.net) or Executive Director Stephen Minville at [lcfa@crawfishfarmer.com](mailto:lcfa@crawfishfarmer.com)