

# Let fish jump into pan



[Show Caption](#) **TERRY LeBLANC**/Photo furnished by

Sports Extras

**LSU Blogs**

[Baseball](#) | [Basketball](#) | [Football](#)

**National Sports**

[Athlete of the Decade](#) | [AP](#) |

[ABC](#)

**College Basketball Polls**

[AP](#) | [Coaches](#) | [AP Women](#)

**Horse Racing**

[Track Web sites](#)

## **NASCAR**

[Insider](#) | [Drivers](#) | [Review](#) |  
[Schedule](#)

## **Contact Us**

[Online Sports](#)

## **College Baseball Rankings**

[Baseball America](#) | [NCBWA](#)  
[Collegiate Baseball](#) | [Rosetta](#)

## **Football Signees**

[LSU](#) | [SU](#) | [State](#) | [SEC](#)

- By [JOE MACALUSO](#)
- Advocate Outdoors writer
- Published: Jan 17, 2010 - Page: 1D

### [Comments \(0\)](#)

How many fishermen talk about the days when fish were jumping in the boat?

In several Louisiana waterways, fish are.

They're silver carp, and for the past decade, fishermen and boaters have been talking, mostly complaining, about the jumping habits of this nonnative species.

Philippe Parola, the Parisian chef who calls Louisiana home, is one of them. But instead complaining about how these fish scared him on a trip into the Atchafalaya Spillway in August, Parola decided to do something about them.

Two silver carp bolted from the water and landed in Parola's boat, and, like outdoors writer and broadcaster Don Dubuc said, "The fish picked the wrong boat to land in."

Parola took the fish home and took out his fillet knife.

"I found a fish with white flesh and very pleasant to the taste. To me, the taste was something between scallops and crabmeat," Parola said.

There were problems.

For a couple of reasons, carp are not widely accepted as a food fish in Louisiana.

The reddish carp, sometimes called German carp, have lived in Louisiana for decades. They live and feed on the bottom. In clear water with hard, sandy bottoms, its flesh is edible. But most of Louisiana's waterways have soft, spongy bottoms, so after cooking, most German carp have a muddy taste.

Silver carp and its equally invasive cousin, the bighead carp, which doesn't jump, feed near the surface and eat plankton, and taste more delectable.

Another problem common to all carp species are its bony structure that make boneless fillets a challenge.

Parola teamed with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and prepared silver carp and bighead carp dishes during Tuesday's presentation at LDWF headquarters.

State and federal agencies and state universities have techniques to remove bones. Parola came up with recipes: fried, grilled, fish cakes, even jerky.

In an effort to remove stigmas surrounding silver and bighead carp, Parola and the LDWF unveiled a marketing effort to identify the two species as "silverfin."

"Every professional chef I have introduced silverfin to has produced the same conclusion," Parola said. "We want as many people to try these fish as possible."

From the LDWF's standpoint, creating a market will turn about 250,000 pounds of fish tossed from nets last year into a product for commercial fishermen.

Two south Louisiana fish wholesalers are onboard with the plan. Rouse's Supermarket chain plans to sell fillets sometime in February.

January ducks

Some notes provided by LDWF waterfowl biologist and Waterfowl Study leader Larry Reynolds after the state's January duck survey:

- The 2.7 million ducks estimate is 25 percent higher than December's survey, and 69 percent higher than the January 2009 count, which was a record-low of 1.6 million.
- The count is near the last five year's averages of 2.67 million ducks, but is off the 30-year average of 3.1 million.
- Survey number for mallards (140,000) is about two-thirds lower than the 30-year average (410,000).
- The distribution of ducks "was markedly different on this survey compared to December." The estimate for southwest Louisiana was 136,000 lower while that for southeast Louisiana more than doubled from 555,000 to

over 1.2 million due primarily to large increases in gray ducks, greenwings, scaup and ring-necked ducks.

- More grays and scaup were seen in brackish and salt marshes in the southern Terrebonne Parish, and “a very large concentration was noted” in the marshes south of Lake Salvador.
- Fewer ducks were seen in the flooded agricultural lands in southwest Louisiana than in the December survey, even though there is abundant acreage of shallow, flooded habitat.
- As many as 10,000 gray ducks were found sitting “about a mile” offshore south of Pecan Island.
- An estimated 238,000 ducks and 214,000 geese were counted in northeast Louisiana, substantially higher numbers than from the December count.
- The special scaup survey over Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne showed 63,000 on Pontchartrain, much lower than the 276,000 estimated in December, but far higher than the 7,500 in 2009 and 14,000 in 2008.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/sports/81900317.html?showAll=y&c=y>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Copyright © 1992-2008, 2theadvocate.com, WBRZ, Louisiana Broadcasting LLC and The Advocate, Capital City Press LLC, All Rights Reserved.