

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2000

THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
APRIL 27, 2000

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season for Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay)	1
3. Public Comments	2
4. Adjournment	3

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 27, 2000

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Warren Delacroix
Tom Kelly
Norman McCall
Jerry Stone

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Bill Busbice and Glynn Carver were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle began stating this Special Meeting was called to look at the data from brown shrimp sampling. Mr. John Roussel advised the Commission the criteria used for opening the season was close to being met. The information would be presented and then the Commission would decide either to act or defer. Mr. John Roussel began the agenda item, **Declaration of Emergency - Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season for Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay)**, stating he would make a few remarks for the benefit of the new Commission members. The procedure to be followed included Mr. Mark Schexnayder presenting detailed environmental information, biological data from actual shrimp crops, and projected growth rates and how that measures against the criteria traditionally used to open the brown shrimp season. The criteria used is to open the season when 50 percent of the shrimp on the grounds are projected to be 100 count or larger. Next would be public comments and then the Commission decide to open the season for Zone 2 only. Mr. Roussel stated, based on the criteria, the opening date could be earlier than May 8 which is the earliest date possible if wait until the regular Commission Meeting. Statute provides for several things when setting a shrimp season - three days public notice has to be given before a hearing can be held and then 72 hours has to pass after the hearing before the season can be opened. He then asked Mr. Schexnayder to come forward and present the data.

Mr. Schexnayder began thanking everyone that helped to put the presentation together. Brown shrimp spawn offshore and then come inshore as postlarval from January through April. The overhead presentation included: rainfall in southeast Louisiana comparing the poor years with the good years; rainfall in southeast Louisiana for 1999 and 2000; Mississippi River Discharge showing the poor years and the good years; Mississippi River Discharge for 1999 and 2000; north Barataria Bay salinity comparing the long term with year 2000; north Barataria Bay salinity from February through April 25, 2000; south Barataria Bay temperatures comparing long term averages with year 2000; south Barataria Bay daily temperatures of February until April 25, 2000; tidal ranges for February, March and April 2000; and the predicted tidal ranges for May 2000. The next series of overheads were from samples taken in Barataria Bay. The data included catch effort for shrimp taken in 6 foot test trawls; a chart in millimeters of the average size brown shrimp taken in 6 foot samples; a diagram of the catch effort for the different systems in Zone 2; and a graph showing the average size of shrimp in the samples during the April work weeks. The growth rates for Zone 2 showed 31 percent of the shrimp were at the 100 count or greater. On May 1st, it is projected there will be 52 percent at the 100 count or greater size; May 8, 70 percent; May 15, 87 percent; and May 22 - 96 percent.

Mr. John Roussel acknowledged the State of Mississippi was represented at the meeting.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Larry Rhodes, Cajun Brothers Seafood, stated they had a problem with the shrimp being too small for marketing last year. The price for the small shrimp stayed around \$1.50 per pound for the entire year and no one made any money from them. He asked to hold off on opening the season and increase the size of shrimp to help the wholesalers and fishermen get more money per pound for their shrimp. Mr. Rhodes stated he would be willing to delay opening the season for another two weeks to help have a better crop next year.

Mr. Timothy Schouest, a New Iberia shrimper, stated he saw shrimp samples from the Vermilion Bay area and noted they were small. He agreed with Mr. Rhodes in the fact that the fishermen do not get anything for the small shrimp. Then he stated he did not see where an early opening would help. Again he stated the shrimp were small in the Vermilion Bay area.

Mr. Jimmy Dupuy, a commercial shrimper from Vermilion Parish, stated four weeks ago there were some pretty shrimp ranging in the 50-60 size class. Now the shrimp are coming from the marsh and the sizes are small. When the full moon comes around, the shrimp will move out of the bays. Mr. Dupuy felt it would be better to open Monday, May 1. He concluded stating there is a lot of conflict on the shrimp prices.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Gattle stated the proposed Resolution would allow the Commission to declare an opening. The Commission can either make a motion or not make a motion and defer it until the regular Commission Meeting. If the decision was to defer, the earliest possible opening date would be May 8. He then asked Mr. Roussel to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Mr. Roussel explained the Resolution was prepared opening the offshore waters of Zone 2 at the same time the inshore waters open. The Chairman then asked for a motion. No motion was made.

Chairman Gattle recognized a former Commission Member, Mr. Danny Babin and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr. Roussel stated the meeting on May 4 would cover the shrimp season for the entire state.

There being no further business, Commissioner McCall made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

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There being no further business, Commissioner McCall made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

LWFC fails to OK early shrimp season⁺

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

There will be no early opening date for the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 2 this year.

Turning aside precedent, a resolution and Declaration of Emergency to open the Zone 2 season failed for the lack of a date and a motion at Thursday's special meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

The spring inshore season is more widely known as the "brown shrimp season" in the state.

In most years, the panel usually opens the season on the recommendation of marine fisheries biologists.

Mark Schexnayder, the Shrimp Study Leader in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, said data collected over the last three months, and intensively over the past five days, indicated 50 percent of the brown shrimp in Zone 2 would go below the 100-count mark (100 to the pound) by May 2.

Zone 2 takes Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River west to the western edge of Vermilion Bay.

The other two shrimp zones cover the remaining coast — Zone 1 from the Louisiana-Mississippi line west to Southwest Pass, and Zone 3 from Vermilion Bay to the Louisiana-Texas border.

Opening dates for all three zones will be on the commission's May 4 regular-meeting agenda.

Schexnayder told the commission that an unusual set of environmental factors converged over the last four months to consider an early opening date in Zone 2.

He said low rainfall, abnormally high salinity levels, warmer-than-normal temperatures, strong high tides and much lower-than normal discharge from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers have combined to produce an early brown shrimp crop.

When LWFC chairman Tom Gattle opened the meeting for comment, seafood wholesaler Blair Rhodes said the 1999 season was opened too early (May 15) and that buyers had too many small shrimp and not enough larger shrimp for restaurants and other large volume buyers.

Shrimper Timothy Schouest of New Iberia, who called his shrimping operation "small," said the shrimp in his area are small.

"I can't see where an early season will help. There's no money in small shrimp," Schouest said.

Schexnayder said brown shrimp grow between a quarter-inch and a half-inch a week under the current conditions.

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COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, April 27, 2000
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Tom Gattle (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	—
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	—
Bill Busbice	—	<u>✓</u>
Glynn Carver	—	<u>✓</u>
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	—
Warren Delacroix	<u>✓</u>	—
Jerry Stone	<u>✓</u>	—

Mr. Chairman:

There are 5 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.

Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
April 27, 2000
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season for Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay) - Mark Schexnayder
3. Public Comments
4. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

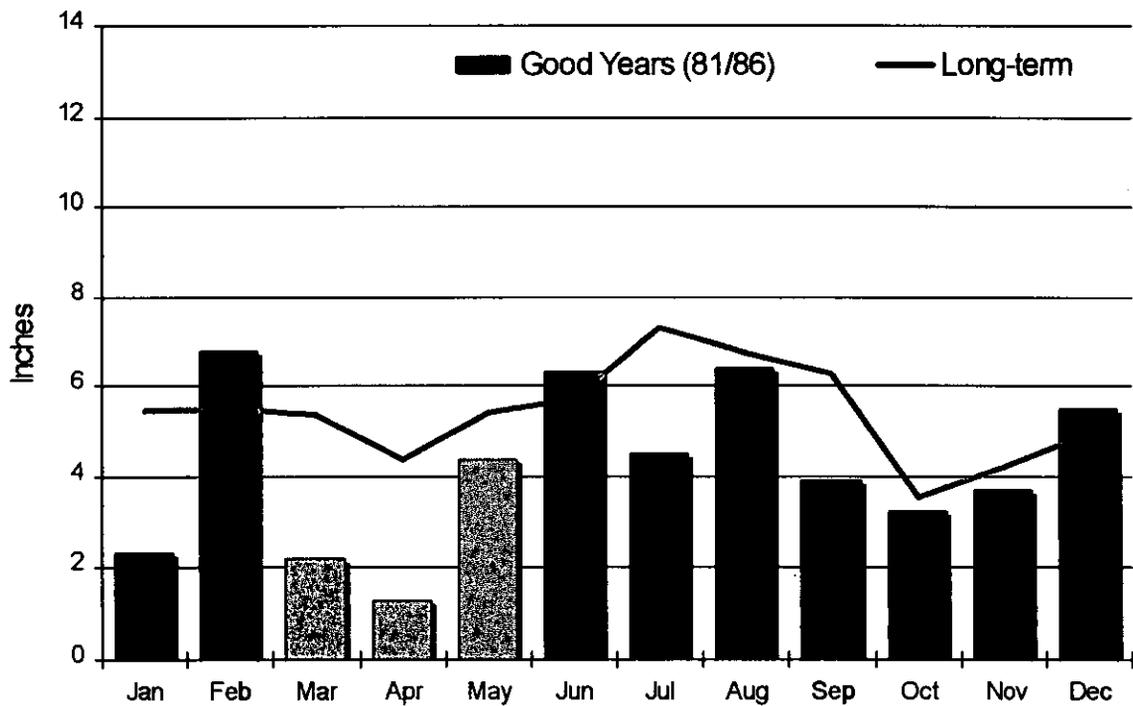
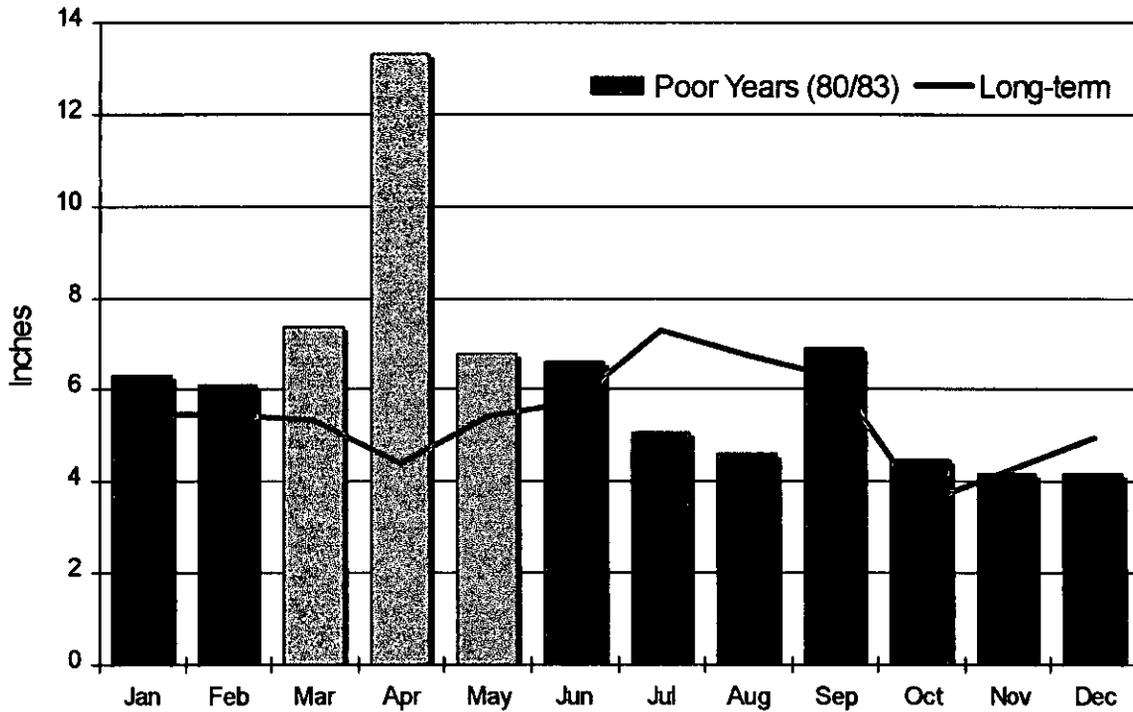
BATON ROUGE, LA

April 27, 2000

10:00 AM

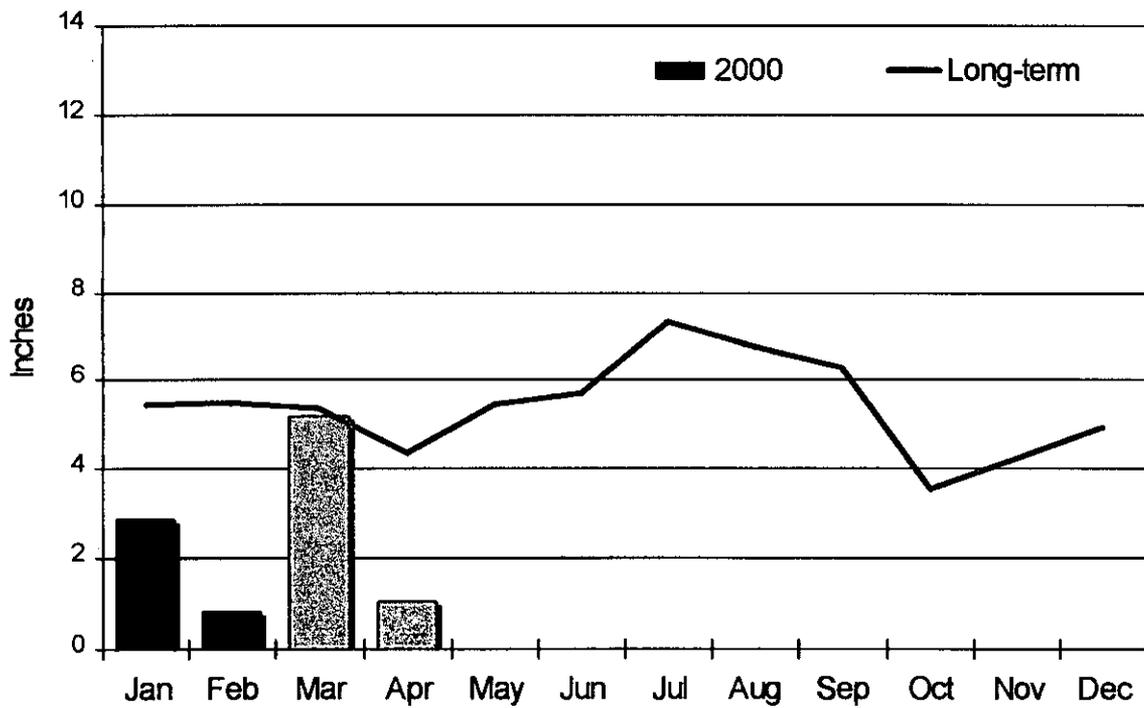
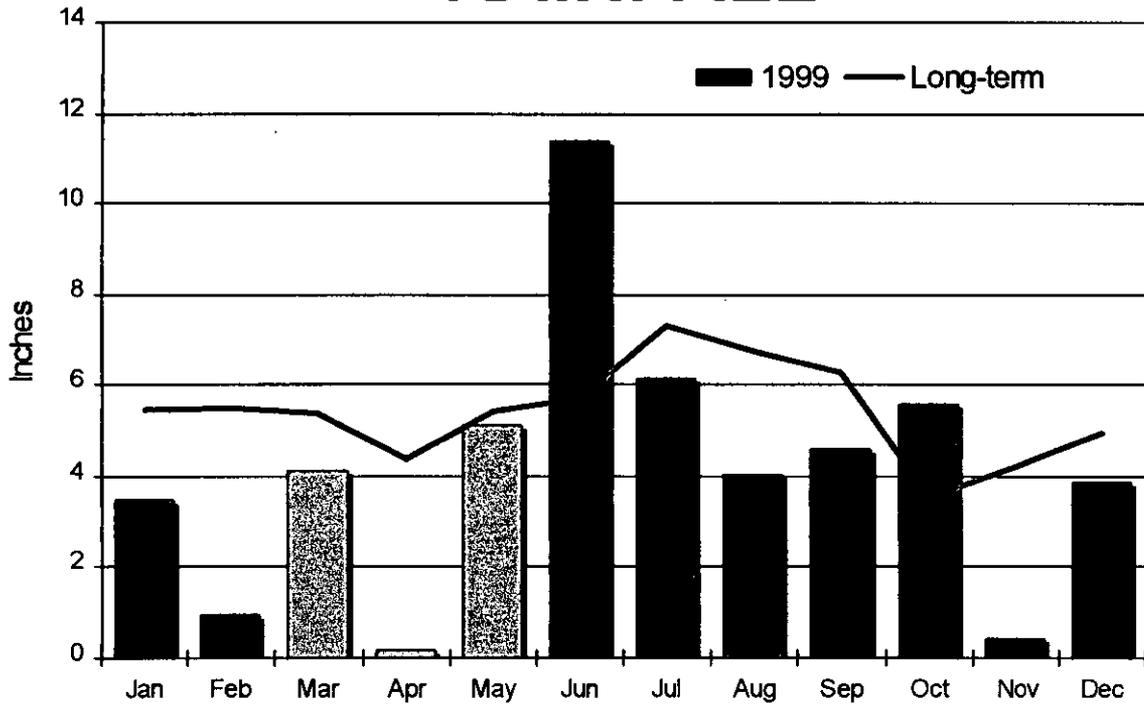
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SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA RAINFALL



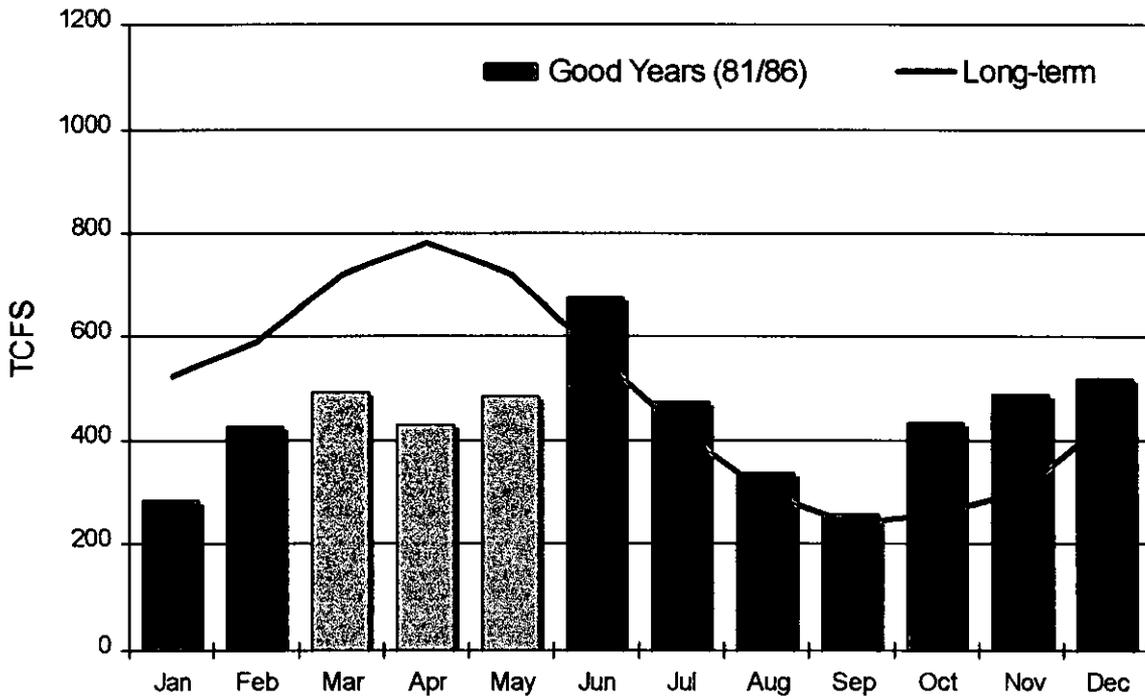
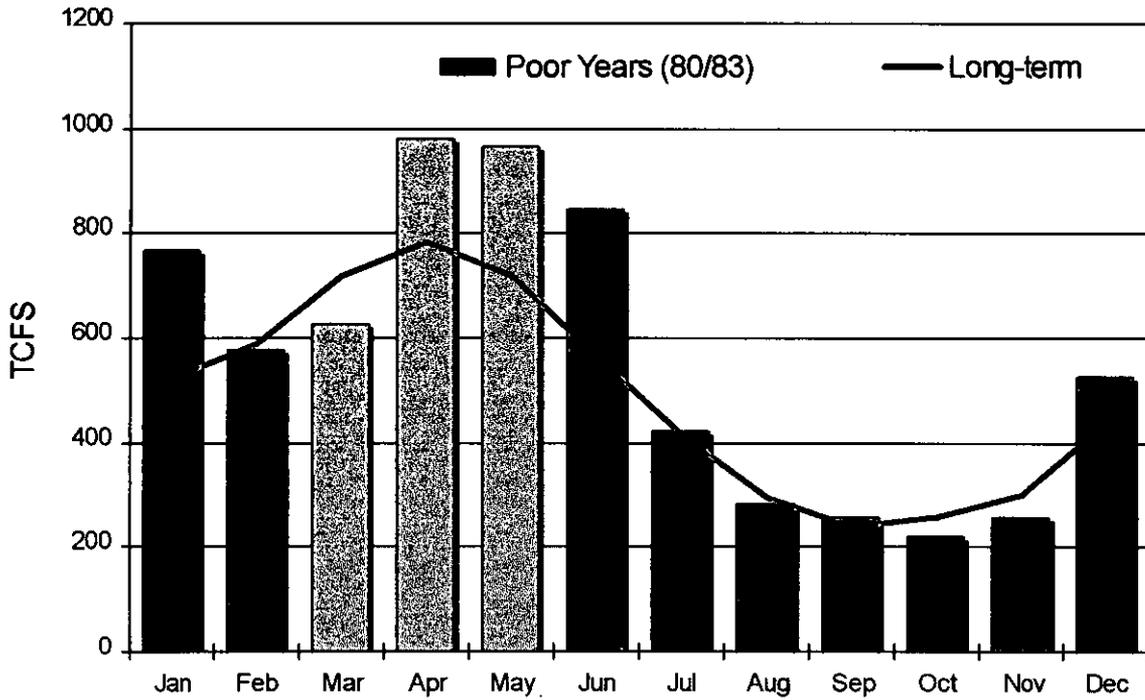
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA RAINFALL



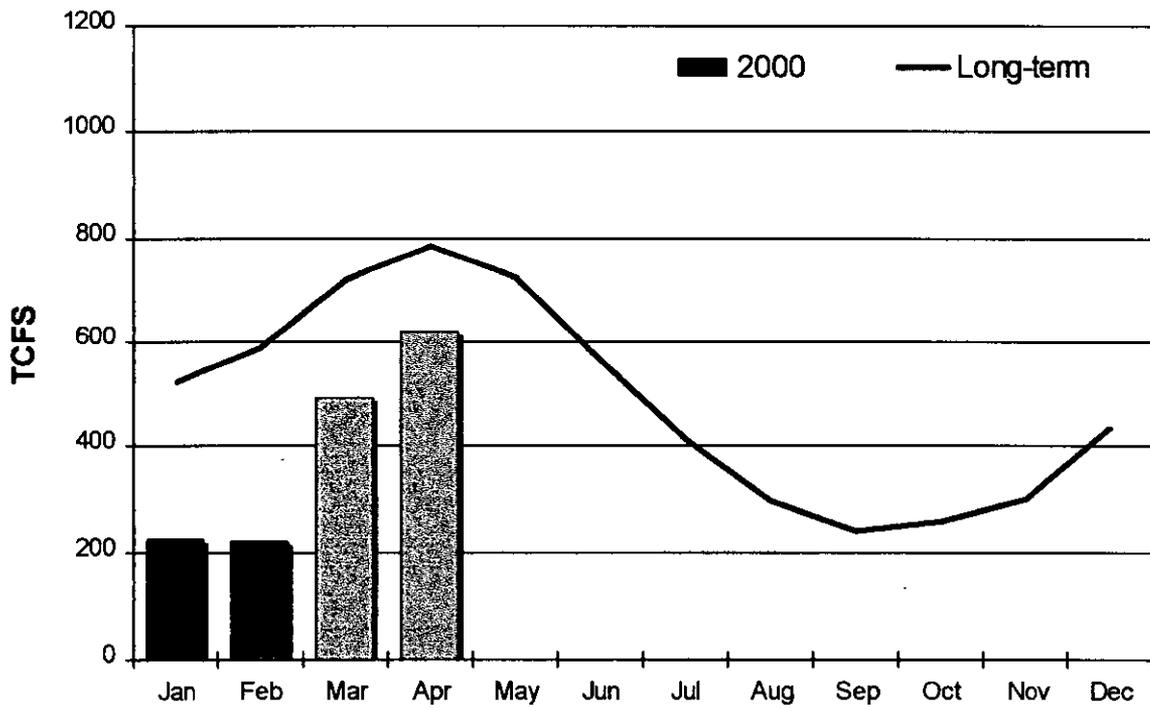
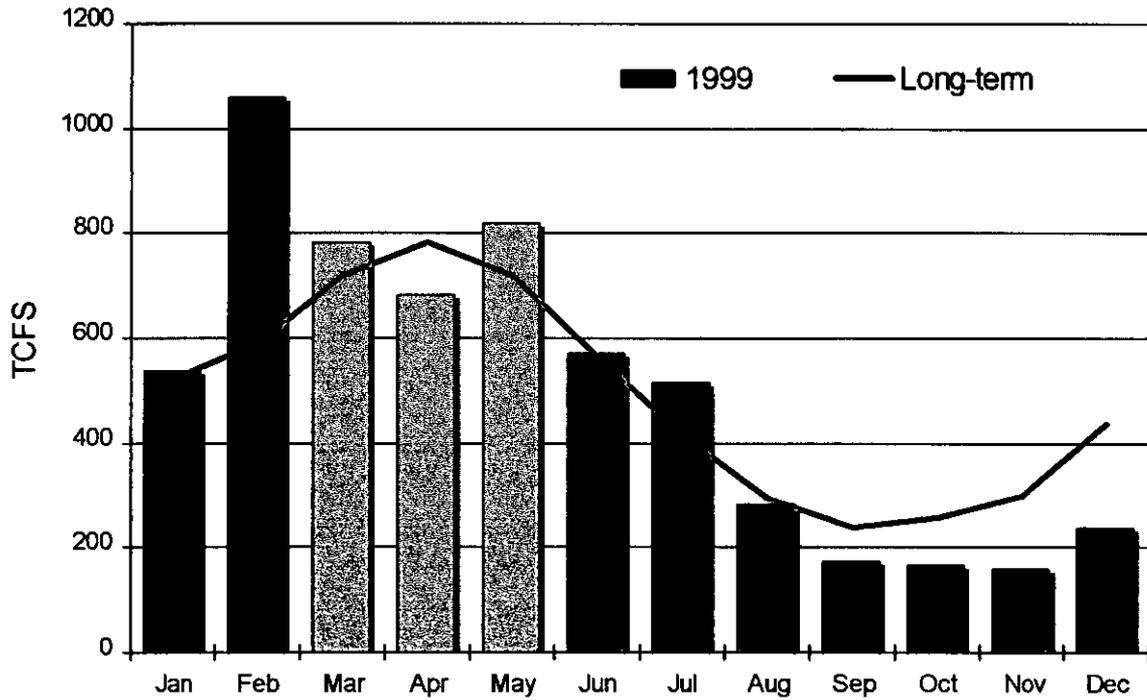
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISCHARGE



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

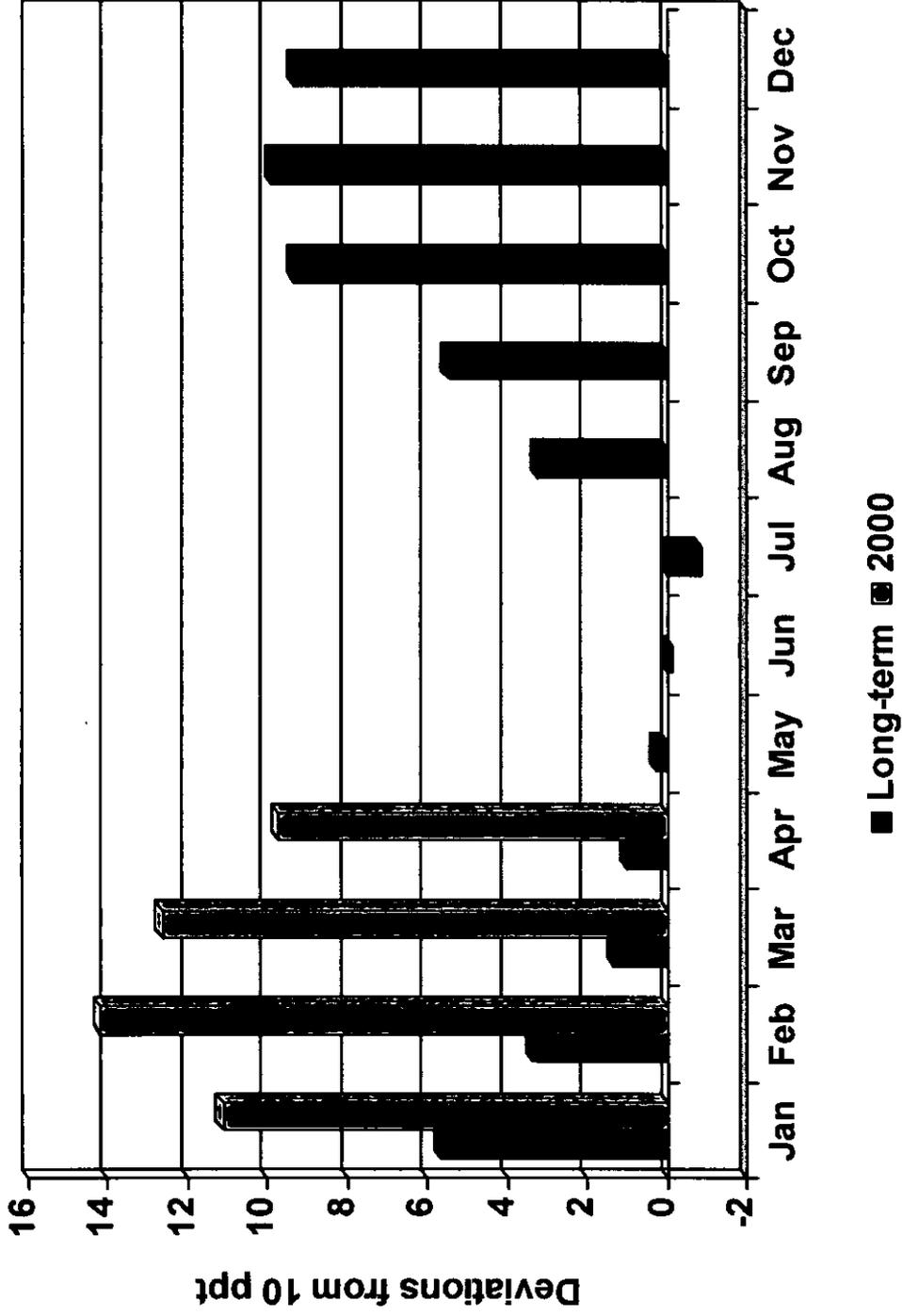
MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISCHARGE



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

NORTH BARATARIA BAY SALINITY

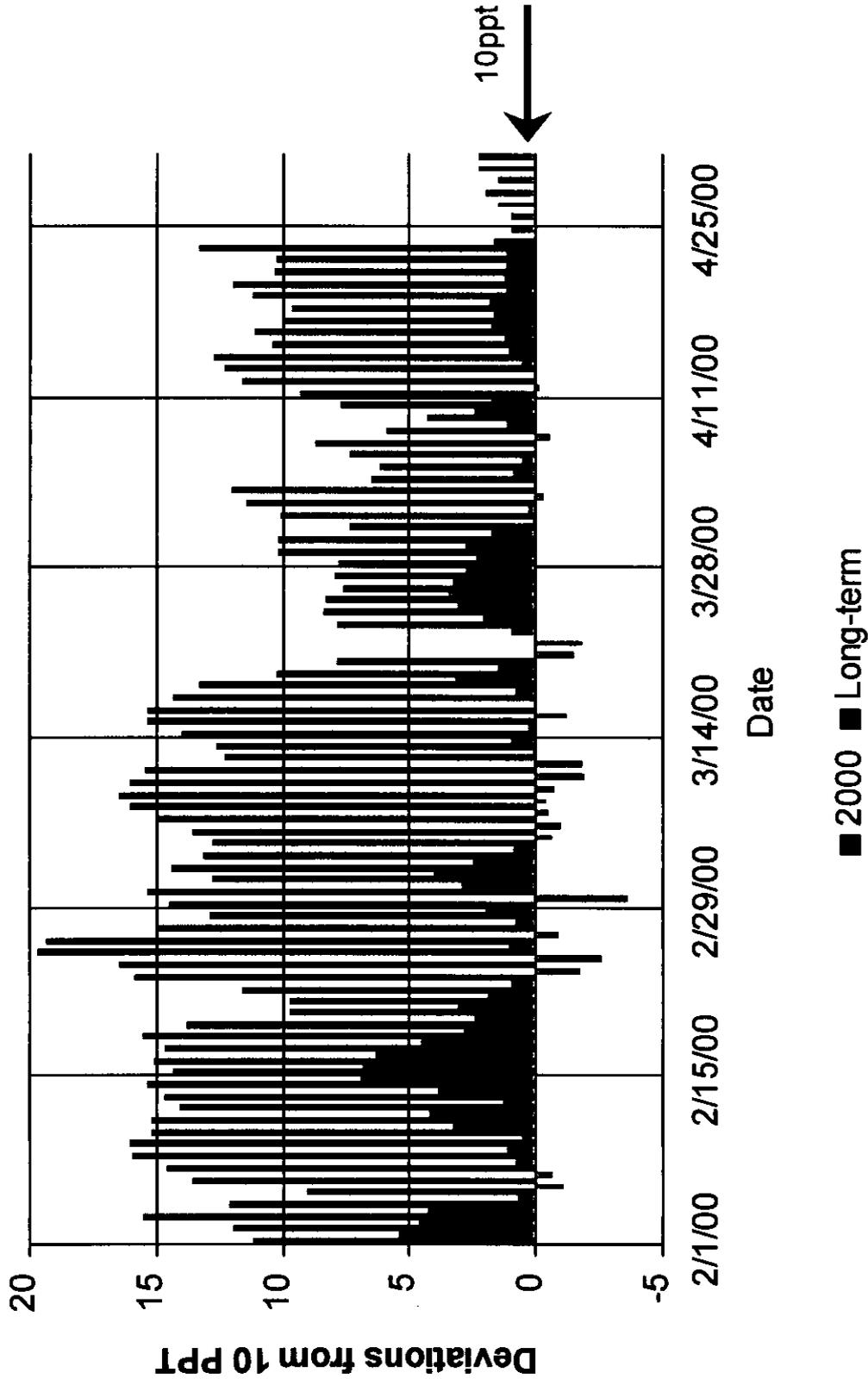
Deviations from 10 ppt



Source: LDWF and USGS

NORTH BARATARIA BAY DAILY SALINITY DEVIATIONS

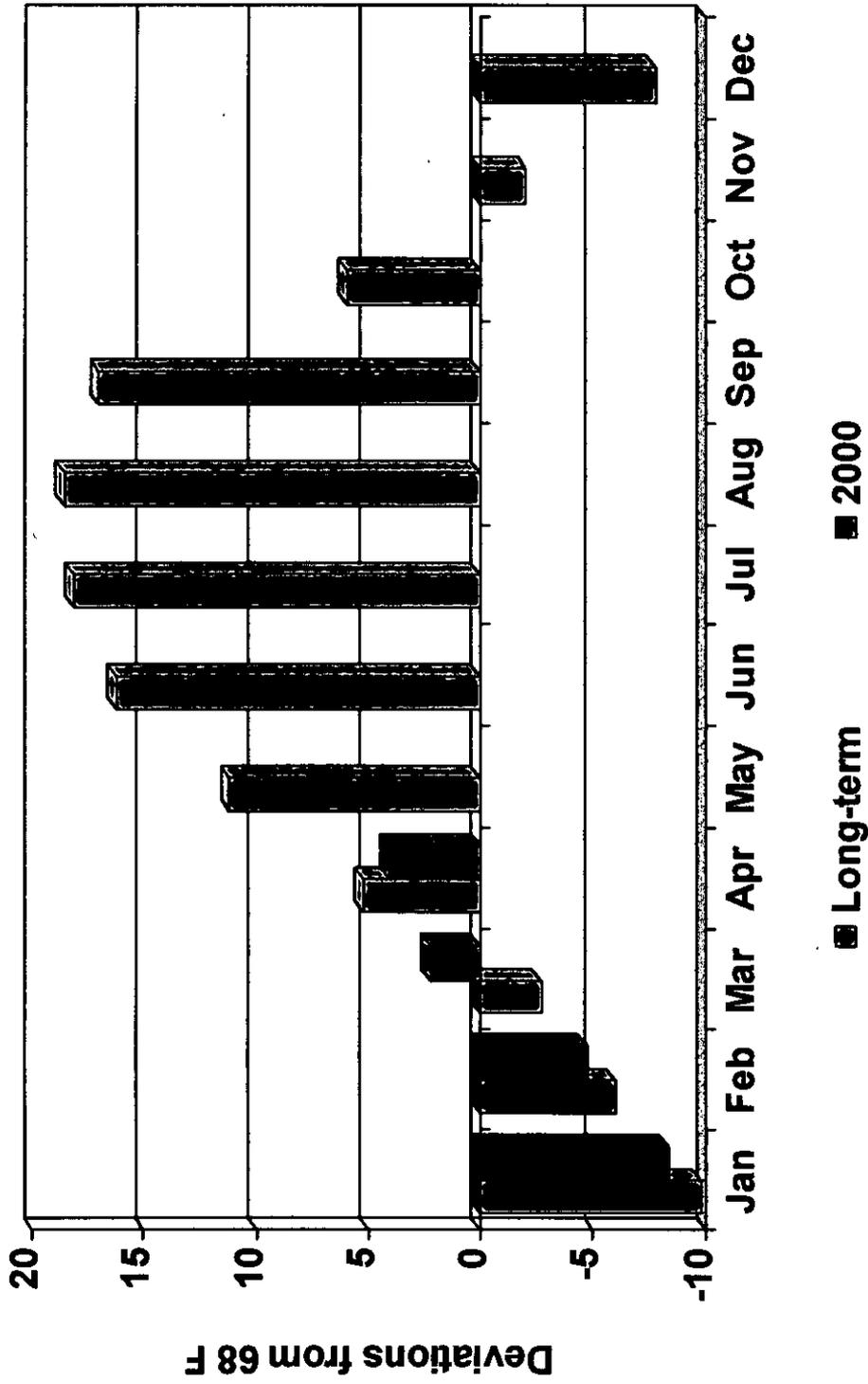
FEBRUARY - APRIL 2000



Source: LDWF and USGS

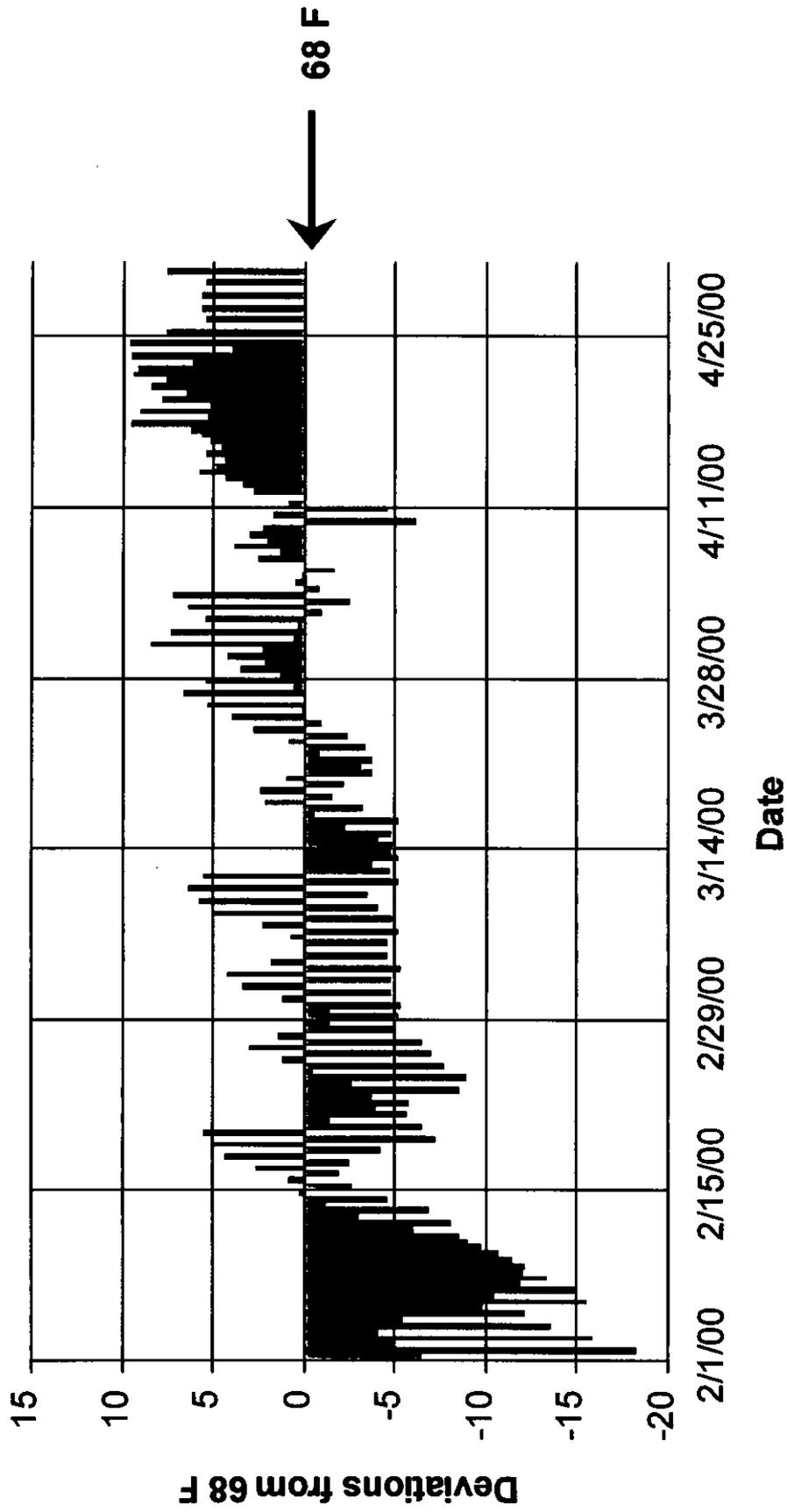
SOUTH BARATARIA BAY TEMPERATURE

Deviations from 68 F



SOUTH BARATARIA BAY DAILY WATER TEMPERATURE DEVIATIONS

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2000

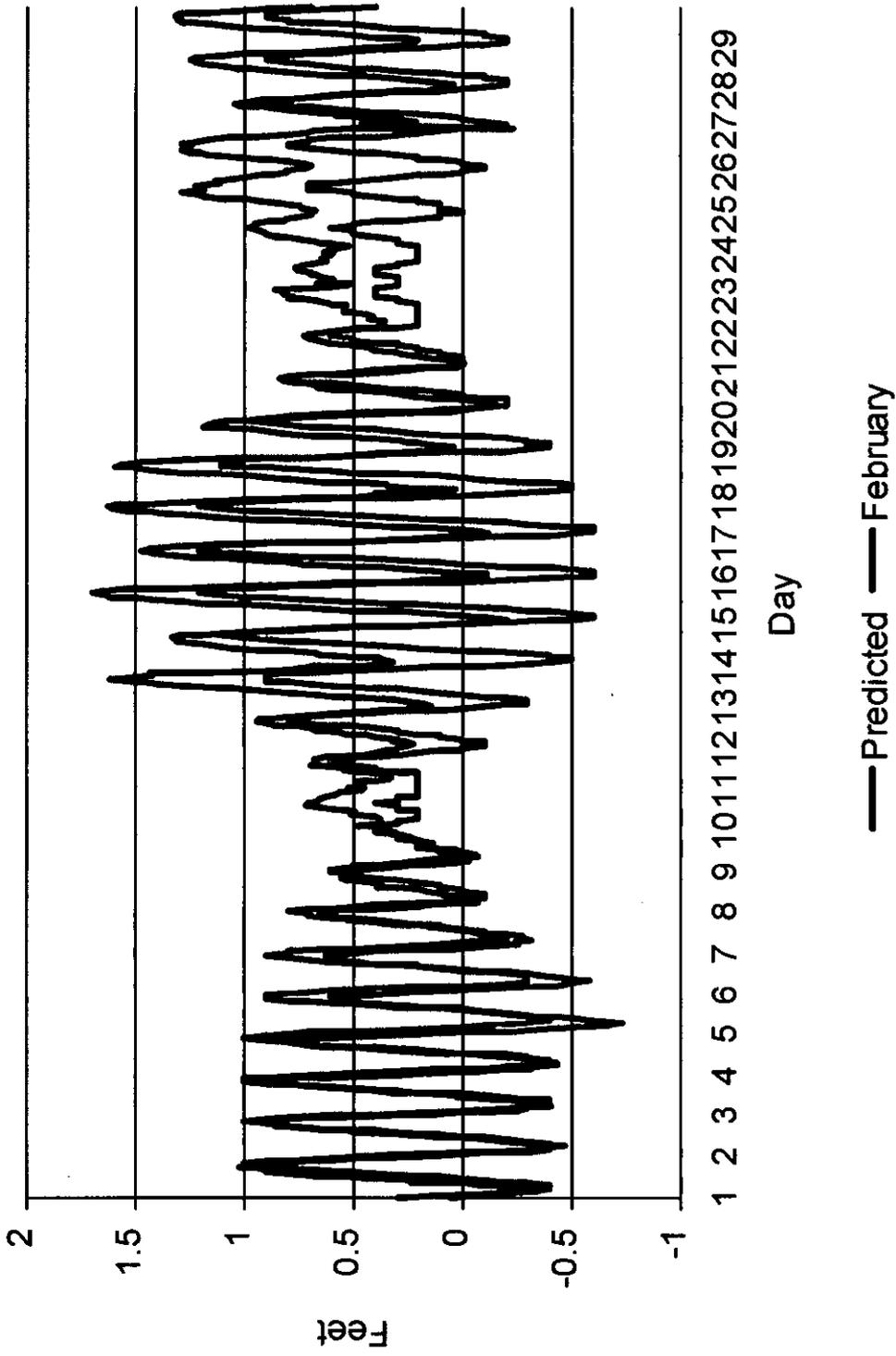


■ Long-term ■ 2000

Source: LDWF and USGS

FEBRUARY 2000 TIDAL RANGE

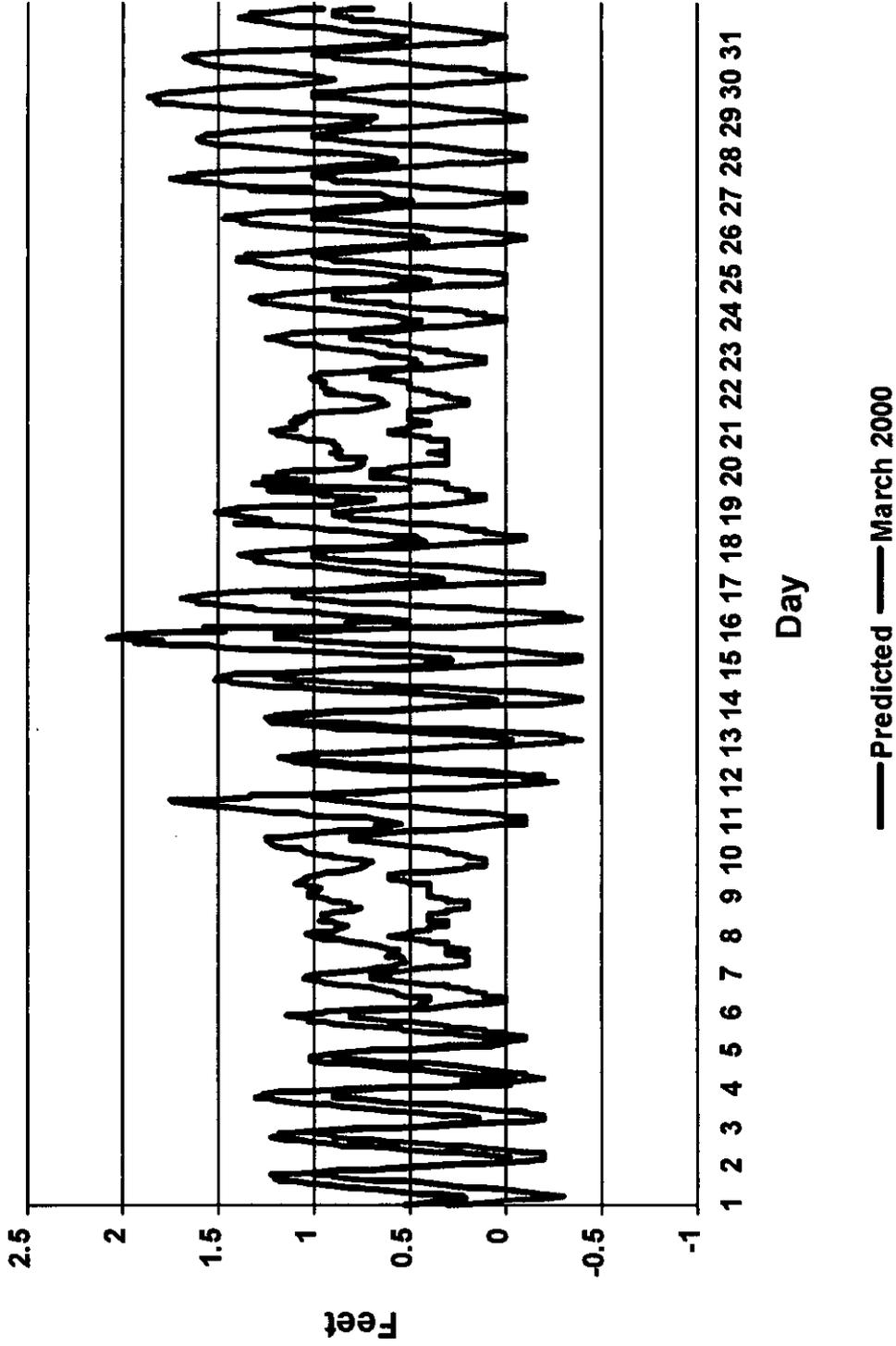
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: Nautical Software

MARCH 2000 TIDAL RANGE

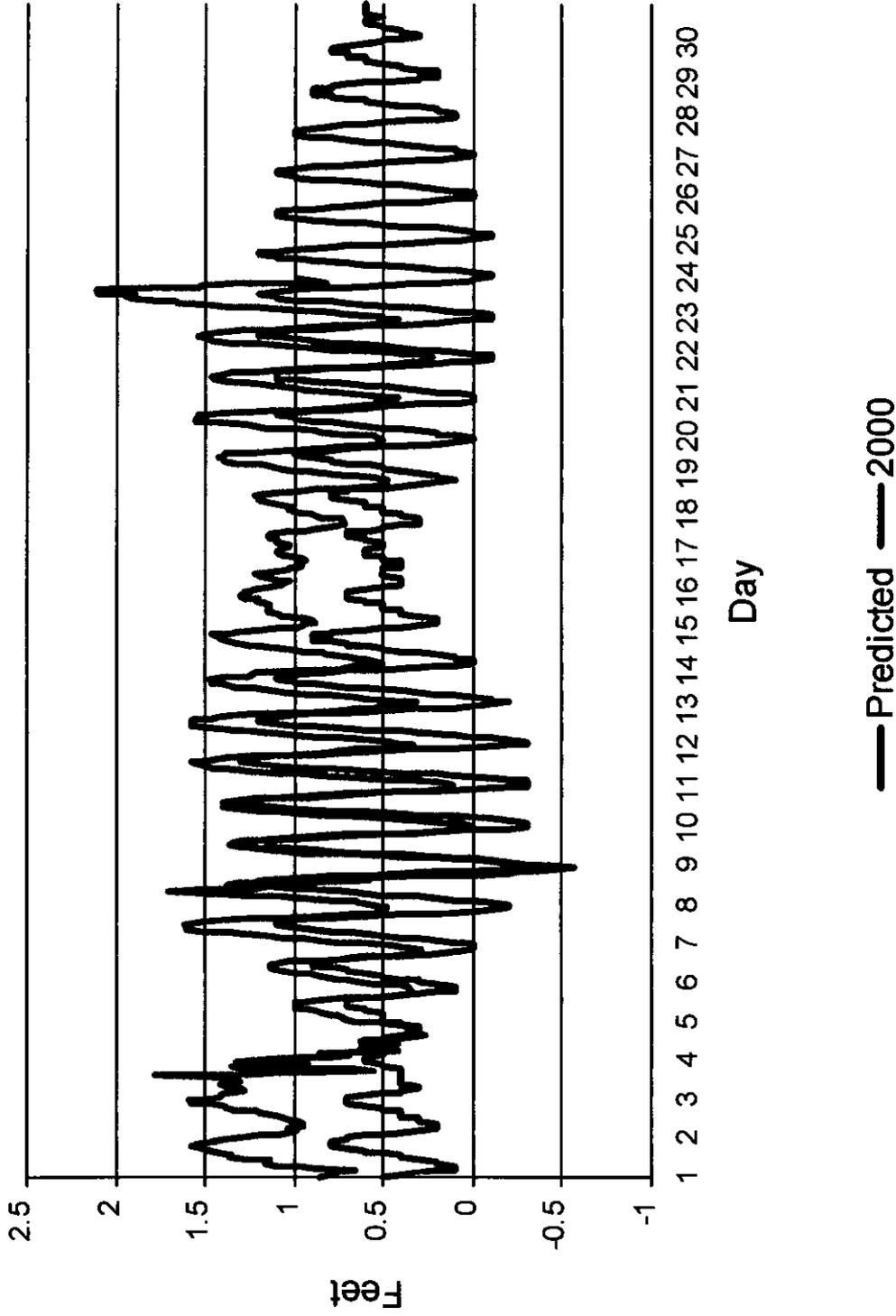
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: LDWF, USGS and Nautical Software

APRIL 2000 TIDAL RANGE

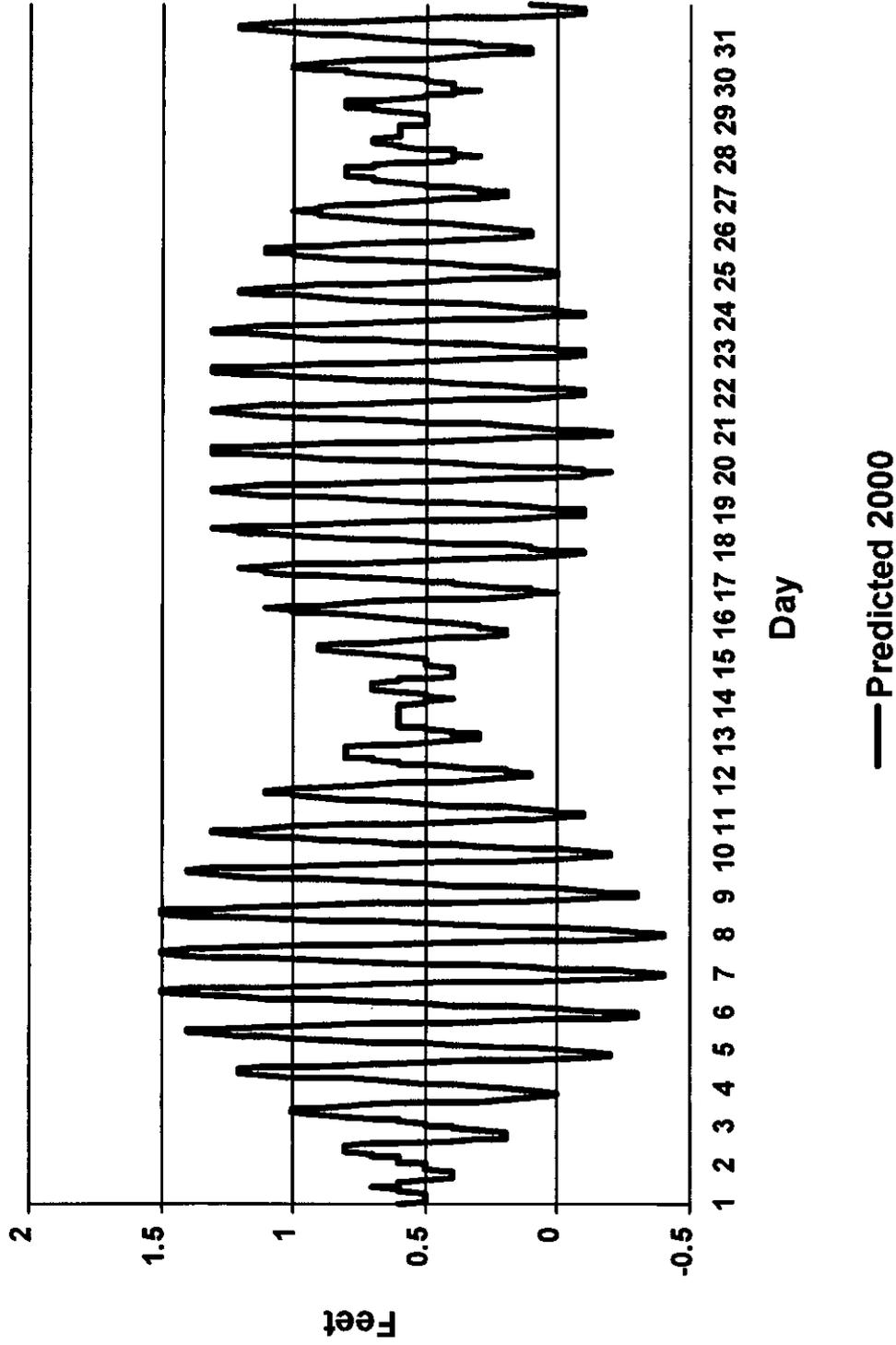
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: LDWF/USGS and Nautical Software

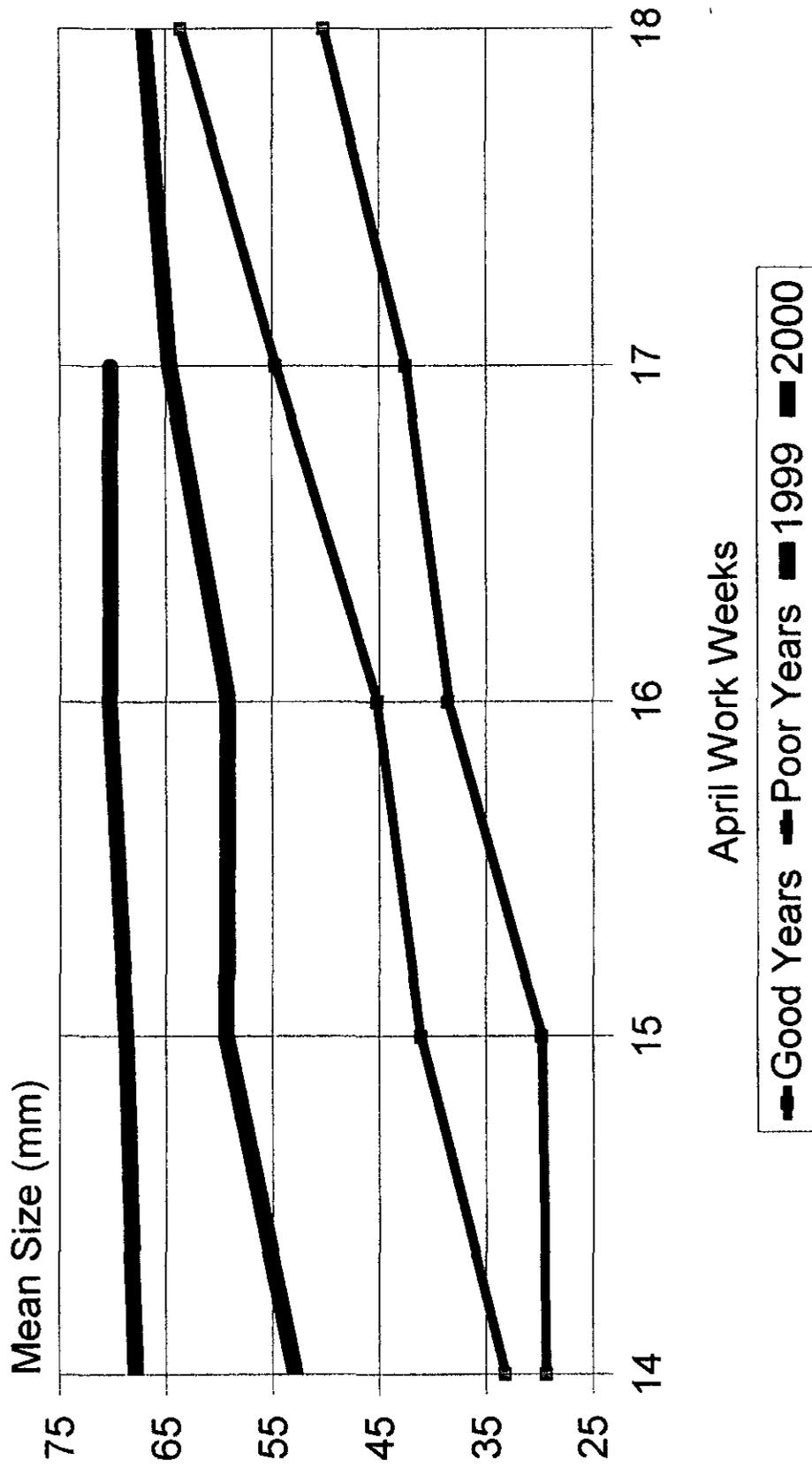
MAY 2000 TIDAL RANGE

Barataria Pass, Louisiana



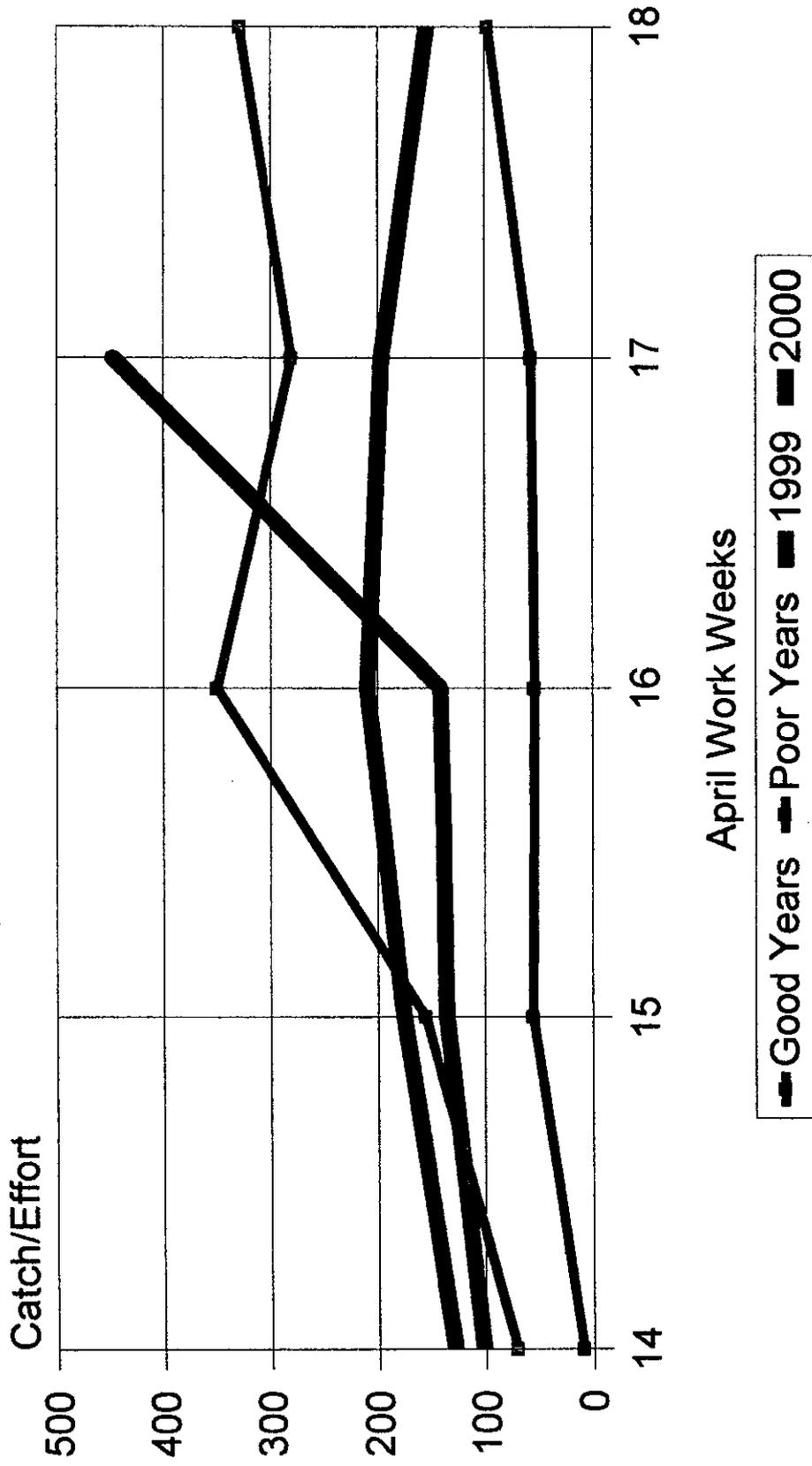
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls

Barataria Bay



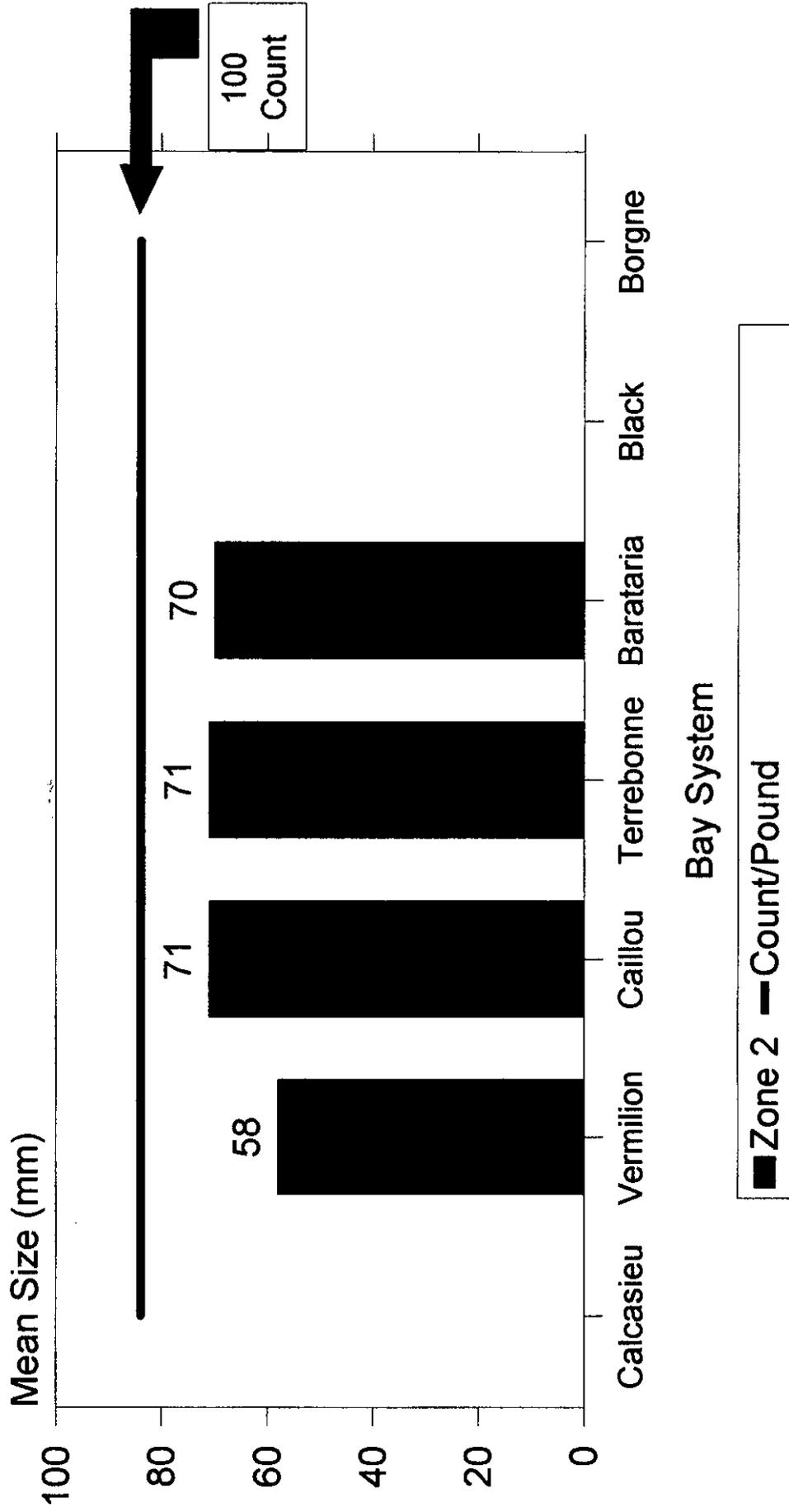
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls

Barataria Bay



Brown Shrimp Size

Week 17, 2000



THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

1000

1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000



1000



1000



1000



1000

1000



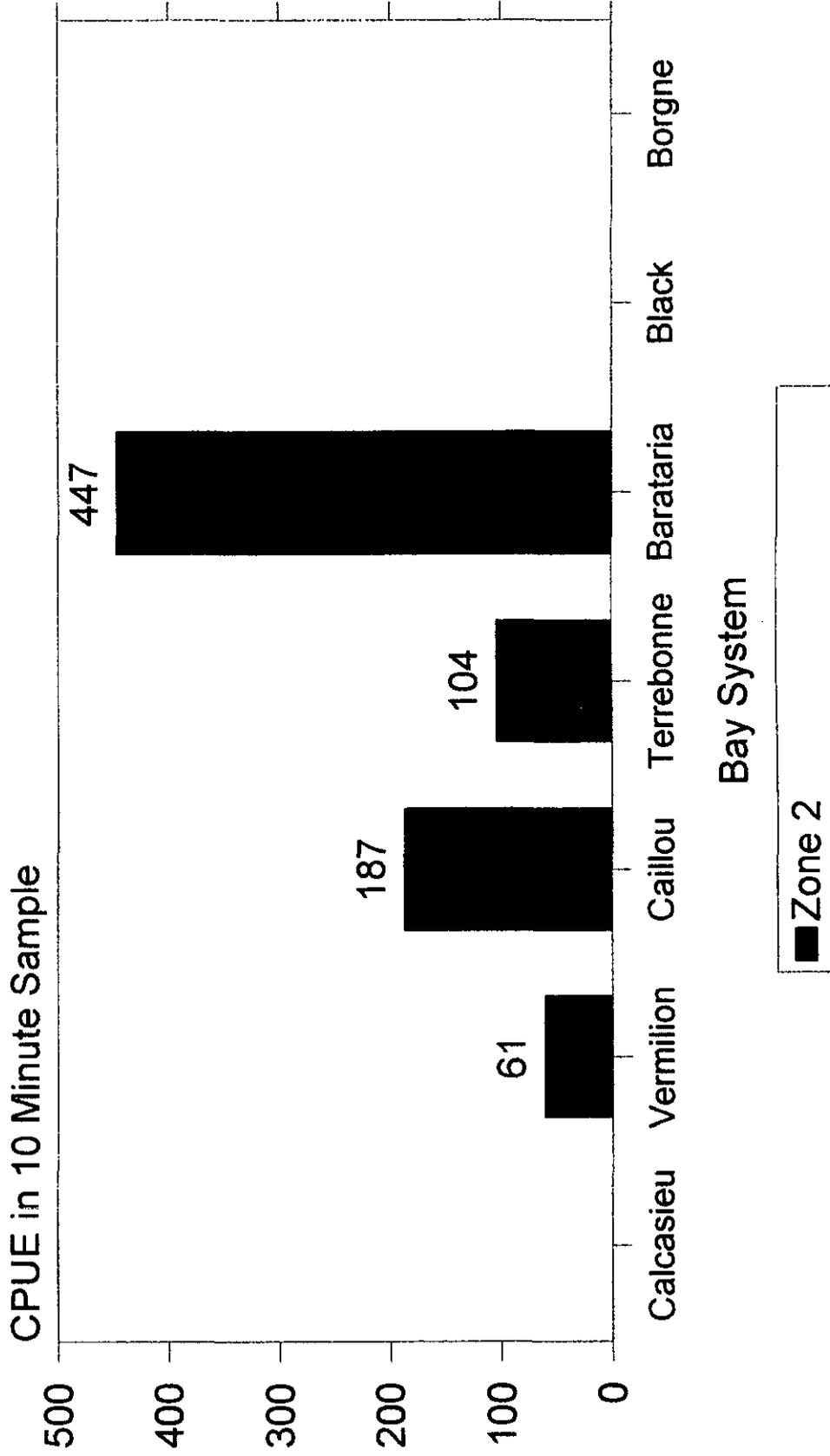
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1000

1000

Brown Shrimp Catch per Effort

Week 17, 2000

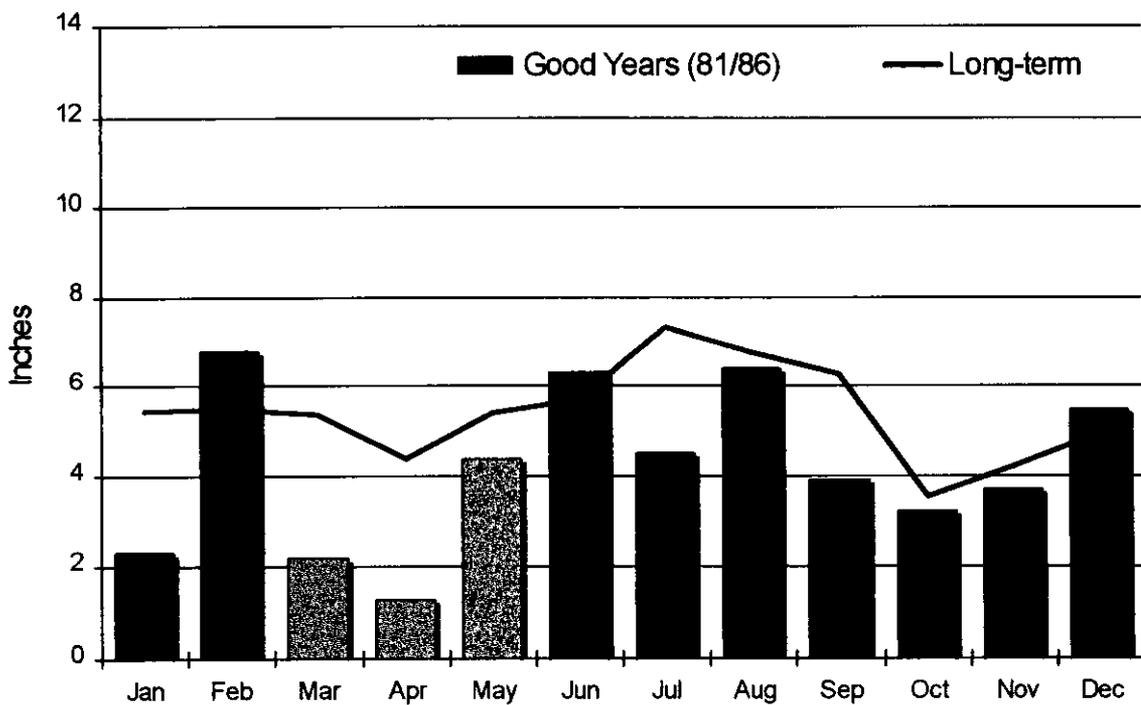
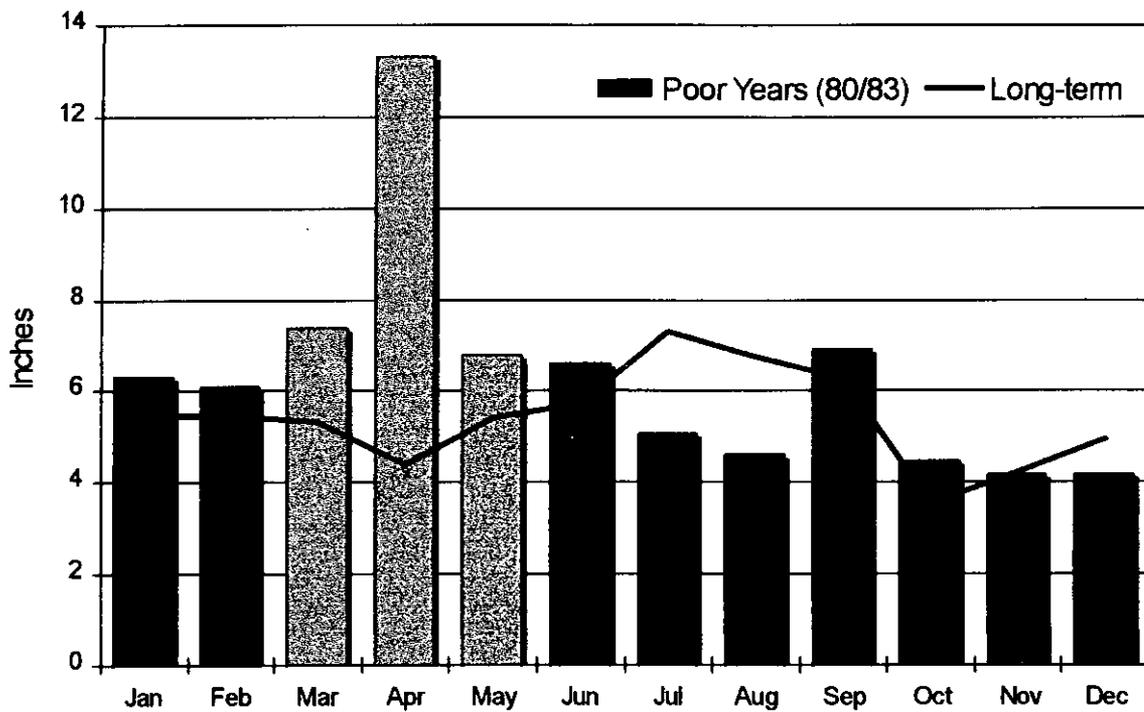


ZONE 2 2000

Percent
100 Count

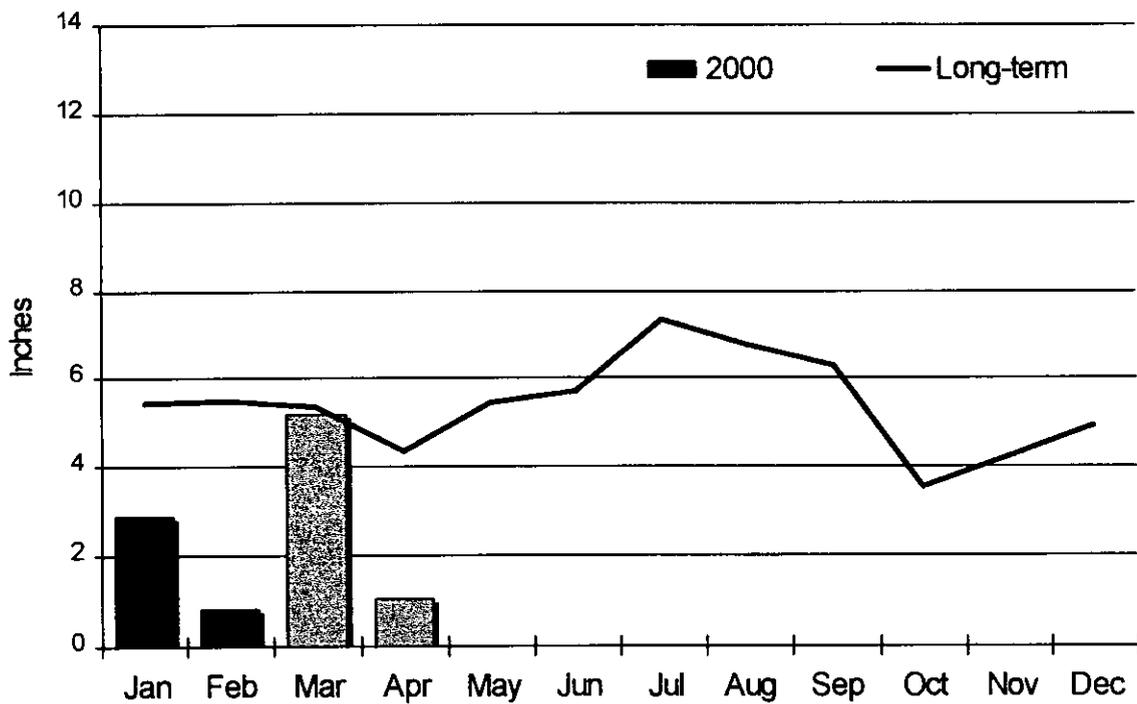
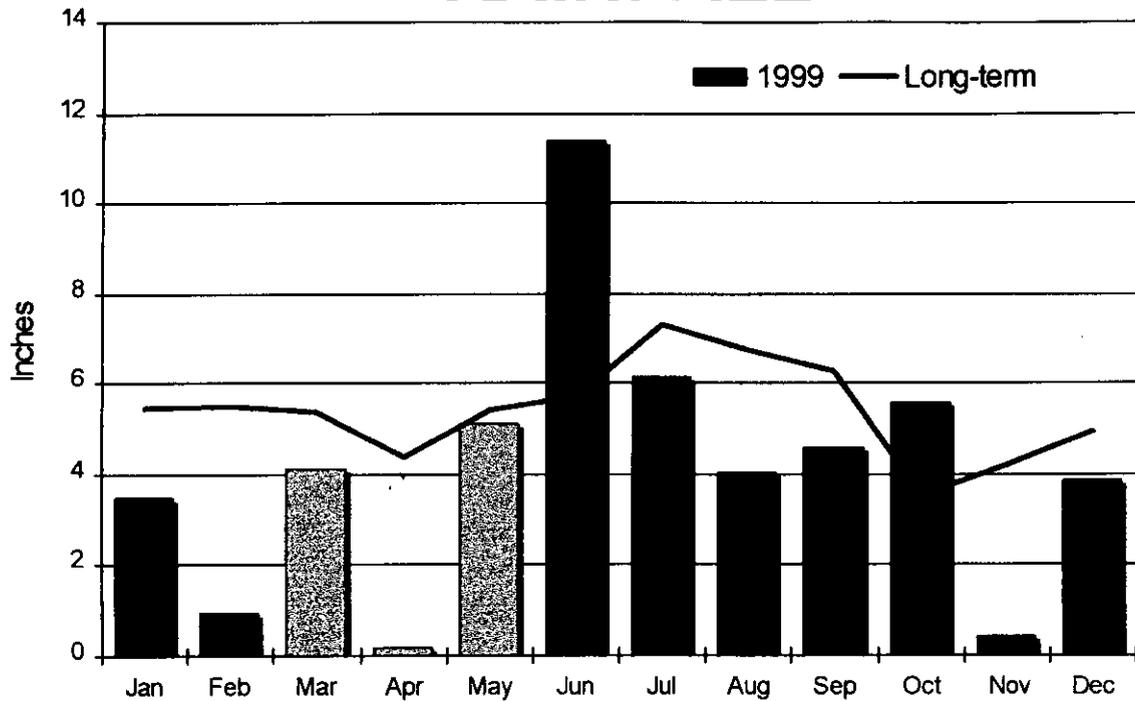


SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA RAINFALL



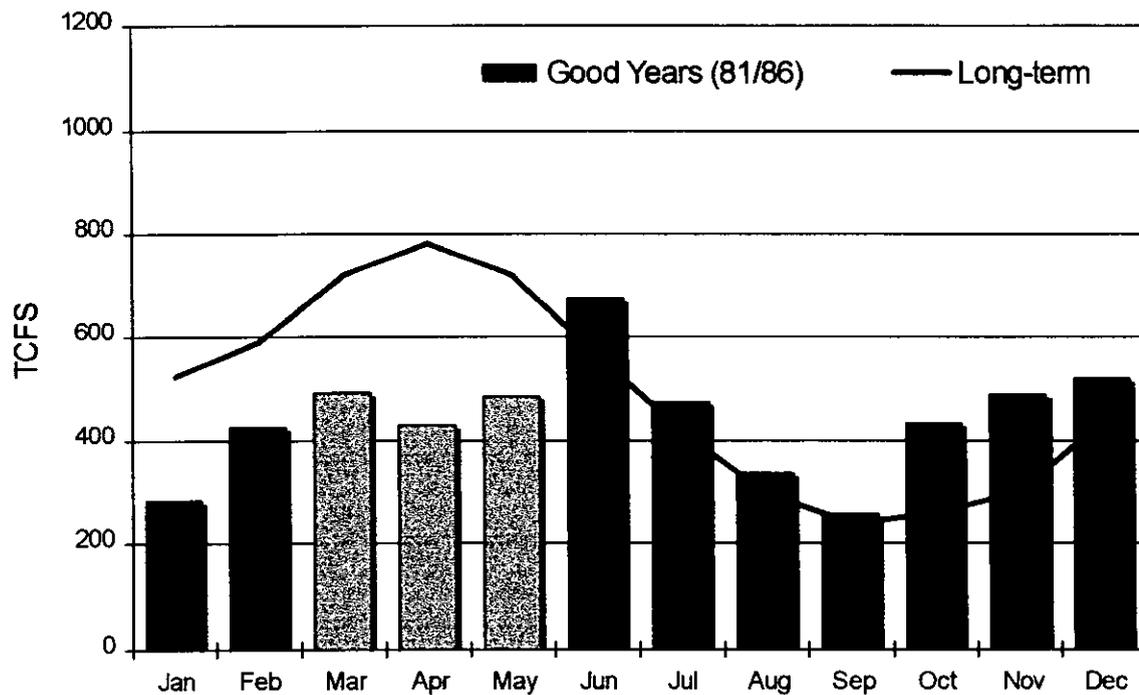
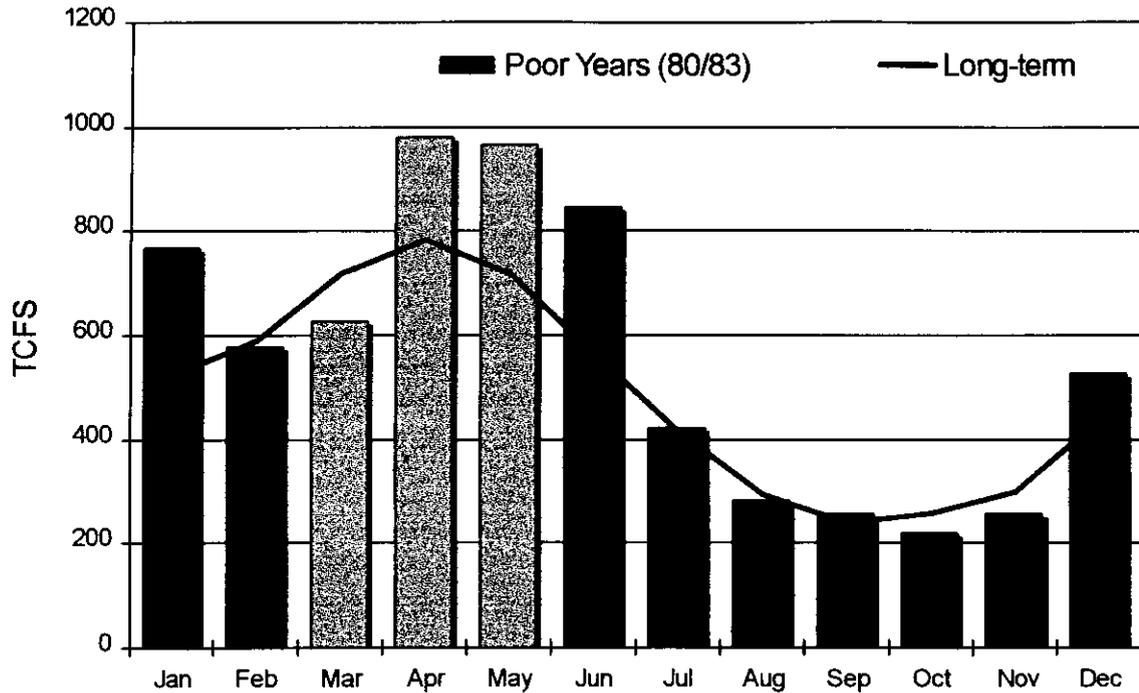
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

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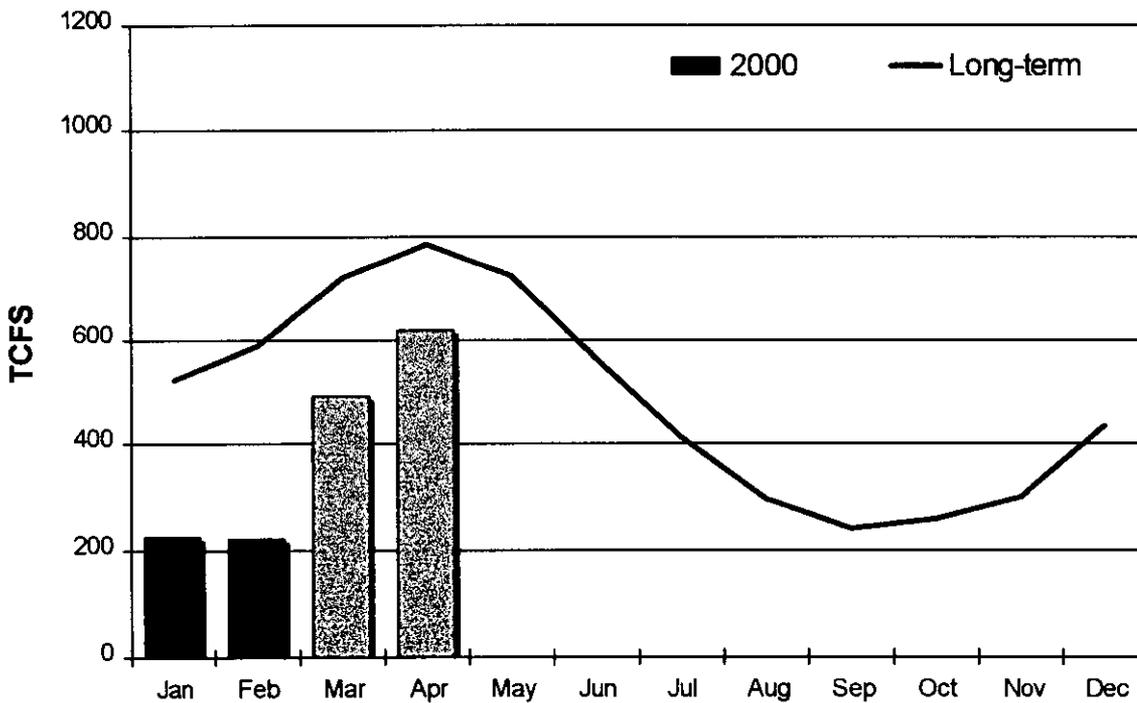
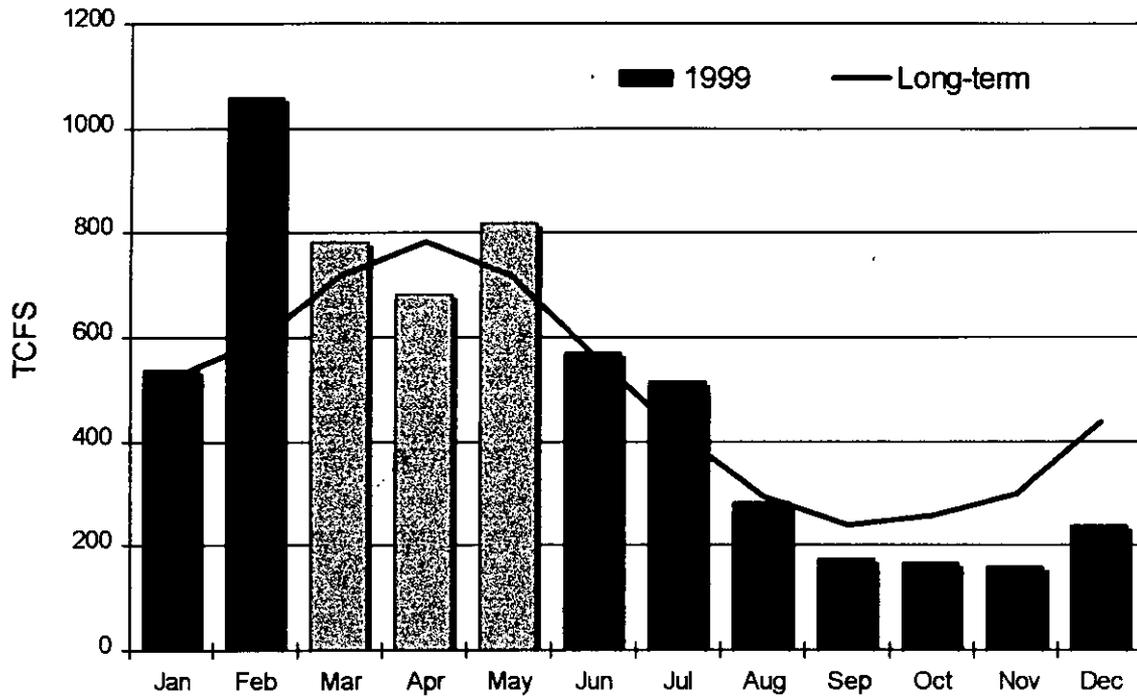
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISCHARGE



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

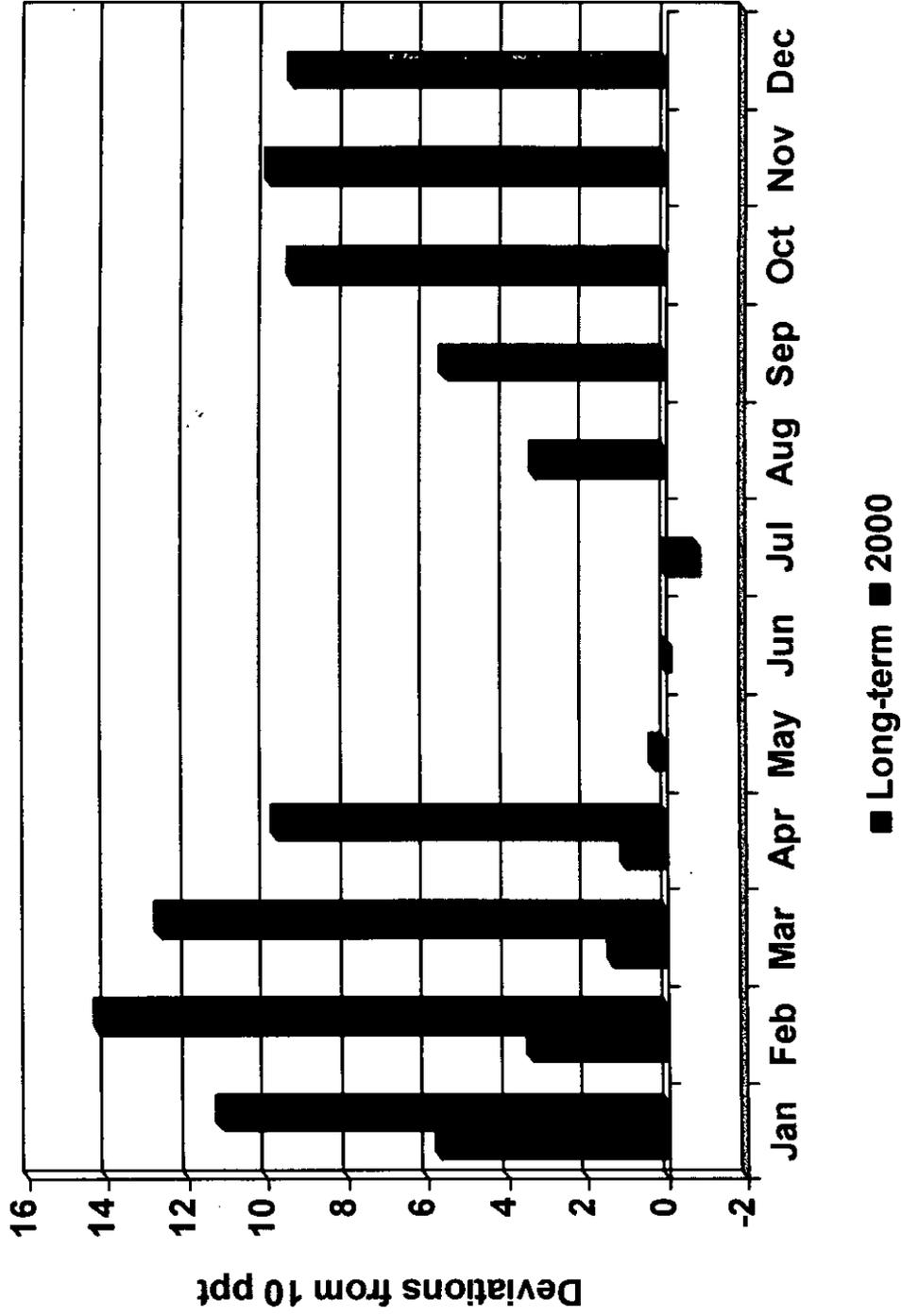
MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISCHARGE



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

NORTH BARATARIA BAY SALINITY

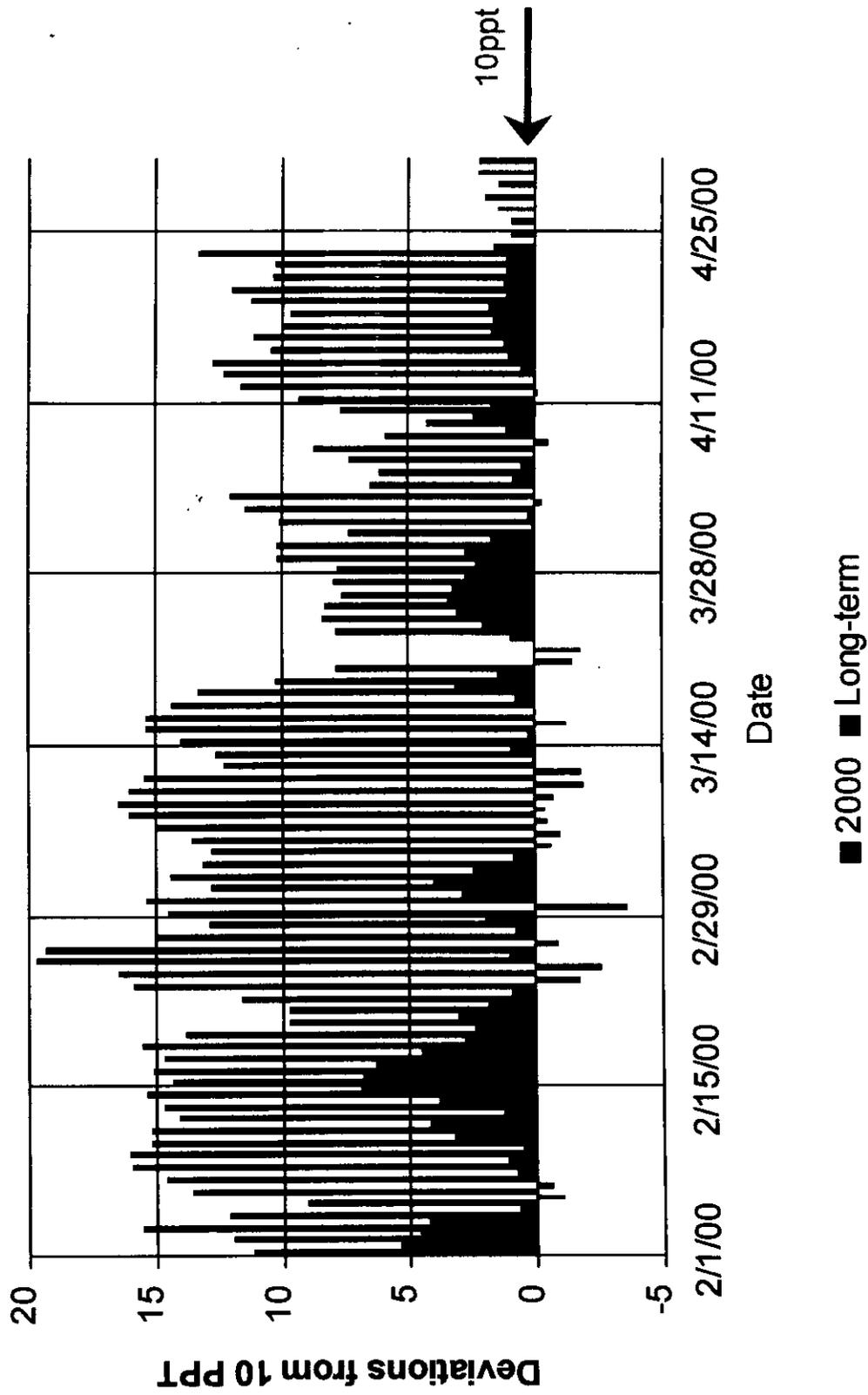
Deviations from 10 ppt



Source: LDWF and USGS

NORTH BARATARIA BAY DAILY SALINITY DEVIATIONS

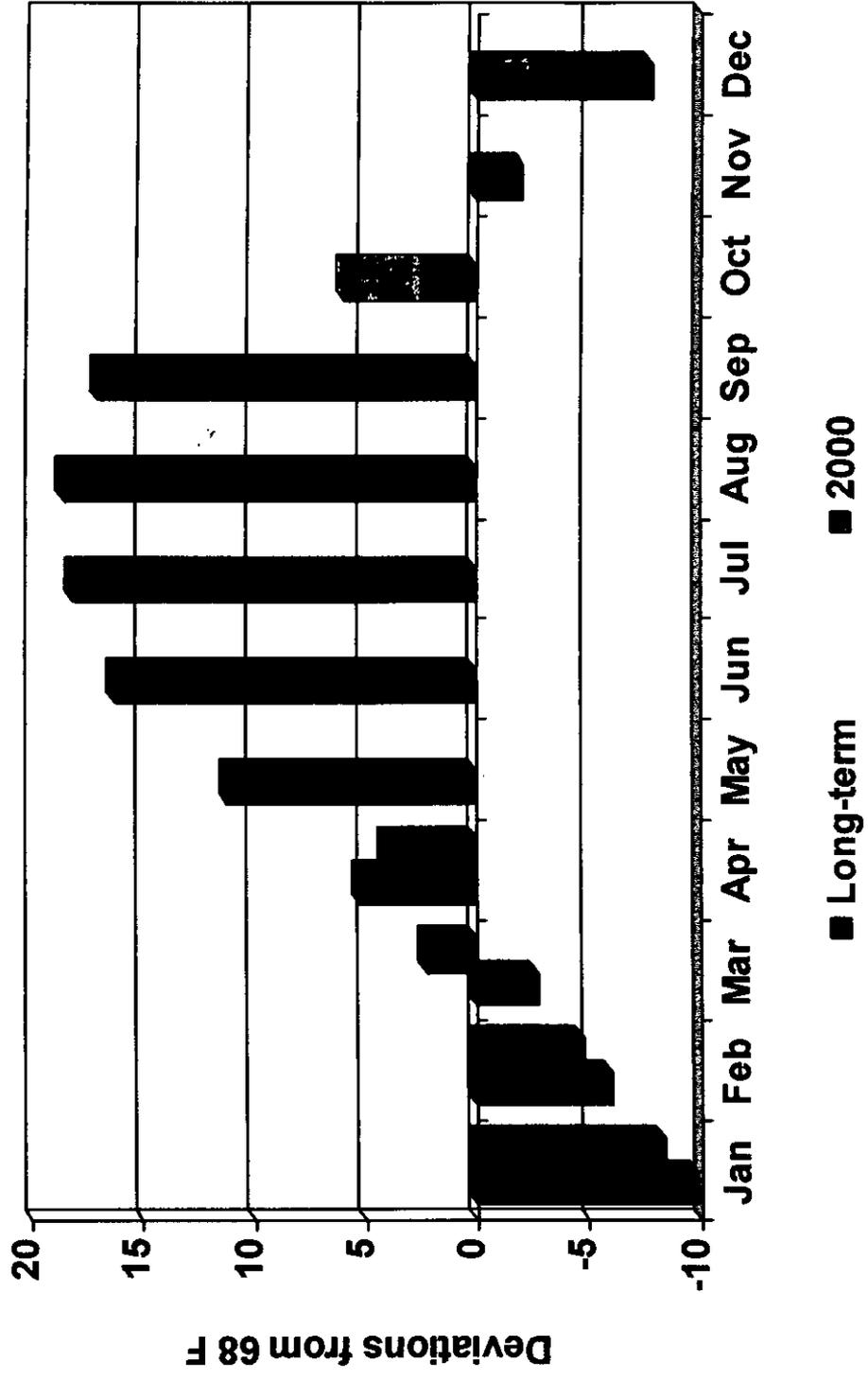
FEBRUARY - APRIL 2000



Source: LDWF and USGS

SOUTH BARATARIA BAY TEMPERATURE

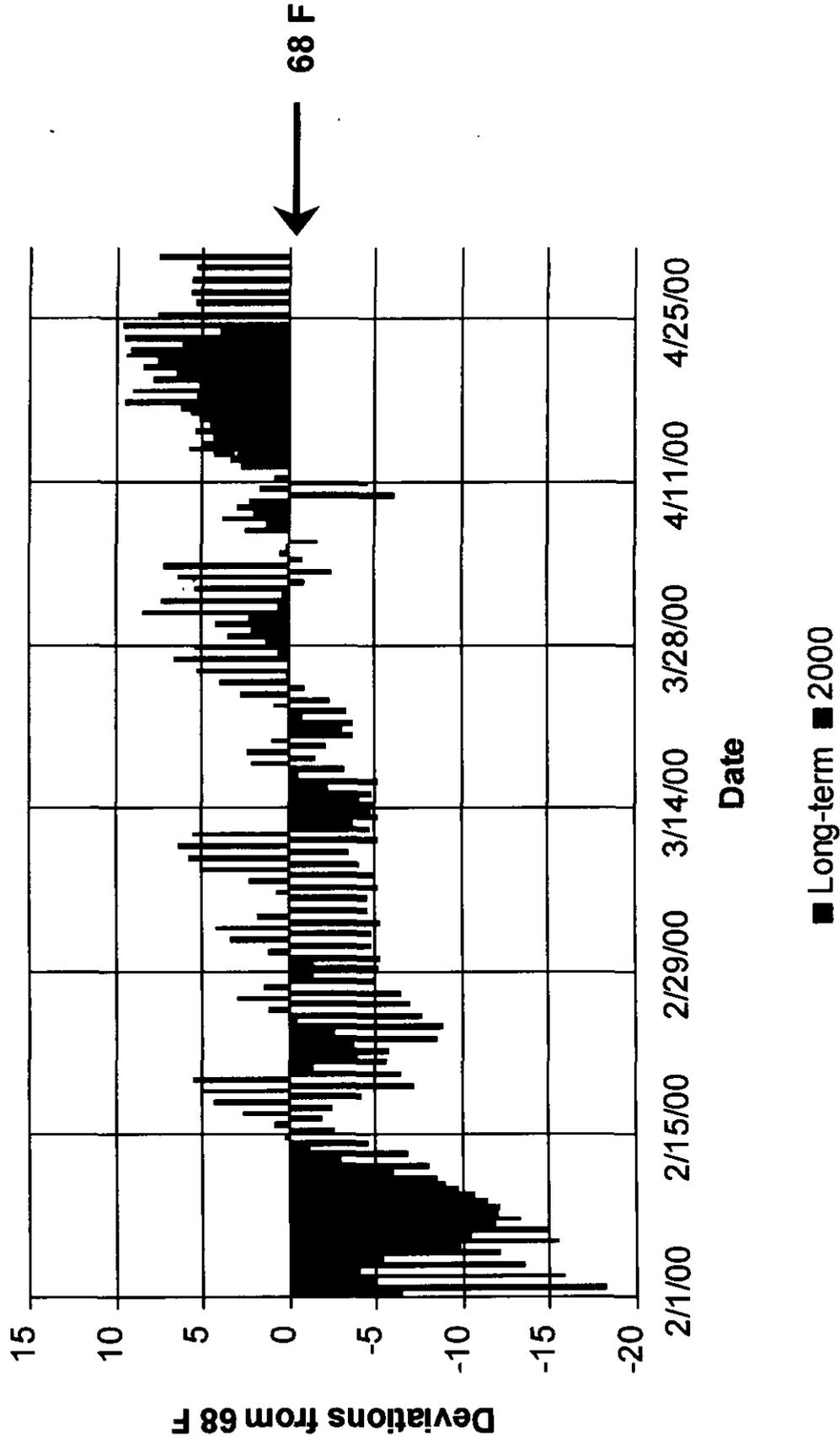
Deviations from 68 F



Source: LDWF and USGS

SOUTH BARATARIA BAY DAILY WATER TEMPERATURE DEVIATIONS

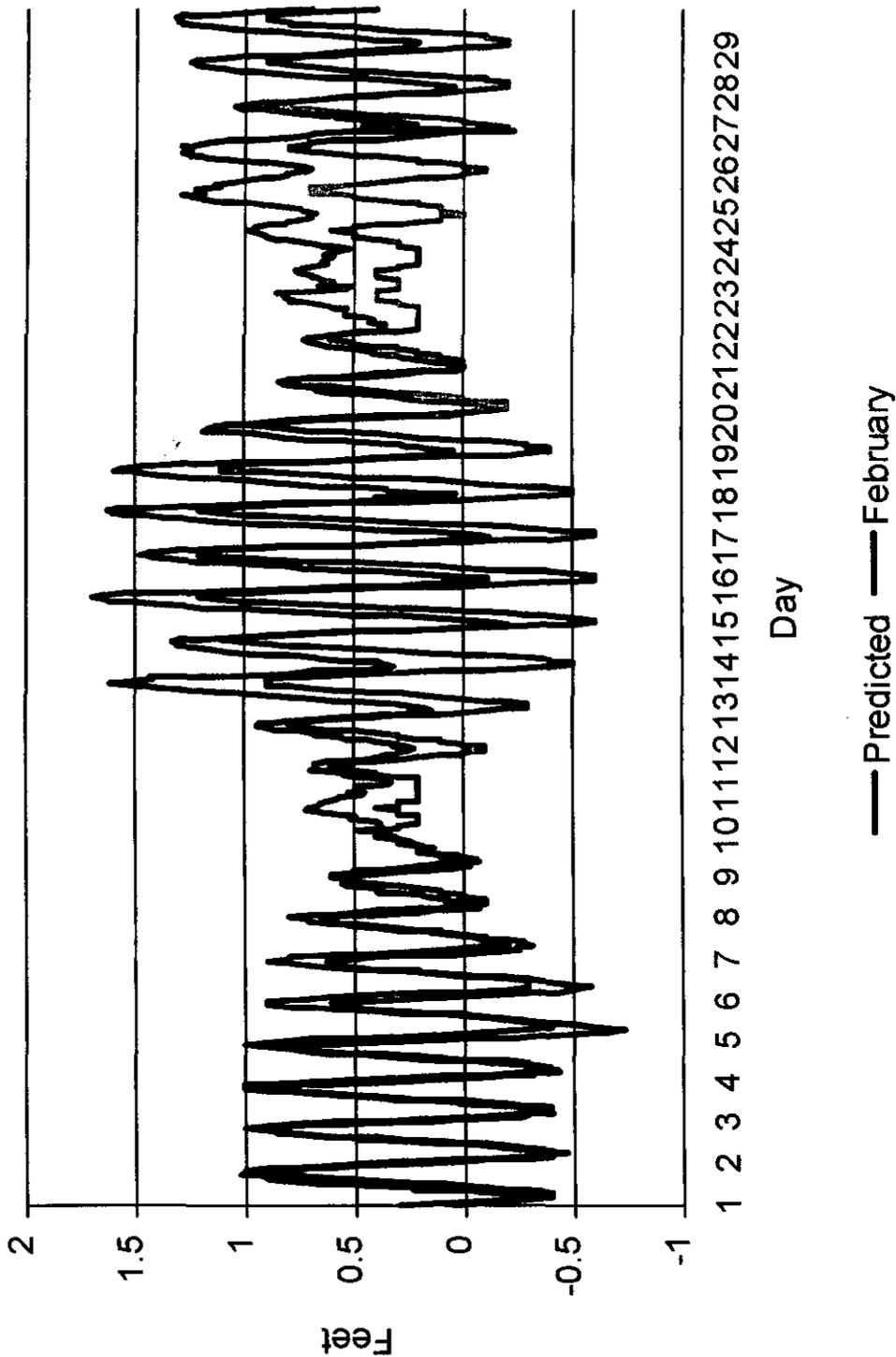
FEBRUARY - APRIL 2000



Source: LDWF and USGS

FEBRUARY 2000 TIDAL RANGE

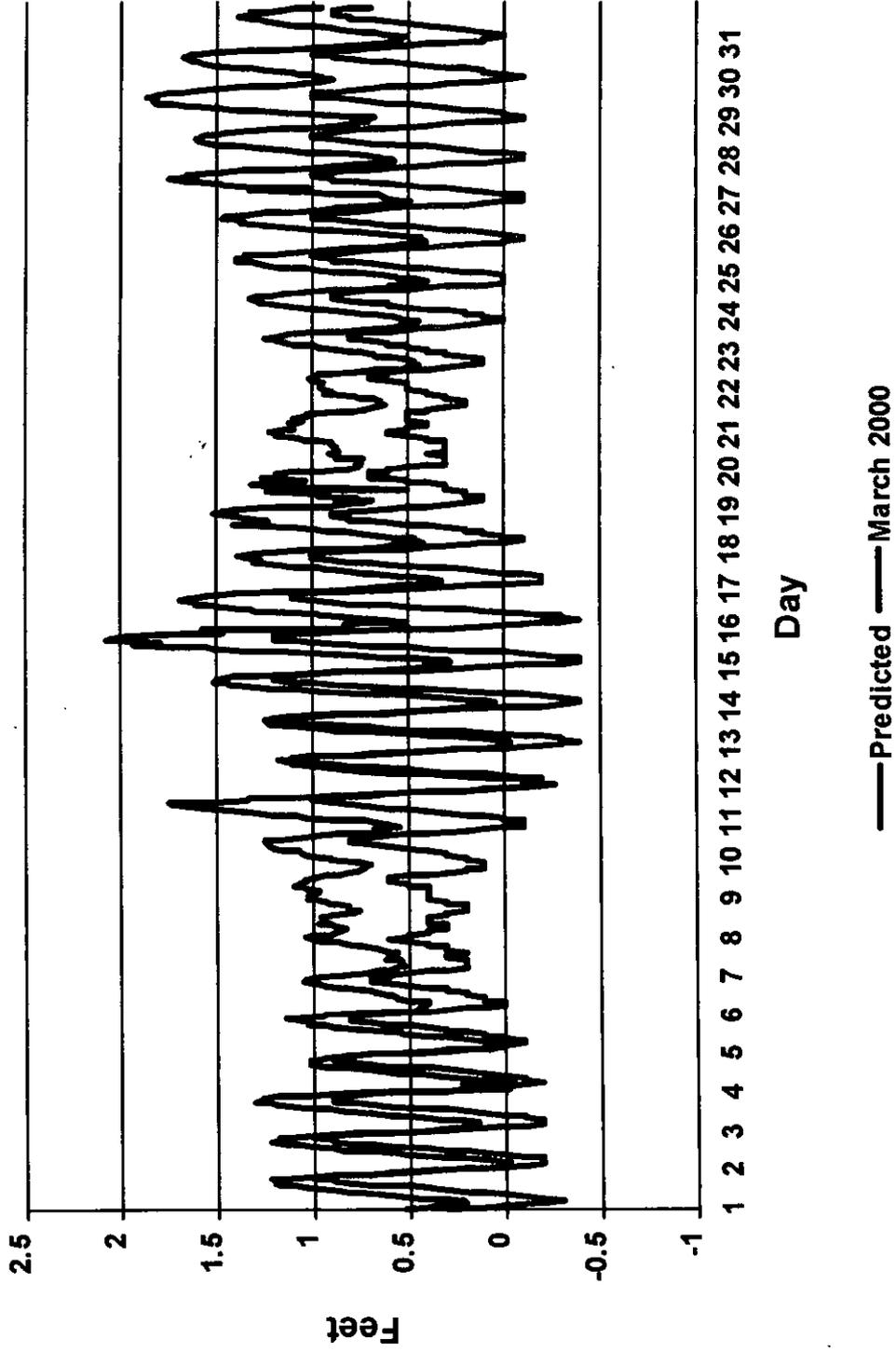
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: Nautical Software

MARCH 2000 TIDAL RANGE

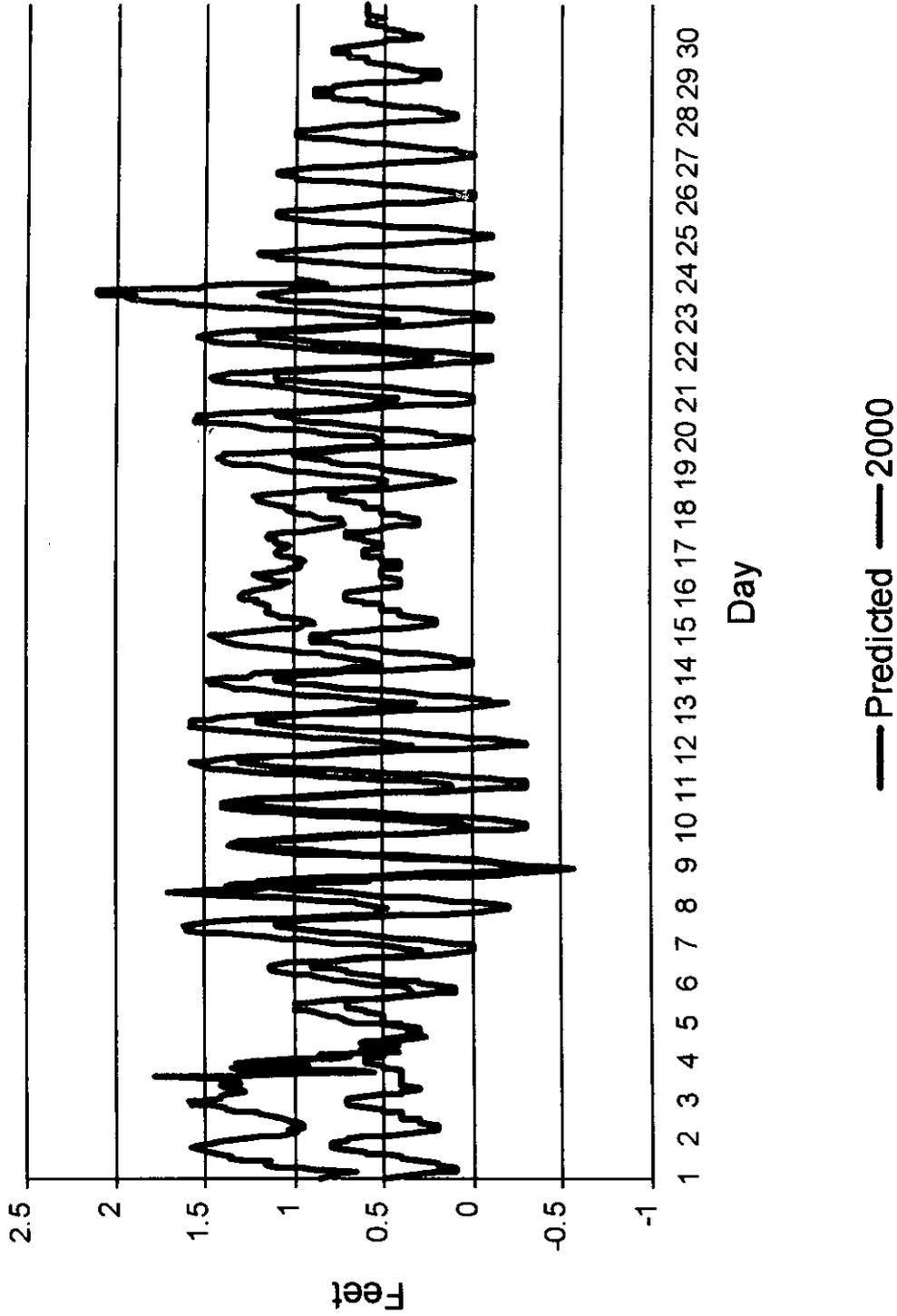
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: LDWF, USGS and Nautical Software

APRIL 2000 TIDAL RANGE

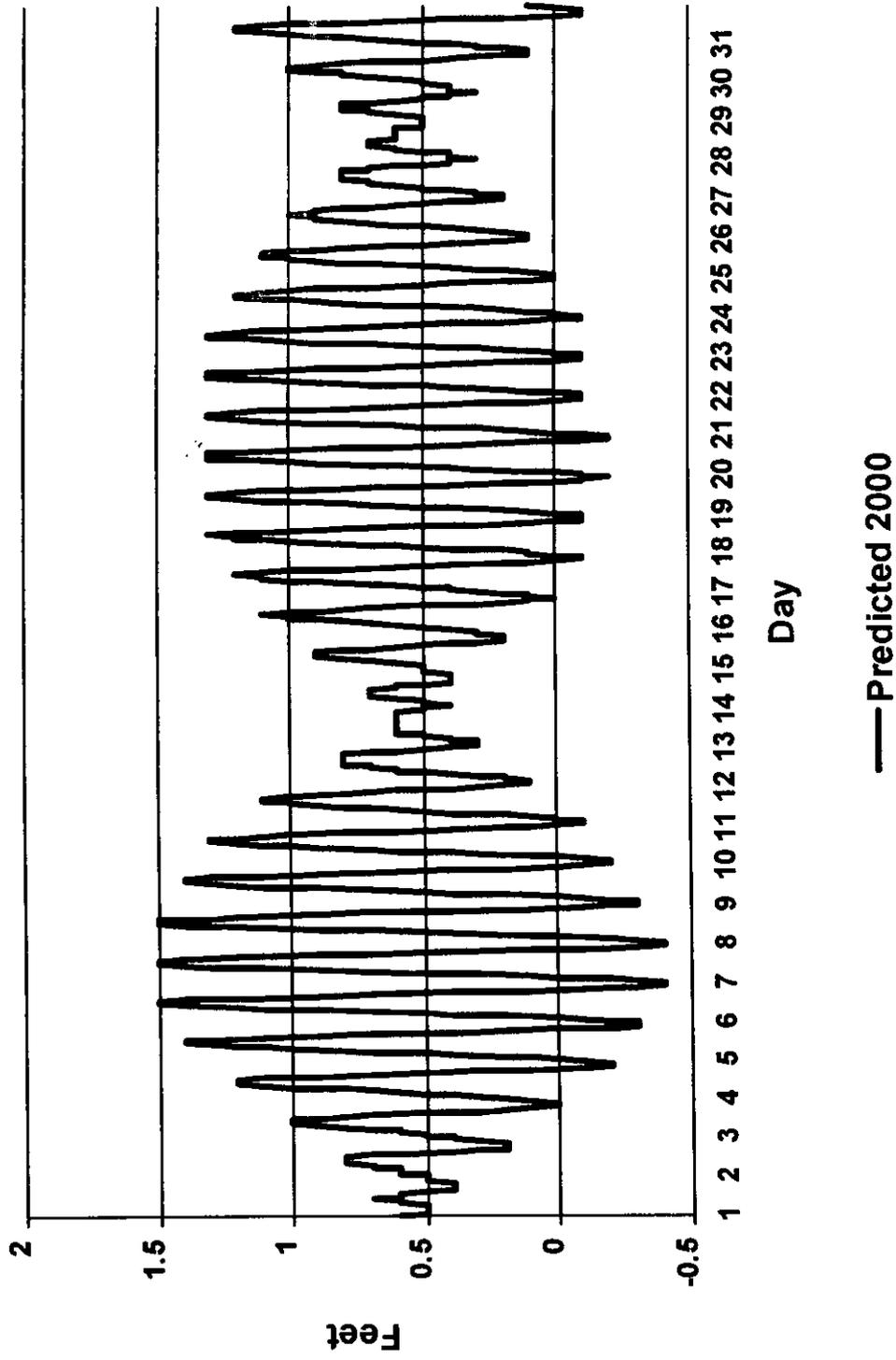
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



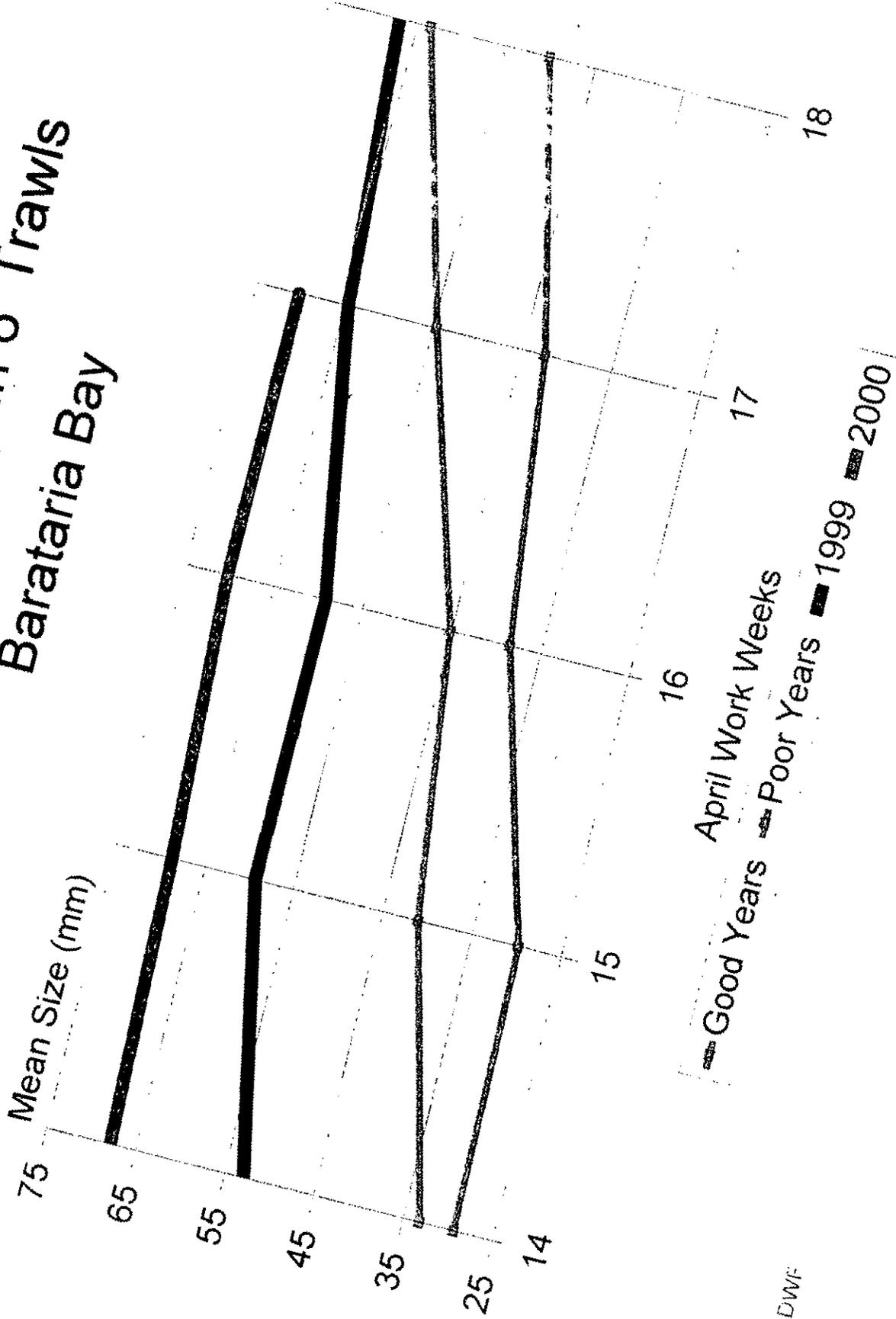
Source: LDWF/USGS and Nautical Software

MAY 2000 TIDAL RANGE

Barataria Pass, Louisiana



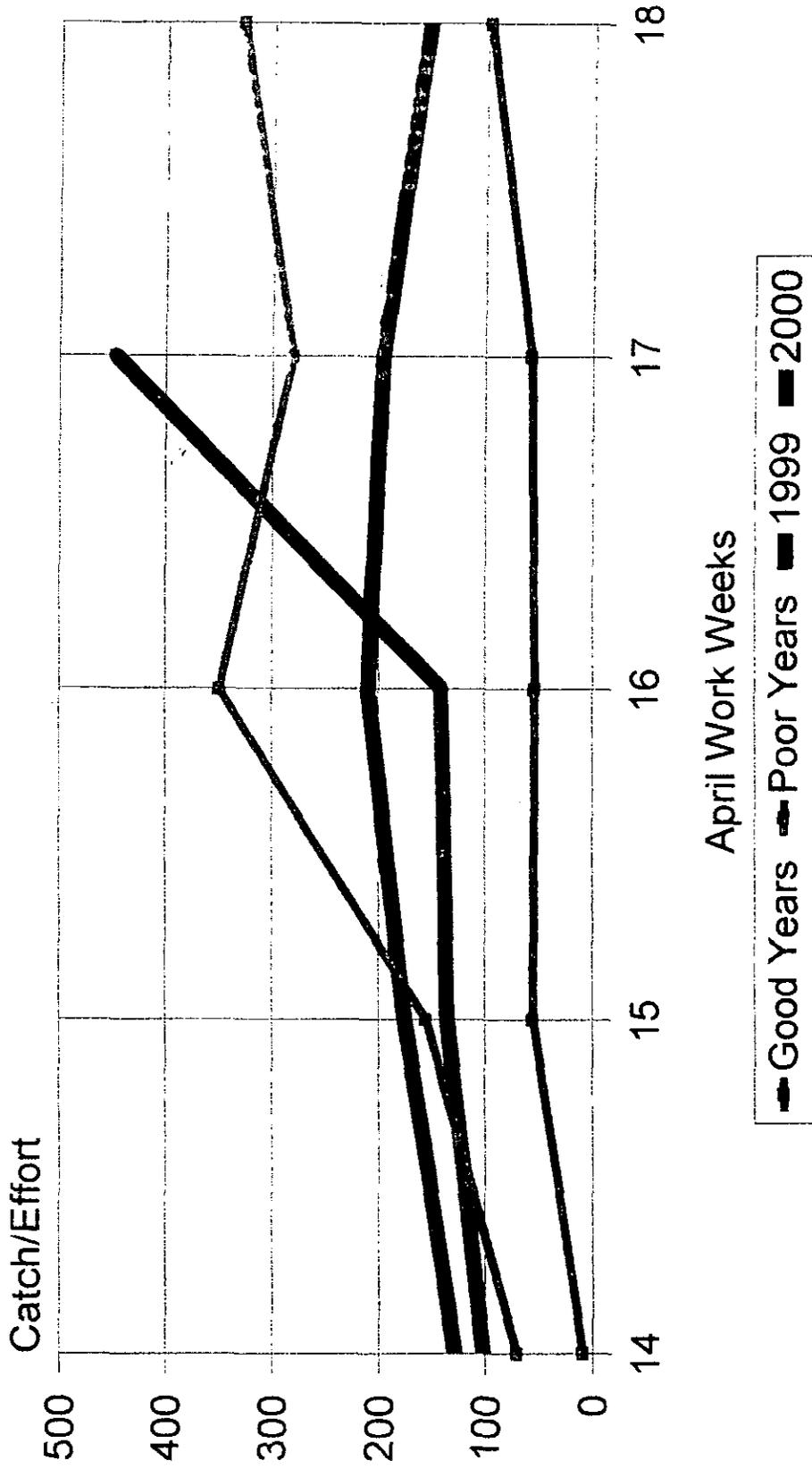
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls Barataria Bay



Source: LDWF

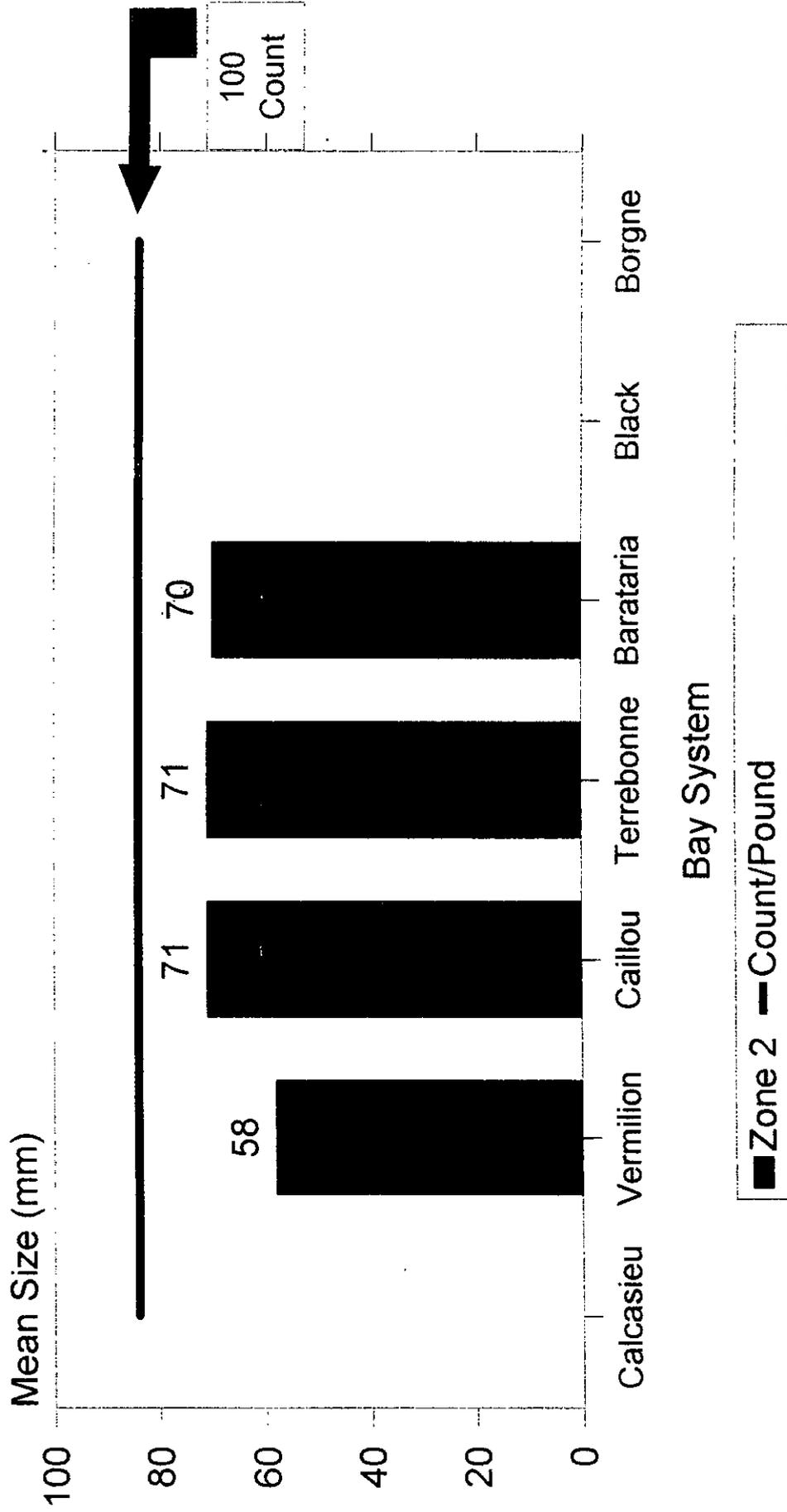
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls

Barataria Bay



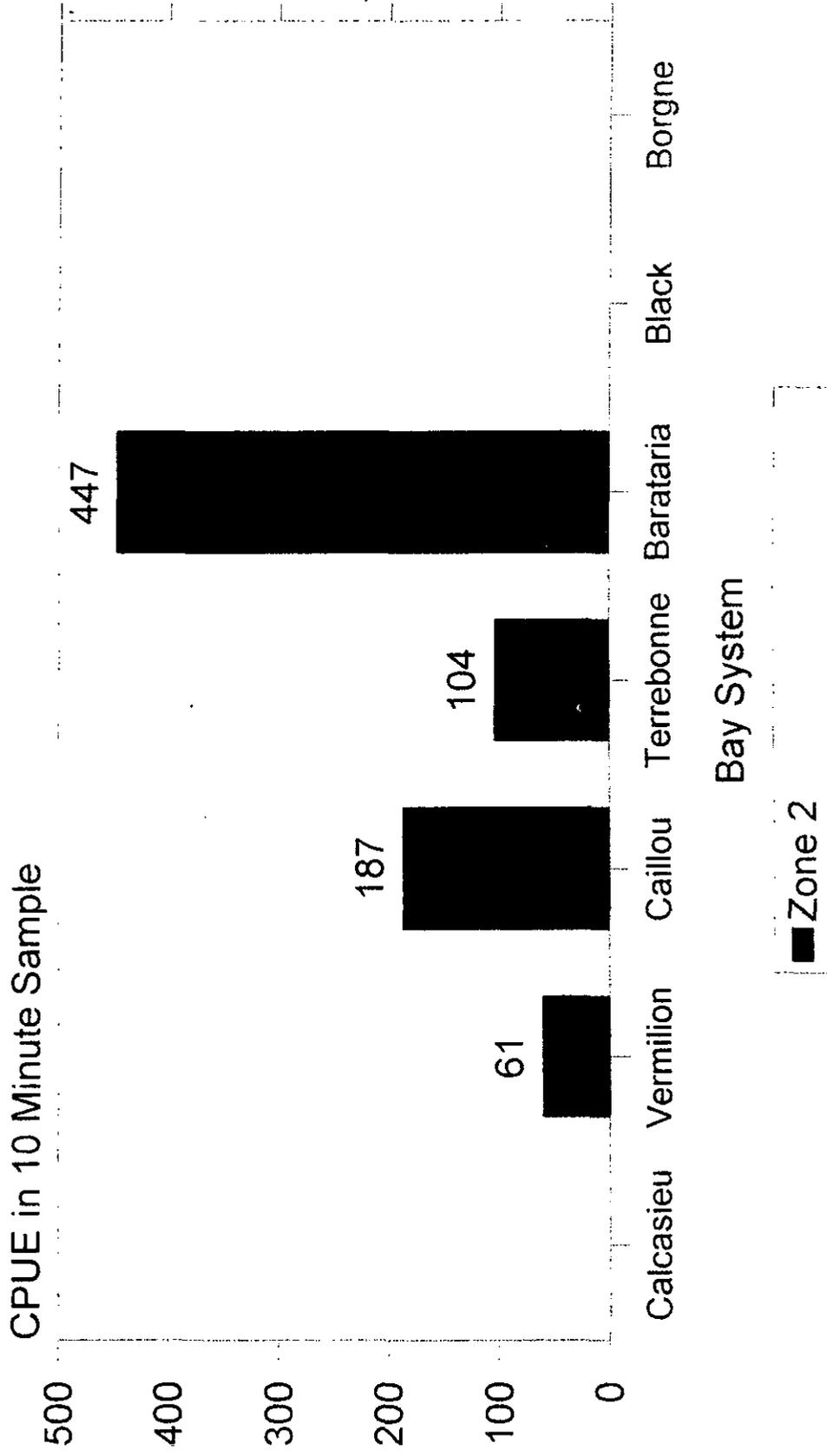
Brown Shrimp Size

Week 17, 2000



Brown Shrimp Catch per Effort

Week 17, 2000



ZONE 2 2000

Percent
100 Count



RESOLUTION
2000 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season - Zone 2
April 27, 2000

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for consideration in opening the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in the zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

WHEREAS, current biological data project that 50% of the 2000 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 2 by May ____, 2000, and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2000 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 2 at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000 and opens that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2000 spring Inshore Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2000 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season - Zone 2

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2000 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season in Zone 2 to open as follows:

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island will open at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000; that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to Freshwater Bayou, will open at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000, and

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp

if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle

Chairman

RESOLUTION
2000 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season - Zone 2
April 27, 2000

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for consideration in opening the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in the zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

WHEREAS, current biological data project that 50% of the 2000 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 2 by May ____, 2000, and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2000 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 2 at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000 and opens that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m., May ____, 2000.

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Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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Thomas M. Gattle

Chairman



Joe Macaluso

The Advocate **ONLINE**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The Wild Side headlines and date of publication

Today's meeting data could lead to early ... 4/27/00

Published on 4/27/00

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The Wild Side

Today's meeting data could lead to early inshore shrimp season

Mark Schexnayder is a busy man, so much so that his phone at Wildlife and Fisheries stayed busy for the last three days.

"The meeting is still on," Schexnayder said Wednesday. "There's enough data to give the commission something to act on."

Schexnayder, the state's Shrimp Study Leader, will provide data to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission today that could lead to the earliest opening of the spring inshore shrimp season in more than a decade.

The special commission meeting is scheduled to convene at 10 a.m. in the Louisiana Room of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters on Quail Drive.

The only item on the agenda is opening date for the shrimp season in Zone 2, which stretches from Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River west to the western edge of Vermilion Bay.

The other two state shrimp zones cover the remaining coast -- Zone 1 from the Louisiana-Mississippi line west to Southwest Pass, and Zone 3 from Vermilion Bay to the Louisiana-Texas border. The opening dates of those two zones will be on the commission's May 4 regular-meeting agenda.

Schexnayder said data has been coming in constantly from sampling stations and field personnel since Monday.

He said the data shows the crop of brown shrimp moving into Zone 2 will reach harvestable size before May 8, the first day the season could have been opened had the data been presented at the May 4 meeting. Brown shrimp are the main species taken during the spring shrimp season.

Following state law and a standard recommended by the shrimping

industry, state biologists recommend an opening date when 50 percent of the shrimp in an area are estimated to be less 100 count (100 to the pound.)

Current reports from fishermen in the area are that shrimp around Belle Pass and in Barataria Bay are in the 70-80 count range (70-80 to the pound.)

A warm, dry spring, which has raised water temperatures and provided increased salinity levels in estuaries, has provided a fertile ground for shrimp this spring.

Schexnayder said the staff is "cautiously optimistic" for brown shrimp production.

GMFMA MEETING: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled several meetings for May.

The schedule includes:

- May 1 & May 3, Dolphin- Wahoo Scientific & Statistical and Advisory Panel, Airport Hilton, Tampa, Fla., 8:30 a.m.;
- May 2-3, Mackerel Scientific, Statistical and Advisory Panel, Airport Hilton, Tampa, Fla., 8:30 a.m.;
- May 3-4, Red Drum Scientific/Statistical panels, Hilton Airport Westshore, Tampa, Fla., 1 p.m.;
- and, May 5, Red Drum Advisory Panel, Airport Hilton, Kenner, 8 a.m.

For details, call the GMFMC, 813-228-2815.

[Top of page](#)

SITE INDEX

HOME: [About Us](#) | [Archives](#) | [Help](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Subscribe](#)

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WEATHER: [Current Weather](#)

SPORTS: [ECHL hockey](#) | [High school sports](#) | [LSU sports](#) | [Outdoors](#) | [New Orleans Saints](#) | [SEC FanaticZone](#) | [Southern University](#) | [Team Schedules](#)

PEOPLE: [Obituaries](#) | [Food](#) | [Teen Stuff](#)

ENTERTAINMENT: [Movies](#) | [TV Listings](#) | [Music](#) | [Books](#) | [Comics](#) | [Horoscopes](#) | [Crossword](#) | [Wordsearch](#) | [Software Reviews](#) | [Travel](#) | [Personals](#)

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Stone	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:07A	00:00:26	002566030022
Gattle	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:07A	00:00:26	002566030022
Busbice	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:08A	00:00:27	002566030022
Delacroix	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:09A	00:01:08	002765010022
Carver	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:21A	00:00:27	002466030022
McCall	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:11A	00:00:27	002566030022
Kelly	OK	01/01	Sent	Apr-26	10:12A	00:00:47	002164230020

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 26, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife and Fisheries Commissioners

FROM: Tom Gattle, Chairman

SUBJECT: Special Commission Meeting to Consider Zone 2 Shrimp
Season Opening

The most recent shrimp data taken by the Department indicates that shrimp populations in Zone 2 will meet the opening criteria before May 8, which is the earliest date the Commission could open the season at its regularly scheduled May meeting.

Therefore, the special meeting called for April 27 will be held to determine whether we will agree to open Zone 2 shrimp season on May 1 based on the data presented by the Department biologists.

Thank you:

sch

cc: James Jenkins, Jr.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 26, 2000

TO: Wildlife and Fisheries Commissioners
FROM: Tom Gattle, Chair, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
SUBJECT: Special Commission meeting to consider Zone 2 Shrimp season opening

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Therefore, the special meeting called for April 27 will be held.

cc: James H. Jenkins, Jr.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary

2000-80



CONTACT
225/765-2923

4/20/00

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 27 TO CONSIDER EARLY SHRIMP SEASON OPENING IN ZONE 2

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, April 27 at 10 a.m. to consider an early opening date for the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 2. Zone 2 is the central portion of the state, from the mouth of the Mississippi River at Southwest Pass westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay. The commission will cancel the special meeting if the latest data from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does not warrant consideration of an early opening date.

Extremely warm winter temperatures have produced earlier than normal movement of shrimp into inshore waters. Spring-like conditions in late February and early March have resulted in shrimp sizes above the long-term average for this time of year in some areas. LDWF's Marine Fisheries Division will continue sampling until the day of the meeting.

The commission will meet to review the latest data and consider setting an early opening date for Zone 2. However, changing environmental conditions or additional movement of small shrimp in the next few days may not allow an earlier than normal opening.

The special meeting will be held at LDWF headquarters at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. The agenda follows:

1. Roll call
2. Declaration of emergency - setting 2000 spring shrimp season for Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay)
3. Public comments
4. Adjournment

The regular monthly meeting of the commission will be held as planned at 10 a.m. on May 4 to set opening dates for Zones 1 and 3, as well as Zone 2 if those dates are not set at the special meeting.

-30-

EDITORS: For more information, contact Mark Schexnayder at 225/765-2401 (schexnayder_ma@wlf.state.la.us).

Hawkins, Susan

From: Schexnayder, Mark
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2000 10:38 AM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Cc: Foote, Karen
Subject: FW: April and May Commission agenda items

I concur

-----Original Message-----

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2000 10:34 AM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Boudreaux, Claude; Pausina, Randy; Schexnayder, Mark
Subject: April and May Commission agenda items

If you concur, please forward concurrence to Susan:

Marine Fisheries proposes only the following agenda item for the April 27 Special Commission meeting:

Declaration of Emergency- Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season- Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay)- Mark Schexnayder

Marine Fisheries proposes only the following agenda item for the May 4 meeting:

Declaration of Emergency- Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season- Mark Schexnayder

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2000 10:34 AM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Boudreaux, Claude; Pausina, Randy; Schexnayder, Mark
Subject: April and May Commission agenda items

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Declaration of Emergency- Setting 2000 Spring Shrimp Season- Mark Schexnayder

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

DATE: April 19, 2000
TO: Wildlife & Fisheries Commissioners
FROM: Tom Gattle, Chair, Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
SUBJECT: Special Commission Meeting

John Roussel has advised that the Commission should consider the possibility of a very early opening date for the brown shrimp spring season in Zone 2 (Mississippi River to Vermilion Bay). Shrimp samples taken by the Marine Fisheries Division indicate that the shrimp in the inshore waters of that Zone are much larger than normal, and that there is currently little evidence of recent recruitment of very small shrimp. If these conditions persist, the shrimp populations may reach the 100 count per pound criteria used for opening the season before the Commission's next scheduled meeting on May 4.

I am therefore requesting that the Commission hold a special meeting on April 27, 2000, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Baton Rouge office to address this issue.

John advises that additional samples will be taken before the April 27th meeting, and that if a large recruitment of young shrimp occurs in the next week, we may be advised that the proposed special meeting is not necessary. The Department will have data in hand and will have a recommendation whether to go forward with the special meeting by Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning. However, conditions are currently so unusual that a special meeting is warranted.

I have been trying to contact each of you by phone. Please call me if you feel you will not be able to attend.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Cc: James H. Jenkins, Jr.

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James H. Jenkins, Jr.
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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

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TO: Tom GATTLE
FAX #:
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DATE:
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COMMENTS:

~~to~~ For Your Approval

Let Me know if you want Help
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Tom R.

FROM THE DESK OF.....

LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
P. O. BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898-9000

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
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Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
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