

GULF COAST LIVE BAIT ASSOCIATION LLC

Reasons to Invest in Live Bait Infrastructure

It is critical that we secure funding to rebuild and improve Live Bait System infrastructure in South Louisiana by providing portable (*evacuation ready*) and hardened equipment options for bait shop and marina owners. Holding live bait is critical for a marina to be competitive and is an economic force multiplier when considering it allows locals and out of state tourists to *successfully* participate in Louisiana's Recreational Fishing Industry.

Out of the roughly 40 Live Bait Shops in South East Louisiana we surveyed, nearly 80% were either heavily damaged or completely wiped out during hurricane Ida. Investing to replace damaged, lost, and outdated equipment with upgrades geared towards portability and hardening is of the utmost importance if we are to ensure a resilient future for Louisiana's Recreational Fishing Industry.

Live Bait Holding Systems directly support 3 revenue streams for a business.

1. Live Shrimp and Bait Fish
2. Holding Tank Water sold per bucket (used in low salinity waters.)
3. Backwash WasteWater (fertilizer for Living Shoreline + Blue Infrastructure projects)

“Baitfish are the Bait for customers!”

Live Bait also indirectly supports other revenue streams for a business by attracting customers looking to purchase tackle, launch, fuel, ice, food, etc. When a marina does not have live bait, customers will tend to drive further down the road to the next spot that has live bait and launch there.

The following documents show pricing for equipment and materials at 2 different size classes of live holding systems typically seen in South Louisiana. The material and equipment cost ranges from about \$7,600-\$31,600 per site. This breakdown does not include installation labor nor does it include pricing for the actual buildings used to house these systems.

If managed properly at 33 cents a shrimp, these systems can generate anywhere between \$4,950-\$39,600 in a single day.

Dom Graves and Paul Begue
The Gulf Coast Live Bait Association LLC
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Class of bait system:

300lb Max Holding (15,000 Shrimp at 50 count to 30,000, Shrimp at 100 count)

Total cost: \$7,660-17,585

This is a typical sized system in South Louisiana. The most important component is the *portable* filtration system. The next most important component is the *hardened* holding tank. We recommend a concrete holding tank.

Skid Mounted Life Support Cluster (REQUIRED, Portable)

\$7,000-10,500

- ¼ hp Water Pump (50 gal/min)
- 5ft Cubic Media Filter (**backwashable**)
- Aeration System:
 - 2x 60 LPM Linear Air Pump (w/ built in 8hr battery back up option)
 - Air Hose
 - Air Stones

Tanks:

\$660-\$2,000

A - 1500 Gal Cinderblock and Concrete Tank with Epoxy Liner
(**hardened and cheapest option, will not float away**)

\$660

B- 1500 Gal Fiberglass Tank

\$3,500

C- 1500 Gal Plastic Tank

\$2,000

Additional Options:

Up to \$5,085

50watt UV filter- \$500

Chiller- \$1,500 (**highly recommended**)

Scale- \$160

Protein Skimmer w/ 25gpm pump- \$1,000

Nets- \$50

Water testing kit and meters- \$150

Water Conditioner- \$325 (annually)

Salt- \$325-\$1,100 (annually)

***Operator (employee) Training- \$300 a person**

Class of bait system:

600lb Max Holding (30k x 50count shrimp - 60k x 100count Shrimp)

Total cost: \$13,427- \$31,637

This is a large sized system in South Louisiana. The most important component is the *portable* filtration system. The next most important component is the *hardened* holding tank. We recommend a concrete holding tank.

Life Support (REQUIRED, Portable)

\$12,107

Skid Mounted on Fiberglass Pallet:

- 3/4 hp Water Pump (100-150 gal/min)
- 10ft Cubic Media Filter (**backwashable**)

Aeration System:

- ¼ hp Regenerative Blower (14cfm)
w/ manifold and 20 x 6inch air stones
- 60 LPM Linear Air Pump w/ built in 8hr battery backup (**for redundancy**)
w/ 4 x 6 inch air stones
- Air Hose

Tanks:

\$1,320 - \$8,400

A - 3,000 Gal Cinderblock and Concrete Tank with Epoxy Liner
(**hardened and cheapest option, will not float away**)

\$1,320

B- 6 x 500 Gal Plastic Tanks

\$4,240

C- 2 x 1,800 Gal Fiberglass Tanks

\$8,400

Additional Options:

Up to \$9,810

150watt UV filter- \$1500

Chiller- \$3,000 (**highly recommended**)

Scale- \$160

Protein Skimmer w/ 50gpm pump- \$1,800

Nets- \$50

Water testing kit and meters- \$150

Water Conditioner- \$650 (annually)

Salt- \$655-\$2,200 (annually)

*Operator(employee) Training- \$300 a person