A Kettle Of Cuddle



Photo courtesy Louisiana Office of Tourism

Louisiana Creole Seafood Gumbo.

by Sara Ann Harris, Louisiana Seafood Board

(NAPSA)—Warm, savory, hearty ...Louisiana seafood gumbo is the ultimate comfort food. And no wonder, its origin is a rich African stew, melded by gombo or okra, and served for in-gatherings.

So, bring your loved ones together with authentic Creole seafood gumbo. This is slow cooking at its best, a one-dish meal prepared traditionally and lovingly. For a true Creole flavor use only the freshest vegetables, herbs and seasonings. It goes without saying that only Louisiana seafood will give you a dining experience that made Creole cooking famous.

As with any Creole sauce or stew, you start with a *roux*. Actually, that's *roux beuree* or French red brown butter. What follows is always a lovely blend of African vibrancy, Native American nuance and Spanish zest, the founding influences of Louisiana Creole cooking.

Warm up your home with

Creole Seafood Gumbo

 $1^{1/2}$ cups oil $1^{1/2}$ cups flour

- 3 cups scallions, chopped
- 2 cups yellow onion, chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, chopped

- 1 tsp. dill weed
- 4 bay leaves, whole Cayenne pepper to taste
- 3 lbs. Louisiana shrimp, 31-35 count, peeled
- 3 qts. water, hot
- 1 lb. Louisiana blue crab claw meat
- 1 lb. Louisiana lump blue crab meat
- 1 pt. Louisiana oysters, reserving liquid

In large heavy pot over low flame, brown flour in oil, stirring constantly, until golden brown. Add vegetables, herbs and seasonings; gently stir until vegetables are soft.

Add shrimp and simmer until pink. Pour in hot water and reserved oyster liquid; blend carefully. Add claw crabmeat and cook over medium heat approximately 45 minutes. Add lump crabmeat and oysters. Cook until oyster edges curl, about 5 minutes. Ladle gumbo over rice in soup bowl. Serves 12.

For award winning recipes from the Gumbo Capital of the World, as proclaimed by the 1973 Louisiana governor, go to www. LouisianaSeafood.com/Gumbo. You'll also find more there on Creole cooking made simple.