Texas Caviar Salsa - Mississippi Style

From the Kitchen of <u>Deep South Dish</u>

INGREDIENTS

For the Dressing:

- 1 envelope dry Italian dressing mix (like Good Seasons)
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Creole or other spicy mustard
- 2 teaspoons Tiger Sauce, or hot pepper sauce

For the Salsa:

- 1 (15 ounce) can black eye peas, drained
- 1 (15.5 ounce) can light red kidney beans, drained
- 1 (15.5 ounce) can Mexican/Southwestern style corn, drained
- 1 (4 ounce) jar chopped pimento peppers, drained
- 1/2 cup Vidalia or other sweet onion, chopped
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped sweet bell pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped, pickled jalapeno peppers
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 large tomato, seeded and chopped
- 1 can diced tomatoes with green chilies (like Rotel), undrained

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Whisk together the Italian dressing mix, olive oil, vinegar, mustard and Tiger sauce; set aside.
- 2. In a colander, dump the black-eyed peas, red kidney beans, corn and pimentos and let drain. Add to a large bowl.
- 3. To that, add the onion, celery, bell pepper, jalapeno, garlic, chopped tomato and Rotel.
- 4. Pour the dressing over and gently toss to coat. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight, stirring occasionally.
- 5. Give the salsa a gentle stir before serving with your favorite crackers, scoop style corn chips or tortilla chips.
- 6. If serving at a party, set out ramekins and a serving spoon for people to scoop out individual servings.

NOTES

Mexican and Southwestern style corn products contain a mix of red and green peppers.

Variation: Substitute black beans and pinto beans for the red kidney beans and black eyed peas or use your favorite beans. Substitute a can of diced, drained tomatoes for the fresh tomatoes and use a bottled commercial Italian dressing if you prefer.

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