**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 1:00pm**

**2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:**

Eric Blanchard

Laquita Meek

Trudy Luke

Sheb Callahan

Pete Gerica

George Jackson

Rodney Parfait

Warren Delacrix

Britney Breaux

Dannon Lacoste

**Voting Members Absent:**

Chalin Delaune

James Bergeron

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Julie Lively

Mark Schexnayder

Jack Isaacs

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Chad Hebert

Eric Blanchard made a motion to approve the January 9, 2018 meeting minutes, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

Eric Blanchard motioned to accept the May 8, 2018 meeting agenda, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**Financial Report:**

Remaining Budget Balance: $43,085

Remaining Fund Balance: $214,014

Motion to approve the financial report by Eric Blanchard 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

Eric Blanchard motioned to request that a LDWF finfish division biologist present a finfish update, to include stock assessments, to the TF at their next meeting, 2nd by Britney Breaux. Motion carries.

Peyton Cagle addressed the TF with survey results of the 2019 Crab Management Options

The task force considered the survey results and management options:

1. Keep the current spring March – April 60-day female

restriction (Allows female crab to move offshore to spawn,

Longer restriction needed to reduce total landings, Larger

dockside value lost, Male blue crab can still be harvested)

59 29.0%

2. Fall 35-day female restriction beginning second Monday in

September (Shorter than the 60-day option, Estimated

reduction in landings equals the 60-day closure, Less lost

value, Male blue crab can still be harvested)

74 36.4%

3. Male and Female full 12-day closure in September (Shorter

than the female restriction options, Requires traps to be

removed from the water, Landings and dockside value lost

close to the 35-day female restriction, Possible allowance for

a crab trap cleanup)

41 20.1%

4. Male and female full 12-day closure in October (Shorter

than the female restriction options, Requires traps to be

removed from the water, Landings and dockside value lost

close to the 35-day female restriction, Possible allowance for

a crab trap cleanup)

29 14.2%

203 responses

George Jackson motioned to request that the commission accept a 35-day recreational and commercial female crab restriction beginning the 2nd Monday in September. The restriction would also include an overall restriction on any possession of female crabs in State waters, 2nd by Britney Breaux. Motion carries.

Warren Delacroix suggested that the task force consider changing classes on crab offenses

Julie Lively addressed the TF with an update on the Gulf-Wide Blue Crab Mark-Recapture Study

Eric Blanchard motioned to change the restrictions on crabbing before sunrise from ½ hour to 1 hour before sunrise, 2nd by Britney Breaux. Motion carries.

(Legislative changes required-56:332C)

Warren Delacroix requested adding an item to the next CTF agenda to discuss changing classes on crab violations

Bobby Lovell addressed the TF with discussion on the rules and regulations of derelict crab trap cleanups. Suggested law/ regulation changes for the derelict crab trap closures. Proposed program for the commercial industry to collect derelict traps throughout the year as they are fishing

The CTF discussed the start of a new subcommittee to further review the Derelict Crab Trap Program. The Crab Task Force Gear Subcommittee was constructed for the purpose of further discussing crab gear legislation, the Derelict Crab Trap Program. Britney Breaux was appointed chairman of the gear subcommittee.

Al Cassagne led discussion on proposing a permanent ban on immature female blue crab harvest

George Jackson motioned to propose a permanent, year-round immature female crab ban, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries

Next Crab Task Force meeting set for Tuesday, July 31, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans.

Motion to adjourn by Eric Blanchard, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.