

March 10,2015 Shrimp Task Force Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m., LDWF Headquarters, Baton Rouge

Present Members

Clint Guidry
Lance Nacio
Acy Cooper-alternate for George Barisich
Mark Abraham
Alan Gibson
Andrew Blanchard
Eric Hansen

Absent Voting Members

George Barisich- Acy Cooper serving as alternate

Present Non-Voting Members

Nick Cole
Mark Schexnayder
Jack Issacs
Chad Hebert

Absent Non-Voting

Byron Despoux
Carrie Castille
Lance Broussard

Acy Cooper serving as alternate for George Barisich.

Motion to approve minutes by Andrew Blanchard, second by Andy Gibson, motion adopted.

Motion to accept financial report by Clint Guidry, second by Alan Gibson. Motion adopted. Ashley Roth will supply members with annual average gear revenue report at next meeting.

Gulf wide seafood certification- Jason Froeba addressed the task force and presented two possible alternate options or to leave it as is.

Seafood landed outside state harvested in Gulf of Mexico and processed in Louisiana.

Landed in Louisiana and shipped out of state for processing and then back to Louisiana.

Jason Froeba will provide the options to the task force members in writing.

Mark Abraham asked that they have a committee meeting to discuss this further in advance of the next meeting.

Inside/Outside Line—Marty Bourgeois said that the commission has permission to amend the line. We have created a map atlas with existing positions plotted in GIS. The points can now be moved and LDWF will come to management subcommittee to present options.

Refrigeration grant program \$1.6 million went out to the industry. Moving forward we have significantly reduced funds.

There are a lot of issues with allowing previously purchased equipment into the program as well as miscellaneous supplies. That is where many of the fraudulent cases came from. New program will be for new equipment only. Mark Abraham suggested that Jason bring the rules to the task force and make sure that it is written clearly on there that the rules are subject to change.

Kim Chauvin spoke on Federal Shrimp permits, we need to go back to 2010 permit allocations. Motion was made by Andy Gibson to recommend to LDWF that shrimp task force drafts letter to Gulf Council both board and subcommittees stating that we need Federal permit levels the same they were in 2010. This letter needs be ready in advance of the Gulf Council meeting.

Discussion on trip tickets was held. Kim Chauvin said that the trip ticket has become a financial document, the captain's name goes on the trip ticket and they are also supposedly responsible for gear on boat. She has spoken with Sec. Barham and enforcement, but it has to be changed in legislation. Company's name and captain's name should both go on the ticket. The law 56:3035 was mentioned, Jason Froeba said that currently on trip tickets the dock's license number is listed, commercial fisherman's license number is listed and name, the vessel registration number and license number. Kim Chauvin said that in the instance of BP, they only look at the fisherman's information not the vessel. Mark Schexnayder suggested she meet with Nicole Smith and an enforcement agent.

Motion by Andrew Blanchard to support Kim Chauvin's efforts in working with LDWF legislative liaison trip ticket staff and other LDWF personnel to get amended trip ticket legislation in this session. Second by Lance Nacio. Motion adopted.

Clint Guidry said that several shrimp boats were cited for not having hijackers and several thousand pounds of shrimp were seized for this minor offense. After further discussion the citations were thrown out. Seems to be many inconsistencies in the way the laws are interpreted.

Chad Hebert was not familiar with the whole situation, but that the money from the seized shrimp was returned, and the issue with hijackers in inside waters make the nets higher, which made it illegal. Enforcement will put something together for the next meeting regarding the inconsistencies across the state in enforcing shrimp violations.

On next agenda item will be the amount of discretion that enforcement is able to use in issuing violations.

Mark Abraham reported on the task force trip to D.C. and the legislation they are working on to bring some support to the Louisiana shrimp industry, he said that there is a annual crawfish boil so there may be the opportunity to have a shrimp and crawfish boil. Andy Gibson pointed out that the industries biggest issues are imported seafood, not domestic competitors.

Andy Gibson made a motion that the task force would like to write a letter in support of Vitter's legislation in support of seafood inspections safety, second by Clint Guidry. Motion adopted.

Lance Nacio made a motion to send \$27,750 to LSPMB, second by Andy Gibson. Motion adopted.

Next meeting, April 1, 1 p.m. in Baton Rouge. With subcommittee meeting in the morning.