



**MINUTES CRAB TASK FORCE MEETING**

**August 29, 2013**

**UNO Advanced Technology Center  
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Crab Task Force meeting was called to order by Chairman Keith Watts at 1:40 pm.

<b>VOTING</b>		<b>NON-VOTING</b>	
Eric Blanchard	X	Dr. Julie Anderson	X
Kernny Comardelle		Carl Britt	X
LaQuita Meek	X	Dr. Rex Caffey	
Chalin Delaune	X	Melissa Daigle	X
Trudy Luke, Vice-Chair	X	Dr. Jack Isaacs	
Pete Gerica	X	Alan Matherne	X
Eddie Chagnard, III	X	Col. Jeff Mayne (Major Jubal Marceaux)	X
Keith Watts	X		
Donnye Bourn	X		
Rodney Parfait	X		
James Bergeron	X		
Kim Alfonso			

<b>Guests</b>
Julia Lightner-LDWF
Darren Bourgeois-LDWF
Brady Carter-LDWF
Jeff Marx-LDWF
Cole Garrett-LDWF
Zack Darnell-Nicholls State University
Dan Austin-GCR/LA Seafood

Damon Morris-LDWF
John Fallon-Audubon Nature Institute
Kenneth Roberts- Commercial Crabber
Bobby Taylor- Commercial Crabber
Craig Gros-Commercial Crabber
Troy Driskill- Commercial Crabber
Scott Gros- Commercial Crabber
Gregg Sedotal- Commercial Crabber
Marcia Donato- Commercial Crabber
Corey Miller- Commercial Crabber
Jon Bell-LSU/Seagrant
Julie Falgout- Seagrant
Jubal Marceaux-LDWF

**Approval of meeting Agenda and July 11,2013 minutes**

The Task Force made a motion to approve the agenda, motion passed.

The Task Force made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, motion passed.

**Financial Report- Rene LeBreton**

Rene LeBreton presented a budget handout to the Task Force and discussed MSC payment. LDWF will find funds for future surveillance audits.

**Serviceable Crab Trap Law**

Major Jubal Marceaux spoke of the current laws addressing crab trap methods and incidental catches by shrimpers, Louisiana RS 56:332. Discussions have been ongoing concerning allowing shrimpers to keep up to 5 serviceable traps, with or without a float and caught while fishing, on their boats to release at the end of the day.

Public Comment – a shrimper may release traps at the end of the day five miles from where they were caught, and a crab fishermen would never find his traps.

The task force agreed that they would like to see the law stay as it is.

**Derelict Crab Trap Pilot Program**

Marty Bourgeois discussed options for placing dumpsters at shrimp docks for shrimpers to bring in smashed crab traps. Trudy Luke volunteered her land for an area during the last Crab task Force meeting. After discussion on the Pilot Project, a motion was made to not rent dumpsters for derelict trap removal, motion was approved.

### **MSC marketing- Kristin McLaren (LSPMB)**

Dan Austin presented information concerning the Seafood Board. They are in discussions with MSC about the change from LDWF to the Department of Tourism, to maintain the contract with MSC. Dan also announced that Ewell Smith had resigned from the Seafood Board.

### **Soft Shell Crab Shedding Grant**

Presenter did not attend the meeting.

### **2014 Derelict Crab Trap Clean-up**

Marty Bourgeois presented the recommendations from LDWF for area closures during February, 2014. Closed areas would be in portions of the Terrebonne Basin, from February 15 to February 24, and volunteer days on February 15 and 21, 2014.

The Crab Task Force made a motion to support the derelict crab trap program, motion passed.

### **Hard and Soft Crab Landings-LDWF Rep**

Rene LeBreton presented current landings data from the LDWF and requested that any questions about the information be submitted to the NRDA attorneys.

### **Lake Pontchartrain Basin- Keith Watts**

Keith Watts discussed the issues with the landings data reported by the Times-Picayune, and how the numbers seem incorrect.

### **Public Comment**

Twyla Herrington announced that Sea grant will be hosting crab workshops for education, including economics of industry, eco-tourism, professionalism and industry training. The first course will be held in Lacombe, La.

Darren Bourgeois is looking for two volunteers from the Task Force to sit on a steering committee for the professionalism program.

Mark Schexnayder suggested that the task force members think about any changes they want to make to legislation concerning the crab industry, for the upcoming legislative session.

Public commented that something needs to be done about trap thieving. Major Marceaux stated

that LDWF has zero tolerance for stealing, it is a class 4 violation, and LDWF has the authority to seize boats and trucks. Sometimes the issue is with local District Attorneys who are not aware of the seriousness of the crime. Trudy Luke proposed that a group from the Task Force go around the area and discuss with D.A.s. Rene LeBreton mentioned that the Oyster Task Force sent a letter explaining their issues. Keith Watts requested that the Crab Task Force see the letter from the Oyster task Force to review.

### **Next Meeting/Agenda**

The next meeting will be on December 3, 1:30 at the Advanced Technology Center, UNO.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn passed.