**Finfish Task Force Meeting**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018, 2:00pm**

**The Louisiana Room**

**2000 Quail Dr.**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**I. Meeting called to order**

**II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests**

**Members Present:**

Douglas Olander

Wayne Rollo

James Pelas

Daniel Edgar

Houston Hoover

Steve Rockwieler

Senator Bret Allain

Benjamin Graham

**Members Absent:**

Daryl Simon

Acy Cooper, III

Ronald Pierce

George Huye

Adam Guillory

Staurt Billeaud

Representative John Stefanski

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Jason Adriance

Captain Chad Hebert

Jack Isaacs

John Walther

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Adam Eitmann

Justin Gremillion

**III. Approval of the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes**

Proposed an amendment to the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes: correction under ‘Roll Call’- board member, John Walther, listed as both present and absent

Daniel Edgar made a motion to accept the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes as amended, 2nd by Houston Hoover. Motion carries.

**III. Approval of the May 17, 2018 meeting agenda**

Daniel Edgar made a motion to approve the May 17, 2018 Finfish Task Force meeting agenda, 2nd by Houston Hoover. Motion carries.

**IV. New Business**

**A:**

The task force opened the floor to accept nominations for vice-chairman

John Walther nominated Benjamin Graham as the vice-chairman

Benjamin Graham was unanimously nominated vice-chair of the Finfish Task Force

**B:**

Daniel Edgar made a motion to accept the Finfish Task Force Bylaws as presented, 2nd by James Pelas. Motion carries.

**C:**

Jason Adriance addressed the task force with an update on the status of black drum and discussion on potential changes to recreational and commercial harvest, size, and bag limits

The board discussed proposing a 14” size limit; however, it was suggested that the board hold off on making an official recommendation until more information is available from a new black drum stock assessment that would incorporate LA Creel data .

Request to run a projection on 12” size limits for black drum for the task force’s consideration

**D:**

Alex Perret addressed the task force with a presentation on the freshwater stocking program

**E:**

Douglas Olander led discussion on mullet fisheries issues, expressed concern with limited fishing times

The board discussed expanding the mullet season to include weekends and nights; season is set in statute (1995 Marine Fisheries Conservation Act) *Discussion on this item to be continued*

**F:**

Jason Adriance led discussion on finfish trawling

Daniel Edgar requested adding a future agenda item to discuss making haul seines a legal gear to harvest commercial finfish

**V. Public Comment:**

Richard Fischer of the LA Charter Boat Association requested that the board consider adding a charter boat industry representative to the task force

**VI. Set next meeting date and location**

Next meeting date to be determined- Meeting date later set for Friday, July 20, 2018 for 10:00am in Baton Rouge

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Daniel Edgar, 2nd by Steve Rockwieler. Motion carries.