**Shrimp Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 10AM**

**8026 Main St., Houma, LA**

**Voting Members Present:**

Acy Cooper, Jr.

Lance Nacio

Rodney Olander

Kristen Baumer

Alan Gibson

Andrew Blanchard

Steven Sode

**Voting Members Absent:**

George Barisich

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder

Captain Chad Hebert

Dr. Jack Isaacs

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Adam Eitmann

Stephen Sessums

Justin Gremillion

Motion to accept the minutes by Andrew Blanchard, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

Motion to add an item under ‘New Business’- A: To Hear an Update on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion- Brad Barth CPRA

Motion to accept the amended agenda by Alan Gibson, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion passes unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Remaining Fund Balance: $ 450,155

Budget Balance: $ 63,655

Motion to approve the financial report by Andrew Blanchard, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion passes unanimously.

Brad Barth with CPRA provided the task force with an update on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

Alan suggested that CPRA look into using rocks for restoration

Acy Cooper requested that the STF be forwarded a copy of the Economic Impact Statement on the fisheries upon completion for their review and input to be considered

Jeff Marx addressed the TF with discussion of the white shrimp “100 Count Law”

Jeff Marx provided an update on the 2017 fall inshore shrimp season. The season recommendation to the LDWF Commission will be to open statewide on August 14 at 6:00am

Acy Cooper stated that we would like to see a 6pm opening

Lance Nacio proposed a split opening- opening one side at 6:00am and another at 6:00pm

Acy Cooper led discussion on tow time enforcement

Jeff Marx and Acy Cooper led discussion on White Spot Disease

Acy Cooper stated that the TF would like to see some research and testing done on imports coming into the State. Proposed sending a letter to State representatives to advocate for more testing on imports

The task force held discussion on shrimp industry marketing efforts

The task force tabled item D. Update on LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board Shrimp Industry Summary of Efforts until a representative of the board is present

**Public Comment:**

Thomas Hymel made an announcement about the 2018 Fisheries Forward Summit- to be held on March 6 at the Pontchartrain Center

The Delacroix Farmers Market will hold their first event on September 9 from 9:30-12:30 at the Delacroix Pavillion

Alma Robichaux with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program spoke regarding their Marine Debris Education Program. The program takes 30-40 high school students out once a month to Elmer’s Island to clean the beach. After each trip the findings and data are reported back to NOAA. A large portion of the program also includes debris prevention, so the students asked that the shrimp industry keep this in mind when they are out on the water

Andy Gibson suggested making some flyers to hand out to the docks and fishermen to spread the word on the program and their efforts

Laura Picariello, with the Audubon Nature Institute, stated that the ‘Gulf United for Lasting Program’, created to help promote sustainability initiatives in the State and across the Gulf, can help the shrimp industry counter some of the misinformation that is out there. The program has a ‘Tow the Time’ campaign that can assist the industry with various issues such as tow time and verifying that they are being enforced and followed. Reminded that task force that they are there to help and serve as a resource to the industry if anyone wants more information or to get involved in these programs they are encouraged to reach out

Public expressed concern for dead catch and night fishing

David Chauvin requested that the TF write a letter of support for the Coast Guard reauthorization

Alan Gibson motioned that the task force write a letter of support for the Coast Guard reauthorization, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries unanimously.

Kipp Martuce asked that the task force consider some solutions to address industry issues, stated that imposing limited entry into the industry, increasing the price of licenses, and imposing a mandate on income percentages would be a few ways to address some of the problems

Rodney O’lander stated that he would like to see the licensing numbers before discussing further

Jeff Marx suggested a professionalism aspect or creating requirements instead of proposing a limited entry

Thomas O’Lander asked the task force to consider putting two issues on the agenda for the next meeting:

1. Discussion on moving the 3 mile line to 9 miles
2. Discussion on the ‘Dead Zone’ issue

The next meeting was originally set for Wednesday, October 11, 2017 for 10am in Houma, but was later rescheduled due to a date conflict **for Wednesday, October 18 for 10m in Houma**