



LOUISIANA FISHERMEN BEGIN RECEIVING FUNDS

Today 45 fishermen from coastal parishes gathered in Baton Rouge to collect the first grants available to them since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita wiped out over \$400 million in fishing infrastructure 18 months ago. Leaders from across the Louisiana fishing industry came together today to mark this significant milestone and appeal for additional support.

“If there was any doubt about the dire need for fishing industry recovery support, the 800 grant applications we processed and evaluated put an end to lingering questions,” said Kevin Belanger, CEO of the South Central Planning and Development Commission.

The Louisiana Fishing Community Recovery Coalition has worked tirelessly to ignite recovery through its Back to the Dock program, and through the collaboration with Shell and the planning districts will provide some fishermen the ability to get back to the dock quickly.

“Thanks to the generosity of our Gulf of Mexico partner Shell and the efficiency of the Louisiana Planning Districts, our fishermen will get the support they deserve.” said Mike Voisin, Louisiana Oyster Task Force and Co-Chair of the Louisiana Fishing Recovery Coalition.

“It's taken a year and a half, but finally our fishermen are starting to get financial assistance. These grants represent the first money to reach individual fishermen,” said Harlon Pearce, Chairman of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board and Co-Chair of the Louisiana Fishing Recovery Coalition.

The Louisiana Fishing Community Recovery Coalition also secured a commitment from LRA of \$20 million for recovery of the fisheries. The much-needed assistance will help individuals and families get back to work and rebuild the \$3.3 billion Louisiana fishery industry.



LDWF File Photo

“This public-private partnership will enable relief to reach those who need it most in an efficient and effective manner,” said Fred Palmer, Manager of Communications for Shell Exploration and Production. “Consistent with our donation of three ice houses in southern Louisiana last fall, our desire is to help our neighbors on the Gulf get back on the water as quickly as possible.”

For more information, contact Kevin Belanger or Jo-Anna Jones with the South Central Planning and Development Commission at 985-851-2900.

LDWF Administration

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RESTORING LOUISIANA'S GRASSLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT

A memorandum of understanding signed today by LDWF, the State Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils and the NRCS provides landowners the tools to help restore Louisiana's grassland wildlife habitat.

“The long-term goal of these efforts is soil conservation, improved water quality and wildlife species survival for years to come,” said LDWF Sec. Bryant O. Hammett, Jr. “I applaud the efforts of everyone in the partnership and extend the invitation to landowners to take advantage of what we are setting in motion today.”

Grassland habitat deterioration is one of the leading causes for the decline of several once common species of wildlife including bobwhite quail and Eastern meadowlarks. Restoration of grassland habitat is key to efforts to restore populations of grassland dependent wildlife. Significant grassland habitat loss has occurred across Louisiana, particularly in the coastal prairie and longleaf pine ecosystems. One of the largest impediments to restoration of grassland systems in Louisiana is lack of the specialized equipment needed to plant native



LDWF File Photo

From left to right standing in front of a new no-till grassland drill: Lloyd Hoover and R.D. Low with Quail Unlimited, LDWF Sec. Hammett, Jr., and Don Gohmert.

This partnership makes available a combination of technical assistance and specialized equipment for landowners interested in restoring this needed wildlife habitat,” said Don Gohmert of NRCS.

The no-till grassland drills purchased for the project are specialized agricultural implements designed to plant the delicate native grass seed. LDWF will be providing the grassland drills and the State Association of RC&D Councils has agreed to rent the drills to landowners across the state. NRCS

will provide on-farm technical assistance with drill operation and planning seed mixtures and establishment techniques associated with the work.

Funding for the project was provided by the LDWF (Wildlife and Natural Heritage Trust), the La. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Northwest La. Chapter of Quail Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (State Wildlife Grants Program).

For more information, contact Fred Kimmel at 225-765-2355.

TURKEY SEASON BROCHURE CORRECTION

The 2007 Turkey Hunting Regulations brochure contains an error regarding the turkey season in Claiborne and Caldwell parishes. Claiborne Parish is incorrectly listed under Area C on page 3 of the brochure. Instead, Caldwell Parish should have been listed under Area C.

The correct 2007 turkey hunting season for Caldwell Parish is: March 24-April 22 for that portion of the parish west of the Ouachita River southward to the Catahoula

Parish line, and March 24-April 8 for that portion of the parish east of the Ouachita River. The 2007 turkey hunting season for all of Claiborne Parish, except for the Caney Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest, is March 24-April 22.

A corrected version of the 2007 Turkey Hunting Regulations can be found on the LDWF’s Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.



L.W.F.C. PROCLAIMS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER IN THE SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE MARCH 8-10

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission issued a proclamation today declaring March 8 through 10 as "Zero Tolerance for Litter in the Sportsman's Paradise Days." This proclamation is in conjunction with a statewide awareness campaign by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division, Louisiana State Police and Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB).

The Zero Tolerance For Litter campaign is intended to send a strong message from enforcement agencies that people who litter will be actively pursued and fined throughout the year. Littering in Louisiana can result in fines from \$50 to \$5,000 and from four to 100 hours of community service. Driver's license suspension and jail time are also possible penalties.



KLB encourages citizens to clean out truck beds, and to refrain from throwing cigarette butts or other trash out of windows or watercraft to avoid ticketing.

Along with issuing citations, the program is designed to raise awareness among Louisianans about the consequences of littering and dumping.

Some facts of interest include:

- Litter costs Louisiana taxpayers more than \$15 million annually
- Litter can affect the environment hurting everything from fish breeding grounds to contributing to flooding problems

"Wildlife and Fisheries is dedicated to providing opportunities for the public to enjoy the riches and benefits of a healthy and diverse ecosystem while supporting management, protection and conservation of our states living natural resources. The crime of littering adversely affects the ecosystem and we will continue to focus enforcement efforts in this area," said LDWF Major Jeff Mayne.

For more information, contact Major Jeff Mayne at 225-765-2980 or jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov.

TWO MEN CITED FOR HUNTING DURING ILLEGAL HOURS

LDWF Enforcement Division agent cited Eric Eues, 20, and Joshua Broussard, 17, both of Morgan City for alleged deer hunting violations on Feb. 5 at approximately 11:15 p.m.

LDWF Sgt. Winston Michel was contacted by St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Deputy Jason Albares, who had made a vehicle stop on Eues and Broussard along La. Highway 70 between Belle River and Stephenville in St. Martin Parish. Deputy Albares had observed Eues and Broussard illegally hunting with an artificial light along Hwy. 70 and contacted Sgt. Michel to investigate further.

Upon his arrival, Sgt. Michel found the two in possession of a 12-gauge pump action shotgun loaded with two 12-gauge buckshot shells as well as a single shot .410 shotgun. In the bed of the subject's pickup truck he found a

headlamp and battery. After questioning both subjects, one of them provided a written statement attesting to the fact that they were attempting to kill deer during illegal hours.

Both men were issued citations for hunting deer during illegal hours, hunting deer from a public road, and hunting deer by illegal methods since the deer firearm season was closed at the time.

Hunting deer during illegal hours carries fines between \$900-\$950, or jail time up to 120 days, or both plus court costs and forfeiture of any seized items. Hunting deer from a public road is punishable by fines between \$100-\$350, or jail time up to 60 days, plus court costs or both. Hunting deer using illegal methods has a fine between \$250-\$500, or jail time up to 90 days, or both plus court costs.



DOVE HUNTER OPINION ON SEASON STRUCTURE AND DATES

LDWF has posted a survey on their Web site to collect opinions from dove hunters who hunt in the north zone (Opelousas to Arkansas) for dove hunting zone options for upcoming seasons. To take the survey, please go to www.wlf.louisiana.gov and click on the "Surveys" link in the footer.

Louisiana has had the ability to zone the state for dove hunting since 1973. A zone boundary currently exists, but hasn't been used since 1986 because of federal restrictions.

"Dove hunters in this state were not satisfied with date selections because of the federal restrictions, so zoning in Louisiana was not in the hunters best interest," said LDWF Upland Game Biologist Mike Olinde. "But with a recent change in the federal frameworks relative to zoning for mourning doves, upcoming dove seasons may provide the opportunity to better satisfy dove hunters in all portions of the state."

It was the consensus of the dove focus group and subsequent survey that the zone boundary be changed to La. Hwy. 12 from the Texas state line to Ragley, U.S. Hwy. 190 from Ragley to Covington, Interstate 12 from Covington to Interstate 10, and I-10 to the Mississippi state line. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) will decide whether to use this boundary or the existing one, which is Interstate 10 from Texas to Baton Rouge, Interstate 12 to Slidell and I-10 to the Mississippi state line.

In late summer of 2006, LDWF sought public input relative to south zone preferences through the use of a south zone subcommittee of the dove focus group, random surveys of dove hunters residing in or near the south zone boundary, and an Internet survey on LDWF's Web site. LDWF is currently doing a similar exercise for the north zone.

The LWFC can establish a maximum of 70 days of dove hunting under the federal framework. Because of changes to federal guidelines relative to opening dates for a south zone, LDWF is considering recommending the use of zoning again in Louisiana.

"We would like to know how you would like the dove season structured in the north zone if zoning is used," said Olinde. "If you have an interest in dove hunting, we encourage you to complete the on-line survey. The survey should only take a few minutes of your time and will provide us with valuable input that will be used to set future dove seasons."

For more information, contact Mike Olinde at 225-765-2353 or molinde@wlf.louisiana.gov.

L.W.F.C. PASSES NOTICE OF INTENT ON SUPERVISION FOR HUNTERS 11 AND YOUNGER

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a notice of intent that would make it mandatory for all hunters 11-years-old and younger to be accompanied by an adult.

The adult would have to be at least 18 years old and have a valid hunting license or be hunter education certified. The adult would also have to be within normal audible voice proximity and in direct line of sight of the younger hunter at all times.

Anybody of any age can take the free hunter education course offered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. However, only those 10 years of age or older can become hunter education certified.

The new rule would allow unsupervised hunting privileges for hunters who are 12-to-15-years-old and hunter education certified. Hunters 10 and 11-years-old and hunter education certified, would need supervision. Hunters 16 years of age and older must buy a hunting license, which requires hunter education certification, and can hunt unsupervised.

Public comment on this notice of intent can be submitted to John Sturgis, Wildlife Division, LDWF, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than Thursday, May3, 2007.

