



## L.D.W.F. HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS INCLUDE MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL PROJECT

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is working to complete a marine debris removal project budgeted to clear 400 square miles of coastal waterbottoms impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Federal funding provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) through the Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) totals \$3.7 million for the project. The contractor, Crowder Gulf Joint Venture, has completed contract assignments in the Lake Pontchartrain Middle Ground, Lake St. Catherine, portions of Lake Borgne and Calcasieu Lake. Areas being cleared in the final phase of the contract include Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays.

The \$3.7 million funding is part of \$53 million in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fisheries recovery funding provided to LDWF to rehabilitate oyster bed and shrimp grounds, and monitor recovery of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

“In addition to the benefits of debris removal for fishermen and boaters, the documentation and reporting associated with removal is very important to us,” said Randy Pausina, LDWF assistant secretary for the Office of Fisheries. “Sonar data has provided LDWF with ancillary information on the location and size of certain oyster reefs on the public oyster grounds.”

Contractor reports contain thumbnail sonar images of each contact along with descriptions and coordinates of each item removed by grid. As part of the contract, LDWF



Photo by Bo Boehringer

Downed trees and a pile of traps were some of the items removed from Vermillion Bay during a recent marine debris cleanup assignment.

receives maps of the areas surveyed and sonared and GPS vessel tracks of each vessel engaged in debris removal.

Louisiana resident fishermen and charter boat operators were hired to assist the contractor where vessel size was appropriate. Items recovered over the course of the project include crab traps, fuel tanks, boats, shipping containers, vehicles, portions of houses, camps and their contents, as well as pilings and trees. Some items were left in place due to proximity to hazards -- cable or pipeline crossings -- or extreme depth and water currents.

### LDWF Administration

Robert Barham, *Secretary*  
Janice Lansing, *Undersecretary*  
Randy Pausina, *Asst. Sec., Fisheries*  
Jimmy Anthony, *Asst. Sec., Wildlife*

### Division Administrators

Gary Tilyou, *Inland Fisheries*  
Karen Foote, *Marine Fisheries*  
Vacant, *Wildlife*  
Phil Bowman, *Fur & Refuge*  
Col. Winton Vidrine, *Enforcement*

### Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Patrick C. Morrow, *Chairman*  
Robert Samanie, III      Henry Mouton  
Earl P. King, Jr.      Stephen J. Oats  
Frederic Miller      Stephen W. Sagera





## C.C.A. LOUISIANA HONORS ROBERT BARHAM WITH JERRY STONE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham received the Jerry Stone Conservationist of the Year Award from the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana at the group's state convention on March 1 in Lafayette.

Barham, a life-long resident of Oak Ridge, served as a State Senator for Louisiana's 33rd District from 1994 to 2008. In the Senate, he served as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, and was a member of the Senate Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development Committee, the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Retirement Committee, and he served as a member of the Legislative Rural Task Force. Barham also previously served as chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee for eight years.

The award, presented by CCA Louisiana for over 15 years, was re-named three years ago after one of its founding members and a former Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission member, the late Dr. Jerry Stone, who helped spearhead the conservation movement in Louisiana. The award recognizes leadership in the area of marine conservation.

Among the past recipients of this honor are then-Congressman and current governor, Bobby Jindal, former Governor Mike Foster, former LDWF Secretary Jimmy Jenkins, former state Rep. Warren Triche, former state Sen. Don Cravins and the late Sen. John Hainkel.

*For more information contact, Bo Boehringer, La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, ph. 225-765-5115 or [bboehringer@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:bboehringer@wlf.louisiana.gov).*

## YOUTH OUTDOOR JOURNALISM CONTEST BEGINS

The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) is ready to accept participants for this year's Youth Outdoor Journalism Contest sponsored by LOWA and Safari Club International (SCI) with support from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

The contest will include both essay and photography categories that are designed to spur interest in outdoor journalism in the youth of Louisiana. Professional educators and outdoor communicators judge all entries, and winners will be notified 45 days after April 25.

The essay contest is broken into two age classes, senior (ages 14-18) and junior (13 years of age and younger). The essays should be about personal experiences related to the outdoors and between 300 and 1,000 words in

length. Submitted essays must be typed, double-spaced and only on one side of each piece of paper.

The photography category is open to all students 18 years of age and younger with no specific age categories. An original, unpublished photo in color or black and white in a 4-by-6-inch, 5-by-7-inch or 8-by-10-inch print that is center mounted on 8-by-10-inch poster or mounting board will be accepted.

First place prizewinners will take home \$200 in cash. Second place will receive \$150, third place will get \$100 and for the first time honorable mention will take home \$50. The cash prizes are donated to the competition by the Louisiana Chapter of SCI and will be presented at the annual LOWA Fall Conference in Morgan City in October.

LDWF will publish the first-place essay and photography winners in upcoming issues of their magazine, Louisiana Conservationist. Winning entries will also have their work published in other various media outlets and Web sites across the state.

All entries must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2008 and sent to LOWA, Advocate Educational Services, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. The entries must also include the contestant's name, age, school, home address and telephone number at the top of the first page of the essay or attached to the back of the mounting board of the photos. Participants that want to have their entries returned, please include a self addressed stamped envelope.

*For more information, contact Adam Einck at 225-765-2465 or [aeinck@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:aeinck@wlf.louisiana.gov).*



## BOATERS CITED IN IBERIA PARISH

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited six boat operators on Lake Fausse Point, Teche Lake Canal and Bird Island Chute in Iberia Parish for operating vessels while intoxicated.

Agents cited David W. Broussard II, 20, Damon J. Theriot, 31, Blake E. Bourgois, 23, and Chris A. Peltier, 39, all of New Iberia, Rusty M. Latiolais, 28, of St. Martinville, and Matthew Brown, 30, of Baton Rouge, for operating their vessels while intoxicated on March 1.

Theriot, Latiolais and Peltier were also cited for improper running lights. Broussard was charged with possession of alcohol under the age of 21.

The penalty for first offense of operating a vessel while



intoxicated is a fine between \$300 and \$1,000, and imprisonment between 10 days and six months.

The penalty for possession of alcohol by a person under the age of 21 is a fine up to \$100, or jail time up to six months or both.

The penalty for improper running lights is a \$50 fine, or jail time up to 15 days or both.

Agents participating in the cases were Lt. Donald Salpietra, Sgts. Mitch Darby, Cliff Ortis and Travis Huval, and Senior Agents Jerry Stassi, Donnie Bozeman, Jason Romero and Agent Thomas Ashley Jr.

*For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2988 or [klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov).*

## L.D.W.F. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AGENTS RESCUE TWO MEN

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents rescued Scott C. George, 27, and Paul M. Tabarelli, 30, both from Lake Charles, from Calcasieu Lake at approximately 1 p.m. on March 4 in Cameron Parish.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., family members reported the two missing after they failed to return home from their fishing trip the previous afternoon. The family members had no knowledge of what boat launch the two men utilized.

Agents, working in conjunction with the Lake Charles Police Department and the Calcasieu and Cameron Parish Sheriff's Offices, located Tabarelli's

pick-up truck and boat trailer at Hebert's Public Boat Landing in Cameron Parish. Agents immediately conducted a vessel search in Calcasieu Lake and the surrounding marsh. An enforcement plane and pilot were dispatched to the area to assist agents in the search.

At 12:45 p.m., Agents located Tabarelli's vessel, a small aluminum flat boat, along the eastern shoreline of Calcasieu Lake approximately 9 miles from Hebert's Landing. Agents soon found George and Tabarelli walking along the shoreline levee a few miles north of their vessel.

The two said they had taken on water in rough conditions while traveling back to the landing the previous after-

noon. They were approximately 3 miles from the landing when their boat became partially submerged and they remained with the vessel as it drifted southward through the night finally reaching land near Grand Bayou.

The two abandoned their vessel for dry land and spent the rest of the frigid night on the levee, with temperatures in the mid 30s and winds in excess of 25 mph. At daylight, they began walking until they were located. The men were transported to Hebert's Public Boat Landing and returned to their families.

*For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2988 or [klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov).*



## STOLEN BEAR CUB DIES FROM STARVATION

A black bear cub that was taken from his mother's nest died of starvation on Saturday, March 1.

On Saturday morning an anonymous call came in to the Krotz Springs police station from an individual wanting to turn over a bear cub, but refusing to give a name or more information. This call led officials to search under the Atchafalya River bridge where the cub was found wrapped in a towel near death.

Officials contacted the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) immediately, at which time LDWF Biologist Maria Davidson retrieved the cub and sought emer-

gency veterinary care. Attempts to save the cub were unsuccessful and it died Saturday night. A necropsy revealed the cub died of starvation.

"The cub was obviously in the possession of these individuals for several days before they called the police," stated Davidson. "This was a senseless death that could have been easily avoided."

Davidson further reiterated to never assume a bear cub found in the wild has been abandoned by its mother. "If the female runs off as you approach, she will return as soon as you leave the area," Davidson said. "It is extremely rare for a female bear to abandon her cubs.

Davidson said if anybody has any concerns for wildlife, they should first call and report the incident to LDWF. Removing a cub from a nest is a state and federal crime, and in this instance led to this cub's death.

Witnesses have provided a description of the truck and persons that left the cub. If anybody has any information regarding this incident, please call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-442-2511. Cash rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest of any individuals harming a black bear, and callers will remain anonymous.

*For more information, contact Maria Davidson at 225-765-2385 or [mdavidson@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:mdavidson@wlf.louisiana.gov).*

## AGENTS IN VERMILION PARISH SEIZE 438 SACKS OF OYSTERS

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited four men in Vermilion Parish for oyster violations within four days during the month of February.

On Feb. 19, Jluz Rodriguez Cervantes, 34, and Jose Miguel Rodriguez-Flores, 29, both from Houma were cited for allegedly violating sanitation regulations. The two had harvested oysters the previous day and kept the oysters onboard one of the vessels overnight. Flores did not tag his oysters before transferring them onto the other vessel. Cervantes had not tagged his oysters from the previous day and did not fill out his harvester's logbook correctly. Agents seized and returned 208 sacks of oysters to the water.

On Feb. 22, Jody Anthony Hebert, 35, of Abbeville was cited for allegedly possessing over 10 percent of untagged oysters. These oysters were located at his local restaurant

and were intended for raw consumption. Five sacks of oysters were seized and returned to the water.

Agents also cited John William Parker Jr., 55, of New Iberia for allegedly possessing over 10 percent of untagged and improperly tagged oysters and for failing to maintain traceable oyster records. The oysters were located at a shucking facility near Abbeville. There were 200 sacks of oysters that were tagged with the wrong date, 21 sacks of oysters that were mixed from different harvest locations and four sacks that were found to be untagged. All 225 sacks of oysters were seized and returned to the water.

The penalty for violating the sanitation code is \$25, or up to 10 days in jail or both. The penalties for possessing over 10 percent of untagged or improperly tagged oysters and for failing to maintain traceable oyster records are fines of \$250 to \$500, or jail time up to 90 days, or both plus court costs.



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*visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Web site: [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov).*