



## L.D.W.F. RECEIVES DONATION FROM EL PASO CORPORATION FOR ATCHAFALAYA DELTA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Atchafalaya Delta WMA field office is fully operational again following an installation of a generator donated by El Paso Exploration & Production Company, a subsidiary of El Paso Corp.

"In light of the budgetary constraints and competing priorities in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, common objectives of public and private organizations must be realized," said Parke Moore, assistant secretary for LDWF's Office of Wildlife. "The wildlife and fishery resources and public users of Atchafalaya Delta will benefit greatly from this donation by enabling LDWF personnel to staff and manage the WMA on a full time basis."

El Paso E&P delivered and installed a 50 KW self-contained diesel generator and fuel storage tank at the LDWF site earlier this month. The company also provided the tugboat and barge to transport the generator and tank to the WMA, secured a 40-ton crane to assist with the placement and installation of the equipment, and provided an electrician to perform the installation process.

The daily operation of the LDWF field office in coastal St. Mary Parish was curtailed in July 2005 when the facility's natural gas generator became obsolete following the loss of the natural gas supply from an adjacent well. El Paso E&P agreed to donate the generator and a year's supply of diesel fuel to LDWF to bring the facility back to 24-hour, seven-day-a-week functioning status.

"This joint effort for the public good is a fine example of El Paso's interest in maintaining and protecting the sensitive wetland environment of south Louisiana," said Al Erxleben, vice president of El Paso E&P. "We are happy to contribute vital resources during this time of need. Good neighbors must always pull together."

This WMA contains 137,700 acres of prime habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife, providing outdoor recreation



LDWF File Photo

LDWF and El Paso Corp. install donated generator

opportunities for the public. LDWF personnel manage the day-to-day activities on site and assist with public-use activities including managed hunts, habitat enhancement and houseboat mooring. To learn more about Louisiana's wildlife management areas, visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov).

El Paso Corp. provides natural gas and related energy products. The company owns North America's largest natural gas pipeline system and one of North America's largest independent natural gas producers.

For more information, contact Bo Boehringer (LDWF) at 225-765-5115 or Richard Wheatley (El Paso E&P) at 713-420-6828.

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# AMMENDMENTS ADDED TO 2006-07 HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS NOTICE OF INTENT AT L.W.F.C. MEETING

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) passed two more amendments to the 2006-07 Hunting Seasons and Regulations Notice of Intent at their March meeting.

Acting on a recommendation from the Deer/Dog task force, the LWFC reaffirmed its support of hunting deer with dogs across the state, while stipulating that it will be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs on state owned lands administered through the State Lands Office. This amendment to the notice of intent for rules and regulations governing resident small game and deer for the 2006-08 hunting seasons will now be open for public comment until May 4.

The LWFC also changed the original bobcat hunting amendment that was added at last month's meeting. The original amendment stated that big game license holders would be able to hunt bobcats year round with a two-bobcat limit per calendar year. The changed amendment would allow big game license holders to take one bobcat per calendar year while still allowing the yearlong season.

Public hearings about these amendments and other issues pertaining to the 2006-07 Hunting Season and Regulations Notice of Intent will be held across the state from March 13-30. For more information on these meeting dates, please visit LDWF's Web site at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov) and then click on the "Public Meeting Schedule" link under the "What's New" heading.

## L.W.F.C.

Public comment on these amendments can also be accepted at the LWFC's April 6 and May 4 meetings held in Baton Rouge. People may also submit

written comments about the proposed notice of intent until May 4 to David Moreland, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

The LWFC will vote for adoption of the 2006-07 Hunting Seasons and Regulations at their May 4 meeting.

*For more information, contact Jimmy Anthony at 225-765-2347 or [janthony@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:janthony@wlf.louisiana.gov).*

## L.W.F.C. PROPOSES VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

LWFC passed a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Notice of Intent at their March meeting. The VMS is meant to maximize voluntary compliance with shrimping regulations and to reduce shrimping violations by providing adequate deterrence.

A VMS is required for any person subject to a court order that requires monitoring for the duration specified in the court order and any person having two or more convictions in the last five years for harvesting shrimp during a closed season for a period of three years from the date of the most

recent conviction. People with three or more convictions in the last five years for harvesting shrimp during a closed season will be monitored for 10 years from the date of the most recent conviction.

Those who require to be monitored shall not be present on board any vessel harvesting or possessing shrimp or which has any trawl, skimmer or butterfly net on board unless the vessel is using an approved VMS.

A vessel that will have a monitored person on board must first notify

LDWF of the VMS installation. VMS units must also be approved, certified, installed and fully operational on any vessel carrying a monitored person.

Public comment for this issue may be submitted to Maj. Jeff Mayne, Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 prior to May 4.

*For more information, contact Maj. Jeff Mayne at 225-765-2980 or [jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov).*



## L.D.W.F. LENDING ASSISTANCE IN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN DURING "ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER" WEEKEND MARCH 10-12

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will join forces with other state agencies again this year to support the Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) Zero Tolerance For Litter campaign, March 10-12. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission urged support for the campaign in a proclamation presented at today's commission meeting in Baton Rouge.

"At a time when many parishes are still recovering from hurricane damage and facing massive clean-up efforts for many months to come, all Louisiana citizens should make every effort to minimize the blight of litter that results from simple carelessness," said LDWF's Enforcement Division Col. Winton Vidrine. "Our agents will focus on areas used by boaters, fishermen and those who use our wildlife management areas."

Zero Tolerance weekend will include a statewide media campaign with this year's theme emphasizing "Don't Put It Down." In addition to LDWF and State Police, law enforcement agencies across the state are working with KLB and implementing Zero Tolerance weekend policies within their own jurisdictions. The campaign points out personal litter control guidelines that all citizens should follow such as cleaning out truck beds on a regular basis, and refrain from throwing cigarette butts or other trash out car windows or from watercraft.

"Keep Louisiana Beautiful is fortunate to have many partners in this campaign who are committed to reducing our very visible litter problem and its negative impact," said KLB Executive Director Leigh Harris. "We intend to target those who are littering, whether deliberately or unintentionally, and to fine them. But law enforcement can't do it alone. Every citizen needs to be involved."

If citizens do witness littering or illegal dumping violations, they are urged to call the state anti-litter hotline at

1-888-LIT-R-BUG (1-888-548-7284).

Littering is categorized in two ways: Intentional littering is intentionally disposing of litter in a public place or on private property not owned by the offender. Intentional littering can result in fines of \$250 and eight hours of community service in a litter abatement program.



Simple littering includes creating a condition in which the person knew (or should have known) would likely result in the disposal of litter on public or private property not belonging to the offender. Using a truck bed as a garbage can or throwing a cigarette butt out a window is simple littering. Fines for simple littering start at either \$75 or eight hours of community service. Penalties are doubled for second-time offenders.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is a volunteer-based service organization dedicated to litter reduction through education, enforcement and cleanups. Raymond Blanco is honorary chair of the organization, and Keep Louisiana Beautiful partners include the Governor's Office of Environmental Education, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Transportation and Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Department of Corrections, State Police and LDWF.

Additional information on Keep Louisiana Beautiful and its efforts can be found at [www.KeepLouisianaBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepLouisianaBeautiful.org).

To find out more about "Zero Tolerance for Litter Weekend", contact Maj. Jeff Mayne at 225-765-2980 or [jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov), or Leigh Harris at Keep Louisiana Beautiful at 225-752-7446.

*For more information, contact Maj. Jeff Mayne at 225-765-2980 or [jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov).*



## OYSTER SEASON TO CLOSE IN BAY GARDENE

The 2005-06 oyster season will close in the Bay Gardene public oyster seed reservation at a half hour after sunset on March 8, 2006.

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at 29 degrees 36 minutes 03.9 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 37 minutes 49.9 seconds west longitude; thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to a point on the western shoreline of Black Bay at 29 degrees 36 minutes 00.8 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 36 minutes 58.7 seconds west longitude; thence southeasterly to the eastern most point of an island on the western shoreline of Black Bay at latitude 29 degrees 35 minutes 49.2 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 36 minutes 30.7 seconds west longitude; thence southeasterly to the most southern point of an island on the northern shoreline of Bay Crabe at 29 degrees 34 minutes 56.5 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 36 minutes 06.5 seconds west longitude; thence southwesterly to the most eastern point of an island on the southern shore of Bay Gardene at 29 degrees 34 minutes 19.7 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 37 minutes 17.3 seconds west longitude; thence southwesterly to the most western point of an island on the southern shoreline of Triple Pass at 29 degrees 33 minutes 56.3 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 38 minutes 42.5 seconds west longitude; thence northerly across Triple Pass to the southern most point of an island on the northern shoreline of Triple Pass at 29 degrees 34 minutes 15.8 seconds north

latitude and 89 degrees 38 minutes 42.7 seconds west longitude; thence northwesterly to the northern most part of an island on the western shoreline of Bay Gardene at 29 degrees 35 minutes 12.9 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 39 minutes 4.6 seconds west longitude; thence northeasterly to a point on the northern shoreline of Bay Gardene at 29 degrees 35 minutes 45.6 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 38 minutes 15.0 seconds west longitude; thence easterly to the most eastern point of an island on the northern shoreline of Bay Gardene at 29 degrees 35 minutes 47.5 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 37 minutes 44.2 seconds west longitude; thence northerly back to the point of beginning at 29 degrees 36 minutes 03.9 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 37 minutes 49.9 seconds west longitude.

The LWFC authorized the LDWF Seretary to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, or if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

LDWF Marine Fisheries biologists have documented increases in fishing effort levels and harvest rates in comparison with recent years. Recent declines in annual stock size and evidence of excessive amounts of non-liv-

ing reef material onboard vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes is occurring within this area, and this public oyster seed reservation is being closed to protect the remaining oyster resource.

Based on boarding report surveys of oyster boats through Feb. 26, 2006 LDWF biologists have estimated that 15,805 barrels of seed oysters and 20,672 sacks of marketable oysters have been harvested from the Bay Gardene oyster seed reservation since its opening on Dec. 12, 2005.

The primary public oyster seed ground located east of the Mississippi River as described in LAC 76:VII.511, including the sacking only area of the public ground which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the MRGO, the Lake Borgne public oyster seed ground as described in LAC 76:VII 513 and the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche/Atchafalaya Bay public oyster seed grounds as described in LAC 76:507 and 509 will close a half hour after sunset April 1, 2006 unless it is determined that there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, or if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered. The LWFC at its Aug. 4, 2005 meeting set April 1, 2006. The Calcasieu Lake public oyster area as described in LA R.S.56:435.1 and LA R.S.56:435.1.1 will close to harvest on April 30, 2006.

