

**MINUTES CRAB TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**January 13, 2011**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Crab Task Force meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Bauer at 4:33 p.m.

A roll call was then made:

<b>VOTING</b>		<b>NON-VOTING</b>	
Gary Bauer	X	Mark Benfield	
Pete Gerica	X	Carl Britt	X
Dennis Landry	X	Melissa Daigle	
Roy Meek	X	Rusty Gaudé	
Pete Peterson	X	Walter Keithly	
L.J. Sandras		David Lavergne	X
Pat Templet		Jeff Mayne	X
Keith Watts	X		

A quorum of 6 voting members was present.

**Adoption of Minutes and Agenda**

Keith Watts moved and Roy Meek seconded that “the previous meeting’s minutes and the agenda be approved as written” -- motion carried (all in favor).

**Public Input**

There was no input from the public.

**MSC Certification**

LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist Joey Shepard stated that Mark Schexnayder was working with Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) to move forward with the certification process. There was some uncertainty as to what SCS required from the Agency. LDWF submitted a “quick and dirty” stock assessment to SCS which will need to be finalized. Joey then gave a presentation to explain what SCS was requiring to complete the certification process and to show what progress had been made with the Blue Crab stock assessment. Joey added that the SCS site visit originally slated for January would be rescheduled. Joey also offered a time table for completing SCS’s requirements.

**NFWF Grant Proposal/Derelict Crab Removal Program** – Julie Anderson

Louisiana Sea Grant offered a grant proposal to help the recovery of Louisiana Fisheries, with monies ultimately coming from BP. LA Sea Grant applied for a grant to bolster the Derelict Crab Trap program, whereby LA Sea Grant would receive \$75,000 to be used for removing derelict crab traps in Louisiana marshes. Funds could be used for marketing the program, conducting trap clean ups and recruitment of volunteers. Pete Gerica recommended using some

of the funds to educate fishermen on the issues created by derelict traps. Dr. Julie Anderson stated that LA Sea Grant would find out in April if they would receive the grant. She further stated that some of the grant money could be used for dump sites for collected derelict traps or for recycling of old traps.

Pete Gerica moved and Dennis Landry seconded that “LA Crab Task Force should support LA Sea Grant’s effort to secure this NFWF Grant.”-- motion carried (all in favor).

### **Task Force Vacancies**

A short discussion was held by Crab Task Force members regarding Task Force vacancies. Pete Gerica mentioned that he knew a fisherman he felt would be interested in joining the Task Force. All agreed that more membership was needed from the western region of the State. It was mentioned that the Crab Task Force may need to consider legislation to allow Task Force members to receive mileage reimbursement for attending Crab Task Force meetings. Gary Bauer asked for this to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **Issues faced by Blue Crab Industry related to Deepwater Horizon** – Dennis Landry

Dennis Landry offered that his Blue Crab processing business was damaged more by BP payments to Crab fishermen than it was damaged by the oil spill. He stated that it seemed that many fishermen in his area were being paid so much by BP that they were not actively fishing, and he wasn’t getting enough crabs to process and fill orders.

### **Blue Crab Marketing and Promotion Efforts** – Gary Bauer

Gary stated that the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board (LSPMB) received \$30 million for marketing Louisiana seafood over the next three years. Gary mentioned that the Louisiana Blue Crab Industry needs to be vocal and see to it that they receive their share of these marketing dollars.

Gary stated that, per Rene LeBreton with LSPMB, preparations were already being made for the Boston Seafood Show. LSPMB was looking at ways to generate international markets for Louisiana seafood. Pete Gerica suggested that the Crab Task Force consider getting a professional salesman for future seafood shows. Gary stated that LSPMB was looking into ways to follow up more effectively on leads made at seafood shows. Gary also asked Task Force members for marketing suggestions. Pete Peterson recommended having another Crab Education Day or “Day on the Bay”. David Lavergne recommended that the Crab Task Force offer their suggestions to the Steering Committee within the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Gary mentioned four ideas that had been submitted for possible grants that are available to Fishing Industries. These were cooling tanks, heating tanks for soft shell crab shedders, composting, and better use for blue crab minced meat. The grants were for \$300,000 per year for three years.

### **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Pete Gerica moved and Dennis Landry seconded that “Gary Bauer remain Chairman of the Louisiana Crab Task Force.”-- motion carried (all in favor).

Dennis Landry moved and Roy Meek seconded that “Pete Peterson remain Vice-Chairman of the Louisiana Crab Task Force.”-- motion carried (5 for, 1 against).

### **Other Business**

Dennis Landry mentioned that he had contacted Governor Jindal’s office and Senator Landrieu’s office and invited them to attend future Crab Task Force meetings.

Pete Peterson suggested that the Crab Task Force initiate legislation being written for Crab Task Force member travel reimbursements.

### **Next Meeting / Agenda Items**

The task force requested that the next meeting be held in early to mid-March.

Suggested agenda items include: Trade Adjustment Program for Crab Fishermen, MSC certification, NFWF Grant follow up, 5.5 inch minimum Blue Crab harvest size, Travel reimbursement legislation.

Roy Meek moved and Keith Watts seconded that “the meeting be adjourned” -- motion carried (all in favor).

### **Adjournment**

The Crab Task Force meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gary Bauer at 6:31 p.m.