

OTF Meeting Minutes 5.25.10

I. Roll Call

Present: Patrick Banks, Tenney Sibley in for Glen Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, Jakov Jurisic, Keith Lacaze, Ralph Pausina, Dana Brocato, Karl Morgan, Brad Robin, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Peter Vujnovich, Sam Slavich

Absent: David Deere, Wilson Voisin, Jerome Zeringue

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval by Pete, second Jakov, motion approved

III. Treasury Report

- A. Oyster Tag Sales
- B. LOTF Financial Packet

IV. Old Business

- A. Legislative—need to grab thoughts from minutes when possible.
- B. Oyster Lease Surveying Delays
- C. Other

V. New Business

A, Deep Horizon Oil Spill Update

1. Report on DHH and oyster closures. Easiest way to tell if product is safe is to taste and smell. Testing like this is unprecedented. Baseline tests to help know where oil is going to be present. So far all oysters are testing negative for hydrocarbons.

Jakov motion to stop dispersants on oil and water. Second by Peter. DHH asks them to test the dispersant used below the surface

Al wants to add in the letter that it not be allowed because of the unknown effects.

John recommends that John Supan draft that letter.

2. LDWF—two sets of samples...very few spat sets but very little mortality. East of the river, reduce of salinity and therefore very little spat and he doesn't expect more until fall most likely. Every other week they do the spat sampling. Motion by Buddy to write letter to WLF that they test oyster larvae in water column either themselves or through other agencies, second by Wilbert. Request that Dr. Supan work with DWF. Motion carries.
3. Enforcement—rotating agents, enforcing closures. Peter requests that a motion be made by DHH and LDWF to request relaxation of relay permits and move product at risk by fresh water diversion. Second by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.
4. Damage claims, legal issues:

Data collection, John Supan. Find out who is sampling what, when and where and find where there are holes in data collection and address that.

5. Federal and State actions---Fisheries failure in MS, AL and Louisiana. Makes approval for federal grants in fisheries in gulf. Contingent on Congress approving funding. Motion by Sammy to write letter to emergency loan programs issued by state to request deferment on emergency loans that were made to fishermen, oystermen specifically. Second by Jakov. Motion carries.

Seedco, south central planning and development and regional loan corp. were agencies mentioned that were facilitators of these loans. It was more case by case though and Dana suggested that it be a blanket ruling as opposed to one by one approval.

SBA has enacted the process of allowing deferments.

Sam would draft letter.

6. Crop Insurance-Oil spill is not covered.

Rob would draft letter and give to John to see if USDA would waive premiums for during the times that the basins are closed.

Next meeting July 27 @ 1 p.m

Motion to adjourn by Pete, second by Jakov.