

Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 1:00pm
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present:

Shane Bagala
Dan Coulon
Leo Dyson
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Brad Robin
Brandt Lafrance
John Tesvich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Tracy Collins
Byron Encalade
Al Sunseri

Non-voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Justin Gremillion
Chad Hebert
Frank Cole in for Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Motion to approve the December 12, 2017 meeting agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

Motion to accept the October 3, 2017 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries

Financial Report:

Oyster Development Account

Fund Balance: \$382, 844
Budget Balance: \$141, 844

Motion to approve the financial report by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic.
Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report

Mitch Jurisich addressed the task force with an update from the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting.

Committee discussion items:

1. Request for Proposal qualifications draft in the works- asking TF for recommendations
2. Oyster Lease Relocation Program East of the MS River- the committee's recommendation was to move forward with Area A- blue shaded area as the relocation area, also would like to separate the program from lifting the oyster lease moratorium
3. Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting NOI- discussed dual claimed lands

Sam Slavich expressed concern for the Lake Borgne area and suggested possibly adding the area for consideration to the relocation program

Jakov Jurisic requested a comprehensive relocation map

Motion to accept the committee report by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic.
Motion carries.

Enforcement Report:

Major Chad Hebert presented the task force with an enforcement update

LDWF Enforcement Division Oyster Report

September 22 – December 4

Region 5: (Cameron, Vermilion)

1 – Untagged oysters

Seizures

24 - Sacks of oysters

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

27 – Take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)

- 3 - Take oysters closed season (Sister Lake)
- 1 - Take commercial fish without a commercial gear license (scraper)
- 3 - Violate sanitation code (logbook)
- 1 - Violate sanitation code (refrigeration)
- 3 - Violate commission rules and regulations (dive boards on scraper - Sister Lake)
- 1 - Violate commission rules and regulations (over the limit of oyster sacks - Sister Lake)
- 1 - Fail to complete trip tickets
- 1 - Fail to maintain records

Seizures

162 - Sacks of oysters

Region 8: (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, St. Tammany)

- 16 - Take Oysters from Unapproved Area (Polluted)
- 2 - No Seed Ground Permit
- 8 - Take Undersized Oysters
- 5 - Fail to sack tag Oysters prior to Leaving seed ground
- 2 - Violate sanitary code (Refrigeration)
- 1 - Violate Sanitary Code (No Tarp)
- 2 - Violate Sanitary Code (No Log Sheet)
- 2 - Use Illegal Scraper

Seizures

382 - Sacks of oysters

Legislative Committee Report:

No report

Coastal Restoration Report:

No report

Research Committee:

No report

Marketing Report:

No report

Health Report:

Map showings for March-April and May-August during the first week of February at the Jefferson Parish health unit

Sustainability Report:

No report

Professionalism Report:

No report

Aquaculture Report:

No report

Joint Task Force Working Group Report:

No report

New Business:

Jeff Marx of LDWF addressed the task force with discussion and an update on the 2017 oyster season

Pontchartrain Basin- N of the MRGO 5885 barrels of seed taken; 23646 sacks harvested; 17,708- total harvest in barrels

Sister Lake- 6,410 barrels taken; 23,988 sacks; 35-25 sacks harvested; 18,404 total harvest in barrels

The Vermillion Bay system- no seed taken, no sacks harvested

Calcasieu Lake- West Cove- no seed taken; 113 sacks harvested; 57 total harvest in barrels

On November 28, sacking limits were reduced from 50 to 25 sacks in the Northern part of the Pontchartrain Basin, and from 35 to 25-sack limit in Sister Lake

Mitch Jurisich made a motion to request that Wildlife & Fisheries consider consulting with the Task Force prior to making season and limit changes, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic requested that oyster season updates be supplied to the task force in writing in the future

Leo Dyson led discussion on opening Sabine Lake for commercial oyster harvest

Leo Dyson made a motion to request that the WLF Commission open Sabine Lake for commercial oyster harvest with a 25-sack limit, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion not carried, seceded by substitute.

Karen Gautreaux with the Nature Conservancy asked that the task force consider the influences reopening the area to oyster harvest may have on the Sabine Reef

Jakov Jurisic made a substitute motion to request information from WLF pertinent to Sabine Lake and potential harvesting options and to call a meeting with WLF and

the Health Department to discuss, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries with 1 opposition- Leo Dyson.

John Tesvich led discussion on the Oyster Lease Acquisition Compensation Program

Compensation rate is currently 70% and the industry is requesting an appeal regarding the rate

The Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association is filing an objection and requesting an oral argument and hearing on the OLACP NOI to appeal the compensation rate; oral argument / hearing set for December 29, 2017 on the 4th floor of the CPRA office starting at 10:00am

Thomas Soniat asked that the task force continue funding the Summer Dermo Study, requesting \$6,940 to continue the work

Motion to fund the Summer Dermo Study, providing \$6,940 in support of the study by Sam Slavich, 2nd by Leo Dyson. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to fund travel to send assistants to Washington, D.C. to facilitate the Oyster Task Force booth at the Louisiana Alive event, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries

Brad Robin made a motion to host the 'Let the World Be Your Oyster' event in the spring of 2018, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Jakov Jurisic stated that he would like the ISSC Conference date change resubmitted at the next conference, asked that the item be proposed for the next ISSC executive board meeting

Next meeting set for Tuesday, January 16, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.