

Oyster Task Force Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2018, 1:00pm
2000 Quail Dr., LA Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Voting Members Present:

Shane Bagala
Tracy Collins
Dan Coulon
Leo Dyson
Byron Encalade
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Brad Robin
Brandt Lafrance
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Al Sunseri
John Tesvich

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Justin Gremillion
Major Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Motion to approve the December 12, 2017 meeting minutes by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Jaokv Jurisic. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the February 15, 2018 meeting agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Fund Balance: \$375,687
Budget Balance: \$113,382

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report:

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Recommendations:

1. In support of opening Sabine Lake to oyster harvest in LDWF's recommended areas

2. Recommended moving forward with drafting the final version of the Moratorium Lifting NOI, asked that the Oyster Task Force have the opportunity to review before the final draft is brought to the Commission
3. Recommended requesting that the Commission temporarily open Lake Boudreaux as public seed grounds for oyster relaying
4. Plan to set a subcommittee meeting to lay out the vessel permit training framework- going to subcommittee for further discussion

Jakov Jurisic motioned to request that the LDWF Commission open Sabine Lake for oyster harvest as soon as possible, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Karen Gauthreaux with the Nature Conservancy expressed concern for the Sabine Lake reef; asked that the OTF consider collecting more information prior to making a decision

Willie Daisy motioned to request that the LDWF Commission open Lake Boudreaux as a public seed ground, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Enforcement Report:

Major Chad Hebert addressed the task force with the enforcement report

December 5 - February 5

Region 5: (Cameron, Vermilion)

Cameron

- 1 - Fail to display number on vessel
- 1 - Take oysters from unapproved area (closed/polluted area) --- ½ sack seized
- 2 - Violate Calcasieu Lake/West Cove Oyster Regulations (Use of Scraper) ----3 sacks and 1 Scraper seized
- 3 - Take oysters illegal hours
- 3 - Take oysters from unapproved/polluted area----4 sacks of oysters seized

Vermilion

- 1 - Possess less than 10% of untagged oysters----3 sacks seized

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

Terrebonne

- 2- take oysters from unapproved area
- Seizures: 3 Sacks

St. Mary

- 7 take oysters from unapproved area
- Seizures: 7 sacks.

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

St Bernard

- 1-Violate Commission Rules and Regulations on Seed Ground (Fail to Tag Sacked Oysters)
- 4-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book Violation)
- 1-Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)
- 1-Violate Sanitary Code (No Tarp)
- 6-Take Undersized Oysters from Natural Reef

Total Seizures from St Barnard= 96 Sacks

Plaquemines

- 1-Fail to Tag Oysters
- 1-Fail to Pay Oyster Severance

Total Seizures from Plaquemines= 15 Sacks

Legislative Report:

No report

Research Report:

No report

Coastal Restoration Report:

No report

Marketing Report:

Oyster Task Force provided an update on their recent trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Louisiana Alive event

Health Report:

No report

Sustainability Report:

No report

Professionalism Report:

No report

Aquaculture Report:

No report

Byron Encalade motioned to appoint Steve Polluck to serve as the Aquaculture Committee chair in the interim until a permanent chair is seated, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Joint Task Force Working Group Report:
No report

Carolina Burke addressed the task force with an update on the 2017/2018 oyster season

2017-2018 LDWF Oyster season summary (updated Feb-14-2018)						
Area	Season Opening	Season Closure	Season/type	Days open to date	Harvest to date	Harvest to date in barrels
N of MRGO	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	1-day Seed harvest	1	5885 (bbbs)	5885
	Nov. 14	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	90	32113 (sacks)	16056.5
American Bay	Nov. 13	TBD	American Bay (sack oysters only)	91	0	0
Hackberry Bay, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene (oyster seed reservations) CLOSED						
Sister Lake (CSA 5)	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	1-day Seed harvest	1	6,410 (bbbs)	6410
	Nov. 14	Dec. 22	Market Oyster Harvest	39	25290 (sacks)	12645
Lake Mechant, Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour CLOSED						
Vermilion Bay	Nov. 13	TBD	Open to Seed and Market Oyster Harvest	91	5 (sacks)	2.5
Calcasieu Lake	Nov. 1	TBD	West Cove Only (7 sack daily limit)	95	4225 (sacks)	2112.5
Sabine Lake	CLOSED					

Deb Abibou provided the task force with an update on the Oyster Shell Recycling Program and upcoming events; Shell-A-Bration on March 8, 2018 6-9pm at 1645 Tchoupitoulas Street New Orleans, LA 70130

Earl Melancon requested for the OTF to nominate a participant to sit on the 2018 LFF Summit Diversion Panel; the panel plans to discuss near term issues regarding sediment diversions, panel discussion begins at 1:00pm; lafisheriesforward.org ->click summit to register

Mitch Jurisic made a motion to nominate Dan Coulon as the OTF representative on the LFF Diversion Panel, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries

Mitch Jurisich led discussion on an oyster commercial to highlight the industry's environmental and coastal conservation efforts

Brad Robin made motion to support a program to advertise the oyster industry through a commercial, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries.

Willie Daisy led discussion on using drone operation with GPS coordinates to assist in oyster enforcement

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to fund travel and provide a \$40,000 funding cap to support the Let the World be Your Oyster event in the Spring/Summer of 2018, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Motion to adjourn by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries