

**Oyster Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
UNO Advanced Technology Center
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122**

Allison West called roll:

Voting Members Present:

Dan Coulon
Byron Encalade
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Brandt LaFrance
Al Sunseri
John Tesvich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Shane Bagala
Wilbert Collins
Leo Dyson
Brad Robin

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Lt. Scott Keller in for Captain Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Gary Lopinto in for Lance Broussard

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Motion to approve the February 16, 2016 meeting minutes Peter Vujnovich 2nd by Jakov Jurisic

Motion by Jakov Jurisic to move item 'K. Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Committee' to top of committee reports, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries

Motion to approve the amended March 2, 2016 agenda by Jakov Jurisic 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Financial Report: Fund Balance- \$346,133.54, Expenditures- \$44,812,
Encumbrances- \$40,954, Budget Balance: \$220,984

Motion to approve the financial report by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion adopted.

Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Committee:

Discussion of changes made to the 2016 Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Bill

Item was tabled until draft language edits could be made

Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee:

Authors of proposed 2016 Oyster Task Force legislation:

- Dredge to scraper language and the establishment of scraper gear restrictions on public waters- Representative Jerry Gisclair
- The expansion of the oyster seed grounds development fund bill- Jerome Zeringue
- Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Bill, the harvesters license FDA certification pre-requisite, and renewal of the Public Seed Grounds Permit- Representative Chris Leopold

Enforcement:

No report

Legislative Committee:

No Report

Bills being proposed in the 2016 legislative session:

1. Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Committee bill
2. Renewal of the Seed Ground Permit bill
3. Oyster Seed Ground Development Account bill
4. Dredge requirements bill
5. FDA training pre-requisite for harvesting license bill

Byron Encalade made a motion to reduce the Vessel Permit Fee to \$100 for boats that are 26' and under with a single dredge, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic.

Byron Encalade amended his motion on the floor to change legislation to assess vessel permit fees based on the amount of active dredges- 1 dredge-\$250, 2 dredges-\$500 with the max of 2 dredges and allow the permit holder to adjust annually upon expiration and renewal of the license, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries

Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Committee Bill:

The committee picked up tabled item after discussion of suggested changes

Motion by Dan Coulon to accept the amended changes to the OLMLC Bill, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries

Research Committee:

Mark Schexnayder stated that Patrick Banks is stepping down as the Research Committee chair and suggested the committee appoint another committee chair

Al Sunseri suggested that LDWF make a recommendation for a new research committee chair

John Tesvich stated that he would take the recommendations into consideration and appoint a chair to the committee at the next meeting

Coastal Restoration:

No Report

Marketing Report:

No Report

Health Report:

Gary Lopinto stated that the dealers training video is completed for certification, and they are working to get the video online. Dealers will be getting a call to know when the video is available. All dealers will need this certification before getting license starting in June

Gordon Leblanc is putting together the rule making language to change harvest times from 36 to 20 hours and this will be submitted in the next legislative session to be in place starting December 2016

Harvesters training requirement is renewed every 5 years

Sustainability Report:

No Report

Professionalism Report:

Discussion of the Louisiana Fisheries Forward event

Aquaculture Report:

No Report

Update on the Proposed Leased Area within Public Seed Grounds:

Steve Beck presented the task force with proposed maps of leased area within the public seed grounds

This item was sent to committee for further discussion

Jakov Jurisic suggested when a final map is proposed that the proposed areas be presented to each area

Marine Sanitation Device:

Mitch Jurisich proposed a more fair distribution of these devices to be used on all commercial vessels, not just oyster vessels

John Tesvich suggested bringing this issue to Health Committee for further discussion

Mark Schexnayder stated that he would look into the requirements on these devices and who regulated the MSD requirements, and if this can be taken care of through rule making or legislation and have feedback by the next meeting

April Oyster Relay:

John Tesvich suggested that the Health Department look into the data in areas 1 and 2 to see if these areas are open during this time

It was the wishes of the Task Force to go through with the oyster relay in April in the closed portion of the Mississippi Sound

Jakov Jurisic suggested submitting this item at the next ISSC to make changes to transplant requirements

Al Sunseri suggested drawing up the suggested changes now and bringing it to the ISSC board meeting in the interim

Willie Daisy requested that LDWF look into opening Sister Lake for 2 weeks at the end of April

Mark Schexnayder stated that the department would look at samples to see if this opening is feasible by the next meeting

Elizabeth Clavit addressed the task force with the Port of Gulf Port Project in the Biloxi Marsh

Jakov Jurisic asked that Elizabeth Clavit come and update the TF at future meetings

Mitch Jurisich made a motion to bring the Port of Gulf Port Project issue to the Seed Grounds Committee, 2nd by Brandt LaFrance. Motion Adopted.

The next meeting was set for March 29 for 1:00pm at the Baton Rouge Visitors Center

Due to space availability, the meeting location was changed to LDWF Headquarters- The Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge

The agenda item 'Discussion of Dredge Vessel Permit Requirements' was tabled and will taken up for discussion at the next meeting

Motion to adjourn Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion adopted.