

**Oyster Task Force Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 1:00pm**  
**2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**  
**New Orleans, LA 70122**

Roll Call:

**Voting Member Present:**

Tracy Collins  
Dan Coulon  
Leo Dyson  
Byron Encalade  
Jakov Jurisic  
Mitch Jurisich  
Brad robin  
Brandt Lafrance  
John Tesvich  
Sam Slavich  
Peter Vujnovich  
Willie Daisy

**Voting Members Absent:**

Shane Bagala  
Al Sunseri

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder  
Justin Gremillion  
Chad Hebert

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Karl Morgan  
Brian Lezina

Motion to approve the February 15, 2018 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the March 20, 2018 meeting agenda by Sam Slavich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

**Oyster Development Account:**

Fund Balance: \$421, 260  
Budget Balance: \$145, 699

**February Oyster Tag Sales: 235,200**

Motion to accept the Financial Report by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report:**

Mitch Jurisich addressed the board with the committee report

Committee Items of Discussion:

- Senate Bill 451- Permanent moratorium on oyster harvest in Sabine Lake
- Senate Bill 453- Oyster Harvest in Calcasieu Lake

Committee recommended opposing both bills

Motion to oppose Senate Bills 451 and 453 by Leo Dyson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Vujnovich.  
Motion carries.

- Oyster moratorium lifting draft NOI

The committee recommended that the task force adopt the oyster moratorium lifting NOI as amended and requested that a final draft be brought back before the board when all changes are made

### **Enforcement Report:**

**February 5- March 12, 2018**

#### **Region 5: (Cameron, Vermilion)**

##### Cameron:

- 2-Calcasieu Lake oyster Regulations (Use of dredge)
- 3-Take oysters illegal hours
- 4-Take oysters from unapproved area (Polluted)

## **Region 4: (Iberia)**

### **Iberia:**

- 1 - violate seed ground vessel permit regulations
- 1 - violate sanitation code
- 1 - use illegal dredge (dive Plate)
- 23 sacks of oysters were returned to water

## **Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)**

### **Terrebonne**

- 7- take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)
- 4- unlawfully take oysters off a private lease
- 4- fail to have written permission
- 2- take commercial fish without a commercial license
- 2- take commercial fish without a gear license (scraper)
- 2- take oysters without an oyster harvester license
- 2- take commercial fish without a vessel license
- 1- fail to maintain paperwork
- 1- fail to report commercial fisheries data
- 5- fail to complete trip ticket
- 45- sacks seized

### **Lafourche**

- 2- take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)
- 11- sacks seized

### **St Mary**

- 17- take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)
- 18- sacks seized

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

### **St Bernard**

- 1-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book)
- 4-Unlawfully Take Oysters from State water Bottoms
- 2-Take Oysters Closed Season
- 2-Fail to Have Written Permission
- 2-Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease
- 33- Sacks Seized total

### **Plaquemines**

- 1-Possess Untagged Oysters
- 1-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book)
- 9-Sack Seized total

**Legislative Committee Meeting:**

No report

**Research Committee:**

No report

**Coastal Restoration Report:**

No report

**Marketing Committee:**

Proposed hosting a Marketing Subcommittee meeting in coordination with the next Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board

Jakov Jurisic provided the task force with a Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board meeting update. The SPMB will be expanding the board and adding 4 new advisory positions from the following agencies:

1. Farm Bureau Federation
2. Department of Agriculture and Forestry
3. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
4. La Sea Grant

**Health Report:**

DHH provided an update on the Bonne Carre Spillway opening and the oyster transplant

**Sustainability Report:**

No report

**Professionalism Report:**

No report

**Aquaculture Report:**

No report

**Joint Task Force Working Group Report:**

No report

**New Business:**

LDWF addressed the task force with discussion and updates on the 2017-18 oyster season

## 2017-2018 LDWF Oyster season summary (updated March-19-2018)

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	5,885 bbls	5,885
	Nov. 13	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	127	34,248 sacks	17,124
Lake Borgne	Mar. 12	Mar. 17	Emergency Opening (Bonnet Carre Spillway)	5	760 bbls	760
American Bay	Nov. 13	TBD	American Bay (sack oysters only)	127	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 bbls	6,410
	Nov. 13	Dec. 22	Market Oyster Harvest	40	25,290 sacks	12,645
Lake Mechant, Baratavia Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour CLOSED						
Vermilion Bay	Nov. 13	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	127	830 sacks	415
	Nov. 13	Mar 12	Seed Oyster Harvest	120	8,450 bbls	8,450
Calcasieu Lake	Nov. 1	TBD	West Cove Only (7 sack daily limit)	139	4,435 sacks	2,217.5
Sabine Lake	CLOSED					

LDWF addressed the task force with a proposal to change the timing of the dermo (*Perkinsus Marinus*) sampling collections, proposed September-October season

The task force requested that the study date change be noted in the oyster stock assessment

Mitch Jurisich motioned to approve moving the Summer Dermo sample collections from July to September/October, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Item C. 'Discussion on the Bonne Carre Spillway Opening and the Special Oyster Transplant' was discussed under the Heath Committee Report

The task force discussed the closure of Mardi Gras Pass. March 25 is the deadline for public comment on the permit, task force asked that those interested to submit their comment

The Oyster Task Force considered date proposals for the 'Let the World Be Your Oyster' event. The task force proposed hosting their 'Let the World Be Your Oyster' event during the week of July 16, 2018

Officer Elections:

Mitch Jurisich nominated John Tesvich as Oyster Task Force chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Brad Robin motioned to nominate Mitch Jurisich as the Oyster Task Force co-chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Dyson. Motion carries.

Motion to close the nominations by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Dyson. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

No comment

Willie Daisy requested sending Gary Lopinto a get well soon card and thank him for his 39 years of service

Walter Boasso provided the task force with an update on the aquaculture project, Aqua Green

Next meeting set for Tuesday, April 24, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Dan Coulon, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Willie Daisy. Motion carries.