

Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:00p.m.
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll call and introduction of guests

Voting Members Present:

Byron Encalade

Jakov Jurisic

Mitch Jurisich

Brandt Lafrance

Sam Slavich

Peter Vujnovich

Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Shane Bagala

Tracy Collins

Dan Coulon

Leo Dyson

Brad Robin

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

Non-voting Members Present:

Carolina Bourque

Gordon Leblanc in for Justin Gremillion

Stephen McManus in for Edward Skena

Karl Morgan

Brian Lezina

III. Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the February 26, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic motioned to amend the agenda by postponing item, C. Discussion of FDA/LDH Proposals for Increased Surveillance of AOC Water Quality' until the next meeting, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic motioned to accept the agenda as amended, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

IV. Treasury Report:

Remaining Fund Balance- \$372,202

Remaining Budget Balance- \$50,794
March Tag Sales- 267,302

Jakov Jurisic motioned to accept the financial report as presented, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich.
Motion carries.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Public Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee- no report

B. Enforcement Report

Feb 9th – March 11th

Region 4 (Iberia)

None

Region 5 (Cameron and Vermillion)

1 – Failure to display proper number on vessel top.

1 – Violate sanitation code

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

Terrebonne

1 – violate sanitary code (logbook)

Oysters seized – 2 sacks

Lafourche

3 – unlawfully take oysters from a private lease

3 – fail to have written permission

Oysters seized – 2 sacks

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

St Bernard Parish

3-Take Undersized Oysters from Natural Reef

1-Fail to Display Number on Top Vessel

3-Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)

1-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book)

1-Unlawfully Stake Off Unleased State Bottoms

2-Violate Commission Action on State Seed Ground (Take Oysters From Closed Cultch Plant)

3-Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease

3-Fail to Have Written Permission

1-Fail to Have Scrapper License

Seizures

55 Oyster Sacks

212 Mini Oyster Sacks

Plaquemines

1-Take Oysters from Unapproved Area (Polluted)

1-Take Oysters From Unleased Area

1-Misbranding Seafood (Using another Oyster Dealers Certification Number In Interstate Commerce Without Permission)

Training for enforcement drone operators to begin the start of June 2019

C. Legislative Committee Report- No report

Oyster and Seafood Industry Related Bills of interest to be heard this session:

HB 142 **Leopold, Chris** Authorizes additional means of harvesting oysters on the oyster seed grounds under the oyster seed ground vessel permit

HB 335 **Gisclair, Truck** Requires food service establishments serving imported crawfish or shrimp to inform patrons that the seafood is of foreign origin.

D. Research Committee Report- no report

E. Coastal Restoration Committee Report- no report

F. Marketing Committee Report-

The marketing committee met prior to the Oyster Task Force meeting and discussed an oyster industry marketing plan. The beginning phases of the plan would call for the creation of an Oyster Industry/ Oyster Task Force social media page on Facebook along with a website.

⇒ Facebook | Phase 1:

- Create OTF page; secure cover and profile photos
- Gather initial content for first few months; recommend a content calendar based on provided list
- Cultivate page audience with initial help of industry influencers; share content
- Grow audience with relevant, timely, shareable posts, photos, and 'memes'

⇒ Facebook | Phase 2:

- Further develop content calendar; maintain page
- Link to OTF website (once complete)
- Determine budget for ads; create and implement ads
- Boost popular posts
- Measure growth using Facebook statistics
- Interface with OTF marketing group to adjust plan as needed

⇒ Website Development | Phase 1:

- Secure desired URL
- Choose contractor based on budget/referrals
- Determine initial navigation that is easy and functional:
 - About
 - News (using combination of Ed Lallo stories, LDWF info, etc)
 - Meeting info?
 - Photo gallery

- Resource library; to include maps, links
 - Gather initial photos, content; guide/approve design
- Budget: \$8,000 - \$12,000 depending on content/needs

⇒ Website Development | Phase 2:

- Create ongoing content calendar inline with social media and feature stories
- Add additional elements, to include recipes and harvester spotlights
- Train website administrators
- Implement SEO, to include key words and page titles
- Maintain/update content
- Work with industry to create links to OTF site

G. Health Committee Report-

Refrigeration Requirements for Shellstock Harvested for Raw Consumption:

Basin Descriptions:

Basin 02- Barataria - Mississippi River west to Bayou Lafourche

Basin 03- West Cove and Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Areas **Basin**

04- Mississippi State line west to the Mississippi River

Basin 06- Atchafalaya River west to Freshwater Bayou Canal including Vermilion, East Cote Blanche, and West Cote Blanch Bays.

Basin 12- Terrebonne - Bayou Lafourche to the Atchafalaya River

Max Hours from Harvest	36-HOURS	8 HOURS	1 HOUR
BASIN 02	JAN-FEB DEC	MAR-APR NOV	MAY- OCT
BASIN 03	JAN-FEB DEC	MAR-APR NOV	OCT
BASIN 04	JAN-FEB DEC	MAR-APR NOV	MAY- OCT
BASIN 06	JAN-FEB DEC	MAR-APR NOV	MAY- OCT
BASIN 12	JAN-FEB DEC	MAR-APR NOV	MAY- OCT

H. Professionalism Report- no report

I. Aquaculture Committee Report- no report

J. Joint Task Force Working Group Report- no report

VI. New Business:

A. Carolina Bourque provided the task force with an update on the 2018-2019 oyster season

2018-2019 LDWF Oyster season summary (April 12, 2019)

Area	Season Opening	Season Closure	Season/type	Days open to date	Harvest to date	CSA
N of MRGO	Oct- 29	Oct- 29	1-day Seed harvest	1	4,550 bbls	1
	Oct- 29	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest *LDH Area 3, Drum Day and 3-mile cultch plant CLOSED as of Jan 20, 2019	165	18,668 sacks	
	Mar-14	Mar-16	Bonnet Carré special opening for bedding purposes only	3	0 bbls	
	Mar-19	Mar-21	Bonnet Carré SECOND special opening for bedding only	3	85 bbls	
All Public Seed Grounds East of Mississippi river and South of MRGO CLOSED						
Hackberry Little Lake	Oct- 29	Oct- 29	1-day Seed harvest	1	877 bbls	3
	Oct- 29	Nov-3	Market Oyster Harvest	6	186 sacks	
Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour CLOSED						
Lake Mechant	Oct- 29	Oct- 29	1-day Seed harvest	1	20 bbls	5
	Oct- 29	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	165	25 sacks	
Bay Junop	Oct- 29	Oct- 29	1-day Seed harvest	1	0 bbls	
	Oct- 29	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	165	500 sacks	
Sister Lake CLOSED-						
Vermilion Bay	Oct- 29	Oct- 29	1-day Seed harvest	1	0 bbls	6
	Oct- 29	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	165	8 sacks	
	Mar-14	Mar-16	Bonnet Carré special opening for bedding purposes only	3	0 bbls	
Calcasieu Lake	Oct- 29	TBD	<i>East Cove:</i> Market Oyster Harvest ** closed between Dec 31, 2018 and Jan 20, 2019	**144	2659 sacks	7
	Oct- 29	TBD	<i>West Cove:</i> Market Oyster Harvest	165	6311 sacks	

*Requested that LDWF keep the board updated on the season as time progresses

B. Cole Garrett provided the board with an updated draft of the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI

The task force requested that the Office of State Lands attend their next meeting to provide feedback on dual claims agreement and ownership criteria

The task force requested maps and more information on lands that are currently considered state claimed and dual claimed

Jakov Jurisic motioned to request for LDWF to delay bringing the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI before the LDWF Commission until after the May OTF meeting to give the task force time to digest the new language added to the NOI and to also seek clarification from the State Lands Office on the criteria and requirements of dual claimed lands and DC agreements. In the event that the task force is not able to meet prior to the June 2019 LDWF Commission meeting, the task force approves of the NOI moving forward, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

C. Mitch Jurisich provided an update on the levels of oyster cultch material removed when harvesting seed oysters from public oyster beds

The task force expressed concern that the current allowance (15%) is too low for incidental take of non-living material in bedding loads, would like to work with LDWF to increase the percentage to something closer to 20 percent, also stated that there was not a known standardized method for sampling

Requested for LDWF to provide a presentation and demonstration at their next meeting on the method used to sample the amount of non-living material in oyster loads; the task force asked that LDWF notify the industry of the methodology that is being used to take samples so that the industry might better police themselves

VII. Public Comment:

John Zack Lea is requesting the help of the task force in seeking participation from landowners and oyster producers who would like to take part in a program, the task force plans to add an item on their next meeting agenda to discuss the details further

Ricky Melerine with the St. Bernard Port Authority invited the task force to utilize their facility, at the St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal District, for meeting space

VIII. The next Oyster Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 for 1PM at the St. Bernard Port Authority building located at 100 Port Blvd. Chalmette, LA 70043, The OTF Marketing Committee plans to meet for 11:00am prior to the full task force meeting

IX. Jakov Jurisic motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.