

**Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 1:00pm
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70112**

Roll Call:

Voting Member Present:

Shane Bagala
Tracy Collins
Dan Coulon
Byron Encalade
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Brad Robin
Brandt Lafrance
John Tesvich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich, Jr.
Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Leo Dyson
Al Sunseri

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Justin Gremillion
Captain Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Motion to approve the March 20, 2018 meeting minutes by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Motion to accept the April 24, 2018 meeting agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd By Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Oyster Development Account:
Fund Balance: \$ 393,309
Budget Balance: \$103,622
March Tag Sales: 153,600

Motion to accept the financial report by Willie Daisy, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee:

Mitch Jurisich addressed the task force with an update from the committee meeting

Committee recommended taking no action on the draft moratorium lifting NOI until stakeholder comments can be reviewed

Committee presented with a draft document: 'Planning for Management of State Oyster Leasing and Public Seed Grounds Affected by Coastal Projects and Natural Hydrological Changes' and recommended sending the item to the Coastal Restoration committee for further vetting. Coastal Restoration Committee meeting set for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 for 9:00am in New Orleans

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to accept the 'Planning for Management' document as a working draft, 2nd by Sam Slavich. Motion carries.

Enforcement Report:

Captain Chad Hebert provided the task force with an enforcement update

March 13-April 15

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

TERREBONNE

- 3 – take oysters from an unapproved area
- 4 – take oysters closed season (Sister Lake)
- 4 – unlawfully take oysters off state water bottoms
- 4 – fail to cull oysters in the proper location
- 2 – violate sanitary code (log book)
- 1 – take commercial fish without a commercial license
- 1 – fail to display proper number on vessel

LAFOURCHE

- 3 – take oysters from an unapproved area
- 74 sacks of oysters seized

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

St Bernard

- 6-Violate Sanitary Code (No Log Book)
- 7-Violate Sanitary Code (Violate Transplant Requirement "No Call in")

8-Violate Sanitary Code (Violate Transplant Requirement “Fail to Display Permit Number on Vessel”)

3-Violate Sanitary Code (Violate Transplant Requirement “Operate Under Permit After Receiving Closed Area Harvesting Violation Within 3 Years”)

412 Sacks Seized

Plaquemines

4-Violate Sanitary Code (No Log Book)

1-Violate Sanitary Code (Improper Tarp)

3-Unlawfully take Oysters from State Water Bottoms

69 Sacks Seized

Brad Robin expressed concern for enforcement communication in Biloxi Management Area

Legislative Committee Report:

No report

Research Committee Report:

No report

Coastal Restoration Report:

No report

Marketing Report:

The marketing committee met on April 10 to discuss proposals for a commercial that would highlight the oyster industry’s environmental and coastal conservation efforts. The general consensus after discussion was to devise an overarching oyster-marketing plan that would include an oyster industry commercial. The committee decided to hold off on taking further action until they’ve had the chance to vet options with the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board

Jakov Jurisic provided an update on the LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board legislation that would expand the board by adding 4 non-voting members

1. LA Sea Grant representative
2. Department of Ag and Forestry representative
3. Farm Bureau representative
4. LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries representative

The oyster industry’s ‘Let the World Be Your Oyster’ event has been set for the week of July 16, 2018 in Washington, D.C. Currently in the planning stages of the event and ask that any members who are interested in attending to please fill out a travel authorization form at the end of the meeting

Health Report:

Justin Gremillion addressed the TF with an update on the health report; equipment to conduct sampling in areas that are seldom sampled, need a shallow running boat to sample these areas, bid process started to acquire a boat

Mitch Jurisich expressed concern with 'backyard oyster shuckers' selling and shucking oyster to restaurants from sheds

Sustainability Report:

No report

Professionalism Report:

No report

Aquaculture Report:

Steve Pollock proposed to be appointed as the new Oyster Task Force Aquaculture Committee chairman

Joint Task Force Working Group Report:

No report

New Business:

Denise Kinsley addressed the Task Force with an update on the 2017-2018 oyster season

2017-2018 LDWF Oyster season summary (updated April 20, 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 (bbls)	5885
	Nov. 13	TBD	Market Oyster Harvest	156	35,411(sacks)	17706
Lake Borgne	Mar. 12	Mar. 17	Emergency Opening (Bonnie Carrie Spillway)	5	760(bbbs)	760
American Bay	Nov. 13	TBD	American Bay (sack oysters only)	135	0	0
DHH area 1 and 2	Mar. 24	Apr. 7	Special DHH permit Relay--transplant/bedding only	15	18,615 (bbbs)	18615
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. 13	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	Mar. 18	Market Oyster Harvest	126	830 (sacks)	415
	Nov. 13	TBD	Seed Oyster Harvest	156	8,450 bbls	8450
Calcasieu Lake	Nov. 1	TBD	West Cove Only (7 sack daily limit)	161	5743(sacks)	2871
Sabine Lake	CLOSED					

Motion to postpone discussion on item B. 'To Hear a Presentation on the 2018 LFF Summit Fisheries Diversion Panel' until the next meeting by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Item C. 'Planning for Management of State Oyster Leasing and Public Oyster Seed Grounds Affected by Coastal Projects was covered under the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee reports

Willie Daisy addressed the board on considering funding for drone purchase and training for LDWF oyster enforcement

Task Force asked LDWF enforcement to collect more information from current regulation and the DA's office and come back to the TF to consider funding

Willie Daisy motioned for more information, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Willie Daisy led discussion on proper weights and measures as it pertains to the oyster gallon container

Steve Sessums with Dept. of Ag and Forestry requested the board's opinion and feedback on rule changes for labeling oyster gallon buckets

Jakov Jurisic suggested that if there is a need for recommendations/ changes to the current rules that it can be taken up under the marketing committee and vetted

Willie Daisy led discussion on a proposal to increase oyster violations for theft and fishing in closed areas, change from a Class 6 to a Class 7 violation

Motion by Willie Daisy to change legislation for first offense oyster theft and fishing in closed areas from a class 6 to a class 7 violation, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic

Board deferred taking the issue up prior to the next legislative session, first Task Force meeting of 2019 calendar year

Mitch suggested getting with DA's and judges on the issue and taking it from there

Brian Lezina provided information on the Barataria Bay sampling SWAMP program

Oyster Task Force Coastal Restoration Committee meeting set for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 for 9:00am in New Orleans

Oyster Task Force Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting set for Tuesday, May 29, 2018 for 9:30am in New Orleans

The next Oyster Task Force meeting set for Tuesday, May 29, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans.

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