

**Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 30, 2018, 1:00pm**  
**2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**  
**New Orleans, La 70122**

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:**

Shane Bagala  
Byron Encalde  
Tracy Collins  
Willie Daisy  
Jakov Jurisic  
Brandt Lafrance  
Leo Dyson  
John Tesvich  
Sam Slavich

**Voting Members Absent:**

Al Sunseri  
Brad Robin  
Dan Coulon  
Mitch Jurisich  
Peter Vujnovich

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Brian Lezina  
Carolina Bourque  
Frank Cole in for Karl Morgan  
Chad Hebert  
Justin Gremillion

Motion to accept the May 29, 2018 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shane Bagala. Motion carries.

Motion to accept the July 30, 2018 meeting agenda by Byron Encalade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

**Financial Report:**

Fund Balance: \$423, 512  
Budget Balance: \$92, 844

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:**

No report

**Enforcement Report:**

May 22 – July 20

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

None

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

LAFOURCHE

9 - take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)

2 - take oysters illegal hours

2 - unlawfully take oysters from state water bottoms

1 - violate sanitary code (refrigeration)

2 - violate sanitary code (log book)

**53 sacks of oysters**

TERREBONNE

2 - take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)

2 - take oysters closed season (Sister Lake)

**9 sacks of oysters**

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

ST. BERNARD

1-Fail to Display Number on Vessel

1-Violate Court Ordered VMS

11-Unlawfully Take Oysters from Unleased State Water Bottoms

5-Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)

1-Violate Sanitary Code (Tarp Requirement)

2-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book)

3-Unlawfully Take Oysters off Private Lease

3-Fail to Have Written Permission

2-Fail to Pay Oyster Severance Tax

**485 Sacks of Oysters Seized**

PLAQUEMINES

1-Fail to Pay Oyster Severance Tax

1-Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)

**23 Sacks of Oysters Seized**

**Legislative Committee Report:**

No report

**Research Committee Report:**

No report

## **Coastal Restoration Committee Report:**

John Tesvich provided the board with an update from the committee meeting

### **Committee recommendations and requests:**

1. Considered planning for management in the Lake Borne and Caernarvon impact zones first
2. Requested feedback from LDWF on the acreage of leasable areas that are between current leases on the east side of the MS River, north of the MRGO for relocation
3. Requested feedback from CPRA and LDWF on the legality and requirements of implementing a relocation program, that would mirror that of Davis Pond, for the areas east of the MS River
4. Recommended keeping the same structure as the Davis Pond Relocation Program, which would give leaseholders the following options: Retention, Exchange, Relocation, or Purchase
5. Requested for LDWF to provide feedback on the 'cultch currency' and buyout offerings from Davis Pond
6. The committee discussed ground truthing the water bottom type by using side scan sonar, polling, survey data, and the development of a 'cultch currency' similar to what was done in Davis Pond; also discussed allowing an alternative to side scan sonar that would allow leaseholders to provide supplemental data to support the value of a lease prior to environmental factors taking place. Committee to propose solutions/ options in addition to Side Scan Sonar in future discussions; polling and survey data
7. Committee suggested leaving the whole available, un-leased area in Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays open for relocation. Another relocation zone for consideration was the Deep Lake area and Lake Felicity areas
8. Request for LDWF to provide feedback on the number of leases and acreage in lower Plaquemines

Request for clarification from CPRA and LDWF on the requirements to draw up a program similar to the Davis Pond Program:

1. What is required to create a program- legislation or rule making
2. How much funding is needed and possible funding options
3. How much funding was required for the Davis Pond Program and how was it instituted
4. Feedback on the acreage of leasable areas that are in between leases on the east bank of the river, north of the MRGO
5. Who provided the side scan sonar and ground truthing for Davis Pond and how much did it cost? Who can provide side scan sonar now and what are the associated costs

**Marketing Committee Report:**

No report

**Health Committee Report:**

Public map showing will be held on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9am-11am at the Jefferson Parish Health Unit (111 Causeway Blvd, Metairie, LA 70001) to present the Reclassification Line for the September-October 2018 and November-February 2019 Classification Seasons.

**Professionalism Report:**

No report

**Aquaculture Report:**

Byron Encalade provided an update on a new aquaculture training program, stated that they will keep the task force fully informed with project updates to come

**Joint Task Force Working Group Report:**

No report

**New Business:**

Carolina Bourque presented the board with recommendations for the 2018-2019 oyster season

**Season Recommendations:**

- 1N: -Primary Public Grounds East of MS River, N of MRGO: November 13  
SACKING ONLY: November 14
- 1S: -Primary Public Grounds South of MRGO: CLOSED
- 3: - Barataria Bay : CLOSED  
-Little Lake, Hackberry Bay: November 13  
SACKING ONLY: November 14
- 5E: -Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake: CLOSED
- 5W: -Sister Lake:and Lake Mechant: CLOSED  
-Bay Junop : November 13  
SACKING ONLY: November 14
- 6: -Vermilion/Atchafalaya Bay Area: November 13  
SACKING ONLY: March 1, 2019
- 7: -ALL Calcasieu Lake : November 1

**\*\*\* SACK LIMITS\*\*\*\***

- 25 sacks per vessel per day, 25 sack possession limit, statewide, except for Calcasieu Lake: 7 sacks per vessel per day
- Bedding/Cargo Vessels: no limit

Leo Dyson motioned to recommend that the WLF Commission increase the sack limit in Calcasieu Lake from 7 to 15 sacks per vessel per day, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Byron Encalade. Motion carries, 1 abstained- Jakov Jurisic

Jakov Jurisic motioned to recommend to the commission to open Vermillion and Atchafalaya Bay for a bedding-only season when the Health Department opens those areas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. **Motion withdrawn**

Motion to open the Vermillion and Atchafalaya Bays on October 13 for bedding only by Shane Bagala, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Dyson. Motion carries, 1 opposed- Byron Encalade.

Motion to change the sacking limit to 30 sacks in area CSA 1N with a two-day possession limit by Leo Dyson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic motioned to recommend to the commission to open area 1S for bedding and sacking. Motion failed; no 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Jakov Jurisic addressed the TF with an update from the Oyster Task Force Washington, D.C. trip and Hill meets

Sam Slavich suggested sending the two representatives a letter of appreciation for participating

The task force considered funding and participation for the 2019 LA Alive event (Thursday, January 31, 2019)

Motion to participate and fund travel for the 2019 LA Alive event and to partner with the SPMB on the event if they approve by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

The board considered options for a new shirt and name tag order; requested more information and pricing to order a long sleeved shirt option as well as costs to embroider names on shirts instead of ordering name tags, pricing for neck ties

**Public Comment:**

Thomas Hymel with the LSU Ag Center and Sea Grant presented the TF with an update from the 2018 LFF Summit

Motion to adjourn by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.