Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting  
Tuesday, July 30, 2019, 1:00pm  
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:**
Dan Coulon  
Byron Encalade  
Jakov Jurisic  
Mitch Jurisich  
Brandt Lafrance  
Al Sunseri  
Sam Slavich  
Willie Daisy

**Voting Members Absent:**
Shane Bagala  
Tracy Collins  
Leo Dyson  
Brad Robin  
John Tesvich  
Peter Vujnovich

**Non-Voting Members Present:**
Carolina Bourque  
Justin Gremillion  
Edward Skena  
Frank Cole in for Karl Morgan  
John Troutman in for Brian Lezina

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

**III.** Al Sunseri motioned to approve the June 25, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

Al Sunseri motioned to accept the July 30, 2019 meeting agenda, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

**IV. Treasury Report**
Remaining FY2019 Fund Balance- $409,466  
Budget Balance for FY2019- $56,192  
Tag sales for the month of June- 78,504

**V. Committee Reports**
A. Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee- no report  
B. Enforcement
June 15th - July 21st

Region 4 (Iberia) None

Region 5 (Calcasieu and Cameron) None

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle) Terrebonne
2 take oyster closed season Bay Junop
2 take oyster with illegal dredge
1 fail to have commercial license in possession
4 take oysters unapproved area (polluted)-DRONE CASES 16 (counts) – fail to maintain records (Oyster Related)
5 – fail to report commercial fish data (Oyster Related)
53 sacks seized

Lafourche
4 – take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)-DRONE CASES 1 fail to display number on vessel
40 sacks oysters seized

Region 8: (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, St. Tammany) St. Bernard
None

Orleans
8 (counts) – fail to maintain records (Oyster Related)
3 (counts) – fail to report commercial fish data (Oyster Related)

Plaquemines
363 (counts) – fail to maintain records (Oyster Related)
15 – harvest oysters from an improperly marked lease (WARNINGS)

C. Legislative Committee- No report
D. Research Committee- No report
E. Coastal Restoration Committee- No report
F. Marketing Committee- No report
G. Health Committee-
Lots of openings and closings from this time of year. Areas 1, 2, and 3 are closed due to low salinity. The Bonnet Carre Spillway is completely closed as of Saturday. Most areas reopen due to Barry, except for Areas 28, 29, there is a 21 day waiting period

H. Aquaculture- No report
I. Joint Task Force Working Group- No report

VI. New Business

A. Carolina Bourque led discussion on the 2019-2020 public oyster seed grounds season
2019 Public Ground Oyster Stock Assessment

Availability in barrels (1 barrel = 2 sacks)
GREEN = % Increase, RED = % Decrease compared to 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Seed</th>
<th>Seed %</th>
<th>Sack</th>
<th>Sack %</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Borgne/MS Sound</td>
<td>10,765</td>
<td>-78%</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-99%</td>
<td>11,214</td>
<td>-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of MS River, South of MRGO</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackberry Bay</td>
<td>3,108</td>
<td>+53%</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>-77%</td>
<td>3,445</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Chien/Felicity</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-92%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Lake/Bay Junop</td>
<td>55,229</td>
<td>+14%</td>
<td>7,671</td>
<td>-65%</td>
<td>62,900</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu - East Side</td>
<td>15,209</td>
<td>+72%</td>
<td>11,588</td>
<td>+26%</td>
<td>26,797</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu - West Cove</td>
<td>62,005</td>
<td>+187%</td>
<td>83,367</td>
<td>+16%</td>
<td>145,372</td>
<td>+55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>146,351</strong></td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td><strong>103,449</strong></td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td><strong>249,800</strong></td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2019/2020 Public Ground Oyster Season Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Public Ground</th>
<th>Season Recommendation</th>
<th>Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East of MS River, North of MRGO</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td>No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of MS River, South of MRGO</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackberry/Barataria Basin</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Junop and Lake Mechant</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Lake - Bedding</td>
<td>Open November 18, 2019 (One day only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Lake - Sacking</td>
<td>Open November 19, 2019</td>
<td>25 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermilion/Atchafalaya Basin</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu Lake (East and West)</td>
<td>Open November 1, 2019</td>
<td>10 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Carolina Bourque provided a report on the Oyster Mortality Surveys related to the 2019 flood event

Results from Weekly samples (as of Late June 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basin</th>
<th>site/reef name</th>
<th>seed/sack mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pontchartrain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petit Island</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>100%--June 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassy Island</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>100%--June 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Banks</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>75%--June 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mile Pass</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>100%--June 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Island</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>100%--June 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchafalaya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel Reef</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HighSpot</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>100%--July 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Charles</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse Pt</td>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Lake 1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Lake 4</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Lake 5</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Doug Daigle led discussion on Gulf hypoxia, comments on Louisiana’s Nutrient Management Strategy

Al Sunseri motioned to rewrite the task force’s letter supporting the continued work to reduce Gulf hypoxia and submit it as comment to CPRA regarding Louisiana’s Nutrient Management Strategy, 2nd by Sam Slavich. Motion carries.

D. Jakov Jurisic provided an update on the 2019 Oyster Task Force summer trip to Washington, D.C.

On the first day the board met with Congressman Scalise, Senator Kennedy, and Congressman Abraham; discussed the flood events and the impacts on the oyster industry. On the 2nd day met with Senator Cassidy, Plaquemines Parish President, Kirk Lepine was in attendance.

E. Considered funding for task force member travel, conference fees, and membership dues for the 2019 Interstate Shellfish Conference
Al Sunseri motioned to provide funding for task force member travel, conference fees, and membership dues for the 2019 Interstate Shellfish Conference, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic requested to add an item to the ISSC agenda this year to propose changing the date/time of year that the conference is held. Justin Gremillion stated that a request is being put in for discussion at this meeting to perhaps change the date of the next ISSC.

F. Sam Slavich led discussion on a state based assistance program for Louisiana oystermen due to the current flooding crisis and loss of resources

Dan Coulon entered at 3:05pm

Recommendations:
1. Can State waive the cost of the Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit for a year and reassess next year and the year after to see how the resource is recovering?
2. Tax credits for improvements- for people who decide they want to put rocks out on some of their leases or any improvements made, i.e. boat improvements (legislative action)
3. Waiving lease rentals for the year and reevaluate the following year

Sam Slavich motioned to send the recommendations and discussion to the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee for further vetting, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

Willie Daisy asked that the impacts of Hurricane Barry in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes be added to the discussion

G. Willie Daisy led discussion on the effects of Hurricane Barry in Terrebonne Parish.

Asked that these areas be considered for compensation for losses during the storm

Carolina stated that those areas are being sampled and data is being collected and will continue to be collected to monitor losses

Patrick Banks commended the Oyster and Shrimp Task Forces, President Lepine and President McInnis and their staff and Representative Garaofalo for the tremendous efforts made in Washington, D.C.

H. The task force considered recommendations for the Aquaculture Committee chair

Byron Encalade recommended Brandi Shelley as the Aquaculture chair

Jakov Jurisic motioned to nominate Brandi Shelley as the OTF Aquaculture chair, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

VII. Public Comment

The Oyster Lease Moratorium Lifting Notice of Intent will be heard by the LDWF Commission at their meeting set for Thursday, August 1, 2019 for 9:30

VIII. Next meeting set for Tuesday, September 10, 2019 for 1pm in Houma at the Terrebonne Council building, a OTF Marketing Committee meeting was set for 9:30am with a Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting following at 10:00am

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