

Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 1:00pm
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122

Roll Call:

Voting Member Present:

John Tesvich
Shane Bagala
Dan Coulon
Mitch Jurisich
John Tesvich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy
Byron Encalade
Tracy Collins
Jakov Jurisic

Voting Members Absent:

Leo Dyson
Brad Robin
Brandt Lafrance
Al Sunseri
Sam Slavich

Non-voting Members Present:

Justin Gremillion
Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Non-voting Members Absent:

Carolina Bourque

Motion to approve the July 30 meeting minutes by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Shane Bagala. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the September 25, 2018 meeting agenda, motion accepted and carried unanimously

Financial Report:

Remaining Fund Balance: \$391,849
Budget Balance: \$ 136,105
Tag Sales as of August 2018: 476,800

Board unanimously accepted the financial report and tag sales as presented

Committee Reports:

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee:

Cole Garrett presented the TF with an updated draft of the oyster lease NOI (LDWF Draft V.7) and also reviewed the OTF recommended changes

Mitch Jurisich motioned to request for LDWF legal, Corey Dunbar, Andrew Wilson, and Jim Gasquet to work on language for page 25- Sec.505(A)(1)(f) of the oyster lease NOI and add the revision to the suggested recommendations report made by the Oyster Task Force, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries. Language to be added to sections 0,1, and 2 as well. Motion carries. 1 abstained- Jakov Jurisic.

Mitch Jurisich motioned to approve the oyster lease NOI subject to the objections and recommendations made by the Oyster Task Force, and to give the subcommittee chair authority to work with LDWF, Corey Dunbar, Andy Wilson and Jim Gasquet on language for page 25- Sec.505(A)(1)(f), and to put the revision in writing and added to the OTF's NOI suggested recommendations document, 2nd by Byron Encalade.

Enforcement Report:

July 20-Sept. 13

Region 5: (Cameron, Vermilion)

None

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

LAFOURCHE

Lafourche

- 1 – take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)
- 4 – violate sanitary code (log book)
- 1 – violate sanitary code (vessel refs – tarp)
- 2 – fail to have commercial license in possession (commercial license)
- 2 – fail to have commercial license in possession (oyster harvester license)
- 2 – take commercial fish without a vessel license
- 3 – harvest oysters from an improperly marked lease (warning)

18 – sacks of oysters seized and returned to the water

TERREBONNE

Terrebonne

- 5 – take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)
- 6 – unlawfully take oysters from a private lease

- 6 – fail to have written permission
- 1 – take commercial fish without a commercial license
- 1 – take commercial fish without a gear license
- 2 – take commercial fish without a vessel license

31 – sacks of oysters seized and returned to the water

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

ST. BERNARD

- 3 - 56:305A-Take commercial fish without commercial gear license (Scraper)
- 1 - 40:4A-Violate sanitation code (Log book)

Total sacks of oysters seized: 29 full sacks and 45 mini sacks

PLAQUEMINES

- 7-40:4A-Violate sanitation code (log book)
- 3-56:424A-Unlawfully take oysters from state water bottoms
- 4-56:449C-Fail to tag sacked oysters
- 4-56:424E (1)-Take oysters from unapproved area (Polluted)
- 1-56:422E-Violate oyster cargo vessel permit regulations (Non-Operating VMS)
- 1-40:4A-Violate sanitation code (Refrigeration)

Total sacks of oysters seized: 71 full sacks

Legislative Committee:

No report

Research Committee:

No report

Coastal Restoration Committee:

No report; Committee to schedule a meeting- awaiting the availability of feedback from CPRA-Oyster Adaptation Committee

Marketing Committee:

No report

Health Committee:

No report

Professionalism Committee:

No report

Aquaculture Committee:

Steve Pollock addressed the task force with an aquaculture update: continued training of new and existing oyster farmers with leases administered by the Port Commission of Grand Isle; new mariculture zone opening this week consisting of 13 acres each with 8, 1 acre plots breaking water, the approx. take of market oysters is about 800K, additional zones are currently being considered

The Aquaculture Committee planned to schedule an upcoming meeting- date TBD

Byron Encalade motioned to appoint Steve Pollock as the chair of the aquaculture committee, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Joint Task Force Working Group:

No report

New Business:

Christian Winslow addressed the board with an update on the 2018-2019 oyster season

- 1N: -Primary Public Grounds East of MS River,
N of MRGO: October 29
SACKING ONLY: October 30
- 1S: -Primary Public Grounds South of MRGO: CLOSED
- 3: - Barataria Bay : CLOSED
-Little Lake, Hackberry Bay: October 29
SACKING ONLY: October 30
- 5E: -Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake: CLOSED
- 5W: -Sister Lake CLOSED
-Bay Junop and Lake Mechant October 29
SACKING ONLY: October 30
- 6: -Vermilion/Atchafalaya Bay Area: October 29
SACKING ONLY: October 30
- 7: -ALL Calcasieu Lake : October 29

***** SACK LIMITS*****

-Statewide (except Calcasieu): Daily Limit: 25 sacks per vessel. Possession Limit: 50 sack Possession Limit if fishing multiple days.

-Calcasieu Lake: Daily and Possession Limits: 10 sacks per vessel

-Bedding/Cargo Vessels: no limit.

***** BEDDING LIMITS*****

- No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads.

Ashley Ferguson led discussion on location proposals for inshore artificial reef sites

Kevin De Santiago from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation provided the task force with a presentation on location proposals for inshore artificial reef sites

Jakov Jurisic expressed concern for artificial reef sites obstructing and causing navigation issues

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to oppose the artificial reef site proposals, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

John Tesvich stated that the size and design of the reef balls pose a serious liability, suggested markers, proposed moving these projects along the bank

Chad Hebert provided the board with feedback to consider funding for an enforcement drone purchase and training

Mitch Jurisich recommended purchasing the updated version of the drone platform

Willie Daisy motioned to approve funding in the amount of \$58,536 to purchase a drone and the associated training for LDWF enforcement, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Tracy Collins led discussion on proposing alternatives for oyster tag fasteners; there have been issues with fastening the current tag clips- suggestion to use zip ties/ cable ties

The task force considered funding and options to purchase nametags and shirts

Mitch Jurisich motioned to approve funding to purchase a short sleeve and long sleeve shirt and magnetic nametags, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisich notified the task force that his term on the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board will expire at the end of this year

Peter Vujnovich nominated Jakov Jurisic to serve as the Oyster Task Force representative on the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

The next Oyster Task Force meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans.

Motion to adjourn by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich.