

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 07, 2014

Billy Broussard
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
August 7, 2014 9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Chairman Billy Broussard presiding

Present:

Billy Broussard
Pat Manuel
Ann Taylor
Bart Yakupzack
Ed Swindell
Dan Davis

NOT Present:

Ronny Graham

Secretary Barham was also present

Amanda David Called Roll

Chairman Broussard called for a motion to approve the **July 3, 2014 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Manuel. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.



For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**

Secretary Barham announced that we have a new Commissioner – Mr. Bart Yakupzack from Lake Charles. Mr. Yakupzack is a graduate of Wildlife and Fisheries Undergraduate and went to law school and is an Attorney with Gray Law Firm in Lake Charles. He is a hunter and a fisherman. He and his wife Kathryn and their two children live in the Lake Charles area.

Chairman Broussard announced that the Agenda was a lengthy one and asked that everyone try and keep their comments to five (5) minutes in order for everyone who wishes to speak, but will gauge with the amount of public comments received



Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **to recognize Chevron for social responsibility support of the Whooping Crane reintroduction**; to be presented by Bob Love
Chevron guest were running late and Mr. Love requested that the presentation be backed up on the agenda for the guest of honor to arrive

Chairman Broussard approved the request

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **to recognize Recreation Trails Program Achievement Award**; to be presented by Steve Smith

Kenny Ribbeck advised the Chairman that Mr. Smith had experienced an unfortunate death in his family and was unable to make the meeting and requested to postpone this item for another meeting date.



Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Hear Enforcement Reports for July** to be presented by Major Martin.

There were Twenty (20) boating accidents reported, Thirteen (13) injuries and Five (5) Fatalities. There were 1,142 total cases for the month of July with 495 Written Warnings issued and 45 Public Assistance.

Two (2) News releases were discussed

(1) LDWF Agents Arrest Golden Meadow Man on Drug Charges

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested a Golden Meadow man for alleged drug violations on July 31 in Lafourche Parish.

Agents arrested Nick A. Collins, 42, for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm while in possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Agents booked Collins into the Lafourche Parish Correctional Facility.

Agents boarded Collins' oyster vessel to perform a commercial fishing compliance check. Agents observed a firearm located within the cabin of the vessel where Collins was operating the vessel. After checking with dispatch and learning of a previous felony conviction, agents got permission to search the vessel for any further contraband.

While searching the vessel agents located an additional firearm along with a metal container containing suspected marijuana, several hand rolled cigarettes containing suspected marijuana, two grinders, one mini scale, scissors, and several plastic bags under the mattress where Collins slept. After speaking with agents, Collins admitted that all contraband on the vessel was his.

Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute brings up to a \$50,000 fine and between five and 30 years of prison. Possession of a firearm while in possession of marijuana carries up to a \$10,000 fine and between five and 10 years of prison. Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon brings a \$1,000 to \$5,000 fine and 10 to 20 years of prison. Possession of drug paraphernalia carries up to a \$1,000 fine and one year of jail.

Agents participating in the case are Sgt. Ezekiel Talbert Jr. and Agent Lucas Hidalgo

(2) LDWF Agents Arrest Two Men for Alleged Crab Violations

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division arrested two men for alleged commercial crab violations on July 9 in Plaquemines Parish.

Agents arrested Jesse James Gainey, 45, of Marrero, and Clayton Palmasano, 50, of Gretna for allegedly removing the contents of crab traps that were not owned by them, failing to mark crab traps, and theft of crab traps.

The morning of July 9, agents set up surveillance on a line of crab traps in Grandpa Bayou and observed the pair work down the line of crab traps and empty their contents into their vessel. Agents made contact with the men and inspected the traps the men had been fishing. Some traps were found untagged, some with tags cut, and some traps with Gainey's commercial fisherman's tag on top of another fisherman's tag.

Agents returned 100 pounds of crabs to the water and seized six crab traps. Both men were arrested and booked into the Plaquemines Parish jail.

The penalty for removing the contents of crab traps, use of crab traps without required markings, and theft of crab traps each carries a max fine of \$950 or jail not more than 120 days, or both plus court cost and the forfeiture of anything seized.

Agents involved with this case are Sgt. Adam Young and Agent Travis Bartlett

There were no comments or questions heard



Chairman Broussard announced the next item, To Hear Notice of the Secretary Reopening Certain Waters previously closed to Commercial Fishing and Certain Recreational Fishing as a result of the DWH Oil Spill, to be presented by Marty Bourgeois

Mr. Bourgeois began by stating that WLF Secretary, Robert Barham, reopened significant areas that were closed as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Many areas have been closed for over four (4) years. Mr. Bourgeois listed the areas that were reopened are in the Mississippi River area Birdsfoot Delta which has been closed to all commercial fishing. All commercial fishing is now reopened in this area. Recreational fishing was never closed in this area.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective one-half hour before sunrise August 4, 2014 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act, or until rescinded by the Secretary

Moving westward, the area of Bay Jimmy and Batiste and Barataria Basin- The closed area was defined as a quadrant. This action reopens all commercial and recreational fishing in these areas with the exception of a 100 yard buffer. Recreational and Charter Boat angling only is allowed within the 100 yard buffer. All commercial activities is prohibited. DHH Department of Health concurrently opened oyster harvesting in this area. The Barrier Islands, Elmer's Island area has been scaled back to ¼ mile seaward from the shoreline.

The two Grand Terre Islands, both East and West have significant areas of reopening.

Commissioner Swindell asked why does the areas close at ¼ mile from the shoreline, Mr. Bourgeois answered as a precautionary closure, as there is a great deal of uncertainty about sub tidal waters. Tropical weather related due to the release of oil mats.

There were no other comments or questions heard

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Reopenings
July 31, 2014

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules on an emergency basis when delay would result in imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare and a declaration of emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on June 5, 2014 which grants authority to the Secretary to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, the Secretary hereby opens commercial fishing and recreational fishing in the following portions of state waters:

Commercial Fishing: Those State waters in the Birdsfoot delta of the Mississippi River north of 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River eastward to a line beginning at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds west longitude and

ending at 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those waters north of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 20 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude; and, those waters north of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and southeastward along a line beginning at 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude; and, those waters west of the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 28 degrees 59 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, 2) 28 degrees 58 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 3) 28 degrees 59 minutes 01 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude;

and, those waters east of the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River and south of 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude eastward to a line beginning at 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those waters adjacent to Northeast Pass and Southeast Pass of the Mississippi River and bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 08 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 04 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 04 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds west longitude; and, those waters south and west of Pass a Loutre of the Mississippi River and east of -89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 25 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 03 minutes 30 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89

degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude; and, those waters south of North Pass of the Mississippi River bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 12 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 01 minutes 05 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from -89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to -89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude except for those waters extending a distance of 100 yards from any shoreline; and, those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude except for those waters

extending seaward a distance of one-quarter mile from the shoreline from the eastern shore of Grand Terre Island westward to the western shore of Grand Terre Island; and, that portion of state outside waters extending one-half mile from the shoreline inland a distance of one-quarter mile from the shoreline from the southwestern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 (East Grand Terre) at -89 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along the shoreline to the southeastern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 18 minutes 46 seconds north latitude to -89 degrees 51 minutes 19 seconds west longitude; and, that portion of state outside waters extending one-half mile from the shoreline inland a distance of one-quarter mile from the shoreline from the western shore of Caminada Pass at -90 degrees 02 minutes 46.597 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Belle Pass at -90 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds west longitude.

Recreational Fishing:

These waters were previously closed to all recreational fishing except for recreational and charterboat angling.

Those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from -89 degrees 50 minutes 00

seconds west longitude westward to -89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude except for those waters extending a distance of 100 yards from any shoreline; and, those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude except for those waters extending seaward a distance of one-quarter mile from the shoreline from the eastern shore of Grand Terre Island westward to the western shore of Grand Terre Island; and, that portion of state outside waters extending one-half mile from the shoreline inland a distance of one-quarter mile from the shoreline from the southwestern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 (East Grand Terre) at -89 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along the shoreline to the southeastern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 18 minutes 46 seconds north latitude to -89 degrees 51 minutes 19 seconds west longitude; and, that portion of state outside waters extending one-half mile from the shoreline inland a distance of one-

quarter mile from the shoreline from the western shore of Caminada Pass at -90 degrees 02 minutes 46.597 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Belle Pass at -90 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds west longitude.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective one-half hour before sunrise August 4, 2014 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act, or until rescinded by the Secretary.

Robert Barham

Secretary

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider a Declaration of Emergency for setting the Opening Dates of the 2014 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season**, to be presented by Marty Bourgeois

Mr. Bourgeois came before the Commission to announce the opening dates of the 2014 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season and stated: The fall inshore season shall open for portions of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00pm August 18, 2014.

Also, the portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line westward to the Louisiana Texas state line to open at one half hour before sunset August 11, 2014.

Commissioner Swindell asked a question: Is a 100 count per pound shrimp the most marketable shrimp size

Mr. Bourgeois answered the salt water white shrimp per statute is the minimum possession size per vessel and that the statute is temporarily removed on October 15th of each year through the third Monday in December. This is consistent with the law.

Commissioner Swindell asked if there is a "Shrimp Task Force" and Mr. Bourgeois stated that yes, there is one in Louisiana and they met the day before and agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Swindell then asked is there an industry in in the State for small shrimp and Mr. Bourgeois stated that yes there are markets and interest in small shrimp

Commissioner Davis stated that there are complex issues involved and lots of different opinions. There are needs of processors and shrimpers and the public. The data is only a part of this complex industry. There are economics involved with volume and control. He asked that everyone be open minded.

Chairman Broussard called for Public Comments.

Mr. Don Beschell – From the Southern Ponchartrain basin, Pointe ala Hache area – owns Beschell Seafood and owns a Bait License - Would like to open on the 18th. Too many small shrimp early and they are only thrown back and wasted.

Mr. Barry Rogers – Fisherman from Terrebonne Parish - Recommends opening on the 18th.

Lance Lacio Representative on the Shrimp Taskforce – Boats from all over the state will descend on Terrebonne Parish when it opens and deplete the resource. Open on the 18th is his recommendation

Robert Campo – from Shell Beach, LA., owner of Campo's Marina and possesses a Bait License. Recommend holding season to the 18th.

Warren Delacroix – Owner of Delacroix Fish and Net. Recommends opening on the 18th

Abby Dyson - from Cameron LA. – Recommends that season Needs to open statewide at the same time because boats move and overcrowd

No other questions or comments were heard

Chairman Broussard stated the Departments recommendation is to open on the 11th, and have overwhelming comments recommending the 18th statewide.

Chairman Davis stated that he recommends splitting it sown the middle and opening on the 15th. He has heard from a multitude of processors prior to this meeting but none were here today at all.

The one processor that spoke asked for the 18th and Dean Blanchard left a card and recommends the 18th.

The Commissioners heard from 6 persons who recommended the 18th and zero for the Departments recommendation of the 11th. The Department is not against opening on the 18th, as the biological data supports both.

Commissioner Swindell stated he had a phone call which recommended the 18th.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to move the opening date to the 18th and Commissioner Taylor made a second to that motion.

Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

Fall Inshore Shrimp Season Opening Dates
August 7, 2014

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters and to increase the minimum mesh size provided in R.S. 56:499 for any trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net for the duration of any special shrimp season or regular shrimp season extension, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2014 Spring Shrimp Season in Louisiana state waters to open as follows:

That portion of state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line to open at 6:00 pm August 18, 2014; and,

That portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy

Line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line to open at one-half hour before sunset August 18, 2014.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to delay or advance these opening dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, and; to close any portion of Louisiana's inside waters to protect small juvenile white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is further granted the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, and to open and close special shrimp seasons in any portion of state waters.

Billy Broussard

Chairman

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Hear a Report on Calcasieu Lake Oyster Resource** to be presented by Patrick Banks

Mr. Banks Started with a brief overview:

Calcasieu Oyster Regulation History

Pre 1967	Dredging allowed (Legislature)
1967-1974	No Harvest
1975-2003	Tonging Only
2004	36" Wide hand dredges allowed
2006	Mechanical assist allowed with hand dredges
2001, 2012	Oyster Harvester Permit requirement
East side harvest closure since March 25, 2011 (Commission)	
Season generally runs from October 15 – April 30	

Information Utilized in Management

- Annual harvest data
- Annual oyster stock assessment data (July)
- Monthly dredge sampling data
- Reef location and size information (mapped habitat)
- Enforcement concerns
- User group input

Recent Management & Conservation Actions

- Harvest closures on east side (3+ seasons)
- Low sack limits for West Cove (10 sacks)
- Reed construction in 2009
- Expansion of monthly dredge sampling in 2010
- Hatchery efforts on east side of lake since June 2012
 - ~1.1 billion larvae
 - 34.3 million spat
- Planned reef construction in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015

Commissioner Swindell asked "Why has there been such a decline over the last three years?"

Mr. Banks answered; biological species are a complex issue. In 2008 there was a decline on the eastern side of the state; the market was very strong during that time frame. There was a huge influx of harvest pressure on Calcasieu lake during that time. Increase in salinity in lake during 2010-2011 and an increase in the predator called the "oyster drill" which is a snail which caused higher mortality rates.

Commissioner Manuel asked if there is a reason why sampling is done by dredging versus tongs

Mr. Banks answered: They get a more uniformed sample using the dredge. Always used dredging

Commissioner Swindell asked "what is the life span of an oyster"

Mr. Banks answered: they can typically live up to twenty (20) years however in Louisiana they rarely live that long

Commissioner Swindell asked “How do you age an oyster” and Mr. Banks stated that it was impossible

Commissioner Yakupzack asked the question: What is it going to take to get the oyster back to market level in Calcasieu Lake to 600 thousand

Mr. Banks responded based on the current management efforts they will get to the sustainability

Commissioner Manuel asked if privatizing part of the lake has ever been looked into

Mr. Banks stated he didn't know if the department has ever considered this

Commissioner Yakupzack asked: Referring to the reef to be built, can you provide more specific information and is there a department mandate on how long to wait for the area to be harvested

Mr. Banks: There is no mandate, but the protocol used is to wait two years for the area to develop for the spat to occur and grow from spat to market. They look at the needs of the industry in the area also. Are in the process of getting the permits in place at this time. Not in a super rush because the timing is so close to the reproductive time in the fall.

Commissioner Manuel asked is there any correlation to having the oyster shells after the process and brought back out.

Mr. Banks stated that this is done mainly in private lease. Over sixty percent of the Louisiana oysters are shipped out of state so we lose that resource.

Chairman Broussard asked if there were any public comments

Abby Dyson – He stated he feels the oyster decrease happened after the BP oil spill and sprayed dispersant and raised the sack limit to twenty sacks a month and had more boats from around the state harvesting the area. Recommends opening the season on the 27th of October and leave the sack limit at ten (10)

David Cresson – Executive Director of the Louisiana Coastal Conservation Association; oyster reefs have an inherent coastal protection quality

Would like the Commission to consider:

Dredging is a legislative issue; gear issue

The loss of reefs

10 sack limit stay in place

Harvest zones

Shell replacement

Raymond Little - Past president of the Lake Charles CCA Chapter; overharvesting is contributing to the degrading; Dredging is also contributing to this. Twelve reefs is not sufficient for sampling. Would like to move to twenty reefs for sampling and needs a broader sample area

Michael Courtney – Degree from LSU in Physics and Ph.D. from MIT – interested in Fisheries
Designed a study to use four species of fish on Calcasieu Lake as bio indicators
Air Force funded in 2011, measuring about 1200 fish in this study based on equations used in a USGS
paper written by Jill Jenkins
Low weight in Fish in caused by reduce oyster stock and overfishing of the oysters based on his study

Chairman Broussard asked and Patrick Banks answered that it is the Departments opinion that we are
not overharvesting

Commissioner Taylor asked if dredging removes the whole reef
Patrick Banks answered that there is a physical difference in the reef before and after dredging. It is a
law in Louisiana that all pieces and parts on the dredge other than the actual oyster are to be put back
into the water. There are pros and cons to both.

There were no more comments or questions heard

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider a Declaration of Emergency for the 2014-2015 Oyster Season Dates and Harvest Limits for the Public Oyster Areas of Louisiana**, to be presented by Patrick Banks

Mr. Banks began with a presentation on the 2014 Oyster Stock Assessment
14.5 percent increase in seed oyster based on July sampling data
Between 1 – 3” Market stock size
Second straight year of increase in stock size

Management goals

- Manage, conserve and promote the wise use of the public oyster resource
- Provide seed oysters (<3”) for transplant to leases
- Provide sack oysters to be taken directly to market

How to Achieve

- Habitat enhancement (cultch planting = reef rehabilitation)
- Harvest restrictions/regulations
- Enforcement
- Biological sampling (determines annual oyster stock size)
- Recommend seasonal framework

Oyster stock size estimate

Oyster stock distribution among public oyster areas
Oyster season recommendations

The recommendation is as follows:

The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds, the Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, and Lake Tambour Public Oyster Seed Grounds, and the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. No harvest of oysters for market sales is allowed on any public oyster area prior to the second Monday in October. Therefore, any and all vessels harvesting on the open public oyster seed grounds between September 3, 2014 and October 12, 2014 shall be harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes only and shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel.

All remaining public oyster seed grounds and reservations, including Lake Borgne, Bay Gardene, Bay Junop, Lake Mechant, the Lake Machias/Fortuna Sacking-Only Area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Sacking-Only Area in the American Bay area which is that portion of the public grounds within Bay Long west of a line running generally north/south from a point at 29 degrees 31 minutes 13.78 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 9.79 seconds W longitude to a point at 29 degrees 29 minutes 40.67 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes and 8.48 seconds W longitude, shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 13, 2014.

During the 2014/2015 open oyster season, the following provisions shall be in effect:

1. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds and reservations described above shall:
 - a. Be limited to a daily take and possession limit not to exceed 75 sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this declaration of emergency shall be defined as the size described in R. S. 56:440. The daily take and possession limit shall not apply to vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes. The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit.
 - b. Be limited to either harvesting market oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically prohibited from doing both.
2. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations described above, all oysters contained on that vessel shall be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.

The oyster season in the west cove portion of the Calcasieu Lake public oyster area, as described in R.S. 56:435.1.1, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 27, 2014. The sack limit for west cove portion of Calcasieu Lake is set at 10 sacks per person per vessel per day as provided for in R.S. 56:435.1.1. However, these conservation actions shall not supersede public health closures.

The following areas shall remain closed for the entire 2014/2015 oyster season:

1. The Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation, including the 2012 and 2014 cultch plants;
2. The Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation, including the 2012 cultch plant;
3. The Lake Chien and Lake Felicity Public Oyster Seed Grounds;
4. The east side of the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area;
5. Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area (as described in R.S. 56:435.1);
6. The 2012 and 2013 cultch plants within the following coordinates:

Bay Crab (2012) – Plaquemines Parish

- A. 29 degrees 34 minutes 41.72 seconds N89 degrees 36 minutes 22.86 seconds W
- B. 29 degrees 34 minutes 31.45 seconds N89 degrees 35 minutes 48.68 seconds W
- C. 29 degrees 34 minutes 08.12 seconds N89 degrees 36 minutes 07.94 seconds W
- D. 29 degrees 34 minutes 23.03 seconds N89 degrees 36 minutes 43.20 seconds W

Lake Fortuna (2012) – St. Bernard Parish

- A. 29 degrees 39 minutes 08.04 seconds N89 degrees 30 minutes 28.93 seconds W
- B. 29 degrees 38 minutes 33.31 seconds N89 degrees 29 minutes 15.45 seconds W
- C. 29 degrees 38 minutes 10.57 seconds N89 degrees 29 minutes 40.71 seconds W
- D. 29 degrees 39 minutes 04.41 seconds N89 degrees 30 minutes 32.61 seconds W

3-Mile Pass (2013) – St. Bernard Parish

- A. 30 degrees 03 minutes 56.09 seconds N89 degrees 22 minutes 32.52 seconds W
- B. 30 degrees 03 minutes 56.70 seconds N89 degrees 22 minutes 15.40 seconds W
- C. 30 degrees 03 minutes 18.00 seconds N89 degrees 22 minutes 06.30 seconds W
- D. 30 degrees 03 minutes 30.49 seconds N89 degrees 22 minutes 38.17 seconds W

Drum Bay (2013) – St. Bernard Parish

- A. 29 degrees 53 minutes 13.00 seconds N89 degrees 17 minutes 40.21 seconds W
- B. 29 degrees 53 minutes 16.51 seconds N89 degrees 16 minutes 51.12 seconds W
- C. 29 degrees 52 minutes 56.17 seconds N89 degrees 16 minutes 49.80 seconds W
- D. 29 degrees 52 minutes 53.99 seconds N89 degrees 17 minutes 40.43 seconds W

Chairman Broussard called for Public Comments

Mr. Campo – Has 1500 acres of oyster grounds. People are taking more sacks. This is an enforcement issue that needs to be addressed

Byron Englade – President of Louisiana Oystermen Association in Plaquemines Parish and on the Oyster Taskforce.

Agrees with Patrick's biological and opinion
Concerned about the future of the oysters

Commissioner Davis read the Taskforce report which recommends October 13th opening date. Will we take that under consideration?

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency as written and Commissioner Manuel made a second to the motion.

Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

August 7, 2014

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433, R.S. 56:435.1, and R.S. 56:435.1.1(D) notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declare the 2014/2015 oyster season as follows:

The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds, as described in Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 76:VII:521, the Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, and Lake Tambour Public Oyster Seed Grounds, as described in LAC 76:VII:517, and the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, as described in LAC 76:VII:507 and 76:VII:509 shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. As per R.S. 56:433.B(1), no harvest of oysters for market sales is allowed on any public oyster area prior to the second Monday in October. Therefore, any and all vessels harvesting on the open public oyster seed grounds between September 3, 2014 and October 12, 2014 shall be harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes only and shall not have sacks or other containers typically

used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel.

All remaining public oyster seed grounds and reservations, as described in R.S. 56:434, LAC 76:VII.511, LAC 76:VII.513, and LAC 76:VII.517, including Lake Borgne, Bay Gardene, Bay Junop, Lake Mechant, the Lake Machias/Fortuna Sacking-Only Area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Sacking-Only Area in the American Bay area which is that portion of the public grounds within Bay Long west of a line running generally north/south from a point at 29 degrees 31 minutes 13.78 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 9.79 seconds W longitude to a point at 29 degrees 29 minutes 40.67 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes and 8.48 seconds W longitude, shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 13, 2014.

During the 2014/2015 open oyster season, the following provisions shall be in effect:

3. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds and reservations described above shall:

- a. Be limited to a daily take and possession limit not to exceed 75 sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this declaration of emergency shall be defined as the size described in R. S. 56:440. The daily take and possession limit shall not apply to vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes. The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit.
 - b. Be limited to either harvesting market oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically prohibited from doing both.
4. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations described above, all oysters contained on that vessel shall be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.

The oyster season in the west cove portion of the Calcasieu Lake public oyster area, as described in R.S. 56:435.1.1, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 27, 2014. The sack limit

for west cove portion of Calcasieu Lake is set at 10 sacks per person per vessel per day as provided for in R.S. 56:435.1.1. However, these conservation actions shall not supersede public health closures.

The following areas shall remain closed for the entire 2014/2015 oyster season:

7. The Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation, including the 2012 and 2014 cultch plants;
8. The Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation, including the 2012 cultch plant;
9. The Lake Chien and Lake Felicity Public Oyster Seed Grounds;
10. The east side of the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area;
11. Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area (as described in R.S. 56:435.1);
12. The 2012 and 2013 cultch plants within the following coordinates:

Bay Crab (2012) - Plaquemines Parish

- E. 29 degrees 34 minutes 41.72 seconds N
89 degrees 36 minutes 22.86 seconds W
- F. 29 degrees 34 minutes 31.45 seconds N
89 degrees 35 minutes 48.68 seconds W
- G. 29 degrees 34 minutes 08.12 seconds N
89 degrees 36 minutes 07.94 seconds W
- H. 29 degrees 34 minutes 23.03 seconds N

89 degrees 36 minutes 43.20 seconds W

Lake Fortuna (2012) - St. Bernard Parish

E. 29 degrees 39 minutes 08.04 seconds N
89 degrees 30 minutes 28.93 seconds W
F. 29 degrees 38 minutes 33.31 seconds N
89 degrees 29 minutes 15.45 seconds W
G. 29 degrees 38 minutes 10.57 seconds N
89 degrees 29 minutes 40.71 seconds W
H. 29 degrees 39 minutes 04.41 seconds N
89 degrees 30 minutes 32.61 seconds W

3-Mile Pass (2013) - St. Bernard Parish

E. 30 degrees 03 minutes 56.09 seconds N
89 degrees 22 minutes 32.52 seconds W
F. 30 degrees 03 minutes 56.70 seconds N
89 degrees 22 minutes 15.40 seconds W
G. 30 degrees 03 minutes 18.00 seconds N
89 degrees 22 minutes 06.30 seconds W
H. 30 degrees 03 minutes 30.49 seconds N
89 degrees 22 minutes 38.17 seconds W

Drum Bay (2013) - St. Bernard Parish

E. 29 degrees 53 minutes 13.00 seconds N
89 degrees 17 minutes 40.21 seconds W
F. 29 degrees 53 minutes 16.51 seconds N

89 degrees 16 minutes 51.12 seconds W
G. 29 degrees 52 minutes 56.17 seconds N
89 degrees 16 minutes 49.80 seconds W
H. 29 degrees 52 minutes 53.99 seconds N
89 degrees 17 minutes 40.43 seconds W

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, or if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered. The Secretary shall notify the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission of his intention to close an area.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for public health concerns.

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Hear an Inland Fisheries Update Report**, to be presented by Mike Wood

Mr. Wood stated the following:

He is here to talk about impounded waters, mostly in the Northern part of the state about drawdowns due to water fluctuations.

14 total lakes for drawdown, done mostly in the September months over several days.

Minor drawdown for False River Lake to accommodate work in the recovery of False River

Each Lake has a management plan and all bases have been covered. All appropriate entities have been involved and are aware of these actions being taken.

Commissioner Manuel asked about Catahoula Lake

Mr. Wood answered: There is an annual drawdown and is managed for ducks not fisheries

There were no other questions or comments heard

LAKE NAME	PARISH	SURFACE ACRES	ELEVATION BELOW POOL STAGE	DRAWDOWN DATES 2014 - 2015	PURPOSE OF DRAWDOWN
Kepler Lake	Caddo	1,925	1st stage – 5 ft	June 15 – Sept 15	Vegetation control; shoreline and property maintenance
			2nd stage – 8 ft.	Sept 16 – Dec 1	
Mill Creek Reservoir	Bienville	560	6 – 7 ft. below pool	Sept. 2 – No later than Jan.	Vegetation control; shoreline and property maintenance
Bistineau Lake	Bienville, Bossier, Webster	17,000	7 ft. below pool	August 4 – Dec 1	Giant salvinia control as needed
Bussey Brake	Morehouse	2,200	10 – 12 ft.	July 22, 2013 – project completion	Lake Renovation
Chenièrè Lake	Ouachita	3,115	Annual 3 ft. water level fluctuation	Sept. 2 – Jan. 15	Vegetation control; bottom oxidation
Lake Louis	Catahoula	1,000	Annual 4 ft. for turbidity control	Sept. 1 – Feb. 15	Bottom oxidation
Hardwater Lake	Grant	500	4 ft. max	Sept. 2 – Dec 1	Veg control (99% coverage) Triploid grass carp intro in spring
Chicot Lake	Evangeline	1,642	Annual 3 ft. water level fluctuation	Sept. 2 – Jan. 15	Vegetation control; bottom oxidation
False River	Point Coupee	3,000	2 ft.	Sept. 2 – Jan. 15	Dredging; , substrate consolidation and property maintenance
Henderson Lake	St. Martin	5,000	3 – 4 ft.	Fall 2014 Pending USCOE approval.	Vegetation control
Black-Clear Lake	Natchitoches	13,800	4 ft.	July 5 – Nov. 1	Vegetation control; bottom oxidation
Grand Bayou Reservoir	Red River Parish	2,500	--	Drawdown will be considered when SAV exceeds 40% (1000 A)	Vegetation control
Clear-Smithport	Desoto	2,842	4 ft.	July 1, 2014 – project completion	Drawdown structure repairs; vegetation control;
Saline Lake	Natchitoches/ Winn Parish	8,400	8 ft.	July 1 – Jan. 1	Vegetation control; bottom oxidation

Before moving to the next item, Chairman Broussard announced that in the audience today were a couple of Plaquemines Parish Council members: PeeWee Griffin and Keith Hinkley and Zack Butterworth a liaison for Senator Landreau

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To Consider an Amendment and Hear Final Public Comments on the Port Eads Possession Limit NOI** to be presented by Cole Garrett

Mr. Garrett stated in appeared at the June meeting and presented a Notice of Intent to increase the possession limit out of Port Eads for people who are lodging at the Port Eads Facility from a one day limit to a three day limit after meeting certain criteria, with one of those being the person has met with a Wildlife and Fisheries representative to check each days landing. The NOI was published in the June 20, 2014 register and public comments then received.

The Department received 88 written comments – of those 73 of the comments agreed with the proposal, 14 opposed and 1 person commented they would like to see this for freshwater fisheries as well.

8 of the opposed comments suggested that the proposed rule should also apply to a public facility at Port Eads but also to private camps or other types of saltwater trips

Based on the comments received and meeting with the Port Eads facility, the Department has some substantive changes to include and recognize slip rentals as part of lodging, recognition that this facility will not be a year round destination in order to use the staff time efficiently, the department is asking for three day notice of when persons will be staying at the facility:

Commissioner Davis stated that he has an issue with the Port Eads facility being granted a three day possession limit while others are not. There are Enforcement issues that will be difficult to enforce. The goose is good for the gander approach should be taken. There are people with out-lying camps that should be treated the same. This needs to be reexamined.

Mr. Garrett stated that the comments made were in line with the other public comments received They worked with enforcement when designing the rules. This is designed as a pilot project to see if this is do-able. Port Eads is a unique facility which is why it was chosen.

Commissioner Swindell asked what the additional cost to the Department will be.

Mr Garrett stated a Fiscal impact statement was done with the NOI. LACreel has fisheries staff working in that area and they will be used as they will already be there.

Mr. Pausina stated that when a request is made, a fisheries biologist will physically stay and live at the facility in order to inspect the fish, the cleaning and marking the fish. The Fisherman will receive a slip of paper in the event stopped by enforcement

Commissioner Manuel stated that because this is a “Pilot Program”, why not institute a “Sunset law”

Mr. Garrett stated that if it is the will of the Commission the department will abide by that

Commissioner Davis stated he still has issues with the entire project

Commissioner Swindell stated a test must be done in order to know if it will ever work. This gives it a chance to look at for other areas.

There were no other questions or comments heard.

Chairman Broussard asked Commissioner Davis if the one year report was added to the amendment if that would make a difference and he stated it would

The motion made by Commissioner Davis is to amend the original Notice of Intent to include the Departments recommendations and to add that a review be made in one year to the Commission to reauthorize the Notice of Intent

(Commissioner Davis asked if Enforcement was ok with this and Colonel Broussard stated that yes, they have been in discussions with fisheries and are ok with it)

A second to the motion was made by Commissioner Swindell

Chairman Broussard asked if there were any Public Comments

Jacques Kuchta – Board Member of the Port Eads Fishing Refuge (501 3c); This is a public marina and public lodge with onsite management. a non-profit corporation that has entered into a public/private cooperative endeavor with Plaquemines Parish to manage the facility. The main thrust of our non-profit agenda is education of the children in Plaquemines Parish. And for us to contribute not just to a general fund but to a specific targeted group or effort in the education domain

Zac Butterworth – New Orleans, LA - Charter Captain agrees with this NOI and project

Robert Perez – Unique facility Marina in the country. Three members of the Board are present at this meeting. Works with children of the parish YMCA by bringing them to Port Eads with their parents. This facility will go a long way to the economical ecosystem of Plaquemines Parish. Billions of dollars are spent on recreational fishing on the Gulf Coast.

No other comments or questions were heard.

Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

(The full text of the Potpourri/ Amendment is made a part of the record)

POTPOURRI

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Substantive Changes Hearing—Port Eads Possession Limit (LAC 76:VII.381)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission published a Notice of Intent to promulgate rules increasing the possession limit on the water for recreational saltwater finfish landed by individuals lodging at the Port Eads Marina facility in the June 20, 2014 edition of the *Louisiana Register* (LR Vol. 40, No. 06). After a thorough review of the public comments, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes three substantive changes to the initial Notice of Intent. First, it extends the expanded possession limit for saltwater finfish to those individuals who dock at the Port Eads Marina and lodge on their vessels. It also removes the requirement that Wildlife and Fisheries personnel maintain a perpetual presence at the Port Eads Marina and establishes a protocol by which Port Eads Marina operators may request the attendance of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel at the facility. Finally, it requires the department to provide an annual review of the program to the commission.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§381. Possession Limits for Saltwater Recreational Finfish Landed at Port Eads Marina

A. Purpose. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that the Port Eads Marina in Plaquemines Parish is a remote fishing destination, only accessible by water, and that recreational fishermen may fish out of that facility for several consecutive days. In order to transport fish from the remote Port Eads Marina facility back to a location accessible by land, a recreational fisherman may have a need to possess a limit on the water greater than what is allowed by general statewide possession limits for saltwater recreational finfish.

B. Possession Limit. Notwithstanding possession limits established elsewhere in this Chapter, for the purpose of transporting fish to a land based facility the possession limit for saltwater finfish caught recreationally in Louisiana territorial waters or in the adjacent federal exclusive economic zone and landed at Port Eads Marina shall be equal to the daily take limit for the number of consecutive days, up to three times the daily creel limit, that a fisherman has been lodging at the Port Eads Marina facility, provided the fisherman is in compliance with the following requirements.

1. The fisherman holds and is in possession of all current recreational fishing licenses required.

2. The fisherman is in possession of and can provide a lodge receipt or slip rental receipt issued by the Port Eads Marina facility that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the department, the number of consecutive days that the fisherman has been lodging or docking at the Port Eads Marina facility.

3. Upon landing his or her daily catch at the Port Eads Marina, the fisherman shall notify the Wildlife and Fisheries employee, agent, or designated person on duty at the facility, and provide his or her catch for inspection and certification that the species, size and daily creel are within legal limits.

a. To maximize the efficiency and productivity of Wildlife and Fisheries staff, the secretary may, at his discretion, or upon request of the operator of the Port Eads Marina facility provide or designate on-duty personnel at the facility. The request for LDWF personnel to be made available shall be made no later than 72 hours in advance of when their presence is requested at the facility.

4. The fish are kept in separate bags for each daily take limit. The bags are marked with the date fish were taken, the species and number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and recreational

fishing license number of the person taking the fish. The contents of the bags have been certified by the Wildlife and Fisheries employee, agent, or designated person on duty at the facility.

5. The fisherman is only in possession of his or her fish and shall not transport fish taken by another person back to the boat landing.

6. No person aboard the vessel may be engaged in or actively fishing.

C. The commission shall review the efficacy of the possession limit on an annual basis beginning one year from the date the rule becomes final.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:325.1, and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 40:

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on October 2, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the regular Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting, at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Bldg., 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To Consider a Declaration of Emergency for the 2014-2015 Waterfowl Season Dates** to be presented by Larry Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds stated the waterfowl population has increased 8 percent since last season
There was a decline in canvasback population resulted in a bag limit of only 1 day
No other changes

Daily Bag Limits:

- 6 ducks per day which may include no more than:
 - 4 mallards of which no more than 2 can be hens
 - 3 scaup
 - 3 wood ducks
 - 2 redheads, pintails
 - 1 mottled duck, canvasback, black duck

5 mergansers per day, which may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers, in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks

15 coots

The possession limit for ducks, coots and mergansers is 3 times the daily bag limit



Ducks, Coots and Mergansers: 60-days
 West Zone: Nov. 15 – Dec. 14 Dec. 20 – Jan. 18
 (Youth hunts: Nov. 8 and Jan. 24)
 East Zone: Nov. 22 – Dec. 7 Dec. 13 – Jan. 25
 (Youth hunts: Nov. 15 and Jan. 31)
 Coastal Zone: Nov. 8 – 30 Dec. 13 – Jan. 18
 (Youth Weekend: Nov. 1-2)

Public Comments:

Collected from e-mails, phone calls, letters, and personal contacts
 Identified individual comments by East, West, or Coastal Zones
 Summarized comments for Season Dates and Youth Hunt separately

West Zone Public Comments:

Proposed Dates:

Nov. 15 – Dec. 14 and Dec. 20 – Jan. 18
 Youth Hunts: Nov. 8 and Jan. 24
 Public Comment: n = 30

18 (60%) Favor proposed season dates
 8 Later seasons
 5 want to open and close 1 week later
 3 open on proposed date, 12-day split, close 1 week later
 4 Earlier seasons

1 liked split youth hunt; 2 wanted the weekend before first opener

East Zone Public Comments:

Proposed Dates:

Nov. 22 – Dec. 7 and Dec. 13 – Jan. 25
 Youth hunts: Nov. 15 and Jan. 31
 Public Comment: n = 78

45 (58%) Favor the proposed dates
 25 (32%) Open earlier, on Nov. 15
 23 want a longer 12-day split and close on proposed Jan. 25.
 2 want to keep 5-day split and close on Jan. 18.
 1 Coastal Zone dates (earlier)
 * 7 Even later seasons

2 liked split youth hunt; 5 wanted the weekend before the first opener

Coastal Zone Public Comments

Proposed Dates:

Nov. 8 – 30 and Dec. 13 – Jan. 18

Youth Hunt Nov. 1-2

Public Comment: n = 263

48 (18%) Favored the proposed season dates

213 (81%) Later seasons

123 specified Nov. 15 – Jan. 25 with 12-day split in some form

87 later opening and closing but no details on split

3 later opening with 5-day split to close on proposed date

2 Earlier opening and closing

3 want split youth hunt; 1 wanted youth hunt 2 weeks before first opener

Mr. Reynolds told Chairman Broussard a decision needed to be made on these hunting dates before he can recommend goose hunting, rail hunting and snipe hunting regulations

Commissioner Davis commended Larry Reynolds on his work and always goes above and beyond the scope of work. He falls into the 80 percent of the coastal zone

Commissioner Manuel offered a substitute motion for the start on the 15th, with three week first split Motion was seconded by Commissioner Swindell.

(Motion to Open on November 15th and Closure on December 7th, Reopen on December 20th and run through January 25, 2015) (Coastal Zone)

Chairman Broussard called for Public Comments:

Kurtis Stansfield – Runs a hunting lodge in Cameron Parish Hackberry and has been hunting for 30 years. Kill more birds than any other area. Thinks this is more of a social issue than a biological issue

Eric Groux – Lake Charles area – asked that the Commission go with the November 8th dates

Warren CoCo – owns property in Cameron Parish and Catahoula Parish. Recommends using the dates based on the biologist recommendations. They are the experts and know what's best

Russell Adam – a farmer and property owner in Acadia in Vermilion Parish. In Vermilion Parish there are 10 thousand rice farmers in 1985. This year there are 34 rice farmers. The later the date the better off the coastal zone will be

Commissioner Yakupzack will make the change to open on the third Saturday. Is this a one year thing?

Mr. Reynolds stated the calendar is early as it can be this year since 1975 for the coastal zone.

Doesn't mind shifting the season this year however next year will cause argument from a biological standpoint. They usually balance however next year will be strictly biological. He is unsure exactly what these hunters are thinking. This is a common and regular complaint from the hunters.

Sora and Virginia: 25 per day in aggregate
25 in possession
Gallinules: 15 per day, 30 in possession

Season Recommendations (1)

Snipe: 107 days

West Zone: Nov. 8 – Dec. 14 Dec. 20 – Feb. 27 (Fri.)

East Zone: Nov. 8 – Dec. 7 Dec. 13 – Feb. 27 (Fri.)

Coastal: Nov. 1 – Dec. 7 Dec. 20 – Feb. 27 (Fri.)

Bag limit is 8 per day, 24 in possession

Ext. Falconry for Ducks, Rails, and Gallinules:

Nov. 3 – Feb. 1

Note: 16 days of total season length for rails, gallinules, and extended falconry were used during the September teal season.

The hunting season for ducks, coots and geese during the 2014-2015 hunting season shall be as follows:

- 2014-2015 Waterfowl Season Dates
- In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.
- The hunting season for ducks, coots and geese during the 2014-2015 hunting season shall be as follows:
 - **Ducks and Coots:** 60 days
 - Coastal Zone: November 15 - Dec. 7
 - December 20 - January 25
 - West Zone: November 15 - December 14
 - December 20 - January 18
 - East Zone: November 22 - December 7
 - (Including December 13 - January 25
 - Catahoula Lake)
 - Youth Waterfowl Weekend - November 8-9 in the Coastal Zone, Nov. 8 and Jan. 24 in the West Zone, November 15 and Jan. 31 in East Zone.
 - Daily Bag Limits: The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, and 2 pintails.
 - Daily bag limit on coots is 15.
 - Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.
 - Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit

- **GEESE:**
- **Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross') and White-Fronted Geese**
- Coastal Zone: November 15 - December 14
- (74 days) December 20 - February 1
- West Zone: November 15 - December 14
- (74 days) December 20 - February 1
- East Zone: November 8 - December 7
- (74 days) December 13 - January 25
- Daily bag limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'): 20
- Possession limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'):
- None
- Daily Limit on white-fronted geese: 2
- Possession Limit on white-fronted geese: 6
- NOTE: During the open Canada goose season, the daily bag limit is 3 dark geese (White-fronted and Canada) no more than 2 of which may be White-fronted geese
-
- **Canada Geese: Closed In The Area Described Below**
- Coastal Zone: November 15 - December 14
- (73 days) December 20 - January 31
- West Zone: November 15 - December 14
- (73 days) December 20 - January 31
- East Zone: November 8 - December 7
- (74 days) December 13 - January 25
-
- Daily Limit on Canada geese: 3 in aggregate with White-fronts
- Possession limit on Canada geese: 9
- NOTE: During the open Canada goose season, the daily bag limit is 3 dark geese (White-fronted and Canada) no more than 2 of which may be White-fronted geese.
- The Canada goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows: Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with LA Hwy. 82, then south along LA Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at LA Hwy. 82. Open waters of Lake Arthur and the Mermentau River, from the Hwy 14 bridge southward, will also be closed to Canada goose hunting.
- **Conservation Order for Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross's):**
- Coastal Zone: December 15 - December 19
- February 2 - March 1
- West Zone: December 15 - December 19
- February 2 - March 1
- East Zone: December 8 - December 12
- January 26 - March 1

- Only snow, blue and Ross's geese may be taken under the terms of the Conservation Order, which allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and eliminates the daily bag and possession limits. During the Conservation Order, shooting hours begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset
-
- **RAILS:** November 15 - January 7
- **King and Clapper:** Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 45.
- **Sora and Virginia:** Daily bag 25 in the aggregate and possession 75.
- **GALLINULES:** November 15 - January 7
- Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 45
-
- **SNIPE:**
- Coastal Zone: November 1 - December 7
- December 20 - February 27
- West Zone: November 8 - December 14
- December 20 - February 27
- East Zone: November 8 - December 7
- December 13 - February 27
- Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 24
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.
- **Extended Falconry Seasons for Rails And Gallinules:**
- **Statewide:** November 3 - February 1
- (16 days of the total season lengths for rails, gallinules and extended falconry seasons were used during the September teal season.)
-
- **Extended Falconry Seasons for Ducks:**
- Coastal Zone: November 3 - February 1
- West Zone: November 3 - February 1
- East Zone: November 3 - February 1
- A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.
- The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective November 1, 2014 and extend through one-half hour after sunset on March 1, 2015.

ions on traditional survey area plus Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota:
11.04 million

Pond number in Prairie Canada:
4.63 million

Table 3 – Optimal regulatory strategy^a for the Mississippi and Central Flyways for the 2014 hunting season. This strategy is based on current regulatory alternatives (including the closed-season constraint), mid-continent mallard models and weights, and the dual objectives of maximizing long-term cumulative harvest and achieving a population goal of 8.5 million mallards. The shaded cell indicates the regulatory prescription for 2014.

BPOP ^b	Ponds ^c									
	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0
≤4.5	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
4.75-6.25	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
6.5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M
6.75	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	M	L
7	R	R	R	R	R	M	M	M	L	L
7.25	R	R	R	M	M	M	L	L	L	L
7.5	R	R	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
7.75	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
≥8.0	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

^a C = closed season, R = restrictive, M = moderate, L = liberal.

^b Mallard breeding population size (in millions) in the WBPBS (strata 13-18, 20-50, 75-77) and Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

^c Ponds (in millions) in Prairie Canada in May.

Chairman Broussard called for a motion. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

There were no other comments or questions heard

Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
2014-2015 Waterfowl Season Dates

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

The hunting season for ducks, coots and geese during the 2014-2015 hunting season shall be as follows:

Ducks and Coots: 60 days

Coastal Zone: November 15 - Dec. 7

December 20 - January 25

West Zone: November 15 - December 14

December 20 - January 18

East Zone: November 22 - December 7

(Including December 13 - January 25

Catahoula Lake)

Youth Waterfowl Weekend - November 8-9 in the Coastal Zone, Nov. 8 and Jan. 24 in the West Zone, November 15 and Jan. 31 in East Zone.

Daily Bag Limits: The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, and 2 pintails.

Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross') and White-Fronted Geese

Coastal Zone: November 15 - December 14

(74 days) December 20 - February 1

West Zone: November 15 - December 14

(74 days) December 20 - February 1

East Zone: November 8 - December 7

(74 days) December 13 - January 25

Daily bag limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'): 20

Possession limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'):

None

Daily Limit on white-fronted geese: 2

Possession Limit on white-fronted geese: 6

NOTE: During the open Canada goose season, the daily bag limit is 3 dark geese (White-fronted and Canada) no more than 2 of which may be White-fronted geese.

Canada Geese: Closed In The Area Described Below

Coastal Zone: November 15 - December 14
(73 days) December 20 - January 31
West Zone: November 15 - December 14
(73 days) December 20 - January 31
East Zone: November 8 - December 7
(74 days) December 13 - January 25

Daily Limit on Canada geese: 3 in aggregate with White-fronts
Possession limit on Canada geese: 9

NOTE: During the open Canada goose season, the daily bag limit is 3 dark geese (White-fronted and Canada) no more than 2 of which may be White-fronted geese. The Canada goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows: Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with LA Hwy. 82, then south along LA Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at LA Hwy. 82. Open waters of Lake Arthur and the Mermentau River, from the Hwy 14 bridge southward, will also be closed to Canada goose hunting.

Conservation Order for Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross's):

Coastal Zone: December 15 - December 19
 February 2 - March 1
West Zone: December 15 - December 19
 February 2 - March 1
East Zone: December 8 - December 12
 January 26 - March 1

Only snow, blue and Ross's geese may be taken under the terms of the Conservation Order, which allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and eliminates the daily bag and possession limits. During the Conservation Order, shooting hours begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset.

RAILS: November 15 - January 7

King and Clapper: Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 45.

Sora and Virginia: Daily bag 25 in the aggregate and possession 75.

GALLINULES: November 15 - January 7

Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 45

SNIPE:

Coastal Zone: November 1 - December 7
 December 20 - February 27
West Zone: November 8 - December 14
 December 20 - February 27
East Zone: November 8 - December 7
 December 13 - February 27
Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 24

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.

Extended Falconry Seasons for Rails And Gallinules:

Statewide: November 3 - February 1

(16 days of the total season lengths for rails, gallinules and extended falconry seasons were used during the September teal season.)

Extended Falconry Seasons for Ducks:

Coastal Zone: November 3 - February 1

West Zone: November 3 - February 1

East Zone: November 3 - February 1

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective November 1, 2014 and extend through one-half hour after sunset on March 1, 2015.

Billy Broussard
Chairman

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To Recognize Chevron for social responsibility support of Whooping Crane Introduction** to be presented by Robert “Bob” Love

Mr. Love stated he was here today to recognize Chevron, one of the best corporate sponsors who has over the past three years donated over four hundred thousand dollars to the departments Whooping Crane reintroduction.

Louisiana Whooping Crane survival as of August 2014 is 56 percent. Released and survived birds = 28. A young pair of cranes nested and laid eggs twice. The eggs were infertile due to the young age of the Cranes (three years old)

Chevrons goal is awareness and education which leads to conservation and civic pride
Funds have been used for lesson plans, billboards, stewardship materials, VHF radios to track the Cranes, advertising and commercials, zoo displays, 4H programs and beyond

Mr. Love asked the Whooping Crane team to stand

Mr. Love stated the department does an annual hunters survey (17 thousand surveys)
22 percent return rate. Based on two questions about Cranes, 55 percent were aware Whooping Cranes were being released back into Louisiana. 95 percent indicated they supported the release of the Cranes in Louisiana

Mr. Love then asked Mr. Kell McInnis, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Fisheries Foundation to come forward. Mr. McInnis is grateful for the big and small however Chevron is the biggest and always has stepped up to the plate to help

Mr. McInnis presented an RC Davis Canvas of Whooping Cranes in flight watercolor to Chevron

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To Consider a Notice of Intent to amend the Rules and Regulations governing the possession of potentially dangerous quadrupeds – Big exotic cats to conform the rules to Act 697 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature**, to be presented by Melissa Collins

Ms. Collins is submitting an Amendment for approval to the Rules and Regulations governing the possession of potentially dangerous quadrupeds specifically big exotic cats in order to conform to the rules of Act 697 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

Act 697 of the Regular Session was amended to include the following statement:

“Previous ownership shall include persons who obtain their animal by lawful means and continuously possess their animal since August 15, 2006.

Ms. Collins asked that the Commission please note the use of the words Persons and the singular animal. This addition requires an alteration of the language from plural to singular for the big exotic cat possession section 115.

Section 115 H was amended with the following additions. "A person", the word individual was removed – who has continually possessed in Louisiana an exotic cat, the word cats was removed and who obtained the exotic cat by lawful means may continue to possess the exotic cat under the following conditions.

It furthermore states that no more than one exotic cat meeting this rule would be permitted

She stated that she was pointing out that the regulations are being changed to mirror that of Act 697

Section 115 H2 and 4 read "A permit will only be issued to A permit will only be issued to the individual who owns the exotic cat or to an individual who is a designee of the owner, where the owner is not an individual. If the permittee is a designee, the individual must agree to comply with all requirements of the permit and these rules"

H4 states further "Permittee or designee must live on the premises or permittee and designees must provide continuous on-site monitoring of the exotic cat. Designee(s) must have the ability to carry out all requirements of the permittee.

These sections provide clarification of Persons in the legislative act and assigns monitoring requirements to the permittee or designee

Chairman Broussard called for Public Comments.
There were no questions or comments heard.

Chairman Broussard called for a motion. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

There were no other comments or questions heard
Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Possession of Potentially Dangerous Wild Quadrupeds, Big Exotic Cats, and Non-Human Primates

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertise their intent to amend the rules and regulations governing the possession of potentially dangerous quadrupeds, big exotic cats, and non-human primates.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART V. WILD QUADRUPEDS AND WILD BIRDS

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§115. Possession of Potentially Dangerous Wild Quadrupeds, Big Exotic Cats, and Non-Human Primates

* * *

H. Big Exotic Cats. A person who has continually possessed in Louisiana an exotic cat listed in Subparagraph C.1.h. above on August 15, 2006 (the effective date of Act 715 of the Regular Session of 2006) and who obtained the exotic cat by lawful means may continue to possess the exotic cats under the following conditions.

1. No more than one exotic cat meeting this rule will be permitted. Additional exotic cats cannot be acquired by any means whatsoever, including breeding.
2. A permit will only be issued to the individual who owns the exotic cat or to an individual who is a designee of the owner, where the owner is not an individual. If the permittee is a designee, the individual must agree to comply with all requirements of the permit and these rules.
3. The individuals listed in this Subsection must annually apply for and receive a permit from the department. The permit application shall be on a form provided by the department and require:
 - a. the name, address, telephone number, driver's license number, and date of birth of applicant;
 - b. a description of the exotic cat applicant possesses, including the scientific name, sex, age, color, weight, and any distinguishing marks;
 - c. one or more photographs of the exotic cat and its permanent enclosure;
 - d. the physical location where the exotic cat is to be kept;
 - e. proof of ownership of the exotic cat on August 15, 2006. Proof of ownership includes original purchase documents, veterinary records, or other documentation, acceptable to the department, demonstrating ownership;
 - f. the microchip number of the exotic cat;
 - g. a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian within one year prior to the date of the application. The certificate shall include the name, address, and license number of the examining veterinarian;
 - h. a written plan for the quick and safe recapture or destruction in the event of the escape of the exotic cat listed in the permit. This plan must also be filed with the local sheriff's department, and police department if applicable;

- i. statement that permittee has legal authority to possess weapons and/or other equipment necessary to carry out the plan provided in Subparagraph H.2.h;
 - j. signed agreement, on a form provided by the department, indemnifying and holding harmless the state, department, and other applicable public agencies and employees, including agents, contractors, and the general public from any claims for damages resulting from the permitted exotic cat
 - k. signed agreement that the permittee will be responsible for any and all costs associated with the escape, capture, and disposition of the permitted exotic cat;
 - l. proof of liability insurance from an A-rated or higher insurance company in the amount of \$100,000, valid and effective continuously for the entire permit term. The policy shall specifically include a provision requiring notice from the carrier to the secretary of the department a minimum of 30 days prior to cancellation of the policy.
4. Permittee or designee must live on the premises or permittee and designees must provide continuous on-site monitoring of the exotic cat. Designee(s) must have the ability to carry out all requirements of the permittee.

* * *

6. A weapon capable of destroying the animal and a long range delivery method for chemical immobilization shall be kept on the premises at all times. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian identifying a designated veterinarian who will be on-call and available at all times to deliver chemical immobilization in the event of an escape.
7. Clearly legible signs, approved by the department, shall be posted and displayed at each possible entrance onto the premises where the permitted exotic cat is located. The signs shall clearly state "Danger, Wild Animal On Premises" with letters of a size and font easily readable from thirty (30) feet away.
8. The permitted exotic cat must be implanted with a microchip by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
9. The permitted exotic cat must remain in its enclosure on the property listed in the permit at all times and cannot be removed from the enclosure for any reason. However, the exotic cat may be removed for proper medical care for medical emergencies or medical procedures, but only under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.
10. Permittee must notify the department, the local sheriff's department, and police department if applicable, immediately upon discovery that the permitted exotic cat is no longer in its enclosure.
11. Permittee must notify the department prior to any disposition of the permitted exotic cat, including transportation out-of-state. The department reserves the right to supervise and accompany any such disposition.
12. The permitted exotic cat must be kept in a sanitary and safe condition and may not be kept in a manner that results in the maltreatment or neglect of the exotic cat. This includes, but is not limited to:
- a. drinking water must be provided in clean containers, pools must be cleaned as needed to ensure good water quality, enclosures must have adequate surface water drainage, and hard floor surfaces must be regularly scrubbed and disinfected;
 - b. food must be unspoiled and not contaminated, and be of a type and quantity sufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of the permitted exotic cat;
 - c. fecal and food waste must be removed from enclosures daily and disposed of in a manner that prevents noxious odors and insect and other pests;
 - d. sufficient shaded areas must be available

13. In addition to complying with this regulation, permittee must comply with any and all applicable federal, other state, or local law, rule, regulation, ordinance, permit, or other permission. Failure to comply with any such law, rule, regulation, ordinance, permit, or other permission constitute a violation of this regulation.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(31), R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:171, and R.S. 56:1904F.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 21:1356 (December 1995), amended LR 32:647 (April 2006), LR 33:1153 (June 2007), amended by House Concurrent Resolution 6 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session, LR 38:1459 (June 2012).

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on any child, individual or family as defined by R.S. 49:973(B).

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any known impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed amendments until 4:30 p.m., September 30, 2014 to Melissa Collins, Wildlife Permits Coordinator, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, or via email to mcollins@wlf.la.gov

Secretary Barham asked if he could introduce Mr. Eddie Taylor who is the permanent supervisor of the Kisatchie National Forest

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To set the December 2014 meeting date**

A discussion took place and the December 2014 meeting will be held on December 4, 2014

Chairman Broussard called for a motion. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

Chairman Broussard announced the next agenda item to be presented, **To Receive Public Comments**

There were no comments heard

There being no further business, Chairman Broussard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Swindell. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

Meeting is adjourned

Billy Broussard, Chairman