



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert J. Barham", written over a horizontal line.

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular Commission Meeting will be held at **9:30 AM on Thursday, March 5, 2015**, at the **Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building located at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA**

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2015
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
4. To hear Enforcement Reports February 2015
5. To hear a presentation on setting the timing on Waterfowl Hunting Regulations
6. To hear a presentation on the use of Request for Proposals for allocating statutory dedicated funds for breeding waterfowl habitat
7. To consider amending the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 General and Wildlife Management Areas Rules and Regulations – Vessel Restrictions on Biloxi WMA
8. To hear public comment updates on the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Hunting Seasons Notice of Intent
9. To consider a Declaration of Emergency establishing the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program for the commercial crab industry
10. To hear a presentation and consider a Resolution for the 2015 recreational Red Snapper season
11. To consider a Declaration of Emergency to open a portion of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds
12. To consider a resolution to confirm and reaffirm the selection and establishment of the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area
13. Set July 2015 Meeting Date
14. Receive Public Comments
15. Adjournment

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, March 5, 2015
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife and Fisheries Baton Rouge

	Attended	Absent
Pat Manuel (Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Billy Broussard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ronny Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ed Swindell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bart Yakupzack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 5 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum. Secretary Barham is also present.

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
March 5, 2015
9:30 AM

- UB 1 ✓ Roll Call
- BB/ES 2 ✓ Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2015
- 3 ✓ Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
- SM 4 ✓ To hear Enforcement Reports February 2015
- Larry Reynolds 5 ✓ To hear a presentation on setting the timing on Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Larry Reynolds
- LR. 6 ✓ To hear a presentation on the use of Request for Proposals for allocating statutory dedicated funds for breeding waterfowl habitat Larry Reynolds
- RB/BY 7 ✓ To consider amending the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 General and Wildlife Management Areas Rules and Regulations - Vessel Restrictions on Biloxi WMA Steve Smith
- 8 ✓ To hear public comment updates on the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Hunting Seasons Notice of Intent Steve Smith
- BB/BY 9 ✓ To consider a Declaration of Emergency establishing the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program for the commercial crab industry Cole Garrett
~~Jason Freeba~~
- 10 ✓ To hear a presentation and consider a Resolution for The 2015 recreational Red Snapper season Harry Blanchet
Joey Shepard
- BB/ES 11 ✓ To consider a Declaration of Emergency to open a portion of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds ~~Harry Blanchet~~
Patrick Banks
- BB/ES 12 ✓ To consider a resolution to confirm and reaffirm the selection and establishment of the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area Thomas Bates
- RJ/BB 13 ✓ Set July 2015 Meeting Date
14. Receive Public Comments
- 15 ✓ Adjournment

✓ BB- requesting a presentation on amberjack be put on next month's agenda

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 5, 2015

**Pat Manuel
CHAIRMAN**

**Dan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.
For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
March 5, 2015 9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Chairman Pat Manuel presiding

Present:

Pat Manuel
Ronny Graham
Bart Yakupzack
Ed Swindell
Billy Broussard

NOT Present:

Dan Davis

Secretary Barham was present

Wendy Brogdon Called Roll

Chairman Manuel called for a motion for approval of the **February 5, 2015 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Swindell. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.



For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, there were none heard



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Hear Enforcement Reports for February**, to be presented by Lt Col. Martin

There were Three (3) boating accidents reported, Zero (0) injuries and One (1) Fatality (heart condition).
There were 691 total cases for the month of February with 311 Written Warnings issued and 36 Public Assistance.

Three (3) News releases were discussed:

Three Louisiana Men Charged with Night Hunting Violations

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents cited three Louisiana men for alleged hunting violations in St. Helena Parish on Feb. 12.

Agents cited Walter Prine, 20, of Denham Springs, Aaron Morris, 20, of Denham Springs, and Stefan Reynolds, 25, of Gonzales, for harvesting deer during a closed season, during illegal hours, from a moving vehicle, from a public road, possession of illegally taken deer and failing to follow deer tagging requirements.

After an investigation, agents learned that the three men were in the Kentwood area of St. Helena Parish between 12 a.m. and 4 a.m. on **Feb. 1**. During which time they shot and killed five deer from various roadways. The deer were then transported to a residence in Ascension Parish. Agents found that no effort was made to clean or butcher the deer.

Agents seized a 12-gauge shotgun in this case. Agents had to dispose of the deer since they were not fit for human consumption. Harvesting a deer during a closed season and taking a deer during illegal hours each brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Possession of an illegally taken deer carries a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Hunting deer from a moving vehicle and failing to follow deer tagging requirements each brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Hunting from a public road carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. The men could also face civil restitution in excess of \$8,000 for the illegally taken deer.

Galliano Man Cited for Black Drum Fishing Violations

A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agent cited a Galliano man for alleged fishing violations on Jan. 31 on the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Senior Agent Michael Marques cited Rufino Gonzalez-Ibarra, 34, for taking and possessing over the legal limit of black drum, possessing undersized black drum and possessing undersized red drum.

While on patrol, Senior Agent Marques found Gonzalez-Ibarra in possession of 26 black drum and one red drum, all of which were under the minimum size of 16 inches. The legal limit for black drum is five per person per day making Gonzalez-Ibarra four times over the legal limit.

Possessing over the legal limit of black drum and possessing undersized black drum and red drum each brings a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail for each offense.

Two Men Arrested for Oyster Violations and Drug Charges in St. Bernard Parish

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested two Chalmette men for alleged oyster harvesting and drug violations on Feb. 25 in St. Bernard Parish.

Agents arrested Oliver Rudesill Jr, 33, and Tracy Gallardo Jr., 23, for several oyster, boating safety and drug violations after a boating safety inspection.

After observing a large skiff come into the Reggio Marina with improper running lights, LDWF agents performed a boating safety inspection. During the inspection, agents found 28 sacks of oysters and learned that Rudesill Jr. is on probation until May of 2016 because of prior oyster harvesting violations. Agents also learned that Rudesill Jr. did not have a working Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) that was part of his probation.

Rudesill Jr. also did not fill out an oyster harvesters log sheet for that day's harvest. Additionally, the vessel did not have a valid commercial vessel license, was not equipped with a tarp as per Department of Health and Hospitals regulations and did not have a proper identification number visible from the air. Agents also found the sacks of oysters were not properly tagged. Rudesill Jr. also did not have the proper amount of personal flotation devices, a vessel registration, a working fire extinguisher or navigation lights.

During the interview process, agents found Gallardo in possession of oxycodone, suboxone and drug paraphernalia.

Agents seized and returned the 28 sacks of oysters to the water. Both subjects were booked into the St. Bernard Parish Jail with the assistance of St. Bernard Sheriff's Office Narcotics Agents.

Violating the VMS guidelines carries a fine of \$400 to \$950 and up to 120 days in jail. Possession of untagged oysters and taking commercial fish without a vessel license each carries a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Violating sanitation code for not having a tarp and logbook violation each carries a \$25 fine and 10 days in jail.

No vessel registration, failing to display proper numbers on a vessel, failing to comply with PFD requirements, no fire extinguisher and improper running lights each brings a \$50 fine and up to 15 days in jail. Possession of oxycodone and suboxone each carries up to a \$5,000 fine and five years in jail. Possession of drug paraphernalia carries up to a \$500 fine and six months in jail.

There were no comments or questions heard



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to hear a presentation on setting the timing on Waterfowl Hunting Regulations**, to be presented by Larry Reynolds

Along with informing the Commission on how the process and timing for setting waterfowl-hunting regulations are going to change in 2015, Mr. Reynolds is looking for guidance on how to proceed with zones/splits decisions. Because of changes in timing of the waterfowl regulation-setting process, zones/splits decisions are now due in December 2015 instead of May 2016, thus excluding our normal NOI period for hunting regulations.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented

Mr. Reynolds stated that this is the big transition year as we implement the biggest change in the 2013 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). This document Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Hunting of Migratory Birds: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is updated periodically to make sure harvest regulations are consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and all other applicable federal law and to flesh out major policy changes. The most significant change in the 2013 SEIS is the Combination of the current early and late season regulatory actions into a single process for establishing migratory bird hunting regulations annually. Regulatory proposals would be developed based on data from the previous year(s), model predictions, or current-year information (if available at the time proposals are being formulated).

The current federal process and timing for setting migratory bird hunting regulations (There is an early and a late season process that occur on this time-line)

	EARLY <u>(doves, teal)</u>	LATE <u>(ducks, geese)</u>
Flyway Meetings	Feb. /March	July
USFWS Regs Committee	late-June	late-July
Framework Proposed	mid-July	mid-August
Framework Finalized	mid-August	mid-Sept.
States Select Seasons	mid-August	mid-Sept
Final Hunting Regulations	late-August	late-Sept.

This timeline has evolved over the years primarily because of the availability of monitoring data
Important components of that process for ducks are:

1. Duck breeding population and habitat survey is done in May and early-June
2. Harvest data from past year is published in July
3. Those data are used in harvest management models
4. Inform hunting-season framework decision

By the time the USFWS Regulations Committees meet to establish the frameworks, within which the States may select their specific season structure, we have current population estimates, harvest data from the prior year, indications of breeding habitat, and some modelling work using those data. But by waiting that late, the process is very compressed, especially for the regular duck and goose seasons. Remember this is a federal process. So although we don't open our regular duck seasons until early November, northern states open theirs in late-September. So this process must be legally finalized before the first regular duck season opens.

Current Regulatory Actions

	EARLY <u>(doves, teal)</u>	LATE <u>(ducks, geese)</u>
Flyway Meetings	Feb./March	mid-July
USFWS Regs Committee	late-June	late-July
Framework Proposed	mid-July	mid-August
Framework Finalized	mid-August	mid-Sept.
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Final Hunting Regulations	late-August	late-Sept

In a more simplified way, here is the time-line that is most meaningful to us. This Commission actually approves a Declaration of Emergency allowing the Secretary to set particular season structures after the framework moves through the federal process.

EARLY SEASON:

- JUNE -> USFWS early-season regulations meeting
- JULY -> LWF Commission sets September teal season

LATE SEASON:

- JULY -> USFWS late-season regulations meeting
- AUGUST -> LWF Commission sets regular duck season

So what is the problem? Despite abbreviated comment periods, it is difficult for the USFWS to get all of this done in the necessary time. Two or three years ago, the approved regulations were NOT published in the Federal Register before the earliest regular duck season opened. Because they had those approved regulations at the office of the Federal Register before close of business on Friday, they were allowed to open the season the next day, but the risk of not opening the season hit home. Again, we have to remember that hunting seasons on migratory birds are closed, unless we provide justification and follow a legal process to open them.

Not enough time and/or resources for the analytical work or the legal process

1. Data analysis
AHM modeling, harvest management strategies
2. Legal process
Sequential approvals, Fed. Register publication
3. Inadequate comment opportunities
Constrained public comment periods
4. Extended frameworks

We start in late July and by late September we must have finalized regulations. That is only 60 days total. Compare that to the process for setting our resident game regulations. We are currently in the middle of what, a 90 or 120 day regulation-setting process.

Current Federal Regulatory Actions:

	EARLY <u>(doves, teal)</u>	LATE <u>(ducks, geese)</u>
Flyway Meetings	Feb./March	July
USFWS Regs Committee	late-June	late-July
Framework Proposed	mid-July	mid-August
Framework Finalized	mid-August	mid-Sept.
States Select Seasons	mid-August	mid-Sept
Final Hunting Regulations	late-August	late-Sept

This year is the transition year. This year we go from the old timing to the new timing, which will be a challenge. First, for the 2015 waterfowl hunting season there are really no changes:

2015 Seasons – No changes

EARLY SEASON:

- JUNE 2015 -> USFWS early-season regulations meeting
- JULY 2015 -> LWF Commission sets Sept. teal season

LATE SEASON:

- JULY 2015 -> USFWS late-season regulations meeting
- AUG. 2015 -> LWF Commission sets regular duck season

As soon as the regulations are finalized for the 2015 season, we will begin working on setting the 2016 season regulations. No early and late, not decisions in July and August. It will all be done in one process:

2016 Seasons – All seasons with new timing:

Flyway Meetings	September - October, 2015
USFWS Regs Committee	October/November, 2015 (after Flyways meet)
Frameworks Proposed	December, 2015
Frameworks Finalized	February, 2016
States Select Seasons	late-April, 2016
Final Hunting Regulations	early-June, 2016

This means some pretty substantial changes in the way waterfowl hunting regulations are set here in Louisiana, but it may mean more uniformity and efficiencies in the way LDWF approaches setting hunting regulations overall:

Changes to LDWF Process

All proposed migratory bird seasons can be included in the NOI for hunting regulations

1. Included at public meetings
2. More public comment opportunity

Seasons will be set in April instead of July and August

For the last 2 years, the USFWS and Flyway Councils have been addressing the challenges. With these changes, 1 less meeting, using prior-year's data - there is an impression that less or lower-quality monitoring data is required and this is an opportunity to divert some of those resources elsewhere. That is not true. The same quality of data is required to support this decision-making process as before:

1. No longer using current-year data
Adjust all harvest management strategies
Concern over uncertainty
2. New meeting schedule
3. Maintaining monitoring data collection

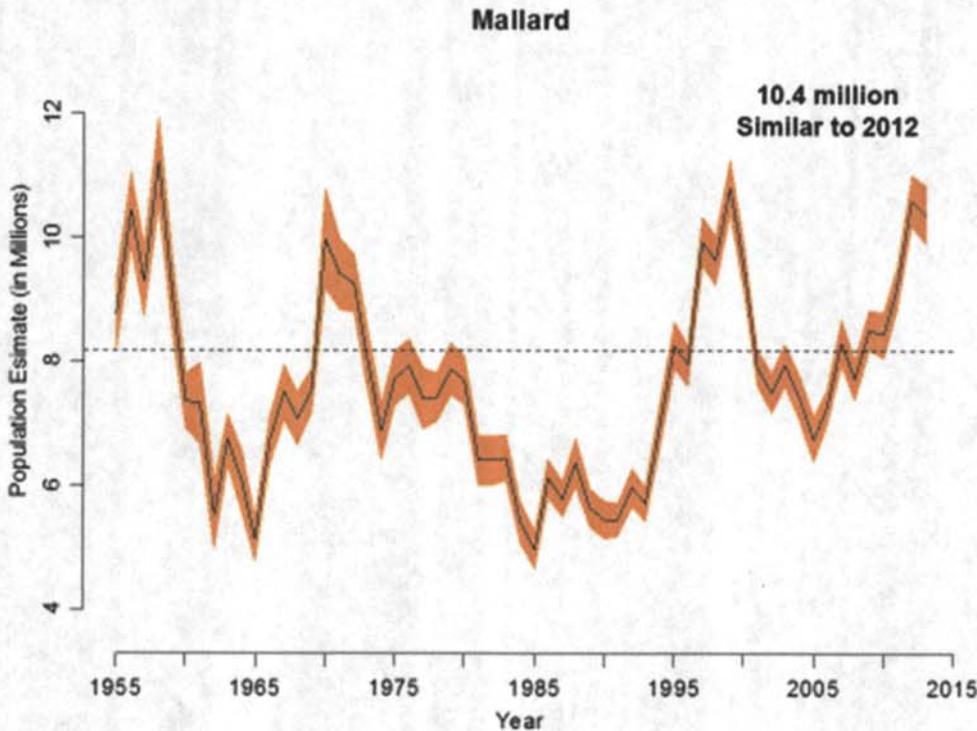
But with the challenges and uncertainty, why do it:

The USFWS says we have to

Duck populations do not fluctuate dramatically

Harvest regulations do not drive of duck population dynamics

Duck populations do not fluctuate year-to-year as much as they trend up and down. We risk very little in using prior-year's data under these circumstances. If we set too liberal or too conservative regulations, it will be captured the following year before any real impacts manifest themselves



It appears at this point that there are benefits to be gained from going to this new process with minimal risk, so why do it:

- The USFWS says we have to
- Duck populations do not fluctuate dramatically
- Harvest regulations do not drive duck population dynamics
- Some seasons already use prior-year data
- Canada has long set seasons in October the prior year, and now is setting seasons for 2-year periods
- There are benefits:
 - Adequate time for the legal process
 - Reduced number of regulatory meetings
 - Increased coordination with other hunting seasons
 - Better planning with earlier season-setting

Our discussion on potentially changing our Zones and splits has to be sped up if we want to implement any changes for the 2016 season in conjunction with this new regulatory timing



Zones and Splits

- Can only be changed every 5 years and the 2016 season is the next scheduled opportunity
- Because of the new timing, a decision on zones/splits is required by December 1, 2015 if we want to implement those changes for the 2016 season
- We will be offered another year to make changes in zones/splits for the 2017 season, and those changes will be in effect for 4 years
- The next year for changes after that will be 2021

Commissioner Broussard asked if it was going to be difficult to rezone this year.

Mr. Reynolds stated, no, he didn't think it would be difficult this year. The only difficulty he foresees is there is no structure for public comments this year

Commissioner Broussard then asked, How long has Canada been under this system. Mr. Reynolds stated- decades two years at a time. The Feds, for US, one year at a time.

Commissioner Broussard asked if the Commission had to make a motion to give a recommendation Fred Whitrock (General Counsel) stated this is not an action item on the agenda, to which Commissioner Broussard asked if the item could be added on the agenda and Mr. Whitrock stated that it could wait until next month.

Commissioner Broussard recommended to Larry Reynolds that it should get done this year Chairman Manuel asked how many persons from WLF would attend the public meetings to answer questions from the public. Mr. Reynolds said that he would be able to answer all questions pertaining to this subject.

There were no other comments or questions heard

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, to hear a presentation on the use of Request for Proposals (RFP), to be presented by Larry Reynolds

Along with informing new Commission members about our 10% statutory dedication of license fees for breeding waterfowl habitat, Mr. Reynolds proposed a new way to solicit proposals. Rather than a wide-open process where anyone can submit proposals for any management activity, Mr. Reynolds would like to issue an RFP with specific objectives and conservation actions that we would accept and prioritize for funding.

Mr. Reynolds stated that one of the things he is most proud of is LDWF and Louisiana waterfowl hunters for maintaining for over 50 years, and that is providing substantial financial support for waterfowl habitat work on the breeding grounds. More total ducks are killed than any other state, more ducks per hunter than any state except California where they have a 107 day duck season compared to our 60 days. Very few of those ducks are raised in Louisiana.

The overwhelming majority of the ducks we kill from breeding habitats somewhere else.

The below graphic shows where the banded birds killed in Louisiana come from:



As the clearest recognition of our reliability on breeding habitats elsewhere, Revised Statute (R.S. 56:104(A)(1)(b) states: An amount equal to ten percent of the fees collected from the sale of hunting licenses shall be dedicated by the commission to the development and preservation of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl, the funds to be expended for such purposes through Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or under the direction of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its discretion.

The history of support LDWF receives:

First State agency to provide funding starting in the early 1960's; over \$10-million since 1965

From beginning until 2002, all funding went to Ducks Unlimited for habitat projects

2002 – 2007 Delta Waterfowl received 1/3 of available funding for predator removal

2008 – 2009 available funding was split but predator control was not allowed.

2010 -2015 all available funding has been awarded to Ducks Unlimited

What has been funded?

Land Purchase

Wetland and grassland easements

Wetland construction, restoration, rebuilds

Conversion of grain crops to grasslands

Grassland management

Conversion to winter wheat cultivation

Predator control

Alternative Land Use Services

There were 3 proposals in 2012

(1) Delta Waterfowl: Hen Houses, Adopt a Pothole

(2) Ducks Unlimited: Habitat Retention, Wetland Restoration, Upland Restoration, Habitat Asset Management

(3) Save the Hens Foundation: Invasive Tree Removal, Youth Habitat Education

Suggestion for Request for Purchase (RFP)

Agreed upon priorities

More consistent proposals

More straight forward comparisons

Less possibility of wasted resources by competing organizations

Schedule for 2015

RFP for Commission approval in April

Presentation for each proposal in June

Staff evaluations and decision in July

Mr. Reynolds stated this is the end of a three year contract with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and asking for guidance on whether or not to use a formalized process.

Commissioner Broussard asked if the Commission would have options; Mr Reynolds replied that the law reads "breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl"

Commissioner Yakupzack stated that Mr. Reynolds already has a good idea of what the Commission could do so for the sake of efficiency, he would like to get the dialog going now as the funds are of the duck hunters of the state

Mr. Reynolds replied that it is his job to only inform the Commission - he will not lobby the Commission

Chairman Manuel recommended that Mr. Reynolds have dialogue with the Commissioners

Commissioner Swindell asked if there was funding from any other states

Mr. Reynolds stated yes, many other states provide funding for work on the breeding grounds

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to consider amending the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 General and Wildlife Management Areas Rules and Regulations – Vessel Restrictions on Biloxi WMA**, to be presented by Steve Smith

The amendment to the NOI for the vessel restrictions on Biloxi WMA is to increase the total horsepower allowed from 16 to 25.

EDITED:

Biloxi. ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, horses, and mules are prohibited. Mud boats or air-cooled propulsion vessels can only be powered by straight shaft "long tail" air-cooled mud motors that are ~~16~~ **25** total horsepower or less on the WMA. All other types of mud boats or air cooled propulsion vessels (including "surface drive" boats) are prohibited. All ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles are prohibited

FINAL:

Biloxi. ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, horses, and mules are prohibited. Mud boats or air-cooled propulsion vessels can only be powered by straight shaft "long tail" air-cooled mud motors that are 25 total horsepower or less on the WMA. All other types of mud boats or air cooled propulsion vessels (including "surface drive" boats) are prohibited. All ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles are prohibited.

There were no comments or questions heard

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Graham and seconded by Commissioner Yakupzack. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to hear public comment updates on the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Hunting Season Notice of Intent**, to be presented by Steve Smith

Public Comments to Date for NOI, and WMA and Federal Lands Schedule

- **Comments via email, mail, phone call, in person:**
 - 18 email
 - 1 telephone

- **Public Hearings:**
 - 6 hearings to date/ 1 remaining
 - 161 attendees
 - 36 individuals commented
 - 45 separate comments among individuals
 - 5 were related to proposed changes

- **Total Comments Related to Proposed Changes**
 - 12 opposed to motor restrictions on Biloxi WMA
 - 3 in favor of addition of pistols to primitive gear
 - 2 concerned with addition of pistols to primitive gear
 - 1 in favor of addition of bird dogs to Small Game Emphasis Areas
 - 1 opposed to additional either-sex firearms days on Sherburne WMA
 - 1 opposed to change in dates for beagles for rabbit and dogs for squirrel on Tensas NWR
 - 1 opposed to changes in gear for Big and Chain Lakes on Big Lake WMA
 - 1 expressed concerns over baiting restrictions on WMAs
 - 1 inquiring as to reason for elimination of experimental permitted hog trapping on several WMAs
 - 1 opposed to 2016-2017 change in Area 5

Public Hearings

- March 10 6:00 p.m., Ruston Civic Center, 401 North Trenton Street, Ruston.

There were no comments heard

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to consider a Declaration of Emergency establishing the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program for the commercial crab industry**, to be presented by Cole Garrett

There is currently a Declaration of Emergency in place which expires this month. A Declaration of Emergency is only valid for 120 days. We are asking for an extension to the previous DE while the Notice of Intent is carried through the APA process.

There were no comments or questions heard.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Yakupzack. Chairman Manuel 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

Establishing the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program for the Commercial Crab Industry (LAC 76:VII.347)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts LAC 76:VII.347 establishing the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry as authorized by R.S. 56:305.6 and Act 540 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session. Act 540 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session limits entry into the commercial crab fishery and mandates that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establish a program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry no later than November 15, 2014. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that an imminent peril to the public welfare requires adoption of a Rule upon shorter notice than that provided in R.S. 49:953(A), since failure to establish the program timely would prevent potential entrants into the fishery from obtaining a commercial crab trap license and inhibit their ability to earn a living. It is necessary to adopt these Emergency Rules to have this program in place until the corresponding permanent rules can be adopted.

This Rule establishes the requirements needed to complete the program, including education in the proper fishing techniques necessary for the health and sustainability of the species; proper techniques for the best capture and presentation of the crabs for marketability; proper instructions regarding the placement, tending, and maintenance of crab traps to reduce potential conflicts with other user groups; and authorizes the program to include a mandatory apprenticeship program. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be effective beginning March 9, 2015 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act (120 days) or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

TITLE 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

347. Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program

A. The following defines the requirements necessary to complete the program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry pursuant to R.S. 56:305.6. This program shall hereafter be referred to as the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program.

B. For the purposes of this section, the following will be defined as:

Applicant – Licensed commercial fishermen attempting to obtain a commercial crab trap gear license through the program.

Mentor – A fisherman holding a valid commercial crab trap gear license who mentors an apprentice in completing the Apprenticeship Path.

Sponsor – A fisherman or wholesale/retail seafood dealer holding a valid commercial crab trap gear license who sponsors an apprentice in completing Sponsorship Path.

C. Policy

1. Applicants that do not qualify for a commercial crab trap gear license under provisions defined in R.S. 56:305.6 shall fulfill all the basic requirements and complete one of two field-training paths; the apprenticeship path, or the sponsorship path, to complete the program, and receive a crab trap gear license.
2. Before beginning a training path, an applicant must possess a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License. This license number will be used to track participation in the program.
3. The basic requirements and chosen training path shall be completed within one consecutive 12-month period.
4. Applicants who wish to change their mentor or sponsor during the process shall submit a new application containing the new mentor's or sponsor's information along with a written explanation for the change. Applicants shall not lose credit for hours or trips logged under the previous mentor or sponsor provided they are verified pursuant to paragraph F(3) & G(3) of this section.
5. In the event an applicant completes the field training path prior to the availability (release) of the required training videos, the applicant shall be issued a conditional commercial crab trap license. The applicant shall be notified via certified mail when the required training videos are available. The applicant shall complete the required video training within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice. Failure to complete the required training within thirty (30) days shall result in the suspension of the applicant's commercial crab trap gear license.

D. Eligibility

1. Any person who has been convicted of a Class 3 or greater fisheries violation in the last five (5) years shall not be eligible to participate as an applicant, mentor, or sponsor.
2. Any person choosing to participate as a mentor shall possess a valid commercial crab trap gear license and have documented a minimum of six trip tickets showing crab landings in any two of the previous four years.
3. Any person choosing to participate as a sponsor shall possess a valid commercial crab trap gear license and have documented a minimum of six trip tickets showing crab landings as a commercial fisherman or wholesale / retail dealer in any two of the previous four years.

E. Basic Requirements

1. Each applicant must successfully complete a NASBLA approved boating safety class as required by R.S. 34:851.36..
2. Each applicant must successfully complete and receive a certificate in the following Louisiana Fisheries Forward online courses. The applicant will be required to view 100% of the content and score a minimum of 80% in order to receive a certificate.
 - a. Course providing a detailed overview of state and federal statutes governing legal harvest of major seafood commodities, including but not limited to, licensing and permitting, harvest regulations, reporting requirements, and responsible and safe fishing.
 - b. Course covering the legalities and best management practices of crab fishing, including but not limited to, licensing and permitting requirements, crab harvest regulations, reporting requirements, best handling practices, responsible fishing, and vessel operation.
 - c. Course covering fundamental financial concepts targeted to Louisiana's commercial fishing industry, including but not limited to, budgeting, cash flow, taxes, insurance, loans, grants, and business plans.
 - d. Course covering the fundamental concepts for producing high quality seafood, including but not limited to, quality loss, temperature control, icing, chilling, freezing, and proper handling and storage.

F. Apprenticeship Path

1. To initiate the Apprenticeship Training Path the applicant and applicant's mentor must complete and submit an application to the Department. The application shall state the intent to participate in apprenticeship

training and include the social security numbers, names, addresses, commercial fishing license numbers, and photocopies of the state issued photo identification of both the applicant and the applicant's mentor. Additionally, the mentor's valid commercial crab trap gear license number must be provided.

2. The applicant shall complete a minimum of 200 hours of apprenticeship training related to crab fishing under supervision of the applicant's designated mentor. Training hours shall be recorded daily on training log forms provided by the Department. Copies of the training logs shall be submitted to the Department on a quarterly basis. A minimum of 100 hours of training shall be performed and logged on days when the applicant's mentor has harvested and reported trip ticket sales of crabs. Any previous work or training experience in the crab fishery conducted prior to the date the apprenticeship is initiated shall not count toward the applicant's total required hours.

3. Upon completion, the applicant and mentor must complete and submit a notarized affidavit signed by both the applicant and the mentor and include the original signed training log forms. The affidavit shall be provided by the Department and indicate the completion of the apprenticeship, affirm the accuracy of the associated log forms, and include the name, address, and commercial fishing license numbers of both the applicant and the mentor.

G. Sponsorship Path

1. To initiate the Sponsorship Training Path the applicant and applicant's sponsor must complete and submit an application to the Department. The application shall state the intent to participate in sponsorship training and include the social security numbers, names, addresses, commercial fishing license numbers, and photocopies of state issued photo identification of both the applicant and the applicant's sponsor. Additionally, the sponsor's valid commercial crab trap gear license number must be provided.

2. The Department shall issue a special crab trap permit allowing the applicant to actively fish crabs under the sponsor's crab trap gear license and report trip ticket sales of crabs using the applicant's name and commercial fisherman's license number. This permit shall only be issued once and shall only be valid for the duration of the sponsorship. The applicant must complete a minimum of twenty (20) crab fishing trips evidenced by trip tickets. Any trips or landings conducted prior to the date the sponsorship is initiated shall not count toward the applicant's total required crab fishing trips.

3. Upon completion, the applicant and sponsor must complete and submit a notarized affidavit signed by both the applicant and the sponsor and include copies of the trip tickets used to evidence the required crab fishing trips. The affidavit shall be provided by the Department and indicate the completion of the sponsorship, affirm the accuracy of the associated trip tickets, and include the name, address, and commercial fishing license numbers of both the applicant and the sponsor.

H. Optional Training

1. Applicants may substitute attendance at the following Department approved meetings or educational events for required apprenticeship hours and sponsorship trips: Louisiana Crab Task Force meetings, Crab Dock Days, and annual Louisiana Fisheries Summits. The Department may identify additional meetings and events eligible for substitution.

a. Each hour of meeting attendance shall substitute for one hour of the apprenticeship requirement. Every ten (10) hours of meeting attendance shall substitute for one fishing trip of the sponsorship requirement.

b. A maximum fifty (50) hours of meeting attendance or five (5) fishing trips may be substituted for the sponsorship requirements.

2. Attendance at meetings or educational events shall be documented by a designated Department employee or agent. The applicant shall sign-in upon arrival, present valid photo identification and provide their commercial license number. Upon departure, the applicant shall sign-out.

a. Applicants who sign in prior to the start of an event and sign out after the conclusion of an event shall receive substitution credit hours equal only to the length of the event. Applicants shall not receive extra credit hours for arriving early or staying late at an event.

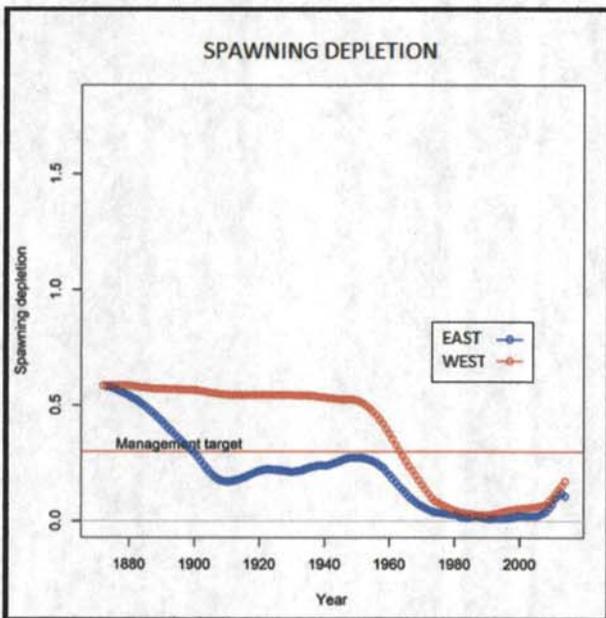
b. Applicants who fail to sign-in or sign-out shall not receive credit hours for attending an event.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:305.6.

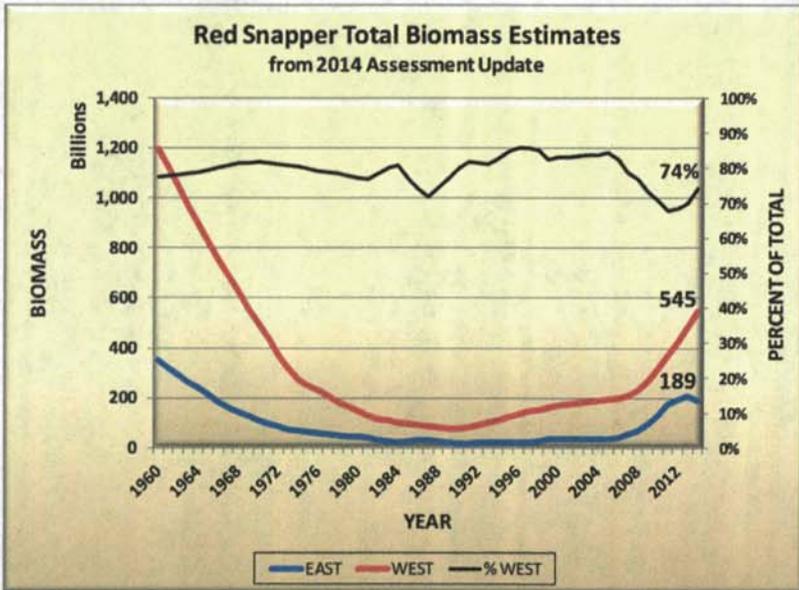
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to hear a presentation and consider a Resolution for the 2015 recreational Red Snapper season** to be presented by Harry Blanchet and Joey Shepard

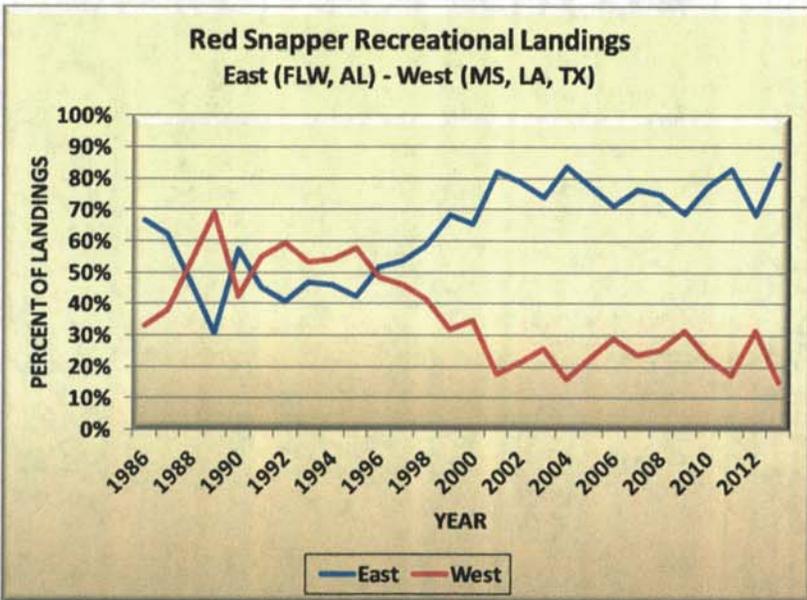
According to the 2014 NMFS Stock Assessment Update, the Red Snapper status is not overfished, not overfishing and have stock re-building



The Gulf is split between East and West in reference to Stock Assessments. West is the water west of the Mississippi River and East is the waters east of the Mississippi River. The eastern Gulf is leveling off and the western Gulf is increasing in biomass.



The western Gulf has 25 percent of the lands and 75 percent of the population



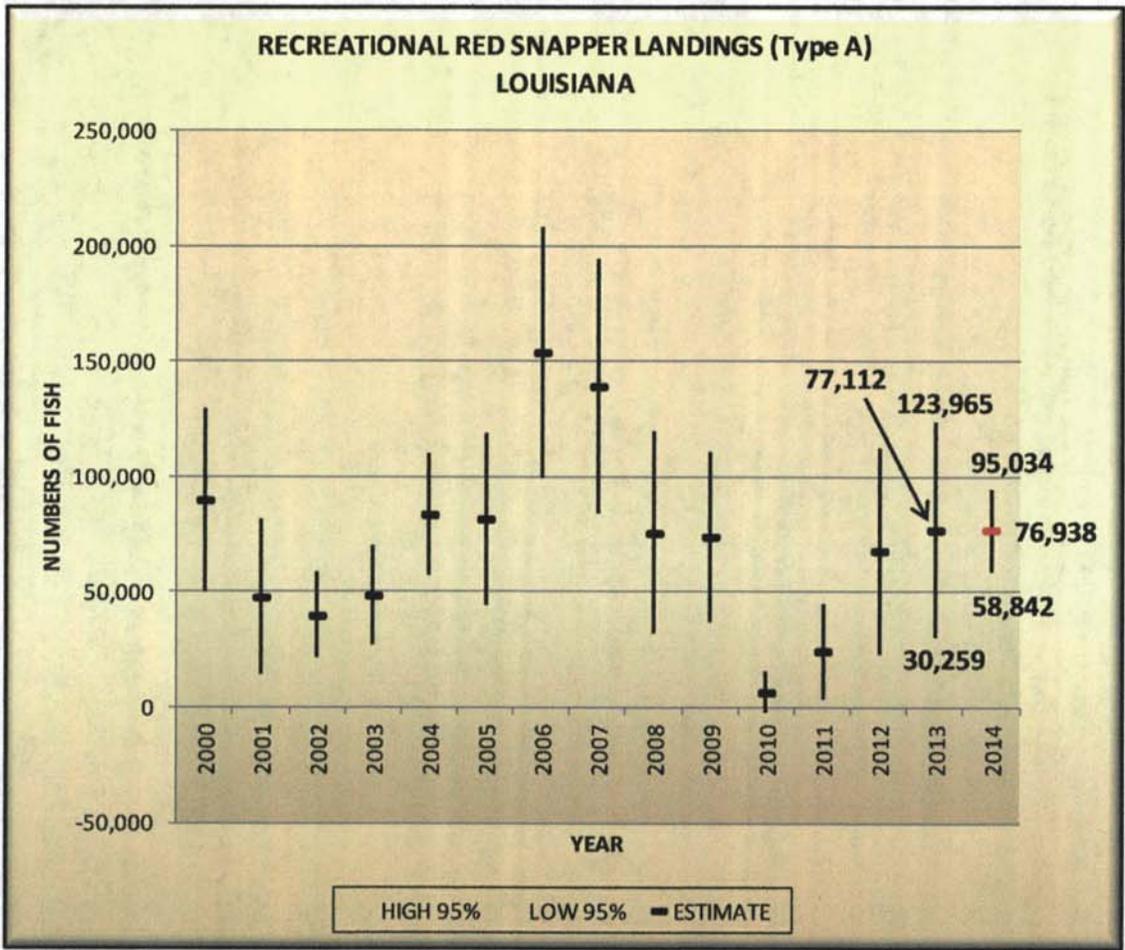
Harvest was reduced in the early 2000's

Recreational Season Structure

RED SNAPPER EEZ SEASONS		
Year	Season Dates	# Days
1996	January 1-December 31	365
1997	January 1-November 27	330
1998	January 1-September 30	272
1999	January 1-August 29	240
2000	April 21-October 31	194
2001	April 21-October 31	194
2002	April 21-October 31	194
2003	April 21-October 31	194
2004	April 21-October 31	194
2005	April 21-October 31	194
2006	April 21-October 31	194
2007	April 21-October 31	194
2008	June 1-August 4	65
2009	June 1-August 14	75
2010	June 1-July 23; Oct 1-Nov 21 (Fri, Sat, Sun)	77
2011	June 1-July 18	48
2012	June 1-July 15	45
2013	June 1 - June 29	28
2014	June 1 - June 10	9
2015	????	????

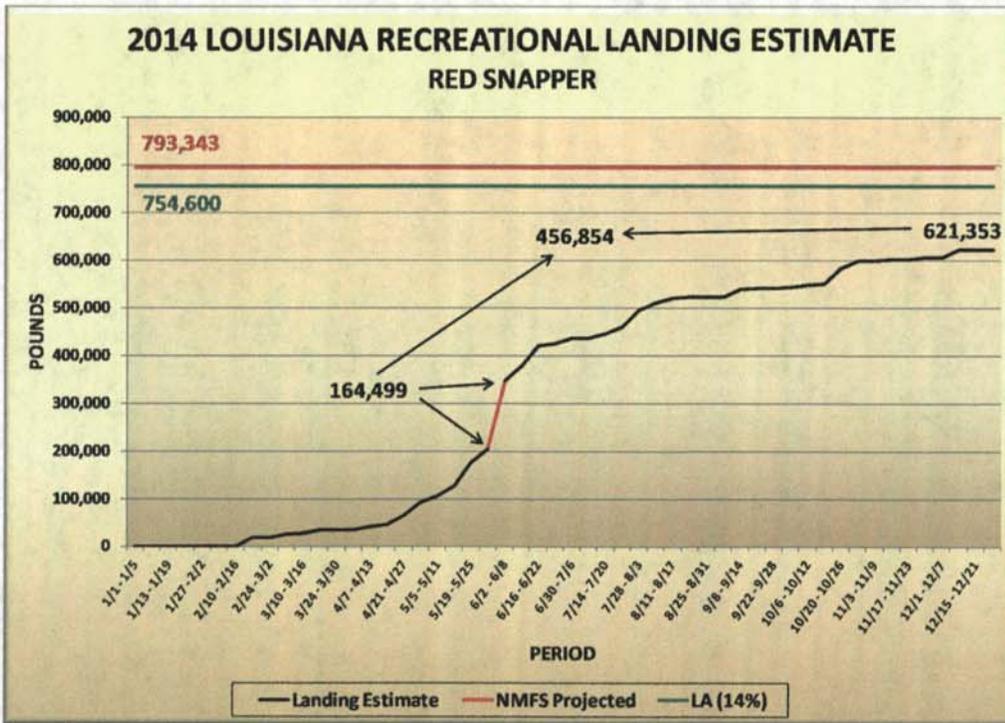
The differences between LACreel and EMRIT is Accuracy vs Precision
 LaCreel Surveys are precise and based on precision (groupings, estimates are very near each other)
 EMRIT Surveys are based on averages

Louisiana Red Snapper Landings
2000-2013 MRIP & 2014 LA Creel Estimates



The difference between EEZ and State season is 456,854

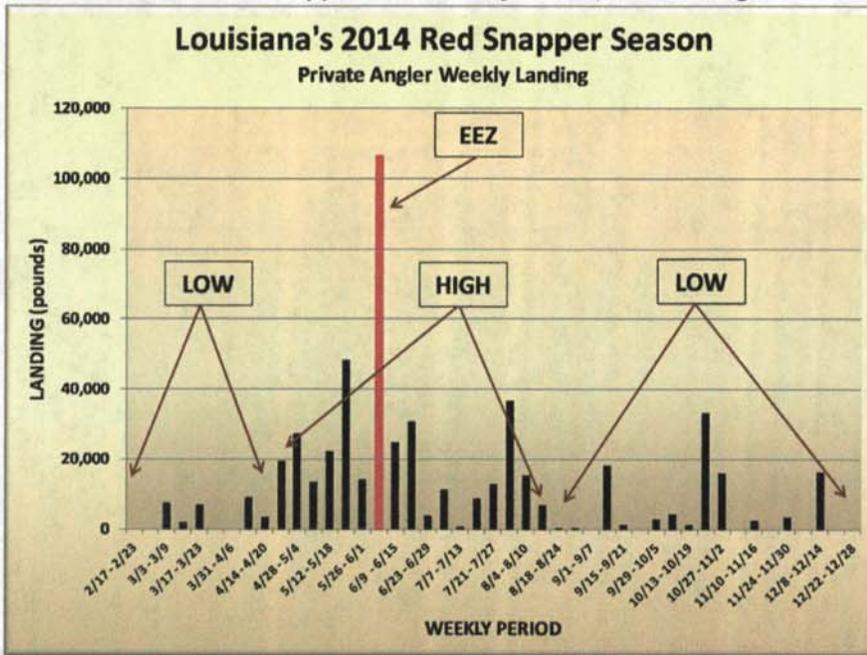
Louisiana Red Snapper Landings 2014 LA Creel Estimates



2015 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Season (The Gulf Council will meet next Tuesday, Secretary of Commerce has to approve first)

- RECREATIONAL ALLOWABLE CATCH LIMIT (ACL)
 - 2014 = 5.39 Million Pounds
 - Proposed 2015 = 7.01 Million Pounds
- RECREATIONAL ALLOWABLE CATCH TARGET (ACT)
 - Proposed 2015 = 5.606 Million Pounds
- SECTOR SEPARATION (**PENDING**)
 - Private Angler (57.7 %)
 - Proposed = 3.235 Million Pounds
 - For-Hire/Charter (42.3 %)
 - Proposed = 2.371 Million Pounds
- EEZ SEASON DATES
 - ??? Days Private Angler Sub-Sector (June 1, 2015 - ??)
 - ??? Days For-Hire/Charter (June 1, 2015 - ??)

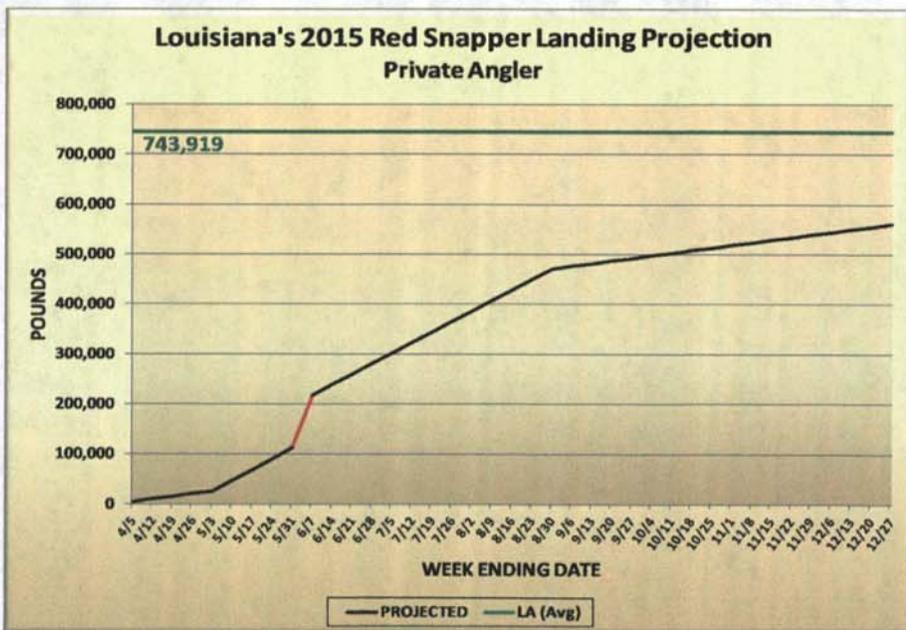
Louisiana's 2015 Red Snapper Season Projections, Private Angler



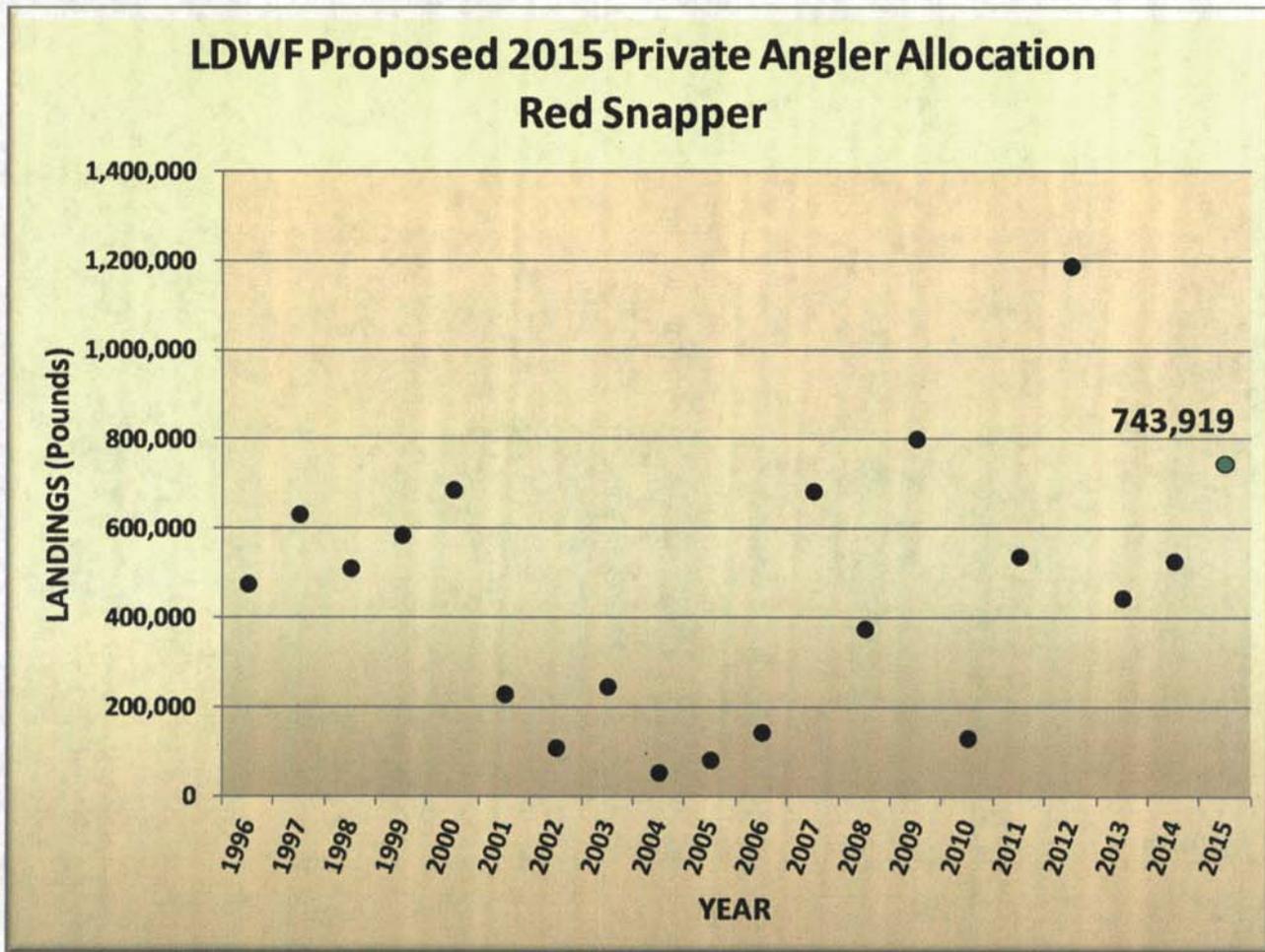
Projection Assumptions

- State season opens around Palm Sunday
- Average weekly catch rates in Louisiana state waters are similar to 2014
- EEZ season catch is similar to 2014

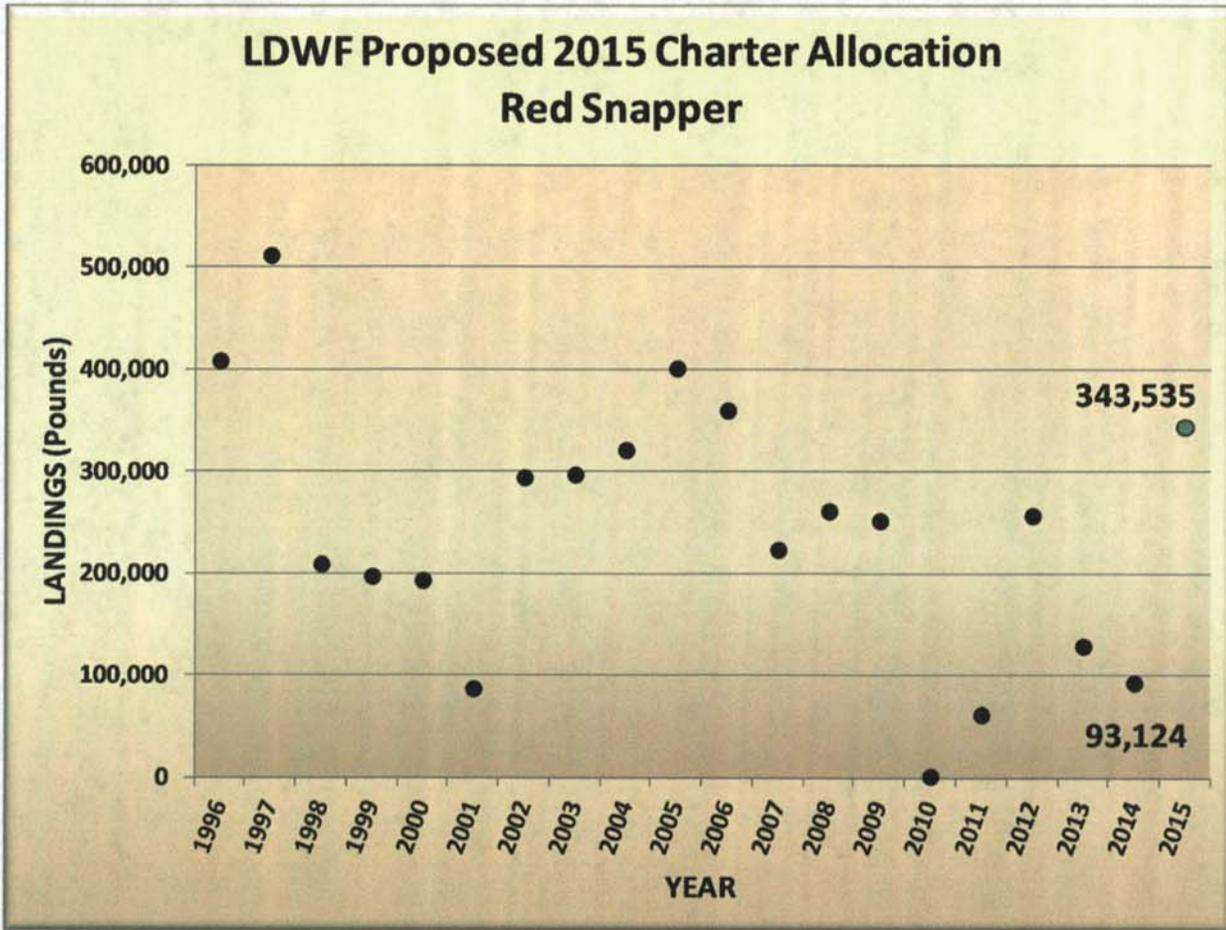
KEEP IN MIND: LA Creel provides weekly landing estimates and the Department will be monitoring landings throughout the season and will keep the Commission updated on 2015 landings



Louisiana's 2015 Red Snapper Season Projections
Private Angler



Louisiana's 2015 Red Snapper Season Projections
For-Hire (Charter)



Current Louisiana Regulations (Title 76:VII §335)

- SEASON:
 - Saturday before Palm Sunday through September 30
 - Weekends only - Friday through Sunday
- BAG:
 - 2 fish per person per day
 - 16" TL minimum size limit
- SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY
 - The secretary may also modify those portions of this rule pertaining to red snapper recreational daily harvest limits and red snapper recreational seasons if NOAA-NMFS institutes sub-regional management for the species or if he deems it necessary, following notification of the chairperson of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Commissioner Broussard asked, of the 343 thousand dollars within "For-Hire" Charter is that out of recreational funds. Mr. Shepard stated that it is not within the 14 percent; it takes the whole amount

Commissioner Swindell asked if there was a survey within the LA Creel program that surveys resource abundance. Mr. Shepard stated there is not one done on red snapper. Mr. Blanchet stated that they do participate in other state's surveys; Piled into a single survey for early juveniles. He also stated there is a video trap survey done.

Commissioner Swindell asked if the state of Texas has witnessed increases and Commissioner Broussard replied yes, the entire western Gulf is experiencing increases. Mr. Shepard stated the results from stock assessments.

Commissioner Swindell asked if there is a commercial resource increase, Mr. Blanchet stated yes.

Randy Pausina that the La Creel surveys allows Louisiana to get our share.
There were no other comments or questions heard.

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

**RESOLUTION
2015 RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL SEASON**

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with managing and protecting Louisiana's abundant natural resources, and

WHEREAS, red snapper is a very important reef fish species for the recreational offshore fishing industry and for offshore anglers leaving from Louisiana ports, and

WHEREAS, the recreational season for red snapper in Federal waters is not yet known, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has provided the Secretary of the Department with the authority to modify regulations pertaining to red snapper recreational harvest if he deems it necessary, and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the actions of the Secretary to expand the recreational fishing season for red snapper allowed Louisiana anglers opportunity to harvest additional fish while remaining within their historic harvest percentage for the Gulf of Mexico,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby recommends that the Secretary monitor and evaluate actions of the Gulf Council and NOAA Fisheries and ensure, to the extent possible, appropriate opportunities for Louisiana anglers to avail themselves of reasonable access to the red snapper resources within Louisiana state waters, within the authorities currently provided to him.

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Consider a Declaration of Emergency to open a portion of the Public Oyster Seed Ground**, to be presented by Patrick Banks

Mr. Banks stated that the Declaration of Emergency reflects the request of the Oyster Taskforce
Commissioner Broussard asked if this is a Taskforce recommendation or the department's recommendation.
Mr. Banks stated that the department does not disagree with the Oyster Taskforce recommendation

Commissioner Swindell asked if it was satisfactory not to have a sack limit.
Mr. Banks stated there are sufficient controls in place for the Secretary of the department to close the season immediately with another Declaration of Emergency. This is a two (2) week season and there will be heavy Enforcement presence.

Commissioner Swindell stated he had received several comments of the concern of destroying the reefs.
Mr. Banks responded that the department has good controls in place to prevent.
Swindell asked how long it would take to close the season with a Declaration of Emergency. Mr. Banks said, 72 hours.

Commissioner Yakupzack what the difference is with and without sack limits.
Mr. Banks stated that with sack limits, the limit is 50 sacks which could be taken in a couple of hours. With no limit, could exceed over one hundred sacks in a day.
Yakupzack then asked, when harvesting for seed, is there a requirement to measure
Banks stated there were no requirements when moving from public to private lease

Chairman Manuel asked for clarification - Private grounds grow oysters which can then go to public grounds and take seed and move to private.
Mr. Banks said this agreement was built on great relationships over time between the public and private for well over one hundred years. This is why Louisiana is the number one seller of oysters.
Manuel then asked about Calcasieu parish - 75 percent of oysters with a ten sack limit
Banks stated that Calcasieu is a public ground only harvest in order to conserve resources.

Commissioner Graham asked if the department has an idea of how many sacks could be harvested before we shut down the season
Mr. Banks said yes, data models are used by the biologist to predict sustainable harvest and maintain reef stock
Estimated harvest: 50 thousand sacks-market, 15 thousand barrels of seed

Randy Pausina stated the department is using a pilot study jointly with UNO and Dr. Sonnier - the department is using an array of tools to see what is out there. Mr. Banks said another tool used is for monitoring seed harvest
Pausina also stated that there is a very subtle difference between taking complete reef and scraping the seeds off the bottom on public grounds

Chairman Manuel asked for public comments from the audience

Donnie Campo - Against this opening - The sacks are not marketable and this will wipe out the market.

Ronnie Campo – Against this opening – Suggested they leave them for next year’s harvest. This is the first year with good news and past several years have been bad

Loren Leboef – Against the opening – 14 days of harvesting with no limits will wipe out the crop. There is only one plant with decent oysters and there will be 150 boats there to harvest. This will wipe out the industry and there will be none for next year.

Robert Campo – Against the opening – He brought the department staff out on February 13th. Eighty percent of oysters are not marketable. Would benefit from seeding but doesn’t agree with the opening. A bunch of fisherman want it closed or put a sack season with no bedding.

WLF Department doesn’t have enough people to monitor because they are spread thin. Majority of people in St Bernard Parish want the harvest closed. Need to allow it to stay closed because next year there is light at the end of the tunnel.

John Tesvich – Louisiana Oyster Taskforce – In favor of the opening – The Taskforce deliberated and recommended their findings to Patrick Banks

He accompanied four oystermen and Patrick Banks and went to twelve places and found oysters on cultch plants that were decimated last year. It would be wise to have harvest. This is a very limited harvest – oysters are growing like grass grows in the Louisiana summertime. The resource is there

Commissioner Manuel asked how many members are on the Taskforce

Tesvich stated 11. The vote was 7 to 4 in favor of the opening

Tony Tesvich – In favor of the opening

Nikola Zaraf – In favor of the opening. 30 year fishing oysters. Does not like any limits

John Lopez – Lake Ponchartrain Basin

State has a master plan and recognizes the ecosystem and the oystermen

He asked if this opening is consistent with the state management plan

He also stated that 88 percent of the oysters are below market size in these areas.

Chairman Manuel asked if this opening is consistent with the state master plan

Secretary Barham stated that the department is not in violation and will not be in violation. Barham also stated he sits on the Trustee Board

There were no other comments or questions heard.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Swindell. Chairman Manuel 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

Oyster Season Opening of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds East of the Mississippi River and North of the MS River Gulf Outlet (MRGO)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953, 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 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries declares that the 2014/2015 oyster season in that portion of the public oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River and north of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, March 16, 2015 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. During this opening in this area, no sack limit and no sacking-only area shall be in effect.

The following cultch plants, located within this area, shall remain closed:

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

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

Drum Bay (2013) – St. Bernard Parish

- A. 29 degrees 53 minutes 13.00 seconds N
89 degrees 17 minutes 40.21 seconds W
- B. 29 degrees 53 minutes 16.51 seconds N
89 degrees 16 minutes 51.12 seconds W
- C. 29 degrees 52 minutes 56.17 seconds N
89 degrees 16 minutes 49.80 seconds W
- D. 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 Manuel announced the next item, **To Consider a Resolution to confirm and reaffirm the selection and establishment of the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area**, to be presented by Thomas Bates

There were no comments or questions heard.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Swindell. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated February 10, 1984,

WHEREAS, this property contains approximately 19,231 acres of valuable wildlife habitat and its protection and proper management is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the State and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands, including water bottoms, that these lands and water bottoms remain selected and established as a wildlife management area and included in the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area,

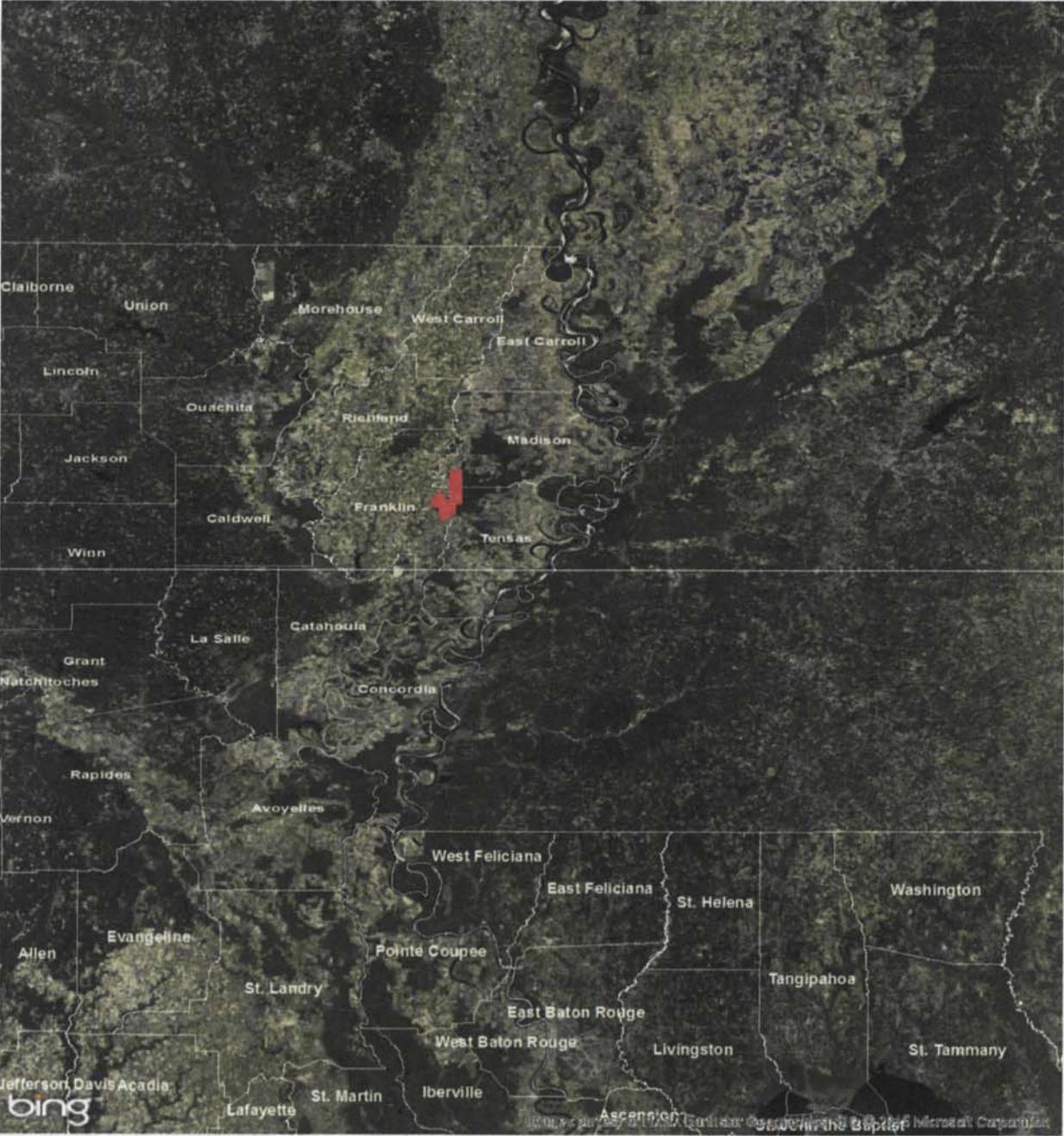
WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission confirms and reaffirms that all State-owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the property description of the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, described in the Governor's Proclamation dated February 10, 1984, were previously selected and established as a wildlife management area, and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission selects all State-owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area and all adjacent State-owned water bottoms, as being established as a wildlife management area and included in the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area.

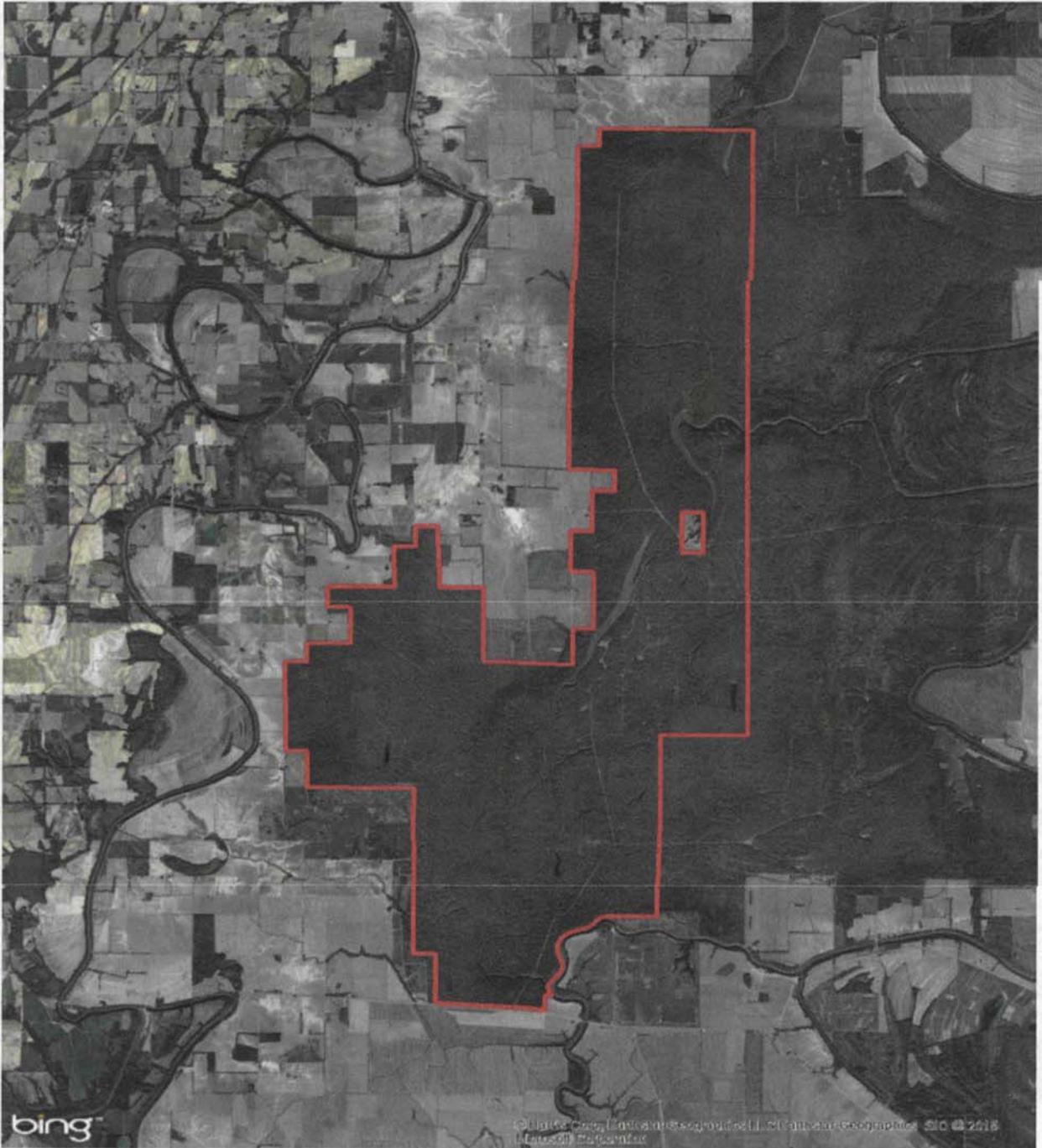
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 109 and Section 781, *et seq.*, of the Revised Statutes of 1954, hereby confirms and reaffirms the selection and establishment of the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, and selects all lands, including water bottoms and adjacent lands and water bottoms owned by the State, and establishes such lands, including water bottoms, as a wildlife management area to be added to and included in the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, so that all lands, including water bottoms, as more fully described in the property description attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and in the maps attached hereto as Exhibit "B," including water bottoms, were included in the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes and, as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife, and their habitat is to be utilized for public recreation including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this resolution



BIG LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



BIG LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to set the July 2015 Meeting Date**

A discussion took place and the meeting is set for July 2, 2015.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Graham. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Hear Public Comments,**

Commissioner Broussard requested a presentation on Amberjack be put on next month's commission meeting agenda

There were no other comments heard.

There being no further business, Chairman Manuel **Adjourned** the meeting

Pat Manuel, Chairman