

# Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting Minutes

December 03, 2015

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

Audio files 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

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes from November 05, 2015 Meeting
4. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
5. To hear Enforcement Reports November 2015
6. To hear an update from Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) on the Calcasieu River Salinity Control Project  
**AUSTIN FELDBAUM – CPRA**
7. To consider a Notice of Intent for modifications to shark harvest regulations  
**JASON ADRIANCE**
8. To consider a Declaration of Emergency for 2016 commercial large coastal sharks daily harvest limits  
**JASON ADRIANCE**
9. To hear a general overview of the 2016-2017 hunting seasons and Wildlife Management Area rules and regulations  
**STEVE SMITH**
10. To consider a Notice of Intent to establish rules and regulations for waterfowl hunting on Game and Fish Preserves  
**TOMMY TUMA**
11. To consider asking the Attorney General to withdraw the Attorney General Opinion request dated September 11, 2015 requesting an opinion regarding the Commission's authority pursuant to La. R.S. 56:104(A)(1)(b) (license fee dedication to the development and preservation of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl)  
**FRED WHITROCK**
12. Set April 2016 Meeting Date
13. Receive Public Comments

## **I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order at 12:00PM on December 3, 2015 in Lake Charles, LA at the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Government Building Meeting Room by Chairman, Pat Manuel.

## **II. Roll Call**

Deborah Marrs conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Pat Manuel

Dan Davis

Billy Broussard

Chad Courville

Bart Yakupzack

Julie Hebert

Secretary Barham

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Manuel called for approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Courville to "Table this item". Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed.

## **IV. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege**

Secretary Robert Barham thanked the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury for hosting the Meeting

Chairman Pat Manuel welcomed the Legislators in attendance

Steve Smith, WMA Program Manager, Wildlife Division, LDWF announced the possibility of the creation of a new WMA in the central part of the state. The Wildlife Division has been and is currently in discussion with Kisatchie National Forest with the possibility of forming a partnership to facilitate a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) encompassing the entire Catahoula National Wildlife Management Preserve which is contained within Kisatchie National Forest. The Catahoula National Wildlife Management Preserve is located in Grant and Winn Parishes and is comprised of 37,813 acres.

The habitat consists primarily of upland pine and upland pine hardwood with associated bottomland hardwoods in the drainages. The area is very popular for outdoor recreational opportunities with a variety of types of hunting, fishing, camping and hiking.

LDWF and the US Forest Service, while entertaining this joint agreement, would like to solicit public comment for a period of 90 days from today, December 3, 2015. At the end of this 90 day period, a joint decision will be made on whether or not to enter into this cooperative endeavor. Comments may be provided to Steve Smith, WMA Program Manager at (225)765-2346, (318)487-5885, or [ssmith@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ssmith@wlf.la.gov).

**V. Enforcement Reports: November 2015**  
**Lt. Col Sammy Martin, LDWF Enforcement**

**Enforcement Case Report:**

Written Citations:	341
Written Warnings:	178
Public Assistance:	26

<b>Monthly Boating Crash / Incident Report:</b>	<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
Boating Incidents:	7	110
Number of Injuries:	2	61
Number of Fatalities:	2	19

**News Releases:**

**Body of Missing Boater Recovered from Atchafalaya River**

Search and rescue teams recovered the body of a missing boater from the Atchafalaya River on Nov. 3.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents and St. Martin Sheriff's Office (SMSO) deputies recovered the body of William K. Seal, 56, of Butte La Rose, around 8 a.m. on Nov. 3 about two miles south of the Butte La Rose landing.

Search and rescue teams had been searching for Seal since the boat he was operating was found unmanned around 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 1 about two miles south of the Butte La Rose landing.

According to a Seal acquaintance, Seal was dropped off around 7 a.m. at the Butte La Rose public landing on Oct. 31 for a day of fishing of which Seal never returned. Seal's 15 foot vessel was then found by a tugboat operator the next morning and reported to authorities.

## **Night Hunter Cited for Illegally Taken Deer**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited a Newellton man for night hunting violations on Nov. 18 in Tensas Parish.

Agents cited Mica G. Adair, 29, for taking deer during illegal hours, taking over the limit of antlered deer, not possessing basic and big game hunting licenses, and failing to comply with deer tagging requirements.

Agents received a tip about Adair hunting deer at night and went to his residence for further investigation. Agents observed four antlered deer heads in the back of Adair's truck.

Upon questioning, Adair admitted to harvesting a deer on Nov. 8, Nov. 11, Nov. 13 and Nov. 15 all at night in Tensas Parish. The season limit is three antlered deer putting Adair one over the limit.

Taking deer during illegal hours brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Possessing over the limit of deer carries a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Failing to comply with deer tagging requirements brings a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Not possessing basic and big game licenses each brings a \$50 fine and up to 15 days in jail.

## **LDWF Enforcement Division Welcomes 7 New Agents at Graduation**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Law Enforcement Academy today, Nov. 24, graduated its 29th class of cadets into the ranks of LDWF Enforcement Division agents at a ceremony in Baton Rouge.

After six months of intensive physical and academic training at the academy, seven newly commissioned agents are ready to begin enforcing hunting, fishing and boating regulations that govern the use of the state's natural resources.

LDWF Secretary Robert Barham was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. "You have a tremendous responsibility to protect Louisiana's rich natural resources and those who enjoy those resources, whether in the field or on the water. Congratulations on your achievement which we celebrate today," Barham noted.

Col. Joey Broussard, head of the LDWF Enforcement Division, presented certificates and recited the Oath of Office making the cadets' transition to commissioned agents official. "We welcome these cadets into the Enforcement Division ranks. They are well trained and will be required to hit the ground running when they get to their local regions."

The seven new agents are:

James Bruce, 26, of Bentley, assigned to Grant Parish  
Devin Bryant, 29, of Deville, assigned to Sabine Parish  
Joshua Cooper, 32, of St. Francisville, assigned to East Feliciana Parish  
Kyle Haydel, 24, Destrehan, assigned to St. Bernard Parish  
Michael Hebert, 25, of Lafayette, assigned to Cameron Parish  
Edwin Langley, 22, of Kinder, assigned to Allen Parish  
Tyler Smith, 23, of Opelousas, assigned to Pointe Coupee Parish



During the graduation ceremony, Cooper received the firearms award given for the best marksman in the class. Haydel received the physical training award for being the most fit. Bruce received the academic award for having the highest grades. Cooper won the overall award, which is a cumulative score from the firearms, academic and physical training categories.

At the academy, cadets train to enforce the state's recreational boating laws, the state and federal wildlife and fisheries laws and general law enforcement work on the state's many wildlife management areas. The academy also covers general law enforcement training equal to that of other state law enforcement officers.

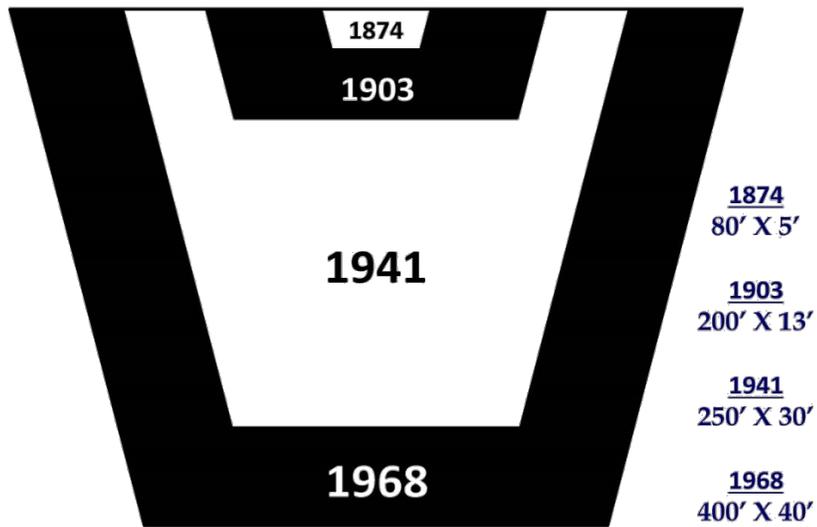
The graduating agents fill vacancies in LDWF's Enforcement Division and will be assigned to a field-training officer for their first six months of duty. Now part of the agency's commissioned officer staff, the agents will join the ranks of those patrolling land and water to primarily detect game, fish and boating law violations. These duties require travel into Louisiana's forests, swamps, fields, streams, bayous, lakes, marshlands, the Gulf of Mexico and on the state roadway system.

**VI. To hear an update from Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) on the Calcasieu River Salinity Control Project**

Austin Feldbaum, CPRA Coastal Resources Scientist

Construction of measures designed to prevent saltwater from entering Calcasieu Lake through the Calcasieu Ship Channel

Needed to address impacts of regional hydrologic alterations



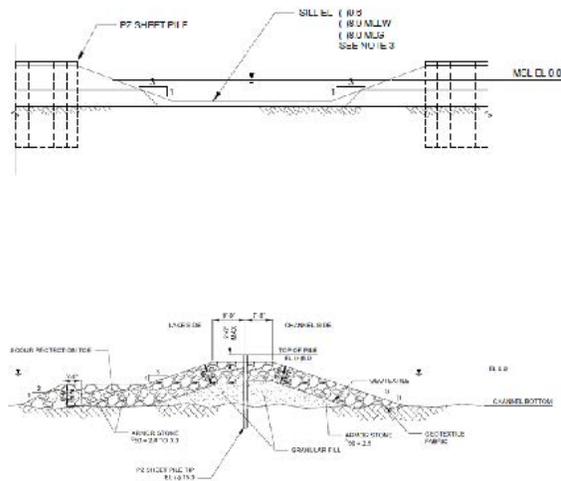


## Focused Array of Alternatives

- 1. Sector Gate**
  - 406' wide 45' deep
  - Sills at East Fork and West Fork
  - Open when Grand Bayou Out gage <12ppt;  
Operated on 12 hr schedule when GBO  
≥12ppt.
  - Innovative Sector Gate design
- 2. Channel Isolation**
  - Network of dikes and sills
  - Includes water control structures and fish gaps
- 3. Sector Gate with West Cove and South Lake isolation structures**



# Conceptual Design



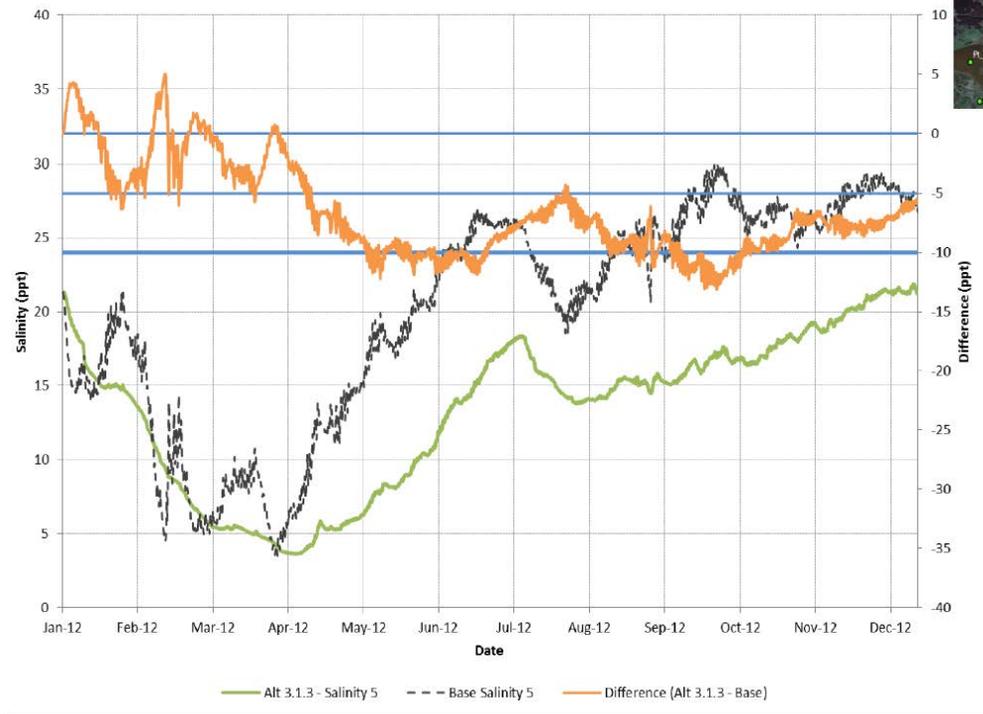
## Aquatic Organism Passage

In most places the sills extend to existing bottom depth

Fish gaps added to facilitate passage

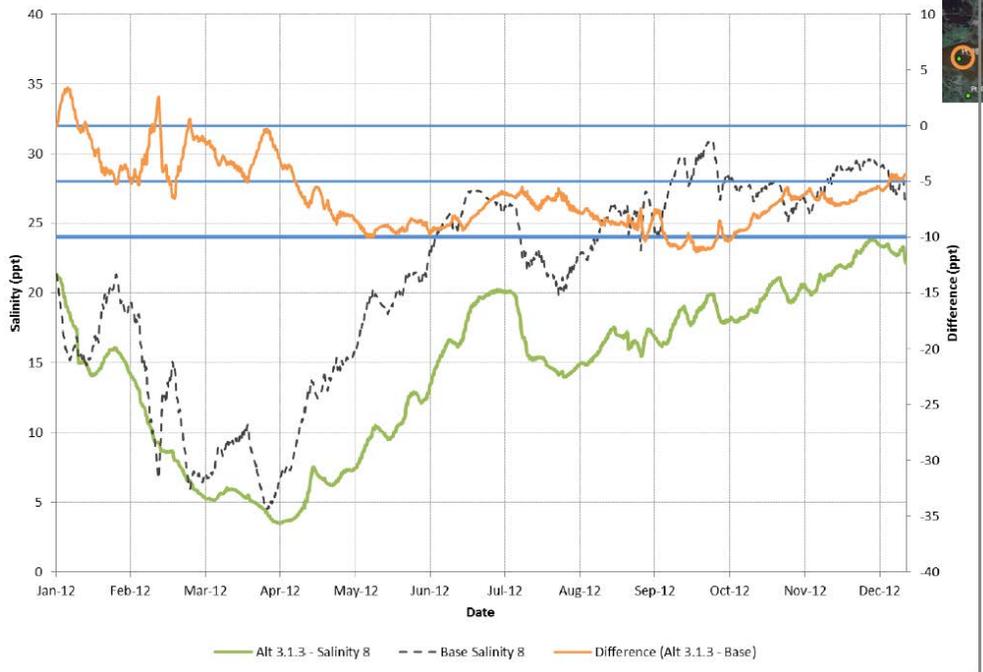
Fish gap design based on WVA methodology guidelines (CWPPRA 2006)

### Salinity Comparison

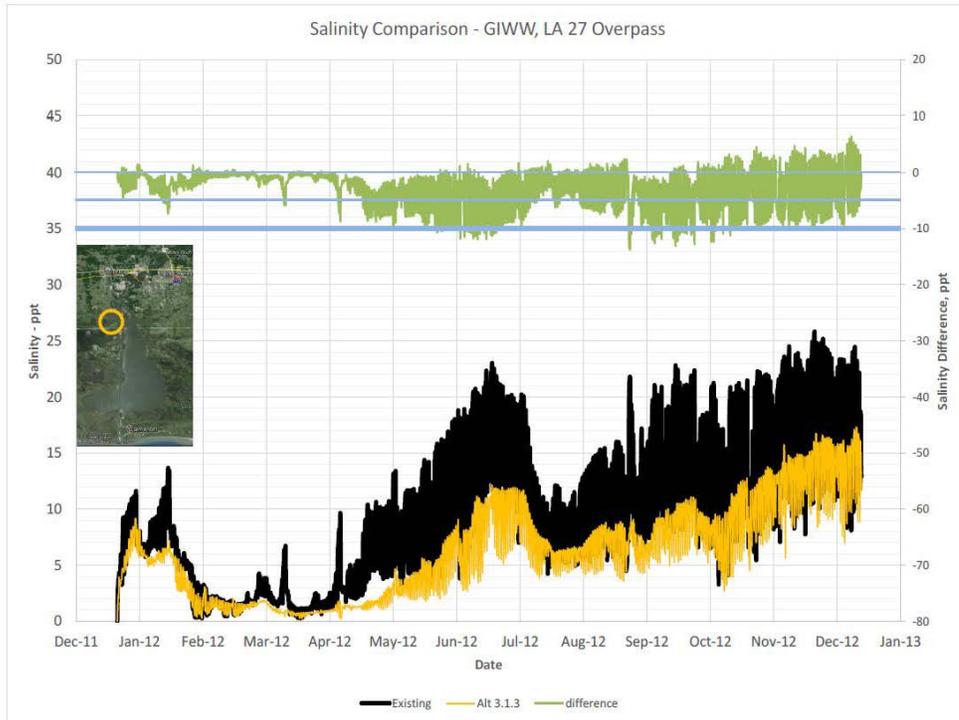


Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

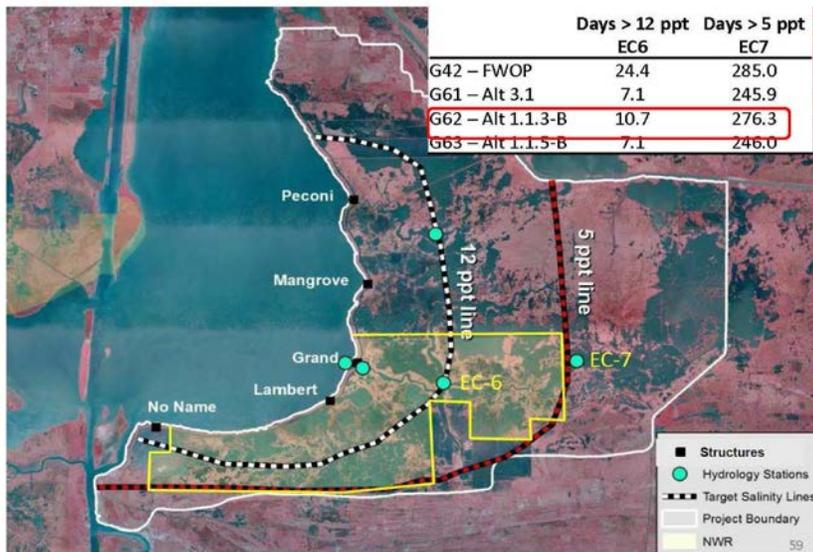
### Salinity Comparison



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana



## Salinity relative to NRCS Target Contours



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

## **Next Steps – Preliminary E&D**

### **FURTHER MODELING**

#### **2-D hydrodynamic models (regional)**

East Pass structure alternatives

#### **3-D hydrodynamic models (local)**

Evaluation of salinity and sediment dynamics

Provides boundary conditions for E&D models

Hydrodynamics calibrated/validated: January 2015

#### **Storm Surge and Induced Flooding**

Additional storm scenarios

Local changes to drainage and infrastructure vulnerable

## **Next Steps – Preliminary E&D**

### **ENGINEERING**

#### **Geotechnical and Bathymetry Survey**

Design of structures

Refine Cost Estimates

## ❖ MOTION by Commissioner Courville

A Motion was made by Commissioner Courville to amend the Agenda to add an off agenda item

Commissioner Broussard made a second to the Motion by Commissioner Courville  
Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed

Commissioner Courville made a Motion to add the agenda item “To hear an update on White Fronted Geese”

Commissioner Broussard made a second to the Motion by Commissioner Courville  
Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed

### **To hear an update on White Fronted Geese**

Paul Link, LDWF North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator

In a decade coastal Louisiana went from wintering the majority of the mid-continent Greater White Fronted Goose (GWFG) population to the minority. During this same time we’ve doubled our waterfowl hunter numbers and seen a decline in preferred habitats due to changes in agriculture, long-lasting hurricane effects, industrialization, and urbanization.

Essentially no white-front research has been done in Louisiana for a number of reasons, primarily because everyone thought they were impossible to catch, and it wouldn’t do us much good to go mark a bunch in the Arctic when they are molting and flightless knowing that at best 10% would even come here.



All Geese were caught using unbaited rocket nets. I fabricated and designed most of the trapping equipment specifically for this project, including low profile rocket net boxes, large mesh/light test webbing, and remote detonators.

It is a beautiful mess of luck, skill, ingenuity, and patience when it all comes together.

79 were caught in 5 shoots

11 adults were selected to be radio marked



The technology selected for this project is the most user-friendly and advanced I've encountered. I've used subcutaneous, intra-abdominal implants, backpacks, and tarsal tag attached transmitters which all take 20+ minutes and in some cases surgical equipment.

The 40 gram transmitters are attached to acrylic neck collars that I was able to fit and glue within minutes without anesthesia, kevlar ribbon, rivets, or knots. Collars aren't without issues, but white-fronts are perfect candidates because most don't encounter ice or dabble among submerged vegetation. I used uncoded brown collars to reduce visibility and poaching.



These are the first birds to ever carry this technology in the wild. They use GPS technology which utilizes 4+ satellites to estimate locations, and they transmit those locations at my specified times thru global system for mobile communications (GSM) cellular towers.

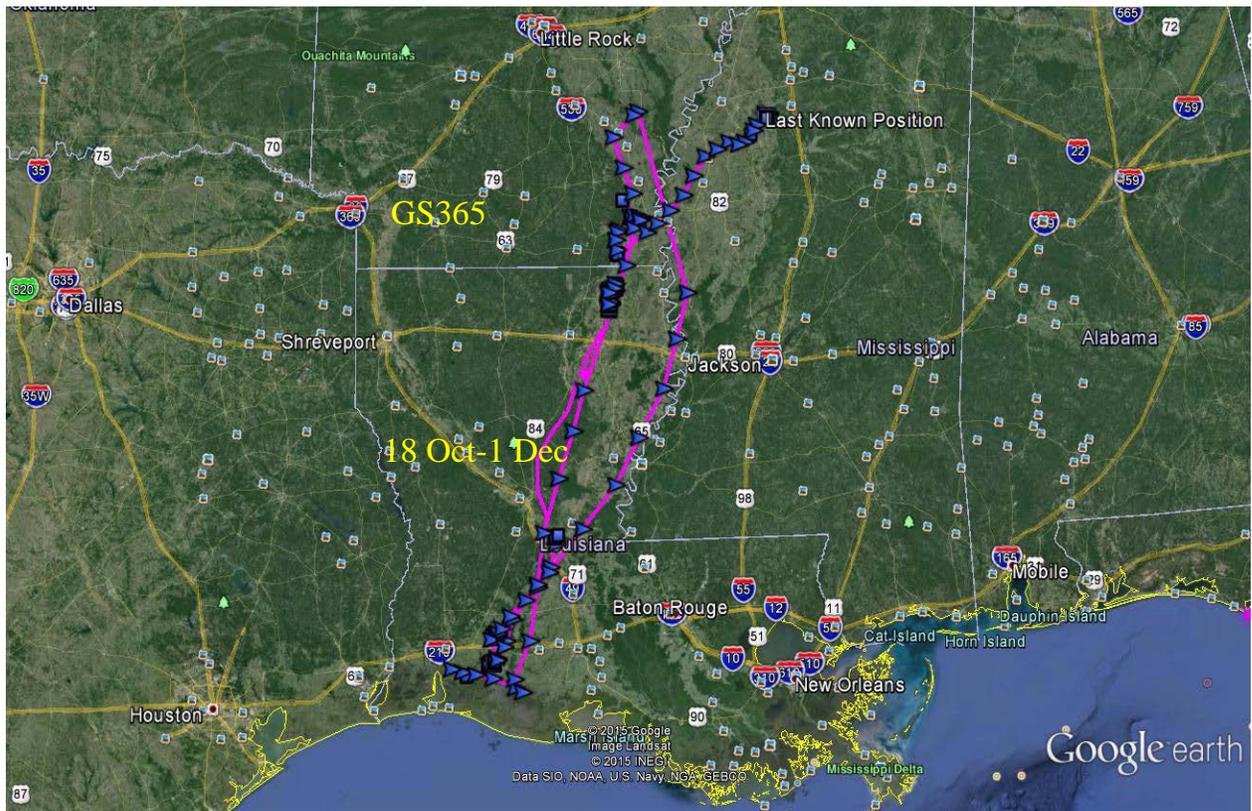
Thus, these are the first 11 white-fronts to have a family share plan. I won't begin to explain how much better this is than all the previous and current technology that I'm using, but I'll highlight a couple important parts here:

- Cutting edge technology
- GPS/GSM 3G cellular transmission
- Solar powered – weight reduction
- Sub-meter accuracy
- Locations every 30 min
- Store up to 45,000 locations
  - Abiotic/ambient data logged
  - Altitude, bearing, speed, etc.
  - Life expectancy 3-4 years
  - Migration stopovers and duration, breeding range, philopatry, fidelity, etc.



This is GS365, an adult female that I caught west of Thornwell. Shortly after marking her she went to Stuttgart, AR for less than 24 hours, returned to exactly the same field I caught her near Thornwell, then bounced around between Grand Lake, Welsh, Roanoke, Kinder, and Gueydan, before going to an area southeast of Monroe for a week, then another week near Lake Village, AR, and yesterday was on the move towards the eastern edge of the MAV in MS. She's flown >1500 miles in the past 45 days.

To briefly summarize 6 are in AR, 3 are in LA, and 1 each in TX and MS. Fairly surprising observations thus far and I'm looking forward to seeing how the rest of the winter plays out.



Special thanks to all our donors that quickly stepped up to make this happen on such short notice, likely without fully knowing how risky their investment would be. There was a team of researchers in Arkansas that spent 2 winters unsuccessfully trying to catch and deploy transmitters there, where they winter far more geese than we do, they arrive earlier, and their hunting season opens later which allows for more undisturbed time to trap. Particular thanks go out to Chad and Bart for all their logistical support to get us this far too.

## **VII. To consider a Notice of Intent for Modifications to Shark Harvest Regulations**

**Jason Adriance, LDWF Fisheries**

The commercial possession limit will increase from 36 to 45 for 2016 commercial harvest

Earlier in 2015, the National Marine Fisheries Service promulgated rules establishing this increase. Today's action will provide consistency with federal regulations and increased opportunity for Louisiana shark fishermen.

The notice of intent is to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.357) modifying existing commercial shark harvest regulations. Proposed changes increase the daily possession limit of commercially harvested sharks from the large coastal species group to a default limit of 45 and establish Secretarial authority to modify those commercial possession limits within a defined range (0-55) if notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that an in-season change has been implemented

Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit but no Federal Shark Permit shall not possess on any one day, or on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of the federal possession limit of sharks per vessel from the large coastal species group, taken from Louisiana state waters. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research permit under 50CFR635.32(1). If the Department is notified that the National Marine Fisheries Service has made an in-season adjustment to the default daily federal possession limit (45 sharks), the Secretary of the Department is authorized to adjust the daily possession limit of sharks from the large coastal species group. Such an adjustment of the daily possession limit shall not exceed 55 sharks from the large coastal species group.

### **❖ MOTION by Commissioner Broussard**

#### **Commissioner Davis**

Seconded the motion made by Commissioner Broussard

#### **Chairman Manuel called for Public Comments**

There were no comments heard

#### **Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the Motion passed with no opposition**

## **VIII. To consider a Declaration of Emergency for 2016 Commercial Large Coastal Sharks Daily Harvest Limits**

**Jason Adriance, LDWF Fisheries Division**

The shark fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S.

Previously promulgated rules, 50 CFR 635.24(a)(2), by NMFS increasing the federal possession limit of commercially harvested sharks from the Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks group (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse, blacktip, bull, lemon, silky, spinner and tiger sharks) from 36 to 45 sharks in the Gulf of Mexico will be effective for the commercial season beginning on January 1, 2016.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters to coincide with the new regulations set forth by NMFS, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

Persons possessing a commercial state shark permit but no federal shark permit shall not possess on any one day, or on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of the federal possession limit for sharks from the Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Species group (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse, blacktip, bull, lemon, silky, spinner and tiger sharks), taken from Louisiana state waters. Persons possessing a commercial state shark permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in their possession a valid federal shark research permit under 50 CFR 635.32(1).

Those persons possessing a federal commercial directed or incidental limited access shark permit or federal shark research permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sharks are limited to daily take, trip and possession limits as specified in that federal permit. This Declaration of Emergency is effective at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2016.

### **❖ MOTION by Commissioner Broussard**

#### **Commissioner Courville**

Seconded the motion made by Commissioner Broussard

#### **Chairman Manuel called for Public Comments**

There were no comments heard

#### **Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the Motion passed with no opposition**

**IX. To hear a general overview of the 2016-2017 Hunting Seasons and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations**

Steve Smith, LDWF WMA Program Manager

**Significant Regulation Changes for 2016**

Incorporation of former Deer Area 5 into Area 1 and creation of new Deer Area 5 in the Atchafalaya Basin

Modifications to wording for firearms during archery season on WMAs to make regulations more consistent with changes made to Title 56 last year

Expansion of allowance for use of Personal Water Craft on WMAs

Restrictions on experimental dog season for feral hogs on certain WMAs

Creation of a Limited Access Area on Dewey W. Wills WMA

Elimination of a Limited Access Area on Salvador/Timken WMA

Adjustments to turkey seasons and turkey lottery hunts on certain WMAs

Miscellaneous adjustments to vehicular use (boats and atvs), Limited Access Areas, and seasons on WMAs

Addition of waterfowl seasons to NOI

**X. To consider a Notice of Intent to establish rules and regulations for waterfowl hunting on Game and Fish Preserves**

Tommy Tuma, LDWF Director Habitat Stewardship

Several Acts through the years have provided for the establishment of State Game and Fish Preserves and their respective Commissions

Act 105 of 1976 placed GFPs under control of LWF Commission

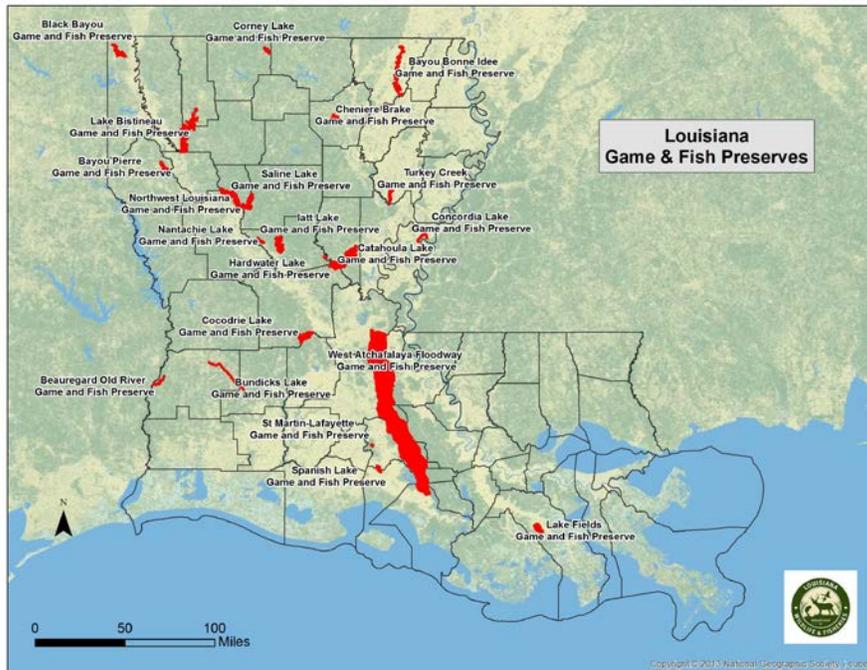
**Statutory Authority**

LA R.S. 56 721- Any parish or parishes by formal resolution of the governing authority, may appoint a game and fish commission, which may exercise those powers, duties, and functions provided in LA R. S. 722.

LA R.S. 56 722- The commission may make rules and regulations for the government, regulation, and control of the preserve for the conservation, protection, and propagation of game and fish in the preserve, provided that such rules and regulations shall be finally approved, adopted, and promulgated by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

LA R.S. 56 802- The department shall have the duty and responsibility for the management of resources, including water level control, aquatic weed control, and maintenance and repair of dams, control structures, and spillways within the territorial jurisdiction of each commission established in R.S. 56:801, provided that no local commission or authority is providing these services. The individual game and fish preserves and commissions or local governing authorities shall have the duty and responsibility for maintaining all support services within their territorial jurisdiction, including parks, picnic areas, and concessions

## Louisiana Game and Fish Preserves



## State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

- Bayou Bonnie
- Bayou Pierre
- Beaugard Old River Fish and Game Preserve
- Black Bayou
- Bundicks
- Catahoula Lake
- Cheniere Brake Fish Preserve
- Cocodrie Lake
- Concordia Lake
- Cornie Lake
- Hard Water State
- Iatt Lake
- Lake Bistineau
- Lake Catherine and Lake Ponchartrain
- Lake Field
- Nantachie Lake
- Northwest
- St. Martin-Lafayette
- Saline Lake
- Spanish Lake
- Turkey Creek
- West Atchafalaya Floodway

## **RS 56:802**

The department shall have the duty and responsibility for the management of resources, including water level control, aquatic weed control, and maintenance and repair of dams, control structures, and spillways within the territorial jurisdiction of each commission established in R.S. 56:801, provided that no local commission or authority is providing these services. The individual game and fish preserves and commissions or local governing authorities shall have the duty and responsibility for maintaining all support services within their territorial jurisdiction, including parks, picnic areas, and concessions.

## **Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Summary**

Construction of and/or hunting from permanent blinds on Game and Fish Preserves and Game and Fish Management Preserves, is prohibited unless otherwise specified. A permanent blind is any blind using non-natural materials or having a frame which is not dismantled within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds with frames of wood, plastic, metal poles, wire, mesh, webbing or other materials may be used but must be removed within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds made solely of natural vegetation and not held together by nails or other metallic fasteners may be left in place, but cannot be used to reserve hunting locations. Natural vegetation (including any material used as corner posts) is defined as natural branches that are 2 inches or less in diameter.

Unattended decoys are prohibited. Decoys must be removed daily

Public comment will be accepted until March 2, 2016. Comment can be made by mail to: Tommy Tuma, Wildlife Division Habitat Stewardship Director, LDWF, PO Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or [ttuma@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ttuma@wlf.la.gov) or 225-765-2349

A discussion took place and the Commissioners asked for an update at the February 2016 meeting.

There will be no vote on this NOI – it will be “Tabled” at this time

### **❖ MOTION by Commissioner Broussard**

#### **Commissioner Davis**

Second to the motion made by Commissioner Broussard

#### **Chairman Manuel called for a Vote to “Table this NOI”**

There was no opposition

**XI. To consider asking the Attorney General to withdraw the Attorney General Opinion request dated September 11, 2015 requesting an opinion regarding the Commission's authority pursuant to La. R.S. 56:104(A)(1)(b) (license fee dedication to the development and preservation of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl)**

Fred Whitrock, LDWF Legal Counsel

A discussion took place and the Commissioners took no action.

The Commissioners do not want to withdraw the request and would still like the Attorney General's Office to issue report

**XII. Set April 2016 Meeting Date**

A discussion took place and the proposed meeting date was April 7, 2016

**❖ MOTION by Commissioner Courville**

**Commissioner Broussard**

Second to the motion made by Commissioner Courville to accept the date of April 7, 2016

**Chairman Manuel called for a Vote and the Motion passed with no opposition**

**XIII. Receive Public Comment**

**Jerry Hosey**

General Season Dates and Bag Limits

There were no other comments heard

**XIV. Adjournment**

**❖ MOTION by Commissioner Broussard**

**Commissioner Davis**

Second to the motion made by Commissioner Broussard to adjourn the meeting

Chairman Manuel adjourned the meeting