

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

March 17, 2009

Baton Rouge, La

The following constitute minutes of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory Council 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 225-765-2623

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009 - 1:30 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters  
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70808**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of Dec. 2, 2008
3. Welcome and Opening Comments  
Woody Crews, Chairman
4. Cajun Bécasse Overview  
Stephen Pellessier
5. Enforcement Division Report: Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze
6. Wildlife Division Report: Kenny Ribbeck, Division Administrator
7. Oyster Season Update: Patrick Banks, Marine Fisheries Division
8. Federal Fisheries Recovery Funds Disbursement Update:  
Cara Hoar, Research & Assessment Division, Office of Fisheries
9. Legislative Session Preview: Bo Boehringer, Office of the Secretary
10. Lapsed Angler Project – Year 1 Report  
Ashley Wethey, Public Information Office
11. Report on LDWF-OSP Joint Promotion  
Bo Boehringer, Office of the Secretary
12. Set Next Meeting Date
13. Receive Public Comments
14. Adjournment

# MINUTES OF THE HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY COUNCIL

MARCH 17, 2009

## **Roll Call**

Members of the Advisory Council in attendance included Vance Gordon, Nelson “Snoop” Roth, Mike Rainwater, Will Courtney, Samuel J. Smith, Mike Windham, Lyle Johnson, Stephen Pellessier, Jeff DeBlieux, Eric Sunstrom, Woody Crews, and Dr. Donald Reed.

Members who were no in attendance were CT Williams, Shane Crochet, and David Rousseau.

## **Approval of Minutes of Dec. 2, 2008**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Smith and a second was offered by Mr. Roth. The minutes of December 2, 2008 were accepted without corrections.

## **Welcome and Opening Comments**

Opening comments were made by Mr. Crews, Chairman.

## **Cajun Becasse Overview**

Stephen Pellessier presented an overview of his representative organization and various issues that they are concerned with. For example, the issue of the ruffed grouse and the woodcock that has the same habitat which makes branding a little harder. The group

appeared in 1981 and from there they started and formed a chapter of the ruffed grouse where habitat is the most important issue.

Mr. Pellessier showed a graph of declining woodcock hunter numbers that is not unique, and is in obvious decline, similar for quail hunters and other small game hunters. He feels that the decline in woodcock populations is caused by a loss in habitat on the breeding grounds, and is not due to hunting pressure.

### **Enforcement Division Report**

Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze offered the 2009 activity report. He explained that it was the report that is presented at the commission meeting regularly at the first of the month and is made up of enforcement activity from each of the nine regions in the state broken down relative to crime, citations and written warnings. Seizures are also included as well as public assistance that is offered to people. Also, details are included regarding our life jacket loaner program as well as instructions on the designated time when they are to return them. If you have any questions regarding, you can ask me anytime.

Lt. Col. LaCaze explained that his main reason for speaking was to explain the deer tagging system. If you recall the tagging program was in place in the 2007 hunting season, we encouraged everyone to go ahead and begin familiarizing ourselves on how to be ready once the program was mandatory. It is now required that everyone be consistent and that there is a standard operating procedure and guidelines.

Mr. Gordon asked questions regarding the tracking of criminal citations through the system.

Mr. Gordon complimented the Department on an excellent job at educating the public by way of Mr. Dave Moreland's video.

Lt. Col. LaCaze explained that Enforcement had plans to continue educating the public and feels as if the general population has been more accepting of it.

\*Information packet available

### **Wildlife Division Report**

Kenny Ribbeck, Division Administrator, gave the report for the Wildlife Division. Mr. Ribbeck addresses Wildlife Management Area managed hunts in the packet provided; this year the average rate of success was 11 hunter efforts per deer. The efforts were down slightly from the previous year. He explained that there was some reduction in kills but they have accounted for the weather.

Mr. Ribbeck then continued to discuss the deer tagging system. A map was provided that represented the deer tagging reports, excluding information acquired from DMAP reports which will be added to our report at a later date. Mr. Ribbeck also discussed the potential of insect problems and explained that that particular information would be included in the fall report. Mr. Ribbeck further discussed factors that are considered when accessing deer populations in the state as well as that of other wildlife.

\*Information packet available

### **Oyster Season Update**

Patrick Banks, Marine Fisheries Division offered the Oyster Season Update for the Department with the use of PowerPoint.

Mr. Banks discussed a summary of the background of the season and when it runs, as well as some areas that receive shortened seasons based on various issues. The Department did decide this year to close the season early. He then further discussed regions that had been heavily fished and areas of grounds that may be better suited to growing oysters. He then discussed varying mortality rates for various areas as well as a graph that breaks down in summary financial aspect of the programs and how funds are disbursed through different sectors.

### **Federal Fisheries Recovery Funds Disbursement Update**

Cara Hoar, Research & Assessment Division, Office of Fisheries, presented the Federal Fisheries Recovery Funds Disbursement Update. She discussed the financial aspect of the program post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and then presented aerial photographs of the hatchery in order to better track repairing.

Mr. Courtney made mention that the liners are floating and it appears to be in terrible shape.

Mr. Jim Hanifen added that the allocation came about from using a few socioeconomic studies with charter as an art of recreational. In part, that is because we don't have very good data about the charter industry in Louisiana. However, the Department is collecting data from them so that they do not undervalue individual fishery. He then discussed saltwater allocations and the marina assistance program.

\*Information packet available

### **Legislative Session Preview: Bo Boehringer, Office of the Secretary**

Mr. Boehringer delivered the Legislative Session Preview. He stated that he only had six bills to discuss. He stated that HB 5 would affect our Enforcement Personnel, HB 39 authorizes someone who is legally blind, which is 2200 vision or worse, gets a permit to hunt, but requires a guide as a spotter. SB 2 deals with certain agencies that are unprotected, such as our agencies in times of budget deficit. We are under that same scope of jurisdiction and this bill adds up to ten percent. SB 1, if passed, a vote will be a made for the limit to be raised to ten percent because it will affect the department in the long term. We will keep tracking it and keep your members posted on this item because it could have cons for the Department down the road. SB 9 deals with a sales tax exemption and we are not sure of the intent of the bill.

### **Lapsed Angler Project – Year 1 Report**

Ashley Wethey, Public Information Office discussed the Lapsed Angler Project. This is a program that puts individuals on a direct mail marketing program that is designed to get lapsed anglers to return to the Department and purchase a license. The Department

worked with Southwick to get mailing analysis which organized individuals priorities based on their lifestyle characteristics.

Two separate mailings were done six weeks apart with radio and banner advertising statewide. The postcards were different because local imagery was used to make them more identifiable. The result of the campaign usually expects a one to three response rate which is good, but Louisiana achieved a 26.2 rate which shows that we well exceeded that from a normal campaign. Louisiana is second among the participating states.

From a financial standpoint, 28,000 was spent on the program and the net gross revenue was 131,000. Ms. Wethey stated that it was not the Department's intention to view the program from a monetary standpoint, but it is a good concept to communicate with our fishermen while collecting further data for down the road for a possible Lapsed Hunter Program.

\*entire program information available

### **Report on LDWF-OSP Joint Promotion**

Bo Boehringer, Office of the Secretary discussed Free Fishing Weekend, a promotion that allows people to go fish wherever they would like without the requirement of purchasing a license. The Department is also partnering with State Parks to provide June 6<sup>th</sup> as an opportunity for free admission to any state park in Louisiana where volunteers will be available for individuals who need assistance. We have advertised via press releases and our Department personnel on talk shows and Paradise Louisiana just to get the word out. Academy Sports has also signed on to help with bag stuffers.

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Crews requested that the next meeting date to be considered will be June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in June which will put us on a quarterly schedule which seems appropriate.

### **Receive Public Comments**

No public comment was heard.

### **Adjournment**

crh