

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
REPORT**

**October 21, 2014**

**WOODY CREWS  
CHAIRMAN**

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

The following constitute minutes of the 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.

**AGENDA**  
**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**October 21, 2014**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of Oct. 29, 2013 and March 11, 2014 and June 24, 2014
3. Welcome and Opening Comments from Chairman
4. LA Trappers & Alligator Hunters Association Report
5. Enforcement Division Report
6. Office of Fisheries: Outreach Section Program Overview
7. Office of Wildlife: 2014-15 Deer Season Overview
8. 2014 Youth Hunter of the Year Contest
9. Set Next Meeting Date
10. Receive Public Comments
11. Adjournment

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**October 21, 2014**

Chairman Woody Crews was not present.

Those present at roll call included:

Warren Singer  
Teddy Twigg  
Alexander Perret  
Ryan Schafer  
Kyle Balkum (for Mike Windham)  
Lyle Johnson  
Stephen Pellessier  
Jeff DeBlieux  
Bo Boehringer

Council members not present

Wood Crews  
Mike Rainwater  
Daryl Carpenter  
David Rousseau  
Donald Reed

A quorum was noted as present.

The following constitutes a brief report of what was heard:

The **minutes of the October 29, 2013** meeting, **March 11, 2014** meeting and **June 24, 2014** meeting were approved. A motion was made by Council member Pellessier and a second was made by Council member Schaffer.

There were no objections heard

The next agenda item to be heard, **LA Trappers & Alligator Hunters Association Report** presented by Ryan Schaeffer

The Louisiana fur industry is a vital aspect of Louisiana's coastal economic base and that in recent years worldwide fur markets and prices have been severely depressed creating extreme hardships not only for trappers, but also for coastal landowners, fur buyers, and fur dealers.

The Legislature of Louisiana established the Louisiana Fur Public Education and Marketing Fund having recognized world trends questioning the consumptive utilization of wildlife species, recognizing that these trends and economic conditions can have a severe impact on the fur industry and the need to educate the public concerning fur trapping as sound wildlife management practice and recognizing that there is no cohesive, coordinated, and comprehensive effort to educate the public concerning the Louisiana fur industry.

The Specific goals are to:

Educate the public regarding the need for trapping as a sound wildlife management tool and regarding the logic of managing furbearing species as renewable resources

To identify the current consumers of Louisiana furs

To identify present and potential Louisiana fur marketing problems, obstacles, and related significant issues

To strengthen existing markets and develop new markets and marketing strategies for raw and finished Louisiana fur products

To develop and implement an international advertising campaign to promote the utilization of raw and finished Louisiana fur products

To examine, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning any aspect of the fur industry including habitat management, harvest, and marketing which will enhance the future of the industry and perpetuate the conservation of these species

Trapping is going through huge generational gaps in part due to the decline of fur prices in the 1980's.

Bayou Nutria Campaign –

A total of 388,264 nutria tails worth \$1,941,320 in incentive payments were collected. Only 10,000 of the pelts actually made it to market receiving only \$2.00 per pelt.

During the past year the Louisiana Fur Advisory Council (LFAC) continued to hold its primary marketing focus on mainland China while widening the scope to include Russia, Ukraine and Turkey.

The Council participated in the Beijing Fur Fair in January 2014 which developed relationships with new Chinese and Russian buyers.

The Chinese market is stable and the markets for finished products in Russia and Ukraine are beginning to grow.

The next agenda item to be heard, **To Hear Enforcement Division Report** presented by Captain Chad Hebert

There were Twelve (12) boating accidents reported, Nine (9) injuries and Zero (0) Fatalities. There were 839 total cases for the month of September with 541 Written Warnings issued and 39 Public Assistance.

Three (3) News releases were discussed

***(1) LDWF Agents Issue 55 Citations for Hunting Over Bait During Opening Weekend of Dove Season***

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents issued 101 dove hunting related citations during the opening weekend of dove season on Sept. 6 and 7 statewide.

Of the 101 total citations, 55 were for hunting doves over a baited area. Most of the other charges were for hunting with an unplugged gun, hunting without a basic hunting license, placing bait, hunting from a moving vehicle, and taking non-game birds.

A large portion of the hunting doves over a baited area took place in Franklin Parish where agents found 28 people hunting over bait. Other places that agents found numerous people hunting over bait included Avoyelles Parish with five people, Tensas Parish with four people, Claiborne with four people, Washington Parish with four people, Beauregard Parish with two people, Rapides Parish with two people and St. John Parish with two people.

Agents also seized over 300 doves associated with the citations.

Dove season began on Sept. 6 with a daily bag limit of 15 doves and possession limit of 45 doves. However, there is no bag limit on Eurasian collared-doves or ringed turtle-doves provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass of the bird. Fully dressed Eurasian-collared doves and ringed-turtle doves (those without a fully feathered wing and head naturally attached to the carcass) shall be included in the aggregate bag.

Hunting over a baited field for doves, placing bait, and taking non-game birds each brings a state penalty of \$400 to \$950 in fines and up to 120 days in jail. Hunting with unplugged guns and from a moving vehicle each brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Hunting without a basic hunting license brings up to a \$50 fine and 15 days in jail.

## ***(2) Many Resident Pleads Guilty To Possessing A Firearm, Ammunition After Being Convicted Of Felonies***

A Many man pleaded guilty on Sept. 26 to possessing a shotgun and ammunition after being convicted of multiple felonies, U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Jerry Kenneth Thompson Jr., 44, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote to one count of possessing a firearm and ammunition after a felony conviction. According to evidence presented at the guilty plea, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) agents discovered Thompson on Dec. 31, 2013 in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition while hunting on private property without permission and using a stolen deer stand. Thompson admitted to LDWF agents that he had prior felony convictions and knew he could not possess a firearm.

Further investigation confirmed that Thompson had seven felony convictions in California. The felony convictions include: two convictions for grand theft, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, second degree burglary of a vehicle, possession with intent to sell a controlled substance with a gang affiliation enhancement, transportation of a controlled substance, and possession for sale of cocaine base. Thompson also had a prior felony conviction in Sabine Parish for simple burglary. Thompson faces up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and forfeiture of the firearm and ammunition. A sentencing date of Jan. 30, 2015 was set.

## ***(3) Two Men Cited For Oyster Violations in Plaquemines Parish***

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited two men for alleged oyster violations in Plaquemines Parish on Sept. 26. Agents cited Matthew J. Lepetich, 37, of Belle Chasse, and Jose M. Bocanegra, 45, of St. Bernard, for violations of the states oyster sanitation code that are intended for raw consumption. Lepetich was also cited for violations of the vessel monitoring systems for oyster cargo vessels, failing to tag oysters properly and failing to maintain the required records for oyster cargo vessels.

The charges stem from agents stopping Lepetich in Bay Adams in Plaquemines Parish without the required Department of Health and Hospitals log sheet filled out. The log sheet is used to indicate what the intended use was for the oysters.

After further investigation, agents learned that Lepetich was receiving oysters from one of his other vessels that were not refrigerated properly and which were intended for raw consumption. The vessel those oysters were received from had no type of refrigeration on board. The oysters harvested by Lepetich himself were also not properly tagged by lot ID's in accordance with Department of Health and Hospitals regulations for raw consumption oysters.

Lastly, Lepetich did not have the required vessel monitoring system on his vessel as required by oyster cargo vessels.

Agents seized 351 sacks of oysters and returned them to the water. Violating the states oyster sanitation code for non-refrigerated oysters for raw consumption, failing to maintain required records for oyster vessels and the vessel monitoring system for oyster cargo vessels each brings a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Failing to tag oysters carries a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Agents participating in the case are Sgt. Adam Young, Senior Agent Joel Crompt, Sgt. Tim Fox, Senior Agent Brett Nabors, Senior Agent Robert Cosse Jr., and Agent Jeff Farmer.

The next agenda item to be heard, **Office of Fisheries: Outreach Section Program Overview** presented by Heather David

**Fisheries Sections:**

Fisheries Extension	Artificial Reef, Hatcheries, Outreach
Fisheries Oversight	Commercial
Fisheries Management	Data Management
Marine Fisheries	Data Collection and Resource Management
Inland Fisheries	Data Collection and Resource Management

**Fisheries Extension Outreach Program**

- Family Fish Fests
- Women's Workshops
- Community Fishing
- Fishing in Schools
- Volunteer Program
- Fish Tagging Program

**Public Events**

- Tournaments
- Boat / Trade Shows
- Festivals
- Special Events

**School Events**

- Fishing Clubs
- Outdoor Clubs
- Special Events (Field Days, Career Days, Science Fairs, Field Trips)

### **Fishing Clinics / Workshops**

- Knot Tying
- Fishing Tackle
- Fishing Tactics
- Casting Instruction
- Fish Identification
- Robbie the Redfish
- Educational Games
- Arts and Crafts
- Mobile Touch Tank
- Mobile Aquarium
- Casting Inflatable

### **Family Fish Fests** (Over 500 participants including 425 youth attended in 2014)

- Fishing Contest
- Touch Tank
- Casting Instruction
- Fish Identification
- Knot Tying
- Fish Tagging
- Age a Fish
- Fish Prints
- Seining
- Cast Netting
- Robbie the Redfish

### **Women's Workshops**

- Women 18+
- One day Workshops
- Hands –On
  - Fishing Skills
  - Rigging Tackle
  - Fish Species
  - Fish Tagging
- Weekend Trip

### **Community Fishing (New in 2014)**

Public water bodies that meet certain specifications, making them suitable community fishing sites, will be chosen by LDWF inland fisheries biologists and stocked on a regular basis for up to one year

Increase the number of people with access to good quality fishing  
Recruit new anglers to the sport of fishing  
Promote outdoor activities for future generations

### **Fishing in Schools (Coming Soon)**

Recruiting new anglers  
Working with Education Staff, Teachers and Students to form Fishing Clubs

### **Sport Fish Restoration Program (Coming Soon)**

**Youth Angler of the Year Essay Contest (Coming Soon)**

The next agenda item to be heard, **Office of Wildlife: 2014-2015 Deer Season Overview** presented by Scott Durham

### **10 Deer Management Areas**

Doe Days – Deer Management Areas 10,7,9,4,5

### **2013-2014 Harvest**

Very Cold Winter

Many sub-freezing days

Low Acorn Crop

Harvest Increases across the board

Reporting System

51,319 (+9.6%)

WMA managed

2,713 (+11.8%)

DMAP

14,956 (+6.5%)

1 deer / 108 acres (+8.2%)

### **Mail Survey Statistics**

Average Hunter kills 0.7 deer  
Average successful hunter kills 1.7 deer  
60% of hunters did not kill a deer  
Highest hunter harvest this year was 26 deer  
Deer hunters spent 3.8 million days afield (+8%)  
Average 16.3 days with modern firearms  
Still hunting 95% of harvest and days

### **Deer Tags Issued**

2008-09	227,001 (first year of mandatory reporting)
2009-10	231,935
2010-11	224,725
2011-12	253,669
2012-13	259,824
2013-14	270,730

### **Wildlife Management Areas**

Manage >1 million acres  
Excellent conditions  
5652 Deer Total Harvest  
+11.5%  
Minimum 1 deer/183 acres  
1 Deer / 9.6 HE average  
1 Deer / 3.0 HE minimum  
1 Deer / 101 HE maximum

### **Big Game Records**

60 Scores  
16 bow, 169 7/8 non-typical  
1 handgun, 145 7/8  
1 muzzleloader, 124 6/8  
3 crossbows, 135  
39 gun, 200 1/8 non-typical, 168 4/8 typical

### **2014-2015 Outlook**

Mostly excellent spring and summer growing season conditions – a critical period  
Period of highest nutritional demand  
3<sup>rd</sup> trimester and lactation – high energy and protein needs  
Increased recruitment likely  
No apparent large scale HD events to date  
Expect a steady or another slight increase in harvest reporting given average or colder weather – System better, education

### **2014-2015 Outlook (continued)**

Believe the decline is over and we have leveled off at a new harvest level that is reflective of the new statewide carrying capacity and general conditions

- Weather variables
- Landscape features
- Forest management
- Development
- Fragmentation

Still going to endure the lag effects of droughts in 2009, 2011, 2012

- Reduced cohorts
- Maternal stress

Fawn mortality factors

- Predation, insects

HD season just getting started

Feral swine populations, disease

### **Feral Swine Harvest Estimate**

66,700 hunters (40,900 last year)

756,200 efforts

183,600 hogs (+14%)

2.8 Per hunter

The next agenda item to be heard, **2014 Youth Hunter of the Year Contest** presented by Lyle Johnson

Two organizations are accepting applications for the 2014 Youth Hunter of the Year competition. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association are encouraging hunters 15 years old or younger to enter the competition.

To be eligible, a person must also be a Louisiana resident, must submit a story about his or her hunting experience with photographs of the hunt, and must fill out the Youth Hunter Registry application on the department's website. The groups will select a male and female youth hunter of the year based upon submitted materials.

The two winners will be recognized at the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Conference this summer and will be awarded with a plaque in addition to a gift certificate from Bowie Outfitters in Baton Rouge.

The deadline to enter is June 30, 2015.

There was no other business discussed

The Council set the **Next Meeting Date** for March 17, 2015

There were no **Public Comments** heard

Lyle Johnson and Teddy Twig **Adjourned** the meeting