

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
REPORT**

**July 09, 2013**

**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**  
**JULY 09 2013**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2013
3. Welcome and Opening Comments, *Woody Crews, Chairman*
4. Enforcement Division Report, *Major Sammy Martin*
5. Legislative Update, *Cole Garrett*
6. Office of Fisheries: Recreational Offshore Landing Permit Update, *Jason Adriance*
7. Office of Fisheries: Sport Fish Restoration Program, *Cara Tyler*
8. Preliminary Waterfowl Hunter Survey Results, *Larry Reynolds*
9. Set Next Meeting Date
10. Receive Public Comments
11. Adjournment

## HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 09, 2013

Chairman Woody Crews presiding

Mike Windham                      Jeff DeBlieux  
Stephen Pellessier                Donald Reed

Council members Warren Singer, Nelson Roth, Mike Rainwater, Alexander Perret, Darul Carpenter, Samuel Smith, Lyle Johnson, and David Rousseau were absent from the meeting. A quorum was NOT present; there were only five (5) members in attendance. Chairman Crews polled all Board members present and there were no objections to having the meeting as a "Committee Meeting".

The following constitutes a brief report of what was heard

The **Minutes of the March 12, 2013** meeting were not approved by the Chairman as there was an absence of a quorum. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting. There were no objections heard

Major Sammy Martin stated, for the agenda item, **To Hear Enforcement Division Report**, the department's planes flew a total of 78.1 aviation hours for the month. There were Twenty-one (21) boating accidents reported with Nineteen (19) injuries and Two (2) fatalities. There were 1,443 total cases for the month of June with 544 Written Warnings issued and 35 Public Assistance. Three (3) news releases were discussed.

First, on June 10, a Ferriday man was arrested and charged on four counts of possession of an alligator during a closed season, possession of crystal meth, possession of drug paraphernalia and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The second News Release from Terrebonne parish stemmed from agents working complaints of subjects taking oysters from the Sister Lake seed ground. Agents arrested six men for taking oysters from an unapproved area in Bayou Sauveur and booked them into the Terrebonne Correctional Facility. The agents were able to seize and return eight sacks of oysters to the water.

The third release cited three Texas men for violating federal reef fish regulations in the Gulf of Mexico. The agents were on a joint enforcement agreement patrol 50 miles south of Grand Isle in the Gulf of Mexico when they observed an 80 foot vessel trawling for shrimp. Agents boarded the vessel and upon inspection located 42 frozen red snapper below the deck inside a large insulated holding box.

The next agenda item, **Legislative Update**, was presented by Cole Garrett, Mr. Garrett highlighted the Legislative Session Bills which affected Wildlife and Fisheries

**Overview of Tracked Bills:**

HB 142 – Crab Trap Ring Exemption

HB 156 – Boards and Commissions

HB 172 – Naming of Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery

HB 236 – Oyster Harvest Violation Penalties

HB 345 – Extension of Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit

HB 376 – Mooring in Atchafalaya Delta WMA

HB 378 – Increase of Charter Boat Fees

HB 426 – Composition of WLF Commission

HB 480 – Moves Seismic Section to Wildlife

HB 503 – Composition of WLF Commission

HB 593 – H.S. Exchange Student Hunting License

HB 719 – Crappie Limits in Toledo Bend and Lake D’Arbonne

SB 58 – Hunters for the Hungry Exemption

SB 84 – Hunters for the Hungry License Donation

SB 128 – Artificial Reef Development Fund

SB 167 – Transfers LSPMB to Lt. Governor

• **Bills Affecting the Entire Department**

• **HB 1 – State’s Operating Budget**

- Allows for the transfer or consolidation of departments within the executive branch
- LDWF was originally exempt, but was reinstated by line-item veto

• **HB 156 – Boards and Commissions**

- Abolishes the Mullet Task Force and the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force

• **HB 426 and 503 – Changes Composition of WLF Commission**

- Constitutional and statutory changes to the composition of the Commission
- Converts two of the current At-Large seats to two “North Louisiana” seats
  - Northern boundary of Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, Avoyelles, and Point Coupee Parishes
- Effective upon a two-thirds vote in the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> state wide election to amend the Constitution
- Current Commissioners will serve out the terms for which they were appointed

- **HB 480 – Moves Seismic Section from Fisheries to Wildlife**
  - Shift in oil and gas exploration and production from coastal zone to inland portions of the state
  - Wildlife handles oil and gas production on LDWF lands and houses Natural Heritage Section
  - **SB 84 – Hunters for the Hungry Donation Checkoff on LDWF Licenses**
  - Effective June 1, 2014
  - Disbursed quarterly – allows for 10 % administrative fees
  
- **Wildlife Related Bills**
- **HB 376 – Atchafalaya Delta WMA Mooring Program**
  - Authorizes LDWF to establish the ADWMA Vessel Mooring Program
  - 40% premium sites available by bid, 60% available through lottery system
  - Lottery: \$300 for two pilings, \$500 for three or more pilings
  - Minimum bid for premium is 110% of established lottery prices
- **HB 593 –Hunting Licenses for H.S. Exchange Students**
  - Non-resident students enrolled in a Louisiana high school may purchase hunting licenses for the same cost as a resident
- **SB 58 – Donation of Game Meat to Charity**
  - Allows for charitable organizations like Hunters for the Hungry to receive and use wild game and fish for food or meal distribution
  
- **Fisheries Related Bills**
- **HB 142 – Crab Trap Escape Ring Exemption**
  - Exempts crab traps that are constructed of mesh greater than or equal to two and five-sixteenths inches from the requirement for escape rings.
- **HB 172 – Names the Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery**
  - Names the Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery after late WLF Commissioner Mike Voisin
- **HB 236 – Increases Penalties for Oyster Harvest Violations**
  - Increases penalties for theft of oysters from closed public grounds
    - From a Class 2 (\$150-\$350) to a Class 6 (\$950)
  - Increases penalties for harvesting oysters in DHH closures
    - From a Class 4 (\$400-\$950) to a Class 6 (\$950)
  - Increases fines for refrigeration requirements of the Sanitary Code
    - From a \$25 fine to a Class 4 (\$400-\$950) – No confiscation of equipment
  - Requires mandatory community service (including litter abatement), suspension of licenses and mandatory vessel monitoring systems for violators.
  - **HB 345 – Extends Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit**
  - Extends sunset date from Nov. 15, 2013 to 2016
    - **HB 378 – Increases Charter Boat Fees**
  - Increases the charter passenger fishing trip license from \$5 to \$10

- Increases non-resident charter guide license from \$1000 to \$1500
    - Louisiana Charter Boat Association to expend the additional monies for promotion
  - **HB 719 – Crappie Daily Possession and Creel Limits**
  - Raises the daily possession limit for crappie on Toledo Bend from 50 to 100.
    - Daily creel limit remains at 25 and consistent with Texas
  - Sets the daily creel limit for crappie on Lake D’Arbonne at 50
    - Removes WLF Commission’s ability to alter by regulation or rule
  - Prohibits possession of filleted fish while aboard a vessel on the water
    - Provides an exception for consumption on a vessel
    - **SB 128 – Artificial Reef Development Fund**
  - Constitutional amendment to ensure funds will be used for the expressed purpose
  - Effective December 25, 2014 contingent upon a two-thirds vote in the state wide election on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014
  - **SB 167 – Transfers the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board**
  - Moves LSPMB to Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism under the Lt. Governor’s Office
  - LDWF retains control over the shrimp, oyster and crab task forces and their budgets
- **Resolutions**
  - **HCR 64** – Expresses the support of the Legislature for the “Oyster Voisin” campaign by the LSPMB
  - **HCR 68** – Requests the continued examination of Bayou Teche as a scenic river
  - **HCR 120** – Memorializes congress to study early mortality syndrome in Asian shrimp stocks and take appropriate action to protect the Louisiana shrimp industry.
  - **HCR 159** – Requests the department to study the methods of controlling and eradicating invasive aquatic plants and to report recommendations of the most cost effective methods to the HNREC.
  - **SCR 82** – Urges LDWF to perform a study determining how local entities can regulate air boat noise pollution
  - **SCR 126** – Commends Col. Winton Vidrine on his retirement from LDWF
  - **Bills That Failed to Pass**
  - **HB 32** – Would have dedicated 10% of mineral revenues, not to exceed \$100K, generated on state water bottoms of False River to manage aquatic plants on the lake.
  - **HB 215** – Would have prohibited the take of deer and outlaw quadrupeds from a vessel.
  - **HB 245** – Would have provided for the issuance of non-resident hunting and fishing license fees at the same cost as resident licenses.

- **HB 413** – Would have dedicated 10% of mineral revenues, not to exceed \$100K, generated on state waterbottoms of Lake Bistineau for operations, management, and improvements to the lake.
- **HB 502** – Would have allowed for night hunting of nuisance animals year-round on private property
- **SB 184** – Would have established the LSPMB as an autonomous board under LDWF.
- **SB 211**– Would have established the Beginning Farmer and Fisherman Income Tax Credit Program

The next item, Office of Fisheries: **Recreational Offshore Landing Permit Update** was provided by Mr. Jason Adriance. Mr. Adriance presented a PowerPoint presentation with the “Proposed” changes: Any person possessing any one of the following fish species or species groups on board a vessel taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters shall be required to have obtained and have in their immediate possession a recreational offshore landing permit. The recreational offshore landing permit shall be available for inspection by a duly authorized agent of the department:

1. highly migratory species:
  - a. tunas—bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, blackfin;
  - b. billfish—blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish and longbill spearfish;
  - c. swordfish
2. reef fish species:
  - a. any species of snapper;
  - b. any species of amberjack;
  - c. any species of grouper or hind.
3. Pelagics:
  - a. any species of dolphinfish
  - b. cobia
  - c. wahoo

Permits may be obtained at no cost, from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or authorized method, by persons who hold any valid license authorizing the taking and possessing of saltwater species of fish. Permits shall be valid for the same duration as the license authorizing saltwater fishing privileges. For those licenses that do not have to be renewed every year, the permit shall be valid for one year from the date it was obtained. There were no questions or comments heard

The next item, Office of Fisheries: **Sport Fish Restoration Program Update** was provided by Cara Tyler. Ms. Tyler presented a PowerPoint presentation with the following highlights:

The Sport Fish Restoration Program was created in 1950, when Congress enacted the Sport Fish Restoration Act. U.S. Representative John Dingell, Sr., of Michigan and Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado sponsored the act. The law, known as the "Dingell-



Johnson Act," applied a 10-percent manufacturer's excise tax on fishing rods, creels, lures, and flies. Tax revenues are transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which in turn distributes them to the states for recreational sport fishing projects. States receive a proportional share based on the amount of land and water area in the state (40%) and the number of paid recreational fishing license holders (60%).

In 1984, Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and Representative John Breaux of Louisiana sponsored the Wallop-Breaux Amendment to the SFR Act, extending the tax to tackle boxes, sonar fish finders, motorboat fuels, electric motors, and other equipment not included in earlier laws. The Wallop-Breaux Amendment requires spending 15 percent of all restoration money on boating access to public waters and requires Florida and other coastal states to fund marine recreational fisheries projects proportionate to the ratio of resident freshwater to saltwater anglers. A discussion took place amongst those present.

Chairman Crews announced the next item, **To Hear Preliminary Results of the 2013 Louisiana Waterfowl Hunter Survey**, to be handled by Larry Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds provided the group a PowerPoint Presentation of the results, which follows.

### **Survey Objectives**

- Assess satisfaction with new waterfowl zones
- Obtain preferences for season dates and splits
- Estimate hunter effort, harvest and satisfaction relative to past surveys
- Increase opportunity for public engagement and feedback
- Evaluate new research survey methods

### **Survey Methods**

#### **Three Survey Formats**

- Announcement Postcard and Paper survey mailed twice to a random sample of 2,500 HIP registered hunters (Random Mail Survey)
- Postcard Invitation to take survey online mailed twice to a random sample of 2,500 HIP registered hunters (Internet Panel Survey)
- A web survey hosted on the LDWF website and publicized via press release, email announcements, waterfowl website postings for anyone to respond (Open Web Survey)

Mr. Reynolds went over the General Costs for survey development, analytical software licenses, research facility, etc, and followed with the actual survey responses and response rates for each method.

### **Season Date Summary**

- All survey methods in all zones preferred the latest possible option

- 5 day split was only favored where it did not force an earlier closing date
- Earlier season dates more favored by Open Web survey in West and Coastal Zones
- Because of late Thanksgiving, preferred opening dates correspond to traditional openers

#### **Preliminary Conclusions on Surveys**

- Random Mail And Open Web Surveys give similar answers for satisfaction and attitude questions
- Differences in Open Web Survey for early season date options may have resulted from rallying votes.
- Low response rates increase already high relative cost of mail out survey methods very low for internet panel contact
- Few respondents chose anonymity for prize drawings showing potential for future random surveys from an e-mail database

#### **Considerations for August**

- Hunter-opinion data favor later hunting seasons than traditional in all zones.
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- Delta Waterfowl's Duck Migration Study: Bruce Davis' work showed median harvest date is 3 days (teal) to 12 days (ring-necks) later over a 50-year period, but still in mid-December.
- Harvest data summary favor earlier hunting season date
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- Harvest data summary favors earlier hunting season dates.
- Bag-check data from coastal WMAs show fewer hunters and lower hunting success in late vs early season
- Past hunter satisfaction was high with traditional dates.
- Not all options were considered on survey

The Council set the **Next Meeting Date** for October 29, 2013

There were no **Public Comments** heard

Chairman Crews **Adjourned** the meeting