LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2018

Robert J. Samanie, III
Chairman

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting

and are not verbatim transcripts 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) 763-5775

AGENDA
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

March 1, 2018 – 9:30 AM

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Adoption of February 1, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

5. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege

6. Enforcement Report February 2018

7. Presentation of the Award for the Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Agent of the Year

8. Consider a Resolution Regarding Transfer of Property from Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area

9. Receive an update on Public Comment relative to the 2018-19 and 2019-20 hunting seasons, 2018-19 general and WMA hunting seasons and rules and regulations, 2019 general and WMA turkey hunting season and rules and regulations, and 2018-19 migratory bird hunting season and rules and regulations

10. Receive an update on Discovery of CWD in Mississippi and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Cease Supplemental Feeding of Deer in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes

11. Receive an update on Public Comment Relative to the Feral Hog Transport Rule

12. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line

13. Receive and consider the Public Comments Report on the Notice of Intent for the Addition of Sterlet Sturgeon to the Domestic Aquatic Organism (DAO) List for Final Rulemaking

14. Receive a Presentation and Consider a Declaration of Emergency Setting the 2018 Opening Date for Bait Menhaden

15. Gulf Council Update

16. Set July 2018 Commission Meeting Date

17. Receive Public Comments

18. Reconsider Declaration of Emergency to Cease Supplemental Feeding of Deer in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes

19. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 1, 2018

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on March 1, 2018, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Louisiana Room by **Chairman Samanie**.

Commissioner Hogan led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Chairman Samanie asked for the **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Bobby Samanie
Al Sunseri
Chad Courville
Bill Hogan
Joe McPherson
Bart Yakupzack

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

Commissioner Jerri Smitko was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Samanie called for **Adoption of February 1, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to adopt the February 1, 2018 minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Yakupzack**. The motion passed with no opposition.

For **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, **Chairman Samanie** thanked everyone for the condolences and well wishes on the recent loss of his father.

Captain Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for February 2018** stating for the month there were 4 boating incidents with 2 injuries and 1 fatality. Also in February, there were 789 written citations, 267 written warnings and 24 public assists. News releases discussed included citing a man in Caddo Parish for hunting violations and criminal trespassing; a St. Bernard man was arrested for resisting an officer and also commercial fishing violations; and 3 residents were cited in Plaquemines Parish for over possession of red drum and black drum.

Captain Edward Skena also handled the **Presentation of the Award for the Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Agent of the Year**. Captain Skena stated every year each region selects one agent as their Agent of the Year and were recognized at the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association Conference. The Agent of the Year was nominated for several awards including the

Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year. For 2017, Senior Agent Tyler Wheeler was selected as the statewide Agent of the Year. Senior Agent was shot four times while on duty on January 7, 2017 and these injuries took several surgeries and months of rehabilitation to recover from. Captain Skena then read a letter from Shikar Safari to Agent Wheeler. **Chairman Samanie** commented that the Commission has respect for Agent Wheeler and was very proud of him.

Chairman Samanie then asked Mr. Alvin Landry to present the next agenda item, **Consider a Resolution Regarding Transfer of Property from Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area**. Mr. Landry stated the action was to approve the transfer of the Rathborne tract from the Maurepas Swamp WMA to the Joyce WMA. The property, which was about 11,000 acres including waterbottoms, was located adjacent to the boundaries of Joyce WMA and had more in common geographically with Joyce WMA. The addition of this property to Joyce WMA will give a total of over 38,000 acres of wetland habitat located in both Livingston and Tangipahoa Parishes. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to accept the Resolution, seconded by **Commissioner Courville** and passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record. The Property Description and Map are included in the Appendices.)

RESOLUTION

Transfer of Property from Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
March 1, 2018

WHEREAS, certain Property, described in Exhibit A, and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", is currently a part of the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, which was established by Resolution of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission on August 8, 2001, and by Proclamation of the Governor, dated September 5, 2002, and

WHEREAS, this Property, though historically part of Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, would be managed more efficiently as a part of Joyce Wildlife Management Area due to its proximity and attributes.

WHEREAS, Joyce Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated February 15, 1985, and re-affirmed, by Resolution of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission on April 1, 2004, and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the described Property be hereby transferred from the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission selects all State-owned lands and leased lands, including water bottoms, currently located within the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, as described in "Exhibit A", and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", and all adjacent State-owned water bottoms, and hereby include them in the Joyce Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 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 all leased lands and State-owned lands described in "Exhibit A," comprised of 11,145 acres, more or less, as a wildlife management area, so that all land including water bottoms described in "Exhibit A" hereto, and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", including water bottoms, are hereby included in the Joyce 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, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

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

Robert J. Samanie, III, Chairman Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission	Jack Montoucet, Secretary Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Chairman Samanie then announced the next agenda item, **Receive an update on Public Comment relative to the 2018-19 and 2019-20 hunting seasons, 2018-19 general and WMA hunting seasons and rules and regulations, 2019 general and WMA turkey hunting season and rules and regulations, and 2018-19 migratory bird hunting season and rules and regulations** would be presented by Mr. Tommy Tuma. Mr. Tuma talked about the public comments he has received through emails, telephone calls and the 1 letter. Then he noted the Department has held 5 public hearings thus far with 50 attendees, 25 comments but 6 were related to the proposed changes. In summary, Mr. Tuma has received 102 comments, 63 emails, 3 letters, 2 calls and 50 attendees. The final public hearing was to be held that evening in Monroe which allowed public comments to be accepted until 9:00 p.m. (A copy of Mr. Tuma's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Courville stated he attended a public hearing and wanted to compliment the staff on their professionalism and the outstanding job of representing the Department and Commission. He was disappointed by the number of attendees and suggested consolidating the meeting locations in future years.

Mr. Curt Hymel, Independence, Louisiana, commented on the season change for Yancey WMA. He asked that the primitive weapon season be moved up or back one week to accommodate those hunters that work shift work. Mr. Tuma commented he would look into the request and see if it was an opportunity that would work. Mr. Hymel added that he was in favor of cutting back on the primitive firearm season on Yancey WMA.

Next, Mr. Johnathan Bordelon gave the presentation to **Receive an update on Discovery of CWD in Mississippi and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Cease Supplemental Feeding of Deer in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes**. Mr. Bordelon explained that the presentation would be on the deer discovered in Mississippi and Louisiana's response. A map showed that the Mississippi County where the deer was found was 5 miles from the Mississippi River. A 25-mile area would be used as a buffer zone to test animals to determine whether CWD was present. The state of Mississippi was notified of the dead deer on January 25, 2018 and after samples were submitted they were notified on February 9, 2018 that the deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Mississippi's Response Plan took action to prohibit supplemental feeding in 6 counties and targeted 64 deer within a 5-mile zone. An additional 300 deer within the 25-mile buffer zone will also be tested. Mr. Bordelon added that Louisiana also implemented its Response Plan and will also cull 300 deer within that 25-mile buffer zone to be tested. The next phase of the Plan will be collecting of hunter harvested samples preceding the season from cooperating landowners. These landowners will receive updates on the results. Then Mr. Bordelon asked the Commission to consider a Declaration of Emergency that would suspend supplemental feeding in the parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes. (A copy of Mr. Bordelon's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Courville asked Mr. Bordelon to expand on what may happen in the event a CWD deer has been detected. Mr. Bordelon explained that they move the buffer zone to include a larger area and take samples to determine the extent of the infection. He then noted that the buffer zone was the areas to be sampled but the surveillance zone was the parish boundaries for the 3 parishes. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the Department has reached out to the landowners and have they already agreed to be cooperators. Mr. Bordelon answered they have contacted landowners and provided them with a letter asking for access to their lands along with a CWD fact sheet but noted some landowners have reached out to the Department. Then **Commissioner McPherson** asked how quickly would the sampling start. Mr. Bordelon stated that one of the tactics to be employed was to bury the deer on-site so the disease does not spread and he noted this safety measure and others needed to be worked out. **Commissioner McPherson** asked what has been the progression and spread of CWD in other states with the disease. Mr. Bordelon felt it depended upon when the disease was found, early detection was very important. When the prevalence of CWD was low, the spread of the disease can be slow due to the action of preventive measures. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked if the proposed Declaration of Emergency passed, would the landowners have to go out and remove the bait and

Mr. Bordelon stated that was what they were asking for but an exception would be to allow the placement of bait in a hog trap. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if landowners would have to remove salt licks that over time have gone into the ground to which Mr. Bordelon stated they would ask a landowner to remove anything that was physically present. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if there has been a distinguishing factor in the different types of hog traps with free ingress and egress. Mr. Bordelon commented the type of hog trap was not specified in the Declaration of Emergency. Dr. Jim LaCour added that one of the best management practices would be to recommend using bait sources less attractive to deer, such as fermented corn, application of diesel or WD-40 around the gates. **Commissioner McPherson** suggested the best management practice of allowing fermented corn or other such items less attractive to deer should be included in the proposal. Hearing no further comments, **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to move forward with the Declaration of Emergency and it was seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri**. The motion passed with no opposition.

The approved Declaration of Emergency was reconsidered before adjournment and the full text of the new DE follows that discussion.

Then **Chairman Samanie** announced the next agenda item, **Receive an update on Public Comment Relative to the Feral Hog Transport Rule**, would be given by Dr. Jim LaCour. Dr. LaCour stated he has received 23 comments in favor of the Notice of Intent and 23 comments against. It was noted that in the unfavorable comments, these individuals were not aware of the already existing Department of Agriculture and Forestry prohibition on transporting feral hogs without a permit and license to have a hog pen on their property. Dr. LaCour replied to each of those individuals with information on the Department of Agriculture and Forestry's regulations and application forms.

Commissioner Courville was confused after going on the Department of Agriculture and Forestry's website and asked Dr. LaCour to clarify what was needed to have an approved pen. Dr. LaCour stated an application needed to be filled out, including the address of the pen, stating whether an individual want to be a swine holding facility or quarantine feed lot, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry inspects the pens to make sure it was hog proof and then a permit was issued free of charge. **Commissioner Courville** felt the comments received could be addressed with fairly reasonable expectations. Dr. LaCour agreed stating that there was a fairly simple and legal method to transport and hold feral hogs and they would not be affected by the Department's proposed rule.

Mr. Peyton Cagle presented the next item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line**. Mr. Cagle began stating that since 1932, U.S. Geological Survey indicated there has been 4,833 square kilometers of coastal land loss but the rate of land change has decreased since a peak in the 1970's and has further decreased since 2010. Also, it has been noted there have been 57 tropical storms and hurricanes to affect the Louisiana coast between 1930 and 2010. The shrimp inside/outside line was first established in Act 50 of the 1932 Legislative Session and has been amended 24 times. Legislation authorized the Commission to amend the line through the APA process. The changes in the proposed rule are based on 2015 satellite imagery which increases the outside waters by 61,000 acres. Mr. Cagle then talked about the Department's outreach and public comments on this proposed rule. Maps

of the coast showed the differences in the existing line compared to the proposed line. (A copy of Mr. Cagle's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chairman Samanie asked if the proposed line would be clean for enforcement purposes and Col. Sammy Martin felt it would make it easier to enforce and should be able to amend easier as erosion occurs. **Chairman Samanie** then asked if the information would be available on thumb drives for the fishermen. Mr. Cagle stated the Department was currently working on files for Lowrance and Garmin units. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to support the Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Hogan** and passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Defining Inside and Outside Waters (LAC 76:VII.370)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:495(E) that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, on March 1, 2018, promulgates a rule to amend the line of demarcation defining inside and outside waters previously established in R.S. 56:495. Act 294 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session authorizes the Commission to amend the line through the Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed changes will address the current state of the inside/outside shrimp line due to land loss from storm surge, erosion, and other environmental factors.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§370. Defining Inside and Outside Waters

A. The line of demarcation listed in Subsection B, separating inside and outside state waters, shall become effective September 1, 2018.

B. Solely for the purpose of this Subsection, the shrimping waters of the state are divided into two classes, inside and outside waters. The line of demarcation of the classes of water shall commence at the coastal boundary between Texas and Louisiana and terminate at the coastal

boundary between Mississippi and Louisiana and is more particularly described as follows, to wit:

1. (1) Beginning at a point on the state line between Texas and Louisiana from "Texas Point", approximately located at latitude 29 degrees 41 minutes 04.95120 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 50 minutes 09.44039 seconds west.

2. (2) Thence northeasterly approx. 2,344 feet to the southeast point of land of the Sabine Pass known as "Louisiana Point", latitude 29 degrees 41 minutes 27.25554 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 50 minutes 02.11628 seconds west.

3. (3) Thence in an easterly direction along the shoreline to the west point of land of Calcasieu Pass, latitude 29 degrees 45 minutes 41.45070 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 20 minutes 44.39036 seconds west.

4. (4) Thence in a northerly direction along the west bank of the Calcasieu Ship Channel to a northwest point of land, latitude 29 degrees 48 minutes 06.32085 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 20 minutes 55.34353 seconds west.

5. (5) Thence southeasterly approximately 1,193 feet to a northeast point of land on the east side of Calcasieu Ship Channel, latitude 29 degrees 48 minutes 05.18206 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 20 minutes 41.86770 seconds west.

6. (6) Thence in a southerly direction along the east bank of the Calcasieu River to the east point of land of Calcasieu Pass, latitude 29 degrees 45 minutes 43.19858 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 20 minutes 32.62863 seconds west.

7. (7) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of land at the mouth of the Mermentau Ship Channel, latitude 29 degrees 43 minutes 46.30700 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 00 minutes 41.06756 seconds west.

8. (8) Thence easterly approximately 832 feet to the east point of land at the mouth of the Mermentau Ship Channel, latitude 29 degrees 43 minutes 46.29737 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 00 minutes 31.63360 seconds west.

9. (9) Thence in an southerly direction along the shore to the south point of land at the mouth of the Mermentau Ship Channel, latitude 29 degrees 43 minutes 25.60948 seconds north, longitude 93 degrees 00 minutes 30.26638 seconds west.

10. (10) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of Joseph Harbor Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 38 minutes 08.37189 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 46 minutes 03.00163 seconds west.

11. (11) Thence northeasterly approximately 706 feet to a point of land on the east side of Joseph Harbor Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 38 minutes 10.47916 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 45 minutes 55.37332 seconds west.

12. (12) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of land on Big Constance Lake, latitude 29 degrees 35 minutes 36.72869 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 38 minutes 30.82610 seconds west.

13. (13) Thence southeasterly approximately 6,026 feet to a point of land on the east side of Big Constance Lake, latitude 29 degrees 35 minutes 17.67924 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 37 minutes 26.14821 seconds west.

14. (14) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of land on Flat Lake, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 49.57153 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 34 minutes 25.11975 seconds west.

15. (15) Thence southeasterly approximately 1,322 feet to the west point of land on the Island in Flat Lake, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 42.88204 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 34 minutes 12.25707 seconds west.

16. (16) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the east point of land on the Island in Flat Lake, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 41.14071 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 34 minutes 06.44475 seconds west.

17. (17) Thence in an easterly direction approximately 3,729 feet to the east point of land on Flat Lake, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 35.11035 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 33 minutes 24.78254 seconds west.

18. (18) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of land on Rollover Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 26.98807 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 32 minutes 13.49527 seconds west.

19. (19) Thence easterly approximately 624 feet to the east point of land on Rollover Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 27.05142 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 32 minutes 06.42546 seconds west.

20. (20) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of the mouth of Freshwater Bayou Channel, latitude 29 degrees 32 minutes 06.16258 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 18 minutes 41.19677 seconds west.

21. (21) Thence easterly approximately 2,092 feet to a point of land on the east side of the mouth of Freshwater Bayou Channel, latitude 29 degrees 32 minutes 06.37004 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 18 minutes 17.51635 seconds west.

22. (22) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of Southwest Pass, latitude 29 degrees 35 minutes 14.28597 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 02 minutes 29.00306 seconds west.

23. (23) Thence southeasterly approximately 4,655 feet to Lighthouse Point, the east point of land of Southwest Pass, latitude 29 degrees 34 minutes 38.68472 seconds north, longitude 92 degrees 01 minute 55.52266 seconds west.

24. (24) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the southeast side of Marsh Island, known as "South Point", latitude 29 degrees 29 minutes 25.41005 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 46 minutes 06.44233 seconds west.

25. (25) Thence southeasterly approximately 54,641 feet to a platform in East Cote Blanche Bay known as "Double Stacks", latitude 29 degrees 26 minutes 53.99982 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 36 minutes 13.00008 seconds west.

26. (26) Thence southeasterly approximately 75,100 feet to the Eugene Island Lighthouse and Radio Tower, latitude 29 degrees 22 minutes 19.63544 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 23 minutes 03.82294 seconds west.

27. (27) Thence in a southeasterly direction approximately 19,990 feet to the south point of land on Little Pointe Au Fer Island, latitude 29 degrees 19 minutes 33.01214 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 21 minutes 01.95819 seconds west.

28. (28) Thence southeasterly approximately 6,928 feet to the northwest point of Point au Fer Island, latitude 29 degrees 18 minutes 33.79644 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 20 minutes 22.47380 seconds west.

29. (29) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of Oyster Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 16.94873 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 07 minutes 54.47860 seconds west.

30. (29.1) Thence northwesterly approximately 1,066 feet along the shoreline of Oyster Bayou to a point located at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 25.9932 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 08 minutes 00.582 seconds west.

31. (29.2) Thence northeasterly across Oyster Bayou to a point on the opposite shore located at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 30.5472 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 07 minutes 52.2048 seconds west.

32. (29.3) Thence southeasterly approximately 1,555 feet along the shoreline of Oyster Bayou to a point located at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 16.9104 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 07 minutes 46.0848 seconds west.

33. (30) Thence due south across the sand deposits to a point located at the mouth of Oyster Bayou at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 15.7116 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 07 minutes 46.0848 seconds west.

34. (31) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of Bayou Goreau, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 31.23316 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 05 minutes 08.55272 seconds west.

35. (32) Thence northeasterly approximately 197 feet to a point of land on the east side of Bayou Goreau, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 32.00005 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 05 minutes 06.50709 seconds west.

36. (33) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the northwest side of Caillou Bay, at a pipeline canal, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 02.25687 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 03 minutes 39.91642 seconds west.

37. (34) Thence northeasterly approximately 7,563 feet to the south point of Pelican Island in Terrebonne Parish, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 15.46442 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 02 minutes 15.93298 seconds west.

38. (35) Thence northeasterly approximately 3,508 feet to the east point of Pelican Pass in Terrebonne Parish, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 17.43943 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 01 minute 36.41672 seconds west.

39. (36) Thence southeasterly approximately 3,845 feet to the west point of the mouth of Jack Stout Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 45.91373 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 01 minute 12.11677 seconds west.

40. (37) Thence southeasterly approximately 3,213 feet to the east point of the mouth of Jack Stout Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 34.77304 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 00 minutes 38.17378 seconds west.

41. (38) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to a point of land on the west side of the mouth of Bayou Charbon, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 26.60339 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 00 minutes 08.78997 seconds west.

42. (39) Thence southeasterly approximately 603 feet to the east point of the mouth of Bayou Charbon, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 24.09051 seconds north, longitude 91 degrees 00 minutes 02.61837 seconds west.

43. (40) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Little Jack Stout Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 30.53538 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 59 minutes 35.80642 seconds west.

44. (41) Thence northeasterly approximately 743 feet to the east point of Little Jack Stout Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 33.06175 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 59 minutes 27.94047 seconds west.

45. (42) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Grand Bayou Du Large Washout, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 46.71793 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 58 minutes 06.59105 seconds west.

46. (43) Thence northeasterly approximately 1,785 feet to the east point of Grand Bayou Du Large Washout, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 55.66835 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 57 minutes 49.23370 seconds west.

47. (44) Thence northeasterly approximately 2,998 feet to the east point of mouth of Grand Bayou Du Large, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 01.64086 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 57 minutes 16.10137 seconds west.

48. (45) Thence southeasterly approximately 1,136 feet to the south point of mouth of Fish Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 52.78854 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 57 minutes 08.20611 seconds west.

49. (46) Thence in a southerly direction along the shore to the west point of Bayou Grand Caillou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 36.20213 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 56 minutes 57.11505 seconds west.

50. (47) Thence southeasterly approximately 4,432 feet to the east point of Bayou Grand Caillou, latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 14.05594 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 56 minutes 13.95794 seconds west.

51. (48) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the mouth of Turtle Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 09 minutes 39.77048 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 55 minutes 51.45370 seconds west.

52. (49) Thence southerly approximately 765 feet to the south point of the mouth of Turtle Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 09 minutes 32.21916 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 55 minutes 52.04575 seconds west.

53. (50) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the mouth of Bayou de l'Ouest, latitude 29 degrees 08 minutes 49.13785 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 54 minutes 50.25877 seconds west.

54. (51) Thence southeasterly approximately 6,446 feet to the south point of the mouth of Bayou de l'Ouest, latitude 29 degrees 08 minutes 02.57616 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 54 minutes 00.55764 seconds west.

55. (52) Thence southeasterly approximately 5,766 feet to the west point of Pass Des Ilettes, latitude 29 degrees 07 minutes 20.21771 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 53 minutes 16.98295 seconds west.

56. (53) Thence southeasterly approximately 7,183 feet to the east point of Pass Des Ilettes, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 23.54239 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 52 minutes 28.08108 seconds west.

57. (54) Thence southeasterly approximately 3,538 feet to the west point of Wilson Pass, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 52.96424 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 52 minutes 08.63735 seconds west.

58. (55) Thence southeasterly approximately 10,190 feet to the east point of Wilson Pass, latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 28.82542 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 51 minutes 05.28173 seconds west.

59. (56) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of Caillou Boca Pass, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 58.53867 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 50 minutes 08.56325 seconds west.

60. (57) Thence southwesterly approximately 5,368 feet to the south point of Caillou Boca Pass, near a navigational light, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 08.15855 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 50 minutes 27.81820 seconds west.

61. (58) Thence in a southerly direction along the shore to a point on the southwest shore of Whiskey Island, latitude 29 degrees 02 minutes 50.74165 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 50 minutes 33.50103 seconds west.

62. (59) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Whiskey Pass, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 22.40555 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 48 minutes 24.25731 seconds west.

63. (60) Thence easterly approximately 12,891 feet to the east point of Whiskey Pass, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 10.14362 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 45 minutes 59.69472 seconds west.

64. (61) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Wine Island Pass, latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 22.79842 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 39 minutes 13.91593 seconds west.

65. (62) Thence northeasterly approximately 16,409 feet to the most easterly point of the Wine Island rock jetties, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 37.99824 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 36 minutes 30.00008 seconds west.

66. (63) Thence southeasterly approximately 19,851 feet to the west point of Timbalier Island, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 20.37941 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 32 minutes 47.17387 seconds west.

67. (64) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the west point of Little Pass Timbalier, latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 04.21174 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 26 minutes 36.84970 seconds west.

68. (65) Thence easterly approximately 35,929 feet to the west point of land on East Timbalier Island, latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 02.46147 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 19 minutes 52.00898 seconds west.

69. (66) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of "Penrod Slip", latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 29.18578 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 18 minutes 42.55926 seconds west.

70. (67) Thence northeasterly approximately 17,926 feet to the east point of "Penrod Slip", latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 39.09466 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 15 minutes 36.87269 seconds west.

71. (68) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Belle Pass, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 16.73856 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 13 minutes 38.63916 seconds west.

72. (69) Thence southeasterly approximately 1,388 feet to the east point of Belle Pass, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 10.19903 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 13 minutes 24.88638 seconds west.

73. (70) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the southwest point of Caminada Pass, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 34.92016 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 02 minutes 50.94216 seconds west.

74. (71) Thence in a northerly direction along the northwesterly shoreline of Caminada Pass to the intersection of an underground power line as marked by two platforms in Caminada Pass, which is the northwest point of Caminada Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 22.50230 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 03 minutes 02.70045 seconds west.

75. (72) Thence southeasterly along the underground power line as marked by two platforms in Caminada Pass, approximately 358 feet to the West Power Line Marker of the Caminada Channel, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 21.20418 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 02 minutes 58.93637 seconds west.

76. (73) Thence southeasterly along the underground power line as marked by two platforms in Caminada Pass, approximately 1,478 feet to the East Power Line Marker of the Caminada Channel, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 15.85401 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 02 minutes 43.41687 seconds west.

77. (74) Thence southeasterly approximately 781 feet to the northeast point of Caminada Pass on the northwesterly shoreline of Grand Isle, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 12.25221 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 02 minutes 35.65270 seconds west.

78. (75) Thence in a southerly direction along the shore to the southeast point of Caminada Pass, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 55.73980 seconds north, longitude 90 degrees 02 minutes 28.00430 seconds west.

79. (76) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the south shoreline of Grand Isle to the most northerly point of Grand Isle, the west point of Barataria Pass, latitude 29 degrees 16 minutes 10.92696 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 57 minutes 17.70348 seconds west.

80. (77) Thence northeasterly approximately 1,098 feet to the navigation marker known as the "Green Turn Buoy" in Barataria Pass, latitude 29 degrees 16 minutes 20.98086 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 57 minutes 12.98009 seconds west.

81. (78) Thence easterly approximately 2,411 feet to the east point of Barataria Pass, at Fort Livingston ruins, latitude 29 degrees 16 minutes 21.17236 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 56 minutes 45.75555 seconds west.

82. (79) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the south shoreline of Grand Terre Island to a point of land most northerly, the west point of Pass Abel, latitude 29 degrees 17 minutes 50.66661 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 54 minutes 30.79631 seconds west.

83. (80) Thence northeasterly approximately 6,861 feet to the east point of Pass Abel, latitude 29 degrees 18 minutes 28.77024 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 53 minutes 26.65497 seconds west.

84. (81) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of Quatre Bayou Pass, latitude 29 degrees 18 minutes 47.29679 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 51 minutes 41.26373 seconds west.

85. (82) Thence northeasterly approximately 6,697 feet to the east point of Quatre Bayou Pass, latitude 29 degrees 19 minutes 13.89235 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 50 minutes 31.97201 seconds west.

86. (83) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the west point of the washout below Bay Long, latitude 29 degrees 19 minutes 32.29984 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 49 minutes 34.23242 seconds west.

87. (84) Thence southeasterly approximately 4,682 feet to the east point of the washout below Bay Long, latitude 29 degrees 19 minutes 03.24021 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 48 minutes 53.02463 seconds west.

88. (85) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of the washout below Shell Island Bay, latitude 29 degrees 17 minutes 57.91497 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 39 minutes 37.87864 seconds west.

89. (86) Thence southeasterly approximately 11,734 feet to the east point of the washout below Shell Island Bay, latitude 29 degrees 16 minutes 53.15017 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 37 minutes 47.86759 seconds west.

90. (87) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the southeast point of Lanaux Island, latitude 29 degrees 15 minutes 55.96639 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 36 minutes 28.97569 seconds west.

91. (88) Thence southeasterly approximately 3,044 feet to the northwest point of Pelican Island, in Plaquemines Parish, latitude 29 degrees 15 minutes 28.50701 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 36 minutes 14.82716 seconds west.

92. (89) Thence in a southwesterly direction along the shore to the southwest point of Pelican Island, in Plaquemines Parish, latitude 29 degrees 15 minutes 14.14710 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 36 minutes 24.53604 seconds west.

93. (90) Thence in an easterly direction along the shore to the west point of the pass of Scofield Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 14 minutes 55.60396 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 33 minutes 56.70645 seconds west.

94. (91) Thence east approximately 435 feet to the east point of the pass of Scofield Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 14 minutes 55.53846 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 33 minutes 51.79374 seconds west.

95. (92) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the west point of the washout below Bay Coquette, latitude 29 degrees 14 minutes 05.57842 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 31 minutes 01.38761 seconds west.

96. (93) Thence southeasterly approximately 12,157 feet to the south point of the Sandy Point Island, latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 06.36125 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 29 minutes 01.94537 seconds west.

97. (94) Thence southeasterly approximately 5,134 feet to the north point of Red Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 43.23994 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 10.35788 seconds west.

98. (95) Thence south approximately 954 feet to the south point of Red Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 33.80160 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 10.69614 seconds west.

99. (96) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the southwest point of land south of Red Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 29.20037 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 07.76965 seconds west.

100. (97) Thence approximately 37,800 feet in a southeasterly direction to the radio tower located at latitude 29 degrees 07 minutes 55 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 23 minutes 18 seconds west.

101. (98) Thence approximately 21,300 feet in a southeasterly direction to a manifold platform in the east side of Grand Pass at latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 28 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 20 minutes 26 seconds west.

102. (99) Thence approximately 12,981 feet south to the southwestern point on southern shore of Scott Bay, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 19.55590 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 20 minutes 20.91769 seconds west.

103. (100) Thence in a southeasterly direction along the shore to the northwestern point of the mouth of Outlet W-2, latitude 29 degrees 02 minutes 35.29280 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 21 minutes 08.95367 seconds west.

104. (101) Thence approximately 21,926 feet in a southwesterly direction to latitude 28 degrees 59 minutes 20.865 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 22 minutes 59.314 seconds west.

105. (102) Thence approximately 45,797 feet in a southwesterly direction to a point on the west bank of Southwest Pass, latitude 28 degrees 55 minutes 50 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 25 minutes 00 seconds west.

106. (103) Thence approximately 3,631 feet in a southeasterly direction to a point on the east jetty of Southwest Pass, latitude 28 degrees 55 minutes 40.90119 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 24 minutes 20.47101 seconds west.

107. (104) Thence northeasterly approximately 19,313 feet to the south point of Burrwood Bayou, latitude 28 degrees 57 minutes 56.42504 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 21 minutes 47.16227 seconds west.

108. (105) Thence northeasterly approximately 33,352 feet to a point on the western shore of East Bay, latitude 29 degrees 02 minutes 11.57932 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 17 minutes 48.81506 seconds west.

109. (106) Thence northeasterly approximately 4,862 feet to Cockler Point on the western shore of East Bay, latitude 29 degrees 02 minutes 52.70522 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 17 minutes 20.35614 seconds west.

110. (107) Thence northeasterly approximately 10,163 feet to the mouth of Joseph Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 36 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 15 minutes 37 seconds west.

111. (108) Thence east approximately 14,733 feet to a point of land on the west bank of South Pass in Whale Bay, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 36 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 12 minutes 51 seconds west.

112. (109) Thence in a southeasterly direction to the southeast point of the eastern shore of East Bay, latitude 28 degrees 59 minutes 42.10926 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 19.74294 seconds west.

113. (110) Thence easterly approximately 1,152 feet to the south point of the west levee of South Pass, latitude 28 degrees 59 minutes 43.04560 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 06.81181 seconds west.

114. (111) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the west point of South Pass, latitude 28 degrees 59 minutes 56.51565 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 08 minutes 53.80725 seconds west.

115. (112) Thence northwesterly approximately 2,299 feet to the south point of the east barrier island of South Pass, latitude 29 degrees 00 minutes 17.79651 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 02.97217 seconds west.

116. (113) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to a point on the south side of the east outlet of South Pass, latitude 29 degrees 00 minutes 34.18822 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 05.18348 seconds west.

117. (114) Thence northerly approximately 900 feet to the east point of the east levee of South Pass, latitude 29 degrees 00 minutes 43.09785 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 05.00480 seconds west.

118. (115) Thence northwesterly approximately 14,882 feet to the southeastern point of an island southeast of the mouth of Dennis Pass, latitude 29 degrees 03 minutes 09.64678 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 22.20009 seconds west.

119. (115.1) Thence northeasterly approximately 13,189 feet to mouth of Johnson Pass, latitude 29 degrees 04 minutes 51.333 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 07 minutes 48.981 seconds west.

120. (115.2) Thence northeasterly approximately 5,530 feet to the northern bank of Cognevich Pass, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 42.9432 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 07 minutes 28.2036 seconds west.

121. (115.3) Thence northeasterly approximately 7,345 feet to the eastern shore of the island located between North Shore Bay and Redfish Bay at latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 47.3508 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 06 minutes 49.77 seconds west.

122. (115.4) Thence easterly approximately 8,755 feet to the western bank of Southeast Pass seaward side in Redfish Bay, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 41.562 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 05 minutes 11.292 seconds west.

123. (116) Thence southeasterly approximately 6,621 feet to the southwest point of the west levee of Southeast Pass, latitude 29 degrees 05 minutes 50.61189 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 04 minutes 24.33261 seconds west.

124. (117) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the west point of Southeast Pass, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 06.60266 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 04 minutes 07.22646 seconds west.

125. (118) Thence northeasterly approximately 535 feet to the east point of Southeast Pass, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 09.42871 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 04 minutes 02.12414 seconds west.

126. (119) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the east point of the south levee of Micale Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 21.10356 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 46.47144 seconds west.

127. (120) Thence northeasterly approximately 417 feet to the east point of the north levee of Micale Bayou, latitude 29 degrees 06 minutes 23.71630 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 42.83758 seconds west.

128. (121) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the eastern-most point of land between the Southeast Pass and Northeast Pass, latitude 29 degrees 07 minutes 05.75774 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 17.81742 seconds west.

129. (121.1) Thence northwesterly approximately 2,731 feet to the North bank of Northeast Pass, latitude 29 degrees 07 minutes 31.2708 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 28.0008 seconds west.

130. (121.2) Thence northwesterly approximately 17,591 feet to the mouth of the Bayou just north of the Pipeline Canal that cuts through Jackass Bay to a point on the east side of the island located at latitude 29 degrees 08 minutes 43.2276 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 06 minutes 28.6272 seconds west.

131. (121.3) Thence northeasterly approximately 9,262 feet to the southern bank of Jackson Bayou located at latitude 29 degrees 09 minutes 56.934 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 05 minutes 26.4948 seconds west.

132. (121.4) Thence northeasterly approximately 9,034 feet to the southern bank of the island located at the mouth of Straight Bayou at latitude 29 degrees 10 minutes 30.8424 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 52.2036 seconds west.

133. (122) Thence northeasterly approximately 14,852 feet to the east point of the south levee of North Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 13.91839 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 01 minute 52.71454 seconds west.

134. (123) Thence northwesterly approximately 1,721 feet to the east point of the north levee of North Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 30.51489 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 01 minute 57.09847 seconds west.

135. (124) Thence in a northwesterly direction along the shore to the north point of the north levee of North Pass, latitude 29 degrees 12 minutes 35.55832 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 02 minutes 00.61988 seconds west.

136. (125) Thence southwesterly approximately 24,349 feet to the northeast point of land in Customhouse Bay, latitude 29 degrees 11 minutes 45.47006 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 06 minutes 29.35285 seconds west.

137. (125.1) Thence northwesterly approximately 11,715 feet to a point located in Bucket Bend at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 09.1848 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 08 minutes 00.8448 seconds west.

138. (125.2) Thence northwesterly approximately 6,283 feet to a point located in the southern part of Dead Women Bend near the exit location of Twentyseven Pass at latitude 29 degrees 13 minutes 41.0736 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 09 minutes 01.728 seconds west.

139. (125.3) Thence northeasterly approximately 9,300 feet to a point located at the southern bank of Dead Woman Pass at latitude 29 degrees 14 minutes 46.2984 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 07 minutes 47.6472 seconds west.

140. (126) Thence northwesterly approximately 752 feet to the north bank of Dead Woman Pass, latitude 29 degrees 14 minutes 53.7252 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 07 minutes 48.2736 seconds west.

141. (127) Thence northwesterly approximately 13,460 feet to the northeast point of Timber Island by Bienvenue Pass, latitude 29 degrees 17 minutes 02.66053 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 08 minutes 26.62523 seconds west.

142. (128) Thence northwesterly approximately 24,047 feet to the northeast point of the island in the mouth of Main Pass, latitude 29 degrees 20 minutes 15.94786 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 11 minutes 05.17729 seconds west.

143. (129) Thence northwesterly approximately 5,018 feet to the north point of the west levee of Main Pass, latitude 29 degrees 20 minutes 29.98190 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 11 minutes 59.55914 seconds west.

144. (129.1) Thence southwesterly approximately 6,155 feet to a point located just seaward from Octave Pass North at latitude 29 degrees 19 minutes 50.9988 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 12 minutes 52.9992 seconds west.

145. (129.2) Thence southwesterly approximately 10,461 feet to a point located between Bernies Pass and Battery Bayou at latitude 29 degrees 18 minutes 18 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 13 minutes 45.0012 seconds west.

146. (130) Thence northwesterly approximately 4,285 feet to the north point of the east levee of East Fork, latitude 29 degrees 18 minutes 38.94519 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 14 minutes 27.08895 seconds west.

147. (131) Thence northwesterly approximately 11,244 feet to the northeast point of the east levee of the east outlet of Emeline Pass, latitude 29 degrees 20 minutes 16.49226 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 15 minutes 28.27037 seconds west.

148. (132) Thence northwesterly approximately 5,141 feet to the northeast point of the east levee of Emeline Pass, latitude 29 degrees 20 minutes 58.88195 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 16 minutes 00.41227 seconds west.

149. (133) Thence northwesterly approximately 9,960 feet to the southeastern point on the eastern shore of the Main Pass east levee, latitude 29 degrees 21 minutes 57.19326 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 17 minutes 31.17691 seconds west.

150. (134) Thence northerly approximately 10,939 feet to an east point on the eastern shore of the Main Pass east levee, latitude 29 degrees 23 minutes 44.78937 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 17 minutes 45.23755 seconds west.

151. (135) Thence northeasterly approximately 4,585 feet to the northeastern point on the eastern shore of the Main Pass east levee, latitude 29 degrees 24 minutes 25.32960 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 17 minutes 21.93072 seconds west.

152. (136) Thence northeasterly approximately 39,510 feet to the south point of Breton Island, latitude 29 degrees 28 minutes 11.81256 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 11 minutes 17.62330 seconds west.

153. (137) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of Breton Island, latitude 29 degrees 29 minutes 49.50414 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 10 minutes 30.33595 seconds west.

154. (138) Thence northeasterly approximately 27,234 feet to the south point of the south island of the Gosier Islands, latitude 29 degrees 31 minutes 24.79774 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 05 minutes 42.00863 seconds west.

155. (139) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the south island of the Gosier Islands, latitude 29 degrees 31 minutes 59.74482 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 05 minutes 19.86319 seconds west.

156. (140) Thence northeasterly approximately 8,509 feet to the south point of the north island of the Gosier Islands, latitude 29 degrees 32 minutes 45.13752 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 58.70949 seconds west.

157. (141) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the north island of the Gosier Islands, latitude 29 degrees 33 minutes 22.48000 seconds north, longitude 89 degrees 03 minutes 32.21823 seconds west.

158. (142) Thence northeasterly approximately 35,924 feet to the south point of the Curlew Islands, latitude 29 degrees 38 minutes 10.35706 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 59 minutes 33.29121 seconds west.

159. (143) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the Curlew Islands, latitude 29 degrees 38 minutes 15.78007 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 59 minutes 30.59398 seconds west.

160. (144) Thence northeasterly approximately 8,761 feet to the south point of the Stake Islands, latitude 29 degrees 39 minutes 10.60431 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 58 minutes 13.65731 seconds west.

161. (145) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the Stake Islands, latitude 29 degrees 40 minutes 47.88908 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 56 minutes 47.18591 seconds west.

162. (146) Thence northeasterly approximately 34,091 feet to the south point of the south island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 29 degrees 45 minutes 42.31016 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 53 minutes 38.18264 seconds west.

163. (147) Thence in a northeasterly direction along the shore to the north point of the south island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 29 degrees 48 minutes 30.73219 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 51 minutes 41.66097 seconds west.

164. (148) Thence northeasterly approximately 4,487 feet to the south point of the main island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 29 degrees 49 minutes 13.34094 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 51 minutes 27.25032 seconds west.

165. (149) Thence in a northerly direction along the shore to the north point of the main island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 30 degrees 00 minutes 59.54256 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 51 minutes 02.96200 seconds west.

166. (150) Thence northwesterly approximately 4,782 feet to the south point of the north island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 30 degrees 01 minute 43.94624 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 51 minutes 21.82982 seconds west.

167. (151) Thence in a northwesterly direction along the shore to the north point of the north island of the Chandeleur Islands, latitude 30 degrees 02 minutes 06.44260 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 51 minutes 45.77415 seconds west.

168. (152) Thence northwesterly approximately 5,401 feet to a point located at latitude 30 degrees 02 minutes 51.98110 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 52 minutes 17.98216 seconds west; the location of the destroyed Chandeleur Light.

169. (153) Thence in a northerly direction to the intersection of the Louisiana-Mississippi Boundary, latitude 30 degrees 08 minutes 14.51336 seconds north, longitude 88 degrees 52 minutes 09.61702 seconds west (coordinates not specified Repealed by Acts 1991, No. 946, §2.).

C. All waters of the state shoreward of the line described in Subsection B hereof within which the tide regularly rises and falls or into which saltwater shrimp migrate are inside waters. All waters seaward of the line described in Subsection B of this Section are outside waters.

D. For the purpose of determining if a person is shrimping in inside or outside waters, reference shall be made by global positioning satellite (GPS) navigational instrument readings for a vessel located on or in proximity to the boundary line between open and closed waters as set forth in Subsection B of this Section.

E. For the purposes of this Section, the department shall utilize GPS navigational instrument readings taken from such equipment located on department vessels or, if the shrimping vessel is equipped with GPS equipment, from the equipment located on the shrimping vessel.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:495 (E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 44:____.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Written comments should be addressed to Peyton Cagle, Marine Fisheries Biologist, 1213 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601, or via e-mail to: peyton.cagle@la.gov prior to May 1, 2018.

Robert J. Samanie, III
Chairman

Chairman Samanie announced Mr. Rob Bourgeois would begin the next agenda item, **Receive and consider the Public Comments Report on the Notice of Intent for the Addition of Sterlet Sturgeon to the Domestic Aquatic Organism (DAO) List for Final Rulemaking**. Mr. Bourgeois stated that the amendment to the proposal was to require the Sterlet Sturgeon have an escort by Enforcement or through a Departmentally approved escort from the state line to the facility. There was only 1 comment letter received in favor of the amendment but was against the permit entirely. The remaining letters received did not comment on the amendment but most were against the permit and 8 letters and 1 petition with 24 signatures were in favor of the permit. At the public hearing, 2 comments received were for the amendment and permit but 3 were for the amendment but overall opposed to the permit. (A copy of Mr. Bourgeois' presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Mr. Michael St. Martin stated that the applicants for the permit have agreed that the paddlenose domestic fish could be raised once approved by the Federal Government and a supply of the fry has been obtained. The applicants still want approval for the Sterlet permit, which he felt has been pending for more than 2 years. The applicants have put a deposit on about 33,000 fry being held in Florida and if these fry are not taken, then they will miss a growing year and could be liable for damages. Mr. St. Martin added that various requirements would have to be in place before the paddlenose could be raised with the biggest obstacle being a permit from the Federal Government. He then commented that it was time to put the permit in place, open the operation and once the paddlenose was approved by the different agencies, they would raise them and dispose of them as directed. Mr. St. Martin then asked the Commission for a motion to approve

the permit so they could move forward with construction of the facility, raising the Sterlet and then raising the paddlenose when approved. **Commissioner McPherson** asked Mr. St. Martin if his clients were going to bring in 33,000 fry to raise to roe producing Sterlet and he was told yes. Then the **Commissioner** added that he was very appreciative of the client looking into raising native fish. He wondered what would happen to the Sterlet once approval was obtained for raising the native fish. Mr. St. Martin did not know if the paddlenose could be raised for roe in the same manner as the Sterlet. He added that the survivability for Sterlet was very high and the provider in Florida was involved in the design of the plant facility from the beginning.

Mr. Bourgeois added that the comments on the amendment would move forward to the Legislative Oversight Committees as dictated through the APA process.

Commissioner Courville stated that, based on the comments received and the additional information presented, he would like to pause the rulemaking process for one month so staff could determine if the shovelnose sturgeon could be grown. If the Fish and Wildlife Service told the Department the process would take more than 3 years, he would agree to move forward with this proposed action. However, **Commissioner Courville** added that if the Service said both species could be grown, he was in agreement with allowing Mr. St. Martin's clients to start with the Sterlet Sturgeon and then transition to the native fish. General Counsel Yolanda Martin felt the Commission had the authority to pause rulemaking for one month and then come back in April to entertain whether to move the summary report to the Oversight Committees. **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to delay submittal of the report to the Oversight Committees by one month with the intent of exploring growing native sturgeon and for this item to be considered at the April meeting for final rulemaking. **Commissioner McPherson** seconded the motion and asked to hear from the Department. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks stated the Department could look into the request and there was no guarantee there would be answers within 30 days from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service but what information was available would be presented to the Commission. **Commissioner Courville** commented that if the Fish and Wildlife Service was slow to respond on whether a native species could be grown, he would agree to move forward with final rulemaking. **Commissioner McPherson** asked for the status of the native fish. Mr. Bobby Reed, Inland Fisheries Division, stated there are 3 species of native sturgeon (shovelnose, pallid and Gulf sturgeon) of which the shovelnose and Gulf sturgeons were listed as threatened and the pallid sturgeon was listed as endangered. As these fish fall within the Service's authority, questions would be posed on what can be done with these fish under their current status. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the shovelnose was listed due to its similarity to the endangered fish and Mr. Reed stated that was correct. Mr. Reed added that the shovelnose was quite common in Louisiana but because of the similarity between the two and to stop the commercial fishing, it was listed as threatened. **Commissioner McPherson** then asked if the Service has ever had any exceptions with these fish and Mr. Reed answered no. **Commissioner McPherson** felt this suggestion would be a wonderful solution as opposed to introducing a foreign species into Louisiana. Mr. Reed stated the Fish and Wildlife Service issued a negative response to bringing in Sterlet Sturgeon and he noted there was a sustainable population of shovelnose sturgeon in Louisiana. **Commissioner McPherson** felt this could be a solution if the Fish and Wildlife Service would give an exception and allow it to be done. He felt this would add to the economy and would not go against the advice of Department scientists in going with a non-native species. **Commissioner Courville** asked Mr. St. Martin to

find out from his clients if the roe and meat were comparable and bring that information back to the next meeting. **Chairman Samanie** asked if the fry have been ordered and when were they expected and he was told they were due in July or August of this year.

Mr. Johnny Ledet, Robeline, Louisiana, commented they have committed to the Florida company they have been working with for 2 years to buy the fry. He then further explained that the Department caught pallid sturgeon from Louisiana rivers, spawned and hatched those fish in his hatcheries. According to Mr. Reed, the pallid sturgeon that were reared were stocked into Louisiana waters. Mr. Ledet felt it would be a great asset to do what the Commission was proposing but the growing time was different (2 years for the Sterlet to have roe and 5-7 years with the shovelnose). He added he was for doing things the right way for the state of Louisiana. **Commissioner Courville** asked Mr. Ledet if he was currently growing any fish at his facility and he was told no. He added they purchased the land and have conferred with Northwestern University biologist students to come work at his facility. **Commissioner McPherson** asked Mr. Ledet how big were the holding tanks for the 33,000 fry he was expecting. Mr. Ledet stated they were planning to start with 40 rectangular tanks that could hold from 900-1200 fry in each. Trying to understand the process, **Commissioner McPherson** asked Mr. Ledet if he would grow the fish to maturity, harvest roe from them once and then kill the fish and sell the meat and have age classes coming in each year and he was told yes. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the Florida company kills their Sterlet sturgeon after they reach maturity and again Mr. Ledet answered yes within 24-30 months. **Chairman Samanie** asked Mr. Ledet if they would raise their own fry after the first time and he was told no, it was a concern for the Department. **Commissioner McPherson** wondered what Mr. Ledet's plan was in the event the Oversight Committees kills the proposal. Mr. Ledet was being positive when he stated he felt his proposal would not be killed. General Counsel Martin mentioned that the Oversight Committee did not kill it but sent it back with recommendations. Mr. Bourgeois added that the regulations will not allow Mr. Ledet to produce their own fry and this action was not just for Mr. Ledet's facility but for anyone that meets the requirements for a permit. Mr. Reed further explained that staff has used an experimental drug to help with spawning under a permit and under this permit, fish nor eggs can be used as food product. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if the Department has a good relationship with the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mr. Reed stated he was the Department's representative on the Recovery Team for the 3 sturgeon species and he could call the leader of the Team but the ultimate decision would have to come from the Regional Director or someone higher. **Commissioner Sunseri** then encouraged the Department to do everything possible to get something done quickly.

Ms. Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, commented the state was not responsible for the business decisions made by Mr. Ledet on a fish that needed to go through a public process to be allowed into this state. She then reminded everyone that the Commission was obligated to protect the resources that belong to the citizens of Louisiana. The comments received from other Fish and Wildlife Service Regions connected to the Mississippi River Basin was due to the possibility of the Sterlet Sturgeon getting out. In terms of the new idea of using shovelnose, Ms. Triche asked for more information and she looked forward to hearing discussions at the April Meeting. **Commissioner McPherson** asked Ms. Triche if they were in favor of looking at the native fish and try to have a win-win situation for economic reasons and to have the sturgeon introduction. Ms. Triche stated they were interested in seeing what the Fish and Wildlife Service

would say but she personally would recommend having a provision where the shovelnose was not released. She was not opposed to the idea but wanted more information. Then **Commissioner McPherson** commented that when he was a State Senator he always respected the Constitutional role of the Commission. Ms. Triche mentioned that the Federation was still receiving public comments asking that this issue be followed since they did not want non-native species affecting native species.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux, Nature Conservancy, began stating Ms. Triche summarized everything she could offer on this issue. The Nature Conservancy was one of the groups that spoke at the public hearing stating they were for the amendment but opposed to the overall topic. Ms. Gautreaux added the shovelnose concept was interesting and would like to know the options given to the Department. She respected the Commission in trying to look at resources, with problems the state has had with non-native species and the millions of dollars spent on species that have caused huge problems.

Commissioner Sunseri noted he has always been a problem solver and asked Ms. Triche and Ms. Gautreaux to have their scientists come together and work to find a solution to this issue.

Mr. Ledet stated that he cannot find any information that the Sterlet Sturgeon is an invasive species and there has not been one legal facility in Louisiana have tilapia escape.

Commissioner Courville restated the intent of his motion was to delay sending the report to Oversight Committees for one month so the possibility and feasibility of growing a native species can be explored and he required this item be on the April 2018 meeting agenda. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Samanie then asked Mr. Daniel Edgar to come forward for the next agenda item, **Receive a Presentation and Consider a Declaration of Emergency Setting the 2018 Opening Date for Bait Menhaden**. Mr. Edgar, Louisiana Bait Products, asked for an early opening of the Gulf menhaden season by two weeks. He then thanked the Commission for taking this action last year even though the weather did not permit them to fish. He felt with February being the warmest on record that the bait were inshore and again ask the Commission to consider giving the fishermen the two week early opening. **Commissioner Courville** asked that the Department give a status of the stock. Mr. Edgar commented he has contacted producers along the east coast and they were already out of bait and others were limiting their shipments of bait. He added he has received more e-mails than ever from the east coast wanting to buy bait. As far as the Nationwide stock, Mr. Edgar was told that the inventory was about where it was last year.

Commissioner Courville asked Mr. Jason Adriance to advise the Commission on the current menhaden bait fishery stocks. Mr. Adriance began his presentation stating the most recent stock assessment for Gulf menhaden was done in 2016 and the results showed the fishery is not overfished and the population and spawning stock has increased since 2013. The bait season usually runs through the month of November but if the quota was not met, the season can reopen on April 1 until the quota of 3,000 metric tons was reached, which has never occurred since 1989. Landings by bait companies have never exceeded 1.5% of the total Gulf of Mexico menhaden landings. A map showing menhaden sets as well as a graph of landings from 2000-

2017 were shown. Overall Mr. Adriance concluded by stating the stock was healthy. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chairman Samanie asked if this action could be made into a permanent rule and Mr. Adriance stated it may require legislation. **Commissioner McPherson** felt this action could have a tremendous economic impact and wondered why no one was asking for a recommendation on how long the season could be on a permanent basis instead of bringing this before the Commission every year. **Chairman Samanie** asked if the action today was to have a bait season for this year and Mr. Adriance explained the Declaration of Emergency would open the season on March 15 and it would run until the regular season opens. Hearing no further discussion, **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to approve the Declaration of Emergency, seconded by **Commissioner McPherson** and was unanimously approved. **Commissioner McPherson** asked staff to come back with a recommendation for a longer season to have a sustainable harvest.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Commercial Bait Gulf Menhaden Season - 2018

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6 (25)(a) and 56:326.3, which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and R.S. 56:325.6, which provides for an extended bait gulf menhaden season outside of the regular commercial menhaden season, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its March 1, 2018 meeting, hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for the harvest of bait gulf menhaden taken within Louisiana state waters or landed in Louisiana shall open at 12:01 a.m., March 15, 2018. The harvest of bait gulf menhaden shall not exceed the established quota of 3,000 metric tons for the 2017-18 bait gulf menhaden season.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Robert J. Samanie, III
Chairman
March 1, 2018

Mr. Chris Schieble presented the next agenda item, **Gulf Council Update**. He began stating the January Gulf Council Meeting was held in New Orleans and the first topic discussed was on Amendment 49. The Amendment would allow the use of new sea turtle release gear for charter vessels, headboats and Reef Fish Permit Holders. Also discussed was the proper use of venting tools or descending devices; a proposed Outreach Program Committee; and carryover of unharvested quotas for any managed Gulf finfish species except those which are currently managed under a stock ACL. On the State Management of Red Snapper, the states were still waiting for the Gulf States to come to a resolution about allocation on red snapper. On Amendment 41, Allocation-Based Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels, there were discussions on potential for discrepancies in fish weights from dockside sampling that would be used for converting pounds to number of fish. Amendment 42, Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels was reviewed and decided to select preferred alternatives at the April Council Meeting. The Council voted to recommend approval of each state's Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) with the condition that if federal for-hire vessels are included in any state's EFP's would not shorten the length of the federal for-hire season. It was still not certain NOAA would approve Louisiana's EFP with charters included. Mr. Schieble commented that a recommendation for the red snapper season would not be presented until possibly the May Commission Meeting. To keep the season from opening on March 24, 2018, the Secretary would issue a Declaration of Emergency to keep the season closed until the final EFP structure was approved. Louisiana authored a successful motion for the Gulf Council staff to begin developing a document to consider removing the historical charter captain endorsement to reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic permits and to allow these permits be fully transferable. This would be important for any of the 6 Louisiana captains that may become ill or could not fish or if these captains would want to pass or sell their business down to their family. The next Council Meeting would be held April 16-19 in Gulfport, Mississippi. (A copy of Mr. Schieble's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Courville commended the Department on the outstanding job of keeping federally permitted charter boats in the EFP. He then asked about a Declaration of Emergency not to open the state red snapper season and Mr. Schieble stated it would be presented at the May 2018 Meeting. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks commented that Title 76 sets the red snapper season automatically and the Secretary has the authority to adjust finfish seasons as needed. **Commissioner Courville** asked in the carryover discussions, if Louisiana was under the quota, would the states be able to carry that amount to the next year if the EFP and/or State Only Amendment was approved and Mr. Schieble felt the season could be reopened to make those fish available. Assistant Secretary Banks commented that only if it was added to the delegation authority in the State Amendment would the unused quota be allowed to be carried over. **Commissioner Courville** added he listened to the discussion and noted that allocation was the roadblock. He then asked what does Conservation Equivalency look like for Louisiana and Mr. Schieble stated there were 2 options: 1 – plan was submitted to a committee composed of 5 State Directors and 2 – plan was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service. **Commissioner Courville** then asked, as far as delegation, what was Louisiana asking for specifically and Mr. Schieble stated they asked NOAA for clarity on what full delegation meant since that was what Louisiana was wanting. Assistant Secretary Banks informed the Commission that NOAA did provide a list of what can and cannot be delegated to the states and Louisiana's representatives asked for everything on the list. He then stated that the main goal was to give the Commission

the authority to set seasons and bag limits but if more options were available, then that was wanted as well. **Commissioner Courville** asked Assistant Secretary Banks or Mr. Schieble to let him know later, if the full delegation was not an option, would the three-quarters vote be required on all of the other options Louisiana may ask for. He then asked where does the charter fleet sit with respect to Amendments 41 and 42. Assistant Secretary Banks stated federally permitted charter boats want to be included in state management, however, the Charter Boat Association does not want to be included in Amendment 41 but the one headboat operator may want to be included in Amendment 42. **Commissioner Courville** asked about the amberjack season and when was the public comment period for the EFP. Assistant Secretary Banks stated that the comment period was not open yet, adding that one of the difficulties in publishing in the Federal Register was including charter boats by some of the states. Mr. Schieble, on the amberjack season, stated the season opened in January and recently closed and then would reopen on July 1. Next year, the season would open in May and then August through October. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked for a best case and worst case scenario for the red snapper season. Assistant Secretary Banks stated the best case would be opening the weekend of May 25 if the 30-day public comment period has concluded and NOAA approved the EFP. However, the worst case scenario would be the delay in publishing the Federal Register, having the 30-day public comment period and approving the EFP after the May meeting or even into the summer months. Another worst case scenario would be if NOAA could not approve the EFP. **Commissioner Yakupzack** commented that the Commission trusted the process by not opening the season in January in previous years in lieu of NOAA giving the opportunity to have a season later in the summer and he hoped that trust would be rewarded. Assistant Secretary Banks relayed that NOAA knows what Louisiana would do and has complete confidence and trust in what is being done. **Commissioner Courville** concluded stating the staff did an outstanding job representing Louisiana on the EFP.

After a lengthy discussion, **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to **Set July 2018 Commission Meeting Date** as July 3, 2018 beginning at 9:30 AM.

Chairman Samanie then asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

Before adjournment, **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to set aside the previous motion on the Declaration of Emergency for the supplemental feeding ban in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes. **Commissioner Sunseri** seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Then **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to revise the Declaration of Emergency by taking out the word "bait" and putting in "approved bait not normally ingested by deer" since he and his colleagues were scared of CWD and he wanted a list of bait that can be used for feral hog traps. **Commissioner Sunseri** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Courville** asked Mr. Johnathan Bordelon's for his thoughts on the proposed change. Mr. Bordelon felt it would be a reasonable request but was unsure how it would be enforced. **Commissioner McPherson** felt it would be better to have a proposed rule that can be enforced as opposed to one that cannot be enforced. **Commissioner Yakupzack** felt the proposed amendment makes the approach more aggressive and he felt it was reasonable under the circumstances of the severity of the disease and was in support of the motion. **Commissioner Courville** asked Col. Sammy Martin if this amendment would make it easier to enforce. Col. Martin felt it could be tough to prove the case before a judge that the corn was fermented. **Commissioner McPherson** added that the agents

would have a list of approved baits. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the amended Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Supplemental Feeding Ban in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and 116, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

On January 25, 2018, a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive buck was discovered in Issaquena County, Mississippi. The CWD positive buck was located only a few miles from the Louisiana border on the east side of the Mississippi River. Deer routinely swim the Mississippi River, as normal behavior or to escape floodwaters.

Therefore, in response to the discovery of CWD in Mississippi, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is implementing its CWD Response Plan to monitor and curb the potential spread of CWD into Louisiana. The immediate cessation of all supplemental feeding, including mineral or salt licks, is hereby initiated for East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes. The purpose of this feeding ban is to reduce the potential for the spread of CWD into Louisiana by reducing the risk of exposure when deer are concentrated around feeding sites.

The use of approved bait not normally ingested by deer for feral hog trapping will still be allowed. All bait must be placed and contained within the trap itself. Backyard bird feeders are also exempt from this Declaration of Emergency.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective March 5, 2018, and will remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency and extend it if necessary.

Robert J. Samanie, III
Chairman
March 1, 2018

Commissioner Yakupzack made a motion for **Adjournment** and was unanimously approved.

APPENDICES

RESOLUTION

Transfer of Property from Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
March 1, 2018

WHEREAS, certain Property, described in Exhibit A, and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", is currently a part of the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, which was established by Resolution of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission on August 8, 2001, and by Proclamation of the Governor, dated September 5, 2002, and

WHEREAS, this Property, though historically part of Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, would be managed more efficiently as a part of Joyce Wildlife Management Area due to its proximity and attributes.

WHEREAS, Joyce Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated February 15, 1985, and re-affirmed, by Resolution of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission on April 1, 2004, and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the described Property be hereby transferred from the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area to Joyce Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission selects all State-owned lands and leased lands, including water bottoms, currently located within the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, as described in "Exhibit A", and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", and all adjacent State-owned water bottoms, and hereby include them in the Joyce Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 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 all leased lands and State-owned lands described in "Exhibit A," comprised of 11,145 acres, more or less, as a wildlife management area, so that all land including water bottoms described in "Exhibit A" hereto, and identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B", including water bottoms, are hereby included in the Joyce 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, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

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

Robert J. Samanie, III, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Jack Montoucet, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

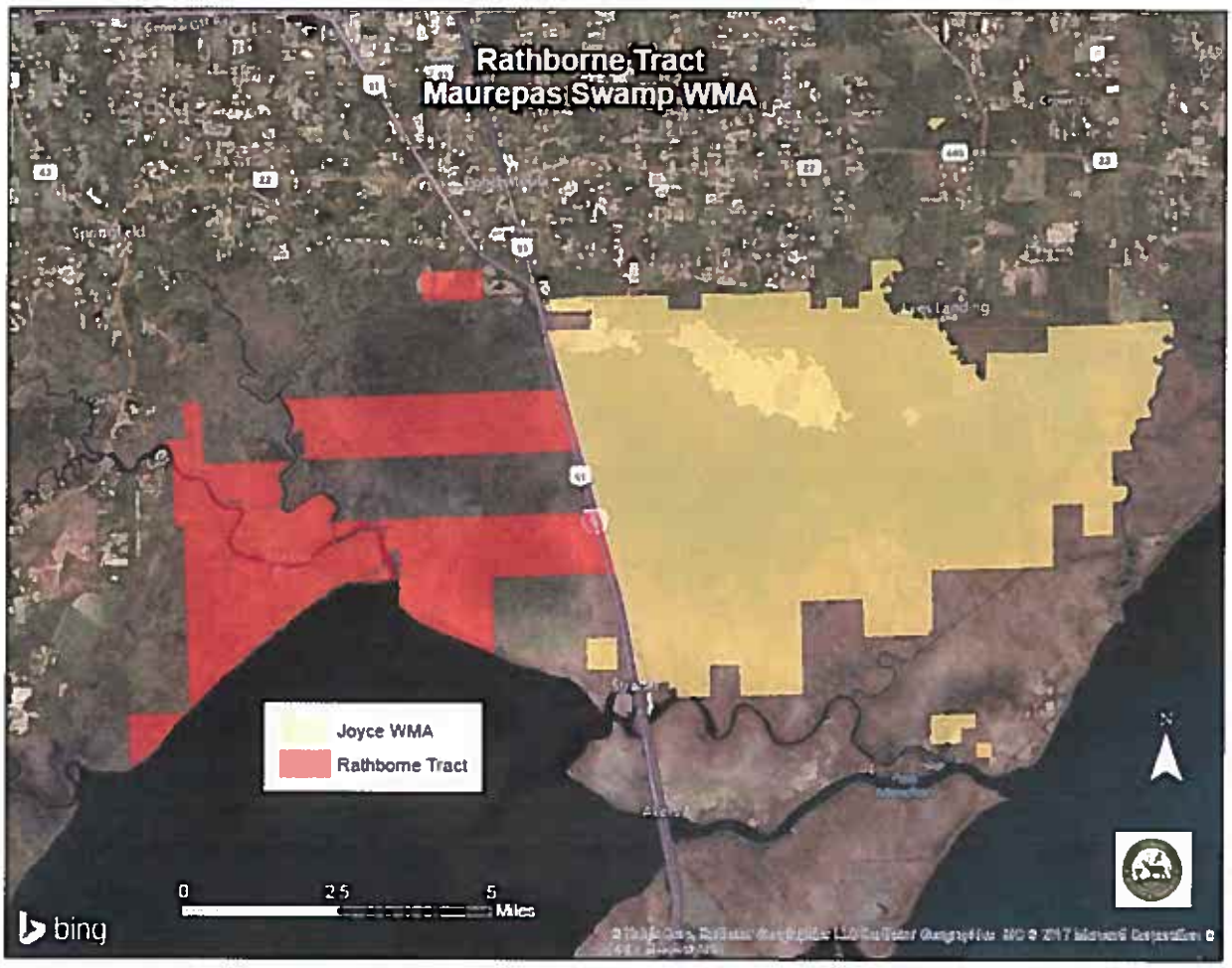
EXHIBIT "A"

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

All that certain piece or parcel of ground, together with any and all buildings and improvements thereon, together with all rights, ways, means, privileges, servitudes, and appurtenances there unto belonging or appertaining, less any camps herein described, said Property, known as the Rathborne Tracts, containing 11,145 acres, more or less, situated in Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "B"

MAP OF RATHBORNE TRACTS AND JOYCE WMA



2018 Summary of Public Comment for Conditionally Approved NOI

Tommy Tuma| LDWF Commission Meeting| 03/1/2018

Public Comments in February for NOI

February 2 – March 1, 2018

- **Comments via email, mail, phone call:**
  - 43 (30 email, 1 mail, call)
    - 15 related to proposed changes
- **Total Comments Related to Proposed Changes:**
  - LAAs on Boeuf and Russell Sage: 4 in support, 5 opposed,
  - Area 5 deer season change: 2 opposed
  - Area 9 deer season change: 1 opposed
  - PCHP proposed changes on Buckhorn: 1 opposed
  - Attakapas WMA deer season change: 2 opposed

Public Hearings

50 attendees

- **25 comments**
  - **6 related to NOI proposed changes**

Total Comments Related to Proposed Changes:

- Joyce WMA deer season: 4 opposed
- Area 4 & 6 boundary change: 1 in support
- Attakapas WMA deer season changes: 1 opposed

Public Comments to Date for NOI

- **Comments via email, mail, phone call or public hearing attendance:**
  - 102 (63 email, 3 mail, 2 calls, 50 attendees)
    - 53 related to proposed changes

- **Total Comments Related to Proposed Changes:**

  - LAAs on Boeuf and Russell Sage: 11 in support, 16 opposed, 3 inquiries
  - Biloxi vessel restriction: 0 in support, 6 opposed, 2 neutral
  - Thistlethwaite deer season change: 1 in support
  - Drone use on WMAs: 1 opposed
  - Joyce WMA deer season: 5 opposed
  - Area 5 deer season change: 2 opposed
  - Area 9 deer season change: 1 opposed
  - PCHP proposed changes on Buckhorn: 1 opposed
  - Attakapas WMA deer season change: 3 opposed
  - Area 4 & 6 boundary change: 1 support

Public Hearings

March 1 (Thursday) at the LDWF Monroe office, 368 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, LA 71203

Public comment will be accepted at LWFC monthly meetings from now through March 1 or may be submitted directly to Tommy Tuma, LDWF Wildlife Division, PO Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, phone 225-765-2349 or via email *ttuma@wlf.la.gov*

TOTAL COMMENTS RELATIVE TO PROPOSED CHANGES

Comments received by email, letter or phone:

Proposed Regulation	***Summary***
LAAs on Boeuf and Russell Sage	11 in support, 16 opposed, 3 inquiries
Biloxi vessel restriction:	0 in support, 6 opposed, 2 neutral
Thistlethwaite deer season change:	1 in support
Drone use on WMAs:	1 opposed
Joyce WMA deer season:	1 opposed
Area 5 deer season change:	2 opposed
Area 9 deer season change:	1 opposed
PCHP proposed changes on Buckhorn:	1 opposed
Attakapas WMA deer season change:	2 opposed

Comments from Public meetings: (Lake Charles, Alexandria, Minden, Ponchatoula, Lafayette)

Proposed Regulation	***Summary***
Joyce WMA deer season:	4 opposed
Area 4 and 6 boundary change	1 in support
Attakapas WMA deer season change	1 opposed

Public Comments Related to the NOI
February 2 - March 1, 2018

Date	Topic	Contact	Communication	For	Against	other
2-Feb	Duck Season	Billy Good	email			would like to extend duck season to MLK day on years when it ends the Sunday before MLK day.
2-Feb	Area 5 deer season	Shane Romero	email		x	would like for the season to be 2-3 weeks later in the framework as he observes the rut after the season closes.
2-Feb	Coastal Duck zone season	Charles Payne	email			would like for the season to start at least 2 weeks later and end later as he observes ducks until March
2-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Jonny Fryar	email	x		supports proposal
2-Feb	either sex days on Richard K. Yance	Wil Hildebrand	email			would like to see reduction in either sex days and have the deer season close when the Mississippi River reaches flood stage
7-Feb	Bodcau WMA deer season	Richard Basco	email			would like to see Bodcau WMA deer season be the same as Area 2 season
7-Feb	Area 5 deer season	Keith Monte	email		x	would like to see Area 5 deer season pushed back
8-Feb	Sabine Island WMA	Mike Chesson	email			would like to see longer dog seasons for squirrels and hogs on Sabine Island WMA
8-Feb	Night hunting for hogs	J. Michael Nash	email			would like to see year around night hunting for hogs on private lands
8-Feb	Deer season	Cole Tucker	email			thinks the deer season is too long and we should shorten it.
8-Feb	Area 5 deer season	Scott Hebert	email			would like to see removal of designated "doe days". Also supports Antler Restrictions for bucks
8-Feb	Deer season	Chris Bates	email			thinks the deer season is too long and we should shorten it; also thinks that gun seasons on WMAs should not occur in the middle of the rut
8-Feb	Wax Delta LAA	Eric Verrette	email			does not support LAA on Wax Lake delta and would like to add more access points
	area 9 deer season	Eric Verrette	email		x	would like to see Area 9 deer season start later and run through February

	Antler restrictions	Eric Verrette	email			supports Antler restrictions for deer
8-Feb	Waterfowl zones	Bryan Bieber	email			would like to see one waterfowl zone for the state; would also like to move first split to February when duck concentrations are the highest
9-Feb	Waterfowl season dates	Roger Brown	email			thinks waterfowl season starts way too early; would like the season to start mid December and end mid Feb.
9-Feb	White front goose season dates	Nick Patin	email			thinks the season structure should be 74 days and 3 bird daily limit
	Waterfowl zones	Nick Patin	email			does not support 3 zones and splits where the entire state is shut down for a week and a half
10-Feb	Gill nets on Spring Bayou WMA	Jimmy Landry	email			supports only if permits are selective as he believes that outlaws will abuse this regulation
10-Feb	Waterfowl guides	Nick Patin	email			believes there should be a guide license requirement similar to Arkansas
22-Jan	PCHP blinds on ASF	Mike Sellers	letter			would like to see PCHP blind hunts later in the season, while adding a weekend in December and January
	Woodworth shooting range	Mike Sellers	letter			would like us to improve handicapped/wheelchair access
	Buckhorn PCHP stands	Mike Sellers	letter		x	does not support proposal; if we do cut back, run the youth and handicapped hunts concurrent
	Dewey Wills WMA handicapped AT	Mike Sellers	letter			would like to see improvements to the handicapped trails
	Dewey Wills WMA PCHP opportuni	Mike Sellers	letter			would like the department to develop 2 PCHP wheelchair deer stands in restricted area
14-Feb	Attakapas WMA primitive season	Hershel Spikes	email		x	does not support proposal; thinks it will make no difference unless the same regulation is applied to the surrounding state land
17-Feb	Public meeting	Mike Benge	email			requests public meeting New Orleans
17-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Pattie Murray	email	x		supports proposal as mud motors are disturbing to others and wildlife; favors more LAAs on WMAs

19-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	D P Williams	email	x		supports proposal as less pressure will allow holding more ducks and possibly improve hunting; would prefer a refuge are though
20-Feb	Richard Yancey deer season	Wil Hildebrand	email			would like to: Limit the number of either sex days for Thanksgiving to 1, limit the number of either sex days during primitive weapons to 2, increase the number of bucks only days to 14
	statewide deer season	Wil Hildebrand	email			supports Antler restrictions for deer
	baiting for deer	Wil Hildebrand	email			does not support baiting for deer on private lands, but if baiting is allowed on private lands, it should be allowed on public lands
	Richard K Yancey bear season	Wil Hildebrand	email			thinks we should have a bear season on the WMA
20-Feb	Attakapas WMA deer season	John Taylor	email		x	does not support proposal as he believes hunters are not reporting kills is the reason for low harvest
21-Feb	Conservation season for geese	Kenneth Vaughn	email			would like to see conservation order start immediately after end of waterfowl season
22-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Paul Davidson	email	x		supports as he has witnessed people harrassing waterfowl by flushing them up and causing them to leave
16-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	John Tuma	call		x	does not support proposal; this will limit opportunity for family hunting trips.
22-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Cheryl Tuma	email		x	does not support as she is a mother and the physical limitations of female will not allow her or her daughter to accompany her family anymore if proposal passes
25-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Jeffrey Thompson	email		x	does not support proposal as he believes that the area is not conducive for paddle boats
25-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Marlee Tuma	email		x	does not support as it is biased against females and the physical limitations of female will not allow her to accompany her family anymore if proposal passes
26-Feb	LAA on Boeuf and Russell Sage	Kale Tuma	email		x	does not support proposal as he believes that the area is not conducive for paddle boats

Area 4 deer limit	Debbie Whitehead	email	wanted to know why the limit was changed last year for this area

Minden Public Comment Session

February 20, 2018 6:00 pm

Recorded by Jeff Johnson

Public Attendance: 9

Total Comments: 5

Name	Parish	Topic of Concern	Synopsis
Dick Smith	Bossier	Area 2 Deer season length Hog dog season length on Bodcau WMA. Hogs being dumped along roads	Would like Area 2 deer season (including archery) to not run past end of December. Would like Bodcau WMA hog dog season extended through the month of March. Wants something done to stop people from dumping dead hogs along roads. Mentioned possibly requiring a permit to move hogs whether alive or dead.
Heath Teustch	Bossier	Deer antler restrictions or reduced buck limit	Would like LDWF to implement antler restrictions or reduce buck limit.
Ryan Taylor	Lincoln	Area 2 deer archery season Antler restriction Area 2 deer firearms season Reduced buck limit	Wants bow season in Area 2 to open September 15. Wants an antler restriction of 3 points on each side. Wants Area 2 deer firearms season shortened. Wants deer tags changed to 2 buck tags and 4 doe tags.
Harry (Chip) Simpson	Claiborne	Turkey season	Asked for turkey season moved earlier to allow for hunting before gobblers were with hens. LDWF staff explained the move to a later turkey season opening which would be occurring for the upcoming 2018 turkey season should allow for hens to be bred before the season opens, allow for hens to be nesting during more of the season than was the case with the previous season framework, and should also make for gobblers being with hens less during turkey season. Mr. Simpson was previously unaware of the previous change in season opening dates and agreed that the change (to an April opener starting in 2018) may accomplish the same thing he was ultimately looking for.

Chris Morgan	Lincoln	Antler restrictions Change in deer limits / tag allotment	Wants an antler restriction. Wants deer limit / tag allotment changed to 2 bucks / 4 does.

Lake Charles Public Hearing Comment Session

February 23, 2018 6:00 pm LSU Ag.Center

Recorded by: Cicilia Richmond, Hannah Pitt

Attendance: 11

Name	Parish	Topic of Concern	Synopsis
William Brown	Beauregard	Button Buck Harvest	Would like to see button bucks protected from harvest with antlerless tags.
Glenn Vincent	Jeff Davis	Area 10 Limit	Would like to thank LDWF for continuing the conservative deer limit in Area 10.
Josh Goeings	Calcasieu	Waterfowl Census	Feel as though LDWF is providing erroneous waterfowl census results. He represents the Gulf Coast Flyway Federation. He follows Larry Reynolds.
Justin Lanclos	Calcasieu	Feral Hogs	Would like to know status of feral hog transport legislation. Thanks LDWF for the great job they are doing.
Fred Borel (Side Bar Comment)	Calcasieu	Woodcock	He enjoys hunting woodcock on Clear Creek WMA but it's a long drive for just 3 birds. He would like to see the limit raised if the resource can handle the change. Also he would like to thank LDWF for the outstanding job they are doing.

Ponchatoula Public Comment Session

February 26, 2018 6:00 pm

Recorded by: LDWF Hammond Staff

Public Attendance: 14

Total Comments: 7

Name	Parish	Topic of Concern	Synopsis
Derek Wheat	Tangipahoa	Joyce WMA deer season	Opposed to the reduction of deer gun season on Joyce WMA. Hunted a portion of Joyce before it became a WMA and knows the WMA can support quality deer. Believes archery hunting is unethical on the WMA due to difficult terrain. Proposes antler point restrictions as an alternative to a reduced gun season.
Bud Campbell	Tangipahoa	Joyce WMA deer season	Opposed to the reduction of deer gun season on Joyce WMA. Has hunted the Joyce property for 50 years. Suggest that high water, lack of season closures during flooding events, and poaching are more detrimental than the number of gun days currently allowed. Proposed limiting antlerless harvest or antler restrictions as an alternative to limiting gun season.
Luke Watkins	Tangipahoa	Deer Area 9/ Joyce WMA deer season	Opposed to the reduction of deer gun season on Joyce WMA. Avid hunter of Joyce and Area 9 private lands. Would like to see the deer Area 9 season limit reduced to 3 deer, similar to deer Area 4. Would like to see a water gauge used for setting benchmark closures on Joyce WMA. Suggest LDWF educate the public on the importance of using WMA daily self-clearing permits.
Dan Pettis	Tangipahoa	Squirrel dog season expansion on WMAs	Would like to see an expansion of small game emphasis areas on WMAs and federal lands. Would like to see more hunting days for squirrel hunting with dogs allowed during the month of December. Would prefer to have opportunity expanded on public lands in the Florida Parishes rather than having to purchase a non-resident hunting license to hunt in Mississippi, a state that has more liberal seasons for small game hunting with dogs.
Jeff Newsham	Tangipahoa	Joyce WMA deer season	Opposed to the reduction of deer gun season on Joyce WMA. Proposed reducing the number of allowable either-sex days rather than a reduced gun season.
Bryan Duet	Tangipahoa	Deer Area 9	Recommends a reduction of the allowable deer season limit to 3 deer in deer Area 9.
Edwin Newman	Tangipahoa	CWD	Requested an update from LDWF on the current status of the departments Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring activities. An update was provided by Kenny Ribbeck, LDWF and Jimmy Ernst, LDWF.

Alexandria Public Comment Session

February 27, 2018 600 pm

Recorded by Wade Tracy and Dustin Champagne

Public Attendance: 7

Total Comments: 7

Name	Parish	Topic of Concern	Synopsis
James Coburn	Grant	Deer and Turkey Harvest Adjacent to WMAs and US Forest Service Lands	Concerned about over harvest of game animals on properties (Private Lands) adjacent to WMAs and US Forest Service lands. Would like to see the same harvest reductions/restrictions/dates found on public lands applied to private lands.
Ronald Coco	Avoyelles	Over Harvest of Deer During High Water Events	Would like to see a set benchmark closure of deer season on Grassy Lake and Richard K Yancey WMAs when water gets high during deer season. Would like department to establish a water gauge. Was in agreement to West Feliciana being added into deer area 6.
Terry Laborde	Avoyelles	Feral Hog Hunting on WMAs	Would like private lands laws concerning feral hog hunting applied to WMAs. Does not agree or understand the restrictions/limitations on WMAs
Danny Timmer	Grant	Youth Waterfowl Season	Wants to see the two youth only waterfowl days moved back to before the first split
Michael Sellers	Rapides	Deer Hunting Opportunities at Alexander State Forest	Requesting another firearms deer hunting weekend within ASF. Really would like to see it in December when the weather is more favorable to deer activity.
Sydney Fisher	Avoyelles	Response Time of the Department Concerning Implementing Needed Reductions in Hunting or Harvest Rates	Wanted an explanation on why it took LDWF so long to implement reductions in bag or hunting opportunities in areas where it appeared that herd numbers are low or declining.
Jay Huner	Rapides	Management of Waterfowl on WMAs	Requested that state WMAs be managed in a similar fashion as White Lake He is in favor of the proposed limited access areas on Bouef and Russell Sage WMAs

Lafayette Public Comment Session

February 28, 2018, 6:00 pm

Recorded by Ken Moreau and Chad Gaspard

Public Attendance: 7

Total Comments: 4

Name	Parish	Topic of Concern	Synopsis
Johnny Mannina	New Iberia	Deer Management	1. Provided write up (attached). 2. Would prefer WMAs and Federal Lands move to antler restrictions to increase harvest of trophy antlered deer. 3. Pledges $10,000.00 for a survey of Louisiana Hunters regarding antler restrictions.
Renee Bordelon	Lafayette	Deer Dog Season; Black Bear Season; etc.	1. Major changes to deer dog season? 2. Black bear season status? 3. Laws of squirrel hunting from a boat? 4. Senior citizen license fee? 5. LDWF to introduce cougars and wolves? 6. Older population would like to purchase licenses from vendors instead of purchasing licenses online. 7. Is LDWF HQ to be moved to Lafayette or remain in Baton Rouge?
Troy Trahan	Lafayette	Deer Population on Sherburne WMA; Feral Swine Population on Sherburne WMA	1. Sherburne deer herd status? 2. Feral swine population control on Sherburne? 3. Status of food plots on Sherburne? 4. Legal to fertilize mast producing trees on Sherburne? 5. Plans to allow take of feral swine on WMAs in off season?
James Dooley	Lafayette	Deer Season / Management on Attakapas WMA	1. Reduction of Attakapas WMA primitive firearm deer season days from 7 to 2 is too excessive and would prefer 4 to 5 days instead. 2. Deer leave Attakapas WMA during high water but return when water recedes. 3. Lots of browse available for deer on Attakapas WMA. 4. Decline in hunter participation may be skewing harvest data. 5. Deer dogs interfering with still hunters on Attakapas WMA. Close deer dog season on private land the weekend before primitive weapon season on Attakapas WMA to avoid conflict.

Here to discuss deer management -- rather the lack of management of antlered deer.

- Why do I think I can stand before you today and make a recommendation? I have hunted Louisiana/ Texas / Mississippi/ Alabama/ Colorado / Nebraska / Montana and Canada. I have managed a 5300 acre ranch in South Texas for the last 25 years and I currently own 1000 acres in Avoyelles – buck 8.5 year the first buck over the last 4 hunting seasons.
- Last year at a local refuge I experienced 2 hunters with a button / 3 point and 2 does.....that I why I am here today. I think AGE should be the #1 priority on antlered bucks. Experienced over the last 40 years these 1 / 2 year old bucks while cleaning them – cut the head off throw in bayou / dog chewing on it / wife throws it in the garbage ..... We all know that story.
- 2006 East Texas adopted a 13' minimum restriction in the Pinnywoods consisting of 27 counties – objective was to get bucks over 2 year old. Today they are killing deer in the 130-150 range with several 5-6 year olds. A friend of mine has 2800 acres and he swears he is hunting in another area. "Got away from the ole saying if we don't shot them someone else will" --- hear this too many times year in year out.
- Louisiana has the potential to be one of the big buck states in the south – I see hunting clubs / private land owners managing today better than our state and federal refuges. So my question tonight is "why hasn't Louisiana adopted any such antler restriction plan- if not statewide, we need a pilot program to kick this off. My suggestion would be to start on a few of the state refuges and several parishes along the Mississippi / Red / Atchafalaya Rivers.
- Last year the state had a survey by email on the days of the week on the proposed red snapper fishing --- I participated and thought

it was presented to the snapper fisherman very fairly. I spoke to several fisherman that were surprised that the state even allowed us to have a voice. I want to see a poll presented to the deer hunters of Louisiana by LWF in the same fashion. You will be surprised of the outcome.

- Economic impact --- over the last 30 years I personally and know of thousands of other hunters that have gone elsewhere to hunt trophy deer --- fair chase --- not high fence. Very expensive hunting license, motels, food and extra time on travel. Today, LWF is going up on hunting/ fishing licenses. Yes, I agree as a business owner, operating cost continues to rise and the money has to be pulled from somewhere to cover expenses. Adopting this antler restriction, we will keep thousands of dollars here in Louisiana. Just a few short years, this state will reap the benefits and so will the hunters.
- Today, I want to pledge $10,000 for a survey to the hunters of Louisiana on antler restrictions..... The time is now.

Johnny Mannina

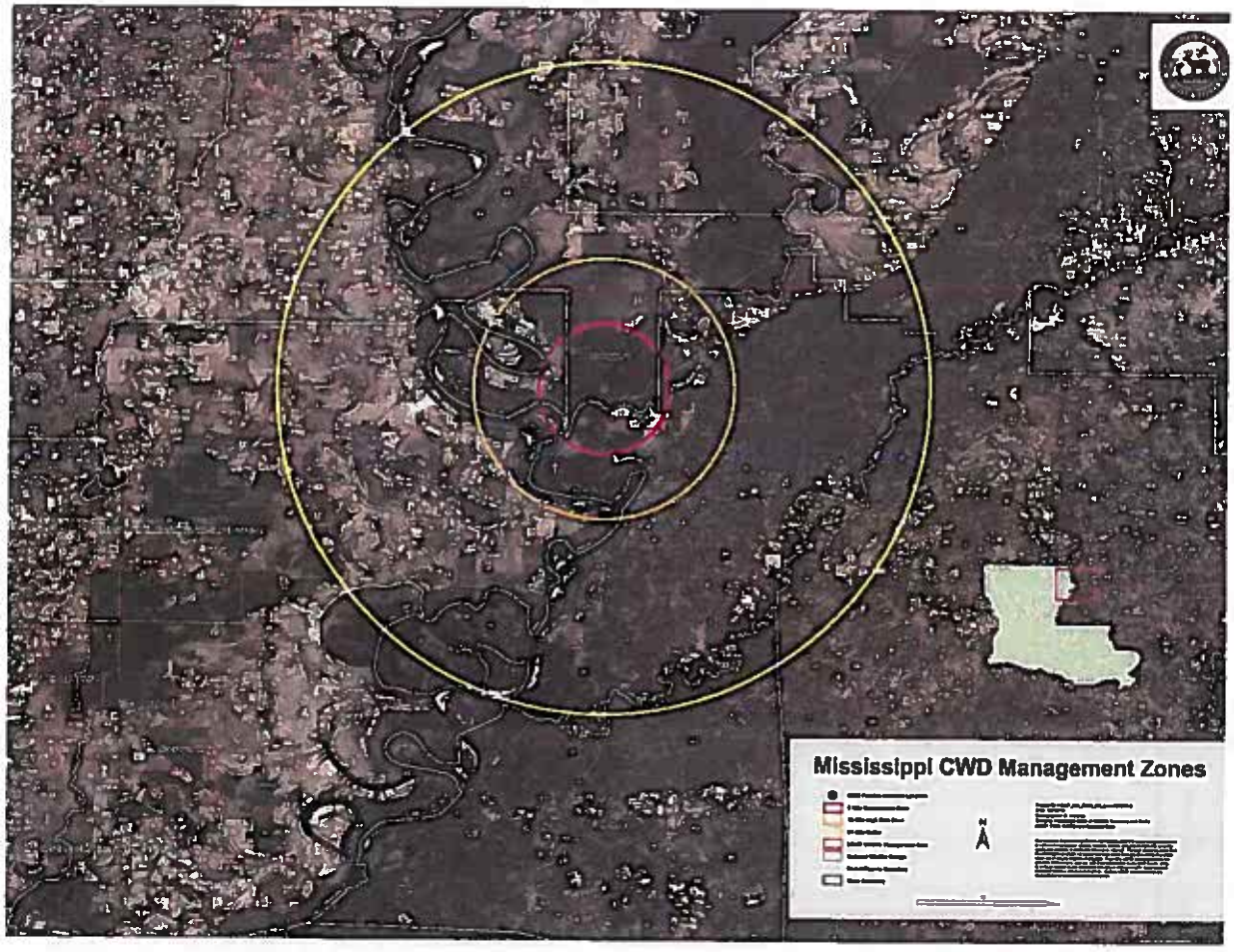
337/519-5345

New Iberia, LA.

2/28/18

CWD Update

Johnathan Bordelon
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
Deer Program Manager



CWD Detection Mississippi

- 4.5 yr. old buck reported to MDWFP January 25, 2018 .
- CWD Confirmed by NVSL February 9, 2018.
- Immediate Executive Order to prohibit supplemental feeding in Claiborne, Hinds, Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren and Yazoo counties.
- Implement CWD Response Plan.
- Targeted culling of 64 deer within the 5 mile zone.

Louisiana Response

- Implement CWD Response Plan.
- Targeted culling of 300 deer within the 25 mile buffer zone (104,537 acres of habitat). Probability of detecting 1 positive deer out of 100 with 95% confidence.
- Collection of hunter harvested samples within the surveillance zone beginning in the 2018/19 hunting season.
- Propose the prohibition of supplemental feeding in parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas.

Louisiana CWD Management Zones

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Response Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

March 16, 2016

Version 2.0 updated February 16, 2018

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease specific to species within the Cervidae family. Cervids susceptible to the disease include white-tailed deer (WTD), mule deer, and elk; black - tailed deer, moose, sika deer, red deer, caribou, reindeer and key deer. The disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) which is characterized by spongy degeneration of brain tissue resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily function and death. Transmission is believed to be through misfolded proteins or "prions" that attack the nervous system of the host. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) these CWD prions can be found throughout the body including skeletal muscle. These prions are shed in saliva, urine, blood, soft antler material, feces, and from the decomposition of an infected animal which ultimately contaminates the soil and environment, including plants, in which deer and other Cervids live. Prions shed into the environment can remain capable of infecting other animals for many years. Other TSEs include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or Mad Cow Disease), scrapie in sheep, Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there is no evidence that CWD poses any risk to humans or domestic animals. However, as a precaution, the World Health Organization (WHO) advises that no part of any deer, elk or moose with evidence of CWD should be consumed by people or other animals.

II. PURPOSE and SCOPE

In wildlife, CWD can only be confirmed by laboratory tests of brain stem or lymph tissues from harvested animals. These tests do not produce rapid results; therefore, by the time a positive case of CWD is confirmed by laboratory testing the disease has had the opportunity to spread. This CWD Response Plan provides guidelines for a rapid Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) response to a positive or presumptive positive CWD case in a cervid in Louisiana or near Louisiana's borders in a neighboring state.

III. AUTHORITIES

A CWD outbreak in Louisiana would require the cooperation of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and LDWF. Each agency is granted certain authority that would be needed to effectively address a CWD incident. The Louisiana Constitution and statutes give LDWF and Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) broad authority over the wildlife of the state. LDWF also has authority to regulate possession of wild WTD and other wildlife. Statutes give LDAF

authority to regulate farm-raised WTD, elk, and exotic deer that are kept for commercial purposes. The LDAF through the Board of Animal Health has authority to make and enforce rules to address diseases of domestic animals. Since the LWFC has exclusive control over wild animals, the authority of the Board of Animal Health to address diseases of wild animals may be limited.

Summary of pertinent statutes:

L.R.S. 56:3 provides that the state has ownership and title to all wildlife, and the LWFC is the regulatory body with exclusive control over the state's wildlife.

L.R.S. 56:115 gives the LWFC authority to promulgate rules for hunting, taking, possession, and protection of wildlife.

L.R.S 56:171 provides that anyone who possesses domestic WTD must have a license from the LDWF.

L.R.S. 3:3101 provides that anyone who possesses farm-raised WTD or elk for commercial purposes must have a license from LDAF.

L.R.S. 3:2095 provides that the Board of Animal Health has power to deal with contagious and infectious diseases of animals.

L.R.S. 3:2097 prohibits interstate or intrastate movement of diseased animals including farm-raised WTD and elk without written approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry.

L.R.S. 3:2094 provides that the Board of Animal Health may establish and enforce quarantine lines.

Summary of pertinent rules:

L.A.C. 76:V.107 (LWFC Game Breeder Rule) – provides that new licenses for WTD will not be issued and LDWF must be notified when any deer in an existing licensed enclosure dies.

L.A.C. 76:V.117 (LWFC Importation Rule) – provides that importation into or transport though Louisiana of WTD is prohibited. Requires that persons moving deer between licensed enclosures within the state give notification to LDWF.

L.A.C. 76:V.121 (LWFC Deer Disposal Rule) – provides that deer possessed illegally will be confiscated and at the discretion of LDWF, may be euthanized.

<u>LDAF Quarantine</u> – prohibits importation into or transport through Louisiana of WTD, elk, red deer, mule deer, or black-tailed deer unless the animals originate from a herd participating in a CWD surveillance program for at least 60 months.

<u>L.A.C. 7:XXI.1501 (LDAF Alternative Livestock Rule)</u> – establishes requirements for keeping farm-raised WTD and elk for commercial purposes.

IV. SITUATION

Louisiana has an estimated minimum population of 500,000 wild deer along with approximately 10,000 captive cervids. There are considered to be 17,000,000 acres of deer habitat in Louisiana. During the 2014-2015 deer season, 273,541 deer hunters harvested 139,900 native white-tailed deer. 2,603 deer were harvested during WMA managed deer hunts. There were 26,545 total hunter efforts for the managed deer hunts. During the entire hunting season, 6,122 deer were harvested on WMAs. The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) cooperators harvested 14,348 deer. There were 689 clubs and landowners enrolled in this program encompassing 1,574,814 acres. Estimated annual economic impact associated with Louisiana's recreational deer hunting is $331,000,000.00.

The mission of LDWF is to provide wise stewardship of the state's wildlife and habitats, to maintain biodiversity, including plant and animal species of special concern, and to provide outdoor opportunities for present and future generations to engender a greater appreciation of the natural environment. LDWF is dedicated to be good stewards of all native wildlife and strives to keep wildlife populations healthy and in balance with their habitat.

CWD is a serious issue. It can affect the health of wild deer and captive cervid populations. LDWF's strongest desire is to prevent the disease from entering Louisiana. CWD has been confirmed in 2 Canadian provinces: Alberta and Saskatchewan as well as 25 U.S. states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. At this time, CWD has not been detected in Louisiana. However, in 2012 a CWD exposed deer was shipped from a CWD positive pen in Pennsylvania with a Louisiana Captive Cervid Breeder Pen as its destination. That deer was never found. Accordingly, on November 19, 2012 LDAF imposed a moratorium on Rocky Mountain Elk, red deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer and sika deer entering Louisiana.

LWFC adopted rules to ban the importation of cervids into Louisiana in June 1998, again in October 2002 and made this ban permanent in September 2005. Additionally, the possession or transportation of wild cervids in Louisiana is illegal.

V. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

A. LDWF is primarily responsible for mitigation and response related to wildlife in Louisiana.
B. LDAF is primarily responsible for mitigation and response related to LDAF licensed captive cervid alternative livestock operations in Louisiana.
C. Response to a CWD incident may involve local, state, federal and other entities. No single local or state agency has the expertise to act unilaterally, nor do they have the resources necessary to deal with a large-scale incident.
D. Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may play a role. The local and national counterparts of these organizations have the ability to communicate rapidly with individual members, providing two-way communication regarding pre-planning through emergency response and recovery.
E. Environmental protection regulations or procedures may need to be suspended to allow timely and efficient disposal of affected cervids, bedding, food and plant materials.
F. A CWD incident may impact international trade.

VI. PREVENTION and PREPAREDNESS

A. Public Education and Information
   a. The public needs to be aware of the impact that a positive CWD case would have on Louisiana's wild deer herd, what they can do to minimize the chance for introduction, and what steps LDWF is taking to prevent CWD from entering Louisiana. LDWF will cover CWD in its public information meetings statewide.
B. Planning
   a. LDWF will work with LDAF, USDA-Wildlife Services (WS), USDA-Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) in developing a workable response plan for CWD.
   b. This response plan is a living document and can be updated any time the need arises.
C. Exercises and Training
   a. LDWF Veterinarians will provide disease response training to LDWF personnel in order to create a LDWF response team. This team will exercise on a regular schedule.
D. Surveillance
   a. All wild deer exhibiting signs of CWD will be tested, as will any other "target" deer (deer hit by cars, escaped captive cervids, and free-ranging non-native cervids)
   b. According to LDAF, all deer that have died or been harvested from a licensed captive cervid pen enrolled in the CWD Certification program (approximately 10% of LDAF permitted pens) will be tested for CWD.

VII. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Tactics

a. Prevent or minimize further spread and new introductions of the disease.

i. Create and monitor a Control Area consisting of an Infection zone and Buffer zone along with creating an overall Surveillance zone. Zone sizes and limitations to be determined by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) with current knowledge on CWD epidemiology, deer density, and deer habitat in the areas and zones.

ii. Increase hunter harvest opportunities by increasing limits and/or hunting days in Control Area and/or Surveillance zone as determined by SMEs.

iii. Selective deer collections by LDWF Response Team as determined by SMEs.

iv. Enact local baiting restrictions under LDWF Secretary's emergency authority.

b. Determine and monitor the prevalence and geographic distribution of CWD in the infected area.

i. Provide a testing protocol for all deer harvested or found dead in the Surveillance zone. Testing protocol to be determined by SMEs based on location, size, deer density and habitat found in the Surveillance zone.

ii. Protocols for proper disposal of infected carcasses and tissues will be established with input from SMEs.

iii. Protocols for proper disinfection of all equipment will be established with input from SMEs.

c. Support and conduct applied research on CWD and its epidemiology.

i. Collect, process, and record all important data and necessary samples for testing

d. Provide accurate and current information about CWD to the public, constituent groups, and agency personnel.

i. Provide accurate and timely test results on animals harvested by hunters in the Surveillance zone

ii. Provide approved press releases on a regular basis

B. Coordination and Control

a. Incident management will be accomplished by utilizing a Unified Command between LDWF and LDAF with representation from USDA-WS and USDA-VS as leading Federal Agencies.

b. Public Information will be handled through the Public Information Officers from LDWF and LDAF. The LDWF PIO will handle information regarding CWD in wild deer and the LDAF PIO will handle information regarding CWD in captive cervids.

C. Initial Detection, Assessment, and Activation

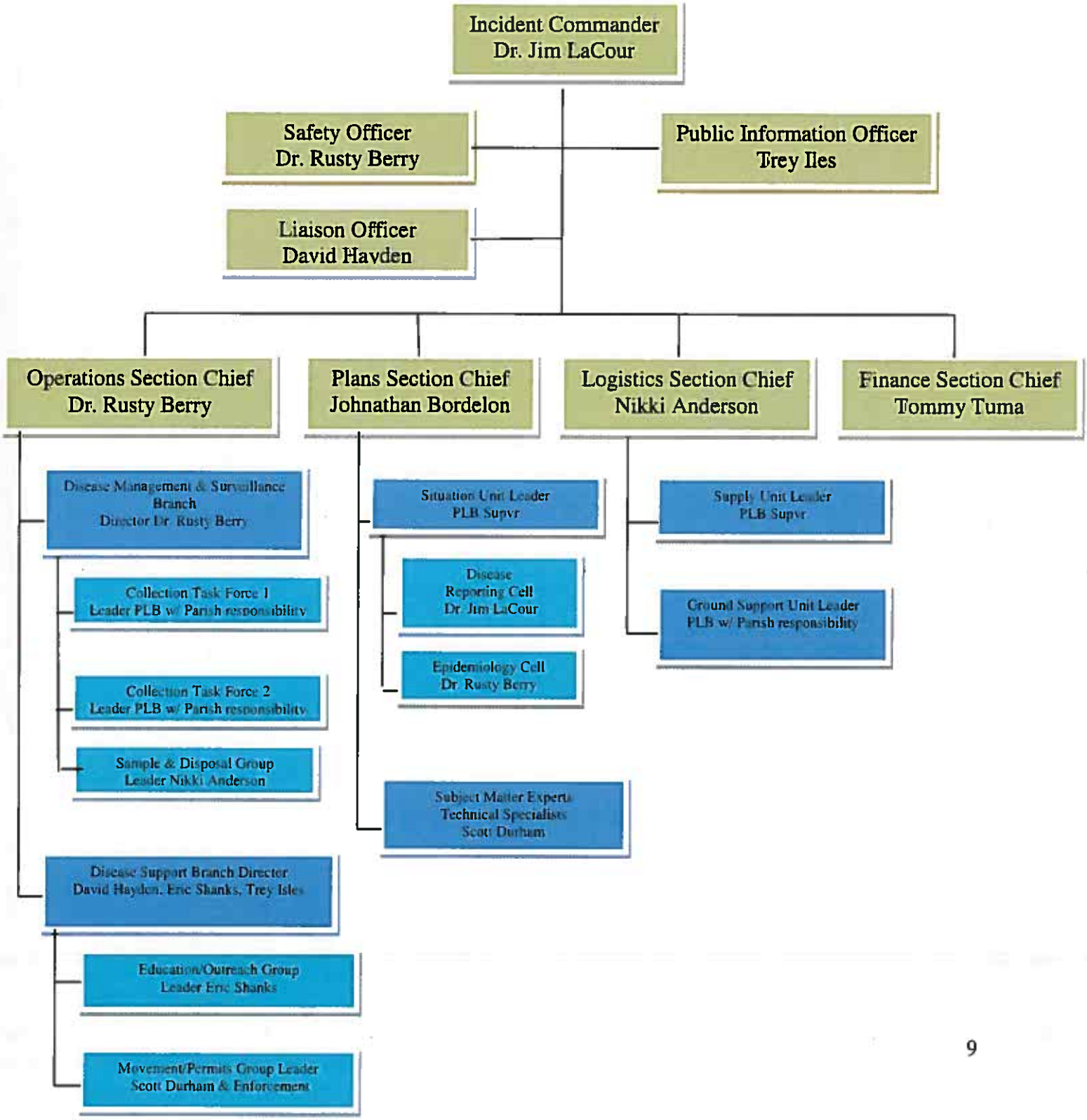
a. This plan will be activated upon receipt of a presumptive CWD positive test on a cervid in or near the Louisiana border by the LDWF State Wildlife Veterinarian (SWV) or his/her representative.
b. The SWV will call a meeting consisting of LDWF Staff, Assistant State Wildlife Veterinarian, State Deer Program Manager, SMEs and others to assess the situation.
c. Upon receipt of an official confirmation of the presumptive CWD test the SWV will hold an Incident Briefing to review all objectives and create an Incident Action Plan

VIII. ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LDWF will lead the response for all wild cervid operations and may assist LDAF with captive cervid operations.
B. LDAF will lead the response for all captive cervid operations and may assist LDWF with wild cervid operations.
C. USDA-WS may assist LDWF with wild cervid operations.
D. USDA-VS may assist LDWF with wild cervid operations.
E. USFWS may assist LDWF with wild cervid operations.

APPENDIX A

RESPONSE TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX B

LDWF RESPONSE TEAM ROSTER

POSITION	NAME	OFFICE PHONE	CELL/HOME PHONE	EMAIL	SUPERVISOR

APPENDIX C

FIELD RESPONSE TEAM EQUIPMENT LIST

SUPPLY ITEM	QUANTITY
Scalpel handles	30
Scalpel blades (15) (22)	500
Necropsy knives	30
Tissue forceps	30
CWD spoons	30
Scissors	30
Histology containers	1000
Sample Ziploc bags (gal)	1000
Nitrile gloves	3000 pair
Knife sharpeners (disposable)	100
Garbage bags (30gal heavy duty)	500
Tyvek suits :L, XL, XXL (250 each)	750 total
Face shields/safety goggles/glasses	500
Boot covers (plastic)	1500
Truck bed liners (disposable)	500
Paper towels	200 rolls
Cut resistant gloves	30 pair
Bleach	25 gallons
10% buffered formalin	15 gallons
Chlorhexidine Scrub	15 gallons

SUPPLY ITEM	QUANTITY
4-5 gallon pump up sprayers	10
Cutting boards	10
Buckets	10
Cleaning brushes	25
Large plastic storage containers	10
Folding working tables	6
Generators	3
Lights and light stands	6
Sample shipping containers	200
Permanent markers	100
ID tags and wire	1500
.308 rifles	6
.308 ammunition	1000 rounds
12 gauge shotguns	6
12 gauge buckshot 3"	200 rounds
Spotlights and head lights	12 each
Night vision scopes	2
Thermal cameras	4
Hand-held radios with earpiece	6
Laser rangefinder	4
GPS unit	4
Mandatory Check Station sign/post	10
Surveillance Area sign with post	50
CWD Control Area sign with post	25
Portable shelter	2
Portable AC/heaters	2
Trailer for storage	2
Refrigerated trailer	1

Notice of Intent to Amend the Shrimp Inside/Outside Line of Demarcation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Baton Rouge, LA

March 1, 2018

Coastal Overview

- Since 1932, USGS data indicates 4,833 square kilometers (1,194,258 acres) of coastal land loss.
- The rate of land change has decreased since a peak in the 1970s. The rate has further decreased since 2010.
- Between 1930 and 2010 there have been 57 tropical storms and hurricanes that have affected the Louisiana coast

Shrimp Line Historical Overview

- The shrimp inside/outside line was first established in Act 50 of the 1932 legislative session based on management areas
- The shrimp line has been amended 24 times
- R.S. 56:495 (E) authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to amend the demarcation line through the Administrative Procedure Act.

Shrimp Line Changes

- Recommended changes are based on 2015 satellite imagery
- Increases outside waters by 61,000 acres
- Provides for a longer fishing season and benefits fishermen that fish in shallow waters
- Impacts are concentrated in the Mississippi Delta, Chandeleur and Breton Sounds, and Terrebonne Basin
- Amendment will be effective September 1, 2018

Outreach and Public Comment

- 3 Louisiana Shrimp Task Force (LSTF) Meetings
- 3 Louisiana Shrimp Association Meetings
- Louisiana Fisheries Forward Flyer
- Louisiana Fisheries Forward Meeting (Cameron Parish)
- Line details are available on the Louisiana Fisheries Forward webpage
  - https://www.lafisheriesforward.org/fisheries/shrimp/shrimpline/
- Approval from the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force

LOUISIANA FISHERIES FORWARD
Advancing Our Seafood Industry

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Proposed Inside/Outside **Shrimp Line** Changes

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) is proposing to update the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, using 2015 satellite data to re-draw the line for the entire coast. Click on the maps at right to view larger images.

This line separates the "inside or inshore" waters from the "offshore waters or territorial seas".

Download the flyer **Proposed New Inside/Outside Shrimp Line**.

LDWF is now asking for public comment on the proposed new line to provide your input to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Frequently Asked Questions (click to expand)

- **When would the new Shrimp Line take effect?**
- **How can I get new maps?**
- **How can I give my input to the Department?**

Upcoming Events for More Information: Quality Seafood

2016 NEW SHRIMP INSIDE-OUTSIDE LINE (PROPOSED)
Texas State Line to Vermilion Bay

2016 NEW SHRIMP INSIDE OUTSIDE LINE (PROPOSED)
Vermilion Bay to Port Fourchon

2016 NEW SHRIMP INSIDE-OUTSIDE LINE (PROPOSED)

LOUISIANA Fisheries Forward QUALITY · EDUCATION · SUSTAINABILITY

Proposed Inside/Outside Shrimp Line Changes

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) is proposing to update the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, using 2015 satellite data to re-draw the line for the entire coast.

This line separates the 'inside or inshore' waters from the 'offshore waters or territorial seas'.

LDWF is now asking for public comment on the proposed new line to provide your input to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

When would the new Shrimp Line take effect?

At this time, the new Shrimp Line would take effect in the spring of 2018, when inshore shrimp season opens (this is pending approval by the Commission).

How can I get new maps?

Shrimp Line coordinates will be available in a .gpx or .wpt file format for uploading to GPS units; LDWF will communicate with shrimpers when these are available.

2015 NEW SHRIMP INSIDE-OUTSIDE LINE (PROPOSED)
Port Fourchon to Chandeleur Sound

This is one of three maps available showing the proposed new line vs. the old line along Louisiana's coast; visit http://www.lafisheriesforward.org/fisheries/shrimp/shrimpline/ to see them all.

Where can I view the maps in detail?

Visit the Louisiana Fisheries Forward website, and click on each map individually to pull up a large image: http://www.lafisheriesforward.org/fisheries/shrimp/shrimpline/

How can I give my input to the Department?

For more information or to give input, contact Jeff Marx at (337) 373-0032 or jmarx@wlf.la.gov.

www.lafisheriesforward.org

LOUISIANA FISHERIES FORWARD
Advancing Our Seafood Industry

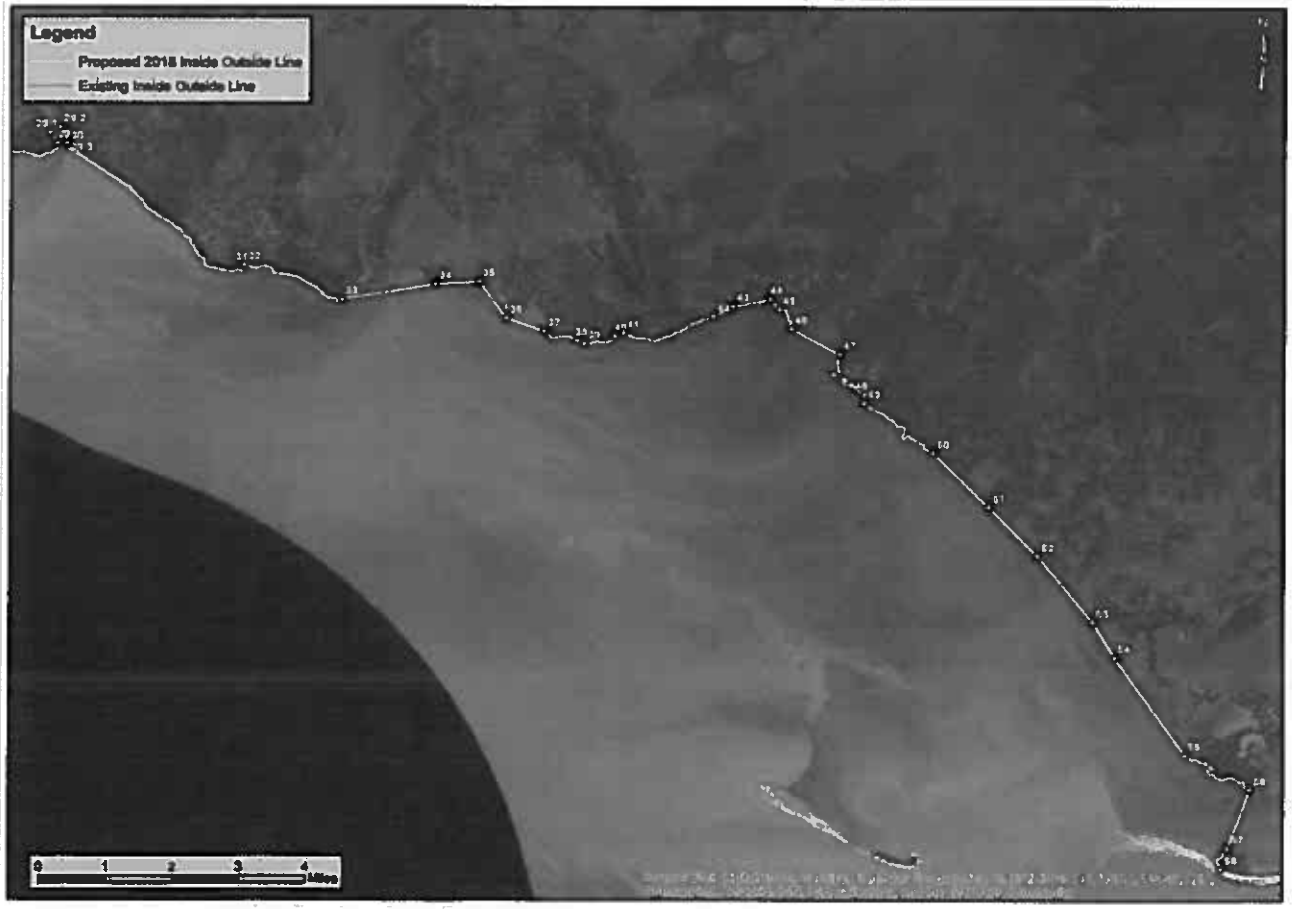
Texas to Calcasieu

Calcasieu to Rockefeller

Rockefeller to Pt. Au Fer

Pt. Au Fer to Fourchon

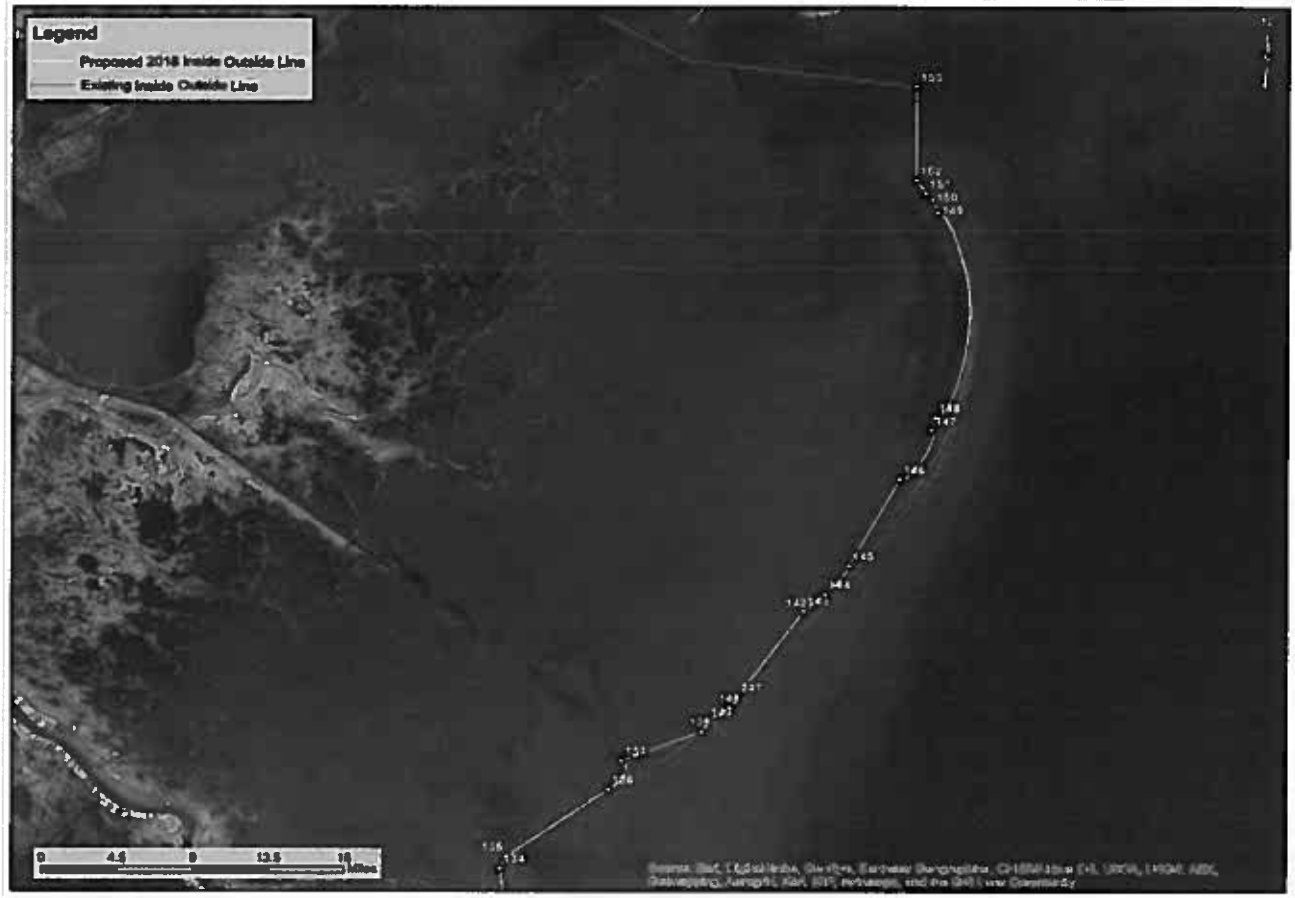
Terrebonne 10 mile scale



Grand Isle to Delta

Delta in 10 mile scale

Chandeleur and Breton Sounds



Questions?

Public Comment on the Amended NOI on the inclusion of Sterlet sturgeon on the Domesticated Aquatic Organism list and the creation of a Sterlet sturgeon Permit.

Robert Bourgeois LDWF Fisheries Permit Manager

March 1, 2018

Proposed Sterlet Sturgeon Permit Restrictions

1. No Sterlet Sturgeon farms East of the Mississippi River
2. Facility must be located 1 foot above the 100 year flood plain
3. Approved contingency plan for the disposal of fish in event of natural disaster (such as flood) threatening the facility
4. Biosecurity plan that stops release through theft or vandalism
5. A one million dollar performance bond available to the Department to be used to contain or remediate any incidents of escape
6. All fish must be tagged with tags approved by LDWF
7. Indoor recirculating system with filters to prevent eggs and larval release
8. Inspections of the facility by LDWF biologists
9. No transfer of live sterlet out of state.
10. No artificial fertilization or breeding of sterlet within LA
11. Fish transports within Louisiana must have an escort either from LDWF enforcement or other Departmentally Approved escort.

Summary of written public comments

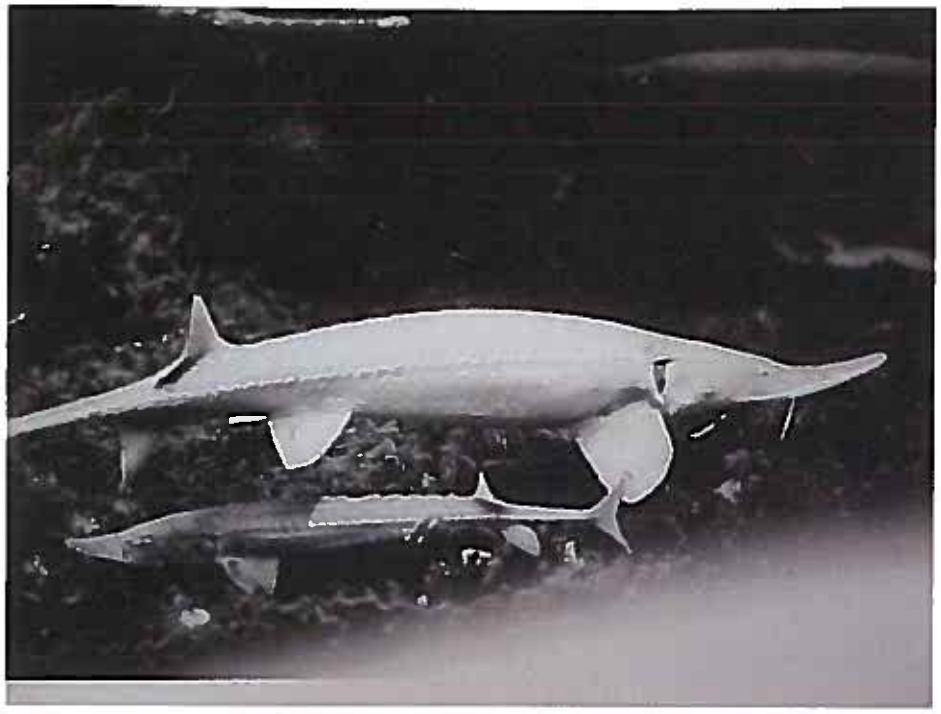
- 1 comment letter was received that address the amendment. While they were in favor of the amendment because it added more restrictions to the Sterlet permit they were against the sterlet permit in its entirety.
- All of the remaining letters were silent on their stance on the amendment.
  - 69 form letters were submitted that were opposed to the sterlet permit.
  - 4 individually modified form letters were submitted that were opposed to the sterlet permit
  - 10 unique letters were submitted that were opposed to the sterlet permit
  - 8 letters were submitted that appears to be modifications of a form letter in support of the sterlet permit.
  - 1 petition with 24 signatures was submitted in favor of the sterlet permit.

Summary of public comments from the public meeting

All public comment was for the amendment. However some were opposed to the permit and some were in favor of the permit.

- 2 comments were for both permit and amendment
- 3 comments were for the amendment but overall opposed to the permit

Questions?



Menhaden Bait Fishery

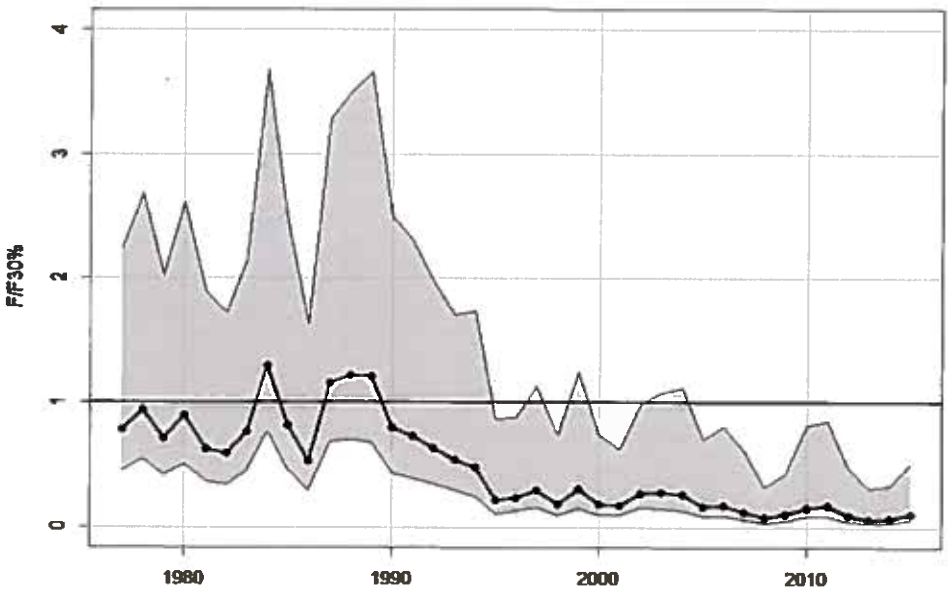
Jason Adriance | Wildlife and Fisheries Commission | March 1, 2018

Stock Status

Menhaden Status in the Gulf of Mexico

- Updated stock assessment in 2016
- Data ranged from 1977 through 2015
- Stock is not overfished or undergoing overfishing
- Population and spawning stock increased since 2013
- Stock fishing mortality threshold is F30% (equivalent to harvest of 1,500,828,134 lbs)
- Stock fishing mortality target is F35% (equivalent to harvest 1,462,948,353 lbs)
- Spawning stock is 3.5 times that of the threshold

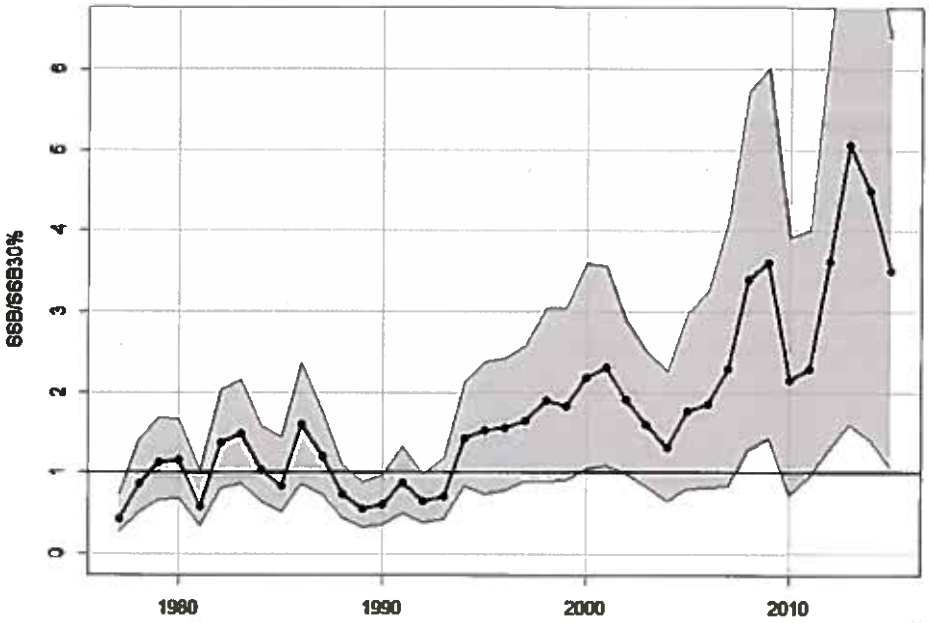
Menhaden Status in the Gulf of Mexico



Fishing Mortality relative to threshold of F30% during assessment time series.

*Source is Figure 21 in 2016 Gulf Menhaden Update Assessment (GSMFC document #254)

Menhaden Status in the Gulf of Mexico



Spawning stock biomass (SSB) relative to threshold of $SSB_{30\%}$ during assessment time series.

*Source is Figure 21 in 2016 Gulf Menhaden Update Assessment (GSMFC document #254)

Louisiana Bait Menhaden Fishery

Menhaden Bait Fishery

- Bait Season opens at the close of regular Season (Nov. 1) until December 1. Month of November.
- Bait Fishery may open again on April 1 if quota is not met during November season. Regular season begins 3rd Monday in April (April 19, 2018).
- Bait quota is 3,000 metric tons or 6.6 million lbs.
- Quota has never been reached (1989-present)

Menhaden Bait Fishery

- Bait Landings during the bait season have never exceeded 1% of the total Louisiana landings.
- Landings by bait companies during the regular season have never exceeded 2% of total Louisiana landings.
- Landings by bait companies during both seasons combined have never exceeded 1.5% of total Gulf of Mexico menhaden landings.

Menhaden Fishery Set Locations

Not just state waters. Dots are set locations

Total Gulf of Mexico Commercial Menhaden Landings (2000-2017)

Year	Species	Metric Tons	Pounds
2000	MENHADEN	591,443.00	1,303,895,228
2001	MENHADEN	528,551.20	1,165,244,072
2002	MENHADEN	585,325.00	1,290,407,390
2003	MENHADEN	518,346.70	1,142,747,056
2004	MENHADEN	464,147.60	1,023,259,717
2005	MENHADEN	369,905.90	815,494,506
2006	MENHADEN	408,871.30	901,397,775
2007	MENHADEN	456,012.50	1,005,325,101
2008	MENHADEN	420,719.10	927,517,404
2009	MENHADEN	454,767.00	1,002,579,318
2010	MENHADEN	341,758.90	753,441,625
2011	MENHADEN	634,425.50	1,398,654,362
2012	MENHADEN	500,108.60	1,102,539,427
2013	MENHADEN	440,582.60	971,308,312
2014	MENHADEN	384,922.00	848,598,968
2015	MENHADEN	539,319.80	1,188,984,434
2016	MENHADEN	618,719.80	1,364,029,727
2017	MENHADEN	460,707.00	1,015,674,694

Questions?

JANUARY GULF COUNCIL MEETING

Chris Schieble | March 1, 2018

Sustainable Fisheries

The Council is continuing to work on:

- Protocol for authorizing sea turtle release gear
    - Reviewed a public hearing draft of Amendment 49 that would allow the use of new sea turtle release gears for **commercial and charter vessel/headboats** with federal Gulf reef fish permits.
    - Will hold a public hearing before the April Council meeting.
    - Will review a final action on the amendment at the April Council meeting

Sustainable Fisheries

- Barotrauma devices:
  - Reviewed a draft policy statement that encourages the proper use of venting tools or descending devices.
  - Outreach and Education Technical Committee would be a positive feature for implementing a related outreach program. Committee will meet before the June recreational red snapper season

Sustainable Fisheries

- Draft Options Paper – Carryover of Unharvested Quota
  - The Council received the SSC recommendations on this options paper that considers incorporating provisions to allow carryover of uncaught ACLs and appropriate adjustments to any quota carried over.
  - Council voted to remove an alternative that would not allow carryovers to stocks without a sector allocation and
  - Council voted to remove an action that allowed adjustments to the carryover provision.
  - Council also voted to revise the wording in Action 5 so that there is consistent terminology among the framework procedures for FMPs.

State Management of Red Snapper

- Reviewed draft amendments for the five Gulf states that would enable each state to establish state management for the recreational harvest of red snapper in federal waters.
- No appreciable movement was made on the LA-Only Red Snapper state management amendment.
- Reviewed an approach to estimate red snapper biomass off each state.
- Voted to exclude 2010 landings from all the historical landings time series alternatives.
- In response to letters from the states pertaining to delegation management measures, voted to assess the requested delegation items, and determine what items can be delegated for inclusion in the next iteration of the documents.

Amendment 41 - Allocation-based Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels

- The current preferred alternatives would establish a permit fishing quota program that provides participants with shares and annual allocation that remain attached to the permit.
- The Committee discussed the potential for discrepancies in average fish weights from dockside sampling that would be used for converting pounds to number of fish. The Committee then made the following motion:
    - To add a new Action X - Units of Measure for Quota Distribution and Reporting.
    - Alt-1=Charter Vessel quotas distributed and reported in pounds.
    - Alt-2=Charter Vessel quotas distributed and reported in number of fish.
    - Alt-3=Charter Vessel quotas distributed in pounds and reported in numbers of fish.

Amendment 42 - Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels

- Decided to review the document and select preferred alternatives at the April Council meeting.
- Requested that Council staff develop a decision tool for both Amendments 41 and 42, so the Council and stakeholders could better assess the current range of alternatives.

Exempted Fishing Permits

- Voted to recommend approval of each state's EFP, with the condition that if federal for-hire vessels are included in any state's EFP, it would not shorten the length of the federal for-hire season for the rest of the Gulf.

Exempted Fishing Permits and Red Snapper Season

- Because of NOAAs timeline to approve the EFP (public notice, receive public comments, final approval), we likely cannot bring a red snapper season recommendation to the Commission until the May Commission meeting.
- We may not know fully how the season structure or quotas under the EFP are ultimately published as final until the May meeting.
- Since we are not bringing a Red snapper season recommendation to the Commission at this March meeting, the Secretary will need to issue a Declaration of Emergency to keep the season from opening March 24 (Saturday before Palm Sunday) as laid out in Title 76, until we have the final EFP structure.

Historical Captain Endorsements

- Louisiana authored a successful motion to begin development of a plan to consider removing the historical captain endorsement to federal charter/headboat permits for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic and to allow these permits to be fully transferable.
    - Of the 1,247 gulf-wide Charter/Headboat Reef Fish Permits, 32 are historical.
    - Their boats are in the permit count.
    - Their fish are counted in the total.
    - This would simply place these 32 permit holders on a level playing field as the other 1,215.
    - Louisiana has 6 captains with historical permits.

QUESTIONS?

Next Gulf Council meeting is April 16-19 in Gulfport MS.