

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2021

**Jerri G. Smitko
Chair**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jerri G. Smitko', written over the text 'Baton Rouge, Louisiana'.

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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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
April 1, 2021 – 9:30 AM
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of March 4, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of April 1, 2021 Agenda
6. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
 - a) Introduction of New Commission Member Gene Reynolds
7. Enforcement Report, March 2021
8. Discussion of Menhaden Fishing Limits (Added to Agenda During Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege)
9. Receive a Report on R3 (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation) Action and Progress Regarding Licenses
10. Receive Update on Department Telecommunication Issues
11. Receive Public Comments and Consider Amendments for the Notice of Intent for Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Bird Rules and Regulations, Including General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2021-2022
12. Tracking Blue-Winged Teal Using GPS/GSM Transmitters
13. Receive an Update on the 2021 Recreational Red Snapper Season
14. Receive and Consider Notice of Intent to Amend the Domesticated Aquatic Organisms Rule
15. Receive a Report on the 2021 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments
16. Set Commission Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2021
17. Receive Public Comments

18. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on April 1, 2021, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room by **Chair Smitko**.

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

Chair Smitko asked for the **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Andrew Blanchard
Dusty Guidry
Bill Hogan
Joe McPherson
Gene Reynolds
Jerri Smitko
Al Sunseri

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

Next, **Chair Smitko** called for **Adoption of March 4, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to adopt the March 4, 2021 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Guidry**. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chair Smitko asked for **Approval of April 1, 2021 Agenda**. **Commissioner Guidry** made a motion to approve the **April 1, 2021 Agenda**, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and unanimously approved.

For **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege, Introduction of New Commission Member Gene Reynolds**, Secretary Montoucet stated he served with **Commissioner Reynolds** in the Legislature and knew him to be an avid hunter, offshore fisherman and felt he would be a great addition to the Commission. Secretary Montoucet welcomed **Commissioner Reynolds** to the Commission and was looking forward to working with him. **Commissioner Reynolds** stated his greatest life adventure was being a science teacher of junior high and high school students and even partnered with the Department on trips for his students to the coast. The **Commissioner** added that it was an honor and privilege to be on the Commission and looked forward to working with the other Commissioners. **Chair Smitko** also welcomed **Commissioner Reynolds**.

Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks reminded the Commission that following the discussion on menhaden at the November 2020 meeting, the Department was instructed to work with both sides to find a compromise. He noted there have been several meetings at the Department and even mentioned several Legislators stepped in to actively work on this issue. Assistant Secretary Banks then stated that a tentative compromise was reached and had maps that would show the compromise. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the maps were available now to see and Assistant Secretary Banks answered yes. The **Commissioner** wanted to see the maps so the general public as well as interested parties could see what may be presented. In response to the Legislature, **Commissioner McPherson** felt it was the Commission's authority to look at these issues and regulate the natural resources of the State, but knew this was not a resource issue but a user conflict issue. The **Commissioner** asked the Department to come forward with a proposed Notice of Intent to begin the process and interested parties can provide input and let the Commission try to regulate the industry including the user conflict aspect. Assistant Secretary Banks stated the Department would bring a Notice of Intent that reflects what was understood to be a tentative agreement. General Counsel Cole Garrett felt this discussion was becoming substantive and requested the Commission amend the agenda to add this as an item. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the menhaden fishing limits, seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri** and unanimously approved following a roll call vote. **Chair Smitko** asked that Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege continue and then the Commission could discuss the menhaden issue.

Commissioner Sunseri wanted to recognize a friend, Mr. John Ray Nelson, that passed away on March 11, 2021 and offered condolences to his family. The **Commissioner** stated that Mr. Nelson was an icon in the seafood industry and an important buyer of Louisiana's seafood for over 80 years. Mr. Nelson was a third generation owner of Bon Secour Fisheries and under his tenure, established one of the largest oyster, shrimp and fish processing and distribution businesses in the Gulf South. Bon Secour Fisheries bought, processed and distributed billions of pounds of Louisiana seafood and shipped them across the country. Mr. Nelson was a longtime member of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and through his leadership was able to draw attention to the importance of Louisiana and the Gulf seafood as a natural, healthy and fresh food source. **Commissioner Sunseri** added that through Mr. Nelson's relationship with his father, he was able to continue his tradition as a leader in the Louisiana and Gulf States' seafood industry. The **Commissioner** then asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Nelson.

Commissioner Blanchard stated he was Vice-Chairman of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force and at their recent meeting, NOAA announced there would be a delay on shrimp TED's for 40' trawlers in Louisiana state waters. The Shrimp Task Force asked the Commission for a letter of support to NOAA mentioning TED's was not a good thing for coastal Louisiana with its coast lands. The **Commissioner** felt this would cause a conflict for the local fishermen and then asked General Counsel Garrett for an update on this issue. General Counsel Cole Garrett commented that NOAA Fisheries delayed the implementation date to August of requiring turtle excluder devices (TED's) in skimmers that are 40 foot or larger as there are not enough devices available to make everyone compliant. NOAA indicated they may do away with excluding 40 foot and under vessels and apply this regulation to the entire fleet, but this would require additional action to amend their own rule. General Counsel Garrett felt the turtle interaction was such that tow

times was sufficient in Louisiana and not require the use of TED's. As requested by the Shrimp Task Force, a letter by the Commission on this issue could be drafted and added as an item for the next Commission Meeting.

General Counsel Garrett commented that an item was unanimously added to the agenda after the approval of the agenda and noted no further action was needed.

Major Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for March 2021** stating there were 7 boating incidents with 4 injuries and 1 fatality. A total of 672 written citations and 155 written warnings were issued during March and agents responded to 34 public assists. News releases discussed included agents citing 2 men in Terrebonne Parish for oyster violations in Bayou Severance and 3 sacks of oysters were seized and returned to the water as well as the seizure of a vessel and dredge; a Chalmette man was arrested in St. Bernard Parish for operating a boat while intoxicated with child endangerment and failure to comply with PFD requirements; and a Buras man was arrested in Plaquemines Parish for crab trap violations and a total of 60 traps were seized from the subject.

Commissioner McPherson thanked Major Skena for the breakdown on the tagging cases and the response shown in getting the report in a more user friendly format; Major Skena acknowledged and would pass his compliment onto the Chief.

Chair Smitko then announced the next agenda would be the **Discussion of Menhaden Fishing Limits** and would be handled by Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks. Assistant Secretary Banks stated he did not have a formal presentation but based on recent meetings, maps were developed by Department personnel. The statewide map showed the three-mile line with the red line denoting the inside-outside line; a map from the Texas state line to the Cameron area showed the pink area as being a one-quarter mile buffer off the coast to restrict commercial menhaden harvest; the next map was of the Cameron area and the pink area was a one-quarter land mile buffer; a map of the Vermilion area showed a one-quarter mile buffer off the inside-outside line; the one-quarter mile buffer continues off Terrebonne but changes as you move east to Port Fourchon to a one-mile buffer off Elmer's Island area; the Gentlemen's agreement of a 3-mile buffer for Grand Isle and a one-mile buffer off West Grand Terre; and then the one-quarter mile buffer continues from Grand Terre east. For purposes of menhaden fishing around the Breton and Chandeleur Sounds by law, fishermen can fish inside of the inside-outside line but has to stay one-quarter mile off the double-rig line. (A copy of the maps shown by Assistant Secretary Banks' is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner McPherson asked if the menhaden fishermen were not allowed to fish inside of the yellow line for Breton and Chandeleur Sounds to which Assistant Secretary Banks explained that the one-quarter mile buffer would apply to the double-rig line (yellow line) and they could fish from one-quarter mile off to the Chandeleur Islands. Assistant Secretary Banks further explained the fishermen have 2 buffers for the Breton and Chandeleur area, a one-quarter mile buffer off the red line but fishing can happen inside the Sounds up to the one-quarter mile buffer which was shown as the yellow line. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if attendance at these meetings were representative of the user groups that may be impacted and Assistant Secretary Banks stated they were the same groups that testified before the Commission back at the

November meeting. He added that both sides have been very good in showing up for the meetings and have been extremely engaged. **Commissioner Sunseri** felt that was promising to which Assistant Secretary Banks agreed and was glad to hear from staff that there were agreements. He reminded the Commission that these agreements still needed to be agreed upon by the larger organizations and this may result in hearing differences when presented at the May meeting. **Chair Smitko** was happy to hear there was a potential compromise but then she heard that it was shot down by one group that wanted the restriction; Assistant Secretary Banks heard concern back from one recreational group that was involved in the meetings. The **Chair** did not want to waste a lot of time if there would still be people that refuse to agree. **Commissioner McPherson** felt this may be a classic example of neither side liking the final result, then it may be a good compromise; he then stated it was extremely proper for the Commission and Department to exercise their role in developing reasonable regulations even though it was not a threat to the resource, but a user conflict. Then the **Commissioner** made a motion requesting a Notice of Intent be presented at the May Commission Meeting on this issue which will allow for public debate and input, and the motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sunseri**. **Commissioner Blanchard** stated, based on what the Department laid out, it looks like a user friendly agreement to both the commercial and recreational sides and felt both sides should be well pleased. The **Commissioner** further commented that the bulk of complaints came from the Elmer's Island to Grand Isle area and if recreational fishermen do not see these menhaden boats, they should be happy with the compromise. **Commissioner Blanchard** then mentioned he agreed with moving forward with a Notice of Intent at the next meeting. Assistant Secretary Banks tried to graphically show what was perceived as an agreement, and he added that the Department was there to show support for both sides. **Chair Smitko** asked if there was any reason based on science or the resource for the Commission to be involved in taking any action; Assistant Secretary Banks noted if there was a concern from a biological standpoint for menhaden as well as redfish or speckled trout, the Department would have come before the Commission, but based on the science right now, there was no biological concern.

Mr. Richard Fischer, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, stated it was a misrepresentation to state that a tentative agreement was made at the last meeting. He further noted an offer was made and the other side thought it over and declined. Mr. Fischer felt if this was to be an official agenda item, it should have been announced when the original agenda was released, as many more comments would have been received which could have added more light to the issue. **Commissioner McPherson** noted it was at the suggestion of the General Counsel that this was added as an agenda item, but this was a simple request for a Notice of Intent that will provide for plenty of opportunity for public comment. Mr. Fischer asked why was this being brought forth two weeks before the Legislature convenes and the **Commissioner** explained he wanted it for this meeting but was advised the proper processes needed to be completed before a proposal could be presented. **Commissioner McPherson** stated that the Commission was a constitutional authority, the Legislature can do as they want and so can the Governor, but the Commission will exercise its authority. The **Commissioner** asked how long would a Notice of Intent process take to which Assistant Secretary Banks stated it was 45-day public comment period and General Counsel Garrett added it was a 90-day process at the very shortest but you have up to a year to finalize a Notice of Intent. **Commissioner McPherson** noted the Commission may be on a dual tracking system with the Legislature if they pre-file a bill.

Mr. David Cresson, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana, stated they sent a message to the Department staff and Legislators engaged in the recent meeting that they could not agree with the one-quarter mile offer. He then expressed appreciation to the Department's staff for their hard work and all those that came to the table.

Chair Smitko asked if the Charter Boat Association rejected the offer as well to which Mr. Fischer stated their Association did not agree with the one-quarter mile. **Commissioner McPherson** felt it strange that a proposal would be presented but both sides do not like the tentative agreement, but were not commenting on what should be presented. **Chair Smitko** announced that if the different sides have proposals, then discuss it with staff and they will take that into account keeping in mind the goal of protecting the resource and acknowledging the science as well as the constitutional authority. Mr. Fischer stated that has been done and will continue. **Commissioner McPherson** stated that was why it was announced that a Notice of Intent would be presented. **Commissioner Reynolds** asked if the information from the November Commission Meeting was archived as he wanted to be ready for the discussion on this issue; **Chair Smitko** felt the Department's staff could assist and noted the meeting minutes were on the Department's website. General Counsel Garrett reminded there was a motion and a second on this agenda item, but first noted any Commissioner can request agenda items through the Secretary but **Commissioner McPherson's** request provides an informal notice. **Commissioner Sunseri** thanked the Department for following the Commission's instructions to bring the groups together and meet. **Commissioner Guidry** heard from CCA and the Charter Boat Association that one-quarter mile buffer would not work and asked what distance works for both groups and Mr. Cresson stated they agreed with the recommendation made by former **Commissioner Courville** for a one-mile buffer. Then **Commissioner Guidry** asked if an agreement was reached and a violation occurs, what could happen to the menhaden boat, Assistant Secretary Banks was not 100% sure but knew it would be a violation of Commission rules. Lt. Col. Rachel Zechenelly stated she could provide the penalties to the Commission after looking them up. **Commissioner Guidry** thought the penalties should be an enhanceable offense where the penalties would go higher and higher. Assistant Secretary Banks, in response to Mr. Fischer's comment that was not what they agreed to, apologized and added that he received a report following the meeting from staff and they felt there was a tentative agreement but knew the groups wanted to first report to their whole organization. He added he did hear from CCA that they decided to not go along with the agreement.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.

Mr. Rene LeBreton, Public Relations Officer, came forward for the next agenda item, **Receive a Report on R3 (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation) Action and Progress Regarding Licenses**. Mr. LeBreton noted he would give the presentation and apologized on behalf of Deputy Secretary Rob Shadoin for not being able to attend the Commission Meeting. R3 stands for recruitment, retention and reactivation that wants to create new hunters, anglers and shooters and keep the ones already there. R3 strategies occurs at different stages of a person's hunting and fishing adventure. In 1991, 40 million people hunted or fished, but after 30 years, 39.6 million people hunt or fish; however, the population increased by 30% during that same 30 years. In Louisiana, basic fishing and basic hunting license trends were declining, especially since 2016 (except for what occurred during 2020 Covid spike). Hunters and anglers provide

Louisiana with an economic impact of \$1.29 billion and \$1.06 billion respectively as well as 22,000 jobs. Mr. LeBreton then discussed why there are threats to hunting and fishing (competing outdoor and indoor activities, social support structure, aging hunting and fishing population). Several groups came together and developed a National R3 Plan which was adopted in June 2016 that gave direction to state agencies (one of the biggest recommendation was to develop a plan specific to the agency). The Department's R3 Plan was developed based on lots of successes and failures from other state agencies. The ideas for the Plan were reviewed at this point in the presentation (ideas from simplifying license purchases, target email campaigns, develop how to videos for new hunters and anglers, mentor programs, etc.). A chart of what the Department was doing was reviewed and it was noted the Department was very recruitment heavy with the plan trying to resolve some of those issues. Mr. LeBreton then gave information on case studies from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (Geo Fencing Nashville Farmers Market and Geo Fencing Wilderness Wildlife Festival); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (bought Google search and did digital display ads); and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (bought social media ads and digital display ads for a trout season campaign). (A copy of Deputy Secretary Shadoin and Mr. LeBreton's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chair Smitko seemed that the younger generation was not as interested in hunting and fishing but felt the Archery in Schools program should be supported as it may be a transition into hunting, but wondered if there were ways to work with the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts to introduce the younger generation into these sports. Mr. LeBreton felt there was a wide range of opportunities but it revolved getting in front of those groups; shooting sports were a gateway to R3. The **Chair** thought reaching the younger generation was critical but was amazed at the ROI on the Geo Fencing activities. **Commissioner McPherson** stated that the presentation showed that advertising works and it works with the hunting and fishing industries like it does with others. Then the **Commissioner** asked if there would be a proposal presented to get those types of return on investments and Mr. LeBreton stated their focus was to apply for every grant possible, but he was not sure if there would be a proposal presented in the future. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation was being used to get the grants and Mr. LeBreton answered, the Foundation was involved in all of the grants and have been great partners for the Department. The **Commissioner** added it was a great presentation and suggested offering automatic renewals for licenses so the public does not have to remember to do it each year. He then asked what would it take to gain retention by offering automatic renewals and Secretary Montoucet answered the Department was close (within 12 months) in finding instruments that would financially benefit us. **Commissioner Guidry** agreed with **Commissioner McPherson** that the automatic renewals would be a tremendous help to keep the retention but felt it should be included in the new system as it was easier to opt out of a situation rather than opting in. The **Commissioner** then stated that the single largest fund raiser for private schools was bass tournaments and asked if there was a way to promote the fisheries in these tournaments outside of the meeting to which Assistant Secretary Banks answered absolutely. **Commissioner Sunseri** thought education should start with the young and go all the way through college and suggested offering programs to students that could be both in class and outside of the classroom.

Chair Smitko then announced the next agenda item, **Receive Update on Department Telecommunication Issues**, would be presented by Mr. Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary. Undersecretary McClinton began acknowledging there was a problem but noted the difficulty was staffing was down 5 people, the employee that worked the front desk retired and a Hunter Education employee passed away. During last year's Covid spike, 10,000 more boats were sold than the year before which resulted in a 60-day backlog. Undersecretary McClinton then explained that the backlog was causing a higher number of calls from the public checking on their boat registrations. The mail situation now was a 2-week backlog and the number of phone calls has dropped which has allowed for more employees to answer the phones. Undersecretary McClinton then noted the Department has been working with OTS on a new telephone system which will allow for a known call wait time, will allow for background music or even allow for recorded messages that can promote the Department. The bad news is the financial situation as no hiring was being done and the Department was down 152 employees since Secretary Montoucet's administration began. He apologized again and commented he wanted exceptional service delivered to the public and felt the new telephone service may not help with the wait time but could be a better customer experience.

Chair Smitko commented that when the public calls the Department and the phone just rings with no answer was frustrating and not appropriate. Undersecretary McClinton further explained that the current telephone system was implemented in 2009 and will be obsolete in October. He added that the new system should not cost additional monies as it a state run system.

Commissioner McPherson then talked on his experience when dialing the main Department number and Undersecretary McClinton noted what options there are when that number was dialed. The **Commissioner** then asked how many people are in the main headquarters building on a given day to which Undersecretary McClinton could not answer that question.

Commissioner McPherson suggested rotating call schedules where an employee would answer the phones; he added that not answering a phone can destroy a business. Again, Undersecretary McClinton apologized for the situation and mentioned that the people responsible for making it better were working very hard. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if boat sales were down now which has resulted in catching up on the backlog to which Undersecretary McClinton mentioned there are 300,000 boats registered in Louisiana with 100,000 needing to be renewed each year. He added that the current 14-day turn around was what the Department strived for in boat registrations and commercial licenses.

Mr. Tommy Tuma, Biologist Director, was asked to come forward for his agenda item, **Receive Public Comments and Consider Amendments for the Notice of Intent for Rule Changes in Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Bird Rules and Regulations, Including General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations, General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations, Resident Game Hunting Season Date Adjustments for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and Migratory Bird Season Adjustments for 2021-2022**. Mr. Tuma began stating the public comment period already closed for the original Notice of Intent but an email was received 2 days prior to the meeting however that request was previously submitted to the Commission and not included in the public comments. The public comment numbers have not changed from last month's numbers. Mr. Tuma then explained he has received no comments on the amendment conditionally approved at the last meeting in reference to the Responsible Hunting Scent Association taking over the deer protection program from the Archery Trade Association.

He then reminded everyone a public hearing on this amendment would be held on April 21, 2021 beginning at 10 AM in the Baton Rouge Office. (A copy of Mr. Tuma's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

As both **Chair Smitko** and **Commissioner McPherson** were out of the room, **Acting Chair Hogan** asked if there were any questions and none were heard. General Counsel Garrett then explained there were no action items to be taken at this meeting and there would be a public hearing noted by Mr. Tuma. Then he mentioned one public comment was received through the Commission's email portal on deer hunting on Richard K. Yancey WMA and was included in the packets.

Acting Chair Hogan then announced the next agenda item, **Tracking Blue-Winged Teal Using GPS/GSM Transmitters** would be by Mr. Brett Leach, MS Student, University of Missouri. Mr. Leach began mentioning he was with the University of Missouri and this project was funded by the Department and Ducks Unlimited. When he began the project, he realized there was not much known on blue-winged teal and its basic ecological information. Blue-winged teal was one of the first birds to migrate south in the fall and one of the latest to arrive back in the prairies during the spring. Once a bird goes south of the United States, harvest rate and other such information cannot be obtained on those birds, however he was now working with Ducks Unlimited Mexico on managing blue-winged teal and other birds. The blue-winged early September season came about because of the droughts in the 1950's and 1960's and the first season was in 1965 and Mr. Leach noted this was the time when 47% of this country's harvest occurs. Transmitters used now were smaller and more precise (10 grams with a ± 15 -meter accuracy) and locations were recorded 24 times per day. Since the project began in 2019, a total of 90 transmitters have been deployed with 21 mortalities. Mr. Leach then went over the objectives of the project. The next graphs showed the movement migration of female blue-winged teals during the fall and spring. Migration of one bird showed movement was initiated on October 14, 2020 and completed on October 16, 2020 having traveled 1,345 miles in 2 days (a 12-hour stopover was included in this trip). **Chair Smitko** asked if in 2 days, a bird traveled 1,345 miles and only rested for 12 hours and Mr. Leach answered yes! Continuing with the presentation, Mr. Leach talked about the flight of another bird's migration having initiated on August 31, 2020, completed on October 30, 2020 and traveled 1,850 miles stopping 6 different times. **Commissioner McPherson** asked what was a typical migration time north and Mr. Leach felt the birds usually leave mid-April and arrive by mid-May, a 30-day period. Migration usually begins at dusk and continues through the night and when they find a wetland around dawn, they will use that as a stopover site so they can rest and refuel. A map showed the same stopover site in Louisiana for one bird which proves to be a fitness advantage. Wintering grounds shows that one bird usually stayed within a 4-5 kilometer area off I-55 in Manchac WMA. Another winter migration pattern showed a bird originally marked in Saskatchewan wintering in Terrebonne marshes. An image of a bird's movement in Venezuela was shown to give an idea of the drastic landscape differences compared to Louisiana. Mr. Leach stated another 35 transmitters would be deployed this spring in Louisiana with hopefully another 20 in South Dakota and then he would begin working on the data analysis for the project. He concluded the presentation by acknowledging all of the partners associated with the project. (A copy of Mr. Leach's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Reynolds asked what was the duration of the project and Mr. Leach stated it was a 3-year project with the transmitters lasting 2-3 years. The **Commissioner** then talked about how migration depends on climate and water and felt it would be interesting to look at that aspect; Mr. Leach noted he would be looking at how much water was on the landscape and where the birds decide to settle. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the concentration of ducks he was seeing in central Louisiana were migrating north or were these birds wintering in the State and Mr. Leach noted birds he has seen come back to Louisiana during spring migration have stayed for a while (2-3 weeks). **Commissioner Blanchard** asked if a hunter shoots a bird with a transmitter, should the hunter return the transmitter; Mr. Leach stated there is a phone number on the transmitter for the hunter to call which he has found has worked well.

For the next agenda item, **Receive an Update on the 2021 Recreational Red Snapper Season**, Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks began stating the Department has received a lot of questions on the recreational red snapper season. Last year, a proposed rule changed the structure of the season from an April opening to the Friday before Memorial Day to which the Commission approved that action. Assistant Secretary Banks noted there was no action needed at this time except if the Commission wished to change that opening date. He mentioned there would be a Gulf Council Meeting during the month with possible action being taken to change the annual catch limits for the Gulf of Mexico (Louisiana could have a change in its allocation of those limits if this was approved by the Gulf Council) or a calibration of State's surveys (how fish would be given to each state). Assistant Secretary Banks felt another short presentation would be made at the May meeting based on the results of the Gulf Council Meeting. (A copy of Assistant Secretary Banks' presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Sunseri asked if Assistant Secretary Banks had a crystal ball to which he was told a lot of people are interested in this issue. The Assistant Secretary added that he met with Congressional staffers on what may happen with calibration and change in catch limits; he hoped the catch limits would increase and see more fish for Louisiana. General Counsel Garrett stated one comment was received via the Commission's email portal requesting a 4-fish bag limit during the season.

Chair Smitko asked Mr. Robert Bourgeois, Fisheries Biologist, to come forward for the agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Amend the Domesticated Aquatic Organisms Rule**. Mr. Bourgeois began the presentation stating this proposed rule would update the Domesticated Aquatic Organisms (DAO) Rule and add to the approved species list. He explained how Domesticated Aquatic Organisms were established and the authority granted to the Department. The proposed rule was modernized (email addresses versus mailing addresses, updated terminology on staff's positions within the Department); defined the technical review committee (one Department biologist, one Enforcement representative and one non-Department expert); allows the Department to add a species to the list without having a request from the public; and exempts personal aquarium owners and retail stores. In the current list, there were 5 species (Freshwater Drum, Buffaloes, Golden Shiner, Fathead Minnow and Mosquito Fish) that were not legislatively allowed on the list which would be removed from the approved list. Another change, which was legislatively mandated, allows for larger sized fish to be stocked in private ponds. The Tilapia permit regulations were updated in the proposal; there are 2 types of Tilapia permits – live holder or commercial farms. These updates included: increase the

notification time for moving fish; modernized the species certification to allow for more modern techniques; added more liability protection; changed the start and end dates for permits to match calendar years; and updated the species name. Mr. Bourgeois then showed a graph that would show how the Tilapia bond amounts would increase up to \$50,000 over the next 5 years. He then went over the new species that were proposed by the public. Each new species was reviewed to see if there would be any impacts to the fisheries of the State, fish habitat of the State or any threat to human health. The first new species was Freshwater Prawns with the recommended regulations of \$25,000 bond, inspection of the facility, have a closed culture system with no water release off site without treatment and no release of eggs or fish without permission. Recommendation regulations for Rainbow Trout included: no bond required (species will not survive Louisiana's summer months), inspection of facility and make sure fish are free of "Rock Snot". The last proposed addition was Aquarium Livestock (African Rift Lake Cichlids species, Bristlenose Catfish species and one species of Fancy Guppy) with similar recommended regulations of \$25,000 bond, inspection of facility, closed indoor culture system and no release of eggs or fish without permission. Next a slide was shown with the New DAO Species List noting that Koi and Goldfish and Cocohoe Minnows would not have any regulations. (A copy of Mr. Bourgeois' presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chair Smitko asked what were Freshwater Prawns used for and Mr. Bourgeois stated they were used for food and could reach up to 6 inches, these species are usually one crop per year and are served at restaurants. After **Chair Smitko** asked if this was the first time Freshwater Prawns would be allowed on the list and was told yes, she then asked how was it evaluated to see what may happen if they got out. Mr. Bourgeois explained both Marine and Inland Department Biologists, Federal Biologist and a Professor felt there was a low risk of Freshwater Prawns getting out due to their habitat and the proposed regulations (closed culture system). **Chair Smitko** stated the Commission went through a similar proposal with Sterlet Sturgeon that was not approved as they could survive if released; she then asked if the Freshwater Prawns were in a closed system could they survive if they got into freshwaters. Mr. Bourgeois felt it was unlikely they would survive due to their temperature tolerances, the need for saltwater to reproduce, and the biologists believe the ability to get to those waters was low. **Chair Smitko** noted in Terrebonne Parish, the waters can go from freshwater to saltwater real fast and wondered what temperatures were needed, Mr. Bourgeois explained Freshwater Prawns need lower temperatures, they cannot tolerate the higher temperatures we have here. Then the **Chair** wondered what effect would there be on native species if these prawns got out to which Mr. Bourgeois commented the biologists did not think there would be a threat to native species. **Chair Smitko** asked Mr. Bourgeois to send her all of the biological data as she would like to see the same discernment applied to each species; Mr. Bourgeois mentioned that all fish on the DAO list are currently legal to have in this State, however, they cannot be sold commercially or bred in an aquarium sense. **Chair Smitko** knew that at some point, different species will get out into the wild, so special care was needed. **Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to set this agenda item aside until the next meeting and it was seconded by **Commissioner McPherson**. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if Freshwater Prawns were being raised in this State and Mr. Bourgeois stated there were special permits issued in the past but they were not being raising now; however, there has been a request and the Department has issued a temporary permit based on their past history. Again, **Commissioner McPherson** asked if there was anyone currently

growing Freshwater Prawns commercially in this State; Mr. Bourgeois stated the permit holder does not currently have any shrimp, but did have them in the past under an experimental permit. The **Commissioner** wondered, if Freshwater Prawns were put on the list, would the Department be authorizing permits and he was told yes, as long as all of the requirements were met. Then **Commissioner McPherson** agreed with **Chair Smitko** in that some of the exotics have been disastrous in many instances, and with one request, the State was going to take a risk with the unknown and unproven; he was unsure about the risk with the value of the State's aquaculture. Mr. Bourgeois, in response to exotic species, mentioned he was the Fisheries Aquatic Exotic Species Coordinator and would never say anything was 100% no risk except for Rainbow Trout as they cannot handle temperatures about 70°. He did not think any biologist would ever say there is no risk, but the law was in place for the Department to review these species and see if there was an acceptable risk to help increase the economy of the State through this aquaculture. Mr. Bourgeois noted there were other species the Department reviewed and did not allow. **Commissioner McPherson** suggested there was a balance between the economic benefit and what was the rational as opposed to any risk of introducing exotics. **Chair Smitko** felt food scarcity will be a problem in the near future for the planet and believes in aquaculture; but she wanted to see all of the facts and if there could be susceptibility to different diseases or viruses that could transmit to native shrimp. **Commissioner Blanchard** asked what species of Freshwater Prawns would be included and Mr. Bourgeois stated it was *Marcobrachium rosenbergii*. The **Commissioner** stated he was concerned as were other Commissioners and knew of a big push for aquaculture through the Federal Government and other states, even some states as far north as Minnesota and Wisconsin, have established shrimp farms with these monies and were growing prawns. **Commissioner Blanchard** then expressed concern on how these prawns can be contained with water discharge going into the Mississippi River that could lead to the Gulf of Mexico. He then talked about black tiger shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico waters and stated it was not known how invasive they have become; Mr. Bourgeois added there have been very few reports of black tigers across the Gulf and South Atlantic. **Commissioner McPherson** made a substitute motion to let the proposed Notice of Intent go forward except removing Freshwater Prawns from it to which **Chair Smitko** stated she wanted to look further at the whole proposal. Then **Commissioner McPherson** asked Mr. Bourgeois if a one-month delay would hurt the process and after being told no, he withdrew his substitute motion. **Chair Smitko** asked if the permit was still valid and General Counsel Garrett answered that these permits are caveated they are for experimental purposes and are issued at the Secretary's discretion. Hearing no further questions, the motion passed with no opposition.

Then Mr. Cole Garrett, General Counsel, was asked to come forward for his agenda item, **Receive a Report on the 2021 Regular Legislative Session and Consider Taking a Position on Certain Legislative Instruments**. General Counsel Garrett began stating pre-file deadline for this legislative session was not until April 2, 2021. He then noted this was a fiscal session and Legislators could file only 5 non-fiscal bills of which he did not think many more would be added to this presentation. The first bill reviewed was the Department's License Fee Restructure bill which deals with recreational, commercial and boat registrations. A graph of main revenue sources (royalties on land, recreational license revenues, vessel registration and commercial fishing license sales) that goes into the Conservation Fund, the basis of operation for the Department, was shown. Mineral revenue has gone from a high in 2013 or 2014 to what was now anticipated to be \$13,000,000 or less per year. Next graph shown was on monthly mineral

deposits showing how it has gone down to \$1,000,000 per month. Even with a “Covid uptick” in recreational fishing licenses last year, there has been a downward trend since 2014-2015; royalties have decreased from about \$70,000,000 down to \$13,000,000; the combined recreational and revenue graph shows a combined steady downward trend in revenue for the Department. General Counsel Garrett then talked on basic hunting and fishing licenses being sold compared to lifetime and senior combination licenses which leads into the fiscal status. A Conservation Fund dollars’ graph showed revenues each year (went from about \$75,000,000 in fiscal year 2015-2016 down to \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023), expenditures were remaining fairly constant. When the Department presented a license restructure bill in 2018, the Department was faced with 2 criticisms: the bill was only focused on recreational license holders and there was a balance in the account. General Counsel Garrett advised the Department was asking for \$17,000,000 in State General Fund money for the upcoming fiscal year. Another graph showed that the Department was not having an expenditure issue but rather a revenue issue. Then shown was the number of unfilled positions (down 150+ employees). A pie chart showed the largest part of the Department’s expenditures comes from personnel services (72%) followed by expenditures that are paid to other agencies (14%) and when combined totals 86% of non-discretionary expenditures. Categories the Department have reduced expenditures came from travel, operating services, supplies, professional services contracts. **Commissioner McPherson** asked why the Salaries category went up 8% even when positions were not filled; General Counsel Garrett explained it was cost of living adjustments that was mandated by Civil Service. Going on with the presentation, General Counsel Garrett showed a slide listing all of the Department’s projects and programs that have been added since 2001 as well as a slide of the United States noting the last time recreational license adjustments were changed by each state (Louisiana’s last recreational license change was in 2000). The Department’s proposed bill was a chance to simplify the 117 licenses into what was being proposed for recreational, commercial and boat registrations users. The next 3 slides showed what was being proposed in the bill with General Counsel Garrett first talking on recreational licenses and pointing out several differences as well as those that would not change (the notes on the bottom of the recreational license slide shows that a portion of those fees would go back into specific programs-LA Creel Program, Charter Boat Association, etc.). The second of the 3 slides was on the boat registration restructure (boat length have been classified into Coast Guard classes) and would dedicate \$5,000,000 (will be matched by Federal dollars) for the Aquatic Plant Control program. **Commissioner Reynolds** asked what was being spent on aquatic plant control now and General Counsel Garrett felt it was as much as \$6,500,000 between State and Federal funds, but added that those numbers have not been that much. Assistant Secretary Banks mentioned during Fiscal Year 2017, over \$7,000,000 total was spent on aquatic plant control with almost \$2,000,000 being Federal funds. Since his recent appointment to the Commission, the **Commissioner** commented he has already received numerous calls on salvinia. General Counsel Garrett continued the presentation stating a paddlecraft fee was added and would include kayaks, pirogue or anything using a paddle to propel and would be for the lifetime of that ownership. **Chair Smitko** asked if she sells a pirogue, would the new owner have to re-register it and General Counsel Garrett answered yes, and added that registration of the paddlecraft was not necessary if it was used in a non-navigable waterway. Next General Counsel Garrett talked on the restructure of the commercial licenses. The funds from the licenses noted in blue would go into the Conservation Fund, while the gear license fees noted for shrimp, crab, crawfish, oysters, saltwater fish and freshwater fish would be 100% reinvested into those industries for promotion,

marketing and enforcement of those species. This information was presented to the Shrimp Task Force and there were comments made. **Commissioner Blanchard** stated that the Shrimp Task Force did have a discussion on the commercial licenses and believed the commercial sector licenses were increasing by 150-200%. The **Commissioner** noted this was a dying industry (shrimp, crab and oyster) and the Task Force did not think the Department should look at just the commercial side to get itself out of the current situation. **Commissioner Blanchard** understood that the money would go back to the industry, he added that there were less commercial fishermen and commercial boats now than in 2015 (30,000 then compared to 5,000 now). He knew with these low numbers the Department would not have to spend much time enforcing the regulations. Again, **Commissioner Blanchard** stated the industry recognized they needed to pay a fee, but could not carry the full burden of the license restructure; he mentioned that there may not be a shrimp industry within the next 2-5 years. **Chair Smitko** concurred with most of **Commissioner Blanchard's** comments. General Counsel Garrett explained that the reason the fees were higher than that applied to recreationals was two-fold – the commercial licenses have not been adjusted since 1985 and there are only 10,000 licensed commercial fishermen versus the 650,000 fishers and 300,000 hunters. The last slide on the Department's license restructure bill compared current funding to revised revenue (an additional \$11,000,000 from recreational hunting and fishing, \$4,000,000 from commercial licenses and \$2,000,000 from boat registration may be received from these adjustments). General Counsel Garrett commented that this proposal does not fix the Department's problem, but only solves half of the problem. **Commissioner Sunseri** understood that the increases were significant, but has seen increases in everything associated with his business. When looking at the increases in the licenses from 1985 to 2021, the **Commissioner** knew, with the value of the dollar today and the services provided by the Department, he would speak in support of the license restructure and increases. **Commissioner McPherson** felt the Commission recognized the importance of this proposal and suggested having the support of user groups when the bill was presented at the Legislature. The **Commissioner** then thought he was the legislative person that mandated the Department submit a report on its fee structure every 5 years and asked if that was being complied; General Counsel Garrett answered that an Annual Report was submitted to the Committees and Governor's Office that contained that information. Based on what General Counsel Garrett stated, **Commissioner McPherson** did not feel that information was given to any Legislator or Budget Analyst or presented before a Committee. General Counsel Garrett advised that Secretary Montoucet and Undersecretary McClinton has met with the Legislature since 2018 and described the path the Department was headed on. He then expressed appreciation to the Commission on listening to the proposed license restructure. **Commissioner Blanchard** mentioned the recreational charter boat 3-day license was only \$10 and thought these type fees should be adjusted and fair for everyone; General Counsel Garrett understood the comment and offered himself and Undersecretary McClinton's availability to talk on any of the proposed fees.

Continuing with other bills of concern for the Department, General Counsel Garrett talked on several wildlife bills: House Bill 239 by Representative Riser (Prohibits Harvest of Cypress Trees on State Property), House Bill 366 by Representative McFarland (Authorizes Land Swap on Russell Sage WMA), and House Bill 154 (Wildlife Trust Fund Investments specific to Rockefeller Trust, Russell Sage and Marsh Island Trust Funds). One public access bill pre-filed thus far was House Bill 331 (Constitutional Amendment Authorizing State to Alienate Navigable Water Bodies). **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if this could change the Public Trust Law and

General Counsel Garrett did not think so as the State was still entrusted with the public resources but creates a legal methodology to establish boundaries and settle disputes so the public can know where they can and cannot go. The **Commissioner** then asked if eroding land that became navigable but not protected by the landowner would be retained by the landowner to which General Counsel Garrett stated this depends on how the agreement was worded. **Commissioner McPherson** suggested looking at the language in statute but felt the State has the opportunity currently to look into negotiated boundary settlements; General Counsel Garrett felt this proposal had to do with retention of minerals. **Commissioner Sunseri** stated, if that was the case, he would hope the Department's position would be for mineral rights rather than for navigational purposes; General Counsel Garrett knew the Department's position on any public access bill was to be in favor of anyone utilizing the fish and wildlife resources of the State but not to the detriment of private property rights. **Commissioner Reynolds** wondered if 70 votes were needed on the House side to pass this bill and he was told yes, that was what was needed to put it to a vote of the people. Three fisheries bills included: House Bill 75 (Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund), House Bill 226 (Lake D'Arbonne Crappie Limits), and Senate Bill 134 (Prohibits Nighttime Shrimping in Lake Pontchartrain). **Commissioner Sunseri** asked General Counsel Garrett if he knew the impetus of the Senate Bill and he was told no. The first Enforcement bill discussed was House Bill 118 (Louisiana Firearm Protection Act). **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the bill would not prohibit federal law but prohibit the enforcement of federal law to which General Counsel Garrett answered yes and noted that funds from Joint Enforcement Activity could be left on the table. **Chair Smitko** wondered who introduced this bill and General Counsel Garrett stated it was a myriad of Representatives. Other Enforcement bills included House Bill 157 (Survival Benefits for Spouse and Children of Law Enforcement Officers) and Conversion of Certain Criminal Violations to Civil Fines (no bill number has been assigned as of that day). **Commissioner McPherson** asked where do the civil fines go and General Counsel Garrett replied into the Conservation Fund. (A copy of General Counsel Garrett's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

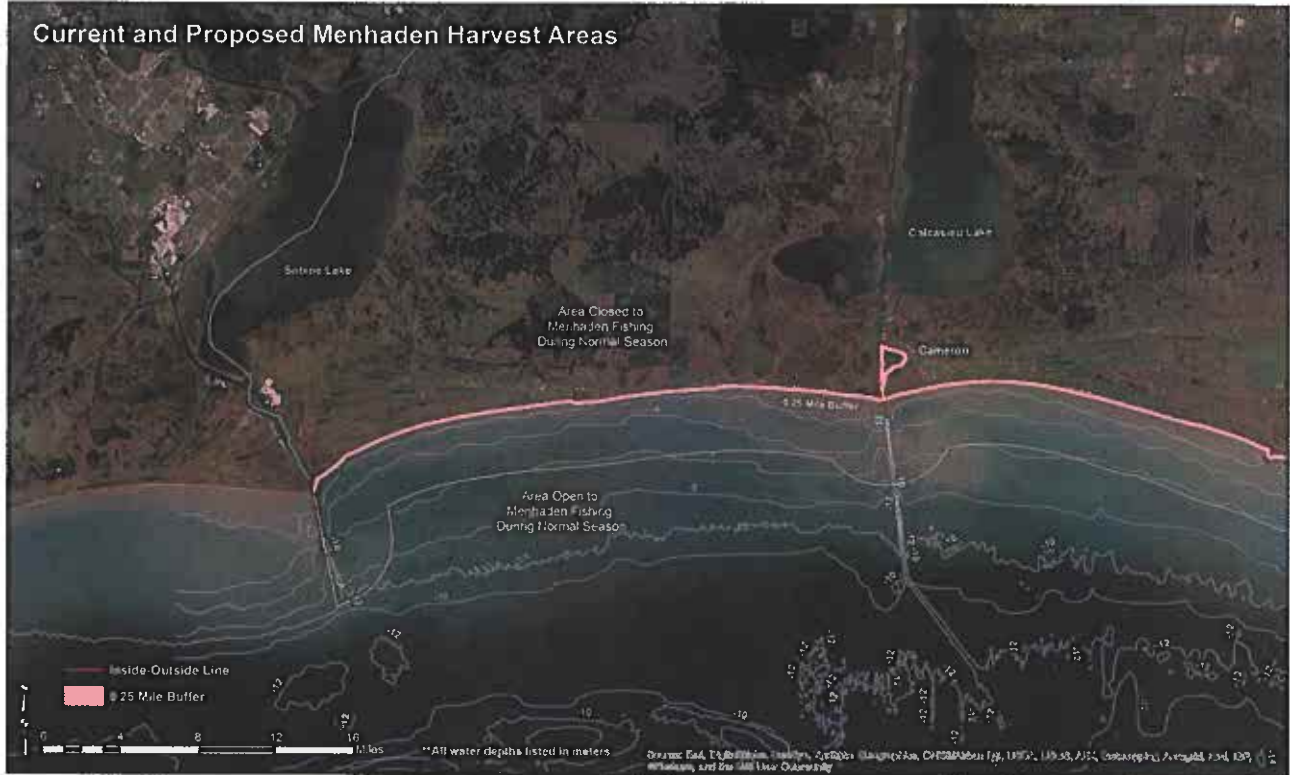
Chair Smitko then announced the next agenda item would be to **Set Commission Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2021**. **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to hold the remaining 2021 Commission Meetings on the first Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30 AM unless changed, a second to the motion was made by **Commissioner Guidry** and the motion was approved with no opposition.

For **Public Comments** this month, **Chair Smitko** thanked her daughter, McKenzie, for attending the meeting.

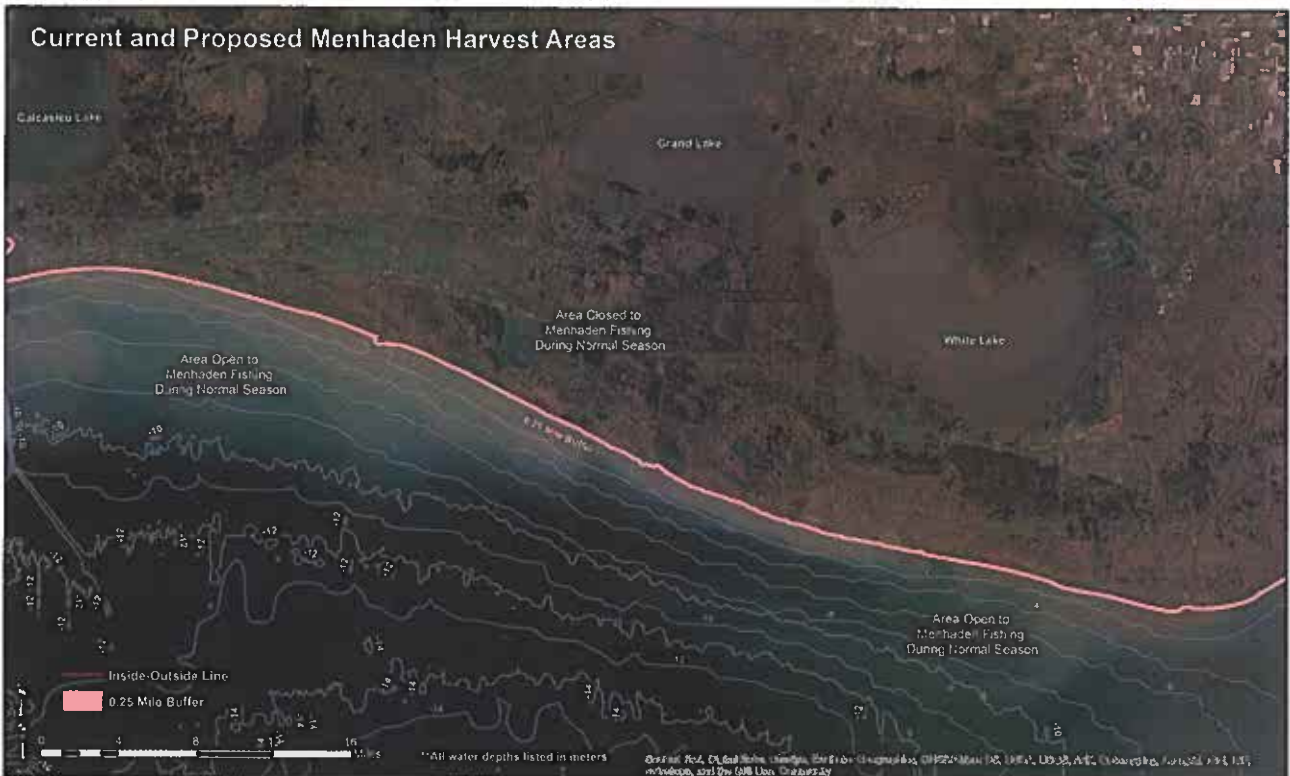
There being no further comments, **Chair Smitko** adjourned the meeting.

APPENDICES

Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas



Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas



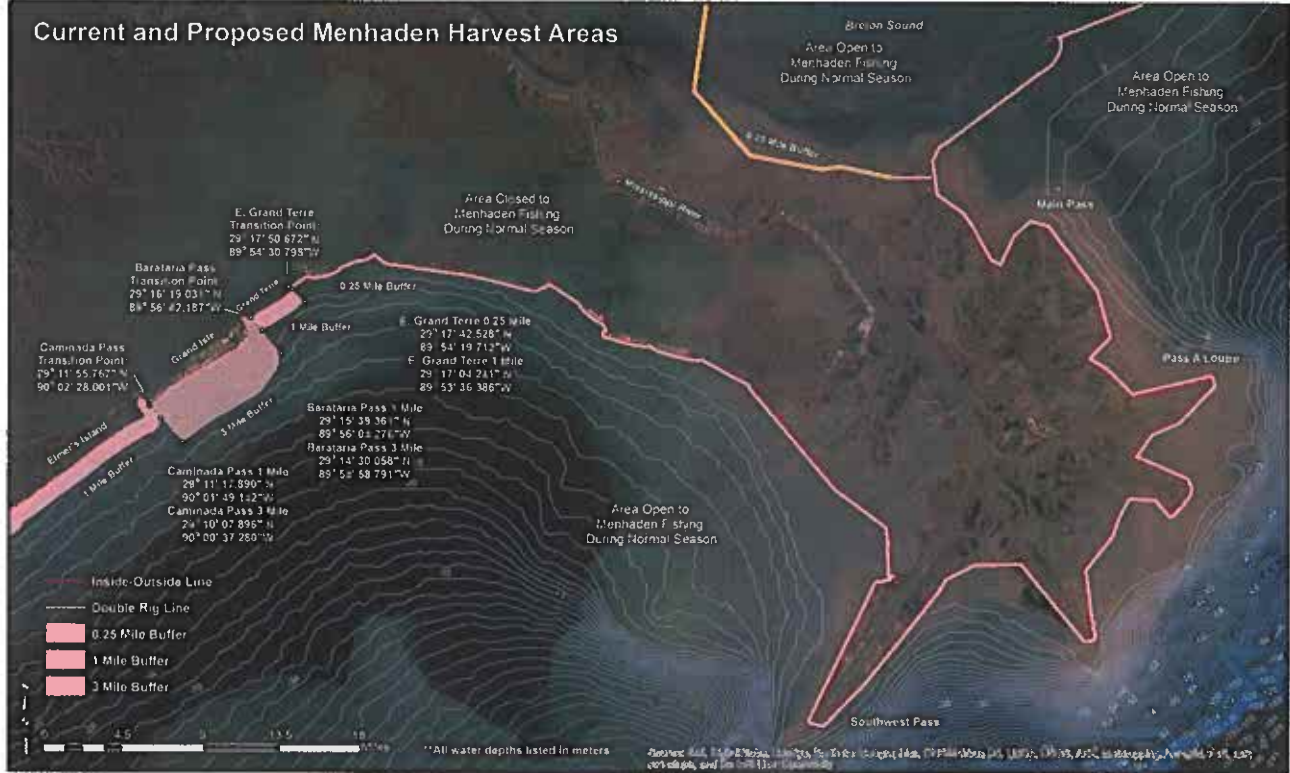
Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas



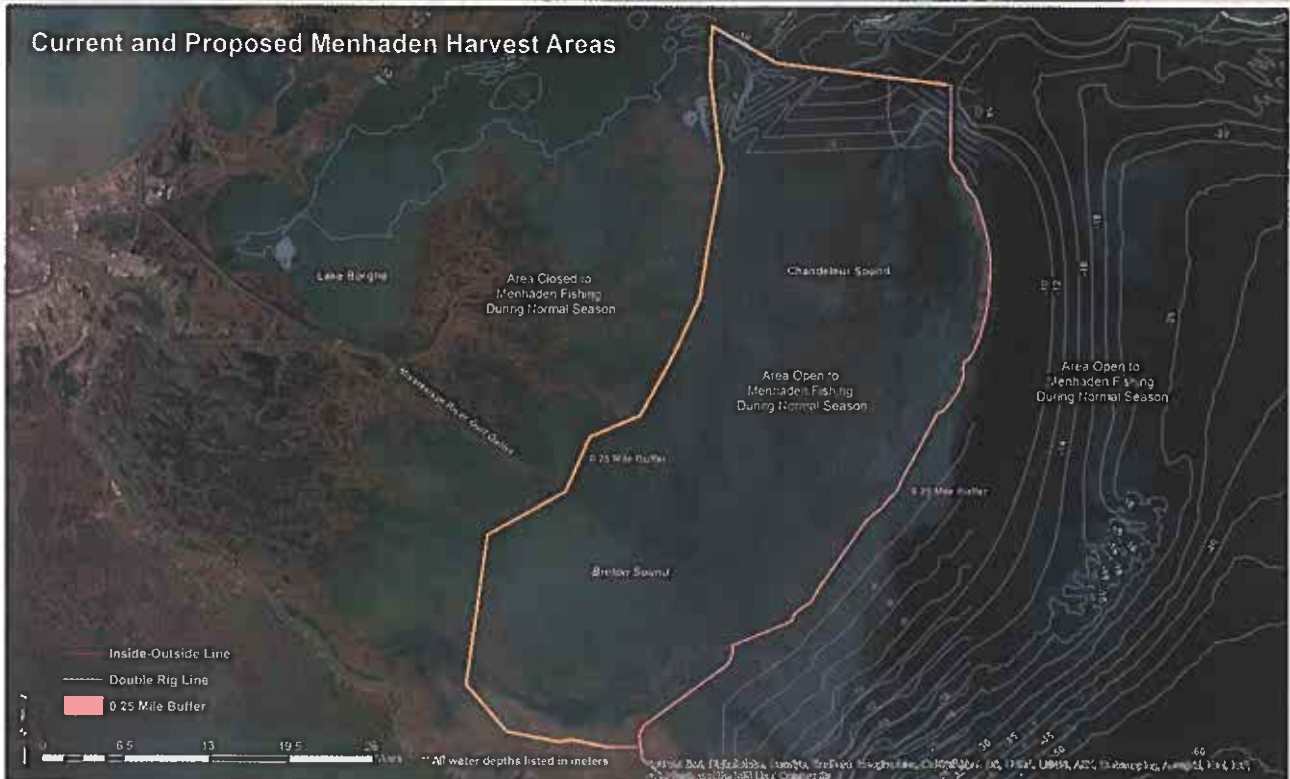
Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas



Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas



Current and Proposed Menhaden Harvest Areas





Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation of License Holders – R3

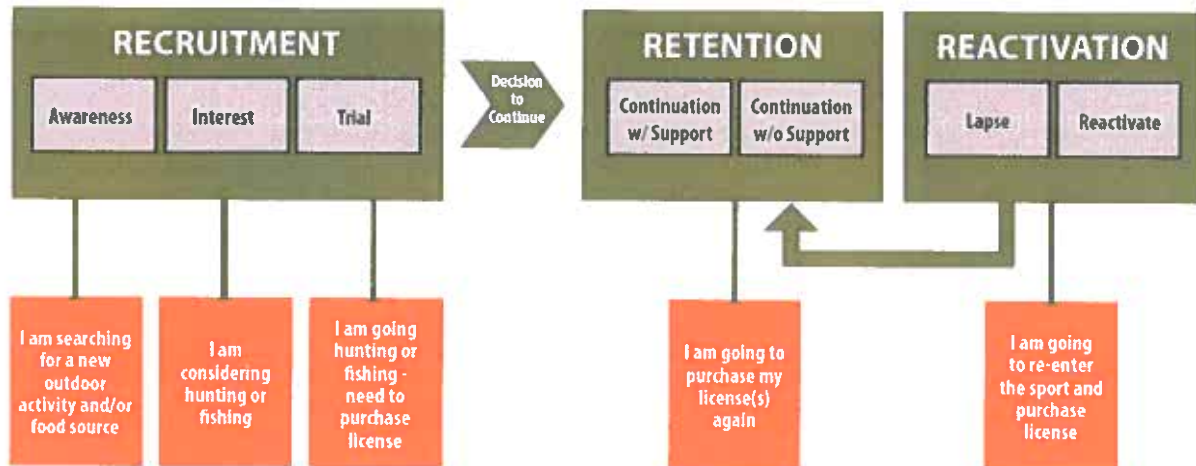
Rob Shadoin | Rene LeBreton

What is R3

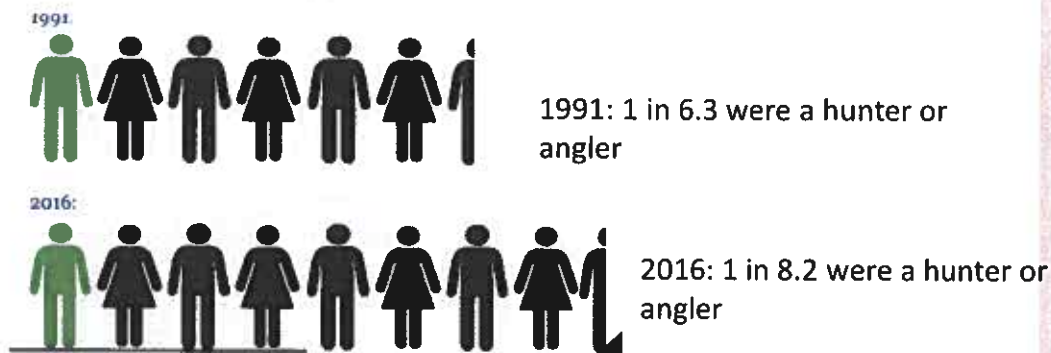
- R3 stands for **recruitment, retention, and reactivation**
- R3 activities seek to **create new participants or increase participation rates of current or lapsed hunters, anglers, and shooters.**
- In short - We want to **create** new hunters, anglers, and shooters and **keep** the ones we have.



THE R3 PROCESS/CONCEPT

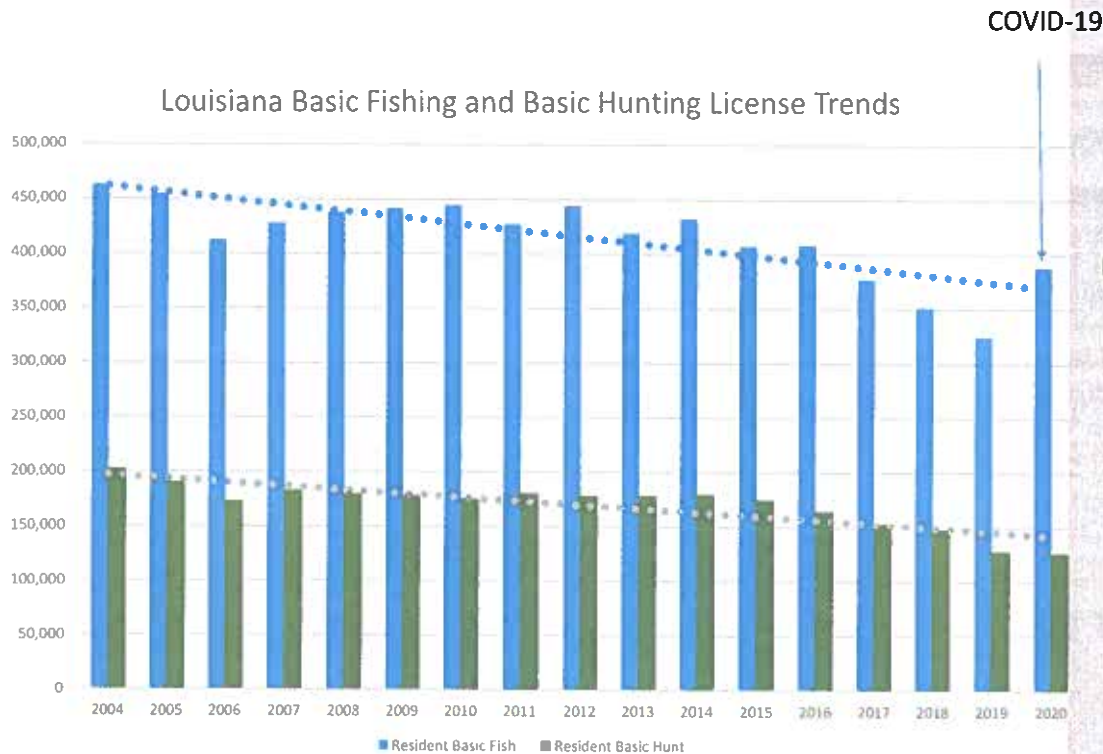


R3 is a Response to Crisis



- The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation - user-pay, all- benefit funding system, (fees from licenses and an excise tax on equipment). The effectiveness of the model, will deteriorate should participation in hunting and fishing wane.

Here in Louisiana



Hunters and Anglers Not Only Help Fund Conservation in Louisiana

- Louisiana economic impact (2011):
 - Hunters: \$1.29 billion
 - Anglers: \$1.06 billion
- 22,000 jobs are created by fishing and hunting in Louisiana



Threats to Hunting and Fishing

- Competing outdoor and indoor activities (e.g. organized sports and video games)
- Social support
- A shifting rural to urban population
- Aging hunting and fishing public
- Time constraints and work demands
- Access to opportunities
- Agency capacity

National R3 Plan

- Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports
- Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
- Plus: States; firearms and archery industries; hunting, shooting sports, conservation groups
- Plan based on extensive evaluation of problem, effective R3 strategies
- Adopted June 2016



Key Elements of the National Plan

Increase R3 Capacity

- Dedicated R3 staff in state agencies
- Use modern tools to communicate w/, track participants (private sector tools)

Grow and Better Connect the Community

- Improve communication between all parties
- State agencies, NGOs, Industry, etc.

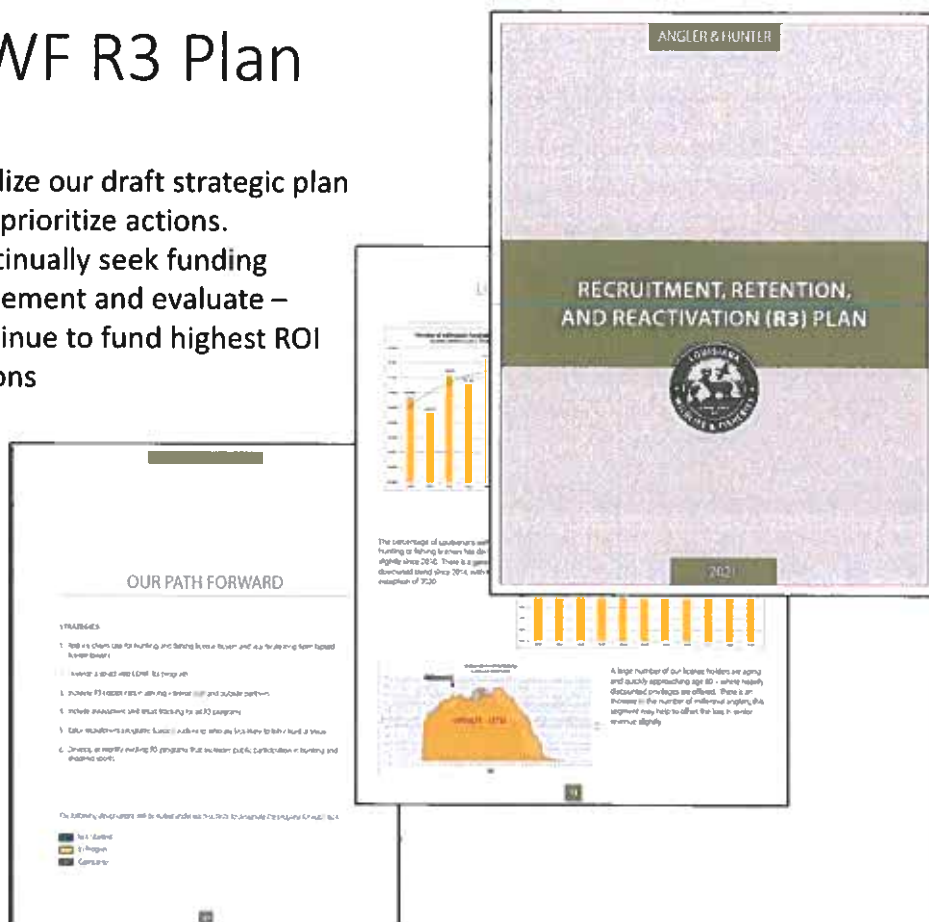
Develop and Implement Proven Strategies

- Agencies must have a plan
- Focus on expanding/diversifying audiences
- R3 programs must target impediments to participation; utilize proven, measurable R3 tactics



LDWF R3 Plan

- Finalize our draft strategic plan and prioritize actions.
- Continually seek funding
- Implement and evaluate – continue to fund highest ROI actions

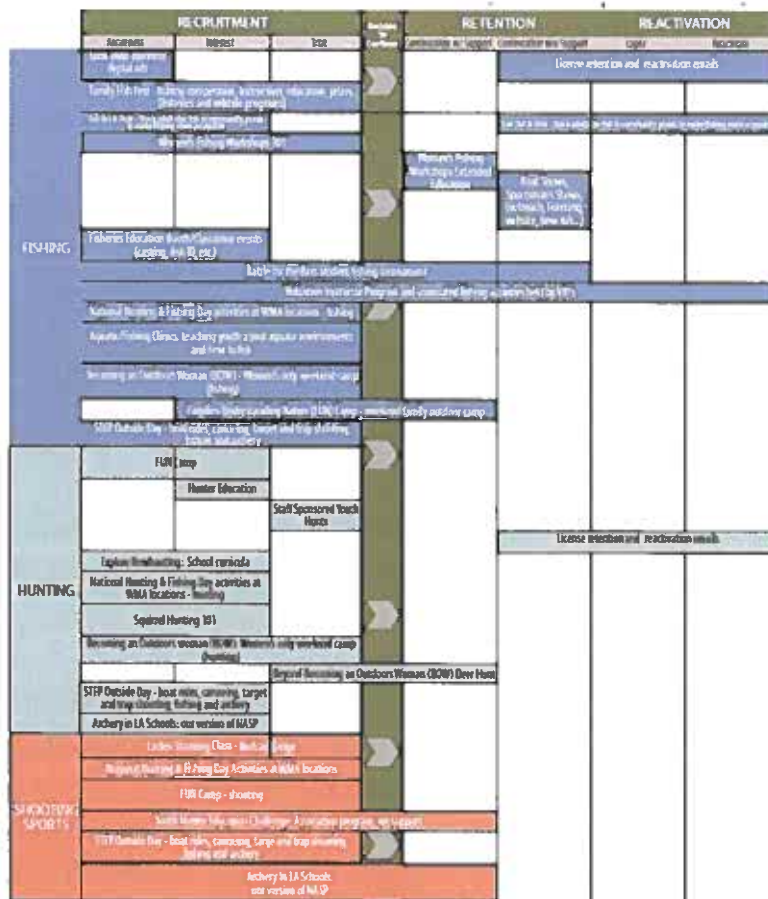


What's In Our Plan?

- Access to detailed licensing data – understand license trends
- Simplifying license purchases
- Targeted email campaigns
- 'How To' content for our new hunters and anglers
- Mentor programs
- Surveys to determine why license holders lapse or renew
- Engage industry and NGO – this affects more than LDWF
- Recruit and train volunteers
- Use digital marketing to reduce churn and and recruit new license holders (new license holders won't look 'traditional' – diversify!)
- Work to increase shooting opportunities – a gateway to hunting
- Increase hunting and fishing access



What are we Doing?



Case study-Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Geo Fencing Nashville Farmers Market

- \$8,750 digital ad spend
- \$205,706 Revenue
- ROI – 23.5

Geo Fencing Wilderness Wildlife Festival

- \$2,050 digital ad spend
- \$51,857 Revenue
- 25.3 ROI



Case Studies Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Google Search

- \$10,000 spend
- Revenue \$321,361
- ROI: 32.1

Digital Display Ads

- \$10,000 spend
- \$115,000
- ROI: 11.5



Case Study – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Trout season campaign

Social media ads

- Ad spend: \$7,322
- Revenue: \$241,298
- ROI: 32.95

Digital Display Ads

- Ad spend \$1,533
- Revenue: 21,139
- ROI: 13.78

The traditions of hunting and fishing are failing to be passed on to new generations.

“We should work as if the future of fishing, hunting, and shooting sports depends on us....because it does”

-Jeff Rawlinson, Nebraska Game and Parks

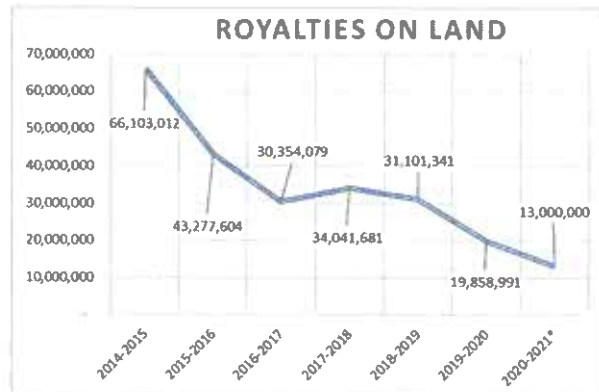
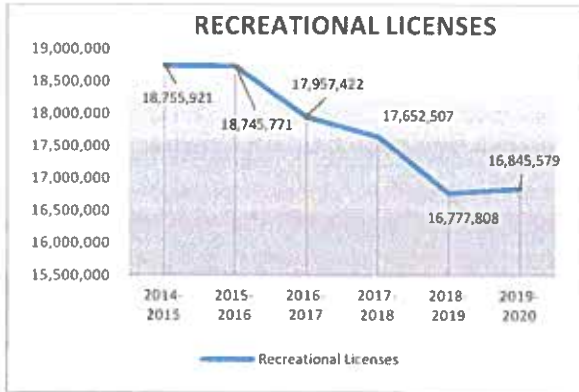


Thank You



Telecommunications fact sheet.

As presented in December, the Department is dealing with historically low revenue.



The low revenue has led to saving money efforts such as holding vacancies and reducing part-time and temporary employees.



	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	1/1/2020	3/1/2021
Positions	2018	2019	2020	Now
Classified	735	732	722	704
Unclassified	11	11	11	9
Other Comp	89	69	38	29
Other Charges positions	3	3	2	2
Total filled positions	838	815	773	744

This employee reduction has impacted Licensing Section directly as well as other sections that are responsible for handling LDWF incoming calls. The Licensing section is responsible for incoming callers selecting 1-Licensing and Boat Registration and 0-All other inquiries (main phone line), these callers account for the majority of all LDWF HQ calls.

- Licensing staff is operating with 4 fewer employees than in the past
- The HQ front desk and main phone line was handled by a temporary employee in the Office of Wildlife which was not replaced
- The Office of Wildlife Hunter Education administrative assistant has not been replaced

Licensing section has taken on the additional responsibilities of handling the front desk and the main phone line as well as the Hunter Education and Boater Education Cards.

In addition to operating with fewer staff and taking on these additional responsibilities, the Licensing section has been processing a record number of privileges, illustrated in the below table.

The Office of Management and Finance is responsible for the interaction with the customer and we take this responsibility very seriously. The Licensing Director and Manager work very hard to balance the customer wait time on the phone and in-person as well as processing backlogged emailed and mailed applications. We try to maintain a 20-minute or less wait time on the phone and in-person to ensure there are as many staff as possible dedicated to processing the backlog of lifetime, commercial, and boat registration applications. In October, Licensing had a 60-day backlog on boat registration applications that they have worked down to a 15-day backlog.

Calendar 2019- Transactions processed at LDWF HQ

Recreational licenses sales	18,493
Motorboat Registration	130,867
Boat & Motor Titling	24,694
Commercial (New/Renewals)	33,190
Processed at Headquarters	207,244

*MBT Online/Mobile renewals	25,870
*MBT-Chase Lockbox renewals	42,620
*Commercial Online/Mobile renewals	14,666
*Commercial-Chase Lockbox renewals	5,884

Total Transactions 296,284

Calendar 2020- Transactions processed at LDWF HQ

Recreational licenses sales	17,621
Motorboat Registration	140,867
Boat & Motor Titling	28,512
Commercial (New/Renewals)	35,135
Processed at Headquarters	222,135

*MBT Online/Mobile renewals	32,453
*MBT-Chase Lockbox renewals	44,096
*Commercial Online/Mobile renewals	12,469
*Commercial-Chase Lockbox renewals	5,255

Total Transactions 316,408

The current phone system was established in 2009. It is out dated and has deficiencies, including:

- Does not provide a wait time to set the customers' expectation
- Does not provide updates or background music to let the customer know they are still in the que

CHANGES:

We have recently updated our website. We hope customers are able to draw information easier from this medium to lower the call volume.

We are transitioning to a new state run phone system that will fix the deficiencies mentioned above:

- It will indicate wait time
 - Have background music and updates
 - Will allow the Department to set up messages to advertise our programs while on hold
 - There is a call back feature that we are currently getting an estimate for,
- Though these features will provide for a better customer experience it will not lower the wait time. The new phone system should be implemented here at headquarters by July 1st.

As stated above we have recently caught up on a backlog of mailed applications. Since that time our wait time has dropped below 15 minutes. With a busy summer season approaching and Spring Shrimp around the corner we will try our best to keep call times to a minimal.

The Department is hesitant to hire additional employees in any section without secure funding. We do not want to bring people to the Department and have lay-offs in six months.



**2021 Summary of Public Comment for Conditionally Approved
Hunting Season(s) NOI
& Potpourri Amendment**

Tommy Tuma | Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting | 04/1/2021

Public Comment received

- January 7 – March 4, 2021
- **Comment period closed March 4, 2021**
- **Comments related to proposed changes to NOI**
 - 16 comments related to proposed changes (email, zoom chat window)
- **General Hunting Seasons and Regulations comments**
 - 59 comments received (email, phone, letter, zoom chat window)



Public Comments related to proposed NOI

<u>Proposed Regulation</u>	<u># COMMENTS RECEIVED</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
West Zone waterfowl season	5		5
Light Geese	1		1
East Zone waterfowl season	1		1
Youth waterfowl season	1		1
Waterfowl season length and bag limits	3		3
Youth and Veterans waterfowl days	2		2
White- Fronted Geese	3		3
<u>Total comments related to Proposed changes to NOI</u>	16		16



General Public Comments received

Crow hunting regulation	1
Tunica Hills deer hunting season	1
Buckhorn and Big Lake WMAs deer seasons	2
Air Rifles	1
Blow guns	1
Deer Area 1 baiting regulations	1
Deer Area 1 season bag limit	1
Deer Area 4 season limit	1
Primitive weapon legal gear	1
Richard K Yancey WMA deer season limit	1
Richard K Yancey WMA daily deer limit	1
Baiting on private lands adjacent to Richard K Yancey WMA	1
Deer season either-sex days on private lands adjacent to Richard K Yancey WMA	1
Richard K Yancey WMA either-sex deer days	1
Richard K Yancey WMA deer season	1
Statewide Deer baiting	1
Area 9 deer limit	1
Private Property deer stands	1
NOI reporting	1
NOI reporting	1
NOI reporting	1
Deer Area 5 & 9 season regulations	1
Deer Area 5 benchmark closure	1
Primitive weapon deer season	1
Boeuf WMA greentree reservoir	1
Pearl River WMA surface drive use	1



General Public Comments received

Richard K Yancey WMA deer season	1
Richard K Yancey WMA deer season	1
Rickard K Yancey WMA deer season	1
Richard K Yancey WMA habitat management	1
Boeuf WMA Limited Access Areas	1
Antler Restrictions	1
WMA deer Antler restrictions	1
Boeuf WMA deer season	1
Pass-A-Loutre WMA deer season	1
Richard K Yancey WMA deer managed hunt	1
Small game WMA season	1
Sherburne WMA rules and regs	1
Kisatchie National Forest rules and regs	2
Legal gear for raccoons	1
Salvador WMA small game season	1
Maurepas Swamp WMA	1
Cormorants	1
Questions about waterfowl zones and splits	2
Question about natural migration of waterfowl and other states management	1
Questions about ending date of waterfowl season	2
Question about why white-fronted goose season does not coincide with duck season dates	1
Request to give tribal rights for hunting and fishing for sustainment when hungry	1
Question about eliminating afternoon waterfowl hunting	1
Question about East Zone youth/veterans waterfowl hunt days	1
Question about starting small game season in September	1
Comment about Lottery night pig hunt on RKY WMA with supervision	1
Comment that Salvador/Timken WMA hunting should close for all at 2 pm	1
Comment that user prefers evening hunting on Salvador/Timken WMA	1
Comment that Richard K Yancey WMA needs a hunting season that will protect does to 70% of carrying capacity	1

Potpourri Amendment General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations (LAC 76:XIX.1.111)



LAC 76.XIX.1.111.E.11

11. It is unlawful to import, sell, use or possess scents or lures that contain natural deer urine or other bodily fluids, except natural deer urine products produced by manufacturers or entities that are actively enrolled and participating in ~~the~~ either the Responsible Hunting Scent Association (RHSA) or Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program, and which has been tested using real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC) and certified that no detectable levels of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) are present and is clearly labeled as such.

Public Comment received

- March 4 – April 1, 2021
- **Comments related to proposed Potpourri Amendment**
 - No comment(s) received



Public Hearing

A public hearing on proposed substantive changes will be held by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on April 21, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808.



Questions?



Tracking Blue-Winged Teal using GPS/GSM Transmitters

Brett Leach, *MS Student, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211*

Dr. Elisabeth Webb, *U.S. Geological Survey, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Missouri, 65211*

Dr. William Beatty, *U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, La Crosse, WI 54603*

Paul Link, *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA 70809*

Background

- Blue-winged teal are among the earliest species of waterfowl to migrate south in the fall and latest to arrive to the breeding grounds in the spring
 - Timing has made it difficult to quantify migration
- Wintering locations extend further south and more widespread than any other North American species of waterfowl
 - Unknown harvest rates south of the U.S. border
 - Currently no habitat selection studies
- Early September teal hunting seasons
 - 47% of U.S. harvest occurs during this season



Technological Advances

- Previously limited transmitter capabilities
- Transmitters continuously becoming smaller and more precise
- Using 10-gram GPS/GSM Transmitters
 - Set to record a location once per hour
 - Records date, time, altitude, speed, temperature, and accelerometer data



Overview

- Deploying transmitters over a 3-year period on adult female blue-winged teal
- 90 transmitters deployed
 - 57 in Louisiana, 24 in South Dakota, and 9 in Saskatchewan
- 21 mortalities
 - Hunting: 6
 - Migration: 6
 - Nesting: 5
 - Shortly after marking: 4



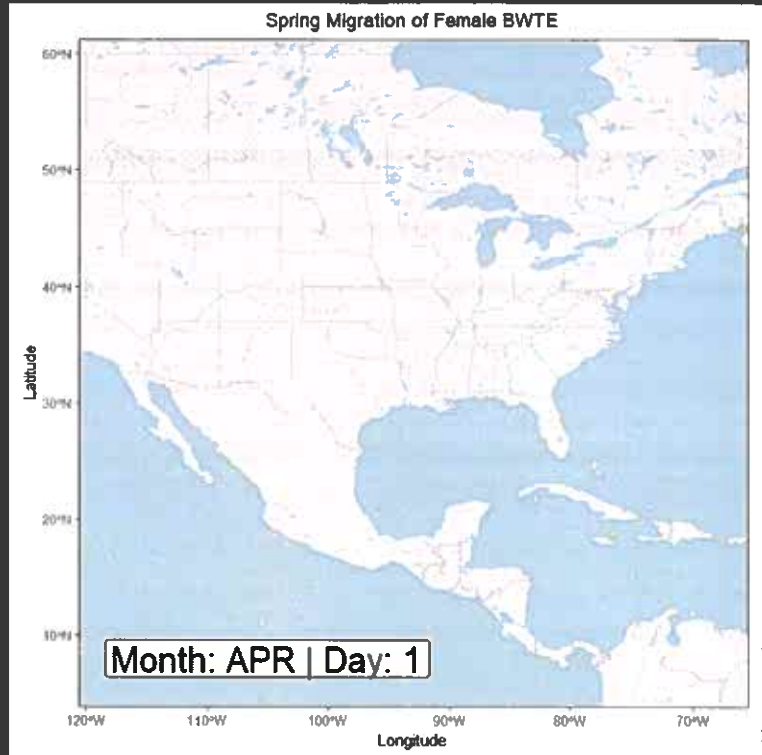
Objectives

1. Identify critical spring breeding, stopover, and wintering areas
2. Quantify spring and fall migration phenology (initiation/termination dates, duration of migration, distance traveled, # of stopover sites used)
3. Quantify blue-winged teal habitat selection during the non-breeding period
4. Quantify survival and nest success

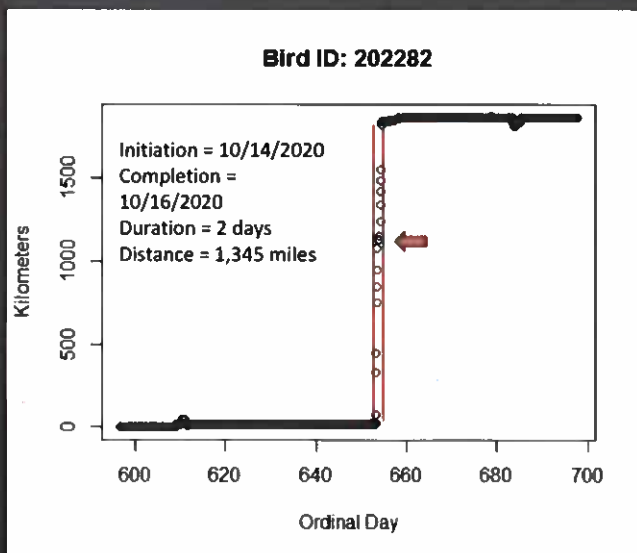
Fall Migration



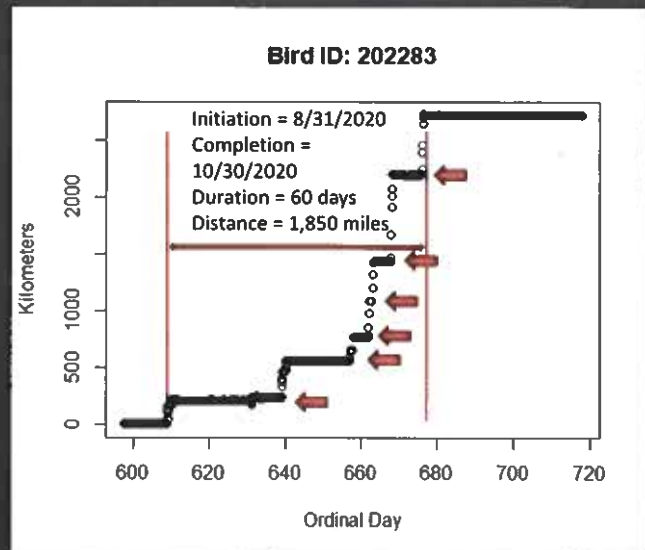
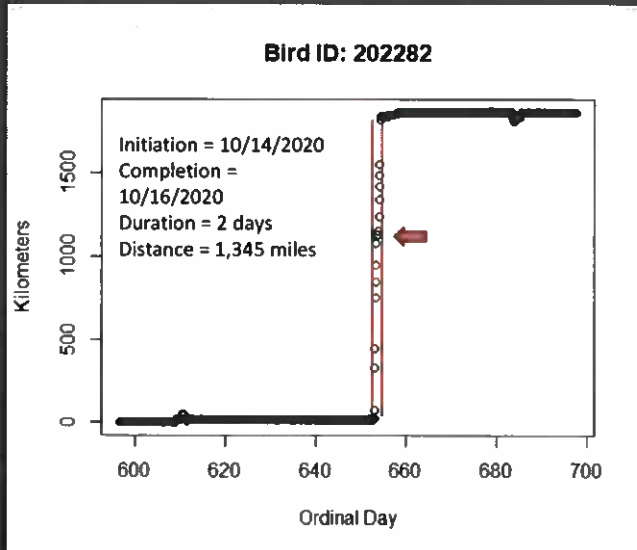
Spring Migration



Migration Strategies



Migration Strategies

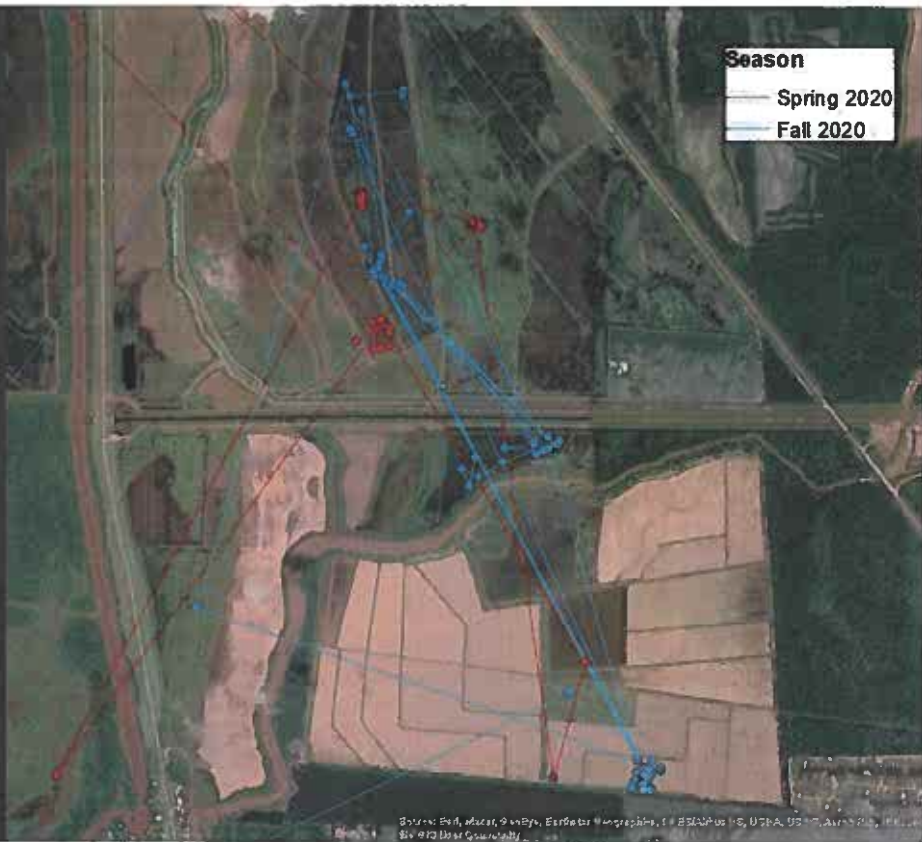


Migration continued

- Use stopover sites to rest and refuel
- Risky time period



Migration stopover site fidelity



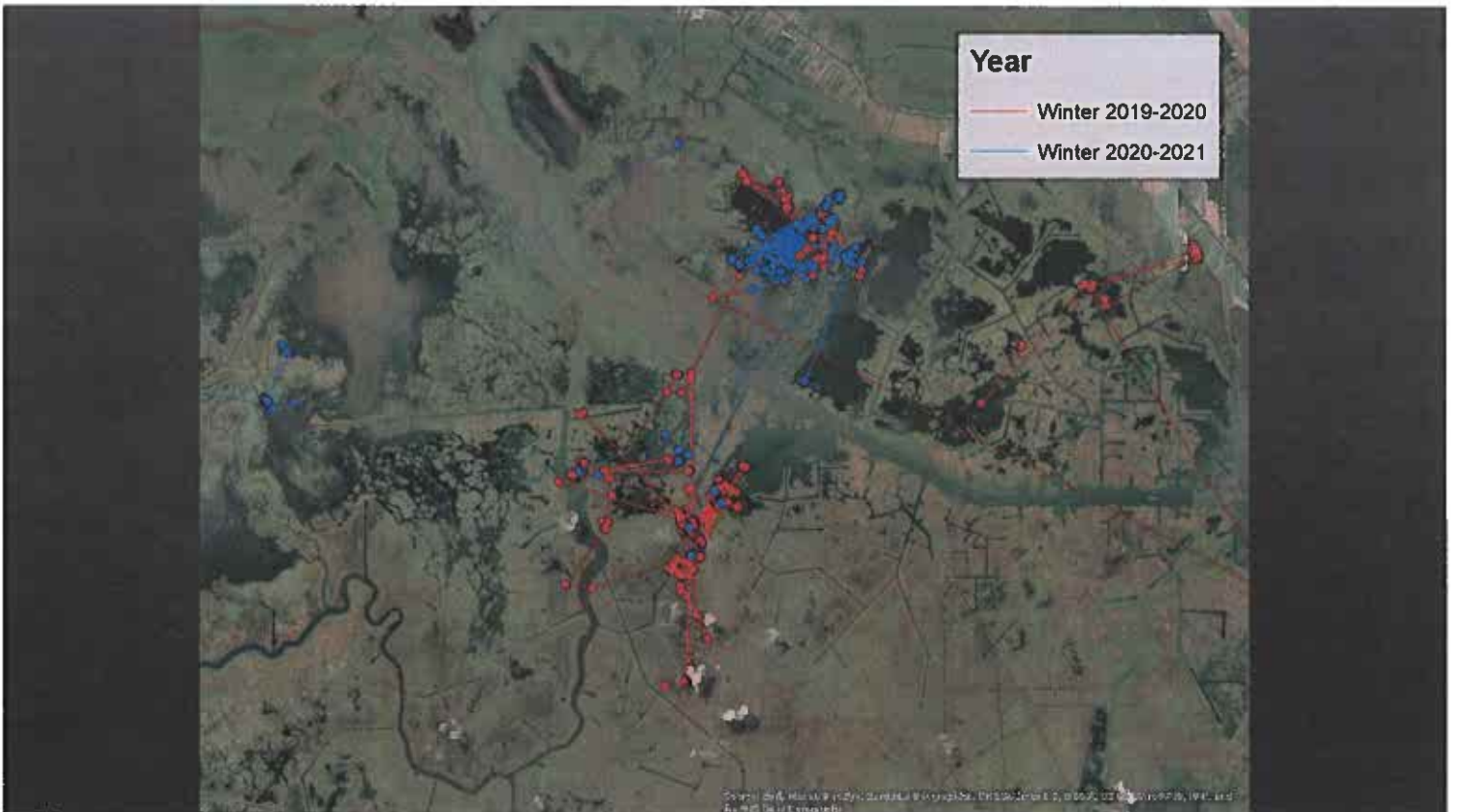
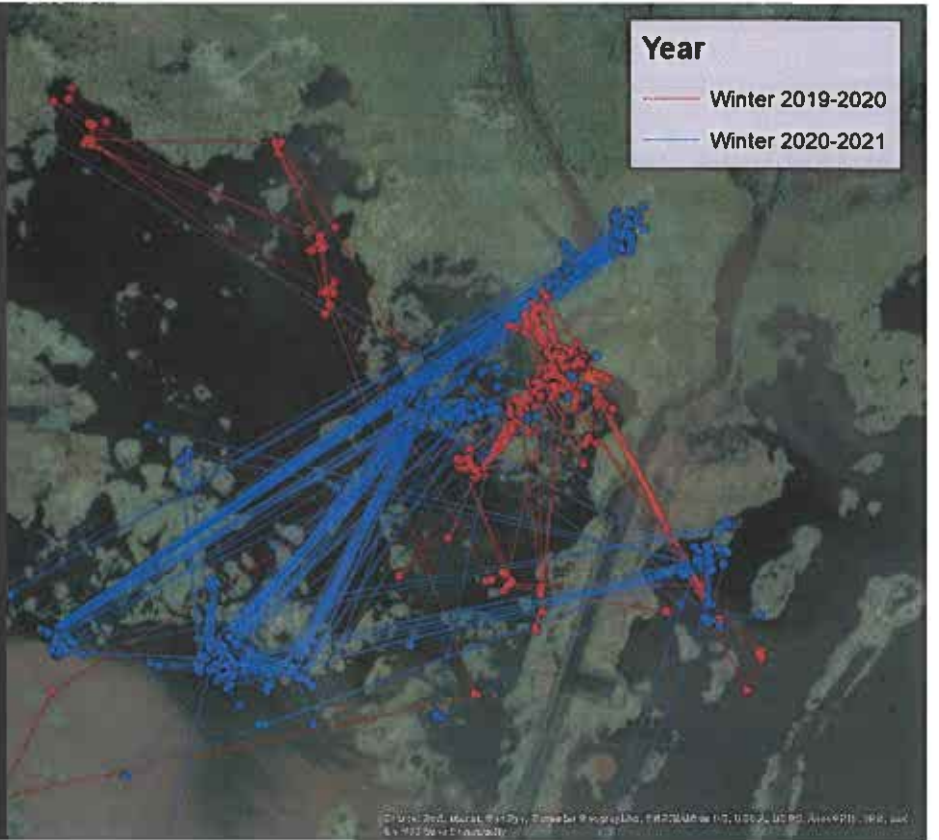
Wintering Grounds



Google



Winter Site Fidelity



Venezuela Bird



Moving Forward

- Deploy 35 more transmitters this spring
- Deploy an additional 20 units late summer on the breeding grounds
- Dive into data analysis





Acknowledgements



Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands



Institute for Wetland
and Waterfowl Research



*We would also like to thank the numerous other organizations and individuals for additional support and resources, without them this project would not be possible.

Questions?





2021 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON UPDATE

Patrick Banks | LWFC Meeting | April 1, 2021

Season Structure

- LWFC action last year restructured the season in rule to begin on the Friday before Memorial Day as a weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) season including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day as well as the 4th of July on whatever day of the week it falls
- No action needed at this time



Why Wait?

- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) meets April 12-15 and will consider recreational red snapper annual catch limits and calibration of state surveys
- Gulf Council action may change how we approach the season in terms of season structure, season length, and bag limits
- No action needed to alter the season at this time if the LWFC intends to continue with opening the season on the Friday before Memorial Day as in recent years (as now set in rule)



What's Next

- Will provide the LWFC with a recommended season (status quo or other) at the May meeting based upon the actions taken at Gulf Council and the resulting Louisiana allocation



Questions?

Patrick Banks
LDWF Assistant Secretary
225-765-2806
pbanks@wlf.la.gov





Notice of Intent to Update the Domesticated Aquatic Organism Rules and Make Additions to the Approved Species List

Robert P Bourgeois, LDWF Fisheries Permit Manager
April 1, 2021

Domesticated Aquatic Organisms

- Established in LA R.S. 56:411 to limit impacts from the introduction of nonnative aquatic organisms into aquaculture
- Granted LDWF authority over all endangered/threatened fish, freshwater gamefish, and all saltwater fish
- Granted the authority to the Department to maintain a list of approved Domesticated Aquatic Organisms (DAO) and develop a regulatory framework – Chapter 9 of LAC 76
 - Provides a process to add species to the DAO list
 - Includes both general and specific regulations for all of the DAO species



Updates to General Rules

- Provides a program specific email address for all applications and program correspondence
- Further defines the size and composition of the technical review committee
 - Minimum of four members and have at least:
 - One LDWF biologist
 - One LDWF enforcement representative
 - One expert not employed by LDWF
- Allows LDWF to propose and review a species for addition without a request from the public
- Exempts personal aquarium owners and retail stores notwithstanding the species of fish specifically prohibited as outlined in (LA R.S. 56:319 A).

Freshwater Species not Regulated by LDWF

1. Shadow Bass
2. White Bass
3. Yellow Bass
4. Crappie
5. Bream
6. Spotted Bass
7. Striped Bass
8. Largemouth Bass
9. hybrid Striped Bass
10. Coppernose Bluegill
11. Hybrid bream limited to a Bluegill and Green Sunfish cross or a Redear Sunfish and Bluegill cross
12. Common Carp
13. Freshwater Drum
14. Buffaloes
15. Golden Shiner
16. Fathead Minnow
17. Mosquito Fish
18. Red Drum
19. Triploid Grass Carp
20. Tilapia
21. Shovelnose Sturgeon



Legislatively Mandated Size Changes

LA R.S. 56:412 A (6)

"Species of rock bass, white bass, yellow bass, crappie, and bream fingerlings not exceeding a maximum total length of six inches and spotted bass, striped bass, and largemouth bass of any size...."

1. Shadow Bass not exceeding a maximum total length of 3 6 inches;
2. White Bass not exceeding a maximum total length of 3 6 inches;
3. Yellow Bass not exceeding a maximum total length of 3 6 inches;
4. Crappie not exceeding a maximum total length of 3 6 inches;
5. Bream not exceeding a maximum total length of 3 6 inches;
6. Spotted Bass not exceeding maximum total length of 10 inches of any size;
7. Striped Bass not exceeding a maximum total length of 10 inches of any size;
8. Largemouth Bass of any size;
9. Hybrid Striped Bass of any size;
10. Coppernose Bluegill of any size not exceeding a maximum total length of 6 inches;
11. Hybrid bream limited to a Bluegill and Green Sunfish cross or a Redear Sunfish and Bluegill cross of any size not exceeding a maximum total length of 6 inches;

Proposed Changes to Tilapia Permits

- Adds email to update communication methods
- Increases the notification time for moving fish from 24 hours to 48 hours
- Modernizes the methods for species certifications
 - Removed outdated electrophoresis requirement
- Adds additional liability protection by requiring the in-state tilapia permittee to take responsibility of the fish upon entry into LA
- Adds a record retention requirement of 5-years
- Changed the start and expiration dates to match the calendar year
- Updated species names to reflect modern accepted names



Increase Tilapia Bond Amounts

- Increases bonds associated with both tilapia permits to \$50,000 incrementally over the next 5 years

YEAR	Tilapia Culture Bond Value	YEAR	Tilapia Live Holder Bond Value
2022	<u>\$30,000</u>	2022	<u>\$18,000</u>
2023	<u>\$35,000</u>	2023	<u>\$26,000</u>
2024	<u>\$40,000</u>	2024	<u>\$34,000</u>
2025	<u>\$45,000</u>	2025	<u>\$42,000</u>
2026	<u>\$50,000</u>	2026	<u>\$50,000</u>



Proposed Addition: Freshwater Prawns

Recommended Regulations:

- Bond: \$25,000
- Inspection of facility
- Closed indoor culture system
 - No water release off site without treatment
- No release of eggs or any fish to the waters of the state without permission

Proposed Addition: Rainbow Trout

Recommended Regulations:

- No bond
- Inspection of facility
- Certification fish are free of *Didymo* "Rock Snot" and diseases prior to entering LA
- No release of eggs or any fish to the waters of the state without permission



Proposed Addition: Aquarium Lifestock

African Rift Lake Cichlids species

Bristlenose Catfish species

Fancy Guppy

Recommended Regulations:

- Bond: \$25,000
- Inspection of facility
- Closed indoor culture system
 - No water release off site without treatment
- No release of eggs or any fish to the waters of the state without permission

New DAO Species List

1. Shadow Bass
2. White Bass
3. Yellow Bass
4. Crappie
5. Bream
6. Spotted Bass
7. Striped Bass
8. Largemouth Bass
9. Hybrid Striped Bass
10. Coppernose Bluegill
11. Hybrid bream limited to a Bluegill and Green Sunfish cross or a Redear Sunfish and Bluegill cross
12. Common Carp; **Koi and Goldfish**
13. Red Drum
14. Triploid Grass Carp
15. Tilapia
16. Shovelnose Sturgeon
17. **Rainbow Trout**
18. **Aquarium livestock**
19. **Cocohoe Minnow**
20. **Freshwater prawns**



Questions?



WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2021 REGULAR SESSION



LDWF License Bill



Comprehensive LDWF License Fee Restructure

Recreational + Commercial + Boat Registration

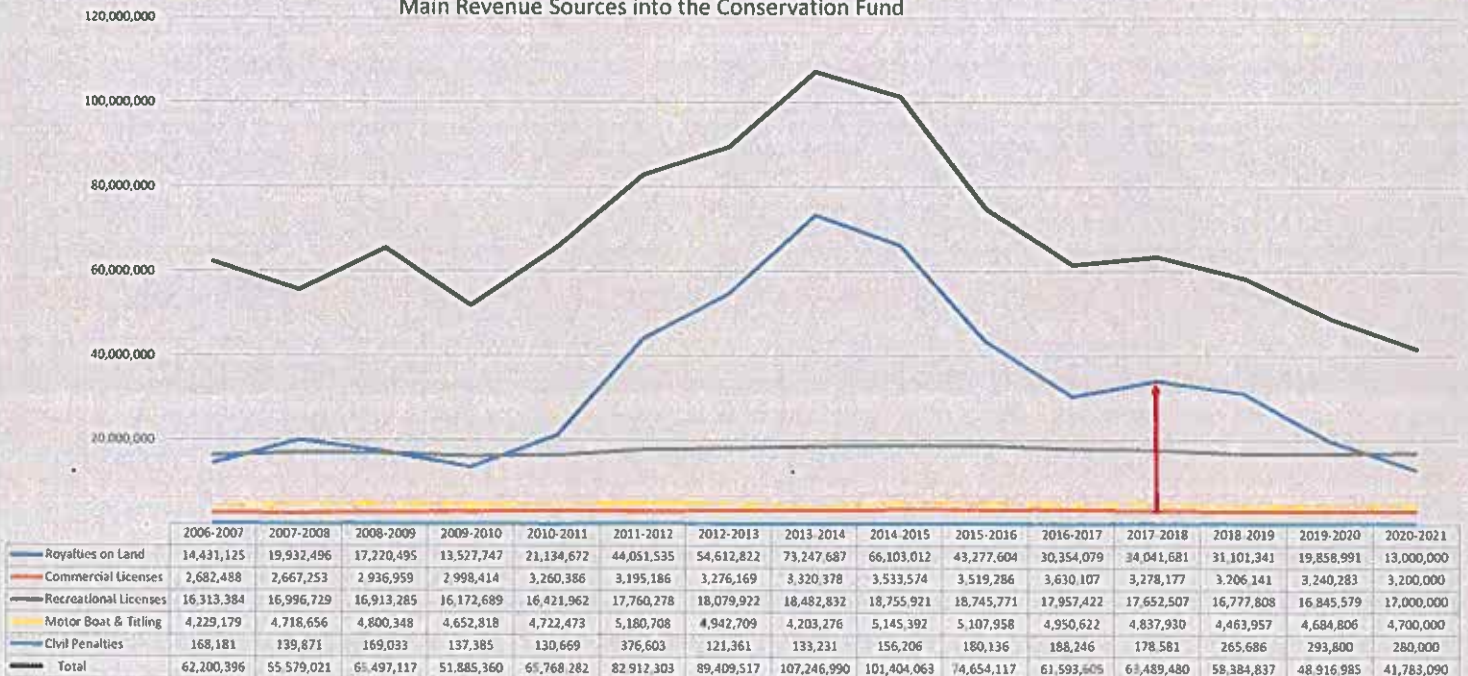
- Recreational
 - Simplifies License Structure – consolidated privileges to convey greater value
 - Adjusted for inflation and to remain competitive with Gulf States
 - Maximizes federal matching funds by certifying more licenses
 - Fund dedication provides users greater return on their investment
 - Generates \$11.2 Million in new revenue
- Commercial
 - Adjusted for inflation since 1985 (145%)
 - Dedicate revenue derived from industry-specific licenses into the promotion, marketing, management and enforcement activities of that industry
 - Generates \$3.9 Million in new revenue
- Boat Registration
 - Simplifies License Structure
 - Dedicates \$5 Million per year to Aquatic Plant Control Fund
 - Generates \$2 Million in new revenue



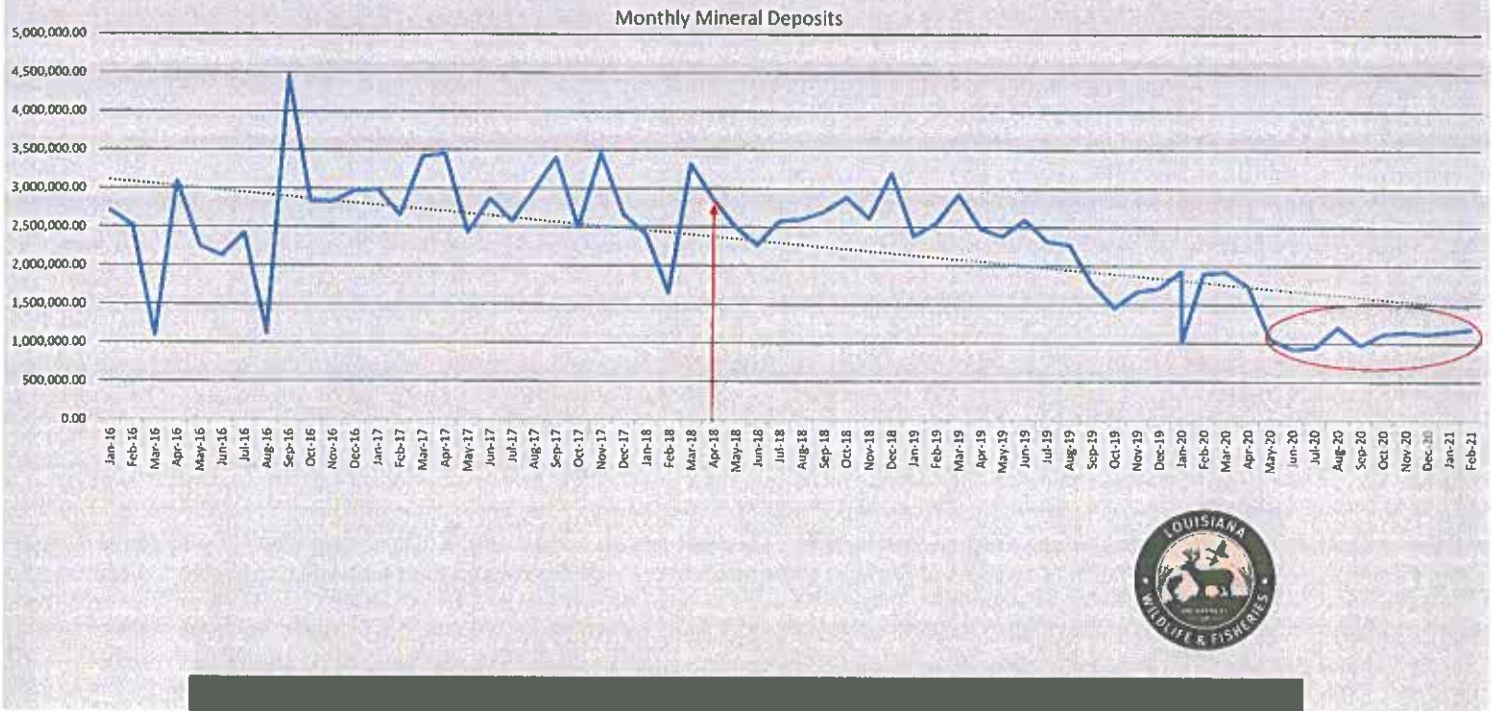
LDWF Comprehensive License Restructure Proposal

Where are we now

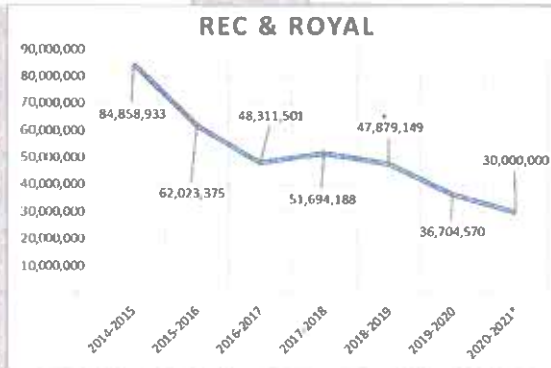
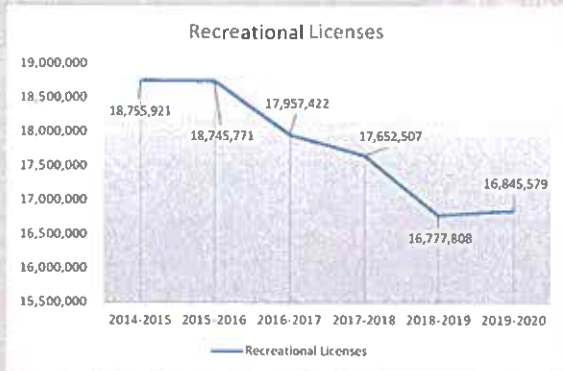
Main Revenue Sources into the Conservation Fund



Where are we now

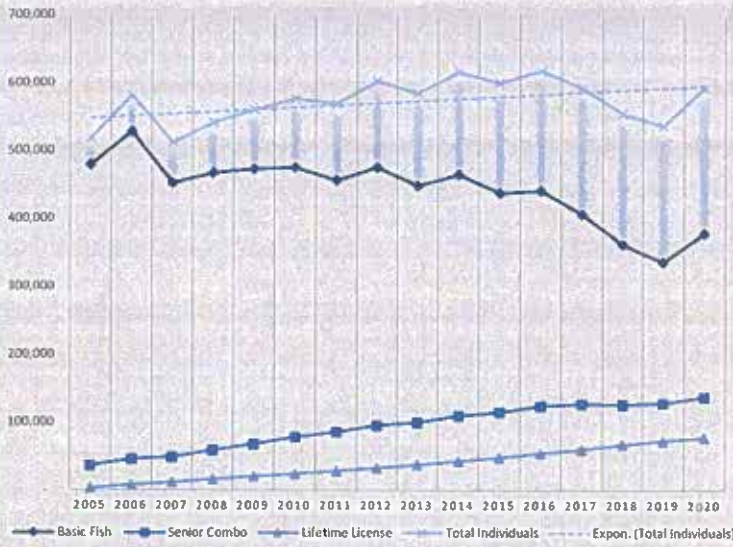


Where are we now



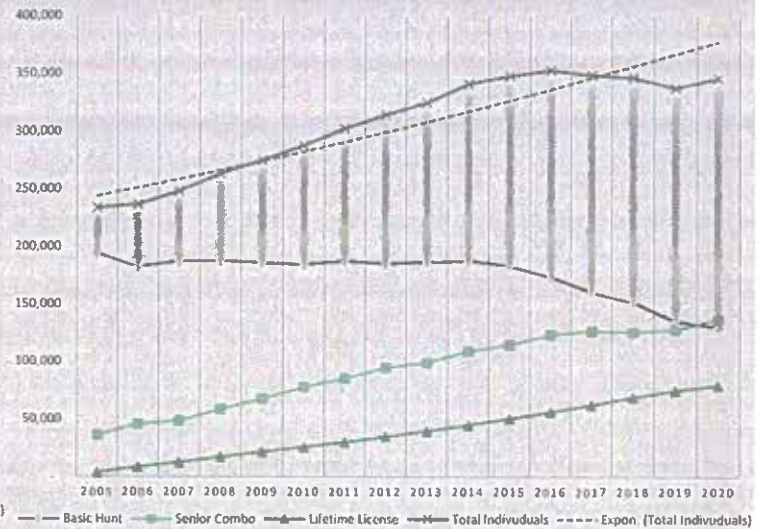
Comparison of Basic License to Senior and Lifetime

BASIC FISHING LICENSE TRENDS COMPARED TO LIFETIME AND SENIOR



* Lifetime is cumulative starting in 2005, It includes Fish and Combo lifetime privileges
 **Total Individuals include Lifetime, Senior Fish and Basic

BASIC HUNTING LICENSE TRENDS COMPARED TO LIFETIME AND SENIOR



* Lifetime is cumulative starting in 2005, It includes Hunt and Combo lifetime privileges
 **Total Individuals include Lifetime, Senior hunt and Basic

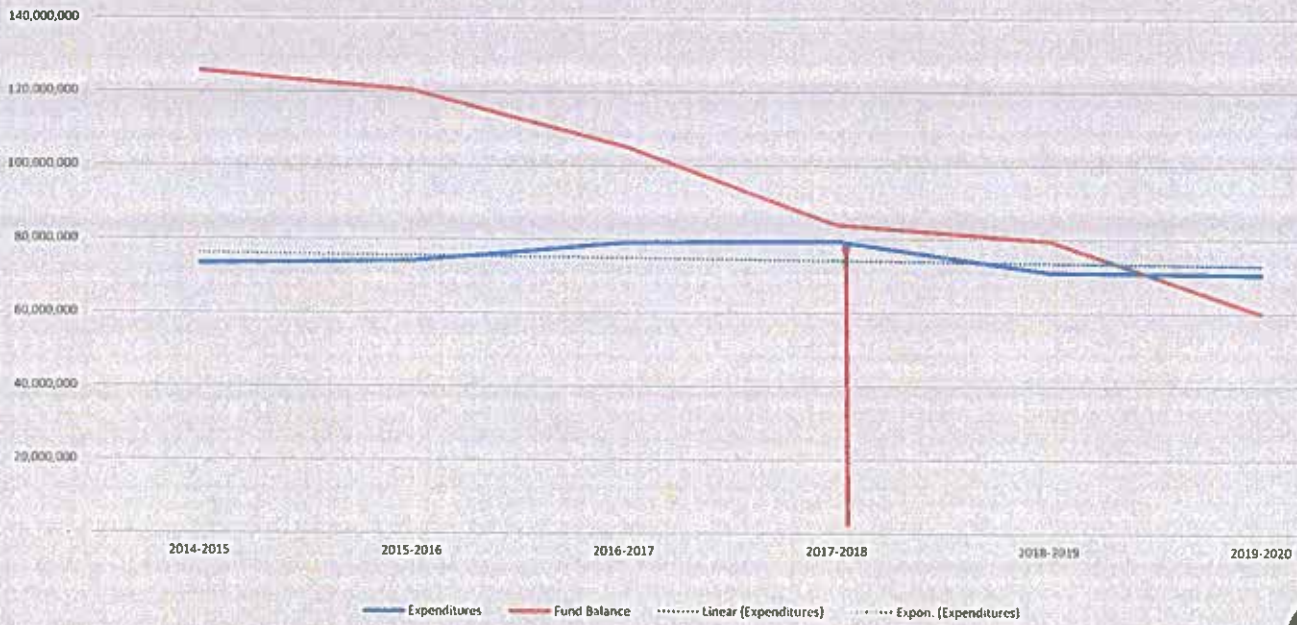
Where are we now

CONSERVATION FUND PROJECTIONS 3/1/2021

	<u>FY 15-16</u>	<u>FY 16-17</u>	<u>FY 17-18</u>	<u>FY 18-19</u>	<u>FY 19-20</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 20-21</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 21-22</u>	PROJECTED <u>FY 22-23</u>
Carryforward from prior	125,706,382	120,333,087	105,237,223	83,934,097	79,544,997	56,453,577	23,688,034	-
Revenue	74,654,117	61,593,605	63,489,480	58,384,837	48,916,685	41,783,090	40,723,090	40,223,090
Expenditures	(73,056,945)	(76,925,207)	(76,038,172)	(69,500,452)	(70,527,590)	(72,500,000)	(75,206,681)	(75,000,000)
Other transfers in/out	(6,970,468)	235,739	(8,754,433)	6,726,515	(1,480,516)	(2,048,633)	(2,048,633)	(2,048,633)
Year-end Balance	120,333,087	105,237,223	83,934,097	79,544,997	56,453,577	23,688,034	(12,844,190)	(36,825,543)
					(21,610,905)	(30,716,910)	(34,483,591)	(34,776,910)

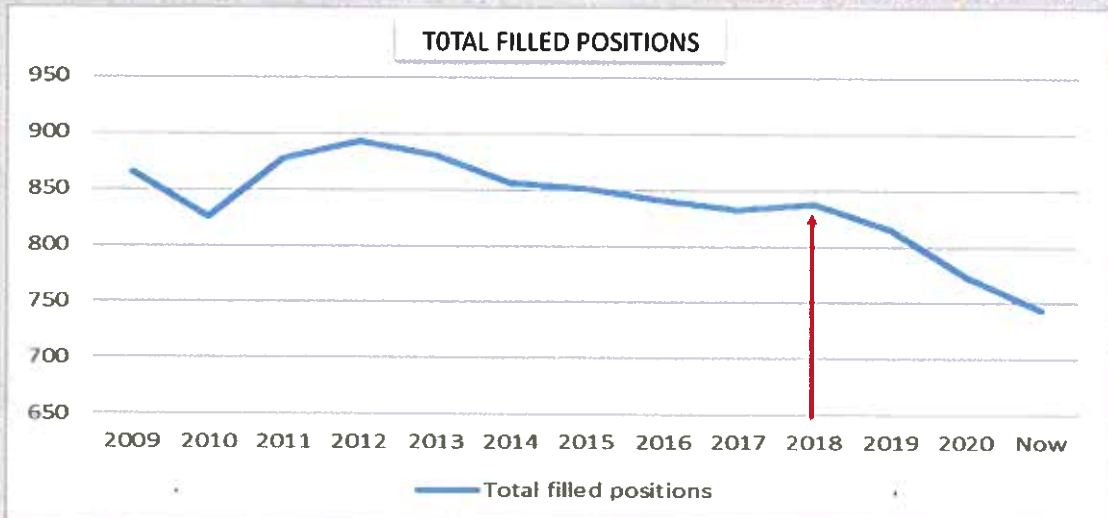


Where are we now



Where are we now

Filled Position History

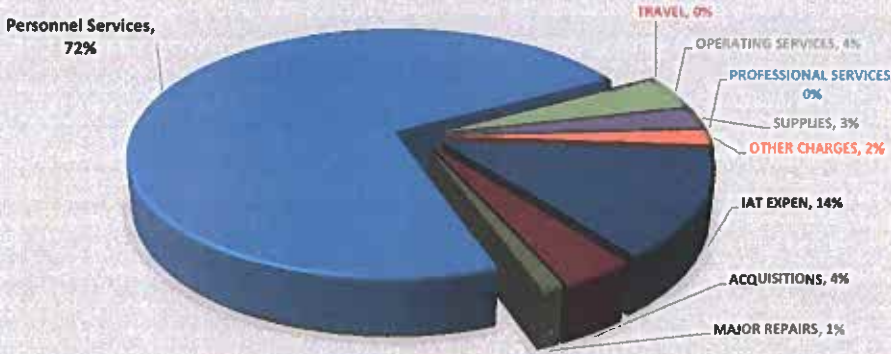


	1/1/2009	1/1/2010	1/1/2011	1/1/2012	1/1/2013	1/1/2014	1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	1/1/2020	3/1/2021
Positions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Now
Classified	784	742	752	738	721	697	697	717	727	735	732	722	704
Unclassified	14	14	12	11	11	8	8	9	7	11	11	11	9
Other Comp	64	67	111	141	146	148	143	112	96	89	69	38	29
Other Charges positions	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
Total filled positions	865	826	878	893	881	856	851	841	833	838	815	773	744

Conservation Expenditures
by Agency FY 2020

	Office of Management and Finance		Office of Secretary Administration		Enforcement Division		Office of Wildlife		Office of Fisheries		Total
SALARIES	2,342,330	22%	1,578,095	61%	16,047,411	49%	4,067,319	34%	4,809,080	39%	28,844,235
OTH_COMP	34,435	0%	83,654	3%	48,223	0%	381,222	3%	72,207	1%	619,741
REL BEN	1,719,032	16%	757,699	29%	11,195,102	34%	3,753,458	31%	4,113,226	33%	21,538,516
Personnel Services	4,095,797	38%	2,419,448	94%	27,290,736	83%	8,201,999	68%	8,994,512	73%	51,002,492
TRAVEL	9,487	0%	12,057	0%	22,138	0%	16,631	0%	11,700	0%	72,013
OP_SERV	1,176,951	11%	31,938	1%	857,009	2%	356,759	3%	814,874	7%	3,037,531
SUPPLIES	32,030	0%	17,431	1%	1,034,646	3%	242,028	2%	579,023	5%	1,905,157
PROF_SERV	389	0%	61	0%	10,074	0%	139,875	1%	13,106	0%	163,505
OTH_CHARGE	0	0%	0	0%	42	0%	454,589	4%	890,877	7%	1,345,487
IAT_EXPEN	5,416,509	50%	96,548	4%	1,573,865	5%	1,896,956	14%	738,094	6%	9,521,972
ACQU	4,882	0%	1,185	0%	2,093,688	6%	357,407	3%	208,931	2%	2,666,073
MAJ_REP	62,100	1%	0	0%	57,401	0%	648,746	5%	45,112	0%	813,359
	10,798,144	100%	2,578,668	100%	32,739,579	100%	12,114,970	100%	12,296,229	100%	70,527,590

FY2020 % OF EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY



Expenditure Percentage

	Total		
SALARIES	28,844,235	41%	
OTH_COMP	619,741	1%	
REL BEN	21,538,516	31%	
Personnel Services	51,002,492	72%	72%
TRAVEL	72,013	0%	
OP_SERV	3,037,531	4%	
SUPPLIES	1,905,157	3%	
PROF_SERV	163,505	0%	
OTH_CHARGE	1,345,487	2%	
IAT_EXPEN	9,521,972	14%	14%
ACQU	2,666,073	4%	
MAJ_REP	813,359	1%	
Total	70,527,590	100%	86%

Where are we now

Conservation Expenditures by the total Department for the five year span of FY 2015-2020

Total Department		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
SALARIES	21	\$ 26,488,924.78	\$ 28,452,428.39	\$ 29,987,236.35	\$ 30,910,140.86	\$ 29,364,335.82	\$ 28,844,235.39	8%
OTHER COMPENSATION	35	\$ 2,192,276.63	\$ 2,348,235.46	\$ 1,886,640.19	\$ 1,334,855.72	\$ 927,583.70	\$ 619,741.71	-254%
RELATED BENEFITS	40	\$ 18,161,379.36	\$ 20,577,346.94	\$ 20,970,363.26	\$ 22,176,570.54	\$ 21,033,834.59	\$ 21,538,515.93	16%
TRAVEL	45	\$ 177,799.90	\$ 223,502.67	\$ 340,517.35	\$ 129,409.33	\$ 93,687.91	\$ 72,013.57	-147%
OPERATING SERVICES	50	\$ 5,382,359.12	\$ 5,682,262.79	\$ 6,672,811.20	\$ 5,849,849.92	\$ 3,011,082.80	\$ 3,037,531.33	-77%
SUPPLIES	55	\$ 2,905,560.41	\$ 2,928,842.24	\$ 2,932,755.33	\$ 3,033,406.02	\$ 2,373,822.91	\$ 1,905,155.94	-53%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	60	\$ 215,782.92	\$ 448,922.57	\$ 92,209.61	\$ 158,687.88	\$ 126,884.36	\$ 163,505.44	-32%
OTHER CHARGES	65	\$ 3,483,783.91	\$ 1,725,529.46	\$ 1,624,429.37	\$ 1,971,799.75	\$ 1,747,661.47	\$ 1,345,486.81	-159%
ACQUISITIONS	70	\$ 1,749,848.18	\$ 2,166,267.96	\$ 2,795,581.35	\$ 1,921,616.72	\$ 1,852,992.38	\$ 2,666,073.60	34%
MAJOR REPAIRS	75	\$ 1,149,906.88	\$ 2,890,132.69	\$ 2,859,084.81	\$ 1,387,898.30	\$ 260,560.96	\$ 813,358.25	-41%
IAT EXPENSE	85	\$ 6,409,935.36	\$ 5,613,475.54	\$ 6,783,488.41	\$ 7,163,937.15	\$ 8,708,005.34	\$ 9,521,972.09	33%
Total		\$ 68,317,557.45	\$ 73,056,944.71	\$ 76,925,207.23	\$ 76,038,172.19	\$ 69,500,452.04	\$ 70,527,590.06	3%

Where are we now

Projects and Programs that didn't exist in 2001, the last time license fees were adjusted

Office of Fisheries

LaCreel Program
Stock Assessment Program
NRDA project oversight
Get Out and Fish Programs
Community Fishing Programs
Volunteer Instructor Program (VIP)
Invasive Species Coordinator
Oyster Strategic Plan Development & Implementation
Artificial Reef Master Plan
Coastal Master Plan Project Review & Oversight
La Watershed Initiative
Invasive Giant Salvinia
Coast-wide Sampling - result of the BP oil spill
Invasive Carp
State Management of Red Snapper
Oyster Hatchery and Larvae Production for Industry
Marine Life History Research
Seafood Certification
Louisiana Fisheries Forward (Industry Professionalism)
Alternative Oyster Culture (AOC) Program
Management of Elmer's Island Refuge
Artificial Reef Biological Monitoring

Office of Wildlife

Banding and monitoring Black Bellied Whistling Duck wildlife disease program
Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring Program and development of In-state CWD testing at LSU
Our inclusion in OneHealth
The delisting of the black bear
Reintroduction of the whooping crane
The introduction and infestation of feral hogs
Sampling and projects as a result of the BP oil spill
Archery in the Schools Program
Private Lands Program
The partnership with NRCS writing management plans for wetlands reserve properties.
Banding and telemetry projects on greater white front goose
Banding and telemetry projects on blue wing teal
New hunting education programs, ex. Squirrel 101
VHF Tower Project migratory bird monitoring
Mottled Duck Breeding Population Survey starting in 2008.
Louisiana Regional and Statewide TIGs
Longterm Gopher Tortoise Survey and Monitoring
Development and current undergoing revision of Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife
Louisiana Amphibian Monitoring Program
Longterm Louisiana Pinesnake Survey and Monitoring
Aerial Waterfowl surveys on Coastal WMAs since 2004.
Non-game Technical Section Participation since 2005
Annual Avian Flu Monitoring since 2006.
Deer and Turkey TAG program

Enforcement Division

Primary maritime security agency for Louisiana
Emergency Response inclusion ESF 13
Emergency Response inclusion ESF 9 Which includes:
• Waterborne and urban search and rescue for ALL natural and manmade disasters such as hurricanes, oil spills, ice storms, etc...
• Security for any state or local jurisdiction which needs law enforcement assistance
• Security at mass housing facilities for displaced citizens due to natural or manmade disasters
• Security at DSNAP locations
• Transportation of essential doctors and nurses for natural or manmade disasters when unsafe conditions arise
• Delivery of necessary and lifesaving medical supplies for natural or manmade disasters when unsafe conditions arise
• Traffic control, public safety
• Prison evacuation
• General law enforcement when requested

Where are we now

Last Recreational License Adjustment by State:



Where are we now

Recreational

CURRENT FEES AND STRUCTURE

Res Basic Fishing	\$9.50
Res Saltwater	\$13.00
Res Hook and Line	\$2.50
Res Basic Hunting	\$15.00
Res Big Game	\$14.00
Res Bow Hunting	\$10.50
Res Primitive Firearm	\$10.50
Res La Duck	\$5.50
Res Wild Turkey	\$5.50
Res Trapper (15 & older)	\$25.00
Res Trapper (14 & under)	\$5.00
Res La Sportsman's Paradise	\$100.00
Res Senior Hunt/Fish (60 or older)	\$5.00
Res Rec Crawfish Traps (35)	\$15.00
Res Rec Crab Trap (10)	\$15.00
Res Rec Slat Traps (5)	\$20.00
Res Rec Trawl (to 16')	\$25.00
Res Rec Oyster Tong	\$5.00
Res Rec Wire Net (5)	\$20.00
Res Rec Pipes/Drums (5)	\$10.00
Res Rec Cans/Buckets (5)	\$10.00
Resident Hoop Nets (5)	\$20.00
Resident Rec Trawl (to 25')	\$80.00
R/NR Charter Passenger (3 day)	\$10.00
HIP Certification	\$0.00
WMA Hunting Permit (age 18-60)	\$15.00
Wild LA Stamp	\$9.50
Wild LA Stamp (1 day)	\$2.00
Federal Electronic Duck Stamp	\$27.22

NR Fish Season	\$60.00
NR Saltwater Fish Season	\$30.00
NR Fishing Trip (1 day)	\$5.00
NR Saltwater Trip (1 day)	\$17.50
NR Charter Skiff (3 day)	\$30.00
NR Hunting Season	\$150.00
NR Big Game Season	\$150.00
NR Bow Hunting	\$26.00
NR Primitive Firearm	\$26.00
NR LA Duck	\$25.00
NR Wild Turkey	\$20.50
NR Small Game/Mig/Bird (1-day)	\$29.00
NR Deer (1-day)	\$36.00
NR Turkey (1-day)	\$36.00
LA Native NR Hunt (5 day)	\$15.00
LA Native NR BG Game (5 day)	\$14.00
LA Native NR Bow (5 day)	\$10.50
LA Native NR Primitive Firearm (5 day)	\$10.50
LA Native NR Turkey (5 day)	\$5.50
LA Native NR Duck (5 day)	\$5.50
NR Hunting Preserve (10/1 - 4/30)	\$15.00
NR Trapper License	\$200.00
NR Rec Crab Traps (10)	\$60.00
NR Rec Slat Traps (5)	\$80.00
NR Rec Trawl (to 16')	\$100.00
NR Rec Oyster Tong	\$20.00
NR Rec Wire Nets (5)	\$80.00
NR Rec Pipes/Drums (5)	\$40.00
NR Rec Cans/Buckets (5)	\$40.00
NR Rec Crawfish Traps (35)	\$60.00
NR Hoop Nets (5)	\$80.00
NR Rec Trawl (to 25')	\$320.00

Res/NR Military Fishing	\$9.50
Res/NR Military Saltwater	\$5.50
Res/NR Military Hunting	15.00
Res/NR Military Big Game	\$14.00
Res/NR Military Bow	\$10.50
Res/NR Military Primitive Firearm	\$10.50
Res/NR Military Duck	\$5.50
Res/NR Military Wild Turkey	\$5.50

Hunt/Fish-Disabled	\$0.00
Fish - Disabled	\$0.00
Hunt - Disabled	\$0.00
LA Disabled Fishing	\$2.50
LA Disabled Saltwater	\$2.50
Res Disabled Basic Hunting	\$5.00
Res Disabled Big Game	\$5.00
Res Disabled Bow	\$5.00
Res Disabled Primitive Firearm	\$5.00
Res/Native Retired Military Hunt/Fish	\$5.00
Res/Surv. Spouse Military KIA Fish	\$2.50
Res/Surv. Spouse Military KIA Hunt	\$2.50

NR Student Basic Fishing	\$9.50
NR Student Salt Fishing	\$5.50
NR Student Basic Hunting	\$15.00
NR Student Big Game	\$14.00
NR Student Bow	\$10.50
NR Student Primitive Firearm	\$10.50
NR Student Duck	\$5.50
NR Student Wild Turkey	\$5.50
NR Black Bass Tournament	\$30.00
Lifetime NR Combination	\$3,000.00
Lifetime NR Native Disabled Combo	\$300.00
NR Outdoor Press Fish (3-day)	\$0.00
NR Outdoor Press Hunt (3-day)	\$0.00

Lifetime Resident Combo (14+)	\$500.00
Lifetime Resident Hunting (14+)	\$300.00
Lifetime Resident Fishing (14+)	\$300.00
Lifetime Resident Combo (-14)	\$300.00
Lifetime Resident Hunting (-14)	\$200.00
Lifetime Resident Fishing (-14)	\$200.00
Lifetime Resident Infant (H/F)	\$200.00
Lifetime Resident Senior	\$50.00
Lifetime Res Crawfish Traps	\$150.00
Lifetime Res Crab Trap	\$100.00
Lifetime Res Slat Trap	\$200.00
Lifetime Res Trawl (to 16')	\$250.00
Lifetime Res Trawl (to 25')	\$800.00
Lifetime Res Oyster Tong	\$50.00
Lifetime Res Wire Net	\$200.00
Lifetime Res Pipes/Drums	\$100.00
Lifetime Res Cans/Buckets	\$100.00
Lifetime Res Hoop Nets	\$200.00

Res Facility Fish/Salt	\$0.00
Substance Abuse Fishing	\$9.50
Substance Abuse Saltwater	\$5.50

RESTRUCTURED REVISED

Recreational		Resident	Non-Resident Fee	5-Day	
Fishing					
Hook and Line / Crab		\$ 5.00			
Basic Fishing (includes freshwater gear) (required for all fishermen)		\$ 17.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 30.00	
Saltwater Fishing (includes shrimp trawl and oyster tong)		\$ 15.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 30.00	
Charter 3-day Salt (includes NR charter Skiff 3day)		\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00		
Charter 3-day Fresh		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		
Hunting					
Basic Hunting (required for all hunters)		\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 65.00	
Big Game / Deer (includes archery and primitive)		\$ 15.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 35.00	
Duck Stamp		\$ 12.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 35.00	
Turkey Stamp		\$ 12.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 35.00	
Youth Hunting License (Deer and Turkey Tags Only)		\$ 5.00			
Recreation					
WMA Permit (Resident and Non-Resident)		\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.00	
Camping Permit Per Day		\$ 7.00			
Combination Licenses (all privileges above)					
Sportsman Paradise		\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 120.00	
Senior Hunt / Fish		\$ 20.00			
Disabled / Military,		\$ 5.00			
Lifetime License		Senior	Youth	Resident	Non Resident
Lifetime Sportsman's Paradise		\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

Notes on funding changes:

\$7.50 from every saltwater license will still go to fund the La Creel program
 \$7.50 from every charter license will go towards the Charter Boat Association
 All hunting revenue will go into Conservation (25% went to WHNHT and 10% to the breeding ground for waterfowl)

All WMA Access Permits revenue will go into WHNHT Fund
 \$10 from duck stamp will go into Duck stamp account. \$5 for operations and \$5 for the breeding grounds
 \$7.50 from every turkey license will go into Wild Turkey Fund

Existing Proposed

BOAT REGISTRATION	Existing		Proposed	
		\$		\$
Paddlecraft		-		15.00
14' or less		32.00		
14' 1" - 17' 11"		37.00	36.00	
18'		42.00		
18' 1" - 19' 0"		44.00		
19' 1" - 20' 0"		46.00		
20' 1" - 21' 0"		48.00		
21' 1" - 22' 0"		50.00	57.00	
22' 1" - 23' 0"		52.00		
23' 1" - 24' 0"		54.00		
24' 1" - 25' 0"		56.00		
25' 1" - 26' 0"		58.00		
26' 1" - 27' 0"		60.00		
27' 1" - 28' 0"		62.00		
28' 1" - 29' 0"		64.00		
29' 1" - 30' 0"		66.00		
30' 1" - 31' 0"		68.00		
31' 1" - 32' 0"		70.00	78.00	
32' 1" - 33' 0"		72.00		
33' 1" - 34' 0"		74.00		
34' 1" - 35' 0"		76.00		
35' 1" - 36' 0"		78.00		
36' 1" - 37' 0"		80.00		
37' 1" - 38' 0"		82.00		
For each foot greater than 38'	Add \$2 per foot		99.00	

100% of the Revenue will go into the Aquatic Plant Control Fund.

This legislation will establish a cap of \$5 million on the aquatic plant control fund with any overage then deposited into the Conservation Fund.

This will ensure the viability of the aquatic plant control program and dedicated funding for this important statewide issue.

	Proposed Fee	
	Resident Fee	Non-Resident Fee
Commercial Fishing License Restructure		
<i>General Licenses</i>		
Commercial Fishing License	\$ 155.00	\$ 620.00
Vessel License	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
Gulf Seafood Offloading License	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
Shrimp (All funds go to shrimp marketing, management and enforcement)		
Shrimp Gear - Freshwater	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Shrimp Trawl Gear	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Butterfly Net Gear	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Skimmer Net Gear	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Special Bait Permit	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00
Crab (All funds go to crab marketing, management and enforcement)		
Crab Gear + \$.50 per trap	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Out of State Crab Shipping Wholesale / Retail	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00
Crawfish (All funds go to crawfish marketing, management and enforcement)		
Crawfish Gear + \$.50 per trap	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Oyster (All funds go to oyster marketing, management and enforcement)		
Oyster Gear License (per scraper)	\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00
Public Seed Ground Permit (1 scraper)	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00
Public Seed Ground Permit (2 scraper)	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,105.00
R / NR Out of State Oyster Landing Permit	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Saltwater Fish (All funds go to saltwater fish marketing, management and enforcement)		
Saltwater Fish Trawl	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Saltwater Fish Gear License - Other	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Menhaden / Purse Seine	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Spotted Sea Trout Permit	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,400.00
R / NR Shark Permit	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Pompano Permit	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Mullet Permit	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Freshwater Fish (All funds go to freshwater fish marketing, management and enforcement)		
Freshwater Fish Gear License - Other	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00

	Proposed Fee	
	Resident Fee	Non-Resident Fee
Charter Guides		
Charter Guide 6 Passengers	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,000.00
Charter Guide 6+	\$ 700.00	\$ 3,500.00
Charter Mother Ship 6 skiffs (includes kayaks)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Charter Mother Ship >6 skiffs (includes kayaks)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Charter Skiffs (includes kayaks)	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Charter Guide - Freshwater	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,000.00
Seafood Business		
Seafood Wholesale / Retail Dealer Business & Vehicle	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Seafood Retail Dealer Business & Vehicle	\$ 375.00	\$ 1,500.00
Seafood Transport Wholesale / Retail / Dealer	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
Seafood Transport Retail / Dealer	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
R/NR Transport Commercial Fisherman	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Fresh Products License (up to two per commercial fisherman - must designate person at sale - cannot sell for more than one fisherman)		
Fur / Trapping	\$ 75.00	\$ 300.00
Fur Buyer		
Fur Dealer and Deposit	\$ 55.00	\$ 215.00
Fur Dealer and Deposit	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,800.00
Non-game Quadruped Exhibitor	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Non-game Quadruped Breeder	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Game Breeder	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Game breeder inspection fee		
Game breeder inspection fee	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hunting Preserve		
Hunting Preserve	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00
Hunting Guide		
Hunting Guide	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
R/NR Alligator Parts Retailer		
R/NR Alligator Parts Retailer	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
R/NR Alligator Parts Dealer		
R/NR Alligator Parts Dealer	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00
Reptile / Amphibian Collector		
Reptile / Amphibian Collector	\$ 55.00	\$ 420.00
Reptile / Amphibian Transport		
Reptile / Amphibian Transport	\$ 65.00	\$ 250.00
Reptile / Amphibian Wholesale / Retail Dealer		
Reptile / Amphibian Wholesale / Retail Dealer	\$ 220.00	
3-day NR Reptile / Amphibian Wholesale / Retail Dealer		
3-day NR Reptile / Amphibian Wholesale / Retail Dealer		\$ 150.00
Coyote Trapping		
Coyote Trapping	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Trapping (moved from Recreational)		
Trapping (moved from Recreational)	\$ 40.00	\$ 160.00

Revised Revenue

Comparing Current funding to the Revised revenue

Current Funding

Recreational Hunting and Fishing license – \$16.7 million per year
Commercial License – \$3.2 million per year
Boat Registration and titling - \$4.6 million per year
Mineral Revenue – reduces projecting \$13 million
Other Combined Sources - \$3.1 million per year
Total annual revenue of \$40.6 million

Revised Model

Recreational Hunting and Fishing license – \$27.9 million per year
Commercial License – \$7.1 million per year
Boat Registration and titling - \$6.6 million per year
Mineral Revenue – reduces projecting \$13 million
Other Combined Sources - \$3.1 million per year
Total annual revenue of \$57.7 million



Wildlife Bills



- **HB 239 – Prohibits Harvest of Cypress Trees on State Property**

- Cutting or sale of standing cypress timber on any state land or water bottom is prohibited
- Some exemptions including:
 - Removal of fallen trees or stumps
 - Clearing of ROWs
 - LDWF approved management plan for aquatic vegetation
 - For boat lanes or navigation corridors
- Referred to House Natural Resources

- **HB 366 – Authorizes Land Swap on Russel Sage WMA**

- Authorizes LDWF to swap 152 acres of Russel Sage WMA for 219 acres of property owned by McConnell family
- Subject to appraisal, due diligence and agreement
- Referred to House Natural Resources

- **HB 154 – Wildlife Trust Fund Investments**

- Rockefeller Trust, Russel Sage and Marsh Island Trust Funds
- Authorizes Treasurer to invest up to 65% of the funds in stocks (currently capped at 35%)
- Constitutional Amendment
- Assigned to House Appropriations



Public Access Bills

- **HB 331 – Constitutional Amendment Authorizing State to Alienate Navigable Water Bodies**
 - Authorizes state to enter into agreements with landowners to establish permanent fixed boundaries
 - Authorizes state to accept donation, subject to perpetual mineral reservation, regardless of subsequent erosion or future navigability
 - Agreements must provide for public access over all present and future water bottoms
 - Assigned to House Natural Resources



Fisheries Bills

- **HB 75 – Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund**
 - Extends \$250K annual payments into the "Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund" through 2026
 - Extends the existence of the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to June 30, 2026
 - Originally scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2022
 - Assigned to House Natural Resources
- **HB 226 – Lake D'Arbonne Crappie Limits**
 - Legislative daily creel limit is 50
 - WLF Commission has authority to amend
 - Specific impediment to amending crappie limit on D'Arbonne unless LDWF could show negative impact on the population
 - Assigned to House Natural Resources
- **SB 134 – Prohibits Nighttime Shrimping in Lake Pontchartrain**
 - Prohibits nighttime taking of shrimp in Lake Pontchartrain west of Interstate Highway 10
 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources





Enforcement Bills



- **HB 118 – La. Firearm Protection Act**
 - Prohibits federal law that taxes, registers, tracks, or curtails possession of firearms
 - EXEMPTS PITTMAN-ROBERTSON EXCISE TAXES
 - Prohibits enforcement of federal law or regulation that's inconsistent with state law
 - Referred to House Admin. Criminal Justice

- **HB 157 – Survival Benefits for Spouse and Children of Law Enforcement Officers**
 - Provides survival benefits for spouses and children of law enforcement officers who die from a heart attack or stroke
 - Suffered while engaged in strenuous physical activity in the performance of duties or within 24 hours thereafter
 - Referred to House Municipal and Parochial Affairs

- **Conversion of Certain Criminal Violations to Civil Fines**
 - Decriminalizes the lowest two classes of LDWF violations (and select Class 3 violations)
 - Authorizes LDWF to pursue civil penalties through the APA Process



Questions?

