**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 1:00pm**

**2045 Lakeshore Dr., RM 216**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Roll call and introduction of guests**

**Voting Members Present:**

Laquita Meek

Trudy Luke

Pete Gerica

George Jackson

Al Cassagne

Rodney Parfait

Britney Breaux

**Voting Members Absent:**

Eric Blanchard

Chalin Delaune

Sheb Callahan

Dannon Lacoste

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Julie Falgout in for Julie Lively

Peyton Cagle

Jack Isaacs

Edward Skena

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Melissa Daigle

**III.** Motion by Al Cassagne to accept the December 4, 2018 meeting minutes, 2nd by Britney Breaux. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the February 5, 2019 meeting agenda, 2nd by Al Cassagne. Motion carries.

**IV. Financial Report:**

Remaining Fund Balance- $253,041

Remaining Budget Balance- $48,085

Trudy Luke motioned to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**V. New Business:**

‘**A.** To Discuss LCTF Draft Legislative Bills on Escape Rings and Increased Penalties for Certain Violations

The task force discussed a draft bill that would provide for the location of escape rings in crab traps

Recommendation: adding in language that would allow for a 2 year, phase-in period for the industry to make proper adjustments to their traps before enforcing the requirement which states that ‘escape rings in the lower chamber must be no more than one mesh from the corner and no more than one mesh off the bottom or floor’

The board reviewed draft legislation that would provide for additional penalties for unauthorized taking of immature female crabs, berry female crabs, and theft of traps and/or crabs

Recommendation: expressed concern for shrimpers, recreational crab fishermen, and other user groups violating these regulations; requested for LDWF to look into the possibility of adding in language that would provide the same restrictions on other user groups

The board expressed concern with the docks splitting crabs and proper labeling, requested this to be a topic of discussion for the next meeting

‘**B.** To Consider a Resolution to Support the Continued Action and Participation by Louisiana in the Effort to Reduce the Gulf Hypoxic Zone’

Britney Breaux motioned to pass a resolution to support the continued action and participation by Louisiana in the effort to reduce the Gulf Hypoxic Zone

‘**C.** To Discuss Changing a Restriction on Crabbing Before Sunrise from ½ Hour to 1 Hour Before Sunrise’

The task force took no action on this item at this time

‘**D.** Officer Elections’

Al Cassagne motioned to postpone item D. Officer Elections until the next meeting, 2nd by Rodney Parfait. Motion carries.

‘**E.** To Receive a Report on Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroups and the Louisiana Seafood Future’

Dr. Robert Twilley provided the task force with a presentation on ‘Louisiana’s Seafood Future: An industry Adapts to Change’ and an update on the Coastal Fishing Industries Adaptation Workgroups

**Mission:**

To highlight adaptation tools created by those most affected by changes in the seafood industry—the shrimpers, crabbers, oyster fishers, finfishers, dockworkers, and processors—who are at the heart of our coastal economy and culture.

**LSF Objectives**

1. Identify challenges facing the fishing industry related to changing environmental conditions (coastal land loss, water quality, etc.).
2. Identify environmental, economic and policy information that could be helpful to members of the seafood industry.
3. Discuss restoration and protection projects, including issues related to when and how projects are brought on line.
4. Identify adaptation strategies that could help the industry.
5. Identify funding sources, if necessary, that could help the industry put adaptation strategies into practice.

**Work to be Done in 2019**

1. Set up ways for industry members to keep track of and add to the adaptation toolbox ideas being suggested.
2. Host industry meetings across the coast (Oyster, Shrimp, Crab & Finfish) from January to April 2019.
3. Compile adaptation toolbox ideas into draft LSF summary document in June 2019.
4. Present summary document to CPRA at July 2019 board meeting.
5. Prepare final draft of initial plan by August 2019.
6. Online adaptation questionnaire. You give opinions about proposed strategies and suggest new ideas. We’ll update the questionnaire to reflect your feedback.
7. Fact sheets. We summarize the ideas we’ve gained on fact sheets. You provide comments at meetings and online. We keep updating the fact sheets to reflect your feedback.
8. The questionnaire and fact sheets will be publicized on radio and posted on social media sites like Facebook. They will also be sent to industry members via email and snail mail. LAseafoodfuture.com will have updates.



Feedback from the crabbing industry on adaptation tools:

* Fishing in More Productive Areas
* Vessel modifications
	+ - Refrigeration
		- More efficient engines
* Gear Modifications
	+ - General trap improvements
		- Buster-specific crab trap
* Increased access to private water bottoms
* More Derelict Trap Cleanups
* Develop Local Bait Source
* Moratorium on crab licenses
* Ways to reduce predation on crabs (more black drum and red drum fishing)

**VI. Public Comment**

No public comment

**VII. Set Next Meeting**

Next meeting set for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 for 1pm- location TBD

**VIII. Adjourn**

Rodney Parfait motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Briney Breaux. Motion carries.