

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
REPORT**

March 11, 2014

**WOODY CREWS
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Council Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.
For more information, call (225) 765-2623.

AGENDA
HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
March 11, 2014

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of Oct. 29, 2013
3. Welcome and Opening Comments
Woody Crews, Chairman
4. Office of Fisheries Report: Red Snapper Management
Randy Pausina, Asst. Sect., Office of Fisheries
5. Enforcement Division Report
Major Sammy Martin
6. Office of Management and Finance: Annual Report
Tammy Calix, Fiscal Office
7. Pre-Session Legislative Update
Cole Garrett, Legislative Liaison
8. Set Next Meeting Date
9. Receive Public Comments
10. Adjournment

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Chairman Woody Crews presiding. Those present at roll call included:

Nolan Reynerson sitting in for Nelson Roth
Ryan Schaefer sitting in for Samuel J. Smith
Mike Windham
Lyle Johnson
Stephen Pellessier
Michael Patterson sitting in for Jeff DeBlieux
Donald Reed

Council members Warren Singer, Mike Rainwater, Alexander Perret, Daryl Carpenter and David Rousseau were absent from the meeting. Bayou State Bow Hunters Association has not been replaced as yet on the Council and the Louisiana Marine & Motorcycles Trades Association has not yet filled their vacant seat.

A quorum was noted as present.

The following constitutes a brief report of what was heard.

The **minutes of the October 29, 2013** meeting were not available for approval and have been tabled to a later date. There were no objections heard

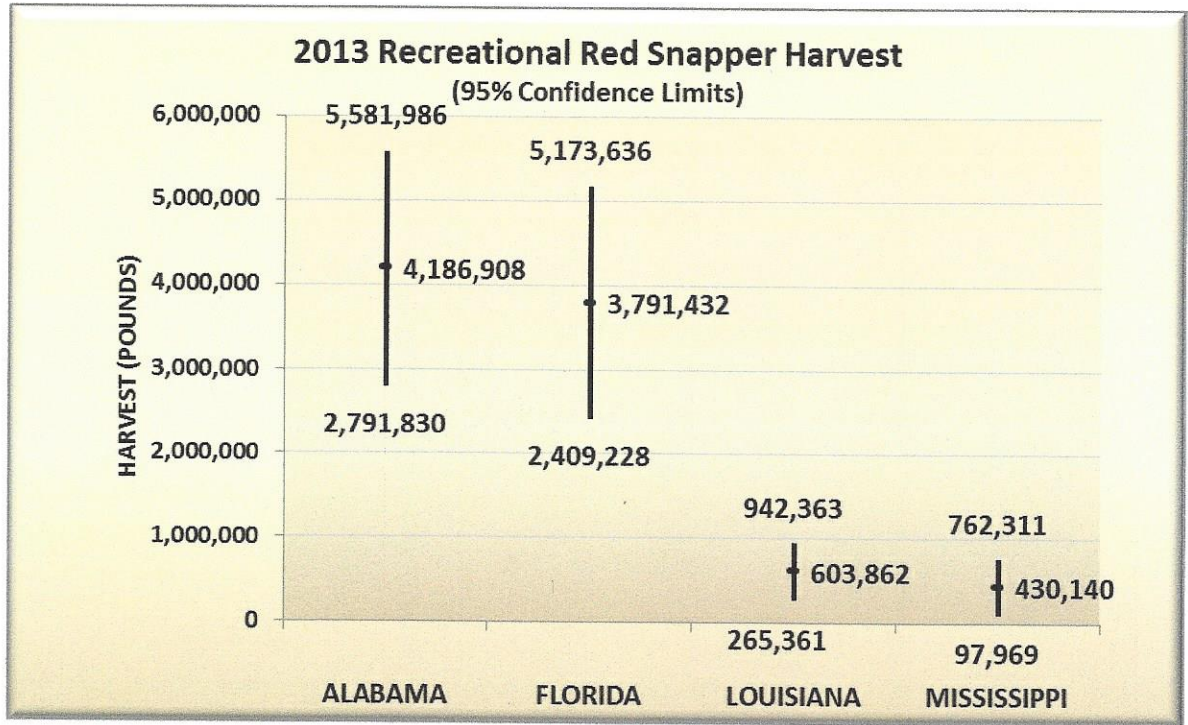
Randy Pausina. Assistant Secretary Office of Fisheries, **Red Snapper Management Report**

LA Creel Monitoring Survey Purpose:

PROBLEM:

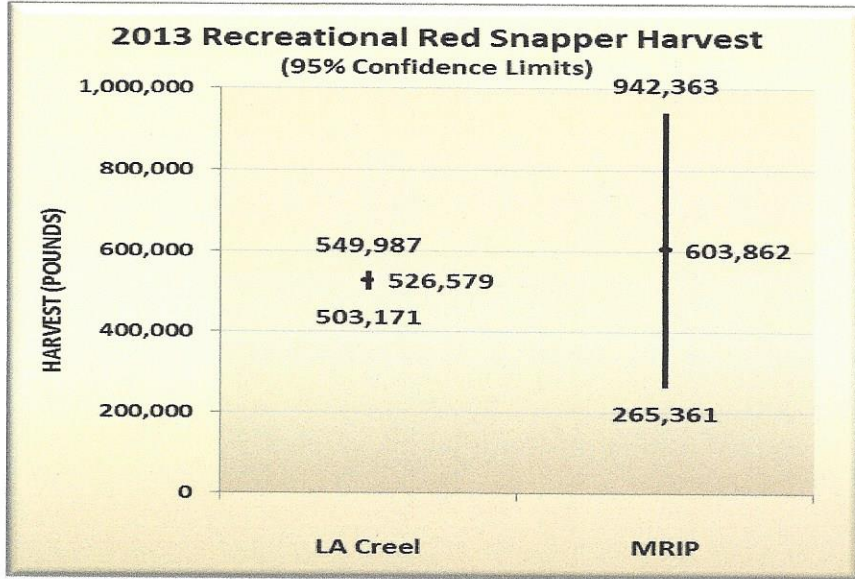
Inability to use MRIP survey data to reasonably forecast recreational red snapper harvest

YEAR	Recreational Quota	Recreational Landings	Overrun	% Over
2007	3,185,000	4,440,015	1,255,015	39%
2008	2,450,000	3,711,658	1,261,658	51%
2009	2,450,000	4,624,577	2,174,577	89%
2010	3,403,000	2,238,908	-1,164,092	
2011	3,866,000	4,602,553	736,553	19%
2012	3,959,000	5,146,321	1,187,321	30%
2013	5,390,000	6,130,000	740,000	14%

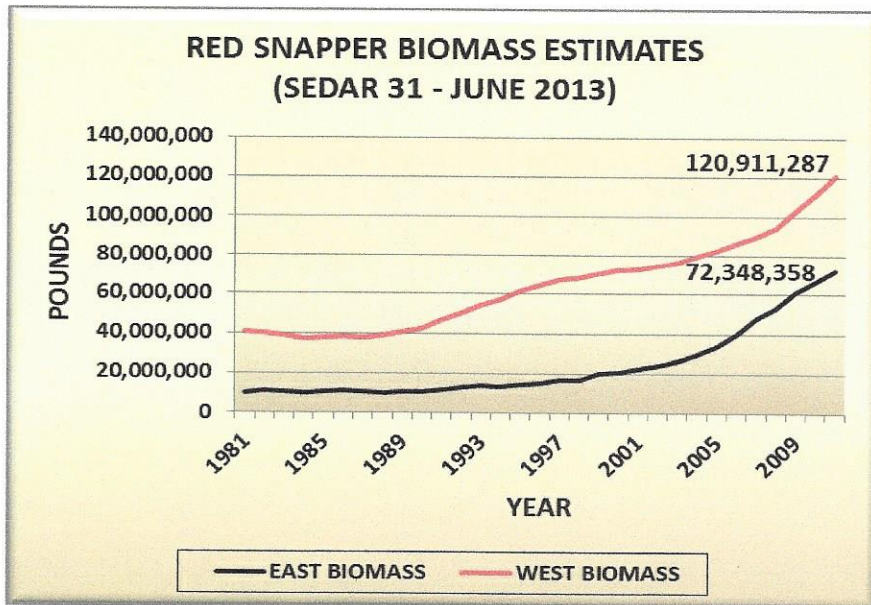


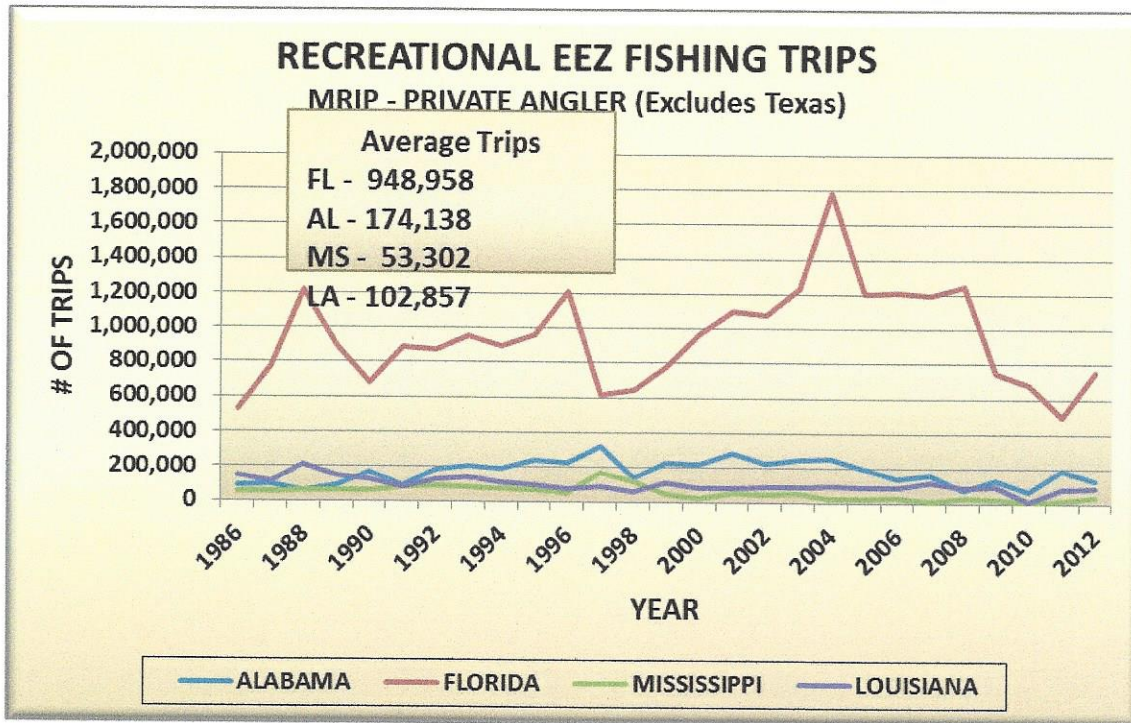
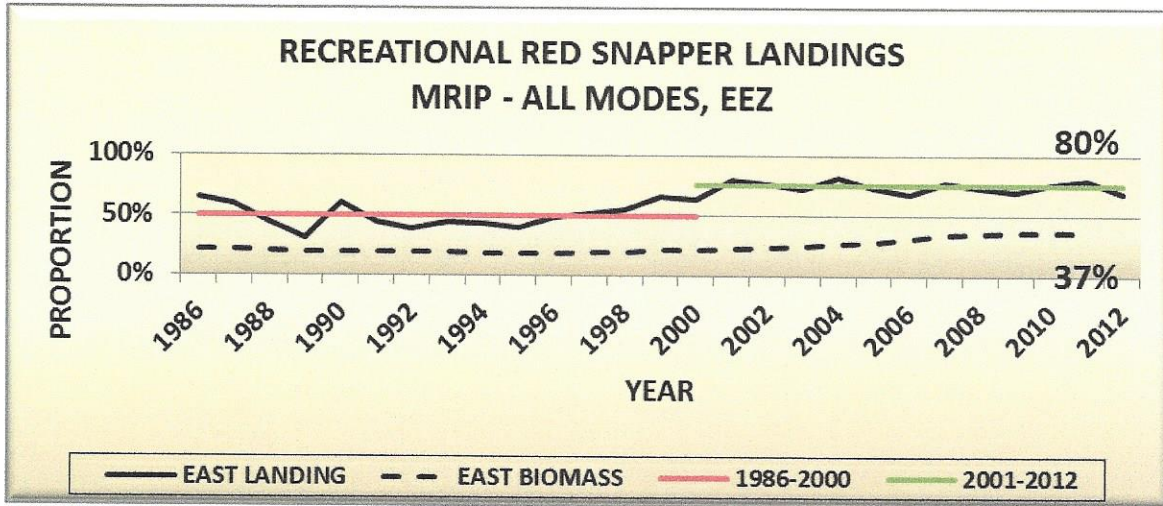
SOLUTION:

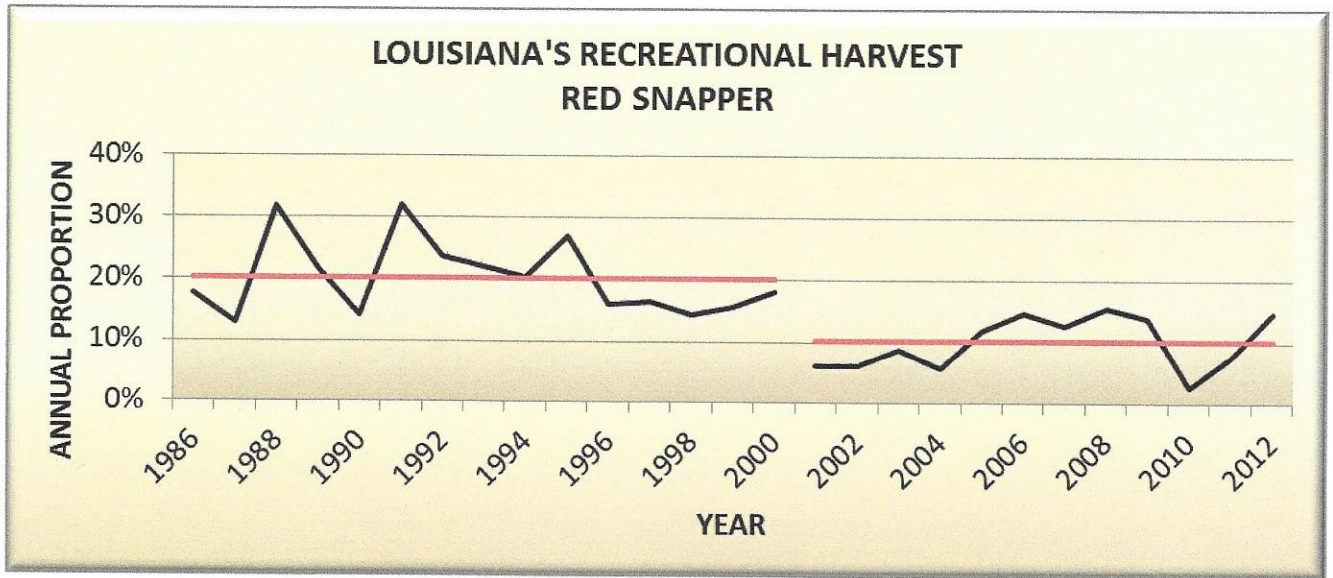
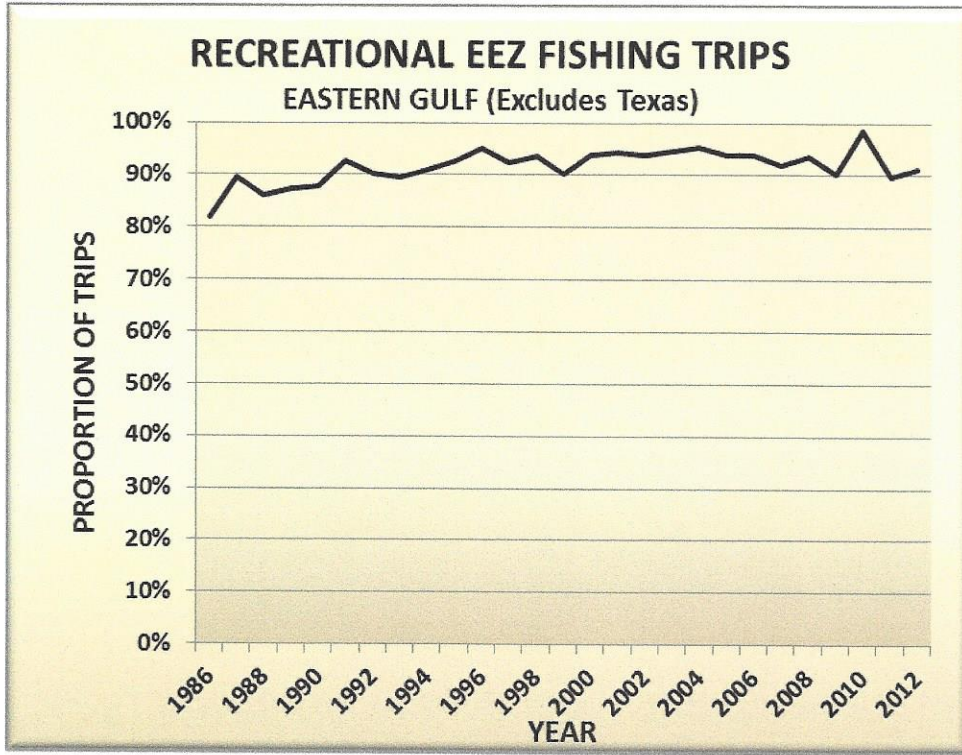
Design a survey that provides real-time, reliable recreational red snapper landing estimates that managers and anglers can have confidence in



RED SNAPPER



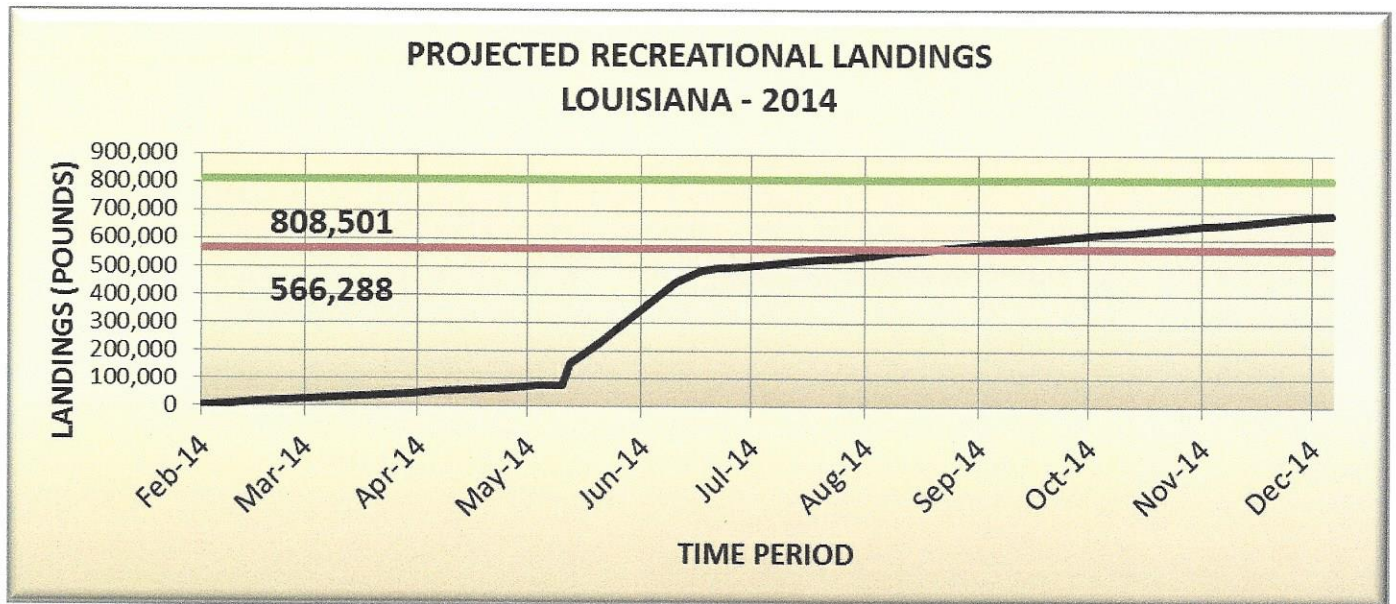




RED SNAPPER EEZ SEASONS		
Year	Season Dates	# Days
1996	January 1-December 31	365
1997	January 1-November 27	330
1998	January 1-September 30	272
1999	January 1-August 29	240
2000	April 21 – October 31	194
2001	April 21-October 31	194
2002	April 21-October 31	194
2003	April 21-October 31	194
2004	April 21-October 31	194
2005	April 21-October 31	194
2006	April 21-October 31	194
2007	April 21-October 31	194
2008	June 1-August 4	65
2009	June 1-August 14	75
2010	June 1-July 23; Oct 1-Nov 21 (Fri, Sat, Sun)	77
2011	June 1-July 18	48
2012	June 1-July 15	45

RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL LANDINGS

STATE	MRIP 1986-2012	NMFS Projected 2014		Difference
WFL	37%	2,404,977	45%	8%
AL	28%	1,698,952	32%	4%
MS	4%	213,199	4%	0%
LA	15%	566,288	11%	-4%
TX	17%	506,589	9%	-8%
		5,390,005		



Major Sammy Martin stated, for the agenda item, **To Hear Enforcement Division Report**, the department's planes flew a total of 40.4 aviation hours for the month. There were Four (4) boating accidents reported, Three (3) injuries and Zero (0) Fatalities. There were 847 total cases for the month of February with 258 Written Warnings issued and 30 Public Assistance.

Two (2) news releases were discussed

First, On Feb. 25, John Phillipe, 32 and Patrick Sylve, 25, both of Port Sulphur, and Jean Taylor, 32, of Sparta, Tenn., pleaded guilty to numerous commercial oyster violations in Plaquemines Parish.

Phillipe pleaded guilty to harvesting oysters during illegal hours, unlawfully removing oysters from a private lease, failing to have written permission, and violation of the emergency fishery closure still in effect from the BP oil spill, violating the state's health code by not filling out his Department of Health and Hospitals log book, and another count of violating the state's health code for vessel sanitation requirements, no tarp, no visible boat numbers and taking commercial fish without a vessel license. He was also cited for improper running lights, failing to comply with personal flotation device requirements, failing to change ownership of a vessel after 45 days and failing to display a valid certificate decal.

Patrick Sylve and Jean Taylor pleaded guilty for harvesting oysters during illegal hours, unlawfully removing oysters from a private lease, failing to have written permission, and violation of the emergency fishery closure still in effect from the BP oil spill.

Judge Michael Clement accepted all three pleas and ordered the following sentences: Phillipe was ordered to pay a fine of \$3,900 plus all court costs and was placed on two years probation. All of Phillipe's commercial licenses were also revoked for a period of two years and he is forbidden to be on any oyster vessel for two years. His oyster dredge was also forfeited to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Patrick Sylve and Jean Taylor were each ordered to pay a fine of \$950 plus court costs and were ordered to not be on a vessel harvesting or possessing oysters or gear to take oysters for two years unless that vessel is equipped with a vessel monitoring device that is approved and monitored by the LDWF Enforcement Division.

LDWF agents witnessed Phillipe and his deckhands harvesting oysters from a lease that did not belong to them and under the cover of darkness after legal sunset on Aug. 26, 2013 in Bayou Stephan located in Plaquemines Parish. Agents discovered the boating safety and health code violations during the stop.

Assistant District Attorney Robert White prosecuted the case. Agents participating in the case were Sgts. Adam Young and Villere Reggio.

The Second News Release, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested a Rayne man for alleged shrimp violations on

Feb. 26. Shannon J Roche, 36, of Rayne, was booked into the Lafayette Parish Jail for 13 counts of selling shrimp without a retail seafood license, three counts of theft by fraudulent sales, and failing to maintain records. LDWF agents first learned of Roche's illegal methods from a number of consumers posting photos of him on social media websites and describing his illegal practices.

During the investigation into Roche's illegal methods, agents learned that Roche allegedly purchased shrimp from a wholesale retail dealer and resold them to consumers on 13 different occasions during the months of January and February. He additionally made three transactions to consumers whom did not receive the correct amount of shrimp purchased. Roche also did not keep proper documentation of his sales.

Selling shrimp without a retail seafood license brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Theft by fraudulent sales carries up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail. Failing to maintain records brings up to a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Lt. Beau Robertson, Sgt. Justin Sonnier, Sgt. Lance Devillier, and Senior Agents David Boudreaux, Derek Logan, and Donald Murray participated in the case.

The next item, **Office of Management and Finance**, Tammy Calix

Ms. Calix reviewed the number of Recreational Hunting and Fishing Licenses sold Fiscal Year 2004-2013 as follows:

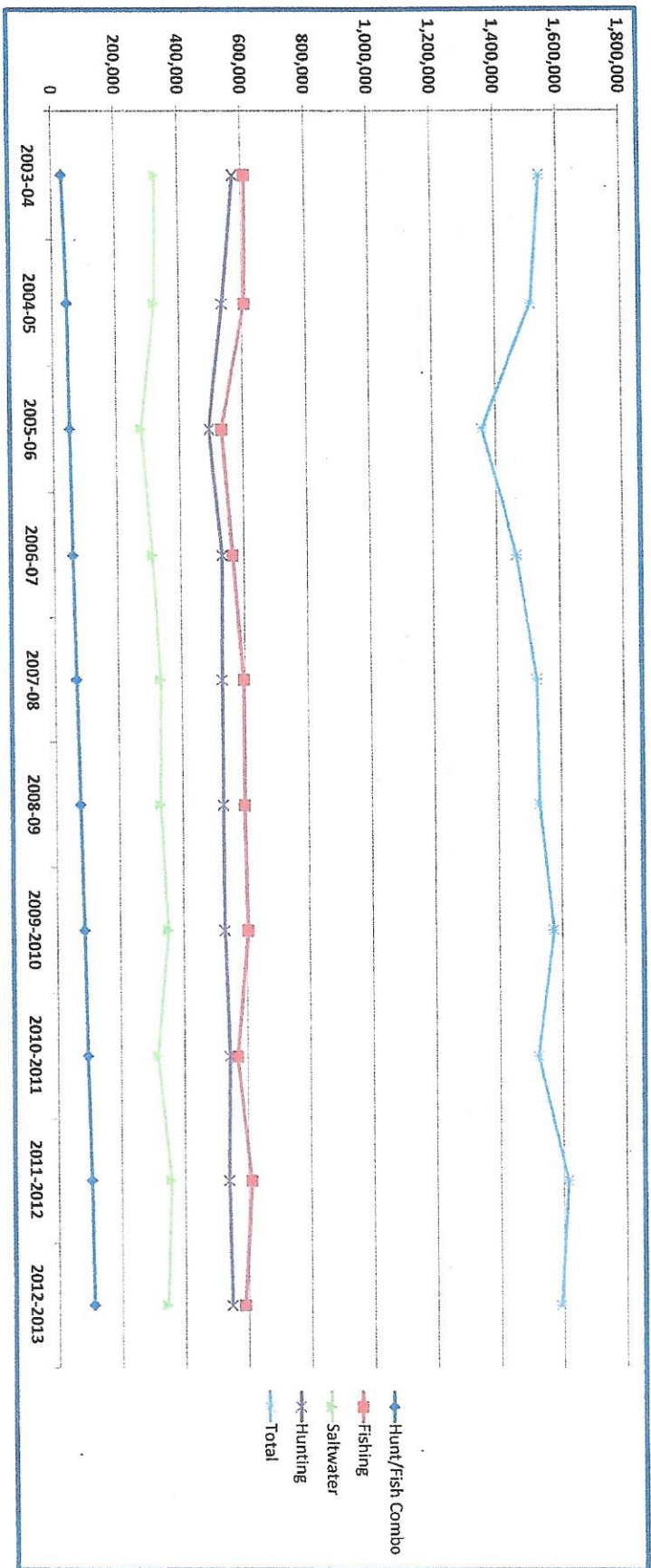
Hunt/Fish Combo License
Fishing License
Saltwater License
Hunting License
Total License Sold

Ms. Calix then reviewed the amount of dollars on Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Revenue Fiscal Year 2004-2013 as follows:

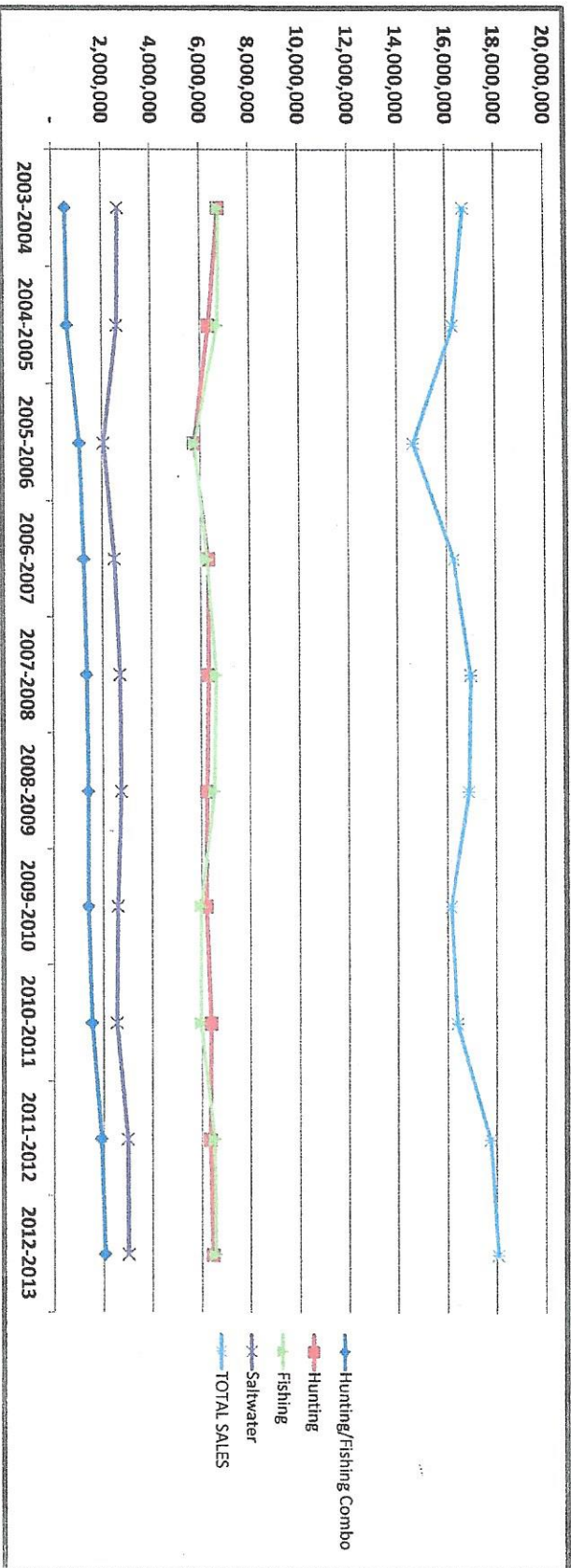
Hunt/Fish Combo License
Hunting
Fishing
Saltwater
Total Sales

(graphics can be found on next page)

RECREATIONAL HUNTING and FISHING LICENSES SOLD
Fiscal Year 2004-2013



RECREATIONAL HUNTING and FISHING LICENSE REVENUE
Fiscal Year 2004-2013



The next item, **Pre-Session Legislative Update**, Cole Garrett, Legislative Liaison Mr. Garrett reviewed the following:

Overview of all Bills

HB 186/SB 212 – Sound Suppressors for Hunting
HB 344 – KIA Surviving Spouses Reduced Fees
HB 416 – Sustainable Fisheries Management
HB 440 – Skimmer Net Configuration
HB 523 – Possession Limit for Black Bass
HB 782 – Surface Water Fees – Aquatic Plants
HB 913 – Establishes Finfish Task Force
HB 1071 – Six Month Bona Fide Residency
HB 1072 – Special Retired Veterans License
HB 1082 – Saltwater Fishing License Fee
HB 1154 – Crab Trap Escape Rings
HB 1160 – Commercial Crab Professionalism
HB 1284 – Special Veteran Hunting Season
SB 154 – Importation of Game Fish
SB 170 – Release of Non-native Game
SB 246 – Inside/Outside Line for Shrimp
SB 250 – Tony the Tiger Exemption
SB 251 – Sale of Wild Game
SB 344 – Catch and Cook Program
SB 662 – Taking Game from Moving Vehicles
SB 681 – Aerial Control of Nuisance Animals

Bills Affecting the Entire Department:

- **HB 344 – K.I.A. Surviving Spouse Hunting & Fishing License**
 - \$2.50 for all hunting and WMA privileges
 - \$2.50 for both basic and saltwater fishing privileges

- **HB 1071 – Six Month Residency Requirement**
 - Reduces the time to qualify as a bona fide resident for hunting and fishing licenses from 1 year to 6 months

- **HB 1072 – Creates Special Retired Veterans Hunt/Fish License**
 - \$5 Hunt/Fish combo license for native born or resident retired military persons
 - Estimated \$70,000 loss in revenue annually

- **SB 170 – Liberation of Game, Fish, or Fowl**
 - Prohibits the release of wildlife, fish, or fowl from within the state
 - Addresses a loophole in the law

Wildlife Related Bills:

- **HB 186/SB 212 – Sound Suppressors for Hunting**
 - Expands law to allow the use of sound suppressors for hunting any game animal
 - Must still meet all Federal ATF permit requirements
- **HB 1284 – Extended Hunting Season for Resident Honorably Discharged Veterans**
 - Establishes a weekend for resident honorably discharged veterans on private property
 - Runs concurrent with the youth weekend in all zones
- **SB 250 – Tony the Tiger Exemption**
 - Allows owners of large exotic cats, who have legally obtained their animal and continuously possessed it since 8/15/2006 to retain that animal upon meeting certain requirements
 - Specifically filed to address a recent court ruling regarding the Tiger Truck Stop in Grosse Tete
 - **SB 251 – Sale of Wild Game**
 - Broadens the definition to recognize other methods of exchange
 - Exempts taxidermists and antler products
- **SB 662 – Taking Game from Moving Vehicles**
 - Prohibits taking game birds or wild quadrupeds while riding within or upon a moving land vehicle
- **SB 681 – Take and Disposal of Outlaw Wildlife Via Aircraft**
 - Authorizes the WLF Commission to promulgate rules and regulations providing for the take and disposal of outlaw birds and quadrupeds by aircraft

Commercial Fisheries Bills:

- **HB 416 – Fisheries Sustainability**
 - Assigns to the WLF Commission management responsibility for sustainability of fisheries resources
 - Advances LDWF's goal to assist commercial seafood sectors to be certified as sustainable fisheries
- **HB 440 – Shrimp Skimmer Net Configuration**
 - Allows for any configuration of a shrimp skimmer net, so long as it meets the following:
 - No part of the frame extends beyond 20' from the vessel
 - No greater than a 72' net opening circumference and a 33' lead line
- **HB 913 – Creates the Louisiana Finfish Task Force**
 - To make recommendations to LDWF and maximize the benefit of the finfish industry
 - **HB 1154 – Crab Trap Escape Rings**
 - Increases minimum size of escape rings and requires an additional escape ring in the upper chamber
 - Removes escape ring exemption for crab traps in Lake Pontchartrain
 - Effective for the 2018 license year

- **HB 1160 – Crab Fisheries Professionalism Program**
 - Requires WLF Commission to establish a program to enhance professionalism in the commercial crab industry
 - Only for new entrants – anyone who participated in the industry 2 of the last 4 years are exempted
- **SB 246 –Inside/Outside Line for Commercial Shrimp**
 - Moves the Inside/Outside line in the Calcasieu Shipping Channel north of “the loop”
 - Authorizes WLF Commission to change the line by rule

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There was no other business discussed

The Council set the **Next Meeting Date** for June 24, 2014

There were no **Public Comments** heard

Chairman Crews **Adjourned** the meeting