**Shrimp Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

**LDWF Headquarters**

**2000 Quail Dr.**

**Baton Rouge, LA 70898**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll call and introduction of guests

**Voting Members Present:**

Acy Cooper, Jr.

Lance Nacio

Jeff Drury, III

Kristen Baumer

Alan Gibson

Chalin Delaune

**Voting Members Absent:**

Rodney Olander

Andrew Blanchard

Randy Pearce

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Peyton Cagle

Edward Skena

Jack Isaacs

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Gene Cavalier

Justin Gremillion

**III.** Alan Gibson motioned to approve the September 21, 2022 meeting minutes, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

**IV.** Alan Gibson motioned to approve the November 2, 2022 meeting agenda, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

The board requested an update on the TEDs case at the next meeting and a follow up on the reappointment of the Governor’s seat on the STF

**V.** Financial report:

Remaining Fund Balance- $691,814

Remaining Budget Balance- $270,331

The board unanimously approved the financial report as presented

**VI.** The board received an updated Federal Shrimp Report

**VII.** New Business

1. Kristen Baumer provided an update on shrimp sustainability certifications

The STF discussed, at a previous meeting, the American Shrimp Processors Association taking the lead on entering into an initial assessment to achieve sustainability certification under MSC and the CSC management plan. As of about 10 days ago, a contract has been signed with Global Trust- ASPA has agreed to fund approx. $100,000 for this contract and is currently waiting for the funding to transfer. As previously discussed all stakeholders have been listed, the certification will represent inshore and offshore fisheries for the 5 Gulf states for pink, brown and white shrimp. The certification will most probably not be achieved until December 2023- January 2024. The certifications would also cover all three shrimp gear- skimmer trawl, ottertrawl, butterfly

1. Acy Cooper provided an update on the state of the shrimp industry

Have been hosting meetings, trying to get the federal delegation to hear the industry’s cries; have been going to D.C. since 2002 about anti-dumping laws and here we are 20 years later and still having the same issues. Shrimp prices are and economically the industry just isn’t going to las. LSA is hosting meetings in Plaquemines and St. Bernard coming up to try and get representatives to hear the concerns and help the industry. Putting the request out again today to the federal delegation to sit down with the industry and hear the issues, if not the industry is going to be lost, communities will be lost if these issues are not addressed. LSA meeting this evening in Plaquemines and on December 5 in St. Bernard

Rocky Decharo stated that the industry needs representatives to listen, the industry is not going to make it, need a lobbist

Kristen Baumer suggested that the request for a meeting with reps should also be put in writing

Jack Isaacs stated that Jan- August 2021 and Jan-Aug. 2022- imports this year through the end of August are up moderately by about 23M lbs, if imports continued this way you might see about another 1.9-2 billion lbs coming through in all of 2022 but there is some indication that these numbers might start to trail off; Indonesian shrimp is up by almost 8M lbs, while imports from Vietnam and India are down, Ecuador is up by nearly 30M lbs

Kristen Baumer stated that ASPA has had lobbyists in D.C. constantly, following up after meetings with the industry, not against hiring a lobbyist

LDH has the authority to test and destroy shrimp but the money is not all there yet to complete all the testing needed, but they have the authority now with the law on the books and that’s a start, looking to change the infraction from a minor to a major infraction for not having country of origin labeling- this change would need to go to the LDH Commission for consideration; may possibly want to discuss/ consider dedicating money to help support restaurants in changing their menus over

1. The board heard BOEM’s renewable energy leasing updates





**Some Major Comments Received on the Call for Information**

Request for 20 nm Coastline Buffer for Migratory Birds

Request for 20 nm Coastline Buffer for Menhaden Fisheries for flyovers

Protection for the Significant Sediment Resource Areas (SSRAs)

Request for 100-400 m Buffer for Rice’s Whale

Request for exclusion of high-moderate high shrimping areas

Request for 2 nm buffer for navigation fairways

Removal of areas located near low-altitude training areas for DoD

**GOM Recommended WEAs**

1. Galveston (Option I) 546,645 acres

2. Lake Charles (Option M) 188,023 acres

Rationale for WAE Recommendations:

Competitive Interest

Less National Security Concerns

Proximity to Points of Interconnection

Proximity to Shore

Less than 10% Moderate-High Shrimping

Enough acreage to further divide into smaller lease sale areas

GOM Final WAEs

1.Galveston (Option I) 508,265 acres

2.Lake Charles (Option M) 174,275 acres

Rationale for final WAE Recommendations:

Removal of 6 blocks in the southern portion of Option I

Proximity to Points of Interconnection

Proximity to Shore

Less than 10% Moderate-High Shrimping

Enough acreage to further divide into smaller lease sale areas

Next Steps:

Publish Area Identification (ID) memo

Identify lease areas, auction format, and publish Proposed Sale Notice (PSN)

Final EA

Final Sale Notice (FSN)

Proposed Lease Auction

BOEM has not leased acreage yet, but when they do 1NM of spacing in between turbines possible to be set by the Coast Guard for ship navigation; shrimpers can drag in between turbines

1. The board heard a presentation on a better bycatch reduction device project

WHO?

Federal Gulf Shrimp Industry:

All current federal Gulf Shrimp permits holders

Captains and crew

shrimp industry associations

Support industry (netmakers, processors, etc.)

Gulf Shrimp Value:

Louisiana Landings 2021 - $126 million

Texas Landings 2021 - $178 million

Gulf Wide Landings 2021 - $416 million

Project Information:

* Funding
	+ *Deepwater Horizon* Gulf Spill Restoration - The Natural Resource Trustees for the *DWH* funds chose this project (Dec. 2019) to help restore damages from the 2010 oil spill.
* Main Objective
	+ Promote the use of better BRDs to reduce finfish bycatch.
* Fishermen Focused
	+ Get data (Why do you use it? How do you use it?) about additional gear already in use in the commercial shrimp industry.

Why should I care/use new BRDs?

* Chance for a better device
	+ New BRD designs may improve shrimp retention and lower bycatch rates
	+ Ease of use
* Adding tools to the toolbox
	+ New options = more choices to meet existing regulations
* Improved public image
	+ Good press – “Shrimpers achieving restoration/conservation goals”
* Compensation and Incentives
	+ Receive direct benefits
		- Gear and/or monetary incentives

Better BRD Project Objectives:

1. Identify new advances in BRD system technology via regional surveys and domestic and international outreach
2. Evaluate bycatch reduction capabilities of new BRDs and certify BRDs that would provide a restoration benefit
3. Increase use of new BRD systems in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery via outreach and incentives
4. Evaluate bycatch reduction of the new BRDs in the commercial shrimp fishery
5. Increase bycatch reduction by ensuring new BRD systems are used according to operational recommendations via outreach by the Gear Monitoring Team.

Project Outline:

* Phase 1 – BRD Hunt
	+ Identify new advances in BRDs
* Phase 2 – Testing
	+ Test bycatch reduction and shrimp retention of new BRDs through research pilot testing
* Phase 3 – Certification
	+ Certify successful new BRDs for use in the Gulf Shrimp industry
* Phase 4 – Industry-wide Use
	+ Increased voluntary use of new BRDs via outreach and incentives

Better BRD Next Steps:

* Phase 1 – BRD Hunt
	+ Identify new advances in BRDs
* Phase 2 – Testing
	+ Test bycatch reduction and shrimp retention of new BRDs through research pilot testing
* Phase 3 – Certification
	+ Certify successful new BRDs for use in the Gulf Shrimp industry
* Phase 4 – Industry-wide Use
	+ Increased voluntary use of new BRDs via outreach and incentives



1. The task force considered funding the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit



Alan Gibson motioned to approve $5,000 in funding for the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit, 2nd by Jeff Drury. Motion carries.

**VIII.** Public Comment

Cole Garrett stated that he heard the conversation regarding the state of the industry and several comments about the need for somebody to be working with the congressional and Federal Administrative staff. Have heard in prior meetings some pretty robust discussion about a professional services contract to get someone on board who can do this sort of thing. This matter has not been taken up officially or voted on and approved it as of yet.

Kristen Baumer motioned to add an item to the agenda at this time for the task force to discuss and consider funding to hire a lobbyist, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries unanimously.

Brian Shinault with American Strategic Partners stated that the amount for consideration would be $70,000 for the term of 1-year, the payment would be done in 4 installments and the amount would include all expenses

Chalin Delaune motioned to fund up to $70,000 to pursue a contract with American Strategic Partners and engage in professional services, also to give the STF chairman the authorization for final review and approval of the contract, 2nd by Kristen Baumer. Motion carries with roll call vote- all voting members in favor.

**IX.** The STF set their next meeting for ~~Wednesday, January 11~~; meeting date later changed to Wednesday, January 4, 2023 for 10am at LDWF Headquarters- 2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, LA

**X.** Alan Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.