**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 1:00pm**

**Terrebonne Parish Main Library**

**151 Library Dr., Houma, LA**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

**II.** Roll Call

**Voting Members Present:**

Eric Blanchard

Chalin Delaune

Laquita Meek

Sheb Callahan

Trudy Luke

Joey Edgar

George Jackson

Britney Breaux

Dannon Lacoste

**Voting Members Absent:**

Pete Gerica

Al Cassagne

Rodney Parfait

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Jeff Marx in for Peyton Cagle

Jack Isaacs

Edward Skena

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Julie Lively

Melissa Daigle

**III.** Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the April 26, 2022 meeting minutes, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**IV.** Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the October 25, 2022 meeting agenda, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**V.** Financial Report

Remaining Fund Balance- $478,293

Remaining Budget Balance- $340,675

Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by Joey Edgar. Motion carries.

**VI.** New Business

The chairman moved item A. To Consider Funding the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit- CTF to be taken up as item D. under New Business

1. Jeff Regnard led discussion on the CSC RFM program

Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) is a wild capture certification with a chain of custody standard, provides a way for companies to communicate both product origin and responsible sourcing without logo license fees; Celebrating 10 years- 9 certified fisheries / 28 species, GSSI recognized, new owners/ strategic focus, global expansion efforts

There are 4 key components for evaluating fisheries: 1. The fisheries management system, 2. Science and stock assessment activities, and the precautionary approach, 3. Management measures, implementation, monitoring and control, 4. Impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem





Cost Sharing Plan for administrative/ staffing costs:

* Ex-vessel costs divided by the value of each fishery at time of landing

Based on current 5-year average

* One time ‘buy in fee’ of $5,000 to annual fee of no less than $5,000
* Current overhead of every $50 million of ex-vessel value = approx. $8,000

RFM certified Fisheries: crab, cod, flatfish, salmon, halibut, pollock, black cod/ sablefish, pop, atka mackerel, and pacific whiting

A business case for RFM- affordable- no logo license fee, shared CoC, preserves origin- demonstrate proof of responsible origin and sourcing, accessible- RFM Board is approachable and available, all members familiar with fishing industry, reliable- program requirements are stable and evolve with science, mandatory certificate sharing

For more information visit rfmcerification.org

Britney Breaux stated that she does not see how RFM is needed or how it will be used by the industry, do not see how this benefits the industry

John Fallon stated that MSC is updating their standard and some new regulations are going to go into effect in the spring, have not seen the new standard yet, don’t know what all the changes will be as of yet, with this it’s about if origin is important to you, there is going to have to be work put in; RFM is about origin

Gary Bauer stated that Erin Murray from MSC will plan to come to present to the task force at a future meeting

1. Jeff Marx led discussion on the MSC reassessment

Joey Edgar motioned to approve up to $40,000 in funding for the MSC reassessment in the spring of 2023, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

This reassessment would begin another 5-year period, 2024 will be when the new regulations come into play this will give the industry some time to look at and adjust to the new standard

1. Julie Falgout led discussion on the 2023 LA Fisheries forward summit

The summit is set for March 1, 2023 at the Pontchartrain Center, the Oyster Task Force had a booth at the last summit and put out some marketing materials , offered the CTF the opportunity to set up a booth

Trudy Luke motioned to approve funding $5,000 to support the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit, 2nd by Laquita Meek. Motion carries.

Drawing in November/ December and you are entered into a drawing for a $250 gift basket and at the summit have a $2500 gift basket and name goes into bucket, working on session looking at the different supply chain

1. The board considered CTF seat vacancies and possible nominations

Trudy Luke motioned to nominate, in preference order, Edward Frekey, Thanh Nguyen, and Mark Fonseca for the vacant commercial hard crab fishermen seat on the Crab Task Force, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion carries.

**VII.** Public Comment- no comments were provided

**VIII.** The next Crab Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, January 17, 2022, 1pm at the Terrebonne Parish Main library in Houma.

**IX.** Chaline Delaune motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.