**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

**2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

Meeting called to order at: 1:15pm

Allison West called roll:

**Voting Member Present:**

Eric Blanchard

LaQuita Meek

Trudy Luke

Pete Gerica

Rodney Parfait

Kim Alfonso

Warren Delacroix

**Voting Members Absent:**

Chalin Delaune

James Bergeron

Eddie Chagnard

Paul Alfonso

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Jack Isaacs

Mark Schexnayder

Chad Hebert

Julie Falgout in for Julie Anderson

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Melissa Daigle

Alan Matherne

Kim Alfonso made a motion to approve minutes from October 6 meeting, 2nd by Rodney Parfait, motion adopted

Kim Alfonso made a motion to approve CTF financial report, 2nd Eric

Blanchard

Jeff Marx provided an update on the suspension of the Fisheries Forward Program, which took effect on November 6, 2015

Darren Bourgeois addressed the Task Force with the current Fisheries Forward numbers and program updates:

As of November 4, 2015, there were a total of 148 people approved and in the program, with 101 conditionally approved.

Pete Gerica suggested adding ‘Suspending Crab Shippers License’ agenda item for the next CTF meeting

Jack Isaacs presented the TF with the preliminary results of the Commercial Crab Harvesters Survey: The purpose of this survey was to try and determine how many crab traps commercial fishermen are using at a given time

Bren Haase spoke about the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s (CPRA) recommendations on Mississippi River sediment diversions

Jody Rouse addressed the Task Force on crabmeat importation

Drue Winters stated that walking the hill or communicating with the Louisiana Congressional Delegation may be an option to address the Fair Trade Agreement that is in place for the crabbing industry and offered to help facilitate a letter to Congress

Mark Schexnayder added that the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program may be another option to look into in dealing with importation problems

Damon Morris presented on the Blue Crab Sustainability Certification Program

Eric Blanchard made a motion to discuss bailing out of MSC certification, 2nd by Kim Alfonso. Motion withdrawn after further discussion

Pete Gerica stated it may be beneficial to do a cost share with LDWF to finish the program out through the year and by that time Audubon will have their assessments ready and the TF can make a decision at that time

Eric Blanchard made a motion to split costs for final MSC audit with LDWF, 2nd Trudy Luke. Motion adopted.

Darren Bourgeois addressed the CTF on upcoming crab workshops

Trudy Luke stated that the Louisiana Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industry Summit would like to ask the TF for $3,000 to defray costs associated with lunch/ refreshments

Trudy Luke made a motion for the Task Force to provide $3,000 to help fund the Louisiana Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industry Summit, 2nd by Kim Alfonso. Motion adopted

Next meeting set for January 12, 2016 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Eric Blanchard, 2nd by Kim Alfonso

Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm