**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Monday, March 25, 2019, 10:00am**

**2045 Lakeshore Drive, RM 216**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll call and introduction of guests**

**Voting Member Present:**

Chalin Delaune

Trudy Luke

George Jackson

Brittany Breaux

Dannon Lacoste

Al Cassagne

Rodney Parfait

Sheb Callahan

**Voting Members Absent:**

Pete Gerica

Eric Blanchard

Laquita Meek

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Peyton Cagle

Lt. Adam Young in for Edward Skena

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Jack Isaacs

Melissa Daigle

Julie Lively

1. Motion by George Jackson to approve the February 5, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the March 25, 2019 meeting agenda by George Jackson, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the financial report by Trudy Luke, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion Carries.

1. Financial Report:

Remaining Budget Balance- $48,085

Remaining Fund Balance- $255,826

1. New Business
2. Peyton Cagle read the proposed draft legislation that would amend the size and location of escape rings and to provide for related matters

The task force stated that upon the passing of this legislation they would like it to be effective immediately

Al Cassagne motioned to approve the crab trap escape ring legislation as written and requested that it go into effect immediately after being passed, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

1. Peyton Cagle addressed the task force with discussion of the LCTF draft legislation to increase penalties for certain crabbing violations

Britney Breaux expressed concern for those serving time removing abandoned crab traps as a part of the derelict crab trap program, Stated that if the person was charged with stealing crab traps and is now picking up traps they may be motivated to steal the same person’s traps if they feel they are the ones that reported them in the first place.

Al Cassagne stated that he recommends that these penalties be applied to any person who violates these rules. Clarified- would apply to recreation/ commercial fishermen across the board

The task force recommended removing the VMS requirement for a first offense immature female crab violation

Sheb Callahan expressed concern for the two percent allowance being too low of a percentage for the incidental take of female crabs; the task force recommended changing the incidental take percentage from two percent to ten percent, keeping it consistent with the incidental take of undersized crabs

Rodney Parfait motioned to omit the language that would require a VMS for the first offense of the harvest or possession of immature females, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

Motion by George Jackson to request an allowance of two percent incidental take for crabs in the berry stage and a ten percent allowance for immature female crabs, 2nd by Dannon Lacoste. Motion carries.

Motion to add in language to allow for crabs in the berry crabs in a work box by George Jackson, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries. (Page 2 line 8-10)

1. Britney Breaux motioned to postpone agenda item ‘C. To Discuss Crab Container Labeling and Splitting of Crabs’ to a future meeting, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**VI.** Public Comment:

**VII.** Next meeting set for June 4th 1:00pm at the West Bank Regional Library

**VIII.** Motion to adjourn by Britney Breaux, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.