**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 1:00PM
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:**

Eric Blanchard

Sheb Callahan

Trudy Luke

Pete Gerica

George Jackson

Rodney Parfait

Warren Delacroix

Britney Breaux

Dannon Lacoste

**Voting Members Absent:**

Chalin Delaune

Laquita Meek

James Bergeron

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Peyton Cagle

Lt. Adam Young in for Chad Hebert

Jack Isaacs

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Julie Lively

Melissa Daigle

Motion to amend the agenda by adding an item under New Business, ‘A. To Hear Discussion on the Crab Trap Requirements by Warren Delacroix, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by George Jackson, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes by George Jackson, 2nd by Eric Blanchard.

Financial Report:

Fund Balance- $218, 726

Budget Balance- $48,085

Motion to approve the financial report by Eric Blanchard, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

Peyton Cagle addressed the task force with discussion on the crab trap ring requirements. Senator Eddie Lambert stated that he would be willing to work with the task force and other stakeholders to draft and propose legislation for next year that would change the crab trap escape ring placement requirements

Peyton Cagle provided the task force with an update on the amended commercial blue crab harvest regulations; the LDWF Commission moved to accept a permanent immature female ban and also to change the crab harvest closure for 2019 from the spring 60-day female restriction to a fall 35-day female restriction, which would begin the second Monday in September. The fall 35-day female restriction was accepted with the condition that the commission would be presented and take into account an updated stock assessment in the beginning of 2019. If the 2019 stock assessment were to show that there was no need for management action to be taken then the fall 2019 mature female restriction would be removed

The task force considered recommendations for a legislative proposal to increase penalties for crabbing violations

The task force sent the item, ‘Increasing Penalties for Crabbing Violations’ to the Gear Committee for further discussion. The task force expressed interest in writing letters to the DA’s in each division

Pete Gerica led discussion on crab trap markings in navigable waterways, the task force concluded that there was enough in regulation and on the books to prevent recreational and commercial fishermen from placing traps in navigable waterways. Stated that getting the word out and putting up educational signs at marinas would be beneficial

**Public Comment:**

Julie Falgout with LA Sea Grant addressed the board with a flyer on escape rings and also provided an update on Governor’s Working Groups that were put together to discuss issues with upcoming diversions, stating that they were taking recommendations from different sectors of the industry for those interested in providing feedback

The CTF set a Gear Subcommittee meeting for 12:00pm on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, followed by the full Crab Task Force meeting for 1:00pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Eric Blanchard, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.