Louisiana Crab Task Force Meeting

September 30, 2014

New Orleans

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ashley Roth let the task force know that Kernny Commardelle has resigned, but Warren Delacroix and Paul Alfonso have joined the task force.

Motion to approve the June 5 meeting minutes, second by Kim Alfonso. Motion adopted.

No objections or additions to September 30 meeting agenda.

Motion to approve the financial report by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso. Motion adopted.

Jason Froeba and Darren Bourgeois addressed the crab task force on the professionalism rule changes

Hearing on rule changes on October 22 in Baton Rouge.

Paul Alfonso entered at 1:14 p.m.

Trudy Luke entered at 1:22 p.m.

Ashley Roth and Chalin Delaune briefed the group on the congressional staff visit.

Rene LeBreton talked about the recent MSC visit and recertification.

Marty Bourgeois presented the 2015 Derelict Crab Trap clean-up dates

2015 Derelict Crab trap closures will be in Sabine Lake and portions of Cameron Parish, Feb 20-March 1. Two volunteer days will be Feb. 21 and Feb. 28.

Marty Bourgeois presented the regulations from other states that harvest blue crabs.

Cole Garrett addressed the group and this year each legislator gets only 5 general bills because it is a fiscal session. Cole proposes a bill for the clarifying the professionalism program, and allow a dock owner to be a sponsor if they had landings in two of the years from 2011-2014. He is also wiling to work with the task force to create some sort of excise tax to use the funds towards marketing since the task force will not be able to use derelict crab funds for marketing.

Eddie Chagnard suggested two types of gear licenses, one for full time fishermen and one for part-time fishermen with separate landing quotas for each, potentially basing it on how much of their revenue is derived from fishing using tax documents. The point was made by Jack Isaacs that someone who fishes may not be able to make a profit one year from fishing due to low catch and would then be excluded from the industry potentially, and the task force should consider that.

Pete Gerica also suggested increasing the fee for gear. Maiden crabs should also be discussed.

Tentatively say November 5, 2014 for legislative meeting in New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Cole said that the department will also look into getting per diem for crab task force members.

Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit March 11 in Houma.

November 12 Crab workshop with LSU Seagrant.

Motion to adjourn by Kim Alfonso, second by Chalin Delaune. Motion adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.