MINUTES CRAB TASK FORCE MEETING

July 08, 2009

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Crab Task Force meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Bauer at 4:38 p.m.

A roll call was then made:

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| **VOTING** |  | **NONVOTING** |  |
| Gary Bauer | **X** | Rusty Gaude | **X** |
| Roy Meek | **X** | Mark Benfield |  |
| Dennis Landry | **X** | Walter Keithly |  |
| Pete Gerica | **X** | Vince Guillory | **X** |
| Keith Watts |  | David Lavergne | **X** |
| Pete Peterson |  | Billy Gomillion  for Jeff Mayne | **X** |
| L.J. Sandras | **X** |
|  |  | Melissa Daigle | **X** |
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A quorum of five voting members was present.

Adoption of Minutes and Agenda

L. J. Sandras moved and Pete Gerica seconded that “the minutes and the agenda be approved as written” -- motion carried (all in favor).

Public Input

There was no input from the public.

Crab Education Day

Gary Bauer started a short discussion regarding potential dates for the 2009 LA Crab Education Day. Ewell Smith, of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, asked that the Task Force table the issue until the next meeting. This would allow him time to further investigate the availability of participants. Gary requested that Crab Education Day be held in late September.

No further action was taken at this time.

MSC Certification

Gary Bauer led a discussion and gave a brief overview of the MSC Certification process. Louisiana’s blue crab industry could become the first crab industry certified as a sustainable fishery. From this point, the approximate cost to achieve certification would be $100,000. Gary reported that the Sustainable Fisheries Fund could put up one-half of this cost. Ewell Smith submitted that the LA Crab Task Force has enough funds in their account to cover the remainder of the cost.

Pete Gerica moved and L. J. Sandras seconded that “the LA Crab Task Force promote the MSC certification effort, and have Chairman Gary Bauer go before the LA Seafood Marketing and Promotion Board to request a BA7 in the amount of $55,000 to be used for MSC certification of the Louisiana blue crab industry, as well as, promotion of the industry in the Boston Seafood Show” -- motion carried (all in favor).

2009 Legislation (HB 852)

Gary Bauer discussed HB 852, which called for the abolishment of the LA Crab Task Force. It was explained that the Task Force had been added to a “clean-up” bill. The LA Crab Task Force had been subsequently removed from the bill.

Labor Issues

Dennis Landry and Gary Bauer gave insight into the difficulties in securing work visas for their migrant workers.

Marketing and Promotion Activity

Gary Bauer recommended that LA Crab Task Force participate in the Boston Seafood Show, a seafood marketing event held in Boston, MA. To this end, $5,000 was to be allocated from the Crab Task Force’s marketing account.

Ewell Smith reminded everyone of the upcoming Great American Seafood Cook-off, to be held in New Orleans on July 18, 2009.

Venezuelan Imports

Gary Bauer led a discussion of blue crab industry issues in regard to Venezuelan crab imports. A major issue is that Venezuela is close enough in proximity to the United States to be able to ship fresh product into the country.

LA Crab Task Force vacancies

Vince Guillory discussed the vacancies on the Crab Task Force. A list of potential new members was distributed. Task Force members and LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries personnel had been asked to recommend prospective Crab Task Force members.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The task force requested that the next meeting be held in the first week of September. Suggested agenda items included Crab Education Day, MSC certification of the LA Blue Crab Industry, and Marketing and Promotion activities.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gary Bauer at 6:13p.m.