

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
REPORT**

October 29, 2013

**WOODY CREWS
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Council Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

For more information, call (225) 765-2623.

AGENDA
HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
October 29, 2013

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 12 and July 9, 2013
3. Welcome and Opening Comments from Chairman Woody Crews
4. Enforcement Division Report
Major Sammy Martin
5. ALAS (Archery in Louisiana Schools) Report
Robert Stroede, ALAS Coordinator
6. Office of Fisheries: Louisiana Seafood Certification Program
Marine Fisheries Division
7. Office of Wildlife: 2013-14 Waterfowl Season Outlook
Larry Reynolds, Waterfowl Study Leader
8. Office of Wildlife: Upland Game Bird Report
Jeff Duguay, Wildlife Division
9. Other Business
10. Set Next Meeting Date
11. Receive Public Comments
12. Adjournment

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Chairman Woody Crews presiding

Present:

Warren Singer

Nelson Roth

Alexander Perret

Mike Windham

Lyle Johnson

Stephen Pellessier

Jeff DeBlieux

Council members Mike Rainwater, Daryl Carpenter, Samuel Smith, David Rousseau and David Reed were absent from the meeting. A quorum was present; there were eight (8) members in attendance.

The following constitutes a brief report of what was heard

The **Minutes of the March 12, 2013** and **July 09, 2013** meeting were approved by the Chairman. There were no objections heard

Major Sammy Martin stated, for the agenda item, **To Hear Enforcement Division Report**, the department's planes flew a total of 70.5 aviation hours for the month. There were Eight (8) boating accidents reported with Eight (8) injuries and One (1) Fatality. There were 1144 total cases for the month of November with 382 Written Warnings issued and 34 Public Assistance.

Three (3) news releases were discussed

First, LDWF Enforcement Division Academy to Enroll 30 Cadets for Training this Fall: LDWF will begin training cadets in December to bolster the ranks of agents in the field in 2014. The 2014 class of graduating agents will fill field office vacancies around the state.

The second News Release: Two Louisiana Men Cited for Taking Deer Illegally - Enforcement Agents cited two men in Avoyelles and Rapides parishes for taking deer using illegal methods, possession of illegally taken deer, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, taking illegal deer during an open season and hunting on Deer Management Assistance Program lands without permission from land owner.

The Third News Release: Four Men Arrested for Night Hunting Violations – Enforcement Agents along with Concordia Parish Sheriff’s Office arrested four subjects in Concordia parish for night hunting violations. All four subjects were charged with taking deer during illegal hours, hunting wild quadrupeds during illegal hours, hunting from a moving vehicle and taking deer from a public road

The next agenda item, **Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALS)**, was handled by Robert Stroede.

Stroede began with the history - ALAS is a part of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) that is designed to introduce students in grades 4-12 to international target style archery. As the name states, the program is designed to be taught as part of the in-school curriculum. Most commonly the program is integrated into the schools PE program and is taught within the school’s gymnasium. Once exposed to the program many schools develop after school programs and archery clubs. Students at schools that teach the ALAS curriculum are then eligible to compete in State, National, and even World tournaments.

National Archery in Schools Program was developed in Kentucky in 2001 – expanding to 120 schools in three years grades 4-12. Over two million students in forty seven states and six Canadian Provinces participated last year. Over forty three thousand students shot in state tournaments and nine thousand at the 2013 nationals.

There are 391 Basic Instructors and offer monthly trainings. Alexandria/Shreveport area highest area of schools because it started in 2005 in those areas.

The sport of archery is a great way to get students involved in not only a lifelong sport, but also in their school, and into the outdoors. ALAS is program that looks to inspire confidence through the focus and discipline that sport of archery requires and the results speak for themselves. Nationwide over 10 million students have participated in the National Archery in the Schools program in its first ten years.

The next item, Office of Fisheries: **Louisiana Seafood Certification Program**
Donovan Burke, Marine Fisheries Division

The Louisiana Seafood Certification Program has been established to build a brand known for fresh flavor, consistent quality, and safety.

Our origin-based brand guarantees that all Certified Louisiana Seafood is caught in the Gulf of Mexico or Gulf Coast state waters by licensed Louisiana fishermen, landed in Louisiana and processed and packaged in our state. It also establishes rules for the

labeling and promoting of our certified seafood to ensure the integrity and reputation of Louisiana Seafood.

This program strives to increase consumer confidence, help commercial fishermen and processors compete in a premium market, and ensure that Louisiana's seafood industry is able to compete and endure in the constantly changing global marketplace.

The primary mission of the Louisiana Seafood Certification Program is to build a unified brand to attract consumers as well as foodservice and seafood distribution buyers who want to be sure they're sourcing the best-tasting seafood in the world—Louisiana Seafood.

DWLF will establish rules and regulations which require product registration and supply chain verification for certain participants in the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program

Certified Louisiana Seafood Product Eligibility Requirements:

All seafood must be landed in Louisiana.

Licensed commercial fishermen must harvest the seafood.

Product must be available upon request for inspection and DNA sampling to ensure that certification standards are being followed.

Seafood must be harvested from wild stock from the Gulf of Mexico or Gulf Coast waters and cannot be commingled with seafood that was not harvested from wild stock from the Gulf of Mexico or other Gulf Coast waters.

Seafood must be transferred to a Louisiana Wholesale/ Retail Seafood Dealer with a Louisiana licensed facility or retained by the commercial fishermen for sale as a Louisiana licensed Fresh Product licensee.

Seafood must be processed and packaged in Louisiana by a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer.

Product Registration:

All seafood or seafood products that are packaged for retail sale that possess the LWSCP logo must be registered with LDWF

Products produced, packaged, and sold exclusively at the location for retail sale are exempt from these registration requirements

Applications for product registration must be submitted by the person who owns the brand.

Product registration requires the following information: brand name, brand owner, processor/packer, species contained in the product, photo or image of package

containing brand and name, and three months of invoices showing LWSCP certified seafood purchased specific to the product.

Invoices may be submitted by the packager at the time of initial application and at each renewal if the brand owner does not directly purchase seafood used in the product.

Certified Louisiana Seafood Participant Eligibility Requirements

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers:

Must apply for and receive permit to participate in the Louisiana Seafood Certification Program and use our logo.

Must be licensed as a Louisiana Resident Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer and have a facility in Louisiana.

Must comply with state and federal reporting requirements and be up to date on trip ticket reporting.

Must not use the Louisiana Seafood Certification label on seafood purchased from other states or countries

Must comply with state and federal regulations

Must have the legally required permits and licenses to operate their business (e.g., LA Department of Health and Hospitals permit, HAACP plan, etc.

Must be trained in program rules, regulations and quality control techniques (45-60 minute video certification course completion required

Program rules and guidelines

Best handling practices

State and federal regulations

Retail Dealers:

Must apply for and receive permit to participate in the Louisiana Seafood certification Program and use our logo

Must comply with state and federal reporting requirements and be up to date on trip ticket reporting

Must not use the Louisiana Seafood Certification label on seafood purchased from other states or countries

Must comply with state and federal regulations

Must have the legally required permits and licenses to operate their business (eg. LA Department of Health and Hospitals permit, HAACP plan, etc.).

Fishermen:

Must have a current Louisiana commercial fishing license.

Must adhere to all current state and federal commercial regulations

Chairman Crews announced the next item, **Waterfowl Season Outlook**, to be handled by Larry Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds provided the group a PowerPoint Presentation of the results, which follows.

45.6 ducks this year, down 6 percent from last year but 33 percent above long term average

10.4 million Mallards – similar to last year and 36 percent above long term average

6.9 million ponds, up 24 percent from last year and 35 percent above long term average

- Mid Continent Geese
 - Light Geese
 - 15 percent increase in 2013 mid-winter counts
 - Average time of ice out and nesting
 - Average fall flight with low percent of young
 - White fronted Geese
 - 14 percent increase in 2012 fall survey in SK
 - Earlier than average ice break up and nesting, so above average production

Species Changes

Slightly higher canvasback population and higher pond count allows for an increase to 2 in the daily bag

Reduction in scaup population results in a lower bag limit of 3 per day

No other changes from 2012

Daily Bag Limits

6 Ducks per day which may include no more than

4 mallards of which no more than 2 can be hens

3 wood ducks, scaup

2 redheads, pintails, canvasbacks

1 mottled duck, black duck

Approved Season Dates

Coastal Zone:

November 9 – December 1 and December 14 – January 19
(Youth Hunt November 2 – 3)

East Zone:

November 23 – December 8 and December 14 – January 26
(Youth Hunt November 16 and February 1)

West Zone:

November 16 – December 15 and December 21 – January 19
(Youth Hunt November 9 and January 25)

Hunter Opinion Survey

Survey Objectives

- Assess satisfaction with new waterfowl zones
- Obtain preferences for season dates and splits
- Estimate hunter effort, harvest and satisfaction relative to past surveys
- Increase opportunity for public engagement and feedback
- Evaluate new research survey methods

Survey Methods

Three Survey Formats

- Announcement Postcard and Paper survey mailed twice to a random sample of 2,500 HIP registered hunters (Random Mail Survey)
- Postcard Invitation to take survey online mailed twice to a random sample of 2,500 HIP registered hunters (Internet Panel Survey)
- A web survey hosted on the LDWF website and publicized via press release, email announcements, waterfowl website postings for anyone to respond (Open Web Survey)

Season Date Summary

- All survey methods in all zones preferred the latest possible option
- 5 day split was only favored where it did not force an earlier closing date
- Earlier season dates more favored by Open Web survey in West and Coastal Zones
- Because of late Thanksgiving, preferred opening dates correspond to traditional openers

Preliminary Conclusions on Surveys

- Random Mail And Open Web Surveys give similar answers for satisfaction and attitude questions
- Differences in Open Web Survey for early season date options may have resulted from rallying votes.
- Low response rates increase already high relative cost of mail out survey methods very low for internet panel contact
- Few respondents chose anonymity for prize drawings showing potential for future random surveys from an e-mail database
- Hunter-opinion data favor later hunting seasons than traditional in all zones.
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- Delta Waterfowl's Duck Migration Study: Bruce Davis' work showed median harvest date is 3 days (teal) to 12 days (ring-necks) later over a 50-year period, but still in mid-December.
- Harvest data summary favor earlier hunting season date
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- Harvest data summary favors earlier hunting season dates.
- Bag-check data from coastal WMAs show fewer hunters and lower hunting success in late vs early season
- Past hunter satisfaction was high with traditional dates.
- Not all options were considered on survey

Habitat Conditions:

Much improved in Coastal Southeast Louisiana

Improved in Coastal Southwest Louisiana

Improved at Catahoula Lake

Higher moisture across the state

Slightly higher acreage planted to rice

Chairman Crews announced the next item, Office of Wildlife: **Upland Game Bird Report** to be handled by Jeff Duguay. Mr. Duguay began with a PowerPoint Presentation laying out the Migratory Bird Seasons.

Mourning Doves are the most abundant game bird in North America. There are 47,000 hunters annually who hunt and in the 2011-2012 seasons, 864,900 birds were harvested.

Louisiana offers 15 WMA's for hunting Dove which equates to over 650 acres

American Woodcock are breed primarily in northern states and fly south in the winter.

Louisiana serves as an important wintering ground

5,000 hunters annually

25,000 birds harvested annually

The General Framework for Dove is:

- No more than 70 days
- Daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white winged doves in the aggregate
- May have 2 Zones
- Each zone not split into more than three periods

September Teal

- < 3.3 million = Closed Season
- 3.3 – 4.7 million = 9 Day Season
 - o 4.7 million = 16 Day Season
- Estimates will exceed 4.7 million
- Daily Bag Limit 6 Birds
 - o Up from 4 Bird Bag Limit
- Possession Limit increased to 3 times daily bag

Rails and Gallinules

- Split Season statewide
 - o -70 days

Woodcock General Framework

- No more than 45 days hunting
- Daily Bag Limit 3 Birds

Woodcock Recommendations

- Daily Bag Limit of 3 Birds
 - Possession of 9 Birds

There was no other business discussed

The Council set the **Next Meeting Date** for March 11, 2014

There were no **Public Comments** heard

Chairman Crews **Adjourned** the meeting