

Shrimp Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 10:00a.m.
8026 Main St. Houma, LA

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Voting Members Present:

Acy Cooper
Lance Nacio
Rodney Olander in for George Barisich
Alan Gibson
Andrew Blanchard.

Voting Members Absent:

George Barisich
Ronald Dufrene, Sr.
Steven Sode
Kristen Baumer

Non-voting Members Present:

Peyton Cagle
Captain Chuck Comeaux in for Edward Skena
Jack Isaacs
Stephen Sessums

Non-voting Members Absent:

Justin Gremillion

Acy Cooper motioned to accept the March 27, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

Alan Gibson motioned to add an item under new business, B. To Hear Discussion on Shrimp Industry Ride-Alongs, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Acy Cooper motioned to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

IV. Treasury Report:

Remaining Fund Balance- \$560,336
Remaining Budget Balance- \$86, 468

Alan Gibson motioned to accept the treasury report as presented 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion Carries.

Allison West reminded the board that all task force members are required to complete a Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure form and submit to the Ethics Board by May 15, 2019

V. Federal Shrimp Permit Report

Rodney Olander reminded the task force to review the permit list and reach out to any industry members that they have contact with who are on the list

VI. New Business

A. Mike McDonough provided the task force with an update on the nearshore reef planning proposal

Acy Cooper stressed the importance of the industry being included and a part of the planning and execution process that is involved with artificial reef planning

Lance Nacio requested that LDWF circulate the numbers of the current and potential reef planning sites

The task force expressed concern for not having enough information or time to provide feedback on the planning sites prior to the next Artificial Reef Council meeting; stated that the task force could not provide support for the planing sites at this time given the lack of information

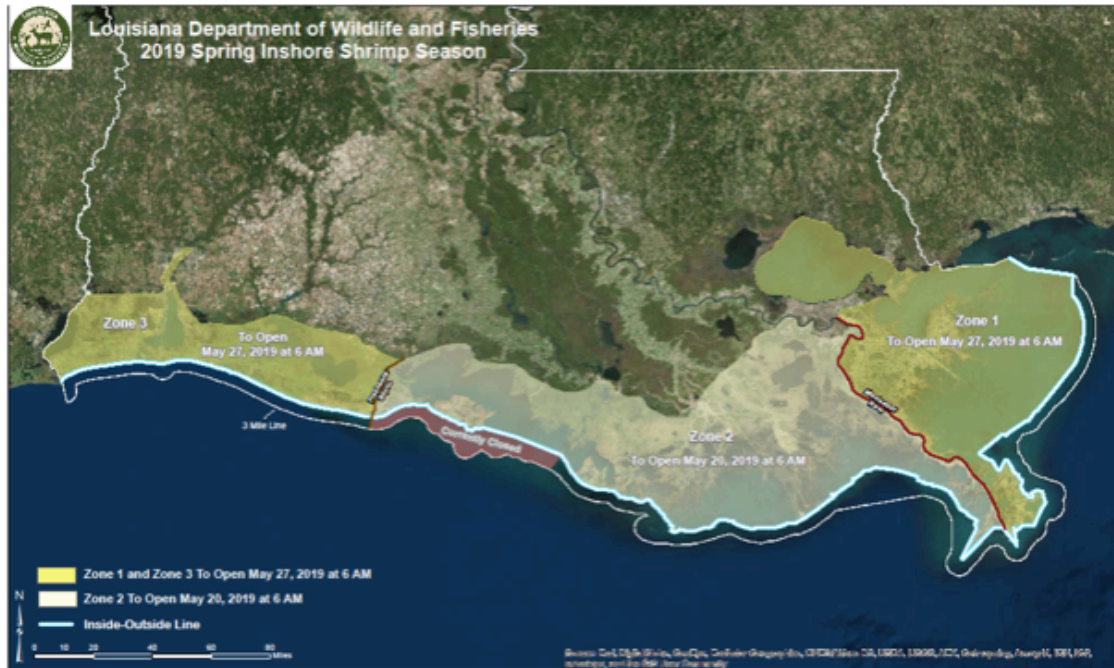
Alan Gibson requested that LDWF provide more information on the sites, specifically on the depth of water and positioning, the location coordinates, and how far out are some of the planning areas

The task force stated that they would compile a list of questions and submit to LDWF for feedback

Acy Cooper motioned that the task force compile some questions to provide to the Artificial Reed Council and LDWF in regards to the planning sites, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

B. Peyton Cagle provided the task force with a presentation on the 2019 spring shrimp season

Recommended Opening Dates



Zone 1 – 5/27/19 at 6am
Zone 2 – 5/20/19 at 6am
Zone 3 – 5/27/19 at 6am

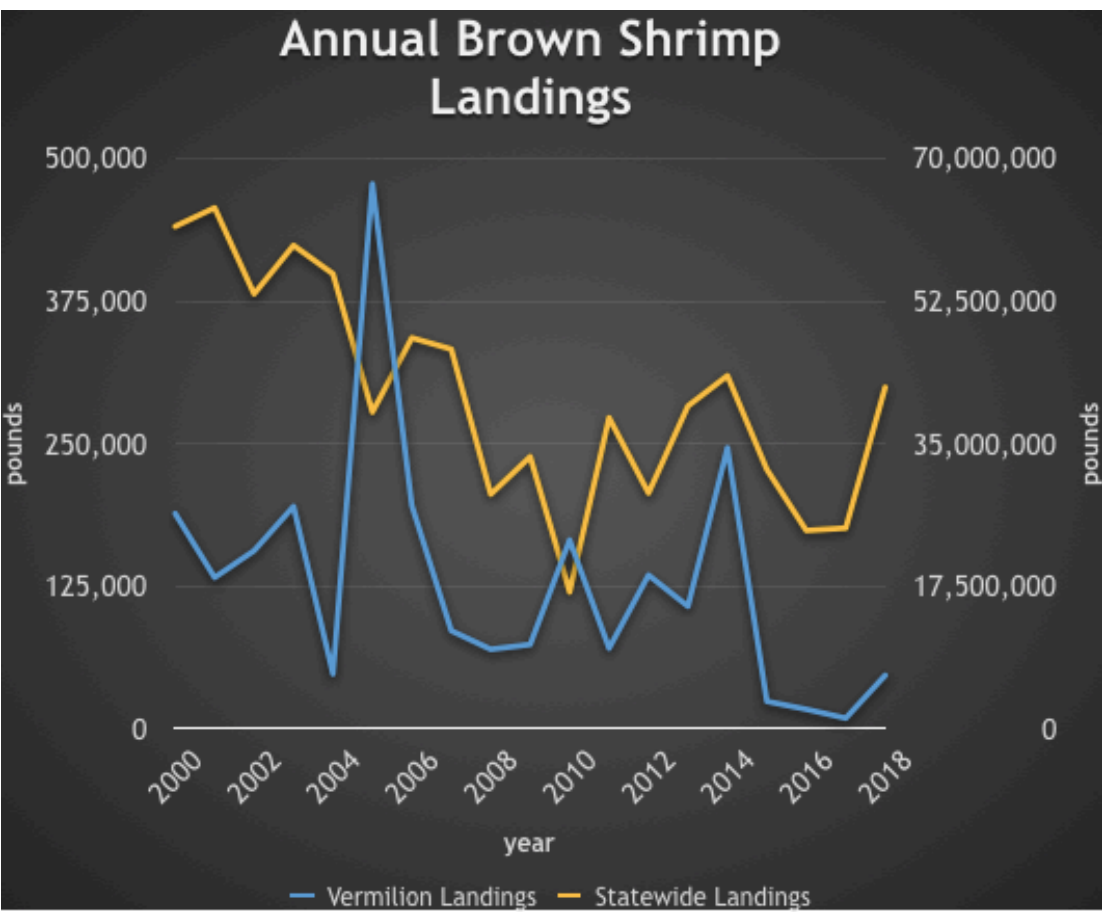
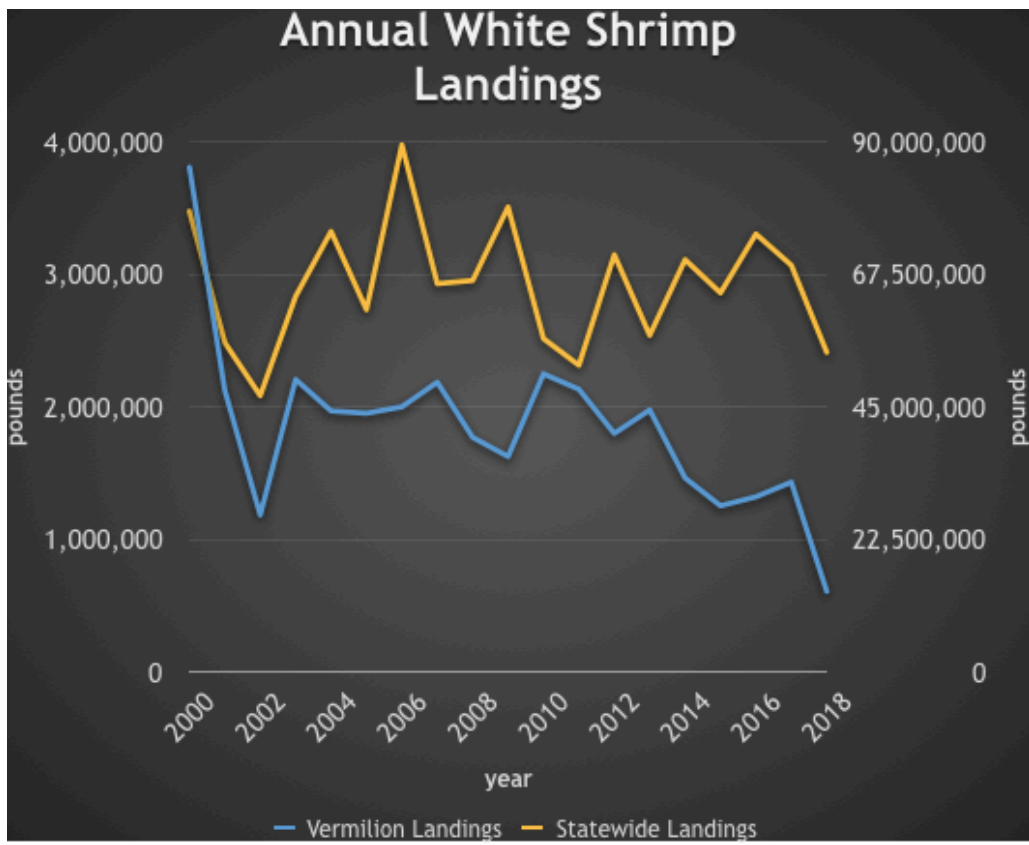
Andrew Blanchard motioned to support LDWF's recommendation on the season opening dates, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

C. Peyton Cagle led discussion on shrimp industry ride-alongs

Peyton provided the task force with the ride-along data for the eastern portion of Terrebonne, Barataria, and Vermillion. Stated that the data for Pontchartrain is still forthcoming

Acy Cooper motioned to request that LDWF continue the ride-along program for at least three more years, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

Mary Grieger provided the task force with presentation on the Vermillion Bay shrimp landings



D. Peyton Cagle provided an update on the Shrimp Bycatch Study

LDWF is still looking for participation from fishermen; without the proper participation the study will be pushed back

The task force stated that they would help spread the word and assist with getting volunteers

E. Captain Chuck Comeaux provided a presentation on the shrimp industry drone purchase

The costs are estimated to be around \$53,000 and that includes the purchase of two drones and training for 10 agents

The task force stated that they planned to put the item on the next Shrimp Task Force meeting agenda to vote on funding. The board requested a written breakdown on costs by the next meeting

Andrew Blanchard motioned for LDWF Enforcement to provide a written cost breakdown to the task force for the drone purchase, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

F. Julie Falgout provided an update on the Louisiana Seafood Future Initiative

The mission of LSF is to highlight adaptation tools created by those most affected by changes in the seafood industry—the shrimpers, crabbers, oyster fishers, finfishers, dockworkers, and processors—who are at the heart of our coastal economy and culture.

Objectives:

1. Identify challenges facing the fishing industry related to changing environmental conditions (coastal land loss, water quality, etc.).
2. Identify environmental, economic and policy information that could be helpful to members of the seafood industry.
3. Discuss restoration and protection projects, including issues related to when and how projects are brought on line.
4. Identify adaptation strategies that could help the industry.
5. Identify funding sources, if necessary, that could help the industry put adaptation strategies into practice.

The website was just launched and can be found at www.laseafoodfuture.com. Those interested in providing feedback can visit the website and fill out a questionnaire

A list of coastal adaptation strategies proposed by people in the shrimping industry:

1. Be able to fish in more productive areas
 - Modify vessels (refrigeration to keep catch fresh over longer distances, more efficient engines, modified or new harvest gear).
 - Obtain federal shrimp permits to shrimp in the Gulf.
2. Have better marketing of wild caught Louisiana shrimp
 - Country of origin labeling in restaurants.
 - Use sustainability certifications, such as “Certified Authentic Louisiana Wild Seafood.”
 - Develop new markets and products.
3. Receive training in how to develop a business plan
4. Be able to diversify into other fisheries
5. Be able to diversify into other lines of work

G. The board discussed and considered funding for a summer Shrimp Task Force trip to Washington, D.C.

The task force discussed taking the trip in July 2019 and planned to continue the discussion on this item at the next meeting and to postpone voting on funding for travel until then

H. Andrew Blanchard motioned to postpone nominations for seat vacancies until the next meeting, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

I. Acy Cooper motioned to nominate Rodney Olander as the Shrimp Task Force chair, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Acy Cooper motioned to nominate Alan Gibson as the vice-chair, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

VII. Public Comment:

Thomas Hymel announced the date of the 2020 LA Fisheries Forward will be on March 11, 2020 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, LA

The Lt. Governor is funding a seafood supply chain and economic development study from some funds from the LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board. A pilot study was done in Iberia, Vermillion, and St. Mary Parishes. The information that will come from this study will also be good for the industry to use in Washington, D.C. The study will be meeting with people in the rest of the coastal parishes in the coming weeks and months

VIII. Next meeting set for Wednesday, July 31, 2019 for 10am in Houma a Legislative Committee meeting will be held prior for 9:30am

Motion to adjourn by Alan Gibson, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

DRAFT