

Shrimp Task Force Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 1:00pm
LDWF Headquarters
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll call

Voting Members Present:

Acy Cooper, Jr.
Jeff Drury, III
Alan Gibson
Andrew Blanchard
Randy Pearce
Chalin Delaune

Voting Members Absent:

Rodney Olander
Lance Nacio
Phillip Tran
Kristen Baumer

Non-Voting Members Present:

Olivia Ledet
Peyton Cagle
Edward Skena
Jack Isaacs
Gene Cavalier

Non-Voting Members Present:

III. Randy Pearce motioned to approve the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

IV. Alan Gibson motioned to amend the agenda by adding two items under New Business, E. To Discuss the State of Industry and item F. To Hear a Presentation and Consider Recommendations on a SARS Proposals, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion Carries.

Alan Gibson motion to approve the May 3, 2023 agenda as amended, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

V. Financial Report:

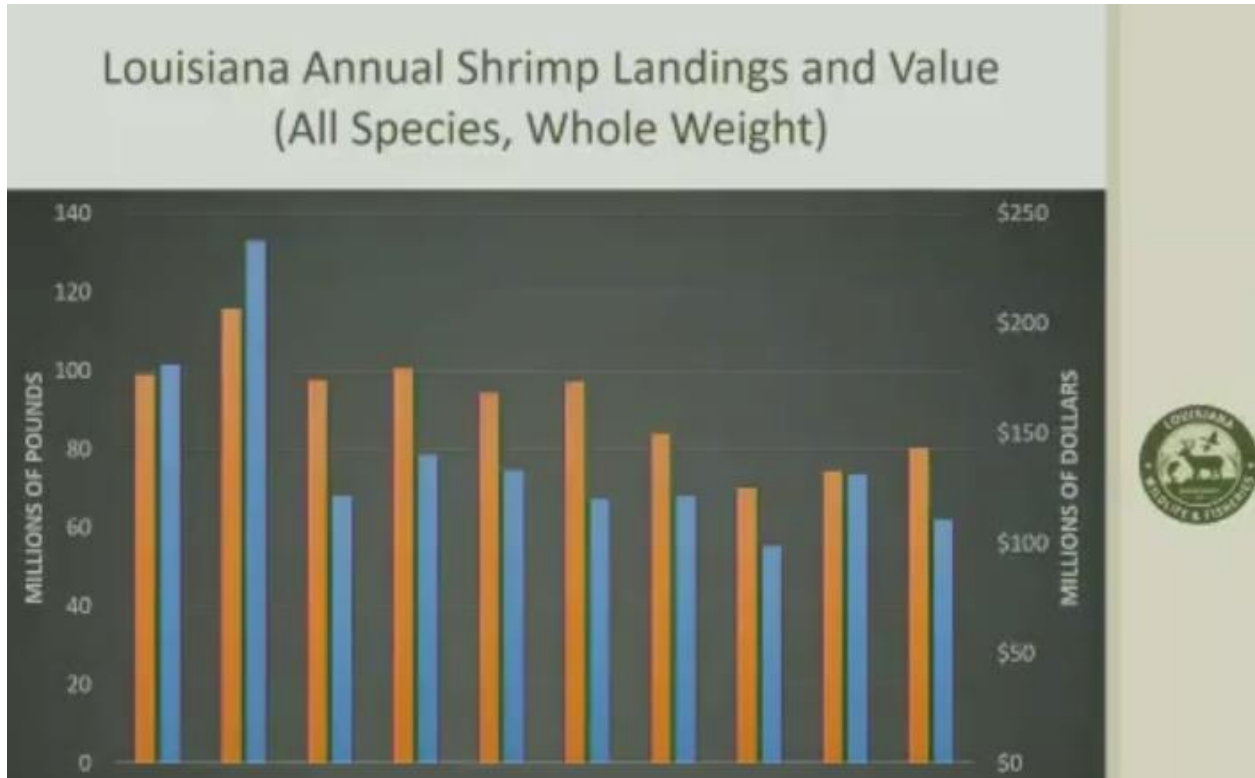
Remaining Fund Balance: \$681,965
Remaining Budget Balance: \$225,978

Andrew Blanchard motioned to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

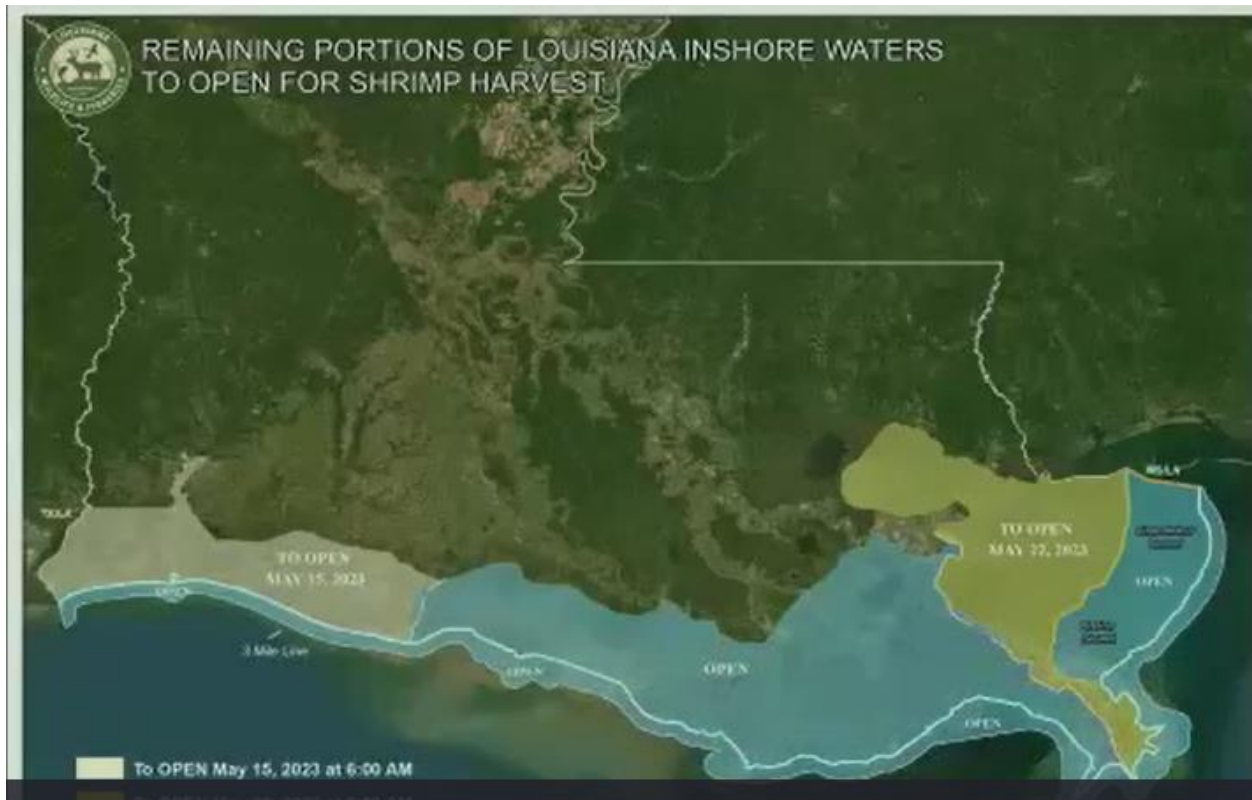
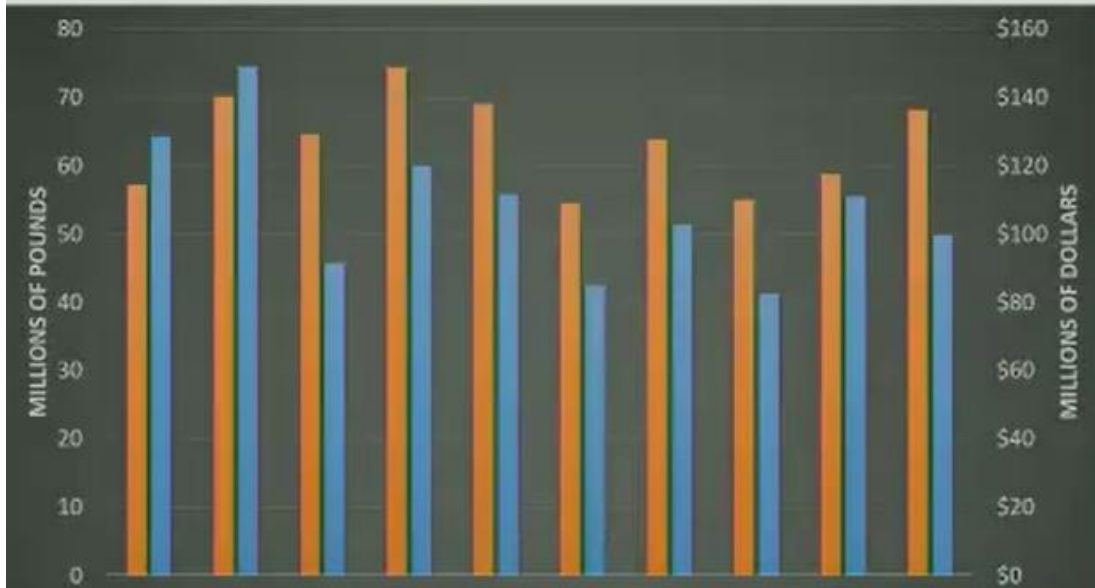
VI. Federal Shrimp Permit- an updated permit report was presented to the task force

VII. New Business

- A. Peyton Cagle led a presentation on shrimp trends and also considered recommendations on the 2023 spring inshore shrimp season in Zones 1 and 3



Louisiana White Shrimp Annual Landings and Value (Whole Weight)



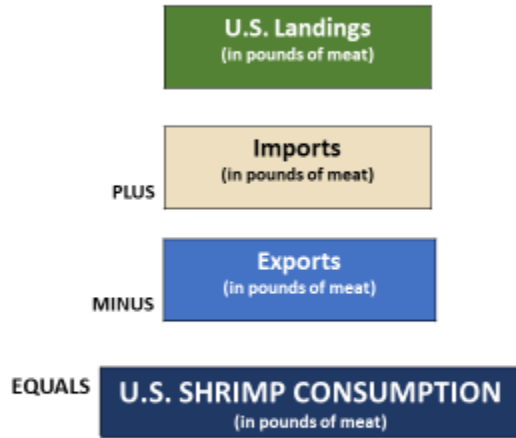
Recommendation Zone 1- May 22- 6am; zone 3- May 16- 6am

Andrew Blanchard stated that the issue is they always experienced in the past was with a state-wide opening, think May 18 would be a good crossover date for a state-wide opening of both zones 1 and 3

Andrew Blanchard motioned to recommend a May 18, 6am season opening for Zones 1 and 3 to the LDWF Commission, 2nd by Randy Pearce. Motion carries.

B. Jack Isaacs provided a presentation on the per capita protein consumption including shrimp

NOAA FISHERIES ESTIMATE OF U.S. SHRIMP CONSUMPTION



NOAA FISHERIES ESTIMATES OF U.S. PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

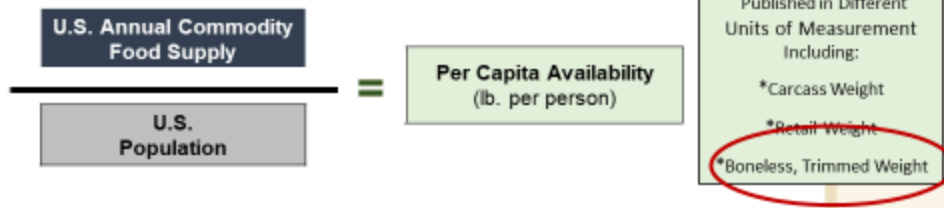


ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION (Pounds of meat per person)		
Year	Fish & Shellfish	Shrimp
2018	19.0	4.7
2019	19.3	4.7
2020	19.0	5.0



Source: NOAA Fisheries, *Fisheries of the United States: 2021*

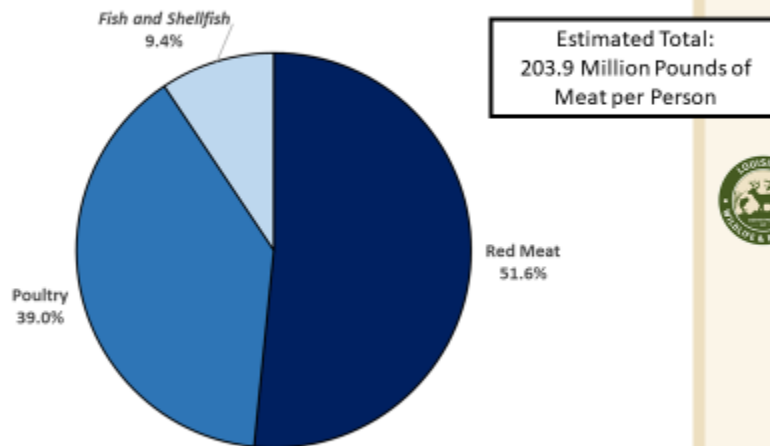
ESTIMATES OF U.S. PER CAPITA FOOD AVAILABILITY



ANNUAL PER CAPITA FOOD AVAILABILITY (Boneless, Trimmed Pounds per person)				
Year	Red Meat	Poultry	Fish & Shellfish	Total
2018	103.0	77.9	18.8	199.8
2019	105.2	79.6	19.1	203.9
2020	105.1	80.3	NA	185.4
2021	104.8	80.2	NA	185.0

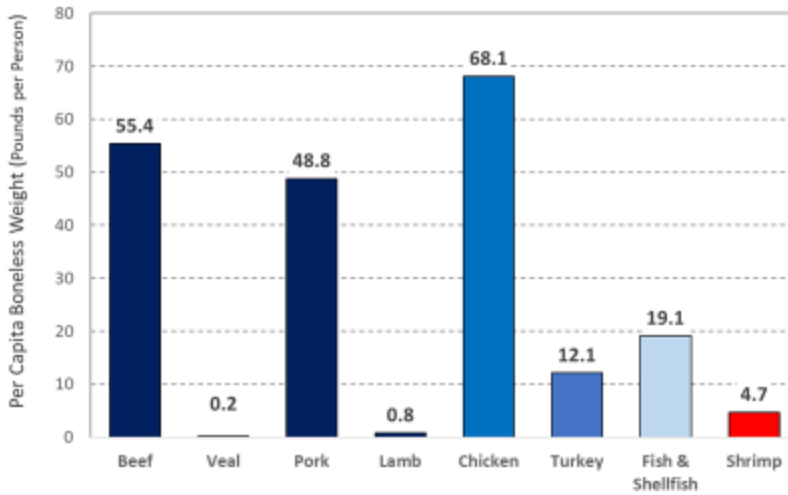
Source: U.S.D.A. E.R.S., Food per Capita Data System, Food Availability, Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish, November, 2022.

Per Capita Availability of Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish & Shellfish, by Category: 2019



Source: U.S.D.A. E.R.S., Food per Capita Data System, Food Availability, Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish, November, 2022

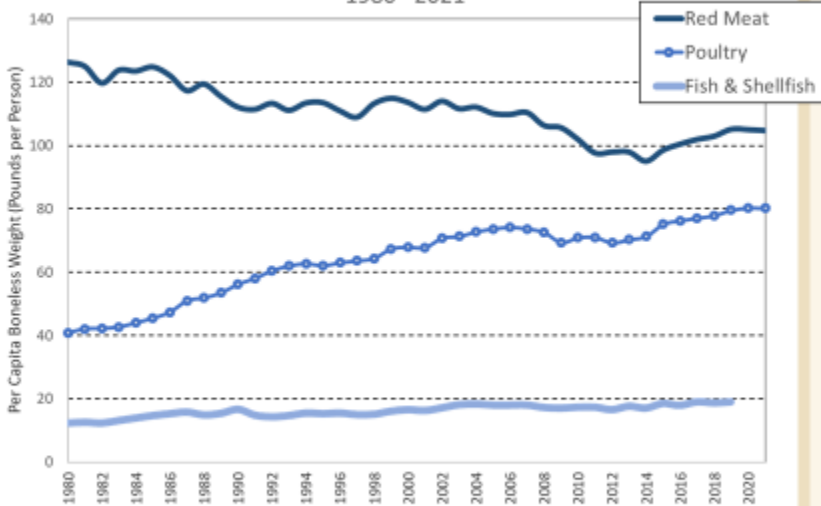
Per Capita Availability of Red Meat, Poultry, & Seafood, By Type* and Per Capita Consumption of Shrimp**: 2019



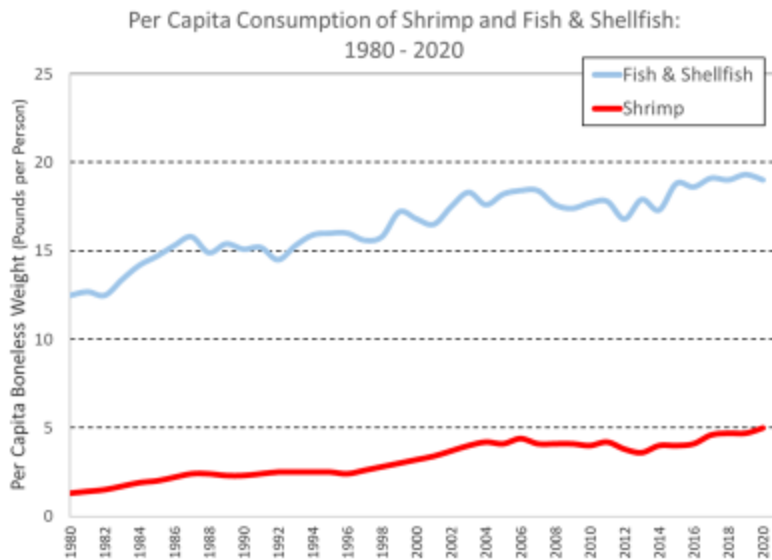
Source: * U.S.D.A. E.R.S., Food per Capita Data System, Food Availability, Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish, November, 2022.

**NOAA Fisheries, *Fisheries of the United States: 2021*

Per Capita Availability of Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish & Shellfish: 1980 - 2021



Source: U.S.D.A. E.R.S., Food per Capita Data System, Food Availability, Red Meat, Poultry, and Fish, November, 2022.



Source: NOAA Fisheries, *Fisheries of the United States: 2021*
Fisheries of the United States: 1991



Randy Pearce asked how much does US consume as a whole- 1.65B lbs of shrimp, about 5lbs per person- 95% or about 1.6B pounds of supply and consumption of shrimp is imported

Alan Gibson stated that we have 1.9 imported and 1.65B in consumption, there is a surplus on the market, local shrimp makes up for about 4% of market and losing ground, if we are importing more than we consume how is the industry going to survive

Jack Isaacs stated that he is going to get some more information and come back to the task force on consumption vs imports, going to get with MS, Biloxi folks on what evidence they have of accumulating inventories of shrimp, building inventories over time to give a better picture of imports vs consumption

Andrew Blanchard stated that we have 3.3M people in the country and we consuming 5lbs per person, but right now we are allowing 1.9B lbs to be imported

Jeff Drury asked Jack Isaacs that when he is looking into the inventory levels, that he look into if importers are sending product here on consignment and getting paid later- they are flooding the markets

Patrick Banks asked Jack Isaacs if there is a conversion of imports with shell on down to meat so that we can have an apples to apples comparison? Jack Isaacs stated that he plans to take the import numbers and convert them into pounds of meat for the next meeting

Randy Pearce stated that another issue not being considered is the amount of product being held in cold storage

Acy Cooper stated that he is requesting that the TF has a meeting with the Governor's office to discuss some of these issues

Olivia Ledet stated that she has been working on Congressman Higgins' bill with staff as requested by the task force at the last meeting, willing to help set up meetings and will work on a request to set up meeting with the Governor's office

C. The task force heard a 2023 shrimp legislative update

Acy Cooper stated that the industry proposed a bill that would add teeth to the label of origin restaurant billing, need people to show up when these bills are heard, not going to win anything if there is no support, *the bill did not pass*, supposed to have an LDH hearing and this will be brought up and discussed further, depending on what comes of the hearing, have plans to put this in again next year if nothing is done, not giving up on this

D. To discuss LDH enforcement efforts for restaurant menu seafood labeling

LDH was not available to attend the meeting, the task force would like to consider this as a possible item for future agenda

E. The task force discussed the state of the industry

Acy Cooper stated that as a fisherman and a representative of the shrimp industry it does not look good, if things don't change and soon, if the Governor can't help us we are in trouble, asked the industry to get behind the task force

Acy Cooper stated that they need to start coalition of all Gulf States, all governors and representatives

Patrick Banks suggested that the task force put together a concise letter of requests for the Governor's office so Olivia Ledet has something to bring to the Governor

Acy Cooper stated that he wants to make the request now that LDWF accompanies the industry in their Washington, D.C. meetings

Andrew Blanchard requested that LDWF address what is going on with federal monies coming down for 2019 fisheries disaster

Patrick Banks stated that applied 2 years ago and the latest we heard from NOAA is that the grant would be awarded in May 2023, LDWF has put together an economic impact for the 2020 hurricanes, waiting to hear back but if they agree that impact occurred then Congress has to appropriate money for the fishing community, the same thing with hurricane Ida that has been put together, the only money awarded as of now is the \$50M for the 2019 flood disaster

Alan Gibson stated that another thing for the Governor's office to assist the industry with is the funding and aid coming to the industry and 5 years later it's still not here, this needs to be addressed, this stuff needs to expedited, would also include a request of people the STF would like to meet with in this letter to the Governor's office

F. Mike McDonough provided a presentation on a SARS proposal

Louisiana Artificial Reef Program



Offshore Planning Areas



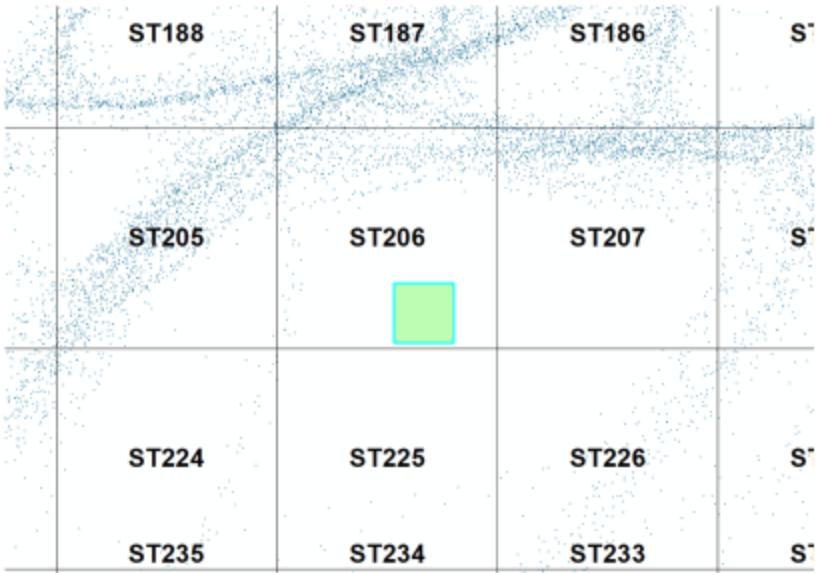
Louisiana Artificial Reef Program



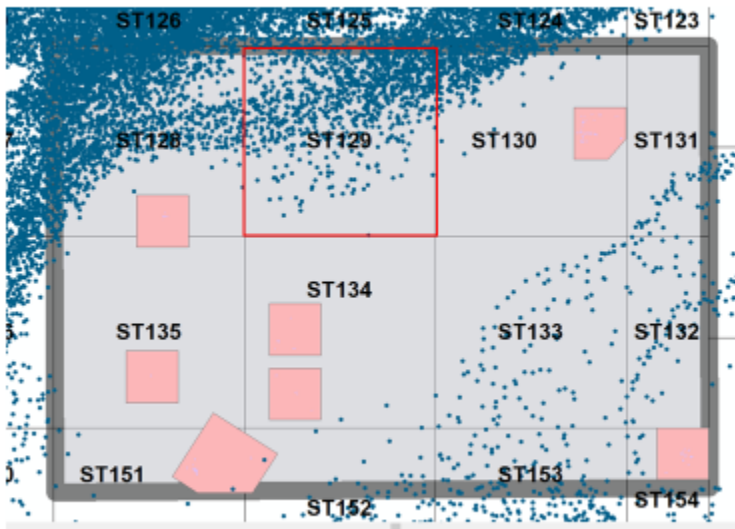
South Timbalier 206 Vicinity Map, with trawl effort



Proposal with Trawl effort



Louisiana Artificial Reef Program



South Timbalier PA, with trawl effort

VIII. Public Comment

Rocky Decharo with Decharo Seafood read an open letter to the industry

Randy Pearce stated that the proposed protest/ rally dates are for May 11th or 12th at the State Capitol, need as many fishermen as possible, will keep the industry posted on what's to come on this

IX. Next meeting set for Wednesday, August 2, 2023 for 10am in Baton Rouge

X. Andrew Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.