

**Louisiana Crab Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 1:00pm**  
**St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal**  
**100 Port Blvd.**  
**Chalmette, LA 70043**

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll call and introduction of guests

**Voting Members Present:**

Eric Blanchard  
Chalin Delaune  
LaQuita Meek  
Sheb Callahan  
Trudy Luke  
Pete Gerica  
George Jackson  
Al Cassagne

**Voting Members Absent:**

Rodney Parfait  
Britney Breaux  
Dannon Lacoste

**Non-Voting Member Present:**

Peyton Cagle  
Jack Isaacs  
Edward Skena

DRAFT

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Julie Lively  
Melissa Daigle

III. George Jackson motioned to approve the March 25, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion carries.

Chalin Delaune motioned to approve the June 4, 2019 meeting agenda, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

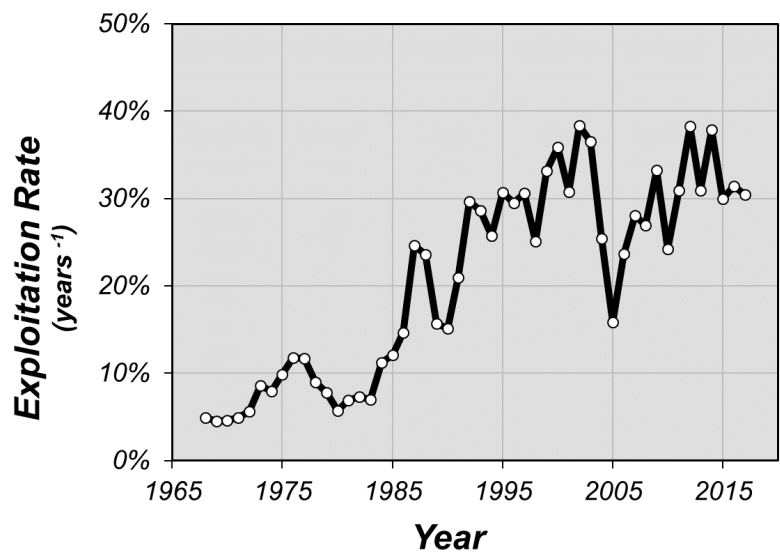
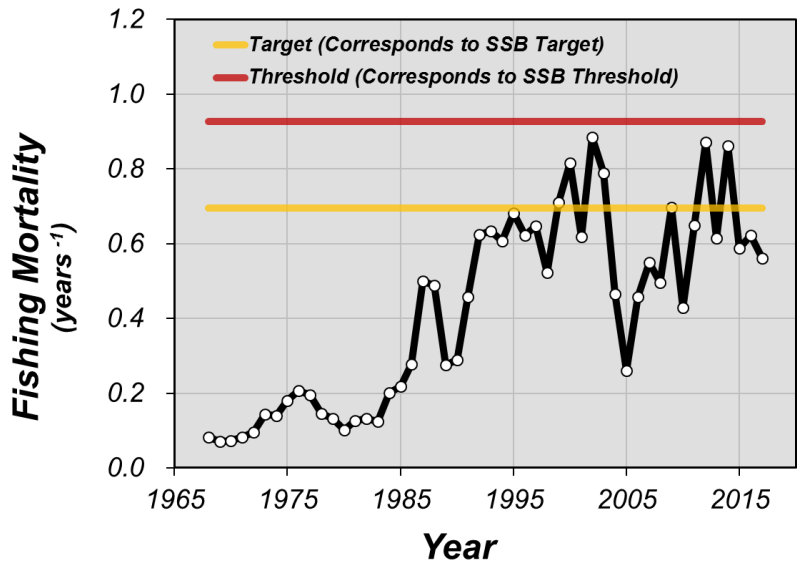
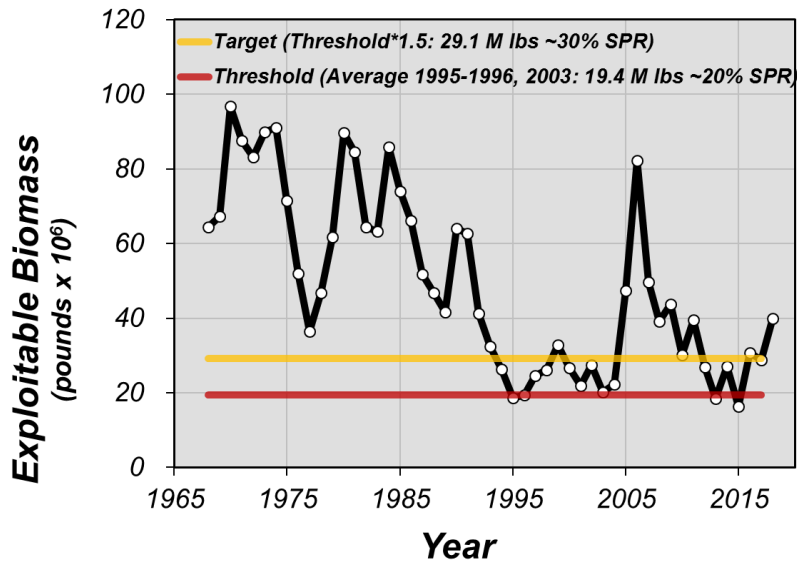
**IV. Financial Report**

Remaining Fund Balance- \$261,065  
Remaining Budget Balance- \$48,085

Chalin Delaune motioned to accept the financial report as presented, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**V. New Business**

A. Peyton Cagle provided an update on the 2019 Blue Crab Stock Assessment



B. Peyton provided the an update on the 2019 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup results and the proposed 2020 Derelict Crab Trap Closure areas

### Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Results

<b>2019</b>	Plaquemines/Jefferson Parishes	2/1-2/14	218
	Western Pontchartrain Lake	2/1-2/14	636
	Terrebonne Parish	2/15-2/28	521
	Plaquemines Parish	2/15-2/28	2,502
	Cameron/Calcasieu Parishes	3/13-3/22	164
	<b>2019 Total</b>		<b>4,041</b>

### Program Results

Year	Area(s)	Avg. Traps
2004-2005	6	5,758
2006-2016	16	1,441
2017-2019	16	4,592
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41,142</b>

Sheb Callahan entered at 1:23pm

The task force discussed alternative crab trap disposal/ reuse options. Suggested additional education for volunteers on the mapping of cleanup areas to prevent picking up traps in areas that are open

**C.** The task force discussed the current issues facing the commercial crabbing industry as a result of the spillway openings

LDWF is currently collecting data, NOAA recognizes a disaster at 35-80% loss. Trawl samples are showing a noticeable loss, trip tickets are due on the 10th of the following month so data is and still continuing to be collected to determine losses.

Trudy Luke motioned to draft a joint task force resolution requesting the establishment of a fisheries declaration of emergency and financial assistance and send to the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Governor's Office, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion carries.

## **Fishery Disaster Declaration Fact Sheet- LA Sea Grant**

### **What is a fishery disaster?**

A fishery disaster refers to a commercial fishery failure, a catastrophic regional fishery disaster, significant harm incurred, or a serious disruption affecting future production. The cause of the disaster can vary and will impact the types of relief that may be available after a declaration is issued.

### **Is a fishery disaster declaration different than other disaster declarations?**

Yes. A fishery disaster refers specifically to fishery impacts and is different than disasters declared under other laws. For example, the Stafford Act is a federal law that authorizes FEMA to provide assistance to state and local communities following an emergency or major disaster. A single event, like the opening of a spillway, may result in both kinds of disaster declarations. FEMA authorizations are usually issued in advance of an anticipated event. Fishery disaster declarations require evidence of the impact, meaning that those are issued after the impacts occur.

### **Who can request a fishery disaster declaration?**

A fishery disaster declaration can be requested by the Governor or an elected or appointed rep- representative of an affected fishing community, like a mayor or parish president. The request is made to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will gather data on fishery impacts to include in the request for a disaster declaration. Generally, LDWF will assess whether a fishery disaster request should be submitted once an overall 35% decrease in landings has occurred.

### **Who decides if the fishery disaster declaration will be issued?**

First, NOAA Fisheries will evaluate the request including information provided in the disaster declaration request. The U.S. Secretary of Commerce will decide whether or not to issue a fishery disaster declaration.

What happens when a fishery disaster is declared?

The U.S. Congress may appropriate funds for disaster relief. There is not a standing fund for fisheries disasters. If Congress makes fishery disaster funds available, NOAA Fisheries will coordinate the distribution of funds with the State.

What types of relief may be available?

This will depend on the terms of the declaration. Fishery disasters may qualify for relief under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and/or the Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA). Types of relief range from grants to states to direct assistance to fisherman and businesses. The types of relief available will depend on which provisions of the law are triggered by the disaster declaration. The fishery disaster declaration, once issued by the Secretary of Commerce, will identify the types of relief available for that specific disaster.

**D.** The board discussed membership and vacancies

The task force currently has two vacancies for a commercial hard crab fisherman, it was suggested that it would be preferable to have someone from the western part of the state fill one of the open positions since there is currently little representation from that side

**E.** Update on the 2019 Legislative Session

SB65- Provided for the size and location of crab trap escape rings- completely passed, effective June 1, 2019

HB355-Prohibit the taking of immature female crabs and provides for enhanced penalties for certain crab fishing violations- passed through both the House and the Senate, but at the time of this meeting was still awaiting the governor's signature

**VI.** Public Comment- no comment

**VII.** Next meeting set for ~~Tuesday, August 6, 2019 for 1pm at the St. Bernard Port and Harbor in Chalmette, LA~~ Set for **Tuesday, September 3, 2019 for 1pm at the St. Bernard Port and Harbor Building in Chalmette, LA**

**VIII.** George Jackson motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion carries.