**LA Crab Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 1:00pm**

**Terrebonne Parish Main Library**

**151 Library Dr. Houma, LA 70360**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

**II.** Roll Call

**Voting Members Present:**

Eric Blanchard

Laquita Meek

Trudy Luke

George Jackson

Al Cassagne

Rodney Parfait

Britney Breaux

**Voting Members Absent:**

Chalin Delaune

Sheb Callahan

Pete Gerica

Joey Edgar

Edward Frekey

Dannon Lacoste

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Peyton Cagle

Jack Isaacs

Edward Skena

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Melissa Daigle

**III.** Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the October 25, 2022 meeting minutes, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

**IV.** Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting agenda, 2nd by Al Cassagne. Motion carries.

**V.** Financial Report-

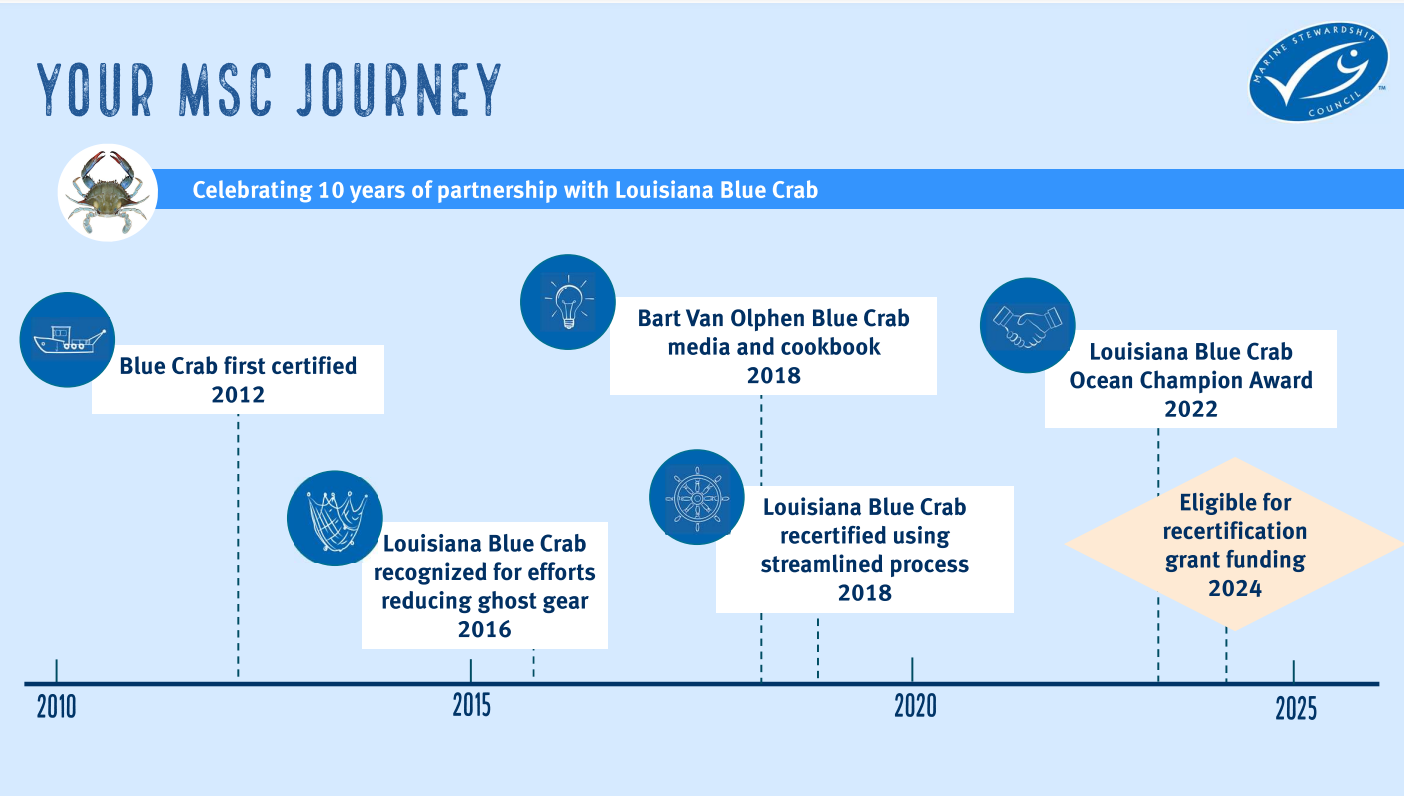
Remaining Fund Balance- $427,447

Remaining Budget Balance- $276,142

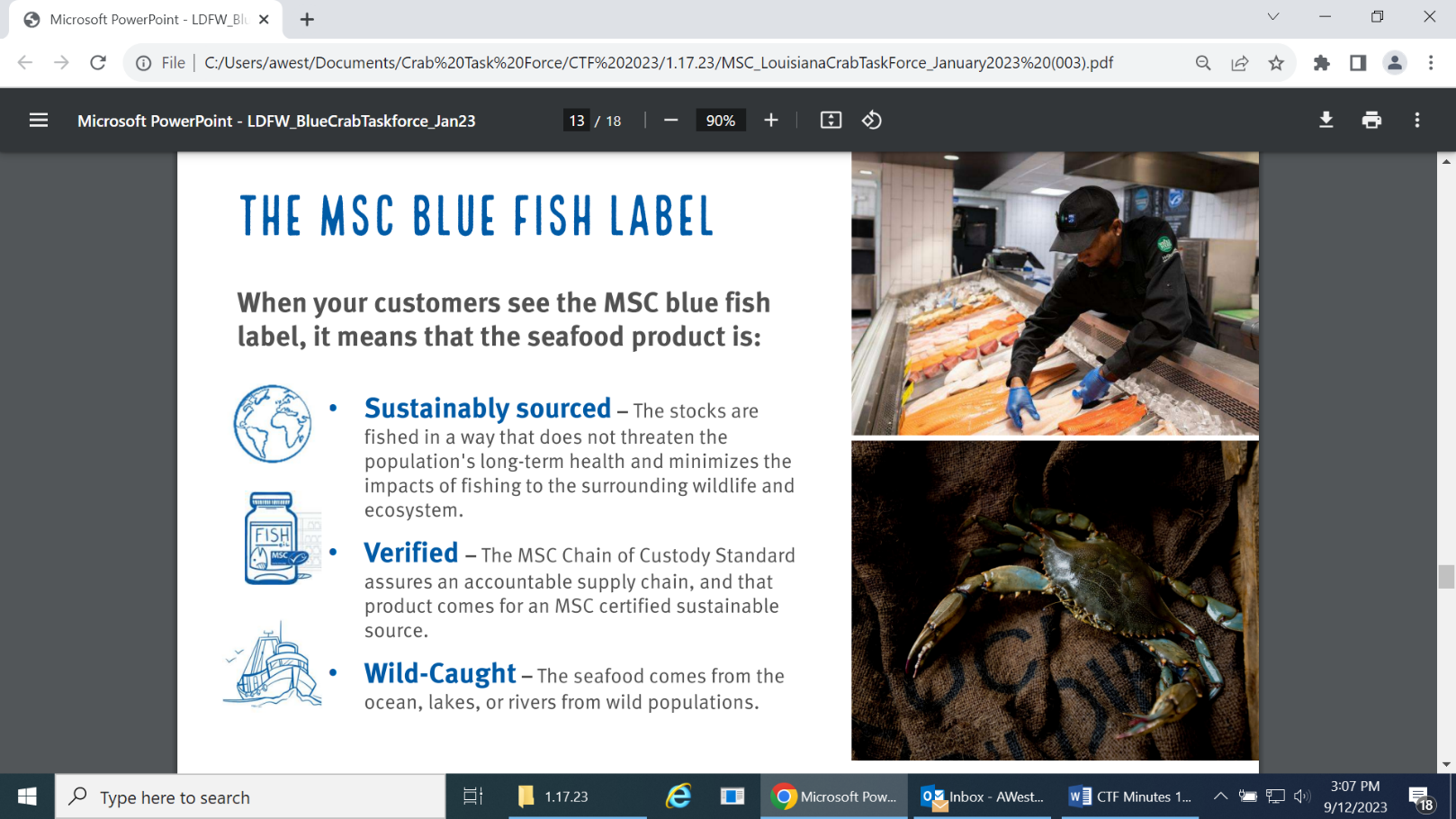
Eric Blanchard motioned to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

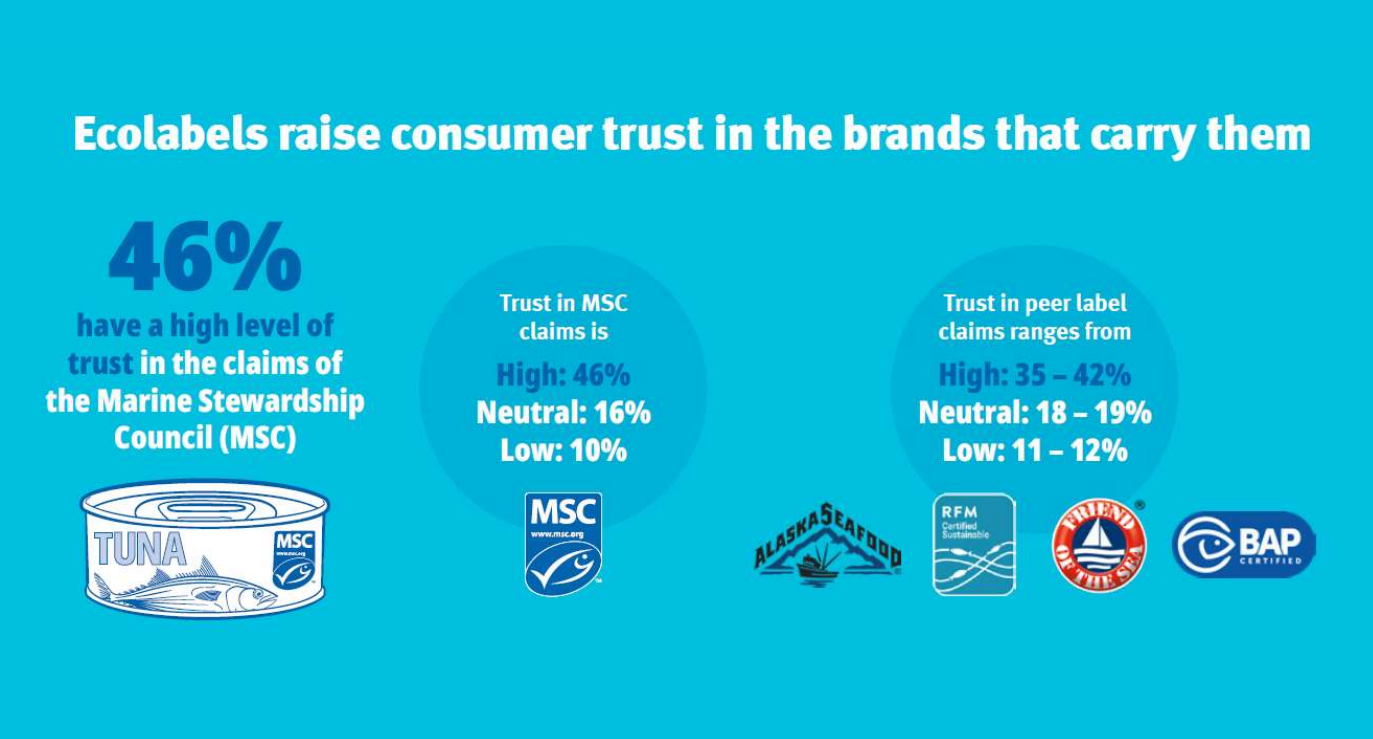
**VI.** New Business

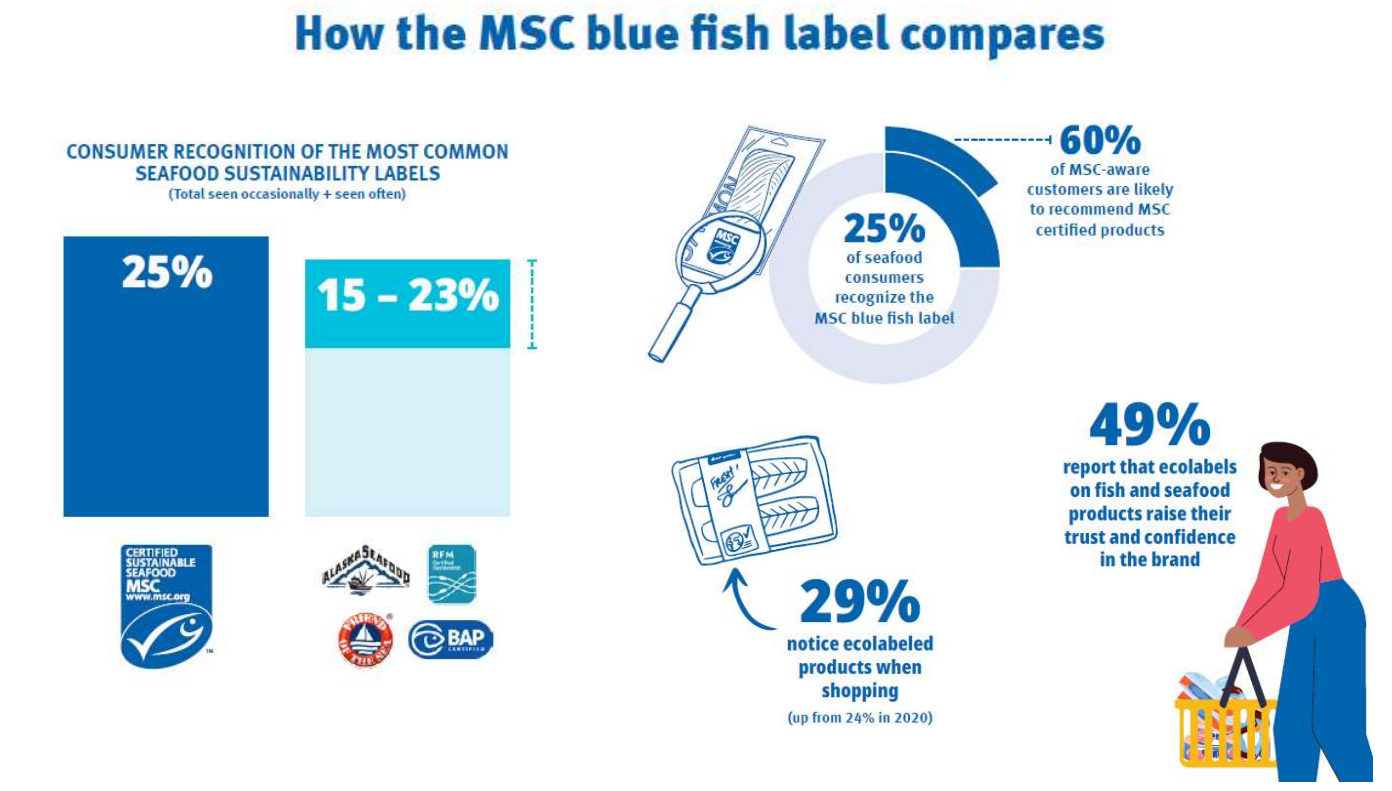
1. Erin Murray of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) provided the task force with a presentation on ‘Making the Most of Your MSC Certification’











1. Haley Gambill led discussion on the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit panel

Topic for the panel is Opportunities for Innovation; looking for participants from the industry and need help identifying someone to serve as a panelist from the crab industry; also seeking feedback on specific ideas for discussion

1. Peyton Cagle led discussion on the CSC RFM certification program

Peyton Cagle stated that that task force talked about the Gulf RFM not continuing and the funding from LDWF was ceasing for the RFM program, therefore this certification is going to lapse. There was an opportunity for the crab industry to go back for a dual certification through the continued MSC certification, looking to possibly roll in the Gulf RFM program into what is the CSC RFM, which is a larger program originally founded in Alaska. The MSC and CSC RFM rolled together looking at an additional $37,000- to combine MSC and CSC, just completed the 4th MSC audit in November, will go through reassessment next year with MSC, do you want to see the industry go back into dual certification or stay a single certification with just MSC?

Britney Breaux stated that she doesn’t see RFM for the crab industry anywhere, only see MSC when out and about, it seems like the crab industry is mostly using MSC

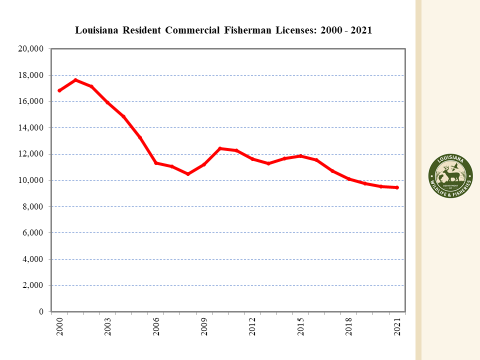
When will this fishery have to be assessed, regulated/ comply with the new standard for MSC, good through 2024

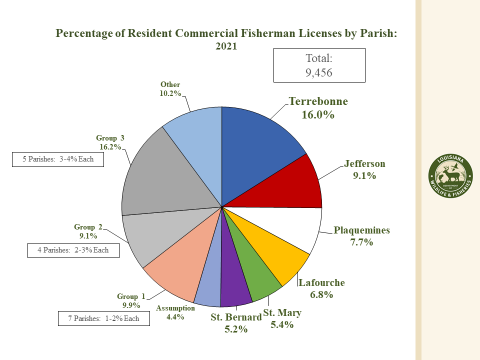
Al Cassagne motioned to wait on moving forward with the CSC RFM program at this time and wait until the next MSC surveillance audit to reconsider, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

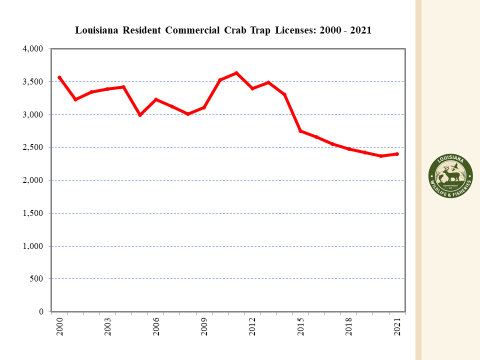
1. Jason Froeba provided an update on the 2019 Fisheries Disaster Funding

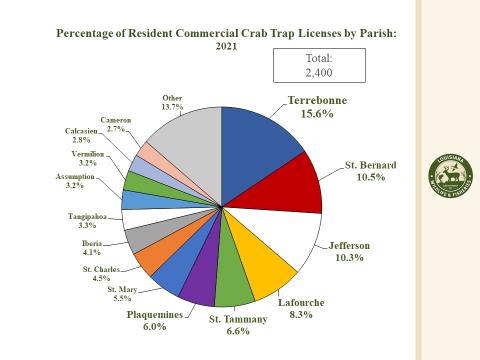
Plan finalized, multiple rounds of comments made, right before the holidays received the last round of edits, sent to Federal Office of Management and Budget right before the holidays for final approval, requested update and currently waiting to hear back, this should be the last step, once LDWF gets approval can start getting the programs rolled out, until approval is received cannot launch anything. As soon as approved, news releases will be sent out and public meetings will be held to spread the word about the program and application process

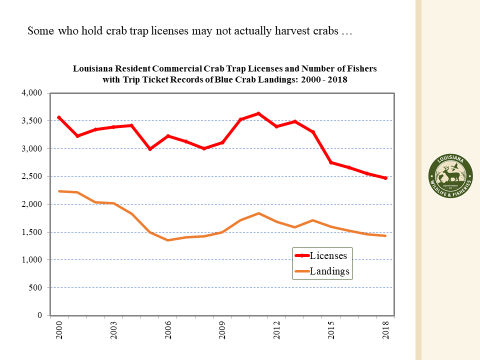
1. Jack Isaacs provided a presentation on crabbing license data











Eric Blanchard stated that the industry tried to do a moratorium on crabbing licenses in the past and it failed

Jack Isaacs stated that about 25% of the fishermen land about 75% of the crabs

Britney Breaux stated that the reason this data was requested is because there is a feeling that half the people selling crabs do not own a license, see tons of new people in the business, we have all these rules and regulations on the industry and you have all of these people actively fishing without a license and not following the rules/ regulations

Peyton Cagle stated that those who are aware of instances like Britney Breaux is mentioning needs to start reporting it to enforcement, if people are not selling their own catch and fishing without a license and then selling under someone who does have a license this needs to be reported

The task force discussed possibly adding an item to the next meeting agenda to discuss private leased fishing land

Chad Cannizarro stated that his area has issues with unauthorized people running his traps at night; would like to see more information about crabs in the apprenticeship program

The task force discussed possibly adding an item to a future meeting agenda to review the program and consider making changes to the apprenticeship program

F. Crab Task Force held officer elections

Al Cassagne motioned to postpone officer elections to a future meeting, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**VII.** Public Comment:

Haley Gambill approached by a soft shell guy in North Carolina interest in meeting or contact with this guy- get info to the board

**VIII.** The next CTF meeting was set for ~~Tuesday, March 28, 2023~~ Tuesday, September 26, 2023 for 1pm in Houma at the Terrebonne Parish Main Library

**IX.** Trudy Luke motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.