**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 1:00PM**

**2021 Lakeshore Drive, STE 210**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:**

Pete Gerica

George Jackson

Trudy Luke

Britney Breaux

Laquita Meek

Eric Blanchard

Warren Delacroix

Sheb Callahan

Dannon Lacoste

**Voting Members Absent:**

Rodney Parfait

Chalin Delaune

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Peyton Cagle

Jack Isaacs

Edward Skena

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Julie Lively

Melissa Daigle

Motion to approve the September 18, 2018 meeting minutes by George Jackson, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the November 13, 2018 meeting agenda by Eric Blanchard, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Fund Balance- $220,338

Budget Balance- $48,085

Motion to approve the financial report as presented by George Jackson, 2nd by Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

**New Business:**

**A.** Dominique Siebert with LA Sea Grant presented the results from diversion panel discussion from the 2018 LA Fisheries Forward Summit

**B.** Patrick Banks led discussion and provided an update on the Fisheries Adaptation Working Group meetings

**Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroups:**

The State of Louisiana recognizes the need for individuals and industry to adapt to changing environmental conditions along our coast that result from the historical ecosystem changes or integrated coastal restoration and protection efforts. The fishing industry, with a long history in coastal Louisiana, has demonstrated the need to adapt to changing coastal conditions from on generation to the next. To improve the sustainable management of the fishing industry facing these changes, the State proposes that a small working group be established to develop and evaluate possible adaptation strategies for the fishing industry and assist with the implementation of selected strategies for generations to come.

**Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroups (CFIAW) is to identify and evaluate adaptation strategies for the coastal fishing industries in response to a changing coast and to assist the fishing industry in implementing available strategies to improve the sustainable management of the fishing industry facing these changes.

**Objectives:**

1. Identify issues facing the fishing industry related to changing environmental conditions (coastal land loss, water quality, integrated coastal protection efforts, etc.) to achieve sustainable management goals;
2. Identify environmental, economic and policy information that can be made available, including timelines, that would be helpful in addressing changing coastal issues

* State to identify information that will help guide adaptation strategies and sustainable fishing industry efforts
* Data may be historical, current, or predictive

1. Identify and discuss State restoration and protection efforts, including timing of project implementation

* Ensure that the fishing industry is kept current on both state and federal planning concerning restoration and risk reduction activities
* Provide framework for discussions on the comprehensive analysis of ecosystem, economic, and community needs to state and federal planning efforts for restoration and risk reduction efforts

1. Identify adaptation strategies that are, or may be, available to the fishing industry that will assist in addressing from first item above

* Strategies suggested under this item will be further refined based on feasibility of implementation and likelihood of success
* Strategies will incorporate both short and long-term needs of the ecosystem, economic, and community components of a comprehensive approach to a sustainable fishing industry that includes both restoration and risk reduction activities;

1. Identify funding sources, if necessary, that could help fishing industry fully utilize adaptation strategies from item four above

Some of the items the crab industry suggested for adaptation were: refrigeration on trucks and vessels, addressing the population status of crabs, the amount of fishermen in the industry, investments in bait plants or new bait sources, addressing public-private water bottom issues and space to fish, aquaculture and crab hatcheries, transitioning to soft shell operations, buster specific crab traps and increasing buster catches

This draft of strategies will be presented to the CPRA Board in December, if all goes well there are plans to host larger public meetings in February through the spring, producing a final report to the CPRA Board sometime in late summer 2019

**C.** Jack Isaacs provided the task force with a presentation on the findings on missing crab traps from the 2015 Commercial Crabbers Survey

**D.** Pete Gerica led discussion to hear recommendations for a legislative proposal to increase penalties for crabbing violations- theft of crab traps, maiden crabs,

List of common crabbing violations:

1. Crab trap theft
2. Running cages

The item ‘Increasing Crabbing Violation Penalties’ was sent to the CTF Legislative Committee for further discussion; request for LDWF legal and enforcement work with the committee to assist in identifying and outlining the proper processes to make violation changes. The CTF Legislative Committee-Britney Breaux, Laquita Meek, George Jackson, Trudy Luke

Legislative Committee future discussion items:

1. Increasing crabbing violation penalties
2. Grading crabs on the boat
3. Crab trap escape ring placement legislation

Public Comment:

The next Crab Task Force meeting set for Tuesday, December 4, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans, CTF Legislative Committee to meet prior for 10:00AM

Motion to adjourn by Trudy Luke, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.