

# ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

LDWF LAFAYETTE

200 DULLES

## ATTENDANCE

### Council Members Present

Tim Allen  
Nathan Wall  
Jeff Donald  
Rudy Sparks  
Tony Howard

### Council Members Absent

Tom Benge  
Ryan Smith

### LDWF Present

Jeb Linscombe  
Larry Reynolds  
Jason Waller  
Mike Dupuis  
Eric Ledet  
Mickey Miller  
Dwayne LeJeune  
Jennifer Manuel  
Tanya Sturman  
Lakeesha Miles  
Beth Boulet  
George Melancon  
Scott Durham

### Others Present

Tabitha Detillier, Miss Alligator Queen  
Noel Kinler, Contractor  
Dana Painter  
Adam Johnson  
Jennifer O Armentor

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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*Motion made by Jeff Donald to nominate Tim Allen as chairman. Nathan Wall seconded.  
Motion carried.*

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*Motion made by Rudy Sparks to nominate Nathan Wall as vice-chairman. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.*

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

*Motion made by Tony Howard to approve the minutes as presented. Nathan Wall seconded. Motion carried.*

## INDIRECT COST- BETH BOULET

Beth Boulet explained what the indirect cost program is and how it would benefit the Conservation Fund. LDWF elected to incorporate indirect costs effective July 1, 2023. Costs for shared items and overhead items such as fuel, vehicles, boats, utilities, janitorial services, and IT services are indirect costs. These costs have been partially covered by Conservation funds in the past, but the Conservation funds are decreasing. The Department asks that the Council approve paying indirect costs out of Alligator Resource Funds to capture the true costs of the program.

The Council asked that the Department come back with a true estimate of what expenses are currently being covered by the Conservation Fund for the alligator program.

*Motion made by Tony Howard to table this discussion. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.*

## HEALTH AND HOSPITALS MEAT PROCESSING OVERVIEW- JENNIFER ARMENTOR

Jennifer Armentor gave an overview of meat processing inspections and licensing. She went over some of the regulations regarding the processing rooms, vacuum packaging, and labeling. Permits are good for the fiscal year and cover the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The annual permit is \$150. Each facility is inspected at least twice a year.

The Department and the Council have some concerns about some of the meat processing facilities processing some spoiled meat. The Council suggested that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Health and Hospitals get together to discuss alligator meat processing.

## HCR 132 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW- JEB LINScombe

Jeb Linscombe read through the resolution requesting the Department to study and make recommendations relative to alligator markets and populations. Mr. Linscombe went through some of the misconceptions of how alligator tags are issued and what the wild harvest does. The wild season utilizes the surplus alligator population. It was not designed to control or suppress the population.

The program philosophy covers species protection, habitat stewardship, sustained use, regulated harvest and economic benefits. Almost 80% of the coastal wetlands are privately owned. Nest surveys are the foundation for setting harvest quotas.

Nesting is influenced a lot by rainfall. Drought years will suppress nesting and reproduction. Since weather is unpredictable, harvest quotas should remain conservative.

Mr. Linscombe reviewed current lottery and bid opportunities for alligator harvest on public lakes and WMAs and increases in lottery opportunities for 2025.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Duhram asked what the council thought about opening a recreational season on alligators in central and north Louisiana. The council discussed concerns with opening a season outside of CITES. They also expressed concerns about currently unreported lottery tags. In general, there are concerns not about increasing harvest but about increasing harvest in a way that would undermine the data reported to CITES.

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*Motion made by Nathan Wall to adjourn. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.*

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