**Oyster Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:00p.m.**

**East Bank Regional Library**

**4747 W Napoleon Ave.**

**Metairie, LA 70001**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

**II.** Roll call and introduction of guests

**Voting Members Present:**

Byron Encalade

Jakov Jurisic

Mitch Jurisich

Brandt Lafrance

Sam Slavich

Peter Vujnovich

Willie Daisy

**Voting Members Absent:**

Shane Bagala

Tracy Collins

Dan Coulon

Leo Dyson

Brad Robin

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Carolina Bourque

Gordon Leblanc in for Justin Gremillion

Stephen McManus in for Edward Skena

Karl Morgan

Brian Lezina

**III.** Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the February 26, 2019 meeting minutes, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic motioned to amend the agenda by postponing item, C. Discussion of FDA/LDH Proposals for Increased Surveillance of AOC Water Quality’ until the next meeting, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Jakov Jurisic motioned to accept the agenda as amended, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

**IV.** Treasury Report:

Remaining Fund Balance- $372,202

Remaining Budget Balance- $50,794

March Tag Sales- 267,302

Jakov Jurisic motioned to accept the financial report as presented, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

**V.** Committee Reports:

**A. Public Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee**- no report

**B. Enforcement Report**

Feb 9th – March 11th

**Region 4** (Iberia)

None

**Region 5** (Cameron and Vermillion)

1 – Failure to display proper number on vessel top.

1 – Violate sanitation code

**Region 6**: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

Terrebonne

1 – violate sanitary code (logbook)

Oysters seized – 2 sacks

Lafourche

3 – unlawfully take oysters from a private lease

3 – fail to have written permission

Oysters seized – 2 sacks

**Region 8**: (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, St. Tammany)

St Bernard Parish

3-Take Undersized Oysters from Natural Reef

1-Fail to Display Number on Top Vessel

3-Violate Sanitary Code (Refrigeration)

1-Violate Sanitary Code (Log Book)

1-Unlawfully Stake Off Unleased State Bottoms

2-Violate Commission Action on State Seed Ground (Take Oysters From Closed Cultch Plant)

3-Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease

3-Fail to Have Written Permission

1-Fail to Have Scrapper License

**Seizures**

55 Oyster Sacks

212 Mini Oyster Sacks

Plaquemines

1-Take Oysters from Unapproved Area (Polluted)

1-Take Oysters From Unleased Area

1-Misbranding Seafood (Using another Oyster Dealers Certification Number In Interstate Commerce Without Permission)

Training for enforcement drone operators to begin the start of June 2019

**C. Legislative Committee Report-** No report

Oyster and Seafood Industry Related Bills of interest to be heard this session:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HB 142   | Leopold, Chris | Authorizes additional means of harvesting oysters on the oyster seed grounds under the oyster seed ground vessel permit |
| HB 335   | Gisclair, Truck | Requires food service establishments serving imported crawfish or shrimp to inform patrons that the seafood is of foreign origin. |

**D. Research Committee Report**- no report

**E. Coastal Restoration Committee Report**- no report

**F. Marketing Committee Report**-

The marketing committee met prior to the Oyster Task Force meeting and discussed an oyster industry marketing plan. The beginning phases of the plan would call for the creation of an Oyster Industry/ Oyster Task Force social media page on Facebook along with a website.

* Facebook | Phase 1:
* Create OTF page; secure cover and profile photos
* Gather initial content for first few months; recommend a content calendar based on provided list
* Cultivate page audience with initial help of industry influencers; share content
* Grow audience with relevant, timely, shareable posts, photos, and ‘memes’
* Facebook | Phase 2:
* Further develop content calendar; maintain page
* Link to OTF website (once complete)
* Determine budget for ads; create and implement ads
* Boost popular posts
* Measure growth using Facebook statistics
* Interface with OTF marketing group to adjust plan as needed
* Website Development | Phase 1:
* Secure desired URL
* Choose contractor based on budget/referrals
* Determine initial navigation that is easy and functional:
	+ About
	+ News (using combination of Ed Lallo stories, LDWF info, etc)
	+ Meeting info?
	+ Photo gallery
	+ Resource library; to include maps, links
* Gather initial photos, content; guide/approve design

Budget: $8,000 - $12,000 depending on content/needs

* Website Development | Phase 2:
* Create ongoing content calendar inline with social media and feature stories
* Add additional elements, to include recipes and harvester spotlights
* Train website administrators
* Implement SEO, to include key words and page titles
* Maintain/update content
* Work with industry to create links to OTF site

 **G. Health Committee Report-**

Refrigeration Requirements for Shellstock Harvested for Raw Consumption:

**Basin Descriptions:**

**Basin 02-** Barataria - Mississippi River west to Bayou Lafourche
**Basin 03-** West Cove and Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Areas **Basin 04-** Mississippi State line west to the Mississippi River
**Basin 06-** Atchafalaya River west to Freshwater Bayou Canal including Vermilion, East Cote Blanche, and West Cote Blanch Bays.
**Basin 12-** Terrebonne - Bayou Lafourche to the Atchafalaya River

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Max Hours from Harvest | 36-HOURS | 8 HOURS | 1 HOUR |
| BASIN 02 | JAN-FEBDEC | MAR-APRNOV | MAY- OCT |
| BASIN 03 | JAN-FEBDEC | MAR-APRNOV | OCT |
| BASIN 04 | JAN-FEBDEC | MAR-APRNOV | MAY- OCT |
| BASIN 06 | JAN-FEBDEC | MAR-APRNOV | MAY- OCT |
| BASIN 12 | JAN-FEBDEC | MAR-APRNOV | MAY- OCT |

**H. Professionalism Report**- no report

**I. Aquaculture Committee Report-** no report

**J. Joint Task Force Working Group Report**- no report

**VI.** New Business:

**A.** Carolina Bourque provided the task force with an update on the 2018-2019 oyster season

|  |
| --- |
| **2018-2019 LDWF Oyster season summary (April 12, 2019)** |
| **Area** | **Season Opening** | **Season Closure** | **Season/type** | **Days open to date** | **Harvest to date** | **CSA** |
|
| **N of MRGO** | Oct- 29 | Oct- 29 | 1-day Seed harvest | 1 | 4,550 bbls | **1** |
| Oct- 29 | TBD | Market Oyster Harvest \*LDH Area 3, Drum Day and 3-mile cultch plant CLOSED as of Jan 20, 2019 | 165 | 18,668 sacks |
| Mar-14 | Mar-16 | Bonnet Carré special opening for bedding purposes only | 3 | 0 bbls |
| Mar-19 | Mar-21 | Bonnet Carré SECOND special opening for bedding only | 3 | 85 bbls |
| All Public Seed Grounds East of Mississippi river and South of MRGO CLOSED |
| **Hackberry Little Lake** | Oct- 29 | Oct- 29 | 1-day Seed harvest | 1 | 877 bbls | **3** |
| Oct- 29 | Nov-3 | Market Oyster Harvest | 6 | 186 sacks |
| Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour CLOSED |
| **Lake Mechant** | Oct- 29 | Oct- 29 | 1-day Seed harvest | 1 | 20 bbls | **5** |
| Oct- 29 | TBD | Market Oyster Harvest | 165 | 25 sacks |
| **Bay Junop** | Oct- 29 | Oct- 29 | 1-day Seed harvest | 1 | 0 bbls |
| Oct- 29 | TBD | Market Oyster Harvest | 165 | 500 sacks |
| Sister Lake CLOSED- |
| **Vermilion Bay** | Oct- 29 | Oct- 29 | 1-day Seed harvest | 1 | 0 bbls | **6** |
| Oct- 29 | TBD | Market Oyster Harvest | 165 | 8 sacks |
| Mar-14 | Mar-16 | Bonnet Carré special opening for bedding purposes only | 3 | 0 bbls |
| **Calcasieu Lake** | Oct- 29 | TBD | *East Cove*: Market Oyster Harvest\*\* closed between Dec 31, 2018 and Jan 20, 2019 | \*\*144 | 2659 sacks | **7** |
| Oct- 29 | TBD | *West Cove*: Market Oyster Harvest | 165 | 6311 sacks |

\*Requested that LDWF keep the board updated on the season as time progresses

**B.** Cole Garrett provided the board with an updated draft of the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI

The task force requested that the Office of State Lands attend their next meeting to provide feedback on dual claims agreement and ownership criteria

The task force requested maps and more information on lands that are currently considered state claimed and dual claimed

Jakov Jurisic motioned to request for LDWF to delay bringing the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI before the LDWF Commission until after the May OTF meeting to give the task force time to digest the new language added to the NOI and to also seek clarification from the State Lands Office on the criteria and requirements of dual claimed lands and DC agreements. In the event that the task force is not able to meet prior to the June 2019 LDWF Commission meeting, the task force approves of the NOI moving forward, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

**C.** Mitch Jurisich provided an update on the levels of oyster cultch material removed when harvesting seed oysters from public oyster beds

The task force expressed concern that the current allowance (15%) is too low for incidental take of non-living material in bedding loads, would like to work with LDWF to increase the percentage to something closer to 20 percent, also stated that there was not a known standardized method for sampling

Requested for LDWF to provide a presentation and demonstration at their next meeting on the method used to sample the amount of non-living material in oyster loads; the task force asked that LDWF notify the industry of the methodology that is being used to take samples so that the industry might better police themselves

**VII.** Public Comment:

John Zack Lea is requesting the help of the task force in seeking participation from landowners and oyster producers who would like to take part in a program, the task force plans to add an item on their next meeting agenda to discuss the details further

Ricky Melerine with the St. Bernard Port Authority invited the task force to utilize their facility, at the St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal District, for meeting space

**VIII.** The next Oyster Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 for 1PM at the St. Bernard Port Authority building located at 100 Port Blvd. Chalmette, LA 70043,

The OTF Marketing Committee plans to meet for 11:00am prior to the full task force meeting

**IX.** Jakov Jurisic motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.