

Oyster Task Force Minutes
Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 10:00am
New Orleans Lakefront Airport
6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd
New Orleans, LA

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll call and introduction of guests

Voting Members Present:

Rivers Bagala in for Shane Bagala

Mitch Jurisich

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

Matthew Slavich

Sam Slavich

Peter Vujnovich

Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Dan Coulon

Brandon Debarge

Jakov Jurisic

Steve Pollock

Non-Voting Members Present:

Robert Caballero

Mike Garrity in for Davis Madere

Bryan Wallace

Brian Lezina

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Kyle Balkum

III. Brad Robin motioned to approve the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes, 2nd by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.

Brad Robin motioned to amend the agenda by adding an item to the agenda under new business J. To Hear a Legislative Update- Eric Sunstrom, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Brad Robin motioned to approve the amended August 26, 2025 meeting agenda, 2nd by Pete Vujnovich. Motion carries.

IV. Treasury Report:

Remaining Fund Balance- \$555,820

Remaining Budget Balance- \$85,361

Brad Robin 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- Mike Garrity from LDWF enforcement provided a brief update, Brad Robin expressed concern with oyster vessel captains who have had their oyster harvesters license revoked, but subsequently return to work on the boat as a deckhand. The committee plans to consider the implications of this practice, potential enforcement challenges and possible legislative/ regulatory solutions, the task force sent this item to the Legislative Committee for further discussion, work on licenses and how you lose them and revisit the current laws, Rivers Bagala mentioned an article out of TX where they are buying back commercial oyster licenses

C. Legislative Committee- no report

D. Legal Committee- no report

E. Research Committee- no report

F. Coastal Restoration Committee- George Ricks provided an update to the board, July 17th CPRA officially terminated Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project, talked to Chairman Dove and will be holding a meeting to tweak the operational plan of Davis Pond and Caernarvon, Sam Slavich [requested a review into leases in the Mid-Barataria fallout area, would like to explore the potential of buying back the leases they previously owned in this fallout area](#), Patrick Banks stated that right now there is no mechanism under the law to do this but that does not mean there cannot be, the task force sent this item to the Legislative Committee for further discussion, Sam Slavich motioned to send it to the legislative committee, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

G. Marketing Committee- No report

H. Health Committee- Jennifer Armentor provided an update, 14 illnesses, 2 deaths since last meeting, asked if LDH can add state in which the illness has occurred to their future health reports

I. Aquaculture Committee- No report

J. Joint Task Force Working Group- No report

VI. New Business

- A. Bryan Wallace provided an update on the presidents Executive Order, Resorting American Seafood Competitiveness

Executive Order 14276 - Background

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

Background

- ▶ American Seafood is great
- ▶ Our Seafood Industry faces challenges from:
 - ▶ Federal overregulation
 - ▶ Unfair Trade Practices, resulting in over 90% of our seafood being imported



"With this vast resource and centuries of hard work from American fishermen, our Nation has the greatest seafood in the world."



Executive Order 14276 - Purpose & Policy

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

"The erosion of American seafood competitiveness at the hands of unfair foreign trade practices must end."

Purpose

- ▶ Address unfair trade
- ▶ Level playing field
- ▶ Promote ethical sourcing
- ▶ Reduce regulatory burdens
- ▶ Ensure integrity of supply chain

Policy of United States

- ▶ Promote productive harvest
- ▶ Unburden commercial fishermen from costly regulation
- ▶ Combat illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing
- ▶ Protect seafood market from unfair trade practices of foreign nations



Executive Order 14276 - Actions on Regulation

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

"A New Era of Seafood Policy"

Actions on Regulation

- ▶ Commerce (NOAA) & Health and Human Services shall suspend, revise, or rescind regulations that overly burden commercial fishing at the fishery specific level through consultation with industry.
- ▶ Commerce will solicit public engagement on improving management and science related to Magnuson-Stevens, Endangered Species, and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- ▶ Within 6 months, Regional Fishery Management Councils shall identify actions to reduce burdens and increase production. Councils will develop a work plan to achieve this.
- ▶ Commerce will request public engagement on fisheries management and science priorities for seafood supply chain.
- ▶ NOAA Fisheries shall use less expensive & more reliable technology for fisheries assessments. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries shall expand exempted fishing permits.



Executive Order 14276 - Actions on Trade & Imports

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

"An American First Seafood Strategy"

Actions on Trade and Imports

- ▶ Commerce & Agriculture will develop an American First Seafood Strategy
 - ▶ marketing, production, sale, and export of products
 - ▶ strengthen processing capacity
 - ▶ increasing education on seafood health benefits.
- ▶ Commerce & U.S. Trade Representative will develop a comprehensive seafood trade strategy, including addressing non-tariff barriers.
- ▶ U.S. Trade Representative will examine trade practices of major seafood-producing nations and consider solutions through enforcement and negotiations.
- ▶ Commerce & Homeland Security will address recent changes to expand the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, allowing program to target high-risk shipments from priority nations.



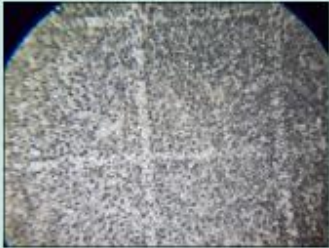
Al Sunseri stated that the oyster industry is impacted by imports, Korean and Canadian oysters have had an impact on LA business and Chinese oysters that supposedly come in cooked but since there are hardly any checks and balances there should be more testing going on, there is a labor issue, doing away with H2B visas might not be a good idea, need a labor system to get the type of labor necessary for this industry, farmers in CA special recognition for this type of thing may need to look into this for the oyster industry

Visioning the Future Workshop will have this in Spring of next year and will work with the Governor's office on this, hypoxia affects the oyster industry sometimes during the summer months August and September sometimes see die offs regularly, Brad Robin stated that the oyster industry would like to be looked at as a farmer so they can be insured, Sam Slavich mentioned closing Mardi Gras pass

B. Beth Stauffer provided a presentation and update on the low salinity oyster research

By the numbers:

 **960+ million oyster larvae bred** to support project goals



Spawns for production

Highly controlled research spawns for validation testing and generational lines

By the numbers:

 **More than 3 million** tolerant spat-on-cultch deployed to LDWF brood reefs since 2023

- Additional **1 million** tolerant singles to be deployed in fall 2025



By the numbers:

4 monitoring stations deployed in oyster growing regions



- 2025: deploy stations in Sabine Lake and Karako Bay
- Data informing research on environmental stressor thresholds in LA estuaries

Link to real-time data via project website:

<https://www.lospat.org/resources>



By the numbers:



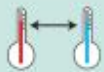
1,600 gallon recirculating water system built & optimized to hold & test candidate broodstock



4,000+ oysters subjected to low-salinity challenge test(s)



6,100 oysters non-lethally sampled for selected spawns



6+ multi-stressor studies led by staff and students





Al Sunseri inquired about how long oysters can survive at the lowest salinity? Test condition is 2PPT, and a temp of 78-80 degrees F, just completed first round of validation, first low salinity oyster challenge 60% mortality on day 40-50 at these conditions, in most recent set parents were identified as having tolerant DNA, grew these up and these lasted a bit longer mortality didn't happen until around day 80 spawning second generation and will have data soon on this, \$14M for the first three years, basically looking at about \$20M total for the project

C. Gene Cavalier provided a Seafood Safety Task Force update

LDAF is working with LDH with seafood testing, had some labeling issues that were corrected, Representative Higgins co-authored a bill on farm-raised legislation, The Seafood Safety Task Force plans to host their next meeting on September 18th at 10am at Department of Ag headquarters

D. Robert Caballero provided an oyster season update



2024-2025 Oyster Season

Final harvest estimates for 2024-2025 oyster season, broken down by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Coastal Study Area (CSA) or Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Shellfish Harvest area.

Table 1. Harvest estimates for the 2024-2025 oyster season on Louisiana's public oyster areas as of 6/02/2025. Harvest estimates are based on either LDWF conducted surveys of oyster harvesting vessels during the oyster season or from daily harvest reporting requirement via eReporting application.

CSA	Area	Season Opening	Season Closure	Season/ type	Days open to Date	eReporting Harvest	Boarding Report Harvest	Vessels Harvesting
1	POSG East of Mississippi river and North of MRGO	23-Sep-24	25-Sep-24	Bedding season	3	3,435 bbl	10,250 bbl	20
		1-Nov-24	30-Apr-25	Market harvest	181	47,472 sacks	58,256 sacks	126
3	Little Lake/ Hackberry Bay	23-Sep-24	25-Sep-24	Bedding season	3	175 bbl	152.5 bbl	4
	Hackberry Bay	1-Nov-24	30-Apr-25	Market harvest	181	261 sacks	381 sacks	5
	Little Lake	14-Oct-24	30-Apr-25	Market harvest	79/199	160 sacks	100 sacks	4
5	Lake Mechant/ Bay Junop	23-Sep-24	25-Sep-24	Bedding season	3	120 bbl	660 bbl	4
		21-Oct-24	25-Oct-24	Market harvest	5	485 sacks	1,704 sacks	21
6	Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay	23-Sep-24	30-May-25	Bedding season	268	0	0	0
		14-Oct-24	30-May-25	Market harvest	229	0	0	0
7	Calcasieu Lake	1-Jan-25	30-Apr-25	east side: Market harvest	95/120	1,789 sacks	6,417 sacks	23
		15-Oct-24	30-Apr-25	West Cove: Market harvest	73/198	144 sacks	971 sacks	4

Table 2. eReporting harvest summary for the 2024-2025 oyster season on Louisiana's public oyster areas.

LDH Area	Activity	Volume	Number of Vessels Harvesting	Harvest Trips
Zone 1	Bedding	60 bbl	1	2
	Sacking	1,566 sacks	7	54
Zone 2	Bedding	3,375 bbl	9	16
	Sacking	4,468 sacks	23	169
Zone 3	Sacking	41,354 sacks	77	1,436
Zone 4	Sacking	84 sacks	1	5
Zone 13	Bedding	175 bbl	2	4
	Sacking	421 sacks	5	16
Zone 21	Bedding	120 bbl	2	4
	Sacking	485 sacks	7	18
Zone 29	Sacking	1,789 sacks	12	191
Zone 30	Sacking	144 sacks	3	19
Grand Total	Bedding	3,730 bbl	14	26
	Sacking	50,311 sacks	98	1,908

Table 3. CSA Boarding run harvest summary for the 2024-2025 oyster season on Louisiana's public oyster areas.

CSA	LDH Oyster Harvest Area	Seed barrel totals to date	Market Sack totals to date	Total Vessels Market Harvesting	Total Vessels Seed Harvesting
CSA 1N	Area 1	2,715	3,058		0
CSA 1N	Area 2	7,535	3,908		20
CSA 1N	Area 3	n/a	51,290		n/a
CSA 1N	Area 4	n/a	0	0	n/a
CSA 1N	Total	10,250	58,256	126	20
CSA 3	Area 13	152.5	481	5	3
CSASW	Area 21	660	1,704	21	3
CSA 6	Area 24-28	0	0	0	0
CSA 7 (East Side)	Area 29	n/a	6,417	23	n/a
CSA 7 (West Cove)	Area 30	n/a	971		n/a
Total		11,063 bbl	67,829 sacks	n/a	n/a

E. Robert Caballero provided an update on the oyster day on the bay

Shell Point



3 Mile Bay CP



Round Island



Millenium Reef



7

Karako Bay



8

Tesvich' s Private Lease near West Karako Bay



9

2022 Drum Bay CP South



11

2022 Drum Bay CP North



12



2024 Morgan Harbor CP



14



2018 Lake Fortuna CP



16



- F. Robert Caballero provided the 2025 oyster stock assessment and oyster season recommendation

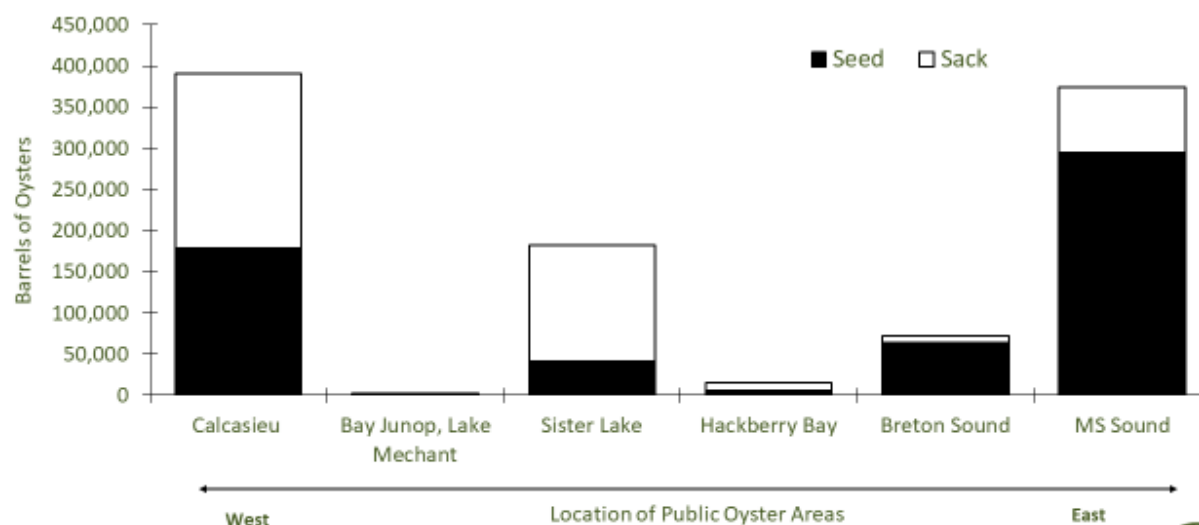
2024-25 Public Oyster Season Observed and Reported Harvest Summary

CSA	Basin/Area	Season/type	Days open to Date	Harvest eReporting (sacks)	Boarding Report (sacks)	% Harvested of 2024 OSA
1	Pontchartrain (POSG East of Mississippi river and North of MRGO)	Bedding season	3	3,435 bbl	10,250 bbl	3.9%
		Market Harvest	181	47,472	58,256	21.5%
3	Barataria (Little Lake/Hackberry Bay)	Bedding season	3	175 bbl	152.5 bbl	1.0%
		Market Harvest	181	421	481	2.0%
5	Terrebonne (Lake Mechant/Bay Junop)	Bedding season	3	120 bbl	660 bbl	17.6%
		Market Harvest	5	485	1,704	61.6%
6	Teche/Vermillion (Vermillion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay POSG)	Bedding season	268	0	0	N/A
		Market Harvest	229	0	0	N/A
7	Calcasieu (Calcasieu Lake)	East Side: Market Harvest	95/120	1,789	6,471	6.3%
		West Cove: Market Harvest	73/198	144	971	0.1%

2



2025 Statewide Oyster Availability



2025/2026 LDWF Oyster Season Recommendation

Area/Public Ground/ Reservation	Season Recommendation	Limit
East of MS River, North of MRGO (LDH Areas 1-4) Sacking	Open November 3, 2025	30 sacks/vessel/day (2 day possession)
East of MS River, South of MRGO (LDH Area 5) Sacking	Open November 3, 2025 (Closes November 28, 2025)	30 sacks/vessel/day (2 day possession)
Sister Lake, East of MS River LDH Areas 1 & 2, Bedding	Open September 29, 2025 (Closes September 29, 2025)	No more than 15% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads
Sister Lake	Open November 3, 2025 (Closes November 14, 2025)	30 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)
Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay	Open for bedding September 8, 2025 Open for Sacking October 13, 2025	No possession limits *Check LDH Closure lines
Lake Tambour, Chien, Felicity, Deep Lake, Hackberry Bay, Barataria Bay, Little Lake, Bay Junop, Lake Mechant	No Season	No Season
Calcasieu Lake (West Cove)	Open November 1, 2025	15 sacks/vessel/day* (take and possession)
Calcasieu Lake (East Side)	Open January 1, 2026	15 sacks/vessel/day* (take and possession)

*15 sacks in aggregate for entire Calcasieu Lake



Recommended Regulations for Oyster Season Opening

- For seed bedding, greater than 15 percent of non-living reef material in bedding loads is prohibited. All vessels must allow on-board inspection and sampling of seed oyster loads by LDWF biologists and/or Enforcement agents.
- All vessels seed bedding on the open public oyster areas, seed grounds, or reservations shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters on board the harvest vessel.
- A vessel is limited to either harvesting market oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically prohibited from doing both on the same day.
- Any individual actively harvesting oysters in the public oyster areas, seed grounds, or reservations designated as "closed" by LDH shall be properly permitted for such transplant/ relaying by LDH in accordance with the state sanitary code.
- The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit, and these properly-permitted vessels shall not harvest oysters while operating under the cargo permit.
- All vessels located in public oyster areas, seed grounds, or reservations during those times between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise must have all oyster scrapers unshackled.



Additional Recommended Regulations for Oyster Season Reopening – Electronic Reporting Requirements

- Electronic Reporting will be done through an application by Shellcatch through your smart phone (available for Android & Apple)
- Every vessel harvesting oyster resource from the Public Oyster Areas shall report harvest information to the LDWF before 9 pm each day fished.
- Vessels shall provide the following information: Captain's name, oyster harvester number, vessel number, the total number of sacks harvested that day, total barrels of seed removed, and the public oyster area fished (LDH Harvest Area).
- The registration requires email or phone number, name, oyster harvester license number, and type of license to register. Once the account is created, a fisherman will add their vessels.



- Sampling performed in July 2025
- 107 sampling sites visited
- 545 total replicate samples collected



■ Seed Oysters □ Sack Oysters ▲ LTA Seed ◆ LTA Sack



2025 Public Oyster Stock Assessment

Availability in barrels (1 barrel = 2 sacks)
GREEN/bold = Increase, **RED/*** = Decrease compared to 2024.

CSA	Basin/Area	Seed	Market-Size	Total	Total %
1N	Pontchartrain (Lake Borgne/MS Sound)	294,442.5	80,066.6*	374,509.1*	-5.2%*
1S	Pontchartrain (Black Bay/Breton Sound)	64,282.9	7,765.1	72,048.0	1,481.0%
3	Barataria (Hackberry Bay)	5,654.4*	9,217.8*	14,872.2*	-44.4%*
5E	Terrebonne (Lake Chien /Felicity)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5W	Terrebonne (Sister Lake)	41,865.3	140,956.2	182,821.5	303.2%
5W	Terrebonne (Lake Mechant/ Bay Junop)	741.9*	308.5*	1,050.4*	-79.5%*
7	Calcasieu (East Side)	71,332.4	49,497.2*	120,829.6	41.3%
7	Calcasieu (West Cove)	107,403.3*	162,955.4*	270,358.6*	-59.5%*
	Statewide Totals	585,722.6	450,766.9*	1,036,489.4*	-15.8%*



Oyster Task Force Recommendation Motion

Area/Public Ground	Season Recommendation	Limit
East of MS River, North of MRGO Sacking	Open November 1, 2024 (Closes April 1, 2025)	30 sacks/vessel/day
Hackberry Bay	Open November 1, 2024 (Closes April 1, 2025)	30 sacks/vessel/day
Bay Junop, Lake Mechant, Little Lake, Hackberry Bay, East of MS River LDH Areas 1 & 2, Bedding	Open September 23, 2024 (Closes September 25, 2024)	No more than 30% of non-living material allowed in bedding loads
Bay Junop and Lake Mechant	Open October 21, 2024 (Closes October 25, 2024)	30 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)
Vermilion /Atchafalaya Bay	Open for bedding September 23, 2024 Open for Sacking October 14, 2024 (Closes May 30, 2025)	No possession limits *Check LDH Closure lines
Lake Tambour, Chien, Felicity, Deep Lake, Sister Lake, East of MS River-South of MRGO	No Season	No Season
Calcasieu Lake (West Cove)	Open October 15, 2024	15 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)
Calcasieu Lake (East Side)	Open January 1, 2025	10 sacks/vessel/day (take and possession)



Al Sunseri Sister Lake open later in the year, lots of product available, only request for a change

Ante Tesvich stated that last year recommended a 3 day bedding season, one day is not good enough if you have bad weather or break down, would like to see if we can go to three day bedding in areas 1 and 2

Al Sunseri suggested letting it go for three days for bedding but leave the authority to the secretary to close it

Peter Vujnovich motioned suggest a 3 day bedding season for the northern Pontchartrain basin area, but leave the Sister Lake area at one day bedding, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries.

G. Mitch Jurisich provided an update on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion operation stating the projects was no longer moving forward

H. Anna Koehl led discussion on the Let the World Be Your Oyster event

Anna Koehl stated that last year the task force spent close to \$50,000 for the event

Brad Robin motioned to provide up to \$50,000 in funding for the task force to host the 2026 Let the World Be Your Oyster event, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries

I. The Oyster Task Force considered funding for a 2025/2026 PR contract for Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald

Brad Robin motioned to approve \$50,000 in funding for a PR contract with Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald for one year, 2nd Sam Slavich. Motion carries.

J. Eric Sunstorm provided a legislative update

Passed: Signed by Governor: HB 497 (Act. No 201) by Jeremy LaCombe→The proposed bill amends provisions of the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program to allow charter boat captains to directly provide fish to retail food establishments for preparation. It outlines requirements for packaging, labeling, and refrigeration of fish or alligator meat and mandates participation permits for establishments and captains. The bill also allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to suspend or revoke permits for rule violations. Effective Date: 8-1-25. Last Action: 6-8-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1425131>

HR 36 (Enrolled) by Brett Geymann→The proposed bill approves the Fiscal Year 2026 annual state integrated coastal protection plan as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board. It affirms the board's responsibility to oversee coastal protection efforts and outlines public input requirements, funding priorities, and legislative review. The plan becomes effective upon legislative approval or by default if not disapproved by July 1, 2025. Effective Date: 6-4-25. Last Action: 6-4-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1421169>

SB 23 (Act. No 91) by Eddie Lambert→The proposed bill amends requirements for seafood dealer receipt forms in transactions with commercial fishermen. It mandates that dealers provide a copy of the signed receipt to the fisherman within 24 hours of the transaction, rather than immediately. Dealers must also record specified details—such as species, quantity, price, and licenses—on the form within 24 hours. The bill aims to clarify responsibilities and timing for accurate documentation. Effective Date: 8-1-25. Last Action: 6-8-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1424910>

SB 94 (Act. No 105) by Mike Fesi Sr→The proposed bill redefines “waters of the state” to include the “Gulf of America” instead of the “Gulf of Mexico” and updates relevant statutes accordingly. It also clarifies definitions related to pollutant discharge, fastlands, and the state’s coastal boundaries. The bill mandates terminology changes across Louisiana laws and confirms that these changes will not affect land or water ownership or access rights. Effective Date: 6-8-25. Last Action: 6-8-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1424930> **Pending Signature: Governor’s**

Desk: HB 548 (Enrolled) by Jeremy LaCombe→The proposed bill establishes how revenue from carbon dioxide sequestration on state-owned property, including land managed by state agencies, will be distributed. Thirty percent of injection-based revenue will go to affected parish governments, with the remainder directed to either the State General Fund or the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. It mandates reporting, defines revenue types, and preserves conditions of prior land donations accepted by the state before August 1, 2025. Effective Date: 8-1-25. Last Action: 6-10-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1423479>

HB 652 (Enrolled) by Timothy Kerner→The proposed bill transfers authority for testing, sampling, enforcement, and reporting of imported seafood from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. It creates a regulatory framework for the Imported Seafood Safety Program, including civil penalties for violations, quarterly reporting by processors and distributors, and provisions for stop orders. It also transfers the Seafood Safety Task Force to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Effective Date: Per Constitutional Timeline. Last Action: 6-10-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1423392>

SB 69 (Enrolled) by Brach Myers→The proposed bill establishes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation Escrow Account to fund hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, limiting administrative costs to ten percent. It also modifies eligibility and fee structures for combination licenses for seniors and retired or honorably discharged military members. Eligible residents may obtain annual licenses for \$20, with documentation requirements clarified for proof of military service. The bill ensures support and access for qualified individuals. Effective Date: 8-1-25. Last Action: 6-10-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1422944>

SB 244 (Enrolled) by Bob Hensgens→The proposed bill amends and reenacts various sections of R.S. 30:1, updating definitions and provisions related to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. It revises the structure and duties of the department, including the establishment of new divisions and the delegation of responsibilities among officials. The bill also addresses procedural aspects, such as the issuance of permits and the enforcement of regulations, to enhance the department's efficiency and effectiveness in managing natural resources. Effective Date: Per Constitutional Timeline. Last Action: 6-12-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1424192>

Failed to Pass (House): House Ways and Means: HB 149 (Voluntarily Deferred) by Marcus Bryant→The proposed bill makes licensed charter boat fishing guides eligible for existing state and local sales and use tax exemptions related to commercial fishing ventures. It retains current law for commercial fishermen and extends the same tax benefits to licensed guides. Additionally, the bill removes an outdated reference to processing facilities that were previously eligible for the exemption under prior law. Effective Date: Failed to Pass. Last Action: 5-6-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1400230>

House Transportation: HB 301 (Substituted by HB 676) by Jessica Domangue→The proposed bill requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish rules for handling abandoned vessels, including tagging by law enforcement, third-party recovery, owner information access, and procedures for obtaining salvage titles and selling recovered vessels. It mandates notification to registrants about ownership responsibility. The bill also requires the department to adopt rules for registering and titling vessels that are abandoned or lack proper documentation, aligning with existing law. Effective Date:

Failed to Pass. Last Action: 4-29-25. Read full provisions here:
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1402210>

House Natural Resources and Environment: HB 550 (Substituted by HB 652) by Timothy Kerner→The proposed bill requires seafood processors and distributors to submit quarterly reports to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism detailing the volume, species, and origin of seafood bought and sold. It also mandates that dealers applying for imported seafood licenses provide an annual detailed accounting to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The departments are authorized to track this data and issue penalties for noncompliance. Effective Date: Failed to Pass. Last Action: 4-22-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404301>

HB 604 (Voluntarily Deferred) by Joseph Orgeron→The proposed bill authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the wildlife and fisheries commission to create a red drum tag program. It allows for the issuance of tags permitting the harvest of red drum exceeding the 27-inch limit, provided population health is considered. The bill sets a \$25 fee for the tag and specifies how collected fees may be used. Effective Date: Failed to Pass. Last Action: 4-16-25. Read full provisions here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404548>

VII. Public Comment- no comment

VIII. The next meeting set for Tuesday, October 7, 2025 for 10:00am New Orleans Airport for 10:00am, the Legislative Committee will host a meeting prior for 9:00am

IX. Sam Slavich motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion Carries.