

LOUISIANA SEAFOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE

MINUTES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Director, Mr. Gene Cavalier, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Ms. Blaire LeBlanc, LDAF Staff, called roll, and the following Commission Members were present:

Commission Members Present

Ms. Allison Dumas

Dr. Evelyn Watts

Mr. Andrew Blanchard

Mr. JB Hanks

Ms. Rachael Mathews

Mr. Will DuBos

Ms. Martina Salles

Alternates Present:

Ms. Alexis Turner

Ms. Natachia Stelly

With Seven (7) members and Two (2) alternates present, a quorum was declared.

The following members were absent: Representative Christopher Turner, Senator Micheal Fesi, Mr. Chalin Dulaune, Ms. Theresa Sokol and Ms. Jessica Elliot.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

- a. Commissioner Mike Strain addressed seafood safety, legislative updates, and federal alignment.
- b. Director, Mr. Gene Cavalier announced Ms. Allison Dumas's promotion to Director of Certified Louisiana to the board.
- c. Ms. Allison Dumas presented an overview of Certified Louisiana and will coordinate closely with Mr. Gene Cavalier to utilize the certified program for expanded seafood promotion.

IV. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 09, 2026, MINUTES.**

- a. Mr. Will Dubos moved to approve the minutes from the February 09, 2026, meeting. Ms. Martina Salles seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. LDAF SEAFOOD INDUSTRY SAFETY FEE AND REPORTING FORM UPDATE.

- a. Mr. Gene Cavalier gave an update of quarterly seafood reporting letters sent to permit holders on February 5, 2026.
- b. Ms. Allison Dumas gave an update on mandatory and voluntary reporting.
- c. Mr. Kevin Finley gave an update from Commissioner Strain and the collection of Seafood Safety Task Force fees.

VI. LDAF W&M INSPECTION NUMBERS & LAB TEST RESULTS TO DATE.

- a. Seafood Testing.
 - i. 689 seafood samples (shrimp and crawfish) have been collected as of July 14, 2026.
 - 1. Of the 489 seafood samples, 489 have completed the testing process.
 - ii. The following positive test in shrimp samples:
 - 1. Florfenicol from a product of Thailand.
 - 2. Ciprofloxacin from a product of India.
 - 3. Nitrofurantoin metabolite SEM from a product of India.
 - 4. Nitrofurantoin metabolite AOZ from a product of Indonesia.
 - 5. Nitrofurantoin metabolites AOZ and SEM from a product of India.
- b. Seafood Labeling.
 - i. 1,790 packages were inspected as of June 14, 2026.
 - 1. Inspections were performed at 136 locations statewide.
 - 2. 23 instances of packages not in compliance.
 - 3. 18 stop orders resulting in 724 packages that had to be removed and/or corrected.
 - 4. One company went through the adjudicatory process, resulting in three packages being changed/modified to comply with the Louisiana law.

VII. LDH INSPECTION NUMBERS TO DATE AND PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE TESTED SEAFOOD.

- a. Greg Richard, Bureau Director for Sanitarian Services at LDH, reported that the 2025 introduction of fines (\$500 to \$2,000) for unlabeled imported shrimp and crawfish has successfully dropped statewide restaurant violations from 107 in January 2025 to 21 in January 2026. LDH enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy for commingling imported and domestic seafood, requiring immediate menu updates for compliance. Unpaid fines, which total \$10,000 to \$14,000 monthly, are tied directly to permit renewals to ensure collection.
- b. Destruction involves either on-site denaturing with bleach under inspector supervision or supervised, incremental disposal at authorized landfills for large-scale operations. For a detailed breakdown of these, and other, procedures, consult the official Louisiana Department of Health website.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Report from Mr. Gene Cavalier on the passage of House Bill 121, highlighting the new statutory authority granted to the Commissioner to seize, hold, and destroy

non-compliant imports, alongside the upcoming August 1st expansion of the Seafood Safety Task Force.

- b. Update from Mr. Gene Cavalier regarding formal outreach and ongoing federal advocacy with Acting Director Mike Edenberg to secure Louisiana's representation within national seafood infrastructure initiatives.
- c. LDAF Certified Louisiana Brown Shrimp Promotion: Presentation on the department's \$120,000 multi-media marketing campaign launched for the May brown shrimp season, including an official clarification that core seafood safety laboratory testing funds will remain strictly protected from marketing diversions.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

Monday, September 14, 2026, at 10:00am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 11:33 a.m. to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Will DuBos and seconded by Ms. Martina Salles. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Signature

Printed Name