

LOUISIANA SEAFOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES

Monday, February 09, 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 10:07 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. Chalin Delaune
Ms. Martina Salles
Mr. JB Hanks
Mr. Patrick Banks
Ms. Rachael Mathews
Mr. Will DuBos
Ms. Jessica Elliott

Alternates Present:

With Nine (9) members present, a quorum was declared.

The following members were absent: Representative Christopher Turner (Chairman), Senator Micheal Fesi, and Mr. David Savoy, Ms. Theresa Sokol, and Mr. Andrew Blanchard.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Patrick Banks to nominate Ms. Allison Dumas as Chair. Seconded by Mr. Will Dubois. All members were in favor. Motion carried.
- b. A motion was made by Mr. Patrick Banks to nominate Mr. Will Dubos as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Chalin Delaune. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, AND DECEMBER 09, 2025, MINUTES.

- a. Ms. Martina Salles moved to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2025, meeting. Dr. Evelyn watts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Mr. Patrick Banks moved to amend the minutes of the December 09, 2025, meeting. Mr. Will Dubos 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. 489 seafood samples (shrimp and crawfish) have been collected as of February 09, 2026.
 - 1. Of the 489 seafood samples, 469 have completed the testing process.
 - 2. 20 samples are currently in various stages of 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.
- b. Seafood Labeling.
 - i. 1,229 packages were inspected as of February 09, 2026.
 - 1. Inspections were performed at 95 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.
- c. Ms. Bethany Gonzales, LDAF Attorney, updated the commission on the adjudicatory hearing process and fine amounts.
- d. Mr. Paul Floyd, Director of Weights and Measures, updated to commission on the stop order process and compliance with LA R.S. 3:4706.

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

- a. Mr. Gene Cavalier expressed appreciation to the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force and Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries on funding for testing.
- b. Mr. Gene Cavalier provided example/s of policy and procedure of positive testing according to FDA.
- c. Mr. Gene Cavalier provided an update from Mr. Greg Richard, LDH on imported seafood inspections in the restaurant industry from December 2025 to January 2026.
- d. Ms. Bethany Gonzales explained the Louisiana State law and FDA testing tolerances and health concerns to the public.

- e. A motion was made by Mr. Chalin Delaune to make a recommendation to edit the Louisiana law to specify zero tolerance. Seconded by Ms. Martina Salles. Dr. Evelyn Watts, Mr. JB Hanks, Mr. Patrick Banks, and Ms. Rachael Mathews abstained. 2 yes, 3 no, and 4 abstained. Motion fails.
- f. A motion was made by Mr. Chalin Delaune to make a recommendation to add zero tolerance into the annual report for the legislature. Seconded by Ms. Martina Salles. 6 yes and 3 no. Motion passes.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

None.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 10:00am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 11:57 a.m. to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Will DuBos and seconded by Mr. Patrick Banks. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Allison Dumas

Chairman Signature

Allison Dumas

Printed Name