**Shrimp Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 10:00am**

**Terrebonne Council Meeting Room**

**8026 Main Street**

**Houma, LA 70360**

**Roll Call**

**Voting Members Present:**

Acy Cooper, Jr.- Chairman

Lance Nacio

Rodney Olander

Alan Gibson

Andrew Blanchard

**Voting Members Absent:**

George Barisich

Ronald Dufrene, Sr.

Steven Sode

Kristen Baumer

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder

Chad Hebert

Stephen Sessums

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Adam Eitmann

Jack Isaacs

Justin Gremillion

Andrew Blanchard motioned to accept the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

Proposed an amendment to the agenda to add an item ‘to new business, ‘To Hear Discussion on the Shrimp Gear Permit Program and Introducing New Gear’

Alan Gibson made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Remaining FY2018 Fund Balance: $501,117

Remaining Budget Balance for FY2018: $93,340

Motion to accept the financial report by Andrew Blanchard, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries.

Peyton Cagle (LDWF) provided the task force with a presentation on the 2018 Spring Shrimp Season

The task force requested for LDWF to provide more information prior to the setting of the next shrimp season so that the board might provide a recommendation to the Commission, also suggested ride-alongs at the end of March/ April 2019

Mike McDonough (LDWF) provided an update on the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program

Acy Cooper led discussion on the LA Wild Seafood Certification Program rules and regulations

The task force raised concern regarding the improper labeling of seafood by companies in the LA Wild Seafood Certification Program, requested more stringent enforcement on improper labeling

Alan Gibson motioned to request that LDWF Enforcement provide an update to the task force on the improper labeling case, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

The task force considered date proposals to reschedule the Shrimp Task Force Washington, D.C. trip

Alan Gibson motioned to continue support to fund travel expenses for the task force to reschedule the trip to Washington, D.C. to walk the hill , 2nd by Rodney Olander. Motion carries.

Rodney Olander led discussion of gear restrictions on 4-rig boats that shrimp within the 3-mile limit; no action taken by the task force regarding this item

Acy Cooper addressed the board with STF seat vacancies and member absentee/alternate fill-in notices

The task force discussed the Shrimp Gear Permit Program and a new gear proposal

The task force made plans to further discuss the program and work with Sea Grant legal and LDWF to draft/ propose changes to the gear program’s current rules and regulations

Alan Gibson motioned to postpone item H. Officer Elections and Alternate Designees until the next meeting, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion Carries

The next Shrimp Task Force meeting was set for Wednesday, July 11, 2018 for 10am in Houma.

Motion to adjourn by Alan Gibson, 2nd by Rodney Olander. Motion carries.