

LOUISIANA SEAFOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE

MINUTES

September 18, 2025, 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 10:08 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. Theresa Sokol
Mr. Andrew Blanchard
Mr. JB Hanks
Mr. Patrick Banks
Ms. Rachael Mathews
Mr. Will DuBos
Ms. Martina Salles

Alternates Present:

Shelly Dupre

With eleven (11) members present, a quorum was declared.

The following members were absent: Rep. Christopher Turner (Chairman), Senator Micheal Fesi, Ms. Jessica Elliot and Mr. David Savoy.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

- a. Mr. Patrick Banks made a motion to nominate Ms. Allison Dumas for Vice Chair, Mr. Chalin Delaune seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2025, MINUTES.**

Mr. Chalin Delaune moved to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025, meeting. Mr. Will DuBos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. INTRODUCTION OF SEAFOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE MEMBERS.

Mr. Gene Cavalier introduced the commission members. Each commission member gave a brief introduction of themselves.

VI. LDAF SEAFOOD DOCUMENTARY VIDEOS (EDUCATION & PROMOTION).

Mr. Gene Cavalier presented educational documentary videos on the shrimp, crawfish and finfish industry from the Commissioner.

VII. LDAF W&M INSPECTION NUMBERS & LAB TEST RESULTS TO DATE (POWER POINT PRESENTATION).

- a. Full power point presentation attached.
- b. Mrs. Bethany Gonzales, LDAF attorney, provided an update that rule promulgation is in progress in compliance with Act 300 of the 2025 regular session. The final rule is expected to be published in the December 2025 edition of the Louisiana Register.

VIII. LDH INSPECTION NUMBERS TO DATE.

Mr. Gene Cavalier provided an update he received from Mr. Greg Richard, on behalf of the Department of Health, on imported seafood inspections in the restaurant industry from January 2025 to mid-September 2025.

IX. UPDATE FROM SeaD ON SEAFOOD TESTING

Mr. David Williams presented a slide show on SeaD Consulting. Complete slide show attached.

X. ADDITIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MEMBERS (OYSTER, FINFISH, CRAB) FOR SEAFOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE.

- a. The board discussed requesting additional members from other seafood industries, oyster, finfish, and crab to The Seafood Safety Task Force in the next Legislative Session.
- b. A motion was made by Andrew Blanchard to ask each Oyster, Finfish and Crab Task Force for a designee they would recommend for the board. Seconded by Martina Salles. Patrick Banks, Theresa Sokol and Dr. Evelyn Watts abstained. Motion passed. 7 yes, 4 abstained.
- c. Public comment was received on the motion from the following members of public:
 - i. Mitch Jurisich, Chairman of The Louisiana Oyster Task Force, expressed his concern of imported oysters and the market.
 - ii. Kim Chauvin recommended commercial members for The Louisiana Finfish Task Force.
 - iii. Brad Robin from The Louisiana Crab Task Force expressed his interest in having a member to represent each task force.
 - iv. Dr. Melancon with LaSea Grant, along with LSU AG Center and Louisiana Task Force will be sponsoring and putting on a workshop in the spring of next year.
- d. Dr. Evelyn Watts, LSU AG Center, there is an influx of imported Venezuelan crab meat in the United States.

- e. Andrew Blanchard amended the motion to choose a commercial not a recreational individual, if possible, to avoid user conflict.
- f. Rusty Gaude' LaSea Grant, expressed the impact of foreign catfish in the industry.

XI. NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW LEGISLATION FOR LOUSIANA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.

Mr. Gene Cavalier asked that each task force add agenda items to each meeting for discussion and share with other user groups and agencies.

XII. NEW BUSINESS.

Patrick Banks, LDWF, gave an update on the imported seafood dealer licenses issued this year. Also, that Dr. Jack Issac, Economist for LDWF, did an economic analysis on all imports coming from Indonesia.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

- a. Jack Issacs, Economist for LDWF, provided there is a summary report on seafood imports on the LDWF website.
- b. Mr. Gene Cavalier complimented and thanked each member of the board and the public.

XIV. SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

December 09, 2025.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 12:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Will DuBos and seconded by Mr. Andrew Blanchard. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Signature

Printed Name