

Clam Industry Task Force Meeting – April 19, 2006

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture announces a conference call of the Clam Industry Task Force. Other parties interested in participating should call Rachelle Coleman prior to the meeting at (850) 488-4033 for instruction.

Date: April 19, 2006

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Purpose: To discuss 2005 Hurricane Damage affecting the Florida Clam Industry.
A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting Rachelle Coleman at 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Meeting Agenda

Clam Industry Task Force Meeting
1203 Governors Square Blvd., 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida
April 19, 2006
1:00 pm-2:30 pm

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Minutes
- III. Introduction New Advisor Member-Joanne McNeely
- IV. Agriculture Tax Assessments for Aquaculture Processing Facilities
 1. Department of Revenue-Lisa Echeverri
- V. USDA Aquaculture Block Grant Update
- VI. Agriculture Law Enforcement Boat
- VII. Shellfish Harvest areas Outside the "Impact" Zone for the Caloosahatchee
- VIII. Agriculture Law Enforcement Presentation-Bob Johnson
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjourn Clam Industry Task Force
 - I. Shellfish Extension Report

Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes
CLAM INDUSTRY TASK FORCE
Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
Tallahassee, Florida

April 19, 2006

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm. Mark Berrigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Clam Industry Task Force.

II. Minutes

The minutes from the January 19th meeting in Cedar Key were approved.

III. Member Introduction

Mr. Berrigan introduced Joanne McNeely as the newest ex officio member.

Joanne is representing the Division of Marketing and Development, Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture. Joanne briefly described her bureau's current activities as well as their capabilities. As question was asked about the Fresh from Florida Campaign and it was stated that if you were not a member you are missing some valuable advertising opportunities or if you are a holder of a Saltwater Products License or a Dealers license, you get the benefits free with the licenses. It was also asked if a SPL or Dealers license was needed in you had an Aquaculture Certification. Joanne answered no you do not and David Heil stated that Rule 5L-1 will need to be amended to reflect that.

Members Present

Rose Cantwell	Sue Colson
Charles Sembler	Tony Heeb
Mike Hodges	Bill Lartz
Chris Topping	Dan Leonard
Rick Viele	Billy Leeming
Leslie Sturmer	Dan Salano

Members Absent

Ricky Cooke
Joe Weissman

Ex Officio

Leslie Sturmer
Mike Salario
Sherman Wilhelm
David Heil
Mark Berrigan
Joanne McNeely
Darlene Snider

Guests

IV. Agriculture Tax Assessments

Lisa Echeverri of the Department of Revenue generally discussed DOR's role with the County Property Appraisers and made suggestions for the industry to contact legislative staff to review the situation. One statement was made that Appraisers are taxing the shellfish processors at the highest and best use rate. Revenue is going to review the question with all of the counties to see if there is uniformity or if it is an isolated activity. The University of Florida is coordinating a workshop on this subject to be held on May 9. DOR did state that they knew that Appraisers were separating out the homesteads on farms and taxing them differently.

V. USDA Aquaculture Block Grant Update

There has not been a change or activity on the block grants since the last meeting.

VI. & VIII. Agriculture Law Enforcement

Bob Johnson provided the update on Ag Law Enforcement activities. A new officer has been hired to fill the aquaculture position. The boat has been fixed and a new one will be purchased in the next fiscal year. The four clam lease areas will be placed on a rotation. Task Force members suggested that a closer working relationship be formed between DACS and FWCC. Ag Law will also start meeting with local clam associations and determine their individual needs. A lengthy discussion was held on the identification of clam and placing ID tags in grow out bags. The task force decided that more discussion will be required before making a recommendation. Additional input was had on whether daytime surveillance or nighttime surveillance was better.

Ag Law will provide another update at the next meeting.

VII. Shellfish Harvest Areas Outside the "Impact" Zone for the Caloosahatchee

No comment was made.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Sebastian. A suggested day and time of August 23 after 1:00pm was offered and to be confirmed later after everyone's calendars were checked.

XI. Adjournment

The Clam Industry Task Force adjourned at 3:00pm and moved immediately into the Shellfish Extension Planning Session.