

Clam Industry Task Force Meeting – April 18, 2007

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture announces a meeting of the Clam Industry Task Force. Guests and other parties interested in participating should meet at the Division of Aquaculture, 1203 Governors Square Blvd., 5th Floor, Tallahassee, Florida.

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Time: 12:30 am to 3:00 pm

Place: Division of Aquaculture
1203 Governors Square Blvd., 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Purpose: To discuss issues 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

Phone (850) 488-4033.

Meeting Agenda

AGENDA **Clam Industry Task Force Meeting**

Meeting: April 18, 2007
Time: 12:30 am-3:00 pm
Location: Division of Aquaculture
1203 Governors Square Blvd, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida

- I. 12:30 am Welcome
- II. Minutes
- III. Updates
 - i. Hurricane Cleanup Contracts
 - ii. Legislation
 - iii. Clam Seed
- IV. 1:45 pm-2:00 pm 15 min Break
- V. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* update
- VI. Dock BMPs and Rule 18-21
- VII. Public Comment

- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. 3:00 pm Adjourn Clam Industry Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes
CLAM INDUSTRY TASK FORCE
Meeting
Tallahassee, Florida

April 18, 2007

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:45pm. Paul Zajicek welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Clam Industry Task Force. Sue Colson presented the department on behalf of the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association a memorandum on the lateness of the mail out of the meeting notice, agenda, minutes, and need the presence of David Heil and Mark Berrigan.

II. Minutes

The minutes from the February 8, 2007 meeting was approved.

Members Present

Bill Lartz	Sue Colson
Joe Weissman, by phone	Rose Cantwell
Bill Leeming	Dan Solano
Dan Leonard	Mike Hodges

Members Absent

Tony Heeb	Rick Viele
Ricky Cooke	Charles Sembler
Chris Topping	

Ex Officio

Leslie Sturmer	Mike Salario
Sherman Wilhelm	Joanne McNeely

Guests

Kal Knickerbocker	Paul Zajicek
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III. Updates

- a. Hurricane Cleanup Contracts. Rose Cantwell summarized the activities of the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association's contract to disperse hurricane funds. Each county on the west coast has been utilizing funds to cleanup, replace

signage on the leases, and provide replacement seed and bags. Contract running smoothly and reimbursements are being made timely.

- b. Legislation. Sherman Wilhelm reviewed a list of 9 bills that could affect the clam industry as well as other agriculturists. There are not any bills currently filed that negatively affect the division or the clam industry. Discussion around the property tax bills occurred as did the anticipated revenue from the month of March. It was reported that the division's budget was not being cut and was being proposed to be funded at its base, with money for replacement boats and motors.
- c. Clam Seed. Mike Hodges initiated the discussion about the clam seed hatchery at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI). There was general agreement from the task force that the loss of the HBOI hatchery represented a 30-40% reduction in clam seed availability. Letters had been sent to HBOI with little success. Sherman relayed a discussion he had with Dr. Shirley Pomponii of HBOI and her willingness to renegotiate Dr. Joe Wiseman's hatchery lease. Mike Hodges then asked for a list of short term solutions and long term solutions. Short term suggestions were to continue HBOI, and get other producers to produce more seed. Long term suggestions were to obtain state funding for a marine lab. A lengthy discussion followed on the need of having more research done to solve the clam hatchery problems. Specifically, inability to stop seed from prematurely dying. Leslie Sturmer relayed a discussion she had with Dr. Denise Petty of UF, IFAS about looking into disease issues in clam hatcheries and her willingness to assist the industry. Additionally, a person is needed to be able to do extension work in the area of disease prevention and control. Most of the task force present agreed that a person was needed to do that type of work and someone who was familiar with the industry would be preferable. Mike Salario suggested that the task force look at the Tropical Aquaculture Lab as a model and Dan Leonard suggested the industry oyster lab in Apalachicola. A motion by Dan Leonard and seconded by Sue Colson to form a subcommittee of the task force to look into the idea of obtaining a disease extension person and funding. The subcommittee members are: Bill Leeming, Dan Leonard, Leslie Sturmer, Mike Hodges, and Dan Solano.

Mike Salario had to leave the meeting to attend a legislative subcommittee meeting and asked the task force to consider electing a chair and vice-chair to the task force. After a thorough discussion about the floating chair versus single chair concept, the task force decided to elect a chair and vice-chair. Elected for a one year term were: Mike Hodges-chair and Rose Cantwell-vice chair. DACS will continue to be staff to the chair and the chair will be the contact person for agenda items as well as setting meeting times and places according to government in the sunshine requirements.

At 2:00pm, the task force decided to skip the planned short 15 minute recess and continue on with the meeting.

V. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* update

David Heil was unable to attend the meeting due to being with the FDA officer doing the review of the division's water classification program. Copies of his presentation given at the Apalachicola meeting with the industry and the ISSC were distributed. Dan Leonard stated that V.p. was not moving that fast, but that 10 illnesses had been attributed to V.p. last year. Further discussion was delayed

until the next meeting when David Heil could be present. Paul Zajicek was preparing to provide his presentation on DACS responsibilities under BMPs for activities in aquatic preserves, when the task force requested instead a discussion on the origin of the activity. Paul Zajicek explained that the Coastal Zone Management Act requires five year planning and this came out of the adopted CZMA plan by NOAA. Money was funded late in last year to do educational workshops and industry update sessions. The task force expressed great stress in not being informed of the project and having the opportunity to participate in its formulation. DACS agreed that better notice should have occurred and that regular updates with notices of future meetings will be distributed to task force members. Attached to these minutes is a copy of the schedule of the remaining workshops.

VI. Dock BMPs and Rule 18-21

Sue Colson raised the question as to what has changed in the last three weeks to cause a shift in policy in regard to docks. Kal Knickerbocker responded that nothing had changed. The policy for docks and what could be constructed on them has remained the same since DACS started handling aquaculture docks in lieu of DEP. At issue is the desire to place three “breakaway walls” on the aquaculture dock. Leslie Sturmer responded that Rusty Price at the NE regional DEP office did allow breakaway walls on some docks and requested DACS to call him. This issue was brought to light through an inquiry from a City of Cedar Key Building Inspector. After a lengthy discussion over residential versus aquaculture and DEP, WMD and DACS, it was concluded that DACS would contact DEP and determine the reasons for the dock requirements, why residential docks were different and why the discrepancy between the state agencies. Sherman Wilhelm notified the task force that rule 18-21, Florida Administrative Code, dealing with leasing on state land is being opened by the division and amended to include the changes that occurred to chapter 253, Florida Statutes, in 2005. Workshops will be planned and everyone will get notice of the workshops ahead of time and will need to participate in helping formulate the rule.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Joanne McNeely provided a review with copies of brochures and posters of what her bureau had been doing. Bill Lartz asked about a new anti-fouling paint not yet on the market and possible clam breeding suggestions. Dan Leonard was familiar with the proposed anti-fouling material and where it was in the approval process with the federal government. A thorough discussion concerning the selective breeding ideas brought up by Bill Lartz.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be decided by Chairman Hodges.

IX. Adjournment

The Clam Industry Task Force adjourned at 3:13pm.