

Clam Industry Task Force Meeting – November 1, 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 Pine Island Public Library, 10700 Russell Road, Bokeelia, Florida.

Date: Thursday, November 1, 2007

Time: 12:30 am to 3:30 pm

Place: Pine Island Public Library
10700 Russell Road
Bokeelia, FL 33922

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

Meeting Agenda

AGENDA **Clam Industry Task Force Meeting**

Meeting: November 1, 2007
Time: 12:30 pm-3:30 pm
Location: Pine Island Public Library
10700 Russell Road
Bokeelia, FL

- I. 12:30 pm Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. "Perkinsis, what is it and what does finding it mean?"
- V. Updates
 - i. Charlotte County Area
 - ii. Cedar Key & West Coast Cleanup
 - iii. Franklin County
 - iv. Leslie Sturmer
- VI. 1:45 pm-2:00 pm 15 min Break

- VII. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* update
- VIII. 18-21 Proposed Rule Amendment
- IX. Agricultural Law Enforcement Funding Letter
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Next Meeting
- XII. 3:30 pm Adjourn Clam Industry Task Force Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes
Clam Industry Task Force Meeting
Pine Island Public Library
November 1, 2007

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was chaired by Dan Leonard, who opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and presided over the agenda and discussions. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

Members and guests introduced themselves. The following persons were in attendance.

Members Present

Dan Leonard	Bill Lartz
Tony Heeb	Rick Viele
Sue Colson	Charles Sembler
Mike Hodges	Bill Leeming
Dan Solano	Rick Viele

Members Absent

Joe Weissman	Chris Topping
Ricky Cooke	Rose Cantwell

Ex Officio

Leslie Sturmer	Mark Berrigan
Darlene Snider	David Heil
Mike Salario	

Guests

Kathleen Hartman	Joy Hazell
Denise Petty	Barry Hurt
John Falcone	Tammie Heeb
Curt Hemmel	
Tom McCrudden	

Marty Tanner

II. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the April 18, 2007 Clam Industry Task Force meeting were reviewed and accepted without objection.

III. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the Clam Industry Task Force Meeting on November 1, 2007 was accepted without objection.

IV Presentations regarding Perkinsis

Drs. Hartman and Petty provided presentations “Perkinsis, what is it and what does finding it mean?” The presentations included an overview of World Organization of Health (OIE), USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, disease reporting requirements and responses. The presentation also included discussions about specific *Perkinsis* species, particularly *P. marinus*, which infects local oysters, and *P. olseni*, which has recently been identified in imported ornamental Tridacnid clams. Venerid clams, including hard clams, are susceptible to infection with *P. olseni*. Current efforts to monitor hard clam health were discussed, and concern was raised regarding the possible presence of disease in Manilla Clams in hatcheries in Hawaii. Marty Tanner participated in discussions related to risk assessments and initiating a pilot quarantine program for giant clams.

V. Regional Updates

Updates of regional activities were presented by regional representatives and addressed activities associated with the hard clam assistance program. Dan Leonard reported positive results of the seed distribution program in the Charlotte / Lee County region, where 1.5 million clam seed (4.0mm) were distributed to 56 program participants. Leslie Sturmer provided a status report on the current derelict bag removal project in the Cedar Key area and the availability of lease educational signs and reward signs for all counties. Bill Lartz provided an update of assistance actions in Franklin County, including placing new signs, shoreline cleanup and distribution of new growout bags.

Leslie Sturmer also gave project reports on several on-going projects, including the status of the weather/water quality monitoring stations, the sun ray venus project, hard clam genetics issues, and the availability of the pictorial guide to clam bag ecology. Leslie also announced the WWF Molluscan Dialogue which will take place in Orlando, and urged industry participation in the meeting.

VII. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* update

David Heil presented an update of recent issues related to *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp), including the Vp risk assessment, statistical analyses, and results. It was noted the risk assessment for Vv does not include hard clams. Several other topics were discussed, including educating clam farmers regarding food safety issues, HAACP, and the possibility of developing food safety BMPs. A discussion about the possibility of including hard clams in a marketing /

educational program jointly with oyster is the next version of “Oyster School” resulted in agreement that it would be advantageous to broaden the scope of Oyster School to include hard clams.

VIII. 18-21 Proposed Rule Amendment

Mark Berrigan, DACS, provided a overview of the need to amend Chapter 18-21, F.A.C. and pointed out the need for and merits of the proposed modifications. Most task force members were familiar with the rulemaking process and the value of getting the current rule modified. The task force requested that five public workshops be conducted, one in each of the primary hard clam growing areas.

IX. Agriculture Law Enforcement Funding Letter

A letter (September 25, 2007) from Chief Johnson (Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement) was distributed to task force members. The letter included an itemized list of expenditures related to the contract administered by the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association. The list of expenditure accounted for \$14, 969, and included the acquisition of a new outboard motor, steering cables, trailer, night vision equipment, spot light, and equipment boxes.

X. Public Comment – New Business

Task Force members discussed the following issues without action:

- * impacts of current and proposed budget reductions;
- * the need to notice task force meetings;
- * the advantages and disadvantages of rotating meeting chairs compared with a single chair;
- * the need for requiring a notary to complete audits; and
- * certified hatcheries providing health and genetic information to seed buyers

XI. Next meeting.

Deciding the next meeting place and date was deferred.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.