

ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

Louisiana leads the United States in the production of alligator skins. After rebuilding the population through research, management and law enforcement during the 1960s, the wild harvest from 1972 through 2018 has produced over 1,082,000 wild skins. In 2018, the alligator industry, including the wild harvest, egg collection, and farm raised alligators, has generated in excess of \$120 million in economic benefit to the state of Louisiana.

The wild harvest has averaged approximately 28,270 skins annually, worth over \$8.5 million dockside including meat during the past five years. The 2018 wild harvest of 20,165 alligators was valued at over \$4.4 million, which includes the value of the alligator meat. In calendar year 2018, farmers sold 449,523 skins, which averaged 28.1 cm belly width and were valued at over \$104 million, including the value of the alligator meat. Since 1986 the Louisiana alligator ranching program has collected over 10.6 million eggs and returned over 1.1 million healthy alligators back to the wild.



WASHINGTON D.C. EDUCATION

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) contracted with Glenn Delaney to stay abreast of any Legislative movement that might be of interest to LDWF, the Fur Advisory Council, or the Alligator Advisory Council.

Mr. Delaney met with key members of Congress and their staff to educate them on issues important to Louisiana's sustainable use wildlife programs. He carefully monitored the legislative efforts of animal rights groups and their advocates on Capitol Hill so that any anti-trapping or anti-sustainable use bills could be addressed in a timely manner.

Mr. Delaney sought funding for research on infectious diseases affecting Louisiana's alligator population. Although funding for this research was not appropriated, the Senate Appropriations Committee Report stressed the need for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to focus on this critical issue.

Mr. Delaney worked closely with LDWF administration and program managers to address pertinent legislative issues. The funding for the contract was split equally between the Fur Advisory Council and the Alligator Advisory Council's budgets.



Martin Falbisoner, Wikimedia Commons

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE 635o

LDWF contracted with Advocacy and Consulting upon recommendation of the Alligator Advisory Council to facilitate the successful passage of legislation that would eliminate the sunset clause to Penal Code 653o. The sale of alligator and crocodile products within the state of California is permitted as an exemption to the anti-wildlife trade laws under this bill until the sunset clause activates on Jan. 1, 2020. During

this partnership, Advocacy and Consulting was able to provide valuable information about the lawmaking process in California, and identify the focal points of contact in the California Assembly. Advocacy and Consulting was also able to promote the various benefits of alligator products and garner support for Assembly Bill (AB 527) from Assembly members and stakeholder groups. AB 527 would have eliminated the

sunset clause within 653o and allowed the continued sale of non-endangered alligator or crocodile products in California. Although Advocacy and Consulting was able to facilitate getting AB 527 to a hearing in front of a key Assembly Committee, AB 527 was eventually unsuccessful and the contract was terminated. The council continues to discuss the importance of exempting alligators from the anti-wildlife trade laws.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIGATOR & CROCODILE TRADE STUDY

The Alligator Advisory Council and LDWF contracted with the World Conservation and Monitoring Center to develop the International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study report. This report has been funded since 1988 to monitor world trade in all crocodilians and to increase accountability of sustainable management practices.



ALLIGATOR MARKETING & TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION

LDWF contracted with Monarch Marketing to provide technical representation at national and international meetings and to provide marketing for Louisiana alligator hides.

Monarch Marketing established international alliances within the Crocodile Specialist Group, the International Crocodile

Farmers Association, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Important policy forming meetings attended during this fiscal year included two major international CITES meetings, one in Geneva, Switzerland and the other in Sochi, Russia.

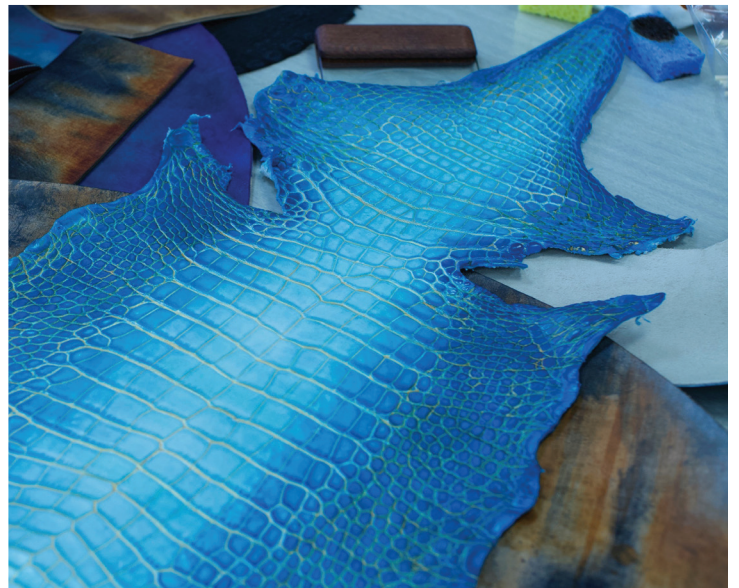
Monarch Marketing also attended several leather fairs, such as the Lineapelle Italy Leather Exhibition in Milan, the Lineapelle New York Leather Fair in New York City, and the Asia Pacific Leather Fair in Hong Kong. Monarch Marketing provided information to designers about how to easily comply with CITES processes.

Monarch Marketing created some educational and marketing materials including a series of short videos on the sustainability program of the Louisiana alligator. The videos were distributed to industry members, tanneries, traders, and brands who could share the video on social media.

Monarch Marketing maintains social media accounts through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to promote Louisiana alligator. The target audiences for these social media accounts are the general public, tanners, and manufacturers.



CITES: Conference of the Parties



2018-2019 EXPENDITURES

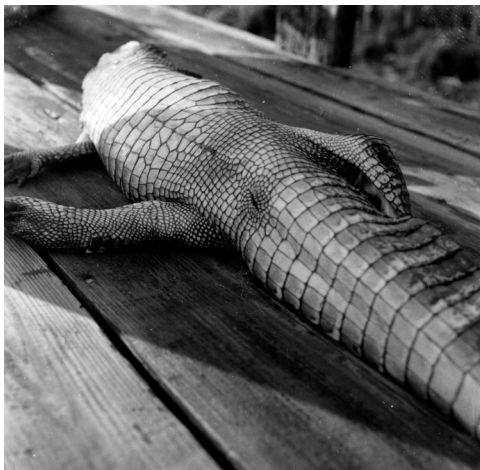
The Alligator Advisory Council operates within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and is responsible for reviewing and approving recommended marketing, research, and educational programs to be funded from the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund to ensure that any monies from the funds are expended for the specific goals of the council.



ALLIGATOR RESOURCE FUNDS	
Budgeted	\$500,000.00
Salaries	\$34,276.55
Related Benefits	\$15,672.04
Supplies	\$3,026.93
Operating Services	\$1,069.79
Professional Services	\$287,154.37
Other Charges	\$15,637.25
Inter-Agency Transfer	\$578.00
Alligator Resource Funds Expended	\$357,414.93

HISTORICAL PHOTOS

In FY 2018-2019, Alligator Advisory Council staff scanned and archived historical alligator photos dating back to the 1950s.



LOUISIANA ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVES

Randy Moertle - Western Coastal Zone
108 Mar Drive, Lockport, LA 70374
rmoertle@bellsouth.net
Term: July 1, 2017- June 30, 2023

Tom Benge - Eastern Coastal Zone
206 Decatur Street
tom.benge@gmail.com
Term: July 1, 2019- June 30, 2025

Vic Blanchard, Chairman - Central Coastal Zone
PO Box 694, Plaquemine, LA 70765
vblanchard@awilbertsons.com
Term: July 1, 2015- June 30, 2021

ALLIGATOR HUNTER REPRESENTATIVES

Tony Howard - North of US Hwy 90 Representative
170 Thomas Street, Sarepta, LA 71071
mahoward@centurytel.net
Term: July 1, 2019- June 30, 2025

Alidore Marmande - Southeast Representative
840 Vice Road, Houma, LA 70360
almarmande@yahoo.com
Term: June 24, 2013- June 30, 2021

John Currier - Southwest Representative
610 Colonial Drive, Port Allen, Louisiana 70767
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Term: July 1, 2017- June 30, 2023

ALLIGATOR FARMER REPRESENTATIVES

Jeff Donald
907 Cheniere Drew Road, West Monroe, LA 71291
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Barry Wall, Vice Chairman
26900 Hwy. 1037, Springfield, LA 70462
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Term: July 1, 2015- June 30, 2021

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