Getting Back to the Source:
Reconnecting Sustainable Seafood and Responsible Fisheries Management
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

- 1857: First Conservation Law in Louisiana Passed
- 1909: Louisiana Board of Commissioners for the Protection of Birds, Game, and Fish
- 70-80 Commercial Fisheries
- ~300 Fisheries Managers, Scientists, Administrators
- ~200 Enforcement Agents in LDWF Enforcement Division
US Federal-Louisiana Sustainable Fisheries Legislation Harmonization

• US fisheries under federal jurisdiction are “inherently sustainable” (NOAA FishWatch)

• Louisiana statutes are already broadly in line with federal statutes to conserve and manage

• Louisiana Revised Statutes most recently amended mission and mandates in 2014
Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 56

• 638.2. Findings. The State of Louisiana recognizes that...
  – A strong state program for the wise conservation, management, and sustainability of the fish resources of Louisiana is necessary to maintain plentiful fish populations, to prevent overfishing, to rebuild reduced stocks, to ensure conservation, and to realize their full potential.

• 638.5. Fishery Standards...
  – Conservation, management, and sustainability measures shall be based upon the best scientific, economic, biological, anthropological, and sociological information available.
Gulf of Mexico State Fisheries: Small-Scale, Warm-Water Coastal Fisheries

- Low capital-, high labor-intensive harvest techniques
- Limited data
- High fecundity
- High abundance
- High Spawning Potential Ratios (SPR)
- Short life-cycle (12-18 months)
- Complex estuarine ecosystem
Best Management Practices for Small-Scale, Warm-Water Coastal Fisheries

- Special consideration for small-scale fisheries
- Availability of data
- Different management systems
- Alternative approaches to stock assessment
- MSY proxies and reference points
- Suitable methods of risk assessment
- Traditional fisher knowledge
- Relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental, and commercial aspects
Louisiana Local Public-Private Partnerships

Louisiana Crab Task Force

Louisiana Oyster Task Force

Louisiana Shrimp Task Force
Collaboration Case Study: TED Enforcement

• 1987 law prohibited state enforcement of TEDs
• Law created a negative perception of the LA shrimp industry
• Reality:
  – Shrimpers were following federal laws on TEDs and tow times
  – Coast Guard and NOAA enforcement
• Repealed in 2015 due to industry and state management support
Blue Crab MSC Certified
2012-2017

Other Species Pre-Assessed:
• Shrimp
• Catfish
• Crawfish
• Black Drum
• Oyster
Audubon Nature Institute
Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.)
About G.U.L.F.

- Sustainable Seafood Program under Audubon Nature Institute
  - Aquarium, Zoo, Insectarium and other educational facilities in New Orleans
- Founded in 2012
- Home-grown, boots on the ground program

G.U.L.F.

Certification  Fishery Improvement Projects  Outreach and Education
Our Definition of Sustainability

- Ecosystem
- Economy
- Culture and Heritage
- Wildlife + Way of Life
Community Engagement and Outreach

App and Pocket Guides

Festivals

Industry Engagement

Restaurant Program
Audubon G.U.L.F. FAO-Based
“Responsible Fisheries Management” (RFM) Certification

Fisheries Certified:
• Blue Crab
• Oyster

Others Pre-Assessed:
• Shrimp
• Crawfish
• Black Drum
• Red Snapper
• Catfish
Fishery Improvement Plans + Marine Advancement Plans

MSC-based Fishery Improvement Plan

FAO-based Marine Advancement Plan
KEY FACTORS TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY

1. **IDENTIFY INTERESTED PARTIES IN FISHERY**

2. **EDUCATE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ON SUSTAINABILITY AND BENEFITS OF CREATING SUSTAINABILTY INITIATIVES AND GOALS**

3. **COLLABORATION AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AND GOALS**
IDENTIFY AND ENGAGE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE FISHERY TO OBTAIN SUSTAINABILITY

1. RETAILERS/DISTRIBUTORS
2. GOVERNMENT
3. NGOS
4. INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS (PROCESSORS/FISHERMEN)
5. CONSUMER (MARKET DEMANDS)
COLLABORATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND INITIATIVES

1. IDENTIFY AND COMMUNICATE AREAS OF FISHERY IMPROVEMENT

2. CREATE A COLLABORATIVE WORK PLAN TO ACHIEVE GOALS

3. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
Keys to Achieving Sustainability Success

1. COLLABORATION AMONG ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
2. THINK GLOBAL BUT ACT/ENGAGE LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
3. FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE FISHERY; CERTIFICATIONS WILL FOLLOW IF IMPROVEMENTS ARE ACCOMPLISHED
4. DEVELOP SYSTEMS AND SCHEMES APPROPRIATE TO THE FISHERY
Key Pitfalls to Avoid

- Top-down dictates
- One-size-fits-all systems and schemes
- Exclusion of small-scale fishermen and suppliers as essential stakeholders in sustainable value chains
- Exclusion of fisheries managers as stakeholders in sustainable fisheries and seafood management
Ways Forward

- Enhance capacity within your firm, in and across business lines and throughout the supply chain
- Carry out your own due diligence
- Treat third-party assurance providers as actual third parties
- Establish partnerships with knowledgeable local partners
- Adopt a genuinely inclusive stakeholder approach
Thank You