



Terrapin Conservation Efforts in Louisiana

Keri Lejeune

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Crab Subcommittee Meeting

March 11, 2021

- Proposed revisions to existing herp regulations
 - Prohibit commercial harvest for DBT
 - Prohibit take of any wild turtle eggs
 - Update civil restitution bounties
- Louisiana Turtle Conservation Plan
- FY 21-22 Priorities for SWG proposals
 - Investigate the current distribution, abundance, and genetics for DBT
- Gulf Coast DBT Conservation Action Plan (CAP)
- SEPARC/PARC TNT Workshop- Enhancing Cross-jurisdictional Partnerships to Confront the Illicit Turtle Trade in the SE U.S.
- State Herpetologist position
 - Vacant since June 2020, until recently



Previous Research/Survey Efforts

- USFWS State Wildlife Grants
 - Surveys of the Aquatic Turtle Fauna in Southwestern Louisiana, with Emphasis on Three Louisiana Species of Conservation Concern (*Will Selman, Peter Lindeman, Eddie Lyons, Cybil Huntzinger, Irvin Louque, Jr. & Steve Shively-2011*)
 - Evaluation of Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Nesting Habitat and Reproductive Productivity throughout Coastal Louisiana (*Steven Pearson and Jon Wiebe- 2012*)

Current Research/Survey Efforts

- Nicholls State University (*Timothy Clay; tim.clay@nicholls.edu*)
 - Mark-recapture surveys
 - 2020- trapped with fyke nets at Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge (5x) and Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge (2x); trapped in June and just before Hurricane Laura, no terrapins were detected
 - 2021- trapping began in early March at Elmer's Island; 1 terrapin detected
 - Plans to survey at Elmer's Island and East Grand Terre this year
 - Future work includes nest surveys





Keri Lejeune
State Herpetologist
337-735-8676
klejeune@wlf.la.gov

