

Fall 2013 Meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

October 28 & 29, 2013
New Orleans, LA



Hotel information

The Omni Royal Orleans

621 St. Louis Street

New Orleans, LA 70140

Tel: 504-529-5333

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/neworleansroyalorleans.aspx>

The hotel does not provide shuttle service.

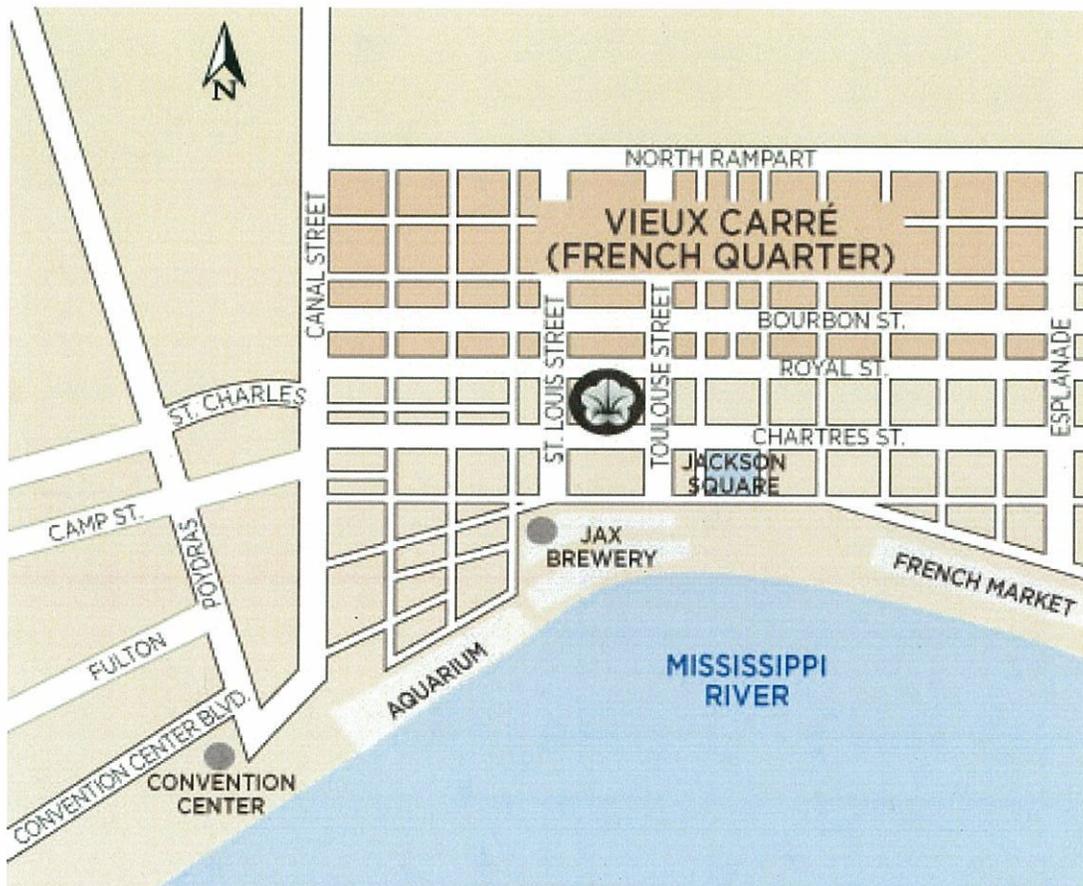
Getting to the Hotel

Taxicabs

Airport Taxi Service - approximately \$33 one-way (1-2 passengers), \$14 per person (3 - 5 passengers).

Airport shuttle

Airport Shuttle - approximately \$20 one-way; \$38 round-trip, per person (round-trip tickets must be purchased in advance at the airport).





Fall 2013 meeting agenda New Orleans, LA

October 28, 2013:

Breakfast is on your own.

Meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

Location: Omni Royal Orleans Conference Line: Toll free # 866-809-8847
621 St. Louis Street Passcode # 6194272
New Orleans, LA

8:30 a.m. **CONVENE - Orleans Room**

Welcome & Introductions

- Thom Dammrich, SFBPC Chair

8:35 a.m. **Welcome from the Department of the Interior and the Office of Governor Bobby Jindal**

- Rachel Jacobson - *Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior*
- Garret Graves - *Chair of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana and Executive Assistant to Governor Bobby Jindal for Coastal Activities*

9:05 a.m. **Welcome to Louisiana & New Orleans**

- Overview of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries activities and recreational fishing and boating in Louisiana
- Randy Pausina, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Bayou Sauvage & Big Branch Marsh: Overview of National Wildlife Refuges in the New Orleans area
- Kenneth Litzenberger, Refuge Complex Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Crescent City lagniappe: A little somethin' about New Orleans music & culture
- *Invited presenter TBD, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, National Park Service*

9:45 a.m. **BREAK**

10:00 a.m. **Federal / State fisheries management in Louisiana and the Gulf Region**

- *Randy Pausina, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries, LDWF*
- *Doug Boyd, Chair, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council*
- *Jeff Angers, Center for Coastal Conservation*

Synopsis: The panel will discuss federal and state fishery management activities in the Gulf of Mexico, and the issues created as a result of the interactions between these jurisdictions: Randy Pausina will present a state perspective; Doug Boyd will present a perspective from the federal management council and update on its activities; and Jeff Angers will present a user group perspective on the impacts of management decisions on the recreational angling community.

Action: Informational

11:00 a.m. **Gulf Restoration / RESTORE Act update**

- *Rachel Jacobson, Acting Assistant Secretary, DOI*
- *Garret Graves, Executive Assistant to Governor Jindal for Coastal Activities*
- *Chris Macaluso, Director, Center for Marine Fisheries, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership*

Synopsis: The panel will provide updates and a status report related the on-going efforts to restore impacts to the Gulf of Mexico region as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010: Rachel Jacobson will provide an update on implementation of the RESTORE Act and negotiations over natural resource damages associated with the Deepwater Horizon spill; Garret Graves will present a state perspective on the various recovery & restoration efforts; and Chris Macaluso will provide an NGO perspective. Chris will also discuss a recent report from TRCP which lists priority restoration project funding recommendations from the conservation community.

Action: Consider recommending to DOI that projects which prioritize benefits to fish and wildlife recovery, especially those resources that support outdoor recreation opportunities, receive funding.

12:00 a.m. **LUNCH** (*Lunch is on your own. There are many restaurants within walking distance. Please back prior to 1:15 so that we can stay on schedule.*)

- 1:15 p.m. **National Ocean Policy implementation Update**
 - *Deerin Babb-Brott, Director, National Ocean Council*
 - *Garrett Graves, Executive Assistant to Governor Jindal for Coastal Activities*
 - *Laura Bowie, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Alliance*
- Synopsis:** The panel will discuss the on-going implementation of the National Ocean Policy: Deerin Babb-Brott will provide an update on the implementation of the NOP nationally; Garret Graves will give a state perspective; and Laura Bowie will present the perspective of a regional planning body.
- Action:** Informational
- 2:00 p.m. **Update on the Implementation of the DOI Idle Iron policy and the Rigs to Reefs Program**
 - *Herb Leedy, Chief, Environmental Review Unit, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior*
 - *Douglas Peter, Artificial Reef Coordinator, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior*
 - *Mike McDonough, Rigs to Reefs Program manager, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries*
- Synopsis:** The panel will discuss the status of the Rigs to Reefs Program and the impacts of the recently announced revised BSEE policy guidance to increase reefing activities. Herb Leedy and Doug Peter will provide an update of federal implement. Mike McDonough will present a state perspective, including the impact of the new policy guidance on state program activities.
- Action:** Informational
- 2:30 p.m. **Implications of Federal shutdown on boating, hunting, and angling**
 - *John Arway, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission & SFBPC member*
- 2:45 p.m. **Refuge Vision Implementation Plan update**
 - *Anna Harris, Division of Visitor Services & Communications, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- 3:00 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:15 p.m. **Outreach and Communications Committee**
 - *Scott Kovarovics, Chair*
- *RBFF assessment: Update and 2013 assessment project scoping*
 - *Scott Kovarovics*
 - *Doug Hobbs, SFBPC Coordinator*
 - *Phil Seng & Ed Rudberg, D.J. Case and Associates*

4:30 p.m. **ADJOURN** (*Dinner plans TBD*)

October 29, 2013

Breakfast is on your own.

8:30 a.m. **CONVENE** – *Thom Dammrich, SFBPC Chair*
- *Welcome and introductions*

8:35 a.m. **Outreach and Communications Committee**
- *Scott Kovarovics, Chair*

- Update on the activities of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)
- *Frank Peterson, President, RBFF*
- Discuss follow-up to Council letter to Secretary Jewell regarding issue priorities
- *Scott Kovarovics,*
- *Doug Hobbs, SFBPC Coordinator*

9:05 a.m. **Fisheries Issues Committee**
- *Mike Nussman, Committee Chair*

- FWS update on status of Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (15 minutes)
- SFBPC Fish & Aquatic Resource Conservation Strategic Vision and Needs Assessment: Status update and report back from FWS (45 minutes)
- *David Hoskins, Assistant Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Mike Nussman*
- *Doug Hobbs*
- Update on the activities of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (10 minutes)
- *Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*
- Update on Susquehanna River smallmouth bass disease (10 minutes)
- *John Arway, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission & SFBPC member*
- Mass marking of salmonids in the Great Lakes and reauthorization of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (15 minutes)
- *John Arway, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission & SFBPC member*
- *James Dexter, Fisheries Division Chief, Michigan Department of Natural Resources*
- *Leroy Young, Jr., Director, Bureau of Fisheries, PA Fish and Boat Commission*

- Update on NOAA Fisheries activities & issues (10 minutes)
- *Russell Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries*

11:00 a.m. **Boating Issues Committee**

- *John Sprague, Committee Chair*

- Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program Update (15 minutes)
- *Lisa Van Alstyne, Acting Chief, Division of Policy and Programs, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- Trust Fund reauthorization update (10 minutes)
- *Lisa Van Alstyne, FWS*
- *Ron Regan, AFWA*
- *SFBPC members*
- E-15 and the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (15 minutes)
- *Ron Regan, Thom Dammrich, John Arway*
- Update of the National Boating Access Assessment being conducted by the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) (10 minutes)
- *James Adams, SFBPC member & SOBA President*
- Update on Ad Hoc team to options for increasing participation in both the Boating Infrastructure and Clean Vessel Act Grant Programs (10 minutes)
- *Ryck Lydecker, Ad Hoc Team Chair*

12:15 p.m. Public comment / new business

12:30 p.m. **ADJOURN**

****NOTE: Meeting minutes will be made available 90 days after the meeting date.**