

Meeting Notes  
February 2007 FL DTWG

National DTWG update:

- Formulated and approved bylaws
- developed articles of incorporation and became incorporated in Florida
- procured a solicitation of contributions permit
- www.dtwg.org updated (by Willem Roosenburg)

Action items/Accomplishments

- derelict crab pot removal in the Gulf (NOAA grant)
- MD legislation to limit terrapin fishery (harvest)
- support of legislation in South Carolina to end harvest and marketing of terrapins in SC (successful)
- new logo

Other Regional Meetings:

- NE: Sept. 16
- Mid Atlantic: March 2
- SE: Feb. 25 (at International Sea Turtle Symposium in Myrtle Beach)
- Gulf: ???

Gulf issues:

- hurricanes
- ? regional representative
- large and unwieldy area, so hard to get together

We must get our 501c.3 status = tax exempt. Hopefully by April (contact Brian Mealey).

Triennial meeting: August 10-12, 2007, Millersville, MD (Willem Roosenburg organizing)

Abstracts due by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

MD harvest: major concern.

SEE AGENDA, PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

Discussion re: BRDs

Support from crabbers, effort management program

Blue Crab Advisory Board

No one in State agency is pushing BRDs, no state-wide cleanups

Of FL fisheries, blue crab fishery is #5 (1=shrimp, 2=stone crab, 3=lobster, 4=?)

Currently 400 traps allowed per fisher, no closed season for FL crabbing

? Regulations ?

Stakeholder group, issues team

Enforcement issues with BRDs

FL Keys Audubon Society is interested in terrapins  
Coordinated effort: SE PARC, Wildlife Society, Audubon, DTWG as part of Stakeholder group

Sometimes during the political process, BRD data may not make a difference...  
Need to give FL Marine Fisheries Management a run-down of other states' experiences with BRDs (e.g., NJ, MD)

Discussion of terrapins on display at educational facilities, need not to take them out of the wild.

Need for a brochure (regional or national?)  
FL brochure, Kevin Kemp to work on

Discussion of next meeting (Cedar Key, FWC facility)