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## Report Highlights

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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## Why We Conducted This Audit

On November 9, 2016, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) issued a Financial Audit Services procedural report on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) Management Oversight of Funds and Operations. That report included a finding on the lack of financial and operational oversight over the nearshore segment of the British Petroleum (BP) Tissue Sampling Program. During that audit, LLA discovered missing state equipment and initiated this follow-up investigative audit.

## What We Found

### Missing State Equipment

We were unable to locate \$54,957 of fishing and other sporting equipment that LDWF purchased for the nearshore segment of the BP Tissue Sampling Program, as that equipment is no longer in LDWF's possession. LDWF records and employee statements indicate that two of its former employees, Eric Newman and Monique Savoy, used LDWF credit cards (also referred to as state purchasing cards) to purchase a majority of the equipment; maintained that equipment at LDWF's Venice camp, where Mr. Newman and Ms. Savoy lodged; and failed to record and safeguard the equipment. The missing equipment could not be located by LDWF staff after Mr. Newman and Ms. Savoy resigned from their positions in January 2014. During our audit, we identified items totaling \$19,762 (nearly 36% of the \$54,957) that matched the descriptions of LDWF's missing items that were either in Mr. Newman's and Ms. Savoy's possession or previously had been offered for sale online by Ms. Savoy.

### Improper Relationships with LDWF Vendors

LDWF records, social media postings, and statements from LDWF employees indicate that former LDWF Marine Operators Eric Newman and Monique Savoy may have had improper relationships with LDWF vendors. LDWF records indicate that Mr. Newman and Ms. Savoy received and/or solicited items of economic value from vendors who had or were seeking a financial relationship with LDWF. Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1115 prohibits public servants from soliciting or receiving anything of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or employee of any person who has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.

View the full report, including management's response, at [www.lla.la.gov](http://www.lla.la.gov).