

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

WATERWAYS: To express support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and to memorialize congress to provide continued funding

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana  
3 Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), as well as support for continued  
4 funding for this important effort, and to recognize the important role the cruise plays  
5 in understanding and conserving our coastal resources by memorializing the United  
6 States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to authorize continued  
7 funding for this most important endeavor.

8 WHEREAS, the growth of a large area of low-oxygen off Louisiana's coast, known  
9 as the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone or "Dead Zone", has been a long-standing issue of  
10 concern for the state because of the risks it poses for our commercial and recreational fishing  
11 and seafood industries, and its wider impacts on marine life in the Gulf; and

12 WHEREAS, the summer cruises to map the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone,  
13 conducted by scientists at the LUMCON in Cocodrie, Louisiana, have been carried out each  
14 year since 1985, providing a consistent and long-term baseline and record of data on the  
15 annual extent and formation of the zone, which has in turn aided the development of models  
16 to predict its yearly size and future growth; and

17 WHEREAS, these cruises, utilizing Louisiana scientists, researchers, graduate and  
18 undergraduate students, and cooperating universities and other partners, are the primary  
19 means of measuring the size of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and its growth or  
20 reduction, as well as the progress of efforts to reduce it, including the efforts of the

1 state-federal Gulf Hypoxia Task Force with which the state of Louisiana has been a  
2 participant since 1997; and

3 WHEREAS, the LUMCON mapping cruises have been largely funded through the  
4 federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reflecting the importance of the  
5 Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and Louisiana's coastal fishery and waters as resources of  
6 national concern; and

7 WHEREAS, because this federal funding is at risk of discontinuation, and the annual  
8 LUMCON summer mapping cruise was cancelled in 2016 for only the second time in thirty-  
9 one years, the continuation of this vital work is itself at risk.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
11 express its support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana  
12 Universities Marine Consortium, in recognition of the important role it plays in the  
13 understanding and conserving of our coastal resources, as well as its support for continued  
14 funding for this important effort by memorializing the United States Congress and the  
15 Louisiana congressional delegation to authorize continued funding for this most important  
16 endeavor.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the  
18 officers of both houses of the United States Congress and each member of the Louisiana  
19 congressional delegation.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 64 Engrossed

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Zeringue

Expresses support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the La. Universities Marine Consortium, as well as support for continued funding for this important effort, and recognizes the important role the cruise plays in understanding and conserving our coastal resources by memorializing the U.S. Congress and the La. congressional delegation to authorize continued funding for this most important endeavor.