

1 Implementation Group, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration (RESTORE) Council and the
2 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and

3 WHEREAS, oyster reefs, as shoreline protections, are recognized as an important
4 method of restoration and protection against land loss as identified in the Louisiana Coastal
5 Protection and Restoration Authority Coastal Master Plan and the LDWF Oyster
6 Management Plan; and

7 WHEREAS, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's (CRCL) Oyster Shell
8 Recycling Program has prevented nearly ten million pounds of shell from entering landfills
9 through recycling shell from New Orleans metro area restaurants since 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, recycled shell collected from shucking houses and restaurants is
11 currently being used by the CRCL, the LDWF, and oyster farmers to rebuild oyster reefs for
12 protection, habitat improvements, and harvest-related activities; and

13 WHEREAS, oyster shells are a valuable commodity owned by the state of Louisiana
14 that should not be wasted; and

15 WHEREAS, oyster shell is a superior substrate for use in remote setting, clutching,
16 and reef restoration activities; and

17 WHEREAS, oyster shell is also a valuable substrate for projects to build coastal
18 resilience; and

19 WHEREAS, a study to determine how much shell is diverted to landfills or
20 transported out of state has not been conducted in the past sixteen years.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct a study to
23 determine how many oyster shells are recycled or reused, transported out of state, or go into
24 Louisiana landfills.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall determine what steps the agency
26 recommends to further divert shells from landfills and into Louisiana waters to benefit the
27 coastal ecosystem, coastal restoration, and protection, and to encourage oyster reef
28 propagation.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
30 Fisheries shall submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Natural

1 Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources not later than
2 January 5, 2022.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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)]

HCR 26 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Coussan

Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct a study to determine the final destination of oyster shells removed from La. waters and submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources not later than Jan. 5, 2022.