

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 24, 2023, as Coastal Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, with a population of more than two million people, coastal Louisiana is home to a rich diversity of people, communities, and cultural traditions and is home to a variety of industries, ecosystems, and natural resources which feed and nourish its people and the nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisianians have a deep and abiding love for their coast, and their rich cultural heritage is closely connected to the land and water; and

WHEREAS, with thirty percent of the nation's wetlands and ninety percent of its wetlands loss, Louisiana has lost over 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s as a result of both natural and manmade changes to the environment; and

WHEREAS, our state plays a vital role in the economic infrastructure of America, with her ports carrying 20 percent of all United States waterborne commerce, providing 26 percent (by weight) of commercial fisheries landings, and supplying 18 percent of our nation's oil; and

WHEREAS, the coast's intrinsic value as a working coast, home to millions of citizens and natural habitats, makes it one of the nation's most unique and valuable landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has invested over \$21.4 billion in coastal protection and restoration projects since 2007, benefitting 55,807 acres of habitat (87.2 square miles), 369 miles of levee improvements, and 71.6 miles of barrier islands and headlands; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), along with other state and local government officials, economic development organizations, energy companies, coastal scientists, engineering professionals, and environmental nonprofits around the state are working together to design, build, and operate large-scale restoration and risk reduction solutions aimed at preserving the state's history, culture, ecosystems, and natural resources that are threatened by ongoing land loss and flood risk; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal industry, driven by CPRA's Coastal Master and Annual Plans, will support over 10,000 jobs statewide and \$641 million in labor income in Fiscal Year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature wishes to recognize and commend all those who are working proactively toward a more sustainable and resilient coast.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 24, 2023, as Coastal Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and further recognizes the importance of coastal restoration and protection in Louisiana and all those who contribute to this work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board and executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE