

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission operates as a policy-
2 making board, among other authorities, and is charged with the control and supervision of
3 the wildlife of the state, including all aquatic life; and

4 WHEREAS, R.S. 56:325.1(A)(1) provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries
5 Commission may set by rule, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, daily
6 take, and possession, and size limits for saltwater finfish caught recreationally in Louisiana
7 territorial waters, based on biological and technical data; and

8 WHEREAS, in the absence of the commission adopting a rule, R.S. 56:325.1(B)
9 currently provides for a size slot limit for red drum with a sixteen inch minimum and a
10 twenty-seven inch maximum, but this statutory default limit allows for the possession of one
11 red drum above twenty-seven inches; and

12 WHEREAS, present rules and regulations provide civil restitution values are
13 calculated on replacement costs when those figures can be determined from a combination
14 of published American Fisheries Society hatchery values and other valuation guidelines,
15 though calculating the value on a market per-pound cost basis is a sound approach to
16 recouping the loss of an illegally taken red drum; and

17 WHEREAS, conservation and protection of red drum and other species of saltwater
18 fish for future generations of Louisianians to enjoy requires collaboration between the
19 legislature, the commission, and all fishermen.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 urge and request the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt a rule, in
22 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, that no person shall take, possess, or kill
23 any red drum over twenty-seven inches in total length when measured with the mouth
24 closed.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
26 and request the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt, in accordance with
27 the Administrative Procedures Act, a progressive wildlife restitution fee schedule,
28 commensurate with the market rate per pound of red drum, which shall be imposed on any
29 person found to have taken any red drum in violation of any law or rule or regulation.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

