

1 WHEREAS, the population of wild alligators in the state has recovered so well that
2 they are now becoming a problem; and

3 WHEREAS, more nuisance alligators are being reported in residential areas than ever
4 before; and

5 WHEREAS, commercial fishermen are experiencing increasing damage to their
6 traps, nets, and other gear from alligators; and

7 WHEREAS, the conservation measures put in place many years ago to help restore
8 a healthy population must now be reduced in order to protect Louisiana citizens and
9 fishermen; and

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries issues a limited number of
11 tags each year based on the acreage of the property with which the tags are associated; and

12 WHEREAS, while the tags should still be issued for the purposes of the Convention
13 on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the department
14 should modify the formula used to calculate the number of tags issued for individual
15 properties so that many more tags can be issued for commercial hunting; and

16 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2009 the state operated a bonus tag program for hunters
17 that inadvertently caught alligators six feet and under; and

18 WHEREAS, the program was suspended after several natural disasters adversely
19 impacted alligator nesting; and

20 WHEREAS, the bonus tag program should be reinstated as it would help commercial
21 alligator hunters and serve as an additional population control measure; and

22 WHEREAS, currently recreational alligator hunting is only available for those who
23 obtain a sport fisherman license and accompany a commercial alligator hunter or guide; and

24 WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries should explore ways to
25 increase opportunities for recreational alligator hunting as an additional measure to control
26 the population.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 direct the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the number of tags available for
29 commercial alligator hunters.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall
31 reinstate the bonus tag program for alligators six feet and under.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall
2 increase opportunities for recreational alligator hunting.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alligator Advisory Council shall make
4 recommendations to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife
5 and Fisheries on the best ways to accomplish these goals.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall
7 promulgate any rules necessary to accomplish these goals.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the chairman of the Wildlife and
10 Fisheries Commission, and the chairman and the program manager of the Alligator Advisory
11 Council.

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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Brown

Directs the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the number of tags available for commercial alligator hunting, reinstate the bonus tag program, and increase opportunities for recreational alligator hunting.