

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request continued support for the annual Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by Louisiana State University (LSU) and Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and its importance as a measure of progress in reducing the hypoxic zone off Louisiana's coast, as well as memorializing Louisiana's Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to authorize its continued funding.

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

WHEREAS, the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise has been conducted since 1985, providing a long-term baseline and record of data on the extent and formation of the hypoxic zone, which has in turn aided the development of models to predict its yearly size and future trends; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise employs and engages Louisiana scientists, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, cooperating universities, and other partners and provides the main measure of progress for the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan in which Louisiana and eleven upriver states have participated since 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has memorialized its support for the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and the state's continued participation in its efforts to reduce the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone in repeated resolutions such as House Concurrent Resolution No.

47 in the 2000 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 in the 2007 Regular Session, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40 in the 2010 Regular Session, Senate Resolution No. 84 in the 2012 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 in the 2016 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 in the 2019 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 48 in the 2021 Regular Session, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 98 in the 2022 Regular Session and has expressed support for the Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise in House Concurrent Resolution Nos. 65 and 64, in the 2017 and 2020 Regular Sessions, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise has largely been funded through the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), reflecting the importance of Louisiana's coastal fishery and waters as resources of national concern, and continued federal funding of the Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise is at risk.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby reaffirm that the Louisiana Legislature expresses its continued support for the annual Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by LSU and LUMCON, as well as support for its continued funding by NOAA, and memorializes the United States Congress and Louisiana Congressional Delegation to authorize such funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Louisiana Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE