

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide stricter enforcement of shrimping laws and regulations.

WHEREAS, the commercial shrimp fishery is one of the most economically important fisheries in the southeast Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; and most particularly in Louisiana where it is the largest fishery in the state; and

WHEREAS, white shrimp landings in 2011 in Louisiana were nearly twenty-six thousand metric tons, which equates to over fifty-seven million pounds, while brown shrimp landings were nearly eighteen thousand metric tons, which equates to over thirty-nine million pounds; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy percent of Louisiana's shrimp landings are from state waters; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, the primary gears used to harvest shrimp are otter and skimmer trawls with fishermen also using butterfly nets, chopstick rigs, stationary butterfly nets, roller-frame trawls, and cast nets in state waters; and

WHEREAS, vessels fishing with otter trawls are required to use turtle excluder devices in all federal and state waters and bycatch reduction devices are required in federal waters; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enforce the state and federal laws and regulations governing the shrimping industry in state waters and federal waters off the coast of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the laws and regulations are intended to ensure the viability and sustainability of the shrimp fishery and the safety and protection of the individuals working in the industry and strict enforcement provides assurance that the laws and regulations are effective.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide stricter enforcement of shrimping laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE