

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATOR CHABERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Monday, May 22, 2017, as "LUMCON Day" at the Louisiana State Capitol

and to commend the members of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Legislature of Louisiana commends the members of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education (LUMCON), the state's greatest marine science asset with the mission to promote, facilitate, and conduct research and education collaborations among Louisiana's universities in marine and coastal sciences relevant to the sustainability of coastal and marine environments of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1979, LUMCON has become a leading marine research and education consortium that stimulates, coordinates, and facilitates scientific research among the marine science and education programs within Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON connects its members to enhance research collaboration and exchange partnerships by removing barriers for collaboration and leveraging group knowledge, bolstering marine research of scientists, providing infrastructure needed for its members, providing and creating innovative science-infused field and skill courses, continuing to build tools and processes needed for a healthy consortium, and expanding its network; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON is transforming marine science in Louisiana by contributing to science and conservation in meaningful and profound ways through leveraging of assets like the DeFelice Marine Center, a world-class fleet of research vessels, and an environmental monitoring program; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON operates and maintains one of the largest fleets of research vessels along the Gulf of Mexico; and with a long and distinguished career of service, LUMCON's marine operations are unmatched in the Gulf of Mexico and have gained respect from researchers and educators worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the R/V Pelican is the flagship of LUMCON's research fleet and is outfitted to conduct a variety of oceanographic research missions; the reliability, utility, and seaworthiness of the vessel and crew are well demonstrated since 1985, and is heralded by the scientific community; and often referred to by oceanographers as the "Workhorse of the Gulf", the R/V Pelican has a long track record of excellence in scientific research; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON is committed to strengthening the marine science community through education and outreach initiatives; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON's education program purpose is to enable the development of the next generation of marine scientists and ocean-literate citizens by providing meaningful and relevant place-based and skill-based experiences for all, while aiming to have significant impact on Louisiana's diverse citizenry including those populations underrepresented and underserved in marine science; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON is currently finalizing a strategic plan to guide the organization to a position of greater service, science, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, LUMCON stands strong on its values of highest quality of education programs, scientific inquiry, academic integrity, exchange of ideas and information, opportunities for students who are underrepresented in marine science, and increasing societal awareness of the environmental, economic, and cultural values of Louisiana's coast.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Monday, May 22, 2017, as "LUMCON Day" at the Louisiana State Capitol and does hereby commend and express enduring appreciation to the members of LUMCON for the tremendous honor and pride they bring to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES