

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to cooperate to develop solutions through the best available science to adaptively manage Mardi Gras Pass.

WHEREAS, south of Pointe a la Hache on the east bank of the Mississippi River in the Bohemia Spillway where no levee exists, a cut formed at the site of the old Bohemia Salinity Control Structure during the Mardi Gras season in 2012, thereby creating an uncontrolled connection known as Mardi Gras Pass, between the Mississippi River to an existing channel; and

WHEREAS, concerns exist that the increased fresh water flow will contribute to erosion and widening of the channel, reduce salinity levels for oyster grounds, and cause an increase in algae blooms and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, any adaptive management solution deemed necessary should also include the benefits that may have been realized from the 2012 breach including the possible increased sediment flow aiding in wetland creation and improvement in alligator populations and white shrimp harvest; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish began the permit application process with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to address Mardi Gras Pass.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to cooperate to develop solutions through the best available science to adaptively manage Mardi Gras Pass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commander of the New Orleans District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the executive assistant of the governor's office of coastal activities.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES