SLS 18RS-2018 **ORIGINAL**

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATOR FANNIN

WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT. Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to update the Caney Creek Reservoir waterbody management plan on an annual basis.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to update the Caney Creek Reservoir waterbody management plan on an annual basis.

WHEREAS, Caney Creek, Smith Branch, Clear Creek, Cypress Branch, Hancock Creek, and Boggy Branch were originally impounded in 1986 to form the Caney Creek Reservoir (reservoir); and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the aquatic vegetation known as hydrilla was discovered in the reservoir, and in September 1993, an aquatic management plan for the reservoir was developed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (department); and

WHEREAS, eight years after impoundment, the reservoir had achieved national recognition for producing trophy-size largemouth bass; and

WHEREAS, in January 2006, the department prepared the Caney Creek Reservoir waterbody management plan (plan) in response to concerns of aquatic vegetation growth and changes in the fish population; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the plan in 2006, the department has updated the plan eight times, with the most recent update in January 2017; and

WHEREAS, in order to inform the public about any changes to the aquatic vegetation and fish population, the plan should be updated on an annual basis and a public

hearing should be held prior to the adoption of the updated plan in order to give the public an opportunity to comment on the plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to update the Caney Creek Reservoir waterbody management plan on an annual basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the management plan should include information including status reports on the health and condition of the fish; recommendations on restocking efforts including the introduction of new species; advisability of continuing to manage the reservoir as a big bass lake; use of slot and creel limits; techniques to manage water quality; reports on the chemicals used to control aquatic vegetation, why those chemicals were used, and the success of such applications; status reports on the carp population and the populations of other species of fish with no commercial value; and any recommended environmental changes to the reservoir.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall hold a public hearing prior to March first each year in Jackson Parish for the receipt of public comment about the reservoir and plan, testimony from which should be used by the department to develop any amendments or additions to the overall management plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall meet with the Jackson Parish Watershed District and receive input from the district commissioners about any amendments and additions to the plan.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. W. Wiley.

DIGEST

SCR 65 Original 2018 Regular Session Fannin

Requests the DW&F to update the Caney Creek Reservoir waterbody management plan on an annual basis.