

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BROWN, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, DESHOTEL, FARNUM, FREEMAN, HUVAL, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, KERNER, LACOMBE, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, RISER, SCHEXNAYDER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, AND VILLIO AND SENATORS HENSGENS AND LAMBERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to clarify and provide guidance regarding the ability of freshwater fisheries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive assistance funding from CARES Act dollars.

WHEREAS, three hundred million dollars in fisheries assistance funding has been provided by Section 12005 of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, has allocated fourteen million seven hundred eighty-five thousand two hundred forty-four dollars with the specific purpose of assisting Louisiana commercial fishermen, charter businesses, qualified aquaculture operations, subsistence users, processors, and other fishery-related businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through direct aid payments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce's determination has limited qualified applicants to those who participate in various sectors of coastal and marine fisheries, thereby precluding eligibility for freshwater fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has thousands of commercially licensed freshwater fishermen; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the freshwater fisheries harvest, including wild caught crawfish, accounted for a dockside value of nearly twenty million dollars, illustrating how vital freshwater fisheries are to the people and the economy of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the full scale of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on freshwater fisheries has not yet been determined; however, these fisheries have been directly impacted; and

WHEREAS, the impacts to freshwater fisheries and other Louisiana fisheries participants result in individuals who would benefit greatly from a direct payment program; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with developing programs to expend these funds; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana supports the development of direct payment programs to industry participants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to clarify and provide guidance regarding the ability of freshwater fishermen or fishery-related businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive assistance funding from CARES Act dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to 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