

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Crab Task Force and the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, with input from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to study and make recommendations to reduce damage to crab traps and the number of derelict crab traps in Lake Pontchartrain.

WHEREAS, the Crab Task Force is created in R.S. 56:331 and charged with advising on matters pertaining to the management and development of the crab industry; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force is created in R.S. 56:494 and charged with various duties including representing the interests of the Louisiana shrimp industry before federal and state administrative and legislative bodies on issues of importance to the Louisiana shrimp industry; and

WHEREAS, damaged crab traps and derelict crab traps, which are estimated to be in the thousands in Lake Pontchartrain, are a hazard to navigation, a source of habitat degradation, and a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, crab traps and derelict crab traps become tangled in shrimpers' nets, and can damage the nets as well as boat propellers, particularly when the traps are cut from their float lines; and

WHEREAS, crab traps are often dragged for miles from their original location by shrimp boats and are either destroyed or never found by their owners; and

WHEREAS, these traps, once lost by the owner become derelict and continue to fish by attracting and trapping more fish and crabs to feed upon the creatures ensnared in them; and

WHEREAS, lost crab traps are a great expense to the crabber and the destruction and loss of these traps create conflict between shrimpers and crab fisherman; and

WHEREAS, both the crab industry, currently losing costly traps, and the revenue from the lost catch, and the shrimp industry, with damaged vessels and nets, would benefit from reducing the alarming number of crab traps that become lost, damaged, or derelict in Lake Pontchartrain.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Crab Task Force and the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, with input from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to study ways to minimize damage to crab traps and the return of crab traps to crab fishermen in order to reduce derelict crab traps in Lake Pontchartrain, and report any recommendations to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 4, 2022.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE