

1 WHEREAS, the population of wild alligators in the state has recovered so well that
2 they are now becoming a problem; and

3 WHEREAS, more nuisance alligators are being reported in residential areas than ever
4 before; and

5 WHEREAS, commercial fishermen are experiencing increasing damage to their
6 traps, nets, and other gear from alligators; and

7 WHEREAS, the conservation measures put in place many years ago to help restore
8 a healthy population must now be reduced in order to protect Louisiana citizens and
9 fishermen; and

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries issues a limited number of
11 tags each year based on the acreage of the property with which the tags are associated; and

12 WHEREAS, while the tags should still be issued for the purposes of the Convention
13 on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the department
14 should modify the formula used to calculate the number of tags issued for individual
15 properties so that many more tags can be issued for commercial hunting; and

16 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2009 the state operated a bonus tag program for hunters
17 that inadvertently caught alligators six feet and under; and

18 WHEREAS, the program was suspended after several natural disasters adversely
19 impacted alligator nesting; and

20 WHEREAS, the alligator markets fluctuate due to a host of factors, however, this
21 industry is a critical component to the economy and culture of this state; and

22 WHEREAS, a market analysis of the alligator industry would provide significant
23 benefit in the decision-making process.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Alligator Advisory Council,
26 and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to jointly study and compile data relative to
27 alligator markets and populations and commercial, recreational, and nuisance hunting in this
28 state.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall
30 submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the speaker of the House of
31 Representatives and the president of the Senate by February 1, 2024.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the chairman of the Wildlife and
3 Fisheries Commission, and the chairman and the program manager of the Alligator Advisory
4 Council.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Alligator Advisory Council, and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to study and make recommendations relative to alligator markets and populations and commercial, recreational, and nuisance hunting.

Requires the department to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate by Feb. 1, 2024.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Change the resolution from directing the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase commercial and recreational hunting to urging and requesting the department, the Alligator Advisory Council and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to study and make recommendations regarding alligator populations and markets as well as commercial, recreational, and nuisance hunting.
2. Add information regarding the alligator market.
3. Require the department to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate by Feb. 1, 2024.