

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOVE, ST. GERMAIN, BILLIOT, GISCLAIR, HARRISON,  
AND HENDERSON AND SENATORS AMEDEE AND CHABERT

FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Expresses support for the request by the secretary of the Dept.  
of Wildlife and Fisheries to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to declare a fisheries  
disaster in the state of Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the support of the Louisiana Legislature for the request by the secretary of the  
3 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the  
4 administrator of the Small Business Administration to declare a fisheries disaster in  
5 the state of Louisiana as a result of the Mississippi River flooding and the opening  
6 of the Morganza and Bonnet Carre spillways.

7 WHEREAS, since 2005, South Louisiana, its residents, and its businesses have been  
8 devastated by a succession of natural and man-made disasters including Hurricanes Katrina  
9 and Rita in 2005 followed by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 and then the area was  
10 confronted with hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil and gas released into the Gulf of  
11 Mexico after the explosion and sinking of Deepwater Horizon rig; and

12 WHEREAS, hurt more than most businesses along the coast; the fishing industry is  
13 still on its knees after the series of disasters which resulted in numerous fisheries closures,  
14 particularly over the past fourteen months as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster,  
15 closures that have impacted the industry further because of a continuing lack of confidence  
16 by the fisheries markets and customers who fear that the seafood from the Gulf of Mexico  
17 is tainted and dangerous to consumers; and

18 WHEREAS, now South Louisiana and the fishing industry is faced with record-  
19 setting rising waters in the Mississippi River and its tributaries and distributaries, with water

1 levels such that both the Bonnet Carre and the Morganza spillways have been opened,  
2 Morganza for the first time in thirty-eight years; and

3 WHEREAS, in anticipation of the impacts of the water levels and increased fresh  
4 water on oyster beds and marine nurseries in addition to the inability of fishermen to fish for  
5 the period of time that the water levels are at record-high levels, the secretary of the  
6 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has requested that the Secretary of the United States  
7 Department of Commerce declare a commercial fisheries failure and requested support from  
8 the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for  
9 commercial and recreational fishing and associated businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has also  
11 requested of the administrator of the Small Business Administration that she ". . . begin the  
12 necessary step of activating all relevant federal disaster declaration clauses that would allow  
13 . . . assistance to our residents, our businesses, and our coastal communities" including  
14 temporary suspensions of loan repayments for those businesses which currently have SBA  
15 disaster and economic injury loans as a result of the previous disasters experienced by the  
16 residents of the state of Louisiana.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
18 express its support for the request by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and  
19 Fisheries to the United States Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the Small  
20 Business Administration to declare a fisheries disaster in the state of Louisiana as a result  
21 of the Mississippi River flooding and the opening of the Morganza and Bonnet Carre  
22 spillways.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the  
24 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the United States Secretary of  
25 Commerce, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the members of the  
26 Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

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)]

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Dove

HCR No. 102

Expresses the support of the La. Legislature for the request by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the Small Business Administration to declare a fisheries disaster in the state of La. as a result of the Mississippi River flooding and the opening of the Morganza and Bonnet Carre spillways.