2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAMBERT

FISHING/CRAWFISH: Creates a study committee to study issues surrounding both the farm-raised and wild-caught crawfish industries

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION	
2	To create the Crawfish Industry Study Committee to examine issues, laws, regulations, and	
3	practices associated with farm-raised and wild-caught crawfish with the intent to	
4	improve the marketability and production of crawfish in this state.	
5	WHEREAS, Louisiana has more than one thousand crawfish farmers and more than	
6	eight hundred commercial fishermen who catch wild crawfish; and	
7	WHEREAS, there are over one hundred ten million pounds of crawfish harvested	
8	each year resulting in an economic impact of nearly one hundred twenty million dollars per	
9	year; and	
10	WHEREAS, Louisiana crawfish farming has developed into the largest freshwater	
11	crustacean aquaculture industry in the United States with Louisiana leading the nation,	
12	producing more than ninety percent of the domestic crop; and	
13	WHEREAS, as this industry grows, it is an industry that should be reexamined	
14	periodically to determine if the regulatory structure in place is the most advantageous	
15	structure to maximize the benefit to the industry while also preserving and protecting the	
16	crawfish species.	
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby	
18	create the Crawfish Industry Study Committee to examine issues, laws, regulations, and	
19	practices associated with farm-raised and wild-caught crawfish with the intent to improve	
20	the marketability and production of crawfish in this state.	

1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee be composed of the	
2	following members appointed as indicated:	
3	(1) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association.	
4	(2) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research	
5	Board.	
6	(3) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association -	
7	WEST.	
8	(4) One member appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.	
9	(5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Restaurant Association.	
10	(6) One member who is a wholesale/retail seafood dealer that buys and sells	
11	crawfish, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture.	
12	(7) One member who is a wholesale/retail seafood dealer that buys and sells	
13	crawfish, appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.	
14	(8) One member who is a member of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and	
15	Marketing Board appointed by the board.	
16	(9) One nonvoting member from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center	
17	appointed by the president of Louisiana State University.	
18	(10) One nonvoting member appointed from the Department of Agriculture and	
19	Forestry by the commissioner of agriculture. This member shall serve as chair of the	
20	committee.	
21	(11) One nonvoting member from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	
22	appointed by the secretary of that department.	
23	(12) One nonvoting member from the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed	
24	by the speaker of the House.	
25	(13) One nonvoting member of the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president of	
26	the Senate.	
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature does hereby direct the Crawfish	
28	Industry Study Committee to meet as necessary and, no later than March 1, 2016, report their	
29	findings, including recommendations for legislation and regulatory changes, to the House	
30	Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural	

HLS 15RS-1898

1	Resources, the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural
2	Development, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural
3	Development.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature does hereby request that the
5	study committee specifically examine questions such as, but not limited to the following
6	questions:
7	(1) Is the crawfish stock in the Atchafalaya Basin healthy and sustainable?
8	(2) Should there be specific harvest seasons set by the Louisiana Wildlife and
9	Fisheries Commission?
10	(3) Should there be minimum size limits enforced for the sale of marketable live
11	crawfish?
12	(4) What more can be done to increase the marketability of Louisiana crawfish and
13	to develop additional markets for Louisiana crawfish?
14	(5) Is the crawfish harvest gear in use in Louisiana the best gear to be used for
15	maximizing crawfish production in the state in a sustainable manner?
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
17	Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association, the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research
18	Board, the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association - WEST, the Louisiana Farm Bureau
19	Federation, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the commissioner of agriculture, the
20	secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and
21	Marketing Board, and the president of Louisiana State University.

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 138 Original	2015 Regular Session	
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Lambert

Creates a Louisiana Crawfish Industry Study Committee to examine issues, laws, regulations, and practices surrounding the wild-caught and farm-raised crawfish industries and report by March 1, 2016, to the House and Senate natural resources and the House and Senate agriculture committees. Provides for composition of the committee as follows:

(1) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association.

(2) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board.

- (3) One member appointed by the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association WEST.
- (4) One member appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.
- (5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Restaurant Association.
- (6) One member who is a wholesale/retail seafood dealer that buys and sells crawfish, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture.
- (7) One member who is a wholesale/retail seafood dealer that buys and sells crawfish, appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (8) One member who is a member of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board appointed by the board.
- (9) One nonvoting member from the Louisiana State University (LSU) Agricultural Center appointed by the president of LSU.
- (10) One nonvoting member appointed from the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry by the commissioner of agriculture. This member shall serve as chair of the committee.
- (11) One nonvoting member from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries appointed by the secretary of that department.
- (12) One nonvoting member from the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (13) One nonvoting member of the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.