HLS 17RS-856 **ORIGINAL**

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

COASTAL RESOURCES: To express support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and to memorialize congress to provide continued funding

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To express support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana
3	Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), as well as support for continued
4	funding for this important effort, and to recognize the important role the cruise plays
5	in understanding and conserving our coastal resources by memorializing the United
6	States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to authorize continued
7	funding for this most important endeavor.
8	WHEREAS, the growth of a large area of low-oxygen off Louisiana's coast, known
9	as the Gulf Hypoxic Zone or "Dead Zone", has been a long-standing issue of concern for the
10	state because of the risks it poses for our commercial and recreational fishing and seafood
11	industries, and its wider impacts on marine life in the Gulf; and
12	WHEREAS, the summer cruises to map the Gulf Hypoxic Zone, conducted by
13	scientists at the LUMCON in Cocodrie, Louisiana, have been carried out each year since
14	1985, providing a consistent and long-term baseline and record of data on the annual extent
15	and formation of the zone, which has in turn aided the development of models to predict its
16	yearly size and future growth; and
17	WHEREAS, these cruises, utilizing Louisiana scientists, researchers, graduate and
18	undergraduate students, and cooperating universities and other partners, are the primary
19	means of measuring the size of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and its growth or
20	reduction, as well as the progress of efforts to reduce it, including the efforts of the

1 state-federal Gulf Hypoxia Task Force with which the state of Louisiana has been a

- 2 participant since 1997; and
- WHEREAS, the LUMCON mapping cruises have been largely funded through the
- 4 federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reflecting the importance of the
- 5 Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and Louisiana's coastal fishery and waters as resources of
- 6 national concern; and
- WHEREAS, because this federal funding is at risk of discontinuation, and the annual
- 8 LUMCON summer mapping cruise was cancelled in 2016 for only the second time in thirty-
- 9 one years, the continuation of this vital work is itself at risk.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

express its support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana

Universities Marine Consortium, in recognition of the important role it plays in the

understanding and conserving of our coastal resources, as well as its support for continued

funding for this important effort by memorializing the United States Congress and the

Louisiana Congressional delegation to authorize continued funding for this most important

endeavor.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the

officers of both houses of the United States Congress and each member of the Louisiana

19 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)]

HCR 65 Original

2017 Regular Session

Zeringue

Expresses support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, as well as support for continued funding for this important effort, and to recognize the important role the cruise plays in understanding and conserving our coastal resources by memorializing the U.S. Congress and the La. Congressional delegation to authorize continued funding for this most important endeavor.