

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 274

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to return the authority to oversee water levels and the general health of Cocodrie Lake to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission.

WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission's powers and authorities were transferred to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by Act 858 of the 1981 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, prior to the lock and dam structure's completion in Clearwater, the only navigable waters were strictly held within the banks of the narrow bayou; and

WHEREAS, after the dam was put in place water levels rose greatly increasing the surface water acreage; and

WHEREAS, the properties within the watershed of the lake were the livelihood of the residents, utilized by these residents for farming, agriculture, timber, hunting, and other uses impacting the income and livelihood of their families; and

WHEREAS, the residents turned to the fishing industry, waterfowl hunting, and the building of private boat launches to create revenue; and

WHEREAS, after the dam structure became operational the residents decided a governing authority was needed to control the lake's water level as when the level was too high it prohibited use of their properties and boat launches and when the water level was too low it negatively impacted the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission, with appointees from the parishes in which the watershed area is contained, was established to consider the needs of the residents and still exists and holds public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission contends that it is no longer able to have input with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and other agencies and industries that do have a say in the operations of Cocodrie Lake and the entire watershed area; and

WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission will maintain a good working relationship with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Transportation and Developments, as well as Cleco and other stakeholders if the authority for overseeing Cocodrie Lake is restored to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to restore authority over Cocodrie Lake back to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission, particularly for managing the water gate structure at Clearwater that controls the water levels of the lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES