

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY REPRESENTATIVES FONTENOT, AMEDEE, BEAULLIEU, BOUDREAUX,
BROUSSARD, BUTLER, CARRIER, DEWITT, ECHOLS, FIRMENT, HORTON,
OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, AND ST. BLANC

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct a study on the impact of flooded corn on migratory waterfowl behavior and to reinstate the enforcement mechanism that restricted the growth of hunting over intentionally flooding standing crops.

WHEREAS, migratory waterfowl are an important natural resource in the state of Louisiana, contributing to the state's ecology, economy, and outdoor heritage; and

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate that certain hunting practices, such as the flooding of standing crops to attract ducks, may influence migratory patterns and reduce the number of waterfowl reaching southern states, including Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the long-term sustainability of waterfowl populations is essential for Louisiana's hunting community, local economies, and conservation goals; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS is the federal agency responsible for protecting migratory birds and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act, enacted by Congress in 1998, eliminated the strict liability standard that had previously governed federal waterfowl baiting violations; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the USFWS promulgated a final rule that codified the Act and reaffirmed broad exemptions for areas classified as "normal agricultural planting" which include certain flooded crop fields where standing crops are intentionally flooded; and

WHEREAS, this action by the USFWS removed the enforcement mechanism that previously restricted the growth of hunting over intentionally flooded standing crops; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that the practice of flooding standing crops may alter natural waterfowl migratory patterns and reduce the number of ducks reaching Louisiana, potentially impacting both wildlife populations and the state's hunting economy; and

WHEREAS, in January 2026, United States Senator John N. Kennedy formally requested that the USFWS study the effects of these hunting practices on waterfowl migration and populations, emphasizing the need for scientific evaluation and habitat protection; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes the importance of providing input to federal wildlife agencies to ensure that management practices reflect the needs of both wildlife and the communities that depend on them; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana finds it necessary to formally urge and request the USFWS to study and, if appropriate, adjust hunting regulations and management practices to protect waterfowl populations, preserve migratory patterns, and support sustainable hunting and conservation in the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a comprehensive study on the impacts of crop-flooding and other hunting practices on waterfowl migration and population levels, particularly in Louisiana and the Mississippi Flyway, and to evaluate potential adjustments to hunting regulations and habitat management strategies that would support sustainable waterfowl populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE