

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend fisheries biologist Mike Wood on his retirement after thirty-seven years of service at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and to thank him for his long-time service to the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

WHEREAS, Mike Wood is a true North Louisianian, born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, and educated at the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a Masters of Science degree in Biology; and

WHEREAS, Mike is married to the lovely Terri and together they have three children, twins Jake and Jordan and sister Samantha; and

WHEREAS, Mike has held numerous positions during his thirty-seven-year career at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries starting in 1978 as a student worker in the Monroe office and then serving as District 2 Manager from 1995 through 2008, Biologist DCL-B specializing in fisheries management from 2008 through 2010, and Director of Inland Fisheries from 2010 until his retirement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as biologist and administrator for the department, Mike was instrumental in the development of the original Louisiana black bass management plan, he oversaw the completion of seventy-six water body management plans, he played an integral role in standardizing recreational fishing regulations in the border waters between Louisiana and Texas, he initiated bass and crappie stock assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of regulations on Louisiana waters, he was instrumental in the removal of the fourteen-inch minimum length limit in the Atchafalaya Basin, he played an integral role in

1 development of the integrated pest management approach to controlling aquatic nuisance
2 vegetation and has improved overall efficiency in the aquatic weed eradication efforts, and
3 he assisted in the revision of the departmental stocking policy in an effort to increase
4 stocking success and efficiency; and

5 WHEREAS, Mike was a recipient of the secretary's Employee of Year Award for the
6 work he did on Caney Lake fisheries conservation; and

7 WHEREAS, in addition to the valuable work that he did as a biologist and
8 administrator for the department, Mike also represented the department on numerous special
9 committees including the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Reservoir
10 Committee from 1996 through 2010, the Atchafalaya Basin Program from 2010 through
11 2015, the Fish Contaminant Advisory Workgroup from 2008 through 2010, and the
12 Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association from 2010 through 2015, even
13 traveling to Washington, D.C., in 2011 and 2012 with the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative
14 Resource Association to address members of the United States Congress concerning issues
15 related to aquatic nuisance species including the Asian Carp; and

16 WHEREAS, Mike has also assisted in the development of the Baton Rouge LSU
17 Lakes Renovation Project currently underway in Baton Rouge; and

18 WHEREAS, Mike also chaired certain advisory and technical groups in his capacity
19 with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries including the Atchafalaya Basin Program
20 Technical Advisory Workgroup from 2008 through 2010 and the False River Watershed
21 Council from 2012 through 2015; and

22 WHEREAS, the False River Watershed Council was created to develop a
23 scientifically based coordinated plan for the restoration and sustainability of the water
24 quality and natural habitat of the False River watershed; and

25 WHEREAS, although other plans for the health of False River had been developed
26 in the past, those plans did not address all the concerns of the citizens and property owners,
27 as Mike put it, "That document was a fisheries management plan that didn't really address
28 some of the concerns the rest of the public has. A lot of the people out there don't fish, so
29 we had to come up with a better way to approach it. Our report is addressing the overall

1 health of False River by expanding our focus from fisheries to all these other different things
2 like erosion and sedimentation"; and

3 WHEREAS, it was Mike's gentle guidance as chair and his ability to bring to the
4 table many people of differing viewpoints and perspectives and his firm hand as he guided
5 the council through their multiple-year-long efforts to come to an agreement as to the
6 optimal plan for the management and protection of the resources within the False River
7 Watershed; and

8 WHEREAS, the False River Watershed Council's report to the legislature entitled
9 "Managing False River Watershed Resources" was designated the 2013-2014 "Best
10 document that provides information to the legislature" by the Legislative Research
11 Librarians staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 commend fisheries biologist Mike Wood on his retirement after thirty-seven years of service
14 at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and extend a special thank you to him for his
15 long-time service to the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mike
17 Wood.

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 192 Original

2015 Regular Session

Thibaut

Commends Mike Wood on his retirement after 37 years of service to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.