

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express support for the annual Gulf Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), 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 United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to authorize continued funding for this most important endeavor.

WHEREAS, the growth of a large area of low-oxygen off Louisiana's coast, known as the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone or "Dead Zone", has been a long-standing issue of concern for the state because of the risks it poses for our commercial and recreational fishing and seafood industries, and its wider impacts on marine life in the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, the summer cruises to map the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone, conducted by scientists at the LUMCON in Cocodrie, Louisiana, have been carried out each year since 1985, providing a consistent and long-term baseline and record of data on the annual extent and formation of the zone, which has in turn aided the development of models to predict its yearly size and future growth; and

WHEREAS, these cruises, utilizing Louisiana scientists, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and cooperating universities and other partners, are the primary means of measuring the size of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and its growth or reduction, as well as the progress of efforts to reduce it, including the efforts of the state-federal Gulf Hypoxia Task Force with which the state of Louisiana has been a participant since 1997; and

WHEREAS, the LUMCON mapping cruises have been largely funded through the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reflecting the importance of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and Louisiana's coastal fishery and waters as resources of national concern; and

WHEREAS, because this federal funding is at risk of discontinuation, and the annual LUMCON summer mapping cruise was cancelled in 2016 for only the second time in thirty-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.

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 congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE