



**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Lauren Thompson  
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**12-44-LST**  
**July 3, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***MCMR Passes Resolution Opposing Louisiana's Move to Extend Its Waters***

BILOXI, Miss. – At a special meeting of the MCMR held on July 2, 2012, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (MCMR) unanimously passed a resolution opposing Louisiana's move to extend its state water boundaries gulfward into federal waters.

The approved resolution has been submitted to the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

The resolution states that: the MCMR is opposed to and does not recognize the extension of the gulfward boundary of the State of Louisiana. The action of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission implementing Act No. 336 (which extends the boundary and regulations of the State of Louisiana 10.357 miles into the Gulf of Mexico) is in direct violation of its own legislation. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Marine Patrol is directed to continue enforcing federal regulations in the new and extended area described in Act 336 until directed to do otherwise by the Office of Law Enforcement for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The MCMR urges the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to take whatever actions deemed necessary to ensure that the State of Mississippi and its citizens are not adversely impacted by the unilateral and unlawful action of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Louisiana's proposed boundary extends into and encroaches upon federal waters adjacent to the Mississippi-Louisiana marine boundary and is a violation of federal law. Only Congress or the courts can provide federal waters to a state. Mississippi and Louisiana state waters currently extend 3 miles out from the barrier islands.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

**Attached:** Resolution

—END—



## COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

### RESOLUTION NO. 07022012-01

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources is a duly constituted governmental entity, created to serve the Great State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, said service includes the management and enforcement of any matters pertaining to Mississippi's saltwater aquatic life and marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources recognizes the economic importance of the seafood industry from the Mississippi Sound and adjacent federal waters; and

WHEREAS, during the 2011 session of the Louisiana legislature, Act No. 336 (Senate Bill 145) was enacted and codified as LA R.S. 49:1 et. seq., extending the boundary of the State of Louisiana three marine leagues or 10.357 miles into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, at the June 2012 meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission it was declared by said commission that all Louisiana regulations are now applicable to three marine leagues or 10.357 miles from the coastline in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 336; and

WHEREAS, the Act relied upon by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission specifies that "[n]otwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof shall not extend the boundaries recognized herein until the U.S. Congress acknowledges the boundary described herein by an Act of Congress or any litigation resulting from the passage of the Act which originated as Senate Bill No. 145 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana with respect to the legal boundary of the state is resolved and a final non-appealable judgment is rendered"; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's proposed boundary extends into and encroaches upon federal waters adjacent to the Mississippi Louisiana marine boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources maintains that the proposed boundary extension would adversely affect many aspects of the Mississippi seafood and marine industries and the citizens of Mississippi utilizing the marine waters implicated in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's decision; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources avers that significant financial harm to the State of Mississippi and its citizens would result from the proposed boundary extension; and

WHEREAS, said impacts include but are not limited to the Charter boat industry, commercial and recreational fisherman, artificial reefs, current and future oil and gas revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources contends that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has acted in violation of their state statute in that the proposed boundary extension has not been established by an Act of Congress and/or by a final non-appealable judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, in a duly constituted and assembled called special meeting, that:

1. The Commission is opposed to and does not recognize any extension of the gulfward boundary of the State of Louisiana; and
2. The action of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission implementing Act No. 336 is in direct contravention of their own legislation; and
3. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Marine Patrol is directed to continue enforcing federal regulations in the new and extended area described in Act 336 until directed to do otherwise by the Office of Law Enforcement for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
4. Urges the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to take whatever actions deemed necessary to ensure that the State of Mississippi and its citizens are not adversely impacted by the unilateral and unlawful action of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

**DONE AND RESOLVED in this duly constituted and assembled meeting on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2012.**

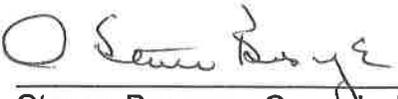
**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES**

  
Vernon Asper, Ph.D. Chairman

  
Jimmy Taylor, Vice-Chairman

  
Richard Gollott, Commissioner

(Absent)  
Shelby Drummond, Commissioner

  
Steven Bosarge, Commissioner

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

  
William W. Walker, Executive Director