

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS:** The Great State of Louisiana's commercial fisheries account for one third of commercial fishing in the United States. The state's catch regularly exceeds one billion pounds and \$300 million in dockside value.
- WHEREAS:** Sport-fishing provides \$700 million to \$1.2 billion to the Great State of Louisiana's economy, the vast majority of this revenue coming from Coastal Louisiana.
- WHEREAS:** Alligator harvesting and costal trapping generates \$30 million and \$2 million, respectively, in annual economic activity.
- WHEREAS:** Almost 25 percent of the oil and gas consumed in the United States and 80 percent of the oil and gas recovered from our nation's offshore reserves travels through Coastal Louisiana before it is used to power our nation's economy.
- WHEREAS:** The oil and gas industry directly or indirectly employs 320,000 or one in three Louisianans and supplies these families with \$12.7 billion in annual household income. This amount represents more than 15 percent of the Great State's total household income. The vast majority of these jobs, and virtually all of the 58,000 Louisianans that work extraction, pipeline and refining jobs are residents of Coastal Louisiana.
- WHEREAS:** Many of the offshore drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico are serviced through Coastal Louisiana's Port of Fouchon. The oil and gas industry's use of Port Fouchon has made it the largest port by tonnage in the Western Hemisphere.
- WHEREAS:** The Great State of Louisiana ranks first in the nation in total shipping tonnage, almost all of this cargo is loaded on a ocean-going ship or transferred from a barge to a ship in a Coastal Louisiana port, the remaining cargo is transported through Coastal Louisiana along the Mississippi river or Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
- WHEREAS:** The Great State of Louisiana also ranks first in the nation in maritime employment, with 61,956 jobs in the maritime industry, more than half of individuals holding these jobs residing in Coastal Louisiana.
- WHEREAS:** Coastal Louisiana contains 40 percent of the coastal wetlands found in the continental United States. These wetlands provide habitat for more than 5 million migratory waterfowl and many threatened or endangered species.
- WHEREAS:** Wildlife harvesting and watching in these wetlands provides \$1.2 billion in retail sales and sales taxes and provides jobs to more than 16,000 Louisianans.
- WHEREAS:** Coastal Louisiana's wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate, 1,500 square miles in the last 50 years and 40 square miles per year, every year for the last few decades.
- WHEREAS:** If the factors causing this erosion are not rectified, Coastal Louisiana stands to lose an additional 1,000 square miles—an area the size of the State of Rhode Island.
- WHEREAS:** Continued erosion of our wetlands will subject 2 million Louisianans to more damaging and deadly floods and hurricanes.
- WHEREAS:** Coastal Louisiana continues to feel the affect of Hurrricanes Katrina and Rita and the 2010 BP oil spill.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (1) Over the course of centuries, the close net population of Coastal Louisiana has developed unique traditions and industries from this distinct environment.

- (2) Through the hard work and sacrifice of local residents, these industries have become vital to the economic future of the Great State of Louisiana and the entire United States.
- (3) Coastal Louisiana is susceptible to and endangered by natural disasters, manmade accidents and coastal erosion.
- (4) The people of Coastal Louisiana remain resilient through these challenges.
- (5) The St. Mary Parish Council urges the Louisiana State Legislature and Governor Bobby Jindal to create one Coastal Congressional District so that Coastal Louisiana can be represented by once voice in Congress whose priority is our coast and the commonalities that bond our communities.

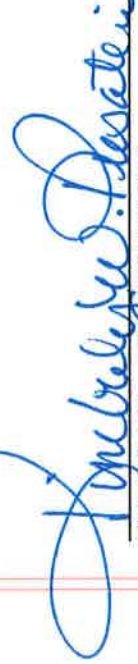
ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in Regular Session convened on this the 26th day of January 2011.

APPROVED:



**STEVE BIERHORST, CHAIRMAN
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:



**KIMBERLY W. PUSATERI, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**