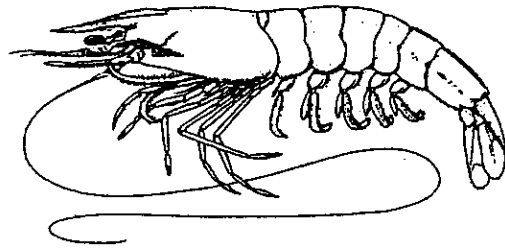


The Shrimp Industry Review Panel II

Final Report



February 1999

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Executive Summary

The Shrimp Industry Review Panel II met in early 1999 to evaluate the Final Report of the Select Council on Shrimp Management and developed legislative initiatives for the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. After evaluating the report, the panel made several recommendations, as well as submitting two legislative instruments, one to increase funding for the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board and another to setup a leadership training program for fishermen.

Overview

The process that lead to this report was initiated by the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board. Senator Chris Ullo authored Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, 1997 Regular Session, creating the Select Council on Shrimp Management to “study the current and future management of Louisiana’s shrimp resources and to make recommendations for future management objectives”. The Council delivered its Final Report in August, 1998 to the Shrimp Industry Review Panel, as well as the Senate and House Natural Resource Committees. The Industry Panel was to review the Council’s recommendations.

The Shrimp Industry Review Panel met in September, 1998, but a quorum was not present. Governor Foster issued Executive Order MJF 98-61 forming a new, smaller panel (Shrimp Industry Review Panel II) to evaluate the recommendations set forth in the final report of the Select Council on Shrimp Management and prepare recommended legislative initiatives for the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, based on information obtained from the final report. The Shrimp Industry Review Panel II submitted this Final Report to Governor Foster, Secretary Jenkins, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Senate and House Natural Resource Committees.

The Panel considered all 21 opportunities contained in the Council’s report individually and discussed most in detail. Members of the Select Council made formal presentations of the first 10 opportunities included in their report to the Shrimp Industry Review Panel II, and many council members attended the Review Panel meetings and provided assistance and clarification when needed. The Panel held all of its public meetings at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and promulgated procedures to allow for public input on each agenda item. The Department facilitated the meetings and provided clerical and other assistance.

The numerical designation of the opportunities corresponds to those contained in the August 1998 Select Shrimp Council Report (Council Report). A more detailed description, rationale and anticipated outcome can be found in the Council Report.

Table 1. Evaluation of Opportunities by the Louisiana Shrimp Industry Review Panel

#	Opportunity	For	Against
1	Protected Nursery Areas		X
2	Deferred Seasonal Openings		X
3	Limited Entry		X
4	More Refined Area Management	X	
5	Change Season Closure Criteria		X
6	Leadership Development Program	X	
7	Data Collection Actions	X ¹	
8	Territorial Sea Closure (Winter)	X	
9	Habitat Conservation Actions	X	
10	Mark of Quality Seal Initiative (Program)	X ²	
11	Minimum Count Size - White Shrimp		X
12	Use of Special Seasons	X	
13	Direct Appropriations for Research on Shrimp	X	
14	Marketing Uniqueness of La Shrimp	X ²	
15	Gear Prohibitions or Restrictions		X ³
16	Prohibit Salt Boxes		X
17	Increase Mesh Size		X
18	Night Fishing Restrictions		X
19	Off Season Employment Alternatives		X
20	Address Viral Risks	X	
21	User Group Conflicts	X	

Y = Yes, action taken

N = No action taken

¹ In addition to supporting this opportunity, an economic study was recommended

² Recommended to increase funding for Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board

³ Recommended repealing that part of R.S. 56:495(1)(F)(1)(b)

Evaluation of Opportunities Presented to the Shrimp Industry Review Panel II

The Panel considered all 21 opportunities contained in the Council's report individually and discussed most in detail. Members of the Select Council made formal presentations of the first 10 opportunities included in the report to the Shrimp Industry Review Panel II, and many attended all of their meetings to offer further assistance and clarification when needed. The Panel held all of its public meetings at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and promulgated procedures to allow for public input on each agenda item. The Department facilitated the meetings and provided clerical and other assistance.

The numerical designation of the opportunities corresponds to those contained in the August 1998 Select Shrimp Council Report (Council Report). A more detailed description, rationale and anticipated outcome can be found in the Council Report.

Opportunity 1 - Protect Nursery Areas

Closed nursery areas are used by many coastal states to manage penaeid shrimp. Currently, over 286,000 acres are permanently closed to shrimping in Louisiana. Expansion of the nursery area concept would provide for increased protection of small juvenile shrimp by increasing the total amount of nursery habitat in coastal areas permanently closed to commercial shrimping activities.

Panel members expressed concern that expansion of protected nursery habitats would result in "shutting down the western part of the state". Additionally, the panel questioned "fishermen's trust in Wildlife and Fisheries" in delineating nursery habitats. The public commented that of the approximately 400,000 acres of leased oyster water bottoms, leases that were bedded within a year and properly marked are closed to trawling.

The panel adopted a motion to discontinue discussion of protected nursery areas and remove it from the agenda now and in the future.

Opportunity 2 - Defer Season Openings

The best available scientific information on growth and mortality of brown shrimp indicates that they are currently harvested at sizes smaller than those which would bring in the most pounds and dollars to the fishery. Increases in pounds landed and the dollar value of landings are expected if the traditional seasonal openings are delayed until shrimp have reached a larger size.

Most Panel members were against any delays in inshore season openings. The information was appreciated but the point that weather controls shrimp was made and members like the seasons as

they are set now, good or bad. Panel members pointed out that brown shrimp movements are associated with lunar cycles.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion to delete deferred season openings from any further discussion.

Opportunity 3 - Limited Entry into the Fishery

This opportunity proposes to control the number of participants, number of vessels and overall level of effort in the Louisiana shrimp fishery by utilization of a managed access system.

Panel members questioned the need for this program and asked what the percentage of commercial licenses sold to part-time shrimpers was. Members cautioned that many people would purchase licenses just in case of a moratorium and some members were uncomfortable with a limited entry concept. The panel noted that there was a 46 percent decrease in the total number of shrimp trawl and net license holders from 1989 to 1997. Some members used this as a reason why limited entry is not needed, while others that felt that the best time to limit entry is when the number of participants is down.

The panel debated a motion recommending that the Louisiana Legislature implement a moratorium on license sales as outlined in the Shrimp Council Report and develop a concurrent process for developing a managed access program that includes utilizing input from the Shrimp Industry Review Panel or its equivalent. The legislative instrument drafted implementing this motion would be subject to approval by this Panel. The motion failed.

The panel considered a motion at a later meeting to re-consider this opportunity. The motion failed.

Opportunity 4 - Refine the Areal Management Concept

This opportunity proposes expanding the current zone concept and development of a series of staggered inshore shrimp season openings based upon recruitment and emigration patterns, average size and variable growth rates of shrimp between estuaries. Openings would be confined to larger coastal bays and lakes and subsequently followed with delayed openings of interior marsh habitats.

Panel members wanted to know what the new areas would be called and which area would open first. Some concern was expressed over fishing problems due to the possibility of boats congregating in the same small area. Members mentioned this as an excellent idea to keep the inner marsh (nursery area) closed a little longer. Some members were concerned with dockside price decreases that may result with multiple openings. The panel pointed out that the key to successful refined areal management would be input from the Enforcement Division when drawing boundaries.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion in support of refined areal management as a management tool by the Commission when appropriate.

Opportunity 5 - Alter Season Closure Criteria

This opportunity proposes changing criteria utilized in establishing inshore seasonal closures and apply revised criteria to geographic sub-units within current shrimp management zones allowing for season extensions limited to larger coastal bays and lakes. Inshore harvest of the shrimp resource would be allowed to continue until that time management closing criteria is specifically met in those waters.

Panel members felt that putting the count back on white shrimp would help, however, other members stated that these shrimp will not get any larger and that processors are happy to have small shrimp to work in those years where larger shrimp are unavailable. Members asked if revised closing criteria would result in longer seasons in larger lakes and bays in certain areas. Another concern voiced was that larger sized shrimp don't always equate to higher prices

The panel debated a motion on to recommend changing the current count size law on white shrimp. The motion failed.

Opportunity 6 - Leadership Development Program

The leadership development program is an educational opportunity which would be designed to enhance organizational, management, communication, and leadership skills of industry officials and/or leaders. The proposed program would be patterned from the Louisiana Agricultural Leadership Development Program and/or the North Carolina Natural Resources Leadership Institute program. The panel members agreed that this would be a positive step for the industry.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion recommending that the Legislature pass a concurrent resolution requesting that Louisiana State University examine the possibility of developing a special fisheries class as part of the Louisiana Agricultural Leadership Development Program.

Opportunity 7 - Data Collection Actions

The Select Council on Shrimp Management noted in its report the necessity to expand and enhance fishery data collection. This could be done by increasing the number of data collection areas and environmental monitoring stations, incorporating the use of commercial gear, using a logbook data collection program, and conducting social and economic studies of the shrimp industry/business system and resource user groups.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion supporting additional funding to expand and enhance fisheries data collection programs including biological, social and economic data.

The panel also unanimously adopted a motion recommending that the legislature conduct or authorize a detailed, historical study on the price trends of the shrimping industry. The components of the study should include the price paid to the harvesters at the docks and at each resale point up to and including when shrimp reaches the consumer.

Opportunity 8 - Territorial Sea Closure in Winter/Spring

This opportunity proposes winter/spring closures of the states territorial waters. Areal closures could include all Louisiana coastal waters but primarily would occur between the Mississippi River and Freshwater Bayou. This is an area which historically harbors large populations of small, undersized white shrimp which over-winter in the slightly deeper water near the beaches. These small shrimp will move closer along the beaches during short periods of warm weather which provides little or no change in water temperature and growth. Some of the reasons to consider a territorial sea closure include presence of large numbers of undersized, illegal white shrimp, low water temperature, difficulty of enforcement of count law, potential for shrimp harvest of larger white shrimp, protection of small brown shrimp moving in and out with tide, and reduction of waste from discard. Some members of the panel discussed the possible loss of larger shrimp and the loss of opportunity to make a living. The panel does agree with the Department's recent territorial sea closures, but did not want to see these expanded to other areas.

A motion was passed to no longer discuss territorial sea closure.

Opportunity 9 - Habitat Conservation Actions

Wetland areas are some of the most important nursery habitat necessary for production of shrimp in Louisiana. It is necessary that the Louisiana Legislature and congressional delegation take steps to ensure that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council comply fully with the Essential Fish Habitat requirements of the Federal Sustainable Fisheries Act which requires consideration of shrimp habitat. The panel discussed water-control structures, weirs and restoration projects.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion recommending that the Legislature pass a concurrent resolution that would urge and request members of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation and state agencies that have impacts on shrimp habitat to include whenever possible representatives of the shrimp industry.

Opportunity 10 - Mark of Quality Seal Initiative

A voluntary quality assurance program under the guidance and leadership of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board would set a goal to differentiate certain shrimp products from the "commodity market". It would be an imperative part of the plan to advertise and market this Seal of Quality.

One major concern voiced by the panel was the fact that the origin of some shrimp sold in supermarkets is not labeled. A discussion was conducted regarding price instability and freshness of shrimp as they related to onboard storage methods such as individually quick frozen (IQF). The panel also discussed marketing strategies for shrimp, including the development of new markets for Louisiana shrimp.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion to recommend that the legislature add a \$10.00 fee, or endorsement, to the first gear license bought by a shrimper and that this money be dedicated to the shrimp marketing account to be used by the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to promote Louisiana shrimp.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion requesting to change the makeup of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to reflect a membership more proportionate to the source of revenue.

Opportunity 11 - Minimum Count Size

Louisiana presently has a minimum count size of 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound on white shrimp in effect from the third Monday in December until October 15. There are currently no size limits on brown shrimp. This opportunity proposes making the size count effective year-round, and/or lowering the count size.

The panel debated a motion to change the current law regarding minimum count size for white shrimp. The motion failed.

Opportunity 12 - Use of Special Seasons

The Commission currently opens certain areas outside the regular seasons when marketable quantities of harvestable shrimp are available, the activity does not jeopardize other crops of shrimp, and it creates no enforcement conflicts. The Review Panel generally endorsed the concept with its motion to support refined areal management by the Commission.

The Review Panel considered a motion to recommend that the current statute which established a two year experimental opening of the spring season in Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May, be made permanent. The motion failed.

The Review Panel considered a motion to recommend that the two year experimental opening of the spring season in Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May, be extended for an additional two years. The motion failed.

Opportunity 13 - Direct Appropriation of Monies for Research on Fishing Activity Impacts

The shrimp fishing industry is coming under increased scrutiny because of its bycatch of non-target species and potential adverse impact on essential habitat, particularly water bottoms. Shrimpers are already required to use Turtle Excluder Devices in most trawls and Bycatch Reduction Devices in Federal Waters. The panel expressed concern over public perception of their fishing methods, and supported research to develop objective facts concerning their impact on the habitat.

The panel unanimously voted to support additional funding to expand and enhance fisheries data collection programs including biological, social and economic data. It recommends that the Legislature fund a cooperative data collection program using voluntary on-board observers for the purpose of evaluating the effects of shrimp harvesting methods on habitat and bottoms, also form an advisory committee composed of shrimpers.

Opportunity 14 - Marketing Uniqueness of Louisiana Shrimp

Shrimp prices have been stagnant relative to inflation for many years. One possible way to realize more money for the State's shrimp harvest is to create a niche market for "Louisiana" shrimp. The Panel discussed the variation in quality by harvesting sector and market sector preferences (see previous action of panel on Opportunity 10).

Opportunity 15 - Gear Prohibitions or Restrictions

This opportunity offers the option of modifying shrimping gear, such as mesh size and size of trawls allowed in State and Territorial Waters. Much discussion revolved around additional gear restrictions, such as a ban on the use of skimmers and changes in mesh size. The consensus was that no additional restrictions are needed. The panel discussed in detail the evolution of the trawl size restrictions in Territorial waters, and possible modifications to this law.

Some members thought that the maximum corkline in territorial waters should be increased to 180' because it unfairly discriminated against larger boats. Others on the panel liked the present law and supported the decrease to 100' corkline by the year 2000.

The panel debated a motion to increase the maximum corkline length to 180' in State Territorial Waters. The motion failed.

The panel adopted a motion recommending that the Legislature repeal that part of R.S. 56:495.1 that changes maximum corkline on trawls in Louisiana Territorial waters from 130' to 100'.

A motion was considered that the panel reconsider their position on the corkline law in State Territorial Waters. The motion failed.

Opportunity 16 - Prohibit Salt Boxes

Many shrimpers use vats of water with large amounts of added salt to assist in sorting their catch from the finfish bycatch. The fish tend to float in such solutions while the shrimp sink, which saves labor.

The panel adopted a motion to discontinue further discussion.

Opportunity 17 - Increase Mesh Size

Currently most Louisiana shrimpers are allowed to use trawls with webbing as small as 1 1/4" mesh (stretched). The lone exception is in the Vermilion Bay area during the fall shrimping season when 1 1/2" is the minimum. Increasing mesh size in trawls was offered by the Select Council as one mechanism to capture shrimp at a larger size, while allowing release of some of the smaller animals. Larger mesh also may increase pulling efficiently by creating less drag.

The panel adopted a motion not to discuss change in mesh size regulations.

Opportunity 18 - Night Fishing Restrictions

Currently night fishing is allowed in most state waters, except in Vermilion Bay and surrounding inshore waters during the Fall season, and portions of the Lake Calcasieu system as described by R. S. 56:499. The Select Council proposed this opportunity to reduce effort and conflicts with other user groups, particularly crab fishermen.

The panel adopted a motion not to discuss further restrictions on night fishing.

Opportunity 19 - Off Season Employment Opportunities

Another opportunity suggested by the Select Council dealt with increasing off-season employment opportunities to enhance the economic viability of coastal communities. Shrimping has historically been a seasonal venture, especially for inshore fishermen who make up the bulk of Louisiana fishermen.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion not to discuss this opportunity any further.

Opportunity 20 - Address Viral Risks

A select council member reported on the shrimp viral issue and the Department's involvement. Shrimp viruses pose no threat to human health, but concern has surrounded the discharge of water from aquaculture operations and processing of these shrimp, particularly the discharge of effluents into coastal waters, and subsequent infection of native stocks of shrimp. To assess these risks, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, which is under the auspices of the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, formed the interagency Shrimp Virus Work Group. Since 1997, this group has sponsored research on shrimp viruses and their potential risks, and have held a series of workshops around the country to gather public input on the Shrimp Virus Work Group's initial report and the shrimp virus issue.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion to urge the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Environmental Quality to continue active participation in this work group, and to report back to the industry new developments concerning this issue.

The panel unanimously adopted a motion recommending that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries be cautious of permitting non-native species of shrimp allowed in mariculture operations until studies indicate no viral danger exists to wild stocks.

Opportunity 21 - User Group Conflicts

User group conflicts are common to most fisheries, the Louisiana shrimp fishery is no exception. Crab traps are frequently caught by trawlers and skimmers. Oyster leases bedded within a year and properly marked may be restricted to the use trawls, seines and skimmer nets R.S. 56:423(B). Seismic operations are impacted in areas of heavy shrimping activity.

The Panel acknowledges these conflicts, and addressed this as part of Opportunity 6, Leadership Development.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

EXECUTIVE ORDER MJF 98-61

Shrimp Industry Review Panel II

WHEREAS, through Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 11 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Legislature created a Select Council on Shrimp Management (hereafter "Council") to study the current and future management of Louisiana's shrimp resources and make recommendations for Louisiana's future shrimp resources management objectives, and designated a Shrimp Industry Review Panel to review the Council's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in August 1998, the Council submitted a final report to the Senate and the House Natural Resources Committees which contained recommended prioritized objectives for the management of Louisiana's shrimp fishery, and recommended methods to achieve those objectives;

NOW THEREFORE I, M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR., Governor of the state of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The Shrimp Industry Review Panel II (hereafter "Panel") is established in the executive department, Office of the Governor.

SECTION 2: The duties of the Panel shall be limited to the following:

- A. Evaluating the recommendations set forth in the final report of the Select Council on Shrimp Management (hereafter "final report");
- B. Preparing recommended legislative initiatives for the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which are based on information obtained from the final report.

SECTION 3: The Panel shall prepare a comprehensive report which contains the Panel's evaluation of the final report and drafts of the legislative initiatives that the Panel recommends implementing. The report shall be submitted to the governor, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Senate and the House Natural Resources Committees by March 1, 1999.

SECTION 4: The Panel shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members selected as follows:

- A. Fifteen (15) members employed and/or in the business of at least one (1) sector of Louisiana's shrimp industry, such as the harvesting, processing, and/or marketing, shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

B. Six (6) members shall be selected as follows:

1. the governor, or the governor's designee;
2. the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or the secretary's designee;
3. the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, or the chair's designee, and one (1) additional member of the House Natural Resources Committee selected by the chair; and
4. the chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, or the chair's designee, and one (1) additional member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee selected by the chair.

SECTION 5: The governor shall select the chair and a meeting facilitator from the membership of the Panel. All other officers shall be elected by the membership of the Panel.

SECTION 6: The meeting facilitator shall call all meetings, issue meeting agendas, and serve as parliamentarian at all meetings

SECTION 7: Support staff for the Panel and facilities for its meetings shall be provided by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SECTION 8: The members of the Panel selected pursuant to Subsection 4(A) shall not receive compensation or a per diem. Nonetheless, contingent upon the availability of funds, said members may receive reimbursement from the Office of the Governor for actual mileage, in accordance with state guidelines and procedures, with prior written approval from the Office of the Governor and the approval of the commissioner of Administration.

SECTION 9: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the state, or any political subdivisions thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Panel in implementing the provisions of this Order.

SECTION 10: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until March 1, 1999, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the governor, or terminated by operation of law prior to that date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 6th day of November, 1998.

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST BY

THE GOVERNOR

Fox McKeithen

Secretary of State

1 The Council also submitted its report to the eighty-three (83) member Shrimp Industry Review Panel (hereafter "SIR Panel") that was created pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (hereafter "SCR No. 11"), as required by SCR No. 11. The SIR Panel, composed of fifteen (15) members representing the shrimp industry and sixty-eight (68) Louisiana Legislators, has had insufficient attendance at its meeting(s) to constitute a quorum. Therefore, the SIR Panel has been unable to conduct business and/or fulfill the duties that SCR No. 11 requires the SIR Panel to perform.

Appendix 2. Membership and Attendance

Roll Call/Attendance	15/99	1/20/99	1/28/99	2/3/99	2/10/99
Gene Adams	X	X	X	X	X
Levy Brunet	X	X	X	X	X
Kim Chauvin	X	X	X	X	X
Neddy Cheramie	X	X	X	X	X
Larry Dinh	X	X	X	X	
Wayne Estay	X	X	X	X	X
Brad Friloux	X	X	X	X	X
Karen Gautreaux			X	X	X
Pete Gerica	X	X	X	X	X
C. J. Kiffe	X	X			X
Rep. Mike Michot		X			
Mike Pellegrin	X	X	X	X	X
Ricky Robin					
Sen. Craig Romero					
John Roussel	X	X	X	X	X
Bobby Samanie	X	X	X	X	
Jeff Scott		X			X
Larry Sims (resigned)					
Sen. John Siracusa					
Rep. John Smith					
Clark Touchard	X				

Appendix 3. Recommended Legislative Initiatives

COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING--SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD--
SHRIMP MARKETING ACCOUNT--DEDICATED FUNDS

ACT NO. _____

AN ACT to enact, R.S. 56:305(G), R.S. 56:578.13 and R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(a)(iii), relative to commercial shrimping; to provide for a special fee imposed on commercial gear used for shrimping; to provide for the disposition of those fees; to provide for the establishment of an account in the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:305(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§ 305. Commercial gear license; issuance to certain nonresidents prohibited; moratorium on certain new gear licenses; renewals

G. In addition to the established fees required for commercial shrimping, there shall be an additional gear license fee of ten dollars (\$10) assessed on the first piece only of commercial gear purchased by each individual commercial fisherman each year used to take shrimp by residents and forty dollars (\$40) for nonresidents.

Section 2. R.S. 56:578.13 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§ 578.13. Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board; Shrimp Marketing Account; duties, responsibilities, and functions.

A. The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board shall be empowered to administer the funds in the Shrimp Marketing Account as provided for in 56:10(B)(1)(a)(iii).

Section 3. R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(a)(iii) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§ 10. Annual report to governor; estimated of proposed expenditures; particular funds; warrants, vouchers; surplus funds

(B)(1)(a)(iii). Pay annually into the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund, into a special account entitled the "Shrimp Marketing Account", the additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) and forty dollars (\$40) respectively for the first piece of commercial gear used to take shrimp pursuant to R.S. 56:305(G) and paid into the treasury by the Commission. All expenditures and allocation of funds from this account shall be administered by the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Appendix 4. Leadership Development Resolution

Regular Session, 1999

_____ Concurrent Resolution No. _____

By _____

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To evaluate the establishment of a special fisheries class in Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's Agricultural Leadership Development Program.

WHEREAS, the utilization of Louisiana's fishery resources generates economic impact of \$4.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, essentially all Louisianians enjoy the food and recreation benefits of the state's renewable fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, conflict between various user groups of these valuable fisheries resources arises frequently; and

WHEREAS, increasingly complex issues of fishery resources utilization requires that more skillful leaders be available to positively resolve conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the future flow of benefits from fishery resources will depend on improving the public speaking, negotiation, mediation, public participation and conflict resolution skills of potential leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center has developed and conducted the highly successful Agricultural Leadership Development Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to evaluate the feasibility of a special Agricultural Leadership Development Program class of individuals involved in the utilization of fishery resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation include: 1) a draft fisheries leadership development curriculum, 2) proposed eligibility criteria, 3) costs of conducting a class and 4) alternative means of funding a fisheries leadership development class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, or his designee, transmit a report of the pilot program feasibility to the natural resource committees of the Legislature of Louisiana and the members of the Shrimp Industry Review Panel II created by Executive Order MJF 98-61 prior to January 31, 2000.

Appendix 5. Shrimp Habitat Resolution

Regular Session, 1999

_____ Concurrent Resolution No. _____

By _____

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request that state and federal agencies that have impacts on shrimp habitat to include whenever possible representatives of the shrimp industry on existing or proposed habitat advisory boards,

WHEREAS, the utilization of Louisiana's shrimp fishery generates economic impact of over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, essentially all Louisianians enjoy the food and recreation benefits of the state's renewable fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, increasingly complex issues of habitat preservation and restoration actions may conflict with the present shrimp habitat and production patterns; and

WHEREAS, the future flow of benefits from shrimp resources will depend on long term viability of estuarine habitats and accessibility of these habitats to estuarine organisms; and

WHEREAS, the State and Federal governments have embarked on aggressive actions to address Louisiana's critical land loss issues, particularly restoration of normal hydrological regimes and re-introduction of the Mississippi River to its traditional headwaters, and

WHEREAS, these actions are perceived to have short term effects on local shrimp abundance and availability

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana legislature urge the state agencies that have impacts on shrimp habitat to include, whenever possible, representatives of the shrimp industry on current and future habitat advisory boards

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana legislature requests the Louisiana congressional delegation urge the federal agencies that have impacts on shrimp habitat also include, whenever possible, representatives of the shrimp industry on current and future habitat advisory boards.