

# LOUISIANA COASTAL LAW

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SEA GRANT LEGAL PROGRAM - LSU LAW CENTER



## CONTENTS

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES . . . . .	p.1
NATURAL RESOURCES. . . . .	p.3
ENVIRONMENT. . . . .	p.4

LCL No. 45

## 1982 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

### WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ACTS

This annual Legislative issue of "Louisiana Coastal Law" is devoted to summarizing acts and resolutions enacted during the 1982 session of the Louisiana Legislature. Important legislation having an impact on Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Resources, and the Environment are covered. Most of these laws became effective on September 10, 1982. Further information about any of the laws or resolutions discussed in this issue may be obtained by contacting the Sea Grant Legal Program, 52 Law Center, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-1018, (504) 388-5931.

The 1982 Legislative Session lacked much of the excitement and controversy of previous years. The two dominant issues, the CWEL (Coastal Wetlands Environmental Levy) Tax and Workmen's Compensation Reform, were both defeated. CWEL died early in the session while the much amended Workmen's Compensation bill suffered a lingering, eleventh hour death.

Following CWEL and Workmen's Compensation in the legislator's interest was environmental and drunk driving legislation. The legislature seemed to be reacting to the heightened public concern over these two problems.

This session Louisiana legislators continued the process of overhauling wildlife and fisheries provisions. They specified and in some cases extended the powers of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to make changes in mesh sizes for fishing nets, and to prohibit harassment of hunters by persons who would seek to dissuade them from their sport.

The make-up of the Louisiana Seafood Marketing and Promotion Board was changed to reflect a wider spectrum of people involved in the seafood industry.

Here are other laws passed this session dealing with wildlife and fisheries:

Act 93 (Sour) provides that surplus revenues from the mineral development in the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge be made available to the Wildlife and Fisheries Department for management of programs and land acquisitions.

Act 94 (Sour) prohibits the sale, possession, or importation of carp, not taken from state waters, without written permission of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Act 95 (Sour) removes the prohibition against using devices that puncture the skin, such as gigs and spears, when hunting frogs.

Act 119 (Nunez) allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to continue to adopt rules and regulations for the control of birds, shellfish, finfish, and wild quadrupeds. This power would otherwise have expired on June 30, 1982.

Act 292 (M. Hebert) increases the maximum mesh size of trammel net mesh from not more than one inch square (2 inches stretched) to one and one-half inches square (3 inches stretched). Also decreases the maximum size of trammel nets from 1200 feet to 1000 feet.

Act 312 (Sour, et al) clarifies the present law to specify that taking a single deer more than one-half hour after sunset or before sunrise is a violation. The prior law prohibited taking "deer" instead of "a deer" and could have been interpreted as meaning more than one deer would have to be taken before a violation occurred.

Act 313 (Sour, et al) deletes the taking and possession limits for certain sizes and species of freshwater game fish and

changes the limits for some other species.

Act 314 (Sour) requires that state water bottoms leased for the cultivation of oysters be marked with signs bearing the lease number and last name or initials of the leaseholder. Prior law did not require the lease number or allow use of initials instead of name.

Act 315 (Sour) gives the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries discretion to accept a waterbottom lease even though the survey plan exceeds ten percent of the acreage described in the initial lease application in cases where the lease would not overlap or effect surrounding leases or pending leases.

Act 316 (Sour) increases the penalties for sales and other commercial transactions involving certain species of freshwater game fish such as largemouth bass, white crappie, bream, and others.

Act 317 (Sour) provides that the oyster lease holder of a waterbottom is entitled to ten days written notice before the resurveying of the lease area by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The leaseholder is also required to be present at the re-survey.

Act 318 (Sour) allows the taking of fish by bow and arrow or spear and enumerates the types of fish that may be taken in this manner.

Act 319 (Sour) (also Act 380 by Nunez) prohibits the release, in Louisiana waters, of fish from outside the state unless permission is given by the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Act 320 (Sour) redefines slat trap as a trap constructed of slats having at least one crack on each side, on the

right side, left side, and top.

Act 329 (Doucet, et al) transfers the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Development and Trails, Louisiana Urban Parks Recovery Grant Fund, and the Louisiana Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan from the Office of Program Development to the Office of State Parks.

Act 376 (Kelly) prohibits the harassment of hunters, trappers, and fishermen, and provides for a civil action in damages for violations.

Act 378 (Nunez) makes changes in the membership of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board by deleting the member chosen from the Louisiana Catfish Farmers Association (an organization that no longer exists), adding a member nominated by the Louisiana Restaurant Association and deleting the provision that the representative of the finfish industry may be a seafood processor.

Act 389 (Nunez) removes the mention of rings as a method of handling a purse seine in its definition. "Purse Seine" now means (tong) weight and/or a power block to handle the net and then pursed by means of a drawstring that can be drawn to close the bottom of the net.

Act 390 (Nunez) requires an applicant for a resident commercial saltwater fishing license to submit proof of Louisiana residence, (voter registration or drivers license).

Act 405 (Nunez) adds to the wildlife and fisheries laws a definition of the term "shell fish" to mean an aquatic invertebrate species having a shell - including oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs, and other mollusks and crustaceans.

Act 406 (Nunez) (also Act 685 by M. Hebert) exempts procedures for closing oyster bottoms from some Administrative Procedure Act requirements when public health is endangered and authorizes the immediate re-opening of each waterbottom when the threat to public health has been eliminated.

Act 411 (Nunez) requires commercial tugs, towboats, or self-propelled barges operating in Lake Pontchartrain be equipped with transmitting and receiving equipment compatible with the Loran C Early Warning System.

Act 417 (Nunez) prohibits fishing for pompano in Breton or Chandeleur Sound at night and provides a smaller mesh size of five inches stretched for pompano nets. Act 417 also extends, by two months, the period during which pompano may be fished and excludes islands from the distance offshore where fishing can take place.

Act 418 (Casey) authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to purchase land in designated wilderness areas in the state of Louisiana.

Act 420 (M. Thompson) increases the fees charged for recreational hunting and fishing licenses.

Act 438 (McLeod) allows a pick-up truck to tow both a boat trailer and a camping trailer at the same time.

Act 467 (Nunez) (also Act 626 by Patti) limits the purchasing of licenses for oyster vessels equipped with scrapers or dredges to the period from August 1 to September 10 of each year, unless the vessel owner died and title is transferred in which case the license is available within 30 days from the death of the owner. Licenses may be also obtained within 45 days of a newly built or purchased vessel.

Act 480 (Osterberger) allows handicapped persons to obtain recreational hunting and fishing licenses free of charge.

Act 484 (Landry) repeals the special law prohibiting the use of seines, nets, and webbing in Bayou Des Allemands and Lakes Des Allemands and Salvador.

Act 571 (Nunez) authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources to transfer titles to certain properties in Concordia Parish to each other.

Act 621 (Sour) provides that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall employ scientists to study the life, habits, and productivity of the wildlife of the state. Act 621 also delineates procedures for issuing citations for violations.

Act 727 (Sour) permits the use of leads or wings on hoop nets below the salt water line (established by Section 322 of Title 56), but prohibits the use of monofilament leads or wings below that line. Additionally, no pair of wings or leads are permitted within one hundred feet of each other and no single lead can exceed 25 feet in length. Act 727 is an attempt to plug the loophole in prior law which allowed a monofilament gill net to be used as a "lead."

Act 729 (Sour) changes the definition of "beam trawl" so that the net is funnel-shaped and its mouth may be held open by a beam or by any stationary fixture.

Act 728 (Sour) defines the duties and responsibilities for the managing game and fish preserves and commissions within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Act 731 (Sour) reduces the non-resident license fee for vessels used by non-resident commercial fin fishermen from \$1,000 per vessel to two hundred dollars per vessel.

Act 732 (Sour) extends the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's power to make rules and regulations pertaining to freshwater commercial fish netting.

Act 743 (Sour, et al) authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to

purchase land in the Atchafalaya Basin on behalf of the State for the development of nature and recreation areas.

Act 745 (Williams) allows charging non-resident commercial seafood dealers or transporters at least the same license fee as their state charges Louisiana residents to do business in their state.

Act 746 (Patti, Nunez) provides that the mesh size for saltwater fish seines will be a maximum of one inch square (two inches stretched). Act 746 further provides that no seine shall exceed 1,200 feet, nor shall a net formed by two or more seines together exceed 1,200 feet in length. Commercial seining in Lake Bruin and Fool River is prohibited.

Act 777 (M. Hebert) decreases the minimum mesh size for shrimp trawls to five-eighths of an inch bar and one and one-fourth of an inch stretched for all seasons.

Act 790 (Williams) changes current law to allow a hunter to hunt raccoons alone at night on his own property with lights.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions concerning Wildlife and Fisheries made it through the Legislature:

HCR 2 (Brady) directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to prohibit doe days hunting during deer hunting season in Winn, Caldwell, and LaSalle parishes.

HCR 3 (Guidry) requests Louisiana's congressional delegation to oppose Coast Guard established user fees for boat owners and operators.

HCR 4 (Guidry) suspended, for fifteen days, that portion of the law relative to vessel licenses which requires that licenses for commercial shrimping be obtained from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries during the specified one month period from January 1 through February 1.

HCR 5 (Fowler) directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to promulgate rules to allow the use of three and one-half inch mesh nets on the Louisiana side of Toledo Bend Lake.

HCR 9 (Williams, Sour) asks the governor and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to acquire property in the Tensas Hardwood Bottomlands for a wildlife management area when funds become available.

HCR 38 (Andrepoint) directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to furnish topography maps of areas under its jurisdiction for sale at prevailing rates.

HCR 55 (Gunter, et al) directs the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries to appoint at least three additional full-time wildlife enforcement agents in Rapides Parish.

HCR 62 (Theriot) requests the Department of Agriculture to develop, and make available to farmers, information to show the economic feasibility of commercially cultivating crawfish as a secondary or alternative crop.

HCR 237 (Fowler) requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to cease releasing striped bass into Toledo Lake

pending a study to determine the effect of such releases on other game fish in the Lake.

SCR 19 (Rayburn) requests the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to hold public hearings on proposed regulations in localities that would be affected the proposed changes.

SCR 27 (Nunez) creates a special Task Force on Fisheries Research and Development to evaluate the state's present role in fisheries research and to develop a fisheries research and development plan.

SCR 53 (Landry) suspends the law as to the minimum size limit on channel catfish locally known as white, eel cat, or willow cat.

SCR 95 (Nicholson) requests the U.S. Coast Guard to establish rules to require that cranes on boats be lowered to their lowest position when the vessel is traveling.

SCR 108 (Campbell, et al) directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to publish all state and local trespass laws and ordinances.

## NATURAL RESOURCES ACTS

This session the legislature concentrated on delegating authority to various agencies and public bodies for the management and protection of the state's land and waterways. Among the issues debated was the appeals procedure of the Louisiana Coastal Commission and the removal of members for poor attendance of meetings. One of the more interesting pieces of legislation considered was the designation of Bayou St. John as a scenic river. The new definition of a natural and scenic river will open this Scenic System up to variety of water bodies not originally protected under the Title.

Other Natural Resources Acts passed by the Legislature include:

Act 63 (Lebleu) adds to the present disbursement of revenues from oil and gas exploration on the Rockfeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve. Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars was allotted to McNeese State University for educational purposes and three hundred thousand went to the State Board of Regents to fund wildlife and fisheries research at state universities.

Act 65 (Sour) repeals the Caddo Lake Compact between Louisiana and Texas.

Act 98 (Fernandez, et al) increases the fees collected by the Commissioner of Conservation for various administrative functions and provides for a fund called the Natural Resources Conservation Fund to pay for the plugging of abandoned oil, gas or injection wells.

Act 263 (Scogin) includes the Morgan River in St. Tammany Parish within the State Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

Act 267 (Bruneau) changes the definition of Natural and Scenic River to allow the inclusion of historic rivers such as Bayou St. John in Orleans Parish.

Act 351 (Baker, et al) creates a statewide flood control program--intended to be a comprehensive approach to solving flood problems throughout the state. The law provides standards under which the program will be administered including the establishment of an Evaluation Committee to develop procedures for reviewing projects and submitting them before legislative committees.

Act 429 (Jumonville) requires hearings to be held in the parish where an applicant seeks a permit or license to dispose, generate, treat, or store hazardous wastes. Also provides procedures for these hearings.

Act 447 (Jumonville) provides requirements and procedures to be followed by the Office of Environmental Affairs assistant secretary when making recommendations to the Environmental Control Commission for hearings on applications for licenses, permits, compliance, performance guidelines, and orders.

Act 483 (Cross) requires that an applicant for a permit to drill an oil or gas well in a developed area, first submit a location plat so that the owner of any nearby residential or commercial structure can be notified and have an opportunity to be heard on the subject of the drilling permit.

Act 516 (Carson) provides that fifteen acres of land being donated to the L.S.U. Board of Supervisors for U.N.O. be dedicated for recreation and park purposes.

Act 648 (Downer) transfers title of land held by a parish school board, by virtue of a federal land grant, to the State when the land has become part of a navigable water body. This land was originally intended to be used for schools in the township. Although title would be transferred under this act, the parish school board would be entitled to any revenue generated by this land, including leases and royalties from oil and gas drilling.

Act 659 (Fernandez, et al) expands the powers of the Louisiana Resource Recovery and Development Authority to set terms for certain contracts and provide financing for waste management projects.

Act 733 (Reilly, et al) sets detailed requirements for the types of securities in which the state treasurer may invest Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement (L.I.F.E.) monies. L.I.F.E. derives its revenue from oil and gas severance tax and state lease royalties designated as windfall profits, and surplus funds from the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

Act 779 (Scogin) creates the St. Tammany Levee District and provides for a board of commissioners to adopt rules and regulations for a levee system.

Act 794 (Fernandez, et al) makes minor alterations in the Louisiana law requiring special permission to test salt domes for the feasibility of storing nuclear waste.

Act 797 (Ullo) allows the Attorney General to bring civil actions to assess penalties or to collect penalties for violation of the Environmental Affairs

Act in those cases referred to him by the Environmental Control Commission. The Act also outlines a number of factors to be reviewed by the Commission or the Department of Natural Resources in determining the civil penalties to be imposed.

Act 799 (Ullo) provides that when the Office of Environmental Affairs assistant secretary proposes to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous wastes at an abandoned hazardous waste site, he must submit a clean-up plan to the Environmental Control Commission, unless immediate action is required for the health and safety of the public. Also, the assistant secretary has authority to take all reasonably necessary actions to secure the site from unauthorized entry.

Act 800 (Ullo) defines, for purposes of the Louisiana Hazardous Waste Control Law, reusable material and gives the Environmental Control Commission the authority to regulate its generation, transportation, and disposition as if it were waste.

Act 801 (Ullo) includes discharges in excess of a permit limit to be a violation of the Louisiana Water Control Law. This Act closes a possible gap in the law which previously only prohibited discharges in violation of any rule, order, or regulation of the Commission or the Office of Environmental Affairs.

Act 802 (Ullo) provides that a person filing hazardous waste site facility applications with the state must provide two extra copies of the permit application. Also deletes the requirement that public entities who receive copies of this permit application must be given reasonable time, under Environmental Control Commission Rules, to comment.

Act 813 (Casey) provides that members of the Louisiana Coastal Commission may be

replaced for failure to attend meetings and that a majority vote of the total Commission membership is required to modify or reverse a coastal management decision of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Louisiana Coastal Commission is no longer required to grant a stay pending appeal from their decision on a coastal use permit and the authority to grant stays may be delayed in accordance with rules made by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and approved by the Commission. Finally, Act 813 provides for extension of time when the Louisiana Coastal Commission fails to render a decision within the required 45 day period.

Act 833 (Guidry) authorizes the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to provide the necessary state matching funds as part of a federal project initiated by the U.S. Corp of Engineers to protect Grand Isle from hurricanes and beach erosion.

Act 839 (Fernandez) allows dredge spoils from ship channels, basin dredging, and other waters (except the Mississippi River) within the St. Bernard Harbor and Terminal District to be used to enhance port, harbor, and terminal development within the district. Also provides that the Board of Commissioners for the District have the authority to acquire and dispose of property for a public purpose.

Act 858 (Gee) deletes the provisions which provided that port commissions and levee boards could not be held liable to owners or leasees of property along navigable waterways.

Act 864 (Guidry, Landry) creates the Grand Isle Port Commission from a portion of the area formerly under the Greater Jefferson Port Commission.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following are resolutions passed by the legislature concerning natural resources:

HCR 13 (Theriot) requests the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior to declare Louisiana's coastal parishes eligible to qualify for federal flood insurance.

HCR 20 (Sour) asks the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake its project to enlarge Caddo Lake as quickly as possible to increase the water supply of Shreveport and neighboring communities.

HCR 68 (Haik and Scragg) continues the existence of the Energy Development Study Commission to determine Louisiana's dependence on natural gas and find solutions to the problem of making available sufficient energy to support the Louisiana economy.

HCR 120 (Russo) increases the membership of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission.

HCR 176 (Fernandez) clarifies the authority of the Louisiana Resource Recovery and Development Authority to use leveraged leasing for financing.

SCR 13 (Sevario) directs the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission to send legislators in its district advance notice of their meeting agenda.

SCR 51 (Landry) creates the Special Joint Natural Resources Nuclear Studies Committee.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTS

Environmental legislation was a significant topic at the 1982 session. Essentially the legislature delegated to the Department of Natural Resources many substantive changes in the state's present law, allowing or directing that body to establish administrative rules to deal with the problems encountered in enforcing the laws. One new piece of legislation mandates that appeals from a decision by the Environmental Control Commission will now be made to the First Circuit Court of Appeals rather than the Nineteenth Judicial District Court. Other acts include:

Act 54 (Dykes) abolishes the state Mosquito Control Advisory Board and

transfers its functions to the state Advisory Commission on Pesticides.

Act 139 (Theriot) empowers the Commissioner of Conservation, after notice and hearings, to regulate hours for operation of offsite treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for oil field waste materials.

Act 146 (Fernandez) increases from twenty five thousand dollars to one hundred thousand dollars the maximum criminal penalty for knowingly discharging or disposing of any substance in violation of any provision of the Louisiana Environmental Affairs Act.

Act 198 (Martin) consolidates and clarifies state law provisions for the registration, sale, and application of pesticides and the disposal of pesticide wastes.

Act 229 (Lauricella) reconciles two different state littering statutes by adopting progressively higher fines for successive violations.

Act 257 (Bella) defines, for purposes of Louisiana's motor vehicle and traffic regulations, "loose material" which must not spilled on the road.

Act 299 (Ullo) provides guidelines for the administration of the state aban-

doned hazardous waste site fund by the Office of Environmental Affairs Assistant Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

Act 300 (Ullo) makes it a violation of the Louisiana Environmental Affairs Act to fail to notify the Office of Environmental Affairs of an illegal discharge or emission beyond permit limits.

Act 322 (Fernandez, et al) leaves the Environmental Control Commission within the Department of Natural Resources but permits its removal from the Office of Environmental Affairs. Also, the process for appealing decisions of the Environmental Control Commission is changed so that appeals now must be taken to the First Circuit Court of Appeals instead of District Court.

Act 323 (Fernandez, et al) allows the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, upon written request, to keep on-going investigation reports confidential. It must determine that disclosure of the report would impair the investigation or prejudice the Environmental Control Commission.

Act 326 (Baker) requires a transporter of hazardous materials to indicate the proper hazard class on a sign on each of the four sides of his vehicle.

Act 327 (Baker) provides penalties for the reckless and/or unsafe handling of hazardous materials during transportation.

Act 379 (Nunez) gives the governor the authority to hire administrative law judges by "contract". This provides greater flexibility in setting salaries and eliminates the need for Senate approval.

Act 459 (Lauricella) gives the Weights and Standards Police Force the authority to enforce anti-littering laws.

Act 468 (Nunez) establishes a new hazardous pollutant emission control program to be implemented by the Environmental Control Commission. The goal of this program is to identify air pollutants and establish objective criteria for their monitoring and regulation.

Act 539 (Windhorst) increases fines for violating state laws involving transportation of hazardous waste.

Act 655 (Fernandez) requires the Louisiana Office Environmental Affairs to inspect facilities regulated by the Louisiana Environmental Affairs Act. A policy of unannounced inspections is also established.

Act 661 (Fernandez) authorizes the Office of Environmental Affairs assis-

tant secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with any person who offers a significant amount of funds, equipment, materials, or services to investigate, test, contain, or clean up a designated pollution source.

Act 805 (Nunez and Fernandez) requires the Environmental Control Commission or the Office of Environmental Affairs to submit a report on the history of environmental violations and compliance for facilities seeking permits. Also prohibits granting permits to sulphur facilities from which sulphur particulate matter will be emitted.

Act 722 (Casey) authorizes the assistant secretary of Environmental Affairs to contract for the clean-up of hazardous waste sites.

Act 775 (Fernandez) removed the Louisiana Environmental Control Commission's authority to prepare and submit to the federal Environmental Protection Agency a priority list for funding of water treatment works under the Construction Grants Program.

Act 783 (Lowenthal) provides that the Environmental Control Commission's authority to adopt noxious odor control and abatement regulations does not preclude a private party from seeking relief in the courts.

Act 798 (Ullo) gives administrative law judges serving the Environmental Control Commission the power to sign and issue subpoenas requiring attendance at hearings and the giving of testimony by witnesses, and the production of documents.

Act 812 (Hudson) makes changes in the Board of the Louisiana Cancer and Lung Trust Fund to improve its ability to investigate the high incidence of cancer in the state.

HCR 23 (Sour) requests congress to encourage the development of hazardous waste treatment and disposal sites.

HCR 154 (Sour) asks Congress to eliminate the requirement of obtaining a Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for water releases from dams and reservoirs.

HCR 165 (Sheridan) asks congress to reject any legislation pertaining to coal pipeline carriers that does not insure protection of Louisiana's environment and waters.

HCR 197 (Atkins) requests the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to assist local governments with litter and trash pickup and disposal.

HR 6 (M. Hebert) requests the U.S. Corps of Engineers to suspend construction of any extension of the Avoca Island Levee until the biological and hydrological impact of an extension has been studied.

HR 7 (Hainkel) requests the Louisiana Department of Civil Service to reexamine its position relative to certain positions within the Office of Environmental Affairs. This resolution is an attempt to help the Department of Natural Resources provide more competitive salaries for their Environmental Program Specialists.

SCR 43 (Jumonville) directs the Environmental Control Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to take all necessary steps to close the Bayou Sorrel hazardous waste disposal facility.

SCR 83 (Kiefer) requests the Department of Health and Human Resources and several other relevant commissions and officials to review recent reports on the bacterial pollution of Lake Pontchartrain.

SR 11 (Chabert) requests the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to see that adequate biological and hydrological studies are conducted to determine the effects of the proposed Avoca Island Levee.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following are resolutions passed by the legislature concerning the environment:

HCR 8 (Heaton) asks the U.S. Congress to further restrict the discharge of pollutants into the Mississippi River from sources upstream of Louisiana.

## VETOED LEGISLATION

Several pieces of legislation affecting Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Resources, and the Environment were vetoed by Governor Treen. The following bills were vetoed:

HB 213 (Kimball) would have exempted all off-road vehicles from state vehicle registration requirements.

HB 1864 (Kember) would have included Iberville Parish within the Louisiana coastal zone.

SB 421 (Nunez) would have established the Commercial Fishermen's Fuel Crisis Act to provide a tax credit program for commercial fishermen based on fuel price increases.

SB 488 (Windhorst) would have expanded the powers of the West Jefferson Levee District Police.

SB 1007 (Randolph) would have required that any governmental entity, when divesting itself of land on which mineral rights were reserved, first offer the land to the original owner(s) or his(their) successor(s).

## SEA GRANT ADDS STAFF ATTORNEY

The Louisiana Sea Grant Legal Program is pleased to announce that Linda Watkins has joined its staff. Formerly a Louisiana Assistant Attorney General in the environmental area, Linda will bring a wealth of knowledge concerning environmental law to the Sea Grant Legal Program.

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