

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend fisheries biologist Mike Wood on his retirement after thirty-seven years of service at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and to thank him for his long-time service to the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

WHEREAS, Mike Wood is a true North Louisianian, born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, and educated at the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a Masters of Science degree in Biology; and

WHEREAS, Mike is married to the lovely Terri and together they have three children, twins Jake and Jordan and sister Samantha; and

WHEREAS, Mike has held numerous positions during his thirty-seven-year career at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries starting in 1978 as a student worker in the Monroe office and then serving as District 2 Manager from 1995 through 2008, Biologist DCL-B specializing in fisheries management from 2008 through 2010, and Director of Inland Fisheries from 2010 until his retirement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as biologist and administrator for the department, Mike was instrumental in the development of the original Louisiana black bass management plan, he oversaw the completion of seventy-six water body management plans, he played an integral role in standardizing recreational fishing regulations in the border waters between Louisiana and Texas, he initiated bass and crappie stock assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of regulations on Louisiana waters, he was instrumental in the removal of the fourteen-inch minimum length limit in the Atchafalaya Basin, he played an integral role in development of the integrated pest management approach to controlling aquatic nuisance vegetation and has improved overall efficiency in the aquatic weed eradication efforts, and he assisted in the revision of the departmental stocking policy in an effort to increase stocking success and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Mike was a recipient of the secretary's Employee of Year Award for the work he did on Caney Lake fisheries conservation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the valuable work that he did as a biologist and administrator for the department, Mike also represented the department on numerous special committees including the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee from 1996 through 2010, the Atchafalaya Basin Program from 2010 through 2015, the Fish Contaminant Advisory Workgroup from 2008 through 2010, and the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association from 2010 through 2015, even traveling to Washington, D.C., in 2011 and 2012 with the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association to address members of the United States Congress concerning issues related to aquatic nuisance species including the Asian Carp; and

WHEREAS, Mike has also assisted in the development of the Baton Rouge LSU Lakes Renovation Project currently underway in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Mike also chaired certain advisory and technical groups in his capacity with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries including the Atchafalaya Basin Program Technical Advisory Workgroup from 2008 through 2010 and the False River Watershed Council from 2012 through 2015; and

WHEREAS, the False River Watershed Council was created to develop a scientifically based coordinated plan for the restoration and sustainability of the water quality and natural habitat of the False River watershed; and

WHEREAS, although other plans for the health of False River had been developed in the past, those plans did not address all the concerns of the citizens and property owners, as Mike put it, "That document was a fisheries management plan that didn't really address some of the concerns the rest of the public has. A lot of the people out there don't fish, so we had to come up with a better way to approach it. Our report is addressing the overall health of False River by expanding our focus from fisheries to all these other different things like erosion and sedimentation"; and

WHEREAS, it was Mike's gentle guidance as chair and his ability to bring to the table many people of differing viewpoints and perspectives and his firm hand as he guided the council through their multiple-year-long efforts to come to an agreement as to the

optimal plan for the management and protection of the resources within the False River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the False River Watershed Council's report to the legislature entitled "Managing False River Watershed Resources" was designated the 2013-2014 "Best document that provides information to the legislature" by the Legislative Research Librarians staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend fisheries biologist Mike Wood on his retirement after thirty-seven years of service at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and extend a special thank you to him for his long-time service to the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mike Wood.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE