

1 WHEREAS, past experiences with aquaculture operations of this nature have resulted
2 in increased pollution of the surrounding waters due to concentrated amounts of fish food,
3 fish waste, and chemicals and antibiotics used to treat the caged fish and have resulted in
4 damaged cages floating free, interfering with maritime commerce and endangering others
5 attempting to use the surrounding waters; and

6 WHEREAS, additional concerns about the development of deepwater fish farming
7 include potential damage to the genetics of both the farmed fish in the cages and the wild
8 fish in the surrounding waters, the spread of disease among the farmed fish and the wild fish
9 outside the cages, and the stress that the farms would put on forage fish, such as menhaden,
10 that would be used extensively for meal for the caged fish rather than being left as prey for
11 the wild fish in the food chain of the Gulf of Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana is known for its seafood and for its devotion to fishing the
13 Gulf of Mexico for a myriad of fish, all of which may be impacted by the establishment of
14 deepwater aquaculture facilities in the very areas where our commercial and recreational
15 fishermen pursue their passion for fishing; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana is also known for its oil and gas industry, much of which is
17 now located offshore, again in the very areas where these fish farms are likely to be located
18 and where the large containment cages have every potential of breaking their moorings
19 during hurricanes and could then add to the damage to Gulf of Mexico rigs during times of
20 heavy weather; and

21 WHEREAS, there has been little in-depth research conducted into the unintended
22 consequences of deepwater fish farming particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, and it seems that
23 the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council is acting far too quickly to enact rules
24 allowing the establishment of deepwater fish farms in the Gulf of Mexico and, in fact, is
25 acting in advance of congressional direction to begin development and implementation of
26 such a program; and

27 WHEREAS, Louisiana has had little input into the development of the regulatory
28 system that would govern deepwater fish farming, an industry that has every potential for
29 dramatic impact on Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishing industries, industries
30 that are larger than fishing industries in any of the rest of the United States, industries that

1 are well known for their value and uniqueness, and industries that should be preserved and
2 protected; and

3 WHEREAS, the recreational and commercial fishing industries in this state combine
4 for an annual economic impact well in excess of a billion dollars, and the oil and gas
5 industries have an even greater economic impact in this state, with accompanying tax
6 revenues that fund many of the services provided by the state; and

7 WHEREAS, one of the most important tenets of economic development is to protect,
8 retain, and develop those industries that are already successful and already located in the
9 state, such as the fishing industries and the oil and gas industries in Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, the development of deepwater fish farms off the coast of Louisiana
11 could have a tremendous negative impact on both these industries which could, in turn, have
12 a tremendous negative impact on the tax revenues received by the state from the industries
13 and related transactions, thereby causing a reduction in the funds available for state
14 expenditure.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 memorialize the United States Congress and express to the Louisiana Congressional
17 Delegation, the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanographic and
18 Atmospheric Administration, and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council
19 opposition by the Louisiana Legislature to the authorization of deepwater fish farms in the
20 Gulf of Mexico off the coast of the state of Louisiana.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 United States Congress, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the National Marine
23 Fisheries Service of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the
24 Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Wooton

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Memorializes the U.S. Congress and expresses to the La. Congressional Delegation, the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council opposition by the

La. Legislature to the authorization of deepwater fish farms in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of the state of La.