



Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc.

P.O. BOX 16089 LSU
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70893
504/344-6707



RESOLUTION NO. 19

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA WETLAND LOSS

WHEREAS, Louisiana's enormous coastal marsh yields benefits to the Nation in excess of one billion dollars per year and represents one of the Nation's most productive estuarine systems for fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the rate of coastal wetland loss is about 50 square miles per year and this loss threatens the vitality of that productive wetland system and its economic and social benefits, and

WHEREAS, the causes of this tremendous annual loss include both State and Federal actions, and

WHEREAS, Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle have reviewed the issues surrounding that wetland loss and held an interagency meeting to discuss the issue along with roles and responsibilities of the various State and Federal Agencies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation encourages Governor Edwin Edwards and the Louisiana Legislature to enact legislation directing the Louisiana Coastal Protection Task Force to coordinate all State and Federal efforts and develop a comprehensive plan for the control of coastal erosion and wetland loss. We also encourage Secretary Donald Hodel to actively support the implementation of short-term solutions such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' three (3) freshwater diversion projects (Caernarvon, Davis Pond, and Bonne Carré) and to support a long-term planning and research program to be coordinated with other State and Federal agencies to find the most effective long range solutions to the coastal wetland loss problem. And, further, we encourage the State of Louisiana to pursue as aggressive a coastal resources management program as possible through increased funding to the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Wildlife and Fisheries to preserve these coastal wetlands for the enjoyment of future generations of Louisianians.

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled,
15 February 1987 in Alexandria, LA.