



St. Bernard Parish Council

8201 West Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043
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www.sbpq.net

#14

Kerri Callais
*Councilmember
at Large*

Richard "Richie" Lewis
*Councilmember
at Large*

Gillis McCloskey
*Councilmember
District A*

Joshua "Josh" Moran
*Councilmember
District B*

Howard Luna
*Councilmember
District C*

Wanda Alcon
*Councilmember
District D*

Fred Everhardt, Jr.
*Councilmember
District E*

Roxanne Adams
Clerk of Council

EXTRACT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 AT THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Everhardt, it was moved to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SBPC #2213-02-22

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION'S NOTICE OF INTENT REGARDING COASTAL MENHADEN BUFFER ZONE WHERE THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF GULF MENHADEN IS RESTRICTED.

WHEREAS, an appropriate exclusion zone for menhaden harvest would protect the coastline of Louisiana and the fragile ecosystem that exists within it. It is the belief of this council that the proposed ¼ mile buffer across the state is not sufficient to protect our coast as that zone is both shallow and fragile; and,

WHEREAS, every other state in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as most around the country, have at least ½ mile buffer zones protecting their shorelines from the style of fishing used to commercially harvest menhaden; and,

WHEREAS, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has further proposed to remove the buffer zone completely in Breton and Chandeleur Sound from the Notice of Intent, leaving St. Bernard Parish's delicate coast entirely exposed. St. Bernard Parish's estuaries and shorelines deserve the same protection that the rest of the Gulf of Mexico is afforded; and,

WHEREAS, while this Council recognizes the importance of the menhaden industry, it is the belief of this body that this style of fishing requires an appropriate buffer to protect St. Bernard Parish's red drum and speckled trout population, numerous other marine species, birds and mammals, as well as the recreational, charter boat fishing and tourism industries that rely on those species; and,

WHEREAS, St. Bernard Parish is home to a number of historic fishing villages, plays a vital role in Louisiana's commercial seafood industry, and attracts recreational anglers from all over the world. This council believes that only ¼ mile of statewide buffer and no buffer in St. Bernard would be detrimental to our increasingly vulnerable recreational fishing industry, charter fishing industry, and other ecotourism- related businesses; and,



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Extract #14 continued

February 15, 2022

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WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has stated that the speckled trout population in Louisiana is at risk and has considered several size and bag limit changes to address this issue. As such, no changes in regulation should be made that would further the population decline that this species is currently facing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Council, the Governing Authority, does hereby respectfully requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to reconsider its proposal regarding Coastal buffer zones to gulf menhaden harvest, and implement a minimum ½ mile buffer statewide.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

YEAS: McCloskey, Moran, Luna, Alcon, Everhardt, Lewis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Council Chair, Ms. Callais, cast her vote as YEA.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 15th day of February, 2022.

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Parish of St. Bernard, held at Chalmette, Louisiana, on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Witness my hand and the seal
of the Parish of St. Bernard on
this 15th day of February, 2022.

ROXANNE ADAMS
CLERK OF COUNCIL



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Guy McInnis
Parish President

February 16, 2022

St. Bernard Parish Councilmembers
8201 W. Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, LA 70043

SUBJECT: *Resolution SBPC #2213-02-22*

Dear St. Bernard Parish Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my support for Resolution SBPC #2213-02-22- a resolution opposing the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's notice of intent regarding coastal menhaden buffer zone where the commercial harvest of gulf menhaden is restricted. The proposed ¼ mile buffer across the state is not sufficient enough to protect our shallow and fragile coast. Every other state in the Gulf of Mexico has at least ½ mile buffer zone protecting their shorelines. The estuaries and shorelines in St. Bernard Parish deserve the same protection that the rest of the Gulf of Mexico is afforded.

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has proposed to remove the buffer zone completely in Breton and Chandeleur Sound from the Notice of Intent. Removing the buffer zone completely, leaves St. Bernard Parish's coastline exposed and unprotected. St. Bernard Parish is home to numerous historic fishing villages and plays an essential role in Louisiana's seafood industry. St Bernard Parish also attracts recreation anglers from all over the world. With only ¼ mile of statewide buffer and no buffer in St. Bernard Parish, this would be detrimental to St. Bernard Parish's recreational and charter fishing industries, along with other ecotourism-related businesses.

For these reasons, I offer this letter of support. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy S. McInnis".

Guy S. McInnis
St. Bernard Parish President
St. Bernard Parish Government