



## LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

*"... conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."*

### **SUBJECT: RESTORING NATURAL FEATURES OF THE COAST TO ENHANCE HURRICANE PROTECTION IN THE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN**

WHEREAS, coastal restoration and hurricane protection efforts have traditionally been planned separately in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, due to leveeing of the Mississippi River, dredging navigation channels/canals through coastal wetlands, and other human induced changes in natural hydrology, the coast of Louisiana has been in a state of decline for over half a century, and

WHEREAS, due to the declined health of the coast and the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, land loss in the coastal zone of Louisiana may approach 100 square miles for 2005, and

WHEREAS, the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that depending on levees alone does not provide adequate protection from hurricanes, and

WHEREAS, historically, the natural features of the coast of Louisiana such as barrier islands, sounds, marshes, and ridges have been its primary lines of defense against storm surges from hurricanes and tropical storms, and

WHEREAS, the Pontchartrain Coastal Lines of Defense plan developed under the auspices of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation proposes restoration of barrier islands, marshes, ridges, and other natural features of Louisiana's coast that enhance hurricane protection, and

WHEREAS, the Pontchartrain Coastal Lines of Defense Program proposes to sustain the coastal lines of defense and wetland habitats by re-establishing a salinity regime to baseline conditions that existed when the coast was more naturally sustainable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges Governor Blanco, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration authority, and other appropriate government agencies to integrate the Pontchartrain Coastal Lines of Defense plan into future coastal restoration and hurricane protection efforts for coastal areas east of the Mississippi River.

*Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled, March 5, 2006 in Alexandria, Louisiana*