

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in consultation with the Alligator Advisory Council, to study and make recommendations regarding the management of the state's alligator populations.

WHEREAS, during the mid-20th century, unregulated hunting and habitat destruction pushed the American alligator to the edge of oblivion; and in response, Louisiana implemented stringent conservation measures, including hunting bans, habitat restoration projects, and breeding programs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's conservation efforts have been pivotal in resurrecting the species from the brink of extinction to a thriving population today and restoring balance to the state's wetland ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the success of these conservation efforts have led to new challenges; the resurgence of the alligator population in Louisiana has resulted in human-wildlife conflicts, with increasing reports of alligator attacks on pets, livestock, and even humans; and

WHEREAS, with this conservation success, there is a real need to reconsider management strategies and find a delicate balance between protecting the species, wildlife habitat, and ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, to address the growing issue of alligator overpopulation, various management techniques, including reducing the percentage of live alligators returned to the wild from participants in the alligator egg collection program, increasing the number of alligator tags issued, hunting seasons, and the methods in addressing nuisance alligators need to be thoroughly examined with the aim to regulate the alligator population and maintain a healthy balance in the wetland ecosystems while minimizing conflicts between humans and wildlife.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in consultation with the Alligator Advisory Council, to study and make recommendations regarding the management of alligator populations and to provide a report with findings and recommendations to the Senate Natural Resources Committee on or before February 14, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE