

## COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES RESOLUTION NO. 01202015

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources is a duly constituted governmental entity, created to serve the great State of Mississippi.

The Commission service includes the management and enforcement of all matters pertaining to Mississippi's saltwater aquatic life and marine resources.

The seafood industry is of significant economic importance, employing thousands of our coastal residents, and has a significant history in Mississippi. It is dependent on the Mississippi Sound, estuaries, rivers, streams, creeks, bayous and adjacent federal waters.

Large flows of fresh water into estuarine areas of Mississippi and Louisiana are necessary for the health and economics of Mississippi's seafood industries. This includes potential indirect effects on the health of these areas and species.

The Commission is concerned about the detrimental impacts to estuarine areas and species experienced in other areas of the country with existing dams and reservoirs that reduce their freshwater inflow.

Further reduction of the natural freshwater flowing into Mississippi's fragile estuarine areas may cause severe permanent damage to those areas species and jobs dependent upon them.

Significant financial harm to the State of Mississippi and its citizens would result from any further reduction to natural freshwater inflows to Mississippi's fragile estuarine areas.

This harm impacts the commercial and recreational fishermen, natural and artificial reefs and the economy of the coast and State of Mississippi.

Therefore, the Commission resolves that:

- 1. The Commission is opposed to the permitting or construction of any dam or weir that would further reduce the natural seasonal flows of freshwater into Mississippi's estuarine waters.
- 2. The Commission is opposed to the permitting or construction of the proposed reservoir located on the Pearl River designated as Mississippi Pearl River Lake Project located near Jackson, Mississippi.
- 3. The Commission is opposed to the permitting or construction of the proposed reservoir located in Washington Parish, Louisiana.
- 4. The Commission urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take whatever actions necessary to ensure that the State of Mississippi and its citizens are not adversely affected by the construction of dams or weirs.

DONE AND RESOLVED in this duly constituted and assembled meeting on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

Richard Gollott, Chairman

Shelby Drummond, Vice-Chairman

Ernie Zimmerman, Commissioner

Steven Bosarge, Commissioner

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director