

1 for public use and enjoyment, but despite Louisiana's long shoreline and its attraction for
2 commercial and recreation opportunities, Louisiana does not have a state seashore; and

3 WHEREAS, potentially the best occasion to experience Louisiana's unique mix of
4 coastal wildlife, recreation, and commerce is afforded by the barrier beachfront of the
5 Caminada Headland, an approximate fourteen mile stretch of shoreline between Caminada
6 Pass in Jefferson Parish and West Belle Pass in Lafourche Parish, that is accessible via
7 Highway 3090 and Elmer's Island Road; and

8 WHEREAS, with Elmer's Island on the east and Fourchon Beach on the west, these
9 gateways to the Caminada Headland have historically provided a venue to some of the best
10 surf fishing, crabbing, and bird watching, and beach combing in the state; and

11 WHEREAS, the Caminada Headland is the shoreline most impacted by the April 20,
12 2010, Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and was closed to the public for more than one year, with
13 some portions still closed while damages are remediated; and

14 WHEREAS, beyond the tragic loss of eleven human lives caused by the Deepwater
15 Horizon oil spill, damages to natural and recreational resources are still being evaluated
16 through the natural resources damage assessment process, established pursuant to the federal
17 Oil Pollution Act of 1990; and

18 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the lead federal
19 trustee, is assessing damages and losses related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and has
20 invited public input, for suitable mitigation for such damages and losses; and

21 WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities and the office of coastal
22 protection and restoration should study the full restoration of the habitat of Elmer's Island
23 and the Caminada Headland, including review of the acquisition of additional portions of
24 Elmer's Island from willing sellers to include in the Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge,
25 development and implementation of a habitat inventory, and a habitat conservation,
26 enhancement, and public use plan for Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge, all as part of the
27 recompense necessary to re-establish the public and natural resources damaged by the
28 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby request the
30 Governor's Office of Coastal Activities and the office of coastal protection and restoration

1 to support the establishment of a state seashore and the restoration of the habitat of Elmer's
2 Island, Fourchon Beach, and Caminada Headlands, as recompense for damages to natural
3 resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and requests that such recompense be
4 taken under consideration by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in
5 developing the programmatic environment impact statement for the natural resources
6 damage assessment.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 director of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, the executive director of the office
9 of coastal protection and restoration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

McPherson

SCR No.

Requests the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities and the office of coastal protection and restoration to support the establishment of a state seashore and the restoration of the habitat of Elmer's Island, Fourchon Beach, and the Caminada Headland, as recompense for damages to natural resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and requests that such recompense be taken under consideration by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in developing the programmatic environment impact statement for the natural resources damage assessment.