

**RESOLUTION PROTECTING THE NATIONALLY
SIGNIFICANT AQUATIC NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER ECOSYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is the fourth longest river in the world and the longest river in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Mississippi River flows 954 river-miles from the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers at Cairo, Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the aquatic natural resources of the Mississippi River are of significant recreational importance to the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee; the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley; and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, these resources provide substantial input to the economies of the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee; the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley; and the Nation; and

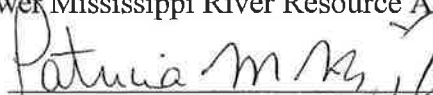
WHEREAS, many of the Lower Mississippi River Ecosystem's unique aquatic natural resources are in substantial danger of being irreversibly altered or otherwise lost; and

WHEREAS, these nationally significant resources can be preserved and/or restored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the states in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley working cooperatively; therefore be it

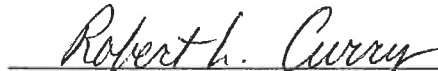
RESOLVED, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 11th day of February in the year 2005 at Virginia Beach, Virginia urges the United States Congress to appropriate funding as authorized by Section 402 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000 for conducting the Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment.



Larry Conner, President
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Pat Mazik, President- Elect
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Robert L. Curry, Vice-President
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Vic DiCenzo, Secretary-Treasurer
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