

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Fisheries Industry Funding Commitment

December 14, 2006

OVERVIEW: A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to recommend allocating up to \$20 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help restore the fishing industry, through restoration and improvement of public fisheries-related infrastructure and/or financial aid to members of the fishing industry, in areas of the state that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Upon development of an acceptable program for aid to the fisheries industry, the LRA board at a subsequent meeting, would approve a draft Action Plan Amendment defining how those funds will be applied.

Whereas, Louisiana's fishing community was severely damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, suffering approximately \$582 million in damage and lost revenues as a result.

Whereas, the vast majority of the damage was sustained by privately owned equipment and infrastructure, which are not eligible for FEMA public assistance.

Whereas, the fishing industry is a key component of the state's economy, generating over \$2 billion in annual revenues prior to the storms.

Whereas, fishing, as a way of life, has historically been and continues to be a vital part of the culture of our state.

Whereas, the recovery of the fishing industry is of vital importance to the state.

Whereas, the fishing industry has requested up to \$20 million in CDBG funds to spur the recovery of the industry through assistance to fishermen and improved infrastructure in the wake of the damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend an allocation of up to \$20 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to spur the recovery of Louisiana's fishing industry, contingent on development of a program for distribution of these funds that has the greatest positive impact on the long-term viability of the industry. Upon receipt of this program, the LRA board, at a subsequent meeting, will consider approval of an Action Plan Amendment for such expenditures. After final approval of this Action Plan Amendment by the LRA at a subsequent board meeting, it would be forwarded to the Governor and Louisiana Legislature for their approval, before submission to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).