

STATE OF LOUISIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
BATON ROUGE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EWE 92-49

- WHEREAS,** the Calcasieu River estuary system in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes has provided tremendous commercial and recreational opportunities for the citizens of the state and local communities for many years; and
- WHEREAS,** the estuary system is a historical integral and significant part of the economic base of Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes; and
- WHEREAS,** the state has issued several advisories for the Calcasieu River and the Prien Lake areas which have closed swimming and have warned against consuming fish taken from those areas; and
- WHEREAS,** an advisory warning has been issued because tissue samples of fish taken from the river showed detectable levels of the toxic chemicals hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene; and
- WHEREAS,** the pollution of the water bodies in the Calcasieu River estuary by chemical and sewerage discharges has created a need for the creation of a task force to advise and coordinate federal, state, and local governments, as well as citizen and industrial activities in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes relative to the pollution problems in the Calcasieu River Basin.

NOW THEREFORE I, EDWIN W. EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby create and establish the Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force within the Executive Department, Office of the Governor, and do hereby order and direct as follows:

- SECTION 1:** The Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force is created and established within the Executive Department, Office of the Governor.
- SECTION 2:** The duties and functions of the Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force include, but are not limited to, acting as a liaison between the general public and state agencies regarding the pollution of the Calcasieu River estuary system; holding public hearings and receiving public input regarding public concerns, sources of pollution, and possible solutions; meeting and working with the state agencies regarding the scope and effect of their actions; advising the state agencies concerning the environmental integrity of the system; monitoring the acts of the state agencies; advising the general public on the actions of the state agencies; and other duties and functions as directed by the Governor.
- SECTION 3:** The Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force is directed to collect and analyze information on the

following issues regarding the Calcasieu River Estuary system:

- A. The nature and extent of the health threat from all chlorinated hydrocarbons, especially hexachlorobenzene and hexchlorobutadiene identified in the fish and in the water sediments of the Calcasieu River estuary system;
- B. Quality and reliability of the analytical standards and data used to evaluate the nature and extent of pollution from these and other pollutants, and the impact upon the state and in particular southwest Louisiana's fishing and tourist industry as a result of pollution in the Calcasieu River estuary system; and
- C. The nature and extent of health threat from fecal coliform contamination throughout the Calcasieu River estuary system, the quality and reliability of the analytical data regarding such contamination and the need for additional sampling, the impact of such contamination on the fishing and tourist industry in southwest Louisiana, and the source of such contamination and the recommended steps which should be taken to eliminate and clean up this contamination.

SECTION 4:

Any future advisory restricting the use of the Calcasieu River estuary system, including restricting the use by the public of the Calcasieu River estuary system and including restrictions upon recreational or commercial activities issued by any state agency, shall only be issued at a public hearing convened by the Task Force for the express purpose of informing the public of the nature and content of the advisory and the reasons therefore.

SECTION 5:

The Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force shall be composed as follows:

- A. Two representatives of the Cameron Parish Police Jury appointed by the police jury;
- B. Two representatives of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury appointed by the police jury;
- C. Two citizens who are actively involved in environmental issues in the southwest Louisiana area appointed by the Governor from two lists of three names submitted to the governor by the Southwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation;
- D. Two representatives selected from two lists of three names nominated by the plant managers of companies located in the petrochemical manufacturing industry located in Calcasieu Parish;
- E. One representative of the Calcasieu Parish Medical Society appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted by the Calcasieu Parish Medical Society;
- F. Two representatives of the commercial fishing industry in southwest Louisiana appointed by the Governor from two lists of three names

submitted to him by the Southwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation;

- G. Two representatives of the sports fishing industry in southwest Louisiana appointed by the Governor from two lists of three names submitted to him by the Southwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation;
- H. A representative of the Louisiana Farm Bureau who is a resident of Calcasieu or Cameron Parish and is appointed by the president of the Farm Bureau;
- I. A representative of the City of Sulphur appointed by the Sulphur city council;
- J. A representative of the City of Westlake appointed by the Westlake city council; and
- K. A representative of the City of Lake Charles appointed by the Lake Charles city council.

SECTION 6:

The following persons shall be nonvoting advisory members and resource personnel to the Task Force, and shall not be counted for determining the number necessary for a quorum:

- A. One member selected from the Southwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation and appointed by the Governor;
- B. A representative of the Department of Environmental Quality appointed by the secretary;
- C. A representative of the Department of Health and Hospitals appointed by the secretary;
- D. A representative of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appointed by the secretary;
- E. A representative of the Attorney General's office appointed by the Attorney General; and
- F. A representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency appointed by the director of Region VI, Dallas office.

SECTION 7:

All members of the Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall not receive per diem. Reimbursement may be made for actual expenses incurred, as determined by the Commissioner of Administration.

SECTION 8:

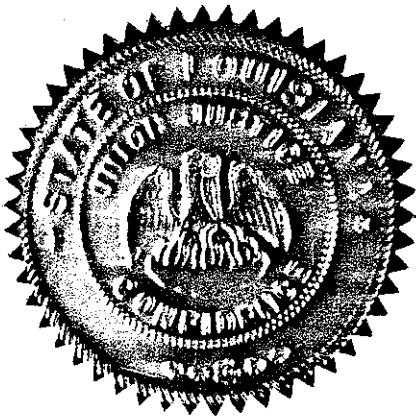
The Governor shall appoint the chairman and the vice chairman Task Force. The chairman shall convene the Task Force, appoint committees, and preside over meetings as necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Task Force. A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

The Task Force shall adopt rules to insure maximum attendance at meetings, which shall include a requirement that any member of the Task Force will be automatically replaced if a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Task Force without good cause shown.

SECTION 9: The Task Force shall prepare an annual report on its activities and shall furnish said report to the Governor not later than April 1. Any report filed shall include both the majority and dissenting opinions of the panel regarding the subject matter discussed.

SECTION 10: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with The Calcasieu Estuary Environmental Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Executive Order.

SECTION 11: The provisions of this Executive Order are effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or rescinded by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 7th day of July, 1992.

Edwin Edwards
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

Joseph S. Keithen
SECRETARY OF STATE

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