

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEN. MORRELL SETS SPECIAL HEARING TO EXAMINE PEARL RIVER FISH KILL

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE TO MEET AUGUST 22nd IN BOGALUSA

The Senate Environmental Quality Committee, chaired by District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell (D-New Orleans), will hold a special hearing in Bogalusa to discuss the response and clean-up of the recent fish kill in the Pearl River and prevention of future instances. The special meeting is set for Monday, August 22nd beginning at 6:30 PM at Bogalusa City Hall.

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL HEARING ON FISH KILL IN PEARL RIVER
MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND
6:30 PM
BOGALUSA CITY HALL COURT ROOM
214 ARKANSAS AVENUE

Sen. Morrell said that as the dead fish reach Lake Pontchartrain, the risk of substantial damages continues to grow, as does the threat to the state's fisheries, tourism and transportation industries. He said that the purpose of the special hearing is to ascertain exactly what occurred, what is being done to minimize the negative short-term and long-term impacts on the Louisiana eco-system and what can be done to prevent similar disasters in the future.

"It is imperative for the state to take action when our waterways, ecosystems and livelihoods of those living off the water are threatened," said Sen. Morrell. "We will get to the bottom of how and why this happened and we will work to make sure it does not happen again."

Representatives from the Temple Inland-Bogalusa Paper Mill will be in attendance to testify and answer questions pertaining to their responsibility in the incident due to the release of chemicals into the Pearl River at excessive levels. The committee will also hear testimony from officials representing St. Tammany and Washington Parishes, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health, and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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