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THE PIER 90 boat launch near Boutte from which the governor's office has ordered Wild Life and Fisheries Commission craft removed.

—States-Item photo.

SAID ONLY CONVENIENT SITE

State Use of Marina Halted; Mafia Connection Alleged

Gov. John J. McKeithen's office has ordered the Wild Life and Fisheries Department to stop docking its boats at the Pier 90 Marina near Boutte because of alleged Cosa Nostra connections.

Department officials say they are on the horns of a dilemma as a result, because Pier 90 is the only place where gasoline may be bought that is close to the Salvadore Wildlife Management Area and because all the other convenient sites for docking also are owned by the firm that owns Pier 90, Marsh Investments Inc.

"We have rented that place

since 1968, before it was bought by Marsh," said Refuge Division chief Allan B. Ensminger, adding that the rent for space for the department's three powerboats and one airboat amounts to only \$15 a month. Marsh Realty reportedly is owned by Jeff Hampton, the son-in-law of rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

Ensminger said the governor's office obviously isn't aware of the fact that the facility is the only one available or the order never would have been given.

He said if the department is not allowed to do business with Pier 90 it will be forced

to haul 150 gallons of gasoline in five-gallon cans every week for use in patrolling the refuge.

He said the department has not been dealing with anyone it thought was connected with Marcello, that for the past three or four months the rent had been paid to a Mrs. Leslie Schouest.

Ensminger said he felt the governor acted in response to news reports on the situation.

"If we are forced to move from the Boutte location which is on U.S. Highway 90," said Ensminger, "We will have to move all the way to Westwego, Crown Point, Lafayette or Bayou des Allemands.