La. agency opens cabins for rent at Cypremort Point

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CYPREMORT POINT — For years, it took plenty of money or connections to enjoy a long weekend at a camp along Vermilion Bay at Cypremort Point.

Now all you’ll need is $65 a night and some patience.

Six new cabins — more like beach houses — at Cypremort Point State Park are open to the public and ready for business.

State Parks announced the news Friday at an on-site news conference.

Stuart Johnson, assistant secretary of State Parks, said the first day reservations were taken for the cabins, which overlook Vermilion Bay, 300 people called.

The cabins are built high on two main structures, perched on sturdy-looking pylons. The project cost $2 million.

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Guests of the grand opening of the Cypermort Point State Parks cabins stand on the back deck of one of the six units.

**Cabins**

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Designing and building the structure to withstand major hurricanes and the force of a surging Gulf of Mexico contributed to the high cost, Johnson said. The price tag also led to delays, according to state Sen. Craig Romero, D-New Iberia, who pushed for the cabins for 11 years.

What has resulted is really a “first-class” site, Romero said. The six cabins, with their pastel blue, green and yellow themes, vaulted ceilings and high pylons have a Gulf Shores, Ala., look.

Inside the two-bedroom, one-bath cabins are four bunks, queen-size bed and sofa bed. Each kitchen is fully stocked, with a stove, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator; dishes and utensils. A wooden walkway surrounds each of the buildings, with deck chairs and tables set up to overlook the bay.

State Parks Administrative Manager Nancy Reed of Baton Rouge volunteered to decorate each cabin — down to the flowers and pictures hanging over the fireplace hearth. “It’s a home away from home,” Reed said.

A large gazebo with an aluminum fish-cleaning station sits between the two main buildings. Johnson said State Parks has wanted for a long time to allow “regular folks” to take advantage of staying long-term in one of the prime fishing spots in Louisiana.

The fishing’s so good, in fact, St. Mary Parish President Bill Celadon brought his bay boat to the press conference — docking it under the cabins on the adjacent inlet — then headed off afterward to see if the fish were biting.

Should the new cabins prove popular, Johnson said, State Parks is thinking about expanding with even more cabins. Camp sites for recreational vehicles are also possible, he said.

But the site won’t be over-built, so it can retain that “get-away” feel, Johnson said.

Hopefully, Johnson said, out-of-state visitors will be drawn to the park — part of Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu’s plan to “shine a light” on Louisiana.

“There are so many good things about Louisiana that we need to talk about,” Johnson said.