

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

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Lagniappe

**EXTENSION PROGRAMS**

Agriculture and Forestry
Community Leadership
Economic Development
Environmental Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Natural Resources

April 4, 2003 Special Edition

This special edition of the Lagniappe Newsletter is devoted to new fisheries and wetlands bills which have been introduced into the current legislative session as of April 3. It must be noted that each senator and representative is also allowed to introduce up to five late bills before April 29. If you need information on the status on any of these bills, you may call the capital at 1-255-342-2456 or 1-800-256-3793. People with computer access can do the same by using the following Web Site address: www.legis.state.la.us. In the bill summaries below, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is referred to as DWF, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as WFC, and the Department of Natural Resources as DNR.

Senate Bill 2 - Dupre

Exempts a commercial fisherman from having to possess a "mobile food vender's permit" while selling his catch directly from either his boat or residence.

Senate Bill 3 - Dupre

Allows the spouse of a commercial fisherman who holds a fresh products license to purchase a secondary fresh products license, which would allow the commercial fisherman to continue to fish while the spouse sells the catch.

Senate Bill 13 - Dupre & Gautreaux and House Bill 93 - Baldone

Clarifies the law that allows DWF Enforcement to check only unboiled crabs for minimum sizes

Senate Bill 14 - Cain

Allows a licensed saltwater charterboat fishing guide to license himself with a valid senior hunting and fishing license instead of with a valid recreational fishing license.

Senate Bill 16 - Dupre and House Bill 490 - Baldone & Dupre

Allows the transport of seafood in company-owned vehicles between facilities owned by the same seafood processors and no more than 25 miles apart, without the possession of transport licenses or receipts, bills of sale or bills of lading.



A State Partner in the Cooperative Extension System

The LSU Agricultural Center is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A. & M. College, Louisiana parish governing bodies, Southern University, and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Senate Bill 17 - Dupre & others (similar bill, House Bill 141)

Requires the 3 members of the WFC that are to represent coastal parishes to be electors for the coastal parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, Terrebonne St. Charles, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion, and Cameron, and that they be appointed by the governor from a list of nominations submitted by state legislators whose districts include part or all of these parishes. Provides that nominations may be submitted to legislators by any commercial fishing organization. Also requires WFC to elect a new chairman and vice-chairman at the first meeting in January of each year.

Senate Bill 23 - Marionneaux

Requires that all appointees to boards, commissions, committees, or districts that require Senate confirmation must be reconfirmed at the beginning of each legislative term or at the end of their appointed term of office. Provides that persons not reconfirmed cannot be appointed to the same office during recess of the legislature.

Senate Bill 28 - Dupre & Pitre and House Bill 932 - Pitre & Dupre (similar bill, House Bill 160)

Creates the "America's WETLAND" prestige vehicle license plate.

Senate Bill 29 - Dupre and House Bill 70 - Pitre

Designates the loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands to be our "state crisis", and encourages recognition of the crisis through the use of the "America's WETLAND" logo on official documents.

Senate Bill 35 - Gautreaux & others

Authorizes DWF to disqualify a person who held a fresh products license and did not submit at least 10 of the 12 monthly reports required by law, from being able to apply for renewal of the license for up to 5 years.

Senate Bill 36 - Gautreaux & Hoyt

Abolishes the fresh products license.

Senate Bill 37 - Gautreaux & Hoyt

Requires that inspection for minimum size limits on commercial fishery products may take place only up until the time of first sale.

Senate Bill 39 - Dupre & Pitre and House Bill 423 - Pitre & Dupre

Authorizes the placement of promotional stickers for the "America's Wetland: Campaign to save Coastal Louisiana" on any state watercraft, aircraft, automobile, truck, or other vehicle.

Senate Bill 45 - McPherson and House Bill 564 - Jack Smith & others

Authorizes WFC to create a program to remove abandoned crab traps from state-owned water bottoms. Authorizes WFC to prohibit crab trap use in one or more areas of the state during a 16-day period between February 1 and March 31 and a 14-day period which includes the opening of the spring inshore shrimp season. During

these closed periods, any crab traps found in the closed area shall be considered abandoned.

Senate Bill 47 - McPherson

Creates a constitution amendment to preserve the freedom to hunt, fish or trap, under reasonable regulation, restriction or prohibition provided by law.

Senate Bill 49 - Dupre and Senate Bill 69 - Gautreaux & Hoyt

Authorizes DWF to create a 4-year wholesale/retail dealer's license and a 4-year transport license.

Senate Bill 122 - Dupre

Allows the use of butterfly nets and bottom shrimp nets that are not suspended from a fishing boat or vessel which is motor-propelled and underway in Grand Pass and the 1,000-foot area outside of where Grand Pass connects with Lake Mechant and Caillou Lake.

Senate Bills 212 and 553 - Dupre & others and House Bills 663 and 1132 - Pitre & Dupre

Eliminates the \$40 million cap on mineral revenues that can be part of the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund.

Senate Bill 213 - Dardenne

Creates a constitutional amendment to create the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund.

Senate Bill 214 - Dupre & others and House Bill 669 - Pitre & Dupre, (similar bills, Senate Bill 568 and House Bill 1289)

Creates a constitutional amendment to allow nonrecurring revenues to be deposited in the Wetland Conservation and Restoration (WRC) Fund and to allow money from the Mineral Revenue Audit and Settlement Fund to be deposited in the WRC Fund. Also removes the \$40 million cap on mineral revenues that can be part of the WRC Fund.

Senate Bill 224 – Hainkel and House Bill 532 – Pitre & Johns (similar bill, House Bill 424)

Creates a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to limit the compensation required of the state for private property taken, damaged or lost due to coastal restoration activities. Provides that the limitation shall apply to existing and future claims.

Senate Bill 242 – Marionneaux

Delays from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2005 the change in mesh sizes in commercial crawfish traps from three-quarters by eleven-sixteenths to three-quarters by three-quarters of an inch.

Senate Bill 243 - Mount

Requires freshwater charter guides to buy a fishing guide license

Senate Bill 267 - Hainkel & Romero and House Bill 531 - Pitre & Johns

Provides that because of the catastrophic loss of coastal lands, that the full police power of the state shall be used and that compensation for the taking, loss or damage to private property due to coastal restoration shall be limited to that required by the U.S. Constitution. Provides that this law shall be applied retroactively, as well as in the future.

Senate Bill 268 - Hainkel & Romero and House Bill 534 - Pitre & Johns

Provides that the state of Louisiana and its employees cannot be sued for loss or damages from diversions of freshwater or sediment, dredge deposits, or construction of channels, levees and canals for the purpose of coastal management or restoration. Provides that this law shall be applied retroactively, as well as in the future.

Senate Bill 334 - Barham and House Bill 1160 - Pierre

Outlaws the take and possession of redfish with a bow and arrow.

Senate Bill 475 - Thomas and House Bill 216 - Nevers

Creates the Washington Parish Reservoir District.

Senate Bill 553 - See Senate Bill 212Senate Bill 568 - Dupre and House Bill 1289 - Pitre & Dupre (similar bills, Senate Bill 214 and House Bill 669)

Allows non-recurring revenues to be deposited in the Wetland Conservation and Restoration (WRC) Fund and allows money from the Mineral Revenue Audit and Settlement Fund to be deposited in the WRC Fund. Also removes the \$40 million cap on mineral revenues that can be part of the WRC Fund.

Senate Bill 673 - Ullo

Extends the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund for 3 years with \$250,000 annually.

Senate Bill 700 - Smith & Salter

Prohibits power generation if the water level of Toledo Bend Reservoir is below 168 feet, unless the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires a lowering of the water level to inspect or repair the dam, or a shortage of electrical power will result, or if minimum downriver flow requirements are not being met.

Senate Bill 715 - B. Jones

Requires each trotline used in Lake D'Arbonne to have an 8-foot cotton leader attached to each end so that it will deteriorate and fall to the bottom of the lake if unattended. Also requires trotlines to be checked daily.

Senate Bill 716 - B. Jones

Limits the use of yo-yos and trigger devices on Lake D'Arbonne to 50 per person and requires that they be checked daily. Also requires them to be tagged with the owner's name, address and telephone number. Prohibits their attachment to any metal object.

Senate Bill 732 - Romero

Lowers the minimum mesh size on commercial crawfish traps from three-quarters by eleven-sixteenth of an inch to eleven-sixteenth by eleven-sixteenth of an inch.

Senate Bill 777 - Gautreaux and House Bill 1499 - Pitre & Durand

Makes it illegal to advertise or sell seafood that contains any additive that causes the seafood to absorb enough water to increase the weight or count size of the seafood. Also prevents labeling and advertisement of food products in Louisiana as "Cajun" or "Louisiana Creole" if they are not made in Louisiana.

Senate Bill 932 - Hainkel and House Bill 428 and 533 - Pitre & Johns

Requires that suits against the state related to coastal restoration, other than suits for personal injury or death, shall be brought in the 19th Judicial District Court in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Senate Bill 987 - Romero

Creates the Henderson Lake Commission to provide long-term planning, preservation and management of the lake.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 - Dupre

Requests DWF and the Artificial Reef Commission to not allow offshore oil and gas platforms to be toppled in place and to stay with the original designated artificial reef planning areas.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 - Dupre

Calls for immediate and focused efforts by the U.S. Government to improve enforcement of food import restrictions on seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 19 - McPherson

Establishes a study commission to develop a plan for achieving long-term funding for DWF.

House Bill 20 - Pitre

Creates "native nonresident" fishing licenses for people who were born in Louisiana, but are not nonresidents. The native nonresident freshwater (basic) license would cost \$9.50 and the native non-resident saltwater angling license would cost an additional \$5.50. Both would be valid for 7 days.

House Bill 30 - Baudoin

Allows totally and permanently disabled persons receiving disability retirement benefits from any retirement system to purchase basic recreational fishing and saltwater licenses for \$2.50 each, and basic, big game, and bow hunting licenses for \$5.00 each.

House Bill 70 - See Senate Bill 29

House Bill 93 - See Senate Bill 16

House Bill 131 - Baldone

Limits the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to use of money from the Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account for promoting only fresh shrimp harvested from Louisiana waters.

House Bill 141 - Baldone, (similar bill, Senate Bill 17)

Requires the 3 members of the WFC that are to represent coastal parishes to be electors of the coastal parishes of Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion, and that they be appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted jointly by state legislators whose districts include part or all of these parishes. Also provides that at the time of election of a new chairman and vice chairman, that the terms of the current chairman and vice chairman shall end.

House Bill 160 - Pitre, (similar bills, Senate Bill 28 and House Bill 932)

Provides that the "America's Wetland" license plate shall be the official Louisiana vehicular license plate.

House Bill 165 - Powell

Adds March to the time period when escape rings on crab traps are required to be left open.

House Bill 170 - Powell

Allows a commercial fisherman to keep for personal consumption up to 25 total fish caught in crab traps, under the recreational limits for each species, except that no speckled trout or redfish may be kept.

House Bill 216 – See Senate Bill 475

House Bill 250 - Daniel

Allows money from the Artificial Reef Development Fund to be used to evaluate the program.

House Bill 271 - Pitre

Provides that recreational fishing gear licenses shall not be required of holders of combination lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.

House Bill 314 - Pitre

Requires that all public bodies (such as fisheries task forces, for example) except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, must send by e-mail, if the public body has the capability, a copy of meeting notices no later than 24 hours before the meeting, and meeting minutes, at no cost to anyone who requests so.

House Bill 396 - Baldone

Increases the commercial speckled trout rod and reel quota from 1 million pounds to 1.25 million pounds. Maintains the commercial rod and reel season opening on the third Monday in November, but provides that the season will stay open until the quota is filled. Keeps in place the prohibitions against commercial rod and reel harvest on weekends and at night.

House Bill 423 - See Senate Bill 39House Bill 424 – Pitre, (similar bills Senate Bill 224 and House Bill 532)

Creates a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to limit the amount of money that can be awarded due to taking of, or loss or damage to property rights affected by coastal conservation and restoration activities.

House Bill 428 – See Senate Bill 932House Bill 454 - Jack Smith

Prohibits fish in the family Pangasiidae (tra and basa) from being labeled as catfish or catfish product. Provides that only fish species in the families Ictaluridae, Ariidae or Loricariidae may be possessed as catfish or catfish product. Changes penalties from a civil fine of \$1,000 to a fine of \$900-\$950, 120 days in jail and seizure and loss of anything connected with the violation.

House Bill 469 - Salter

Provides that active military personnel shall be defined as “resident” if they pay state income taxes or are registered voters of Louisiana. Removes the requirement that the person possess a driver’s license while fishing or hunting.

House Bill 476 - Wooton

Repeals the laws that create “areas of responsibility” for marine dealers and that restrict the ability of manufacturers to add marine dealers in areas near other marine dealers.

House Bill 477 - Wooton

Prevents the Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle and Parts Commission from prohibiting or inhibiting the conduct of a marine trade show if the products are exhibited by licensed Louisiana marine dealers only.

House Bill 490 - See Senate Bill 16

House Bill 496 - Odinet

Changes the commercial mullet season from the third Monday in October through the third Monday in January to the first Monday in October through December 31. Also allows the taking of mullet at night during November and December. Changes the times that mullet may not be possessed on the water from the period of 5 a.m. on Saturday through 6 p.m. on Sunday to from 10:00 p.m. on Friday through 5 a.m. on Monday during the seasons and from 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. Monday through Friday during October.

House Bill 531 - See Senate Bill 267House Bill 532 - See Senate Bill 224House Bill 533 - See Senate Bill 932House Bill 534 – See Senate Bill 268House Bill 538 - Hammett

Authorizes WFC and DWF to allow local governments to use land under the control of WFC or DWF for mitigation to satisfy wetland mitigation requirements placed on them by law.

House Bill 544 - Daniel

Prohibits altering, destroying, driving a vehicle on, and hunting or shooting on beach sand dunes.

House Bill 552 - Baldone & Pierre

Authorizes the issuing of commercial fishing licenses through an electronic issuing system.

House Bill 553 – Daniel & others

Adds the Asian swamp eel, pencil catfish and snakehead fish families to the list of fish that cannot be possessed alive without a permit. Exempts koi from the list. Requires that if any fish that requires a permit to possess is taken from state waters, that it shall not be returned to the water.

House Bill 554 - Devillier & Pierre

Creates a commercial freshwater shrimp net license costing \$25 for the use of harvesting freshwater shrimp. The fishermen shall use a wire net of one-quarter inch mesh size and the net shall be marked with a one gallon jug painted international orange and with the words “freshwater shrimp” in black letters. This net may be used only in the Mississippi River and Intracoastal Waterway and only within 1½ miles of the boat ramp next to the Port Allen Locks in either stream. Only freshwater shrimp may be kept from the nets and the fishermen can have no other fish in possession when running the nets.

House Bill 555 - Kenney & Pierre

Increases maximum size of bass fingerlings allowed for sale from 6 inches to 10 inches.

House Bill 556 - Odinet

Prohibits the use of sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings or other attachments on skimmer nets.

House Bill 557 - Pierre

Requires that the head and tail be left on freshwater finfish until the fish are landed on shore. Garfish and bait species are exempted from the requirement and up to 2 pounds of finfish parts per person are allowed on vessels equipped to cook such fish and the fish are within the limits.

House Bill 558 - Pierre

Creates the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account to receive money as compensation for impacts to public oyster seed grounds, seed reservations and tonging areas. The money will be used for siting, designing, permitting, constructing, monitoring, and cultch deposition.

House Bill 559 - Pierre & Romero

Re-creates the DWF under the Sunset Law.

House Bill 560 - Jack Smith & Pierre

Requires that persons born after January 1, 1988 must complete a boating safety class before operating a motorboat powered by a motor of 10 horsepower or more.

House Bill 561 - Jack Smith & Pierre

Allows the use of a 16 to 25-foot recreational trawl for \$80 and allows the take of up to 250 pounds of shrimp per day with such a trawl.

House Bill 562 - Jack Smith & Pierre

Repeals a duplicate law against operation of a boat while intoxicated.

House Bill 563 - Jack Smith & Pierre

Changes the penalties for sale of fish caught under a recreational license from lifetime loss of recreational fishing licenses for first offense to loss of licenses for 1 year for first offense, 2 years for second offense, and lifetime loss for third offense. Also provides that anyone found recreational fishing during the loss-of-license period or anyone getting a license during the disqualification period shall be fined \$5,000 - \$7,500 and be jailed for 1 year.

House Bill 564 - See Senate Bill 45

House Bill 640 - Winston

Increases penalties for violations of the Natural and Scenic Rivers Act.

House Bill 663 - See Senate Bill 212

House Bill 669 - See Senate Bill 214

House Bill 712 – Hammett

Creates the Lake St Joseph Recreation and Water Conservation District in Tensas Parish.

House Bill 726 - Diez

Allows a marine manufacturer to enter into a franchise or other agreement for the same marine product line if he gives notice to the Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle and Parts Commission. Prohibits a manufacturer from requiring a marine dealer of a boat package to enter into a franchise and/or service agreement with the manufacturer of any component part, motor or trailer as a condition of selling the boat package. Provides that daily penalties on manufacturers who do not buy back new and unused products from dealers going out of business do not begin until 60 days after receipt of inventory and shall extend until the inventory is purchased. Provides for resolution of disputes between manufacturers and marine dealers.

House Bill 749 - Cazayoux

Allows holders of a Louisiana National Guard identification card to purchase a resident active military license for \$5, which substitutes for the basic and saltwater fishing licenses, basic hunting, big game, bow, muzzleloader, and waterfowl licenses, turkey hunting stamps and WMA hunting permits.

House Bill 766 - Pitre & Johns

Provides that the state cannot be sued for damages caused by coastal restoration projects arising under any lease, permit or license granted for any purpose on state lands or water bottoms. Provides that this law shall be applied retroactively, as well as in the future.

House Bill 812 - Townsend

Requires each person between the ages of 16 and 60 conducting any activity on Black, Clear and Prairie Lakes to have a recreational use license issued by the Northwest Game and Fish Preserve Commission. Provides that this commission can make rules under the supervision of WFC and DWF. Prohibits the use of gill, trammel and leaded gill nets with a mesh size smaller than 3½-inch bar and 7-inches stretched. Prohibits the use of unattended yo-yo devices during the day, but allows unattended use at night.

House Bill 896 - Pierre & Romero

Re-creates DNR under the Sunset Law

House Bill 899 - Pitre

Adds the restoration and preservation of barrier islands and the construction of river diversions to the state's wetlands conservation, restoration and management plan.

Currently, the plan is only for preservation, conservation and restoration of “vegetated wetlands”. Also eases some requirements for the legislative resolution under which the legislature approves the annual wetlands plan.

House Bill 900 - Gary Smith & Pierre

Allows the use in Lac Des Allemands only, of a shad gill net to take shad and skipjack herring (slickers) only. The net must be fished only by “strike fishing”, which means that the school of fish must be visible from the surface and the net is placed around the school. The fish may be taken with this net only during daylight hours and on weekdays, in the period of November through June. The cost of the license is \$25 and shall be limited to one license per person and one net per boat. A shad gill net may not be used by more than two boats at one time or in any way that restricts navigation by other vessels. The net must be actively attended. The net shall not have a mesh size smaller than 1 inch bar (2 inches stretched) or larger than 2 inches bar (4 inches stretched). Each net is to have on one end a one-gallon jug painted international orange, with the words “Shad Gill Net” in black lettering, as well as a tag with the fisherman’s name and license number on it.

House Bill 901 - Devillier & Pierre

Allows the use of a shad seine in freshwater areas of the state except Lake Bruin, Brushy, Bruin's Bayou, Choctaw Bayou, Ruth's Ditch, Catfish Bayou, Blue Hole, and Gillespie Ditch in Tensas Parish, Fool River in Franklin Parish, Clear Lake in Richland Parish, and Bogue Chitto River and Tchefuncte River from Washington Parish to St. Tammany Parish. The net may be used to take only shad and skipjack herring (slickers) and must be fished only by “strike fishing”, which means that the school of fish must be visible from the surface and the net is placed around the school. The fish may be taken with this net only during daylight hours and on weekdays, in the period of November through June. The cost of the license is \$25 and shall be limited to one license per person and one net per boat. A shad seine may not be used by more than two boats at one time or in any way that restricts navigation by other vessels. The net must be actively attended. The shad seine shall not have a mesh size smaller than 1 inch bar (2 inches stretched) or larger than 2 inches bar (4 inches stretched). Each net is to have on one end a one-gallon jug painted international orange, with the words “Shad Seine” in black lettering, as well as a tag with the fisherman's name and license number on it.

House Bill 932 - See Senate Bill 28

House Bill 977 - Odinet, (similar bill, House Bill 1136)

Adds to the Oyster Task Force one nonvoting member appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, and one voting member who is the chair of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Oyster Farmer Advisory Committee or his designee.

House Bill 983 - Pitre & Johns

Authorizes the Secretary of DWF to terminate, modify or refuse to renew an oyster lease for any reason consistent with the Louisiana Constitution. Also provides for limited compensation if the action results in a loss of investment to the leaseholder.

House Bill 991 - Pierre

Provides for notification to oyster holders and non-renewal of leases for areas temporarily impacted by a coastal restoration project. Allows for future renewal of leases or parts of leases temporarily impacted and renewal of parts of leases not impacted by the project. To be eligible to renew the lease, the leaseholder must file a renewal application with DWF no later than 60 days after termination of the lease, and also file a notice of intent to renew the lease each year by March 1. If renewed, the leaseholder must accept the water bottom as it is. Provides that any lease not renewed on January 1, 2003 because of temporary impacts may be eligible for renewal if the leaseholder files for renewal by September 1, 2003 and files notices of intent annually.

House Bill 1072 - Pitre

Authorizes DWF to terminate oyster leases with more than 1 year of notice and requires compensation for investments before the date of termination. Terminated leases are not eligible for an oyster lease relocation program. Authorizes DWF, under a recommendation from DNR to designate in writing, areas which may be impacted by coastal restoration projects. Investments in these areas are not eligible for payment. Authorizes DWF to convert leases into renewals with one-year terms in coastal restoration impact areas. Conversion requires a written notice more than 1 year in advance. The leaseholder is eligible for repayment on investments. Provides that repayment rules shall be developed by DNR. Prohibits repayment of investments in impact areas of operational coastal restoration projects.

House Bill 1116 - Landrieu

Creates the America's WETLAND Trail along coastal Louisiana to increase awareness of the dramatic coastal land loss in south Louisiana and to increase eco-tourism.

House Bill 1121 - Pitre

Increases deposits from mineral revenues into the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund.

House Bill 1124 - Hammett

Increases from five to six the number of seats on the Board of Commissioners of the Black River Lake Recreation and Water Conservation District. The new commissioner is to be appointed by the legislative delegation from the area.

House Bill 1132 - See Senate Bill 212House Bill 1133 - Odinet

Provides that the 3-inch minimum size for oysters shall apply year-round.

House Bill 1136 - Odinet, (similar bill, House Bill 977)

Adds one member, appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, to the Louisiana Oyster Task Force.

House Bill 1155 - Odinet

Limits applications for new oyster leases to 1,000 acres. Increases the total allowable acreage under lease for a person, partnership or firm from 1,000 to 2,500 acres. Eliminates the laws that allow owners or operators of more than one canning plant to lease more acreage.

House Bill 1156 - Odinet

Removes the requirement that an oyster leaseholder must submit to DWF annually the amount of marketable oysters removed from his lease.

House Bill 1160 - See Senate Bill 334

House Bill 1166 - Jack Smith

Authorizes DWF, with advice from the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, to adopt rules to regulate claims on restaurant menus and other literature, and prohibits menus from identifying seafood as Louisiana seafood unless it is from Louisiana waters. Authorizes DWF to inspect restaurants for compliance.

House Bill 1167 - Odinet

Requires anyone who obtains a DWF permit to land oysters outside of the state to install on the vessel, a vessel monitoring system that DWF can access.

House Bill 1173 - Triche

Allows the commercial harvest of bowfin statewide rather than just in selected areas, and applies the minimum size limit of 22 inches for bowfin to both commercial and recreational fishermen.

House Bill 1289 - See Senate Bill 568

House Bill 1296 – Triche

Allows recreational fishing and hunting licenses to be denied to people who owe over \$1,000 in unpaid individual income taxes.

House Bill 1359 - Townsend

Transfers the Enforcement Division of DWF to the Office of State Police.

House Bill 1499 – See Senate Bill 777

House Bill 1519 - Pierre

Authorizes DWF to issue special identification cards not to cost more than \$5, which shall only be valid for the purpose of purchasing fishing and hunting licenses from DWF.

House Bill 1529 - Jack Smith

Increases, under the Public Bid Law, price preferences from 7% for Louisiana

processed catfish to 20% for farm-raised catfish processed in Louisiana and 25% for wild catfish processed in Louisiana

House Bill 1579 - Nevers

Creates the Louisiana Boat and Motor Titling Act.

House Bill 1587 - Walsworth

Creates the West Ouachita Reservoir Commission.

House Bill 1607 - Nevers

Requires marine manufacturers to pay marine dealers for warranty work performed on marine products previously sold by the dealer before his franchise was ended. Also requires that such dealers who continue to perform such warranty work shall be held harmless for defects in products.

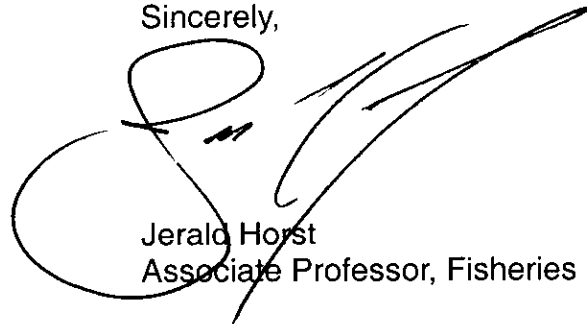
House Bill 1725 - Townsend

Creates the Louisiana Aquaculture Coordinating Council within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The council is to develop regulations for the orderly development of Louisiana's aquaculture industry, promote and fund the marketing of aquacultural and aquatic products, and put in effect a plan, developed in consultation with DWF and the Department of Environmental Quality, to protect the environment and natural resources of the state from effects arising from aquaculture. Creates a \$400 license for each facility producing a non-native species and \$600 for a facility producing more than one non-native species.

House Concurrent Resolution 24 - Pierre

Approves the Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Horst', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jerald Horst
Associate Professor, Fisheries