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## LAGNIAPPE

### SPECIAL EDITION

This special edition of the Lagniappe is devoted to the new bills which are before the current Legislature. As you know, the fishing industry is very sensitive to legislation, so some of these bills may be very important to you. If you need information on any of these bills, call 1-800-272-8186 or 1-342-2456. The first number is toll-free, but is often busy. Someone at either number will be able to answer your questions on the progress of the bill or bills that interest you and when they will be heard in committee. You may call either of these numbers to deliver a YES or NO message on a bill to your legislator. If you have any other questions on how the legislature works or how a bill becomes law, feel free to contact me at my office, 341-7271.

Senate Bill 212 - Campbell

Provides that going onto unfenced and unposted forest land of more than 500 acres is not a crime. Also prohibits local parishes from adopting their own laws on trespassing.

Senate Bill - 251 - Lauricella

Allows the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to hire a director and assistant director as unclassified employees.

Senate Bill 285 - Nicholson

Prohibits the use of hoop nets, seines, trammel nets, gill nets, monofilament, purse seines and pompano nets in all inside waters below the saltwater-freshwater line. Specifies that unattended nets may also not be used in outside state waters.

Senate Bill 299 - Bagert and others and House Bill 644 - Crane and others

Prohibits the shipment of any species of fish from Louisiana for resale in any other that prohibits the commercial harvest of that species in their own state.

Senate Bill 300 - Bagert and others and House Bills 647, 1661 - Crane, Donelon and others

Repeals the Underutilized Species Law.

Senate Bill 301 - Bagert and others and House Bill 645 - Crane and others

Prohibits unattended nets including butterfly nets from being used from the wharf of a camp. Also provides that any unattended net be considered contraband and allows it to be destroyed with a judge's order.

Senate Bill 302 - Bagert and others and House Bill 648 - Crane and others

Prohibits possession of redfish or speckled trout on board any boat in Louisiana waters which also has a purse seine on board.

Senate Bill 313 - Bagert and others and House Bill 649 - Crane and others

Prohibits commercial and sport fishermen from possessing more than two redfish of 30 inches in length. (Present law only applies to sports fishermen and is 36 inches.) Violation would require loss of fishing license for one to three years.

Senate Bill 344 - Brinkhaus and House Bill 1758 - F. Thompson

Creates the Farm and Seafood Products Processing Development Law to encourage and support the development of farm and seafood processing plants in Louisiana.

Senate Bill 358 - Newman

Prohibits the use of monofilament nets and purse seines in state outside waters and the use of purse seines in state inside waters with an experimental permit. Also repeals the underutilized species act.

Senate Bill 391 - Bagert and others

Redefines underutilized species to mean fish which the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission determines to be not fully developed for commercial purposes, and the landing of which would not threaten other species or harm traditional fisheries and the industries dependent on them. Also requires the state to determine if the cost of the fishery is worth the benefits.

Senate Bill 392 - Bagert and others and House Bill 646 - Crane and others

Redefines "monofilament" to mean a single untwisted synthetic filament of 10 strands or less of synthetic filament twisted or otherwise bound together in an unbraided manner so as to simulate a single synthetic filament. (This outlaws tri-strand mono nets.)

Also requires that nylon used in trammel nets, gill nets and seines be composed of 3 strands, each of which is composed of 10 strands.

Also outlaws the use of monofilament in state outside waters.

Senate Bill 509 - Lauricella

Prohibits shell dredging and oil and gas drilling in Lake Pontchartrain within 3 miles of the Jefferson Parish shoreline or within 1 mile of the causeway.

Senate Bill 510 - Lauricella and House Bill 1388 - Donelon

Prohibits dredging, trawling or crabbing and any taking of shellfish in Lake Pontchartrain within 5 miles of the Jefferson Parish shoreline and within 1 mile of the causeway.

Senate Bill 516 - Lauricella

Legalizes eel pots as fishing gear and defines what an eel pot is.

Senate Bill 859 - Nunez and House Bill 1517 - Heaton

Prohibits the use of purse seines in all state waters except for menhaden and herring-like species.

Senate Bill 860 - Nunez

Removes black drum and mullet from the definition of underutilized species and sets a minimum commercial size limit of 18 inches for black drum and 12 inches for mullet.

Senate Bill 861 - Nunez

Sets the minimum commercial and recreational size limit for redfish at 18 inches and speckled trout at 14 inches. Also provides that no more than 4% of a commercial catch of redfish can be larger than 36 inches long.

Senate Bill 862 - Nunez

Requires everyone who pulls a trawl to buy a license. At present, sport shrimpers using a 16 ft. or smaller trawl do not need a license.

Senate Bill 863 - Nunez

Creates a limited entry system for the commercial and sport shrimp fishery.

Senate Bill 864 - Nunez

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set aside natural oyster reefs as sack-only reefs.

Senate Bill 865 - Nunez

Prohibits anyone from selling a fishery product without a license. Prohibits anyone from buying from an unlicensed seller.

Senate Bill 866 -Nunez

Provides a very strict definition of who is a Louisiana resident for licensing purposes.

Senate Bill 867 - Nunez

Prohibits nonresidents from fishing recreationally or commercially in Louisiana.

Senate Bill 948 - Bagert

Adds 6 new positions to the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board from the following organizations: Gulf Coast Conservation Assoc., Task Force on Saltwater Finfish Management, Save our Specks, Inc., Louisiana Marine Trades Assoc, Inc., Clio Sportsman's League and Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

House Bill 307 - Kember

Provides that the 3/4-inch minimum mesh size does not apply to people fishing for bait crawfish.

House Bill 316 - Theriot

Provides that the Agricultural Commodities Commission does not have jurisdiction of fish farming products including catfish and crawfish.

House Bill 423 - Lebleu

Provides that the legislature should not outlaw a legal method of fishing without a recommendation from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

House Bill 707 - Lebleu

Increases fur trapping licenses from \$2 to \$25 for people 15 years old and older and \$5 for people under 15. Twenty dollars of the increase will go into a "Fur and Alligator Public Education and Marketing Fund".

House Bill 1111 - Theriot and others and Senate Bill 578 - Lauricella and others

Establishes the Louisiana Artificial Reef Development Program.

House Bill 1124 - Benoit and others

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department to set shrimp seasons under the emergency rule procedure and be exempt from legislative oversight.

House Bill 1122 - Benoit and others

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set size limits on commercial and game fish for which the legislature has set no minimum size by law.

House Bill 1167 - Benoit and others

Repeals all current license fees and allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set new license fees.

House Bill 1170- Benoit and others

Reduces the fine for a first offense class 4 violation from \$500-\$750 to a flat \$400.

House Bill 1362 - Benoit and others

Increases penalty for violation of oyster tagging laws from class 1 to a class 3.

House Bill 1363 - Benoit and others

Repeals provision requiring the return of untagged oysters to the water or to the person from whom purchased.

House Bill 1364 - Benoit and others

Changes the requirement that the brown shrimp season open statewide by May 25 to a requirement that it open in at least one zone of the state by May 25.

House Bill 1366 - Benoit and others

Increases penalties for finfish net violations from a class 2 to a class 4 penalty.

House Bill 1387 - Lebleu and M. Hebert

Prohibits local governments from zoning out previously established fishing operations. Exempts generally acceptable commercial fisheries practices from nuisance actions brought by persons who move near the operation later.

House Bill 1480 - Andrepont

Increases minimum mesh size of butterfly nets from 5/8 inch square (1 1/4 inch stretched) to 1 3/8 inch square (2 3/4 inch stretched).

House Bill 1488 - F. Thompson

Removes fish and crawfish farmers from under jurisdiction of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department.

House Bill 1571 -

Increases maximum door size on shrimp test trawl from 24 inches to 36 inches in length.

House Bill 1615 - Martin

Repeals the 25¢ per 100 lbs. assessment on natural crawfish bait. Provides for a refund of the artificial crawfish bait assessment to persons who purchase crawfish bags.

House Bill 1638 - M. Hebert

Requires the Department of Natural Resources to locate all above and under water obstructions in state waters. Places a \$500 fee on all oil leases and pipeline rights of way and a \$5 fee on most commercial fishing licenses. This money is to be used to remove the obstructions.

House Bill 1639 - M. Hebert

Defines an "attended net" as a net that has been attended the last 24-30 hours.

House Bill 1658 - Donelon

Requires anyone taking redfish, specked trout and mullet in state waters to dock in Louisiana and have them inventoried by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

House Bill 1659 - Donelon

Prohibits purse seining for mullet in water less than 50 ft. deep.

House Bill 1660 - Donelon

Prohibits netting or seining of redfish or speckled trout.

House Bill 1661 - Donelon

Increases the maximum penalty for a class 2 violation. For a first offense it would change from \$100-\$350 fine and/or 60 days in jail to \$500-\$50,000 fine and/or 2 years in jail. Second and third offenses are stiffer.

House Bill 1676 - Benoit and others

Clarifies the inside-outside 'shrimp line' in Atchafalaya Bay, near Bayou Grand Caillou, Caminada Pass and near Grand Terre Island.

House Bill 1862 - M. Hebert

Lengthens the closed season on 'shrimping in outside state waters from March 15 to April 15 of each year. Provides that waters on both side of the river are closed for the same period. Allows finfish trawling during this closed period.

House Bill 1869 - Ullo

Shortens the period for which a pompano net can be used in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds by 60 days to May 1 to August 31 of each year.

House Bill 1895 - Haik

Prohibits the use of trammel nets, gill nets, seines, shrimp trawls and traps used to take fish and shrimp within one mile of state or other public parks.

House Bill 1917 - M. Hebert

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set standards for the packaging of seafood in the state.

House Bill 1924 - Heaton

Prohibits the use of purse seines in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds.

House Bill 1947 - Andrepont

Puts a 3% tax on the wholesale price of seafood. This money is to be used for low interest loans to financially distressed commercial fishermen.

House Bill 1948 - Lebleu

Repeals the Coastal Zone Management Program.

House Bill 1970 - Haik

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to keep the outside shrimp season closed until the opening of the May season instead of March 15.

House Bill 1982 - Hand

Prohibits shell dredging in Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas.

House Bill 2005 - Haik

Reduces the minimum size limit on channel catfish (eel catfish) from 11 inches to 8 inches.

House Bill 2009 - Benoit and McPherson

Enacts a new fisheries license system. Commercial licensing will be simplified but cost more for the average fisherman.

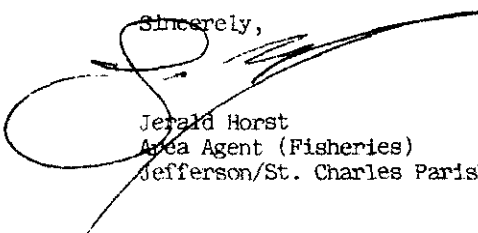
House Bill 2011 - Sittig

Includes seafood in the definition of farm products.

House Bill 2120 - Deano

Directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to test and license any operator of any boat or vessel used in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

  
Jerald Horst  
Area Agent (Fisheries)  
Jefferson/St. Charles Parishes

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