

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 49 - McPherson

Creates an amendment to the state constitution placing the funding and distribution requirements concerning the Conservation Fund in the Louisiana constitution.

Senate Bill 66 - Landry

Allows rods and reels to be used as commercial fishing gear.

Senate Bill 133 - Nicholson

Reduces the license fee for sport shrimp trawls from \$25 to \$5.

Senate Bill 177 - Landry

Deletes the requirement that requires seafood dealers to keep a record of the name and license number of the commercial fisherman they bought fish from and the name and license number of the person to whom the fish were sold.

Senate Bill 210 - McPherson

Places the legal burden of proof on the person who wants to block a waterway that it is non-navigable or not subject to public access.

Senate Bill 244 - Lauricella

Changes the maximum size of an eel pot from 36 inches to 48 inches in length and the minimum mesh size from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 1 inch to a flat $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Also provides that all other fish taken in an eel pot must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.

Senate Bill 355 - Chabert

Prohibits the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from enforcing any Federal laws or regulations requiring the use of TEDs, until approved by the Louisiana legislation.

Senate Bill 367 - Bagert, Ullo, Hainkel and Downer

- 1) Prohibits the use of trotlines to take saltwater fish.
- 2) Creates a \$50 rod and reel commercial license.
- 3) Provides no line can have more than 3 hooks.
- 4) Increases minimum mesh size on hoop nets below saltwater line from 1 inch square (2 inches stretched) to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches square (7 inches stretched)
- 5) Increases mesh size on saltwater fish seines from 1 inch square (2 inches stretched) to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches square (7 inches stretched).
- 6) Increases minimum mesh size of the outer layer of saltwater trammel nets from 3 inches square (6 inches stretched) to a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches square (7 inches stretched). Also increases the minimum mesh size of

the inner layer of saltwater trammel nets from 1 5/8 inches square (3 1/2 inches stretched) to 3 1/2 inches square (7 inches stretched).

- 7) Increases the minimum mesh size for saltwater gill nets from 1 3/4 inches square (7 inches stretched).
- 8) Sets a minimum size of 18 inches on redfish for sportsfishermen.
- 9) Sets a minimum commercial size on redfish of 24 inches.
- 10) Provides that the 5% tolerance on fish less than the minimum size does not apply to redfish.
- 11) Requires all vessels fishing in Federal waters and landing redfish in Louisiana to have a transponder on-board and provide notice to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries before landing any redfish. On-board inspection of the catch must also be allowed.

Senate Bill 368 - Bagert, Ullo, Downer, Hainkel

Changes the season for the use of pompano nets in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds from May 1 through October 31 to September 1 through April 30.

Senate Bill 369 - Bagert, Ullo, Hainkel and Downer

Same as Senate Bill 367 except that proposed mesh sizes for hoop nets, gill nets and trammel nets are a minimum 2 3/4 inches square (5 1/2 inches stretched) and seines a flat 2 3/4 inches square.

Also proposes a minimum size on redfish for sports fishermen of 15 inches in 1987, 16 inches in 1988 and 18 inches thereafter.

Sets a commercial landings quota for redfish for Louisiana of 1,125,000 pounds. The penalty for violation of the quota is \$850 per 100 lbs. of fish and loss of all fishing licenses for 3 years.

Also sets a minimum size limit of 18 inches for redfish commercially.

Senate Bill 370 - Bagert, Ullo, Downer, and Hainkel

Repeals underutilized species program.

Senate Bill 371 - Bagert, Ullo, Downer and Hainkel

Makes blue marlin, white marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin and sailfish, gamefish and prohibits their sale within the state.

Senate Bill 506 - Nunez

Prohibits the pulling of two 25 foot trawls in inside waters.

Senate Bill 507 - Nunez

Allows a vessel pulling two 25 foot trawls in inside waters to pull a test trawl.

Senate Bill 508 - Nunez

Legalizes the use of two 25 foot trawls in the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche and Jefferson. (It is already legal in the rest of the state).

Senate Bill 543- Bagert

Requires wetlands to be restored after dredging:

Senate Bill 558 - Atkins

Provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set up 2 free fishing days per year when sportsfishing is allowed without a license.

Senate Bill 572- McPherson

Allows payment of hunting and trapping licenses by check.

Senate Bill 673 - Lauricella, Landry and Nicholson

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue 10 permits for experimental saltwater fish farming in the coastal zone of Louisiana.

House Bill 44 - D. Hebert

Allows trawling in Pass Manchac.

House Bill 64 - Sittig

Removes control of all aquaculture (fish farming) from the Wildlife and Fisheries Department and Commission.

House Bill 140 - M. Hebert and others

Prohibits the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from enforcing any federal law that require the use of mechanical and electrical devices (this includes TEDs) until they have been tested and proven to work efficiently.

House Bill 158 - Thibodeaux and Lowenthal, House Bill 159 - Borne and House Bill 283 - Haik and others.

Increases the maximum size trawls that can be used with a recreational or sport trawling license from 16 to 30 feet.

House Bill 162 - M. Hebert

Sets a mandatory opening date for Zone II of the second Monday in May for the Spring brown shrimp season for the years 1988 and 1989.

House Bill 169 - M. Hebert, Patti, Guidry and Chabert

Prohibits the use of any device in a trawl which prevents the free passage of any object from the throat of a trawl to the tail.

House Bill 172 - M. Hebert, House Bill 1055 - Siracusa and House Bill 1221 - Guidry

Provides that fishing vessel licenses shall be issued to the vessel rather than the owner of the vessel.

House Bill 203 - Thibodeaux

Allows the use of hook and line for commercial fishing.

House Bill 234 - Guidry

Increases the fees on oilfield and pipeline leases from \$300 to \$600 to provide more money for the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund (state hang fund).

House Bill 247 - M. Hebert

Changes the opening date on shrimp season in state outside waters from April 15 to a date no earlier than the first inside zone is opened.

House Bill 248 - M. Hebert and Patti

Creates the "Special Task Force on Federal Regulations" in the Department of Justice with \$100,000 funding to take legal action to prevent the mandatory use of TEDs.

House Bill 274 - Bella

Exempts people buying seafood from licensed dealers for out-of-state shipment from having to buy a wholesale/retailer dealer's license.

House Bill 279 - Bella

Allows sports trawlers to use shrimp trawls larger than 16 feet.

16 - 25 feet -- \$30
25 - 35 feet -- \$35

House Bill 291 - M. Hebert, Patti and Guidry

Prohibits the possession of TEDs on shrimpers vessels.

House Bill 427 - Sittig

Provides that equipment requirements for motorboats do not apply to boats used in private crawfish ponds less than 2 feet deep.

House Bill 464 - F. Thompson and House Bill 505 - Lemoine

Provides that equipment requirements for motorboats do not apply to boats

used to harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds less than 2 feet deep.

House Bill 512 - Theriot

Exempts crawfish farmers from sales use and fuel taxes for their businesses.

House Bill 525 - Settig

Removes crawfish farmers from the control and licensing of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department and Commission.

House Bill 539 - Settig, House Bill 540 - Lemoine and House Bill 1151 - Benoit

Removes catfish and crawfish farmers from the control and licensing of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department and Commission.

House Bill 636 - M. Hebert

Prohibits the baiting, checking or removing of crab traps at night.

House Bill 685 - Patti

Increase the penalties for fishing oysters at night.

House Bill 692 - Benoit

Establishes a 1.7 million pound commercial quota for redfish in state waters. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the power to adjust the quota upward no more than 10% over the previous year's quota or downward. When the quota is reached, the fishery shall be closed for the year.

House Bill 694 - Lebleu and others

Decreases the commercial gear fee for trawls from \$25 to \$10.

House Bill 696 - Benoit and Laborde

Changes the minimum mesh size below the saltwater line on hoop nets from 1 inch square (2 inches stretched) to 1 3/4 inches square (3 1/2 inches stretched) and seines from a flat 1 inch square (2 inches stretched) to a minimum of 1 3/4 inches square (3 1/2 inches stretched). Also changes the minimum mesh size of the inner wall of saltwater trammel nets from 1 5/8 inches square (3 1/4 inches stretched) to 1 3/4 inches square (3 1/2 inches stretched).

House Bill 697 - Benoit

Lowers the limit on redfish and speckled trout for sportsmen from 50 fish to 25, of which no more than 15 can be redfish. Also provides that all fish landed from a vessel have the head and tail on.

House Bill 698 - Benoit

Establishes a 1 million pound commercial quota for speckled trout in state waters. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the power to adjust the quota upward by no more than 10% over the previous year's quota or downward. When the quota is reached, the fishery shall be closed for the year.

House Bill 705 - Benoit

Defines "total length" of a fish for enforcement purposes as the longest measurable distance from the tip of the snout to the longest tip of the tail fin (except for fish like marlin, sawfish and swordfish, which are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail tip).

Provides that the length measurement on all saltwater fish and buffalo fish be "total length."

Also provides that all saltwater finfish possessed by sportsmen, and all fresh and saltwater finfish possessed by commercial fishermen, be landed with head and tail fin on.

House Bill 706 - Benoit and Laborde

Increases the minimum commercial size limit on redfish from 16 to 18 inches

and speckled trout from 12 to 14 inches. Allows sportsmen 3 redbfish and 5 speckled trout under the size limit. (There is now no minimum size on redbfish and trout for sportsmen).

House Bill 730 - McKeithen

Exempts bait dealers who sell, at the retail level, less than \$2000 worth of bait a year from having to buy a wholesale/retail dealers license.

House Bill 744 - Benoit and Laborde

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to create oyster seed grounds in outside state waters.

House Bill 745 - Benoit and Laborde

Allows commercial fishermen to sell their catch out of state without having to buy a wholesale/retail dealers license.

House Bill 794 - Ater

Requires the secretary of the Wildlife and Fisheries to set up 3 free fishing days per year when sports fishing is allowed without a license.

House Bill 880 - Guidry and Senate Bill 570 - McPherson

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to remove, without going to court, obstructions to public navigation or fishing in a natural waterway or man-made canal. Places the burden of proof on the owner that the encroachment or obstruction is legal.

House Bills 890 and 1083 - Patti and Senate Bills 505, 538 and 615 - Nunez

Provides that the state can only give oyster leases for state owned water bottoms and that no lease can be granted until ownership of the bottom is investigated.

House Bill 896 - M. Hebert

Prohibits sport and commercial fishermen from taking redbfish and speckled trout in state and federal waters during November, December and January.

House Bill 899 - Haik

Requires commercial crabbers to tag or mark their crabs with their name, license number and the date harvested. Also provides that dealers will not be ticketed for undersize crabs if they can provide the identity of the crabber who caught the crabs.

House Bill 936 - Bella

Changes the penalty for knowingly possessing an outboard motor from which the serial number has been removed from a misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$500 to a felony punishable by a \$1000 fine and 2 years in jail.

House Bill 974 - M. Hebert

Allows oyster meats to be sold by fluid volume, net drained weight or count. Allows shell stock oysters to be sold by volume measure, weight or count.

House Bill 976 - M. Hebert

Allows shell stock oysters to be sold by volume measurement, weight or count.

House Bill 977 - M. Hebert

Allows oyster meats to be sold by fluid volume, net drained weight or count.

House Bill 998 - Siracusa

Includes shrimpers in the law that prohibits wasting of fish. The law states that anyone wasting over \$1000 worth of fish shall be fined the market value of the fish.

House Bill 1006 - Siracusa

Authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that allows Federal agents to enforce state fish and game laws.

House Bill 1053 - Bradley

Requires that the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board adopt rules and regulations on seafood packaging. The standards shall include a requirement that frozen or processed seafoods have the date when the product was packaged on the package.

House Bill 1077 - D. Hebert

Exempts persons over 60 years old from buying recreational trawling and crabbing license requirements.

House Bill 1095 - Theriot

Provides that seines, gill nets, trammel nets, butterfly nets and beam may be unattended if properly marked with a colored buoy. Provides different colors for different days and that the buoy be changed each day.

House Bill 1112 - Dewitt

Cuts the price of sport fishing licenses in half.

House Bill 1188 - Borne

Legalizes fishing crab traps on a trotline. Provides a one dollar per trap license (up to 10 traps) for sportsmen and a one dollar trap license for commercial fishermen (up to \$25). Requires all such trotlines and each crab trap to have a float 6 inches in diameter or 1/2 gallon in volume. (The present law only has a float requirement for Lake Ponchartrain). Requires that each trap fished on a trotline be registered with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and shall have a tag on it with the fisherman's license number.

House Bill 1254 - Guidry

Prohibits blocking of free movement of fish in public waters and the taking of such entrapped fish.

House Bill 1259 - Martin

Authorizes the Crawfish Promotion and Research Board to impose a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation for failing to collect and send in assessments on artificial bait sales.

House Bill 1280 - Ater

Allows fish farming of crappie (sac-au-lait).

House Bill 1313 - M. Hebert

Allows the use of two 25 foot shrimp trawls in Terrebonne Parish inside waters.

House Bill 1387 - Kennard

Requires that each person who process seafood, imports seafood or repackages seafood in Louisiana to place the date of processing on the package.

House Bill 1402 - M. Hebert

Repeals the provision that places the burden of proof on the accused that any oysters in possession are lawfully possessed. Also provides that all oyster seed grounds and reservations are considered closed unless opened by the commission.

House Bill 1462 - LeBleu

Provides the same rules and regulations for taking oysters in Sabine Lake as apply to Calcasieu Lake.

House Bill 1536 - Guidry

Allows vessels to pull two 25-foot trawls plus a test trawl in Jefferson Parish.

House Bill 1537 - Haik

Clarifies that a rod and reel cannot be used to fish commercially.

House Bill 1567 - Haik

Reduces the minimum commercial size limit on channel catfish (eel catfish) from 11 inches to 8 inches. Also increases the minimum size limit on blue catfish from 12 inches to 14 inches.

House Bill 1616 - Ullo

Creates the Finfish Task Force within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. It will be made up of the Secretary of the Department and one qualified staff member, two representatives each from the commercial and recreational interests, a representative of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, a representative from the Louisiana Consumers League, two university specialists in fisheries resource management, a member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and two outdoor writers,

House Bill 1618 - Guidry

Changes the inside-outside shrimp line at Sabine Pass. NOTE: This bill will be amended to change the shrimp line between Grand Isle and Grand Terre.

House Bill 1623 - Bella

Provides for a civil penalty equal to the replacement value for illegally taken fish and game.

House Bill 1662 - Guidry

Requires a lessee to remove all underwater obstructions that are not natural from a lease before starting to drill a well.

House Bill 1666 - Hand

Increases the preference for Louisiana products in bids for state contracts from 5% to 10%.

House Bill 1682 - Theriot

Exempts crawfish producers from sales and use taxes on purchases for their business.

House Concurrent Resolution 6 - Hebert and Patti

Urges the state Attorney General to take legal action to prevent TED regulations.

House Concurrent Resolution 15 - Haik

Ask the U.S. Congress to delay TED regulations, to require more testing of TEDs and to look at other alternatives.

House Concurrent Resolution 16 - Alario

Asks the U.S. Congress to delay TED regulations one year and to require the U.S. Department of Commerce to study the Kemp's ridley sea turtle.

House Concurrent Resolution 20 - Guidry

Directs the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, to study the effectiveness of a turtle hatchery and to ask federal agencies for funding.

House Concurrent Resolution 42 - LeBlou

Ask the U.S. Congress to support laws to delay the use of TEDs.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 - Nicholson

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work out a reciprocal agreement with the State of Mississippi on fishing and hunting licenses.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 -- McPherson

Directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to develop a plan for civil penalties for fish or wildlife destroyed by contamination or habitat destruction.

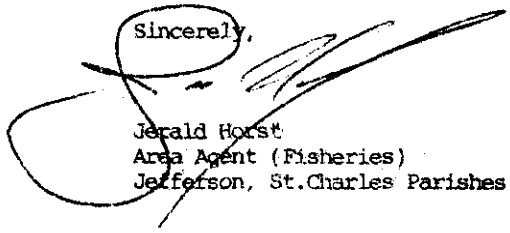
Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 -- Nunez

Suspends the law that prohibits the use of two 25 foot trawls in Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

Senate Concurrent Resolutions 61 - Nunez

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set aside a natural reef area in St. Bernard Parish for oyster sacking only.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

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