

LAGNIAPPE

SPECIAL EDITION

This special edition of the Lagniappe is devoted to new bills which are before the current legislative. As you know, fishing industries are 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 1-342-2456. Someone 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. 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 at 341-7271. If I am not in the office when you call, leave your name and telephone number and I will return your call.

House Bill 160 - Lalonde

Repeals all laws concerning paratrawling.

House Bill 287 - Stine and Siracusa

Creates a sport bait shrimp trawl license of \$15 for a 16 foot trawl. Limits possession of shrimp with this license in outside waters to no more than two quarts of shrimp per person or four quarts per boat for use as bait. This trawl may be used during closed seasons.

House Bill 329 - Ater

Adds one person who represents the bait and tackle industry to the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

House Bill 404 and Senate Bill 516 - Benoit and Foster

Creates a 3000 metric ton quota for the catching of bait menhaden from the gulf after the regular menhaden season closes. The gulf bait menhaden season shall start when the regular menhaden season closes and last until December 1. If the quota has not been filled, then the bait menhaden season shall reopen on April 1 and last until the quota is filled. Prohibits any vessel with a seine, gill net, trammel net or hoop net on board from possessing gulf bait menhaden during the closed gulf bait menhaden season.

House Bill 406 - Long

Sets a \$5 tag fee for each farm-raised alligator.

House Bill 409 - Lemoine

Creates a group sport trawling license of \$40. The group shall have no more than four persons and the license shall state the name of each person of the group.

House Bill 413 - Lemoine

Increases the maximum size on sport shrimp trawls from 16 feet to 25 feet.

House Bill 433 - Bella

Allows the use of sport shrimp trawls up to 40 feet and sets a license fee of \$40 for sport trawls between 16 and 40 feet.

House Bill 449 - Triche

Prohibits the use of gill nets in the freshwater areas of Lafourche Parish.

House Bill 514 - Long and Thompson

Creates the Louisiana Alligator Hide and Meat Processing Authority.

House Bill 562 - Dastugue

Creates the Gulf Coast and South Atlantic States' Coastal Protection Compact.

House Bill 659 - Landrieu

Increases penalties for violations of coastal use permits and creates the Coastal Zone Management Trust Fund.

House Bill 666 and Senate Bill 105 - Siracusa and Chabert and others

Repeals the Coastal Zone Management Program.

House Bill 668 - Siracusa and Patti

Changes oyster lease fees from a one to five dollar range to a flat two dollars per acre per year.

House Bill 669 - Guidry

Defines a skimmer net and prohibits their use.

House Bill 721 - Alario

Requires each crab trap to have 2 three-inch escape rings in the outside walls of the upper compartment of each trap even with the baffle or apron.

House Bill 748 - Melancon

Prohibits pulling more than one trawl, plus a test trawl, in any inside waters, including Breton and Chandeleur Sounds.

House Bill 749 - Melancon

Provides that the 3/4 inch minimum mesh size on crawfish traps in the Atchafalaya Basin shall be measured from the coating on the wire and not from the wire under the coating.

House Bill 888 - Triche

Prohibits the use of hoop nets in Bayou Des Allemands, Lake Des Allemands, Bayou Boeuf and Lake Boeuf.

House Bill 921 - Miller

Increases the number of undersized crabs which may be in possession from 5% to 10% in a 50 crab sample.

House Bill 922 - Miller

Makes it illegal to tend crab traps at night in Lake Des Allemands. (It's already illegal everywhere else in the state).

House Bill 923 - Miller

Reduces the penalty for taking or possessing undersized crabs from a class 4 to a class 1 violation.

House Bill 924 - Miller

Provides that crab traps used in Lake Ponchartrain shall no longer have to have the fisherman's license number on the float.

House Bill 925 - Miller

Provides that theft of crab traps is a class 7-A violation. (\$5,000-\$7,500 fine and/or a year in jail and loss of license).

House Bill 1024 - Roach

Requires written reasons for the setting of shrimp seasons. Requires that public hearings shall be held in Baton Rouge if more than one zone is affected. If only one zone is affected then the hearing shall be held in the Department's district office in that zone. Also requires at least seven days notice of a regular shrimp season hearing.

House Bill 1025 - Roach and others

Creates the Wetlands Preservation Authority.

House Bill 1059 and Senate Bill 565 - Garrity and Bagert

Provides that the law that allows 5% of commercial fish in possession to be undersized does not apply to speckled trout.

House Bill 1209 - Triche and others

Requires that all fish or game seized with a violation be forfeited upon conviction.

House Bill 1214 - Siracusa and others

Defines a butterfly net as a net which has four rigid sides. Also provides that they cannot be used on floats or rafts.

House Bill 1216 - Glover

Gives enforcement power to game wardens concerning theft, burglary and littering.

House Bill 1217 - Odinet and others

Increases the non-resident commercial fisherman's license from \$105 to \$200.

House Bills 1219 and 1496 - Patti and others

Provides that anyone taking oysters from closed areas shall lose his license for one year on the first offense and three years for the second offense.

House Bill 1221 - Patti

Provides that fishermen must buy a sportfishing license to take or possess fish or bait in state waters.

House Bill 1222 - S. H. Theriot

Requires that the head and tail be on sharks that are landed.

House Bill 1360 - Patti

Provides that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cannot prohibit the landing of fish caught outside of state waters.

House Bill 1387 - Glover

Creates a two-day non-resident temporary combination basic and saltwater fishing license at a cost of \$10.50.

House Bill 1401 and Senate Bill 570 - Garrity and Bagert

Creates the Louisiana Marine Recreational Fishing Development Board.

House Bill 1413 and Senate Bill 484 - John and Picard

Allows sportsfishermen to filet fish on board a boat as long as the skin and scales are left on the filet. Sets a minimum size limit of 10 inches on redfish filets and 7 inches on speckled trout filets. Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set minimum filet lengths on other species of fish.

House Bill 1450 - Roach and Triche

Allows trawls, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill nets or trammel nets to be set within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams or weirs if a minimum passageway opening of 5 feet wide from the surface to the bottom in the deepest portion of the water is left open.

House Bill 1456 - Deano

Allows sport fishermen with a basic fishing license to use a trawl up to 10 feet in size without buying a gear license.

House Bill 1458 - Deano

Exempts the crew of a fishing boat from being charged with fishing violations and provides that the captain or owner shall be charged if a violation occurs.

House Bill 1494 - Patti

Requires permits on public oyster seed grounds.

House Bill 1495 - Patti and Siracusa

Requires that culling of oysters must take place on the lease or seed grounds where they were taken. At no time will culling or sacking be allowed in areas closed to oyster harvesting.

House Bill 1496 - Patti and Siracusa

Provides that when more than 50% by weight of saltwater shrimp catch is seabobs, that the by-catch of white shrimp smaller than 100 count cannot be over 10% of the weight.

House Bill 1499 and Senate Bill 787 - S. J. Theriot, Patti and Lauricella

Straightens the inside-outside shrimp line in Barataria and Caminada Passes.

House Bill 1504 - Martin and Roach

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adopt rules on transportation of alligator eggs.

House Bill 1549 - Scogin

Requires that resident sportsfishermen between the ages of 60 and 70 buy a \$2.50 basic fishing license.

House Bill 1572 and Senate Bill 733 - Warner and Bagert

Prohibits non-water dependent development and uses in coastal zone wetlands.

House Bill 1573 - Warner

Provides for full mitigation of wetland losses.

House Bill 1590 - Siracusa

Requires an oyster harvesting license to take oysters. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall provide for the licenses and fees.

House Box 1652 - Donelon

Prohibits shell dredging in Lake Ponchartrain.

House Bill 1668 - Deano

Prohibits seizure and loss of nets and seines for violation of present laws on nets and seines.

House Concurrent Resolution 11 - S. J. Theriot and others

Requests the U.S. Department of Commerce to delay the rule requiring use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in shrimp trawls until the study by the National Academy of Sciences is done and the results are made public.

Senate Bill 9 - Kelly

Increases the number of members on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission from seven to nine, one from each congressional district and one from the state at large. Repeals the requirement that three members of the commission be from coastal parishes and representatives of the commercial fishing and fur industries. All terms of appointment shall serve their terms with the governor.

Senate Bill 10 - Kelly

Creates a constitutional amendment to put Senate Bill 9 in effect.

Senate Bills 97 and 726 - Foster and Bagert

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which would allow federal game wardens to enforce state fish and wildlife laws.

Senate Bill 98 - Foster

Prohibits the use of two 25-foot shrimp trawls in inside waters.

Senate Bill 106 - Chabert

Repeals the law that requires anyone who dredges fill sand or other fill material from state water bottoms to get a permit from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and pay a royalty.

Senate Bill 114 - Doland

Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set a special oyster depuration fishery allowing the harvest of shellfish in closed areas of Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes.

1. Strike fishing only
2. Nets shall be marked as special bait seines
3. Fishing is prohibited in closed areas
4. A monthly report on catch is required
5. Nets shall be licensed as freshwater seines
6. The permit holder must be present when the net is used

Allows the use of a freshwater gill net with a minimum mesh size of 1-inch square (2-inches stretched) in the Lake Des Allemands area only for the taking of shad and mullet. These may be used by permit only and following rules apply:

1. Strike fishing only - no unattend use
2. A monthly report on catch is required
3. Nets shall be licensed as freshwater gill nets
4. Nets shall be marked with a one gallon plastic milk jug painted international orange and marked with black lettering with the words "special bait gill net" and the permit number
5. No net shall be allowed in Lake Des Allemands within 500 feet of any canal or bayou connected to the lake or allowed within those streams
6. The permit holder must be present when the net is used

Redefines "underutilized species" as any edible fish whose safe development has not been fully explored.

Also provides that no permits shall be used for any particular fish using any particular gear that would otherwise be illegal until the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act have been met.

Senate Bill 592 - Johnson

Increases the amount of crab traps allowed for use by sportsfishermen from 10 to 20.

Senate Bill 652 - Landry

Exempts butterfly nets mounted on any permanent structure for which a state or federal permit was issued before September 9, 1988 from the law prohibiting nets within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass.

Senate Bill 750 - Kelly

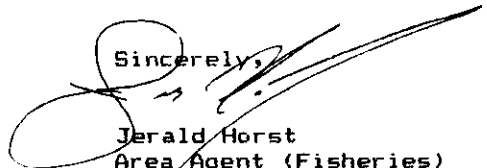
Directs the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set rules and regulations on seasons, sizes, quotas and daily and possession limits, based on biological and technical data for all wildlife in the state. The rules will override current laws. The authority to determine gamefish or commercial status of a species will be kept by the legislature.

Senate Bill 871 - Lauricella

Defines a butterfly net as a net which has four rigid sides. Also provides that they cannot be used from pilings.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 - Bagert

Declares that Louisiana's coastal zone extend three marine leagues (about 9 miles) offshore.

Sincerely,

 Jerald Horst
 Area Agent (Fisheries)