

SEA GRANT PROGRAM

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, fee 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 276 - Dewitt

Gives enforcement power over game and fish laws to parish law enforcement officers (for example: sheriff's deputies).

House Bill 279 - Dewitt

Provides that money collected from civil penalties on game and fish violations be dedicated to enforcement and replacing game and fish.

House Bill 337 - Roach

Provides that people 17 years old or less and spouses of license holders who are on the vessel, do not have to buy an oyster harvester's license.

House Bill 338 - Roach

Outlaws the use of aircraft in fishing for black drum.

House Bill 342 - Roach

Makes it illegal to issue commercial gear licenses to nonresidents whose home state does not allow nets in commercial fishing.

House Bill 535 - Melancon

Closes the season on frogs in April and May.

House Bills 577, 585 and 739 - John, Triche, Roach and others and
Senate Bills 10 and 913 - Foster and Bankston

Gives enforcement power over state game and fish laws to federal game wardens.

House Bill 594 - Dewitt

Requires that game wardens move to a new district, refuge or management area every five years. Also provides that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cannot provide housing for a game warden in the same district, refuge or management area for more than five years.

House Bill 653 - Diez

Closes the season on frogs in May and June.

House Bill 655 - Ater and others

Provides that any person that goes on any private land even if it isn't posted, is guilty of trespass unless he has permission first.

House Bill 717 - Patti and others

Increases the penalties for oyster fishing during illegal hours from a class two to a class four violation.

House Bill 719 - Patti and others

Provides that people 12 years old or less do not have to buy an oyster harvester's license.

House Bill 720 - Patti and others

Gives a more technical description for the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Islands where nets are outlawed.

House Bill 721 - Patti and others

Clears up language on oyster and shrimp severance tax. Requires nonresident buyers to also pay the severance tax. Sets the severance tax on headless shrimp at 25 cents per barrel.

House Bill 733 - Scogin and others

Creates laws for catching, buying and selling of reptiles and amphibians (snakes, turtles, lizards, toads, frogs and congo eels).
 *Requires that anyone who catches reptiles and amphibians to sell must have a commercial fishing license.
 *Requires that anyone who buys reptiles and amphibians must have a wholesale/retail dealers license.
 *All laws that now apply to records and transporting fish will apply to reptiles and amphibians.
 *Legalizes the catching of all frogs for sale.

House Bill 734 - Scogin and others

Requires a hunting license to catch reptiles and amphibians (snakes, turtles, lizards, toads, frogs and congo eels).

House Bill 740 - Roach and others

Makes the use of illegal fishing gear and methods a class four violation.

House Bill 742 - Roach and others

Increases the fine for violations of sport fishing sizes and limits on redfish and speckled trout.

House Bill 743 - Roach

Creates a fine of \$25 per fish for any sport fisherman who keeps speckled trout under 12 inches or a redfish under 16 inches.

House Bill 751 - Melancon

Allows local government to pass and post "no wake" laws on boats. Directs that game wardens shall assist local officers in enforcing the law.

House Bill 774 - Hand

Outlaws shell dredging in Lake Ponchartrain.

House Bill 791 - Jenkins

Permits seafood dealers to use photocopies of their original license for additional places of business. Takes processed fish products out from under the dealer licensing requirement. Provides that dealers do not have to buy a separate transport license for each vehicle used in the business.

House Bill 818 - Bolin

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to change the dates or split seasons and quotas for popular restaurant fish.

House Bill 840 - Glover

Adds a year and a half to the experimental mariculture permit time period.

House Bill 841 - Glover and others

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to license charter boats.

House Bills 842 and 1949 - John and Garrity and
Senate Bill 710 - Bankston

Makes redfish gamefish permanently.

House Bills 843 and 1556 - Glover, Deano and others

Outlaws the use of aircraft in fishing for any fish except menhaden and herring-like fish.

House Bill 865 - Roach

Creates a "Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card" to be used instead of a license. It will be shaped like a credit card and used to make receipts.

House Bill 876 - Triche

Closes the season for commercial fishing of bowfin (choupique) during the months of December, January and February.

House Bill 879 - Triche

Stops the fishing of bowfin (choupique) for its eggs until September 7, 1995 or until the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries finishes a study on the fishery.

House Bill 903 - Dale Smith

Sets a minimum size of 10 inches on largemouth bass and prevents the Department or Commission from making other rules and regulations on largemouth bass.

House Bill 994 - Benoit

Provides that anyone who has a fish transport license does not have to buy a wholesale/retail dealers license.

House Bill 1033 - Dewitt

Outlaws the commercial use of trotlines, gill nets, seines and trammel nets in lakes that used to be river channels (oxbow lakes).

House Bill 1092 - Laborde and others

Provides that the Department of Revenue and Taxation rather than the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, shall issue tax exemption certificates for commercial fishermen.

House Bill 1115 - Downer and others

Allows game wardens, who are trying to catch game and fish violators, to park anywhere, run red lights and stop signs, to speed, to ignore one way street signs and to drive at night without lights, so long as none of these things endanger life or property.

House Bill 1125 - Siracusa

Allows eel pots to be fished north of the freshwater-saltwater line.

House Bills 1126, 1922 and 1981 - Siracusa, Roach and Patti

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to grant oyster leases according to present law and approves all leases now in effect.

House Bill 1146 - Siracusa

Provides that oyster lease applications and claims are inheritable or salable.

House Bill 1147 - Garrity and Senate Bill 911 - Bankston

Creates the 15 member Louisiana Marine Recreational Fishing Development Board, to promote, market and develop marine sport fisheries.

House Bill 1170 - Dastugue and others

Increases motorboat registration fees from \$15 to \$20 and renewals from \$10 to \$15.

House Bill 1192 - Dastugue and others

Requires any Louisiana resident who operates a motorboat and was born on or after April 1, 1973, to have a certificate showing that they have taken a boating education course.

House Bill 1235 - Odinet

Allows the use of a single 22 foot by 22 foot butterfly net from any structure that has a Corps of Engineer permit before 1988, in the Rigolets and Chef Menteur Passes.

House Bill 1265 - Adley

Allows for payment of an administrative fee within 30 days of a class one wildlife citation rather than a criminal fee. The money would go to the Wildlife Conservation Fund. The fees would be \$50 for first offense, \$100 for second offense and \$200 for third and other offenses.

House Bill 1312 - S. J. Theriot

Allows people with a medical condition that requires them to eat fish every day, to clean up to 5 pounds of fish on a boat to eat.

House Bill 1323 - John and Senate Bill 250 - Kelly

Requires that anyone, no matter what their age, must wear a life jacket on board a boat 25 feet long or less when the boat is moving.

House Bill 1345 - Roach

Creates the Auxiliary Enforcement Program, made up of trained volunteer game wardens.

House Bill 1385 - Patti

Outlaws any oyster dredge ^{larger} ~~smaller~~ than six feet.

House Bill 1386 - Patti

Increases the maximum amount of dead shells and undersized oysters in any cargo lot which is taken off of natural reefs from 5% to 15%.

House Bill 1431 - Roach

Allows the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to give enforcement power over state laws to federal game wardens in certain districts.

House Bill 1456 - Laborde and others

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to collect fees for permits and services.

House Bill 1472 - Triche and others

Provides that any violation of commercial fish size and possession limits that do not already have a specified penalty shall be a class three violation.

House Bill 1475 - Triche and others

Requires that all trot lines, bush lines, limb lines, jug lines and yo-yo's shall have a tag with the fishermen's name, address and license number on it. The date the line was set out must also be on the tag and it must be re-dated every eight days or it may be picked up by a game warden.

House Bill 1515 - Bajoie and others

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to sell freshwater trout fishing licenses to support a freshwater trout program.

House Bill 1526 - S. H. Theriot and others

Creates a special set of penalties for violations of alligator laws.

House Bill 1552 - Garrity

Sets a 500,000 pound quota on speckled trout taken from inside waters of the state. Sets a class 5B violation.

House Bill 1567 - Deano

Outlaws the use of spotter planes in fishing for any food fish except menhaden and herring-like fish and creates regulations on the use of spotter planes in those fisheries.

House Bill 1581 - Dastugue

Requires a person to pass a test before they can run a pleasure or non-working boat on Louisiana waters.

House Bill 1596 - Deano

Provides that seafood dealers can get a ticket for possession of undersized crabs even if they can identify who sold the crabs to them.

Also requires that undersized crabs being held by the fishermen for shedding, must be held in a separate crate marked "peelers" or "busters".

House Bill 1648 - Adley

Creates the Professional Fisheries Qualification Program which would require certain levels of fishing income in order to get a commercial vessel or gear license.

House Bill 1748 - S. H. Theriot

Prohibits trawling at night in inside waters.

House Bill 1768 - Melancon and others

Adds hoop nets and slat traps to the list of sport fishing gear.

House Bill 1769 - S. H. Theriot and other

Gives the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the right to change or set the rules on time, place, method of fishing, gear type or other regulation for all fish except speckled trout and redfish. Also gives the Commission the power to change any size limits on any fish except speckled trout and redfish.

House Bill 1770 - S. H. Theriot and others

Limits the lead line on a 50 foot trawl in inside waters to 66 ft. long. Limits the lead line on double-rig 25 ft. trawls in inside waters to 33 ft. and limits their door size to 6 ft. long and 34 inches high.

Also requires that on second offense of using oversize trawls, that the person's license be suspended for the rest of the year and one year after.

House Bill 1775 - Downer and others

Suspends a person's driver's license and fines him \$50 for not appearing in court on a wildlife or fisheries violation.

House Bill 1777 - S. H. Theriot

Increases the cost of a nonresident commercial fisherman's license from \$200 to \$500.

House Bill 1779 - Roach and Senate Bill 977 - Nunez

Adds "property rights or interests" to the provision that oyster leases can be sold or inherited.

House Bill 1780 - Roach

Provides the restaurants and grocery stores that buy their fish only from licensed dealers do not have to make monthly reports to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

House Bill 1784 - Triche and others

Specifies that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall make rules and regulations on freshwater fish netting and that these rules and regulations will override current law.

House Bill 1787 - Martin

Sets a maximum of two dollars for an alligator skin tag.

House Bill 1830 - Triche and others

Increases the spacing on the slats in a slat trap from 1 inch to 1 1/4 inches.

House Bill 1875 - Triche

Increases the minimum mesh size on hoop nets from 1 inch square to 1 1/4 inches square.

House Bill 1877 - S. H. Theriot

Prohibits the use of butterfly nets in any area that shrimp use to migrate on their way to spawn.

House Bill 1991 - Hand

Prohibits shell dredging in Louisiana.

House Bill 1997 - Kennard and others and Senate Bill 1033 - Bankston

Creates a sealed bid system for 15 year oyster leases instead of the current system in effect now which gives lease holders preference on their lease renewal and sets the fee at no more than \$2 per acre per year.

House Bill 2005 - Roach and Senate Bill 1001 - Nunez

Removes fisheries, wildlife and timber from the state laws which regulate leasing public lands.

House Bill 2006 - Diez and others

Requires permits for bass tournaments with prizes worth more than \$200.

Senate Bill 38 - Kelly

Creates a constitutional amendment to change the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The Commission is now made up of seven members with the requirement that three of them come from coastal parishes and represent the commercial fishing and fur industries. The new law would provide for a commission made up of nine members, one from each congressional district, and one appointed statewide. There will be no requirement for representation from the commercial fishing and fur industries.

Senate Bills 61 and 970 - McPherson

Gives 1/8 of a cent of the surplus district sales tax to the Conservation Fund.

Senate Bill 261 - Kelly

Provides for pay for game wardens who work overtime.

Senate Bill 406 - Landry

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

Senate Bill 408 - Landry

Makes all freshwater catfish gamefish.

Senate Bill 411 - Landry

Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to lower or remove the minimum size on channel catfish (eel catfish) if doing so would not harm the resource.

Senate Bill 434 - Kelly

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to keep a full-time force of 200 game wardens.

Senate Bill 496 - Kelly

Allows the use of minnow traps to take bream (perch).

Senate Bill 568 - Kelly

Dedicates 50% of the sport saltwater license fees to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Senate Bill 621 - Chabert

Changes the inside-outside shrimp line at Barataria and Caminada Passes.

Senate Bill 656 - Lauricella

Moves the main office of the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board to New Orleans.

Senate Bill 819 - Johnson

Increases the number of crab traps for sport fishermen from 10 to 20 with a fee of one dollar per trap.

Senate Bill 912 - Bankston

Lowers the commercial speckled trout quota to 500,000 pounds. Requires special permits and each permit holder to pay for the costs of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries putting an observer on each boat.

Senate Bill 949 - Bankston

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue free transport licenses to anyone holding a commercial fisherman or seafood dealer license.

Senate Bill 970 - Nunez

Approves all oyster harvesting laws now in effect.

Senate Bill 988 - McPherson

Transfers the Office of State Parks from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 46 - Landry

Suspends the minimum size on channel catfish (eel catfish) for one year.

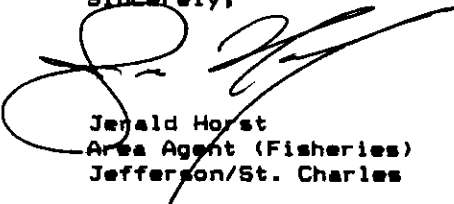
House Concurrent Resolution 18 - Siracusa

Creates a special committee to study moving the oyster industry regulations from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the Department of Agriculture.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 - Hinton

Creates a special task force to study the mussel (freshwater clam) resources and their use in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



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

JH/kwj

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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