



Louisiana State University

Agricultural Center

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

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April 7, 1995
SPECIAL EDITION

SEA GRANT PROGRAM

LAGNIAPPE

This special edition of the Lagniappe is devoted to new bills which were introduced to the current legislature by the deadline of March 24. It must be noted that each senator and representative is also allowed to introduce up to five late bills before April 25. If you need information on any of these bills, you may call 1-504-342-2456 or 1-800-256-3793. Someone will be able to answer your questions on the progress of the bills and bills that interest you and when they will be heard in committee. If you have any other questions on how the legislative works or how a bill becomes law, feel free to contact me at my office at 349-5644.

Senate Bill 6 - Brinkhaus

Establishes a beaver and nutria control program for Louisiana.

Senate Bill 94 - Brinkhaus

Allows bowfishing for freshwater gamefish between June 1 and the last day in February and sets limits for bowfishing for these fish.

Senate Bill 100 - Ullo

Creates the Pilot Underwater Obstruction Removal Program for 3 years within the Department of Natural Resources Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund.

Senate Bills 126, 412, and 537 and House Bill 919 - Bankston, Hainkel, Triche and others

Outlaws the use of gill nets, strike nets, trammel nets and seines in saltwater areas of the state. Creates a \$250 commercial rod and reel license to fish in saltwater areas. Creates a \$250 license to possess and transport a gill net, strike net, trammel net or seine in state waters for the purpose of use in federal waters. Requires the tagging of freshwater gill and trammel nets. Changes the "Right to Fish law" so that it is no longer required to have a biological opinion before any method of harvesting any finfish, shrimp,

oysters, or crabs can be outlawed.

Senate Bill 166 - Landry

Lowers the minimum size on channel catfish to 8 inches in Lac Des Allemands, Lake Cataouatche, bayous between Lake Cataouatche to Lake Salvador, Bayou Des Allemands and Lake Salvador.

Senate Bill 167 - Landry

Lowers the minimum size on channel catfish to 8 inches commercially and 9 inches recreationally statewide.

Senate Bill 221 - McPherson

Requires recreational boaters who do not have a hunting or a fishing license to possess a "Wild Louisiana Stamp" while on public waters.

Senate Bill 305 - McPherson

Provides that the non-resident recreational fishing license for fishing Louisiana-Texas border waters shall not be higher than the fee charged non-residents by Texas.

Senate Bill 371 and House Bill 746 - Chabert and Mitch Theriot

Allows a 2% bycatch of berry or sponge crabs in a commercial crabber's catch.

Senate Bill 372 - Chabert

Allows crabs in a "work box" to be under the minimum legal size while on the vessel.

Senate Bill 373 - Chabert

Defines a "work box" as a crate used by commercial crab fishermen to sort their catch.

Senate Bill 374 - Chabert

Clarifies the language that allows the possession of undersized crabs for softshell crab production.

Senate Bill 375 and House Bill 1803 - Chabert and Durand

Provides that for 1996, 1997 and 1998, crab trap gear licenses cannot be issued to anyone who had not held such a license during any one of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Senate Bill 376 - Chabert

Creates a \$75 crab harvester license for commercial crabbers and requires the money gathered from the sale of this license to be used for crab law enforcement.

Senate Bill 377 and House Bill 1109 - Chabert and Hebert

Provides that wholesale and retail crab dealers are liable for the possession of undersized crabs.

Senate Bill 378 and House Bill 1094 - Chabert and Bergeron

Requires that all hard crab traps must have a minimum of two escape rings or vents in them. Minimum sizes shall be 2 1/4 inches in diameter for round rings and two inches per side for square vents.

Senate Bill 405 and House Bill 1450 - Landry, Ackal and others

Creates a Reptile and Amphibian Transport License. Requires inspection and registration of out of state shipment of reptiles and amphibians ordinarily used for human consumption.

Senate Bill 409 - Foster

Prohibits night shrimping in most of the waters of Vermilion, East and West Cote Blanche and Atchafalaya Bays.

Senate Bills 427 and 1241 - Ullo and Hainkel

Authorizes the Jefferson Parish Council to establish a law that limits vessel wakes to 15 inches at a distance of 25 feet from the vessel.

Senate Bill 433 - McPherson

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to distribute fishing and hunting licenses directly instead of going through the parish tax collector.

Senate Bill 462 - McPherson

Creates 3 year fishing and hunting licenses and requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set rules for the computerized renewal of these licenses.

Senate Bill 463 - McPherson

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to review every two years, costs and expenses associated with all fees, licenses, and permits and make recommendations for changes.

Senate Bill 558 - Hines

Raises from 60 to 65 the minimum age to be exempt from buying sport fishing and hunting licenses. For this 60-65 age group, however, one license would cover every activity in that sport.

Senate Bill 598 and House Bill 1613 - Hines and Riddle

Establishes an income tax refund check-off donation to the "Operation Game Thief" Fund.

Senate Bill 729 - Landry

Modifies language that divides the state into freshwater and saltwater areas.

Senate Bill 753 - McPherson

Allows a sport fisherman to have more than his daily bag limit in possession if any fish over the limit are gutted and tagged with the species of fish, the date and place

taken, the license number, signature and address of the person who caught the fish. Also tightens up the law that prohibits the recreational possession on the water of saltwater fish with their head and tail removed.

Senate Bill 757 - McPherson

Provides that effective May 1, 1995, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may only issue gear licenses (saltwater) for gill nets, trammel nets, strike nets and seines to people that held such a license in two of the years 1992, 1993 or 1994.

Senate Bill 769 - Greene

Transfers control of wild crawfish harvesters from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Requires that wild crawfish harvesters must buy a commercial fisherman's license of \$55 and a gear license of \$25. Creates a recreational crawfish trap license of \$10 for 25 traps.

Senate Bill 813 - Cox

Specifies that man-made or natural waterways that have captured the natural flow of other waters in tidal areas are public waters.

Senate Bill 861 - Foster

Provides that landowners are not liable for injury to people who use privately owned, non-navigable areas for activities such as crawfishing.

Senate Bill 933 - Cain

Lowers the 7-day basic non-resident sport fishing license fee from \$26.00 to \$10.50

Senate Bill 934 - Cain

Creates a 3-day basic non-resident sportfishing license for \$10.00

Senate Bill 955 - McPherson

Makes speckled trout and redfish gamefish permanently.

Senate Bill 1026 - Lauricella

Makes the experimental mariculture project permanent and allows for an unlimited number of permits.

Senate Bill 1148 and House Bill 2219 - Hainkel and Reilly

Outlaws the use of all nets in marine waters except for trawls, purse seines, hand operated landing nets, cast nets, dip nets, bait seines, aquaculture nets, or research nets.

Senate Bill 1201 - Brinkhaus and Cravens

Requires restaurants that serve crawfish to notify customers if the crawfish are imported from a foreign country. Also requires that all crawfish held or sold at the wholesale level must have a label showing national origin on each package.

Senate Bill 1237 - Brinkhaus

Creates the "Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board" to establish a system of compensation for damage to oyster lease holders by oil and gas exploration and production activities.

House Bill 42 - Long

Requires all nets used in Black, Clear and Prairie Lakes to be tagged with the fisherman's name, address, and fishing and driver's license numbers.

House Bill 97 - Patti

Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt regulations to limit the number of commercial mullet permits. Requires that one rule must be that a person must have had a permit before July 1, 1994. Lowers the daily commercial mullet limit for the non-roe season from 1500 pounds per day to 200 pounds per day.

House Bill 190 - Roach

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set seasons, regulate gear types and set possession limits on speckled trout and other inshore saltwater fish in areas where intense fishing competition exists or if biological studies show a need.

House Bill 235 - Salter

Allows people who have artificial arms or legs or who have to use devices for mobility (a wheelchair, for example) to receive free sport fishing licenses.

House Bill 236 - Salter

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to enter into agreement with Texas on special fishing licenses and fees for Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake.

House Bill 254, 808 and 1340 - Stelly, Schneider and Downer

Allows recreational fishing and hunting licenses to be suspended for failure to pay child support.

House Bill 256 - Hopkins

Increases the legal limit for yo-yos and trigger devices on Caddo Lake from 12 to 24.

House Bill 259 - Montgomery

Allows facilities that handle mentally retarded people to apply for a permit to allow these people to fish under supervision without a license.

House Bill 260 - Roach

Requires the Department of Health and Hospitals to report the results of testing of oysters in Calcasieu Lake at least 45 days before oyster season opens.

House Bill 263 - Stelly

Requires the registration of outboard motors with the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries for a fee of \$15 for 3 years.

House Bill 273 - Farrar

Allows sport fishing poles without reels to be used without a license.

House bill 277 - Riddle

Allows the commercial harvest of bowfin (choupique) in Avoyelles Parish during December, January and February.

House Bill 356 - Salter

Allows the purchase of sport fishing and hunting licenses with credit cards and by telephone.

House Bill 368 - Roach and Picard

Appropriates \$60,000 to compensate oyster fishermen in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes for losses suffered as a result of the Department of Health and Hospital closure of public oyster ground in Calcasieu Lake one day before the 1994 session.

House Bill 370 - Siracusa

Provides that after May 1, 1995, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may only issue seine, gill net or trammel net licenses to people who held such a license for 1994. Prohibits the issuing of trammel net licenses to nonresidents whose own state does not allow the use of trammel nets.

House Bill 491 - Long

Allows people who are receiving federal social security disability benefits to get free sport fishing licenses.

House Bill 557 - Bowler

Dedicates the current \$250 commercial gill net gear license fee to be used for funding of the commercial fisherman's sales card and a tracking system on commercial finfish sales.

House Bill 574 - Roach

Creates a \$25 license for an alligator hunter to have an assistant with him while hunting alligators.

House Bill 576 - Salter

Provides that a person cannot have civil wildlife penalties placed on him for an act if he is found not guilty of a criminal violation for that act.

House Bill 585 - R. Alexander

Requires that anyone under 16 years old must have completed a boating safety course before they are allowed to operate any boat.

House Bill 598 - Roach

Allows the legislature to pass local and special laws on the offenses of taking fish or wildlife.

House Bill 657 - Murray

Outlaws the use of gill nets, strike nets, trammel nets and seines in all waters of the state.

House Bill 658 - Murray

Outlaws the use of gill nets and strike nets in all waters of the state.

House Bill 701 - Sam Theriot

Creates a \$250 charter boat fishing guide license. Allows non-residents to fish without a license when on a boat with a licensed guide.

House Bill 744 - Mitch Theriot

Defines a "work box" as a crate used by commercial crab fishermen to sort their catch and provides that crabs in the work box do not have meet the minimum size while on the boat.

House Bill 747 - Mitch Theriot

Allows sheriffs and parish tax collectors to take credit cards for the payment of fishing and hunting licenses.

House Bill 768 - Alario

Allows oysters taken from natural reefs for canning to be under the 3 inch minimum size. Also allows the canning, shucking or packing , but not the harvest of oysters from natural reefs during the closure period.

House Bill 780 - Mitch Theriot

Allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to make regulations on commercial licenses for the harvest of fish. Directs the Commission to adopt a set of regulations to limit saltwater finfish licenses by January 1, 1996. Until the regulations are developed, only people who had a license to take saltwater finfish in 1993 or 1994 shall be able to get such a license.

House Bill 782 - Sam Theriot

Creates the Louisiana Boat and Motor Titling Act which requires the registration (for a fee of up to \$20) of outboard motors 10 horsepower or larger. Does not apply to owners of boats built before 1980 or outboards bought before July 1, 1996. Also prohibits the abandonment of a vessel and provides for fees for storing abandoned vessels.

House Bill 810 - Siracusa

Limits crawfishing to daylight hours. Creates a season beginning January 1 and ending June 30 of each year. Requires all crawfish traps to be removed from state waters

by July 15 of each year. Requires commercial crawfishermen to have a commercial fishermen's license and a gear license. Requires recreational crawfishermen to possess a \$25 recreational crawfishing license. Also limits the opening of the flues in crawfish traps to no more than 2 inches. Sets a minimum mesh size (until January 1, 1997) for commercial crawfish nets in the wild or in ponds of 3/4 inch. After January 1, 1997 the minimum commercial mesh size will be 5/8 inch.

House Bill 814 - Triche

Provides that fishing gear used in an illegal way shall not be returned to the owner after confiscation but rather shall be destroyed.

House Bill 815 - Triche

Defines an unattended net as any net in the water that is not within 100 feet of the license holder.

House Bill 829 - Roach

Outlaws the use of gill nets, trammel nets, strike nets and seines in that portion of Calcasieu Lake located in Calcasieu Parish.

House Bill 931 - Deville

Requires restaurants that serve crawfish to notify customers if the crawfish are imported from a foreign country.

House Bill 976 - Patti

Provides penalties for illegal use of a trawl, seine or skimmer net on privately leased oyster beds. Presently, the person is only liable for damages.

House Bill 998 - Odinet

Creates a 3-year moratorium on issuing saltwater gill net, trammel net and seine licenses except to those people who had such licenses in two of the four years of 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

House Bill 1095 - Carrier

Creates a free fur trappers license for people 65 and older. Also creates a free assistant trapper license for someone to assist him.

House Bill 1106 - Hebert

Outlaws the possession of a gill net over 1200 feet long. Current law outlaws their use, but not their possession.

House Bill 1108 - Hebert

Creates a recreational crab limit of 100 crabs.

House Bill 1110 - Hebert

Allows the removal of head and tail fin from fish after they are put on shore from the vessel.

House Bill 1114 - Hebert

Provides that all saltwater fish in the possession of a wholesale/retail dealer license holder are presumed to be possessed for commercial purposes.

House Bill 1145 - Hebert

Outlaws commercial harvest of finfish by skin divers.

House Bill 1146 - Hebert

Increases the fee for the wholesale/retail dealer's license from \$105 to \$505 for residents (\$750 for non-residents). Creates a \$105 license for retail seafood dealers and a restaurant/retail grocers license for \$30. Provides that license holders may sell reptiles and amphibians. Requires that retail seafood dealers, restaurants and retail grocers buy direct in Louisiana only from wholesale/retail seafood dealers. Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide a pamphlet of all pertinent regulations to the license holders listed above and provide written notice of any changes in the law.

House Bill 1147 - Hebert

Describes boundaries of Lake Catherine and Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary.

House Bill 1150 - Hebert

Creates a recreational catfish limit of 100, no matter how they are taken.

House Bill 1151 - Hebert

Provides that violation of any federal rule or regulation is a class four violation.

House Bill 1190 - Bergeron

Requires any operator of a soft shell crab shedding facility to buy a \$25 soft shell crab shedder's license. Requires records to be kept of buster crab purchases from fishermen.

House Bill 1227 - Landrieu

Makes it illegal for the state to issue oyster leases which hold the state harmless for damages caused by freshwater diversion.

House Bill 1316 - John

Creates \$15.50 season basic and a \$15.50 saltwater fishing licenses for non-residents 65 years old and older. Currently the cost is \$31 for the basic and \$36 for the saltwater licenses.

House Bill 1319 - Landrieu

Changes the standard measure of oysters from 1/2 bushels to 1 bushel to comply with OSHA regulations.

House Bill 1324 - Patti

Outlaws mullet fishing with more than 2 gill nets, trammel nets or seines.

House Bill 1345 - John

Clarifies the rules on use of emergency procedures by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission open and close seasons.

House Bill 1360 - Hebert

Clarifies the laws on the use of bait nets by sport fishermen.

House Bill 1413 - Steve Theriot and others

Allows a personal statement signed in front of a Department of Revenue and Taxation employee to be used instead of a notarized statement that a person gets or plans to get half or more of their income from commercial fishing in order to get a sales tax exemption certificate.

House Bill 1424 - Thomas and others

Exempts alligator and nutria from the requirement that animals be slaughtered by a licensed butcher or in a licensed slaughterhouse.

House Bill 1451 - Ackal and others

Describes the boundary of Breton and Chandelier Sounds for the purpose of trawling with 65 foot trawls.

House Bill 1452 - Ackal and others

Allows the sale of private hatchery produced freshwater gamefish for stocking in approved natural waters. States that only non-residents must notify the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries before transporting gamefish fingerlings for sale.

House Bill 1453 - Ackal and others

Sets a collarbone lengths of 9 3/4 inches for blue catfish and a 10 1/2 inches for goujon or yellow catfish.

House Bill 1455 - Ackal and others

Requires that yo-yos and trigger devices be tagged with the time and date set and that they be removed or retagged within 72 hours.

House Bill 1457 - Ackal and others

Provides that permits for possession of triploid grass carp do not have to be renewed each year.

House Bill 1544 - Roach

Requires that before a coastal restoration project can be put in the plan, that the project must have a statement on how the public and private landowners will benefit from it.

House Bill 1580 - Roach

Requires that after May 1, 1995, that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may only issue gill net, trammel net and seine licenses for saltwater areas to people who held

such a license in 1993 and 1994 and who can prove that 25% of their income or \$5000, whichever is less, comes from the sale of saltwater fish. Also, prevents the issuing of such a license to a person who has had two or more commercial fishing violations of class two or higher. Allows the transferal of the license to a relative in case of death or disability.

House Bill 1660 - Roach

Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set a season or seasons each year for the commercial harvest of saltwater finfish with gill nets, strike nets, trammel nets or seines. Limits the number of days open to 120 days. Limits each fisherman to two 1200 foot nets of any kind. Each fisherman must have a special two year permit to fish each saltwater lake. If the number of applicants for a permit for any lake is higher than the number allowed, a drawing will be held. Each permit costs \$100 for residents.

House Bill 1674 - Durand

Provides that only buster crabs under 3 1/2 inches must be held in separate containers marked "peelers" or "busters".

House Bill 1716 - Siracusa

Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to collect a fee of 5 cents per oyster tag. The money is to be used by the Oyster Task Force to promote the oyster industry.

House Bill 1718 - McCallum (By request)

Outlaws the use of nets in Lake D'Arbonne

House Bill 1755 - R. Alexander

Outlaws the use of spotlights to locate and take fish.

House Bill 1802 - Triche

Provides that only people who held gill net, trammel net, or seine licenses in 1992, 1993 and 1994 may be able to purchase a rod and reel commercial fishing license.

House Concurrent Resolution 2 - McCain

Urges the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enforce the minimum mesh size of 3/4-inch on crawfish traps throughout the Atchafalaya Basin.

House Concurrent Resolution 38 - Odinet

Urges the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set up a study group to study future possible changes in the oyster "redline".

House Concurrent Resolution 39 - Odinet

For the protection of the public and the oyster industry, U. S. Congress is asked to direct the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services to report vibrio illnesses and to develop a policy for prompt investigation.

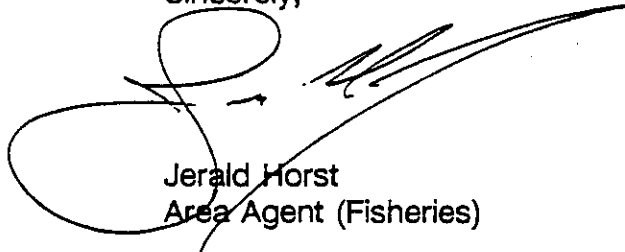
House Concurrent Resolution 42 - Odinet

Creates a special task force to develop a limited entry plan for gill nets, trammel nets and seines in saltwater.

House Resolution 2 - Jetson

Urges sheriffs and district attorneys of the state to vigorously arrest and prosecute people who burn down fishing camps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jerald Horst', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jerald Horst
Area Agent (Fisheries)