



April 10, 1997  
SPECIAL EDITION

## SEA GRANT PROGRAM

### LAGNIAPPE

This special edition of the Lagniappe Newsletter is devoted to new fisheries bills which have been introduced to the current legislature as of April. It must be noted that each senator and representative is also allowed to introduce up to five late bills before April 29. 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 that you are interested in and when they will be heard in committee. People with computer access can do the same by using the following Web Site addresses: Senate--[www.senate.state.la.us](http://www.senate.state.la.us) and House--[www.legis.state.la.us/house.htm](http://www.legis.state.la.us/house.htm). In these bill summaries, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is referred to as DWF, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as WFC, and the Department of Natural Resources as DNR.

**Senate Bill 63** - Robichaux

Restores enforcement powers to those DWF personnel who had them before September 25, 1996 on game management areas and refuges of the state.

**Senate Bill 80** - Landry

Makes a technical wording change concerning the saltwater/freshwater line.

**Senate Bill 93** - Landry

Makes technical changes concerning the WFC.

**Senate Bills 104, 105, and 106** - Landry

Provides for technical changes to the Wildlife and Fisheries code.

**Senate Bill 139** - Cox

Legalizes the use of seines in saltwater areas.

**Senate Bill 147** - Bean

Provides that persons or businesses that prepare fish to eat, do not have to buy a wholesale/retail dealer's license.

**Senate Bill 264** - Ullo

Creates the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program within DNR.

**Senate Bill 270** - Ullo and **House Bill 691** - Toomy

Requires the spring brown shrimp season in Zone 2 to open on May 15 during 1998 and 1999. After the two year trial period, the WFC shall review the brown shrimp season.

**Senate Bill 271** and **House Bill 985** - Ellington & Hammett

Defines a "Texas hoop net" or "fiddler hoop net" as a cone-shaped net with throats or flues and that is stretched over rings, hoops or wire of 5 inches square or larger. Allows their use with a commercial hoop net license, and allows the use of up to 3 of them with no gear license.

**Senate Bill 305** - Barham

Requires that any person entering timberland or agricultural land (including fish, crawfish and reptile farms) while armed, must have written permission from the landowner, when not with the landowner.

**Senate Bill 350** - Greene

Allows the suspension of recreational fishing and hunting licenses, as well as other licenses, for failure to pay state personal income tax.

**Senate Bill 362** - Greene (By request)

Adds the parishes of Assumption, Iberville and lower St. Martin to the area where the commercial harvest of bowfin (choupique) is allowed with nets and allows the harvest of bowfin in all open areas only during the months of January and February.

**Senate Bill 401** - Robichaux

Requires all commercial fishing vessels to be tagged in order to identify the fishing activity they are doing. Also requires the commercial fisherman's license number to be displayed in block letters 8 inches high and wide on both sides of the bow and on the roof.

**Senate Bills 402 and 452** - Robichaux & Romero

Provides that the minimum count size of 100 per pound shall apply to anyone possessing white shrimp until they arrive at a processing plant. Repeals the October 15 to third Monday in December exemption from the count law and provides that the minimum count shall apply to all white shrimp taken in the state year around.

**Senate Bill 444** - Hainkel

Defines the Lake St. Catherine and Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary as the waters of Lake St. Catherine, Unknown Pass, the Rigolets, Chef Menteur Pass, Sawmill Pass, Millers Ditch, Pass St. Catherine, and Counterfeit Pass, and 1/4 mile off of Orleans and portions of St. Tammany Parishes in Lake Ponchartrain.

**Senate Bill 555** - Hainkel & others

Provides that closure of a fishing season by DWF can take place after notice in the Louisiana Register, rather than after being published in the official journal of each parish affected.

**Senate Bill 556** - Hainkel & others

Allows residents between 60 and 65 years old to recreationally fish or hunt with the purchase of a basic fishing or hunting license without having to buy additional licenses. Under current law, people over 60 years old are exempt from buying any fishing or hunting licenses.

**Senate Bill 557** - Hainkel & others

Changes membership of the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force. Substitutes the DWF Assistant Secretaries of the Office of Fisheries and the Office of Wildlife, for the chiefs of the Fur and Refuge Division and the Habitat Conservation Division. Requires that the board-certified pathologist or toxicologist be appointed by the DWF secretary, and provides for 3 herpetologists from any university, rather than being designated as from Tulane, LSU, and Southeastern Louisiana University.

**Senate Bill 561** - Hainkel & others

Repeals the freshwater trout license and the 7 day nonresident sport fishing license. Changes the 2 day combination basic and saltwater nonresident fishing license to a 3 day license. Provides that all licenses be attached to a completed license carrier. The recreational license year begins on July 1, but licenses may be purchased after June 1 of each year.

**Senate Bill 573** - Hainkel & others

Repeals a law authorizing the owner of a charter fishing vessel carrying no more than 6 persons to get a \$200 license to fish in federal waters.

**Senate Bill 711** - Robichaux

Removes the power of the DWF secretary or WFC to place limits on fish taken as incidental by-catch in the commercial shrimp fishery. This would apply to flounder, for example.

**Senate Bill 735** - Robichaux

Requires that the brown shrimp season be opened no later than the second Monday in May and close no later than the third Monday in June.

**Senate Bill 950** - Romero & Hammett

Creates a gasoline tax refund for catfish farmers and other forms of aquaculture effective January 1, 1998.

**Senate Bill 972** - Hainkel

Allows recreational fishermen to possess a two-day bag limit of redfish and speckled trout **except** while fishing or while on the water.

**Senate Bill 1018** - Siracusa

Allows any U. S. citizen over 65 years of age to recreationally fish in Louisiana without purchase of a nonresident or resident license.

**Senate Bill 1046 and House Bill 800** - Ellington, Hammett & Riddle

Includes in the definition of hoop nets, those nets made of webbing which is stretched over wire mesh that is no smaller than 5 inches square.

**Senate Bill 1105** - Robichaux

Requires the WFC to develop, design and establish the "Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card" by January 1, 1998. Also requires that when shrimp are purchased, that the price per pound and the count per pound of shrimp must be placed on the wholesale/retail dealer receipt form.

**Senate Bill 1106** - Robichaux

Reduces the minimum level at which wetland dredge material must be used to benefit wetlands from 500,000 to 250,000 cubic yards.

**Senate Bill 1107** - Robichaux

Creates a limited entry program for the use of crab traps, effective January 1, 1998. Creates a Blue Crab Gear License Limitation Review Panel of crab industry members to review the program each year and make recommendations for changes.

**Senate Bill 1108** - Robichaux

Reduces the minimum mesh size requirement on shrimp nets used in inshore waters during the fall inshore shrimp season from 1-1/2 inches to 1-1/4 inches stretched.

**Senate Bill 1152 and House Bill 1875** - Romero & John Smith

Provides that in a dispute over damages to oyster leases by oil and gas activity, that if an agreement can't be reached that the parties **may** file a request with the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board for arbitration. Current law says that disputes **shall** be brought before the board for arbitration.

**Senate Bill 1313** - Siracusa

Requires that the shrimp season be closed in outside state waters (from the beach to 3 miles out in most areas) from January 31 until May 1 of each year.

**Senate Bill 1337 and House Bill 805** - Robichaux & Rousselle

Requires the DWF to develop a mitigation program for oyster leaseholders that are impacted by coastal restoration efforts. Leaseholders shall have the following options: Lease exchange, lease relocation, payment of damages, and lease purchase by the state. The program shall also include training programs for displaced oyster fishermen which shall include either of the following: Preparation for the U. S. Coast Guard 100 ton exam or a reduction or waiver of fees for attending a vocational-technical school or a state university.

**Prohibits** the use of trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets, gill nets, trammel nets, seines, strike nets, hoop nets, slat traps, tires, cans, buckets, drums, pipes, dredges, fish boxes, fish traps, turtle traps and eel traps in the sanctuary. **Allows** the use crab traps, crab drop nets, crab lines, dip nets and cast nets in the sanctuary. **Allows** the use of trawls, butterfly nets and skimmers in the part of the sanctuary which is south and east of the I-10 bridge (twin spans).

**Senate Bill 509** - Romero

Changes provisions that allow parish governments to create local game and fish commissions so as to allow for any number of members. Requires that rules and regulations proposed by such a parish commission must be approved by the state WFC. Abolishes the state-created Spanish Lake Game and Fish Commission and allows parish government to re-create it locally.

**Senate Bills 523 and 707** - Robichaux & Landry

Designates Grand Isle and the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, Iberia, and St. Mary as "Louisiana's Cajun Coastline."

**Senate Bill 524** - Robichaux

Prohibits DWF from enforcing any federal laws requiring the use of fish excluder devices by commercial fishermen, unless authorized to do so by the legislature.

**Senate Bill 533** - Hainkel & others

Requires that all fish being sold or traded shall not be misrepresented as being a species they are not. Requires that all prepackaged seafood be labeled with the name and address of the dealer, the packer, or the distributor, along with a valid permit number and the net weight.

**Senate Bill 534** - Hainkel & others

Changes definition of "underutilized species" to include any fish species, not just edible ones, that have commercial development potential which has not been fully reached.

**Senate Bill 535** - Hainkel & others

Defines "license number" as the number on a license and "effective license number" as a numbered license or permit. Requires a person or vessel to have in possession or on board a valid original license or an effective license number.

**Senate Bill 542** - Hainkel & others

Repeals the 7 day nonresident basic recreational sport fishing license and keeps the 3 day nonresident license in place.

**Senate Bill 543** - Hainkel & others

Outlaws the use of bow and arrow to take largemouth or spotted bass, black or white crappie (sac-au-lait), white or yellow bass (barfish), striped or hybrid striped bass, or bream.

**Senate Bill 544** - Hainkel & others

Repeals the requirement for \$55 commercial eel fishing license and allows eel fishing under the commercial fisherman's and appropriate gear licenses.

**Senate Bill 546** - Hainkel & others

Makes technical changes in wording describing fish farms on **privately owned property** so that the water bodies' structures do not have to be built of earth.

**Senate Bill 547** - Hainkel & others

Outlaws the transport of certain damaging water plants **within** the state not just into the state. This includes some species used in water gardens.

**Senate Bill 548** - Hainkel & others

Provides that any person who possesses more than twice the percentage allowed of undersize crabs, or who possesses a crab trap without the owner's permission, or runs another person's crab trap without the owner's permission shall suffer a class 4 violation **and** the following penalties: 1st offense, loss of license for 6 months; 2nd offense within 5 years, loss of license for 12 months; 3rd offense within 5 years, loss of license permanently. Anyone who crabs **without** a crab trap gear license during their period of license suspension shall have a class 6 violation and may never again apply for a crab trap gear license.

**Senate Bill 549** - Hainkel & others

Provides that as a condition for getting a wholesale, retail, or transportation license, that all fish possessed are considered commercial.

**Senate Bill 550** - Hainkel & others

Requires that the **buyer or handler** of farm-raised fish instead of the producer is responsible for reporting the arrival into the state of these fish.

**Senate Bill 551** - Hainkel & others

Includes drying, and cooking for immediate consumption, in the definition of seafood processing. Removes deheading, freezing, and simple packing of fresh fish in a sack, bag, package, crate, box, lug or vat from the definition. Also includes alligators in processing.

**Senate Bill 554 and House Bill 2011** - Hainkel & others & Dewitt

Provides that oyster leases located in impact areas of authorized or funded coastal restoration projects may, at the discretion of the DWF secretary, be renewed for 1 to 5 years, instead 15 years. Also provides that oyster leases in areas where coastal restoration projects are **currently** in operation shall not be renewed.

**Senate Bill 1401** - Dean

Present law requires that to be eligible for the commercial rod and reel license that a person must show proof of having had a gill net gear license during two of the years 1993, 1994 and 1995, and that a person cannot have ever been convicted of a class 3 fisheries violation. Proposed law adds the years 1991 and 1992 to the qualification period, and provides that a person cannot have had more than three class 3 violations to be eligible for the license.

Creates a limited strike net fishery for black drum and sheepshead from January 1 until October 21 of each year. Also requires the WFC to develop rules no later than July 30, 1997 for the entry of commercial fishermen into a commercial fishery for black drum, sheepshead and flounder. Requires a minimum mesh size for use in this fishery of 5 inches. Also, directs the DWF to develop and put into effect an entry program for new applicants. All applicants shall have a right to a license unless they have a record of three or more class 3 violations. DWF shall develop the new-entrant program no later than September 1, 1997 to go into effect no later than December 1, 1997.

**House Bill 53** - Bruneau

Creates a Wild Louisiana Guide License for person who conducts outings not involving fishing or hunting on DWF lands. Allows the WFC to charge no more than \$100 for the license and a client fee of no more than \$2 for clients who don't have a Louisiana fishing or hunting license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.

**House Bill 222** - John Smith

Exempts persons in the business of renting and/or selling new or used watercraft or boats not powered by an engine from the definition of "Marine Dealer".

**House Bill 224**- Triche

Repeals the law creating the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

**House Bill 225** - Triche

Repeals the law creating the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund in the state treasury.

**House Bill 246** - Stelly

Allows regulation of houseboats docked on a "Louisiana Natural and Scenic River" for longer than 30 days.

**House Bill 247** - Theriot

Requires that trawling shall be used for oil and gas site clearance verification.

**House Bill 332** - Rousselle

Requires each crab trap to have a 2-3/16 inch escape ring.

**House Bill 333** - Rousselle

Repeals the law creating the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board and Program.

**House Bill 344** - Triche

Provides that the DWF shall not issue a mullet or pompano strike net to a person who does not have a social security number. This corrects an error in Act 1316 of the 1995 Legislature.

**House Bill 355** -Heaton

Requires anyone operating a personal watercraft (jet ski) to have a drivers license or proof of completion of a water safety course.

**House Bill 379** - Doerge

Requires land management companies that lease land for fishing and/or hunting purposes to provide to DWF the name of the lessee, the amount, location and description of the acreage and the name of the licensed insurance agent who shall be the agent for the lessee. Exempts corporate landowners or financial institutions and trust officers who manage private lands under the authority of a legal trust.

**House Bill 380** - Doerge

Has the same reporting requirements as HB 379 but instead of requiring the land company to employ an insurance agent, requires the employment of a recreational specialist. Exemptions are same as HB 379.

**House Bill 547** - Odinet

Changes the saltwater/freshwater line to provide that the seven-tenths of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage, south to the Intracoastal Waterway, shall be in the freshwater zone.

**House Bill 594** - Jack Smith

Moves the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board from the DWF to the Office of the lieutenant governor.

**House Bill 648** - Frith

Creates rules for the registration of homemade boats. Requires that application be made to the nearest regional office of DWF and that an agent of that office make an inspection of the boat. If the inspection is favorable, the agent will stamp a hull number on the boat. The owner of the boat shall then submit a registration form along with the favorable report to DWF. The fee for the inspection shall be \$25.

**House Bill 661** - Riddle

Creates a 3 month strike net season for saltwater garfish during the December-March period.

**House Bill 684** - Odinet

Requires that for commercial menhaden (pogey) fishing that the person in charge of each vessel must have in possession a valid, original commercial fisherman's license, a gear license, and if applicable, a vessel license. Licenses may be issued to any person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity.



**House Bill 721** - Dupre and Flavin

Limits commercial shrimp vessels in state territorial waters (beach to 3 miles offshore in most areas) to trawls totaling a maximum of 100 feet of cork line and 132 feet of lead line.

**House Bill 766** - Triche

Makes speckled trout gamefish.

**House Bill 767** - Triche

Makes speckled trout and redfish gamefish.

**House Bill 768** - Triche

Allows DWF to dispose things seized by game wardens after two years instead of three years.

**House Bill 801** - Rousselle

Requires that money collected from the sale of oyster harvester licenses shall be used only for the Oyster Strike Force, and the Dept of Health and Hospitals for oyster water monitoring.

**House Bill 802** - Rousselle

Allows night strike netting for mullets. Provides that the "commission may" rather than the department shall close the mullet season for all harvest if the spawning potential ratio (SPR) is below 30%.

**House Bill 803** - Rousselle

Repeals the part of the law that prevents a person from getting a saltwater commercial rod and reel gear license if they have been convicted of a fisheries - related class 3 or greater violation.

**House Bill 806** - Rousselle & others

Provides that if the spawning potential ratio (SPR) for black drum, sheepshead, flounder or mullet falls below 30% that the WFC may , (rather than the department shall) close the commercial and recreational harvest of the fish.

**House Bill 811** - Alario

Creates a constitutional amendment that prevents actions that interfere with the right to hunt, fish, and trap.

**House Bill 826** - Riddle & others

Restores enforcement powers to those DWF personnel who had them before October 1, 1996. Prevents the secretary of the DWF from revoking or preventing the issuing of these enforcement commissions, except for good cause, for a 2 year period.

**House Bill 841** - Michot

Provides that a commercial gear license or commercial fisherman's license shall not be required to recreationally harvest crawfish with traps.

**House Bill 951** - Schneider

Creates a minimum size of 3-1/2 inches for premolt (buster) crabs and requires that they be no further from molting than red sign.

**House Bill 976** - Durand

Changes the minimum mesh size on crawfish traps **from** 3/4-inch **to** 3/4-inch by 11/16-inch.

**House Bill 984** - Hammett

Allows the DWF and WFC to allow the use of public lands under their control to satisfy wetland mitigation requirements required by federal, state or local law. Reforestation is included in such utilization.

**House Bill 1005** - Thompson

Outlaws the discharge of "produced waters" from oil or gas wells after January 1, 1998.

**House Bills 1080 and 1546** - John Smith

Adds another member to the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board who will be appointed by the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association and the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association, and makes major changes in the powers of the board, and how oyster lease damage disputes are settled.

**House Bill 1148** - Odinet

Creates a commercial strike net season for speckled trout from the last Monday in November to March 1 of the following year. No weekend harvest is allowed. Prohibits people with a class 3 violation from getting the permit and provides that any fisheries law violation will result in loss of the permit for that season.

Also allows the WFC to set a special strike net season for underutilized species, other than mullet, from the first Monday in June until the close of mullet season or the second Monday in January. Does not allow the permit to be issued to people who have had a class 3 or greater fisheries violation where part of the penalty was prohibition of getting such a permit. Provides that any fisheries violation will result in loss of the permit for that season.

Adds shark to the species that the commission must make an annual report to the legislature on. Also provides that any fisheries violation results in loss of the mullet permit for that season only.

**House Bill 1149** - Odinet

Provides that a spouse's income does not count against the requirement that fisherman must show 50% proof of income from commercial fishing to be eligible for a claim with the Fisherman's Gear Compensation Fund.

**House Bill 1150** - Riddle

Defines a "private pond" for the purpose of production and harvest of catfish and crawfish as one that is privately owned in which they are bred and raised under controlled conditions and where persons other than the owner may be required to pay a fee to fish.

**House Bill 1276** - Dupre

Makes illegal the use of skimmer nets to harvest shrimp or bait shrimp in state waters during closed season.

**House Bill 1278** - Faucheux

Creates the Coastal Mitigation Fund in the state treasury and provides for the use of this money.

**House Bill 1356** - Rousselle

Transfers the power, responsibility, and authority over oyster leasing and culture programs **from** DWF **to** the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

**House Bill 1508** - Daniel

Establishes a public bid system for leasing state water bottoms for oyster culture using bonded written bids. Leases are not to be longer than 15 years and a lease may be continued after the first term by annual payment of rent in an amount determined by DWF based on the first cost of the lease, if it can be shown that the lease is producing oysters. Provides that leases are not transferable and are heritable only during the period of the lease. Also authorizes DWF to take legal action against any party causing injury to the lease. Proposed law repeals the fixed cost of \$2 per acre per year for oyster leases.

**House Bill 1520** - Odinet

Creates a commercial rod and reel season for speckled trout from the last Monday in November until no later than the following March 1. Allows no commercial rod and reel harvest of speckled trout on weekends. Provides that a person cannot have had a class 3 violation with a penalty that includes prohibiting getting such a license and that any fishing violation causes loss of the license for that season.

Requires the commission to establish a special strike net season for the harvest of underutilized species from the first Monday in June until the close of the mullet season or the second Monday in January. The qualifications are same as those for the rod and reel speckled trout fishery.

Also adds the seasonal license loss provisions outlined above for the mullet strike net fishery. Adds sharks to the species that the commission must make an annual report to the legislature on.

**House Bill 1521** - Odinet

Adds loss of permit or license for the period in which it was issued, to a class 3 violation for second and subsequent offenses of the same provision of law. Provides that a class 3 violation does not prevent aid for training, or sale of gear, nor getting a commercial rod and reel license or other net license.

Provides that when a license application requires submission of an income tax return, that proof of accuracy of the return may be made by a notarized affidavit from preparer of the return.

Requires the commission to create a special apprentice license for the commercial harvest of saltwater fish at one-half the cost of the regular license. The requirements for the license shall include that two years will be required as a helper or apprentice under a regular licensed commercial fisherman and proof of more than 50% of income from fishing. This license will allow the commercial harvest of saltwater fish during the period that it is valid. At the end of the two years, the holder of a special apprentice license may apply for a regular commercial fisherman's license.

**House Bill 1708** - Rousselle

Requires that only the captain of a vessel harvesting or possessing oysters must purchase the oyster harvester license. Provides that the DWF and the Department of Health and Hospitals shall each receive half of the amount of money in the fund from these licenses each year.

**House Bill 1709** - Rousselle

Requires that the DWF shall remove, and permanently prohibit any clauses which specify that oyster leases are subservient to oilfield activity.

**House Bill 1726** - Damico

Requires that every outboard motor used on a boat in the state must be registered with the DWF and the registration number must be on the motor itself. The registration fee shall be \$2 per year.

**House Bill 1756** - Wiggins

Requires a \$10 permit for use of a wildlife management area by persons between the ages of 18 and 70. The funds will be used to create the position of conservation officer for each wildlife management area over 50,000 acres. These funds will also be used to pay for enforcement duties by wildlife specialists. Their duties will be coordinated by the DWF Enforcement Division.

**House Bill 1938** - Rousselle

Provides that the hold-harmless clauses in oyster leases shall apply only after all reasonable and legally required efforts have been made to mitigate damages.

**House Bill 1985** - Dewitt

Defines the Lake Catherine and Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary as the area in Lake Ponchartrain 1-1/4 miles out from the shoreline off of Orleans and part of St. Tammany Parishes, and the waters of lake Catherine and its passes, the Rigolets, Unknown Pass and Chef Menteur. Prohibits the use of trawls, skimmer nets, butterfly nets, seines, gill, trammel and strike nets, dredges, traps and other netting. Cast nets, dip nets, bait seines and drop nets **are** permitted, as are crab traps and pots, lines and nets. Makes illegal use of gear a class 4 violation

**House Bill 1986** - Dewitt

Provides that violation of bait shrimp permit regulations shall be a class 4 violation, loss of bond posted for the permit, and denial of a bait shrimp permit for the bait shrimp season following the conviction.

**House Bill 1987** - Dewitt

Makes a technical correction to legal size limit provisions for commercial fish.

**House Bill 1988** - Dewitt

Creates a recreational limit of 12 dozen crabs.

**House Bill 1989** - Dewitt

Requires each crab trap after January 1, 1998 to have a biodegradable panel **or** tie-down strap to prevent ghost fishing in lost traps. The panel shall be no smaller than 6 by 3 inches covered by a single length of untreated jute (2 ply #18, 3 ply #30, or the equivalent) twine knotted only at each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar. The tie-down strap option requires that the trap lid tie-down strap be secured to the trap at one end by a single loop of untreated jute twine and that the trap lid must be secured so that when the jute degrades the lid will no longer be securely closed.

**House Bill 1990** - Dewitt

Specifies that the 5 inch minimum size for hard crabs does not apply to premolt crabs (peelers or busters) held for soft crab production. Defines a premolt crab as a hard crab showing a white, pink, or red line along the outer edge of the last legs (paddles).

**House Bill 1991** - Dewitt

Requires that beginning January 1, 1998, each crab trap shall have at least 3 escape rings with an inner diameter of 2-3/8 inches. All escape rings shall be placed on the sides of the trap even with the trap floor or baffle. At least two rings must be in the upper or outer chamber of the trap. The rings must be attached to the trap with material

of a smaller diameter than the wire of the trap. Escape rings will **not** be required to be open from April 1 through May 31 and September 1 through October 15 of each year.

**House Bill 1992** - Dewitt

Provides that the minimum size law on blue crabs applies to crabs in the possession of seafood dealers.

**House Bill 1993** - Dewitt

Creates a nonresident alligator parts dealer fee for \$200 and a nonresident alligator parts retailers license for \$20. Also creates a nonresident seafood transport license for \$120.

**House Bill 1994** - Dewitt

Allows commercial fishermen, vessel, and gear licenses to be purchased after November 15 for the following year. The licenses shall be valid from the date of purchase.

**House Bill 1995** - Dewitt

Proposes to dedicate the funds collected from oyster tag sales to the DWF to fund the administration and distribution of the tags.

**House Bill 1996** - Dewitt

Authorizes the WFC to create rules to regulate all freshwater fish netting, not just commercial netting.

**House Bill 1997** - Dewitt

Outlaws hoop nets as a recreational fishing gear.

**House Bill 1998** - Dewitt

Increases the minimum mesh size on hoop nets from 1-inch square to 1-1/4 inches square in the front section of the hoop net (ahead of the hoop to which the last throat is attached) and 1-1/8 inches square in the tail section of the nets, effective January 1, 1999.

**House Bill 1999** - Dewitt

Requires common carriers that are transporting seafood **within** the state to purchase a transport license, a commercial fisherman's license or a wholesale/retail dealers license.

**House Bill 2000** - Dewitt

Requires commercial license holders to report any change of the information on the license application to the DWF in writing within 30 days. If not reported, the license is considered invalid.

**House Bill 2001** - Dewitt

Requires that a nonresident must meet the same residency requirement in his state as Louisiana uses in order to purchase a nonresident license.

**House Bill 2002** - Dewitt

Requires that in order to purchase a resident license, that any corporation or legal entity, shall be incorporated and domiciled in Louisiana and shall have a permanent physical location of business in Louisiana where records required of commercial fish dealers are kept. Also provides that any person, corporation or other legal entity that has a resident license in another state or country shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.

**House Bill 2004**- Dewitt

Repeals the provision that does not require shrimp or menhaden nets to be attended.

**House Bill 2005** - Dewitt

Provides a class 1 violation for recreational fishing without a \$3 Louisiana Marine Resources Conservation Stamp.

**House Bill 2006** - Dewitt

Outlaws the use of skimmer nets in inside waters during closed season. Also makes it illegal to use trawls, butterfly nets and skimmers in any place which is closed by federal, state or local law.

**House Bill 2007** - Dewitt

Increases the cost of the resident commercial fisherman's license **from \$55 to \$70** and nonresident **from \$400 to \$460**. Requires that for a commercial fisherman to sell his catch to anyone **except** a wholesale/retail seafood dealer, he must purchase a \$20 (nonresident \$80) fresh products license. Fresh products license holders may sell only their catch and only in-state, and must make a report to the DWF by the 10th of each month on sales.

Increases the cost of the wholesale/retail seafood dealers license for residents **from \$105 to \$405** and for nonresidents **from \$405 to \$1,005**, and dedicates funds from the wholesale/retail dealer's licenses to the development of a dealer receipt form report (trip ticket system). This license is not required for restaurants and retail grocers. The license shall list the physical place of business or vehicle. This license is valid only for the person to whom it was issued and must be in his possession. If issued to a business name, it is only valid for one place of business and only valid to transact business for and in the name of the license. If the licensee owns or operates more than one place of business, then an additional license must be purchased for each place of business or vehicle. Such a license is **not** required for an employee delivering for a wholesale/retail seafood dealer and possessing a valid transport license purchased in connection with that

wholesale/retail seafood dealer. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers are **not** required to buy a soft shell crab shedders or a reptile and amphibian license.

Creates a retail seafood dealer's license which allows purchase of seafood from wholesale/retail seafood dealers and for resale to consumers. The license is valid only for the person to whom it is issued and is valid only for one place of business. Additional locations receive additional licenses with different numbers. Any business activity outside the place of business requires purchase of another retail seafood dealer's license. Purchase of such a license is not necessary for an employee transporting fish under a transport license on behalf of a retail seafood dealer. The license costs \$105 for residents and \$405 for nonresidents.

Restaurants and retail grocers who purchase fish from licensed wholesale/retail dealers and only sell such fish fully prepared by cooking for immediate consumption are exempt from the retail seafood dealer's license requirement.

Proposed law requires retail seafood dealers, restaurants, and retail grocers to buy only from wholesale retail seafood dealers. Requires restaurants and retail grocers who purchase fish outside the state to have a valid wholesale retail seafood dealers license or a retail seafood dealers license and a transport license. Complete records are required of all dealers, restaurants and retail grocers.

**House Bill 2008** - Dewitt

Requires an annual report from anyone holding a charter vessel fishing license on forms provided by the DWF, containing any information that the DWF deems necessary for management and enforcement.

**House Bill 2010** - Dewitt

Re-creates the DWF until June 20, 2001.

**House Bill 2121** - Travis

Requires an application to be made 60 days before any change that would establish a new, or change the location of, any marine dealer, new motorcycle or all-terrain dealership. Provides that the commissioner shall notify existing dealerships handling the same makes or brands who may object to the license. Allows any existing dealer to object if the new location is within 5 miles of his facility in parishes with a population of 100,000 or more, or within 10 miles in parishes with populations under 100,000. Objections must be made in writing and the commission must hold a hearing within 30 days.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 11**- Ullo

Creates the Select Council on Shrimp Management and the Shrimp Industry Review Panel to study the shrimp industry and make management recommendations.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 41** - Theunissen

Declares September as American Alligator Resource Month.



**House Concurrent Resolution 10** - Dupre & others

Asks U.S. Congress to reauthorize laws providing funding for Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) projects.

**House Concurrent Resolution 13** - Bruneau

Urges and requests the WFC to enter into a reciprocal agreement with Mississippi recognizing recreational licenses and permits on saltwater and other waters in boundary areas.

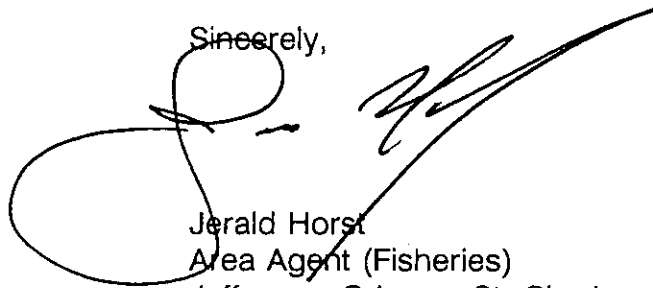
**House Concurrent Resolution 47** - John Smith

Approves the annual wetlands conservation and restoration plan prepared by the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority.

**House Concurrent Resolution 50** - Durand

Asks U. S. Congress to provide funding for the problem of exotic water plants..

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Horst', is written over the typed name and title.

Jerald Horst  
Area Agent (Fisheries)

Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles, St. John