

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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May 14, 1979

LAGNIAPPE -SPECIAL EDITION

This Special Edition of the LAGNIAPPE is devoted to the new bills which are before the current Legislative Session. As you know, the fishing industry is highly sensitive to legislation, so some of the bills may be very important. If you need more information on any of these bills, call 1-800-272-8186. This is a toll-free number in Baton Rouge and they will be happy to answer your questions on a particular bill or send you a copy of it.

House Bill 90 - Wall and Senator Gibbs

Provides for police powers for game wardens who have graduated from the LSU Law Enforcement Training Program. This would give game wardens the power of police officers for offenses such as arson, littering and theft.

House Bill 476 - Ullo

Provides that no fish net or seine used in state waters may be left unattended.

House Bill 494 - Tauzin (By Request)

Provides that the taking of fish by any method other than those specifically allowed by the law is illegal.

House Bill 495 - Tauzin (By Request)

Provides for a 50 dollar non-resident retail seafood dealers license.

House Bill 496 - Tauzin (By Request)

Drops the words "No person shall take crabs by means of crab trawls" and substitutes with the words "The taking of crabs by the means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp."

House Bill 497 - Tauzin (By Request)

Provides that all wholesalers who ship or buy fish across Louisiana state lines must pay an annual \$50 license. At present, only residents must do so.

House Bill 498 - Tauzin (By Request)

Provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may prohibit the taking of any species of fish in the state for not more than three years. This mainly affects saltwater fish since freshwater fish already have this rule.

House Bill 505 - Tauzin (By Request)

Provides penalties for violations of oyster seed grounds, and reservations laws, leasing laws and seed oyster and cultch harvesting laws which do not already have penalties. First offense \$250, second offense \$500 and third offense \$1000.

House Bill 516 - Tauzin (By Request)

Drops the prohibition on "Biloxi type vessels" in inside shrimp trawling.

House Bill 583 - Reilly

Provides for the appropriation of one million dollars from the General Fund to create a Wetlands Working Capitol Fund. This money is to be used to buy and protect wetlands and floodplains to make up for loss of this type land to highway construction.

House Bill 713 - Tauzin

Provides for the development of a freshwater diversion plan for the state. The plan would determine those areas in the state most in need of freshwater diversion from the Mississippi River to prevent further landloss and saltwater intrusion in the marshlands.

House Bill 766 - Tauzin

Provides that oysters which are not sacked on the oyster boat shall be tagged when sacked or boxed (containerized) at the dockside before shipment. A 10% tolerance for loss of tags will be allowed.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries also would have the right to require the owner of untagged oysters to return the oysters to the water they came from or to the person from whom he purchased them.

Also, all oyster shuckers must keep accurate records on the source of the oysters so that they can be traced back to the tag.

House Bill 768 - LeBleu

Provides for non-resident alligator hunters license of \$150.

House Bill 772 - LeBleu

Requires that public hearings be held before permits for waste disposal wells are issued.

House Bill 856 - Tauzin

Re-establishes the old saltwater gill net boundry. Provides for a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square on seines above the line and a maximum of 1 inch square below the line.

Provides for a minimum mesh size for trammel nets of 3 inches square above the line and a maximum of 1 inch square below the line. No monofilament trammel nets of four or less strands are permitted south of the line.

Provides for a minimum mesh size on gill nets of 3 inches square above the line and a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square south of the line. All gill nets, trammel nets and seines have a maximum length of 1200 feet.

Provides that slattraps and cans shall be legal only in Iberia, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Evangeline, St. Charles, St. John, St. James, Wards 1,2,3,4 and 5 except that portion of Ward 1 formerly Ward 6 of St. Martin Parish, Jefferson, Rapides, East Carroll, Lafourche, LaSalle, Quachita, Caldwell, Winn, Grant, Natchitoches, Red River, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, Catahoula, Concordia, Plaquemines, Vernon and West Feliciana and inside the Mississippi River levee in Tensas Parish.

Prohibits the use of gill, trammel or hoop nets for freshwater commercial fishing east of U.S. Highway 51. Gill and trammel nets are prohibited in Lake Maurepas and its tributaries. Hoop nets will be allowed in the part of the West Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish and Lake Maurepas and its tributaries except Tickfaw River north of Highway 42.

Provides for a minimum mesh size of two inches square for hoop nets, except for the following areas where one-inch square minimum is allowed: Parishes of Assumption, Livingston, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. Martin, Avoyelles, LaSalle, St. Mary, West Baton Rouge, within the banks of the Black River between Concordia and Catahoula Parishes, within the banks of the Vermillion River between Lafayette and St. Martin, within the banks of Vermillion River within Lafayette Parish and within the natural banks of the Quachita River in Caldwell Parish. One-inch minimum hoop nets will also be allowed in the area bounded by U.S. Hwy. 190 on the north, the Mississippi River on the east, the Gulf on the south and the West Atchafalaya Basin protection levee on the west.

House Bill 857 - Tauzin

Provides for 2-inch minimum on hoop nets everywhere with no 1-inch areas. Provides for the same regulations on gill nets, trammel nets and seines as H.B. 856.

House Bill 858 - Tauzin

Provides for the same regulations on slat traps as H.B. 856.

House Bill 859 - Tauzin

Provides for the same regulations governing the area east of Hwy. 51 and the Lake Maurepas area as H.B. 856.

House Bill 879 - LeBleu

Provides that resident commercial fishermen shall be exempt from state and local sales, use, lease and services taxes.

House Bill 880 - LeBleu

Same as above with menhaden fishery also covered by the bill.

House Bill 882 - Vidrine

Changes wording to give the Commission the control of all fish of the state not just sport or game fish.

House Bill 883 - Vidrine

Provides for a two-inch square minimum mesh size for hoop nets statewide except in the Mississippi River and its major tributaries where one-inch square mesh can be used.

Provides for a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square on seines and a minimum mesh size of three inches square on gill nets and trammel nets and prohibits the use of monofilament of four or less strands in such nets. All seines, trammel nets and gill nets are limited to 1200 ft. in length.

This bill also outlaws the use of slat traps or cans for freshwater commercial fishing.

House Bill 992 - J.L. LeBlanc

Provides for a minimum mesh size of two inches square on seines north of freshwater-saltwater gill net line and a maximum mesh size of two inches square below the line.

House Bill 1041 - Fernandez

Provides for a \$35 resident commercial crawfishing license and a \$100 non-resident commercial license. Anyone not having a commercial license is limited to 100 pounds of crawfish per day.

Makes it illegal for any person or firm to buy or sell shrimp, oysters, crawfish, or other seafood without first obtaining a commercial fishing, retail or wholesale license.

House Bill 1042 - Tuzin (By Request)

Provides for a commercial clamming license of \$100 to be issued each October for the following year. Both fishermen and processors and brokers will be licensed. All water bottoms suitable for clamming in the state shall remain public for clamming. A tax of three cents per barrel shall be paid to the state by the dealer. Also, twenty cents tax per bushel shall be paid on shellstack shipped out of state.

Each implement used to harvest clams will need a \$100 permit. Hand rakes or tongs will be licensed at \$25 with a two-bushel limit. Both permits will be issued only during the month of October.

Day and night clamming will be permitted. Clams in vegetation or grass beds must be harvested by hand. Also, clams must be off-loaded only at commission approved ports.

Provisions are also made for a line between clam waters and oyster waters and for licenses and harvest limits. The minimum legal size is one inch from the hinge to the shell edge.

A review board shall also be created consisting of the Assistant Secretary and one biologist of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, one clam fisherman and one clam processor.

House Bill 1115 - Ullo

Re-establishes the former saltwater-freshwater gill net line. Recognizes the "shrimp line as the division between inside saltwater and outside saltwater." Hoop net mesh sizes are to be two inches square mesh minimum in all areas.

The maximum mesh size on seines in all saltwater areas is to be one inch square, and minimum above the saltwater-freshwater line is to be not less than two inches square.

The inside mesh on all trammel nets in saltwater areas must be not more than one inch square. In areas outside the shrimp line, the outer layers of webbing in trammel nets must be not less than 3 inches square. In freshwater areas, the minimum inside mesh size for trammel nets is not less than 3 inches square.

The minimum mesh size for gill nets in the freshwater area is to be 3 inches square. The minimum mesh size to be used in inside saltwater areas is to be not less than 1-3/4 inches square. The minimum mesh size to be used in outside saltwater areas is to be 2 inches square.

Monofilament webbing is prohibited entirely in the inside saltwater area and only permitted in the outside saltwater area when the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries issues a special license for taking unexploited commercial fish. Shrimp and menhaden fishing are excluded from the above provisions.

In inside saltwater areas, the use of seines, gill nets and trammel nets would be prohibited from April 15 to August 15 each year

House Bill 1154 - Humphries

Makes it illegal to steal a fur trapper's traps or animals from his traps. \$500 fine maximum.

House Bill 1169 - Ullo

Re-establishes the former saltwater-freshwater gill net line. Provides for a minimum mesh size of two inches square for all hoop nets.

Provides for maximum mesh size of one inch square for trammel nets and seines in saltwater areas. The outer layer of webbing in saltwater trammel nets must have a minimum mesh size of 3 inches square. The minimum mesh size for gill nets in the saltwater area is to be 2 inches square. All monofilament webbing is prohibited from saltwater areas. Shrimp and menhaden fishing are excluded from the above provisions.

In fresh water areas, the minimum mesh size for seines is 2 inches square and the minimum mesh sizes for gill nets and trammel nets is 3 inches square.

House Bill 1035 - Tauzin

Provides that anyone fishing with a menhaden license shall not have more than 5% by volume of fish other than menhaden, mullet and herring-like species.

House Bill 1078 - Miller

Provides for the addition of one member from St. Charles Parish to the Louisiana Coastal Commission.

House Bill 1155 - Humphries

Prohibits the use of steel traps with teeth.

House Bill 1225 - Strain, Scogin, Rayburn

Appropriates \$1.6 million from the state's general fund to construct a seawall in and near Mandeville.

House Bill 1243 - Patti, LeBleu

Provides for the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to hold public hearings and put together the rules and regulations on sport and commercial fishing for speckled trout and other estuarine fish. Also provides for the governor to appoint a non-voting advisory representative of the sport fishermen to the commission for the above hearings. Also provides that monofilament of four strands or less and gill nets of a mesh size less than two inches bar shall always be prohibited by law.

House Bill 1244 - Patti, LeBleu

Provides that an oyster dredge smaller than three feet can be used by a bonafied oysterman on his own lease. To do so, he must obtain a special permit and the dredge must be no smaller than two feet.

House Bill 1245 - Patti, LeBleu

Limits oyster lease fees to \$1 per acre per year.

House Bill 1246 - Patti, LeBleu

Abolishes maximum on number of crab traps a licensed crab fisherman may use. Each trap must have a float of 6 inches in diameter or $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon and the float must have the fisherman's license number on it. Floats must be attached to the traps with a non-floating line.

House Bill 1247 - Patti, LeBleu

Lowers the limit for speckled trout and redfish for sport fishermen to 25 per day rather than 50. Does away with two-day possession limit. Provides for a minimum size limit for sports fishermen of 10 inches for speckled trout and 16 inches for redfish.

House Bill 1248 - Patti, LeBleu

Provides that commercial fishing licenses can be obtained only in January and February. Licenses for newly bought vessels can be obtained during the year, but must be obtained within 45 days after purchase of the boat.

House Bill 1249 - Patti, LeBleu

Sets the opening date for sportshrimping as the Saturday after the opening date for commercial fishing. Also, all shrimp seasons shall open at noon of the date set by the commission.

House Bill 1250 - Patti, LeBleu

Lowers mesh size for shrimp nets to 5/8-inch bar (1-1/4-inch stretched) for May season and for the fishing of sea bobs outside the inside-outside line.

House Bill 1251 - Patti, LeBleu

Provides that the shrimp season in Chandeleur and Breton Sound shall stay open from the opening of the May season to the closing of the August season.

House Bill 1252 - Patti, LeBleu

Re-establishes the old saltwater gill net line. Provides for a minimum mesh size of one inch bar for hoop nets statewide. Provides that the minimum mesh size for seines shall be two inches bar above the line and the maximum mesh size below the line shall be not more than one inch square.

Provides for a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square on gill nets north of the line and 1-1/2 inches south of the line with a maximum length of 200 feet. The use of monofilament gill nets of four or less strands twisted together shall be illegal south of the line except for outside waters. In outside waters, monofilament gill nets of not less than 1-1/2 inches square may be used with a special permit to develop new fisheries.

Provides for the use of slat traps and cans for freshwater commercial fishing statewide.

House Bill 1253 - Patti, LeBleu

Provides for a \$10 sport shrimping license.

House Bill 1284 - LeBleu (By Request)

Prohibits the taking of speckled trout and redfish by any means in the waters surrounding Breton, Chandeleur, North, New Harbor and Free Mason Islands to promote the conservation of the fish.

House Bill 1325 - Hebert

Prohibits dredging operations in Lakes Maurepas, Ponchartrain, Catherine and Borne.

House Bill 1368 - Patti

Provisions are the same as House Bill 1042.

House Bill 1388 - Tauzin

Requires that pipelines and flowlines on state water bottoms shall be buried and kept buried during their useful life and removed immediately when their useful life is over. Annual inspection with a report is required.

House Bill 1397 - Tauzin

Requires director of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to start a reporting system to show the amount and source of aquatic and wildlife resources harvested in the state and to report to the Legislature on any that are diminishing and how to pressure them.

House Bill 1412 - Tauzin

Provides for the use of one inch mesh square hoop nets in the parishes of Assumption, Livingston, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. Mary, Avoyelles, LaSalle, St. Martin and West Baton Rouge, within the banks of the Black River between Concordia and Catahoula Parishes within the banks of the Vermillion River between Lafayette and St. Martin Parishes, within the banks of the Vermillion River in Lafayette Parish and with the natural banks of the Quachita River in Caldwell Parish.

One-inch mesh hoop nets may also be used in that part of the Atchafalaya Basin bounded by U.S. Hwy. 190 on the north, the Mississippi River on the east, the Gulf on the south and the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection levee on the west.

House Bill 1417 - Fernandez

Requires that each applicant for a commercial shrimp license file an affidavit that he derives or intends to derive 30% of his yearly income from shrimping.

House Bill 75 - Russo

Makes the Catahoula the state dog.

Senate Bill 248 - Kelly

Makes it illegal to kill or trap bobcats and foxes.

Senate Bill 752 - Landry

Provides that slat traps may be used in the same areas as proposed in House Bill 856. A civil penalty of \$50 is provided for each violation.

Senate Bill 812 - Nunez

Re-establishes old saltwater gill net line. Provides for 1 inch square mesh hoop nets statewide. Provides for seines of two inch square minimum mesh above the line and one inch maximum mesh below the line.

Provides for minimum mesh size of 3 inches square in trammel nets above the line and a minimum mesh size of 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches square below the line. Provides for a minimum mesh size for gill nets of 2 inches square above the line and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches square below the line. The maximum length for gill and trammel nets shall be 2000 feet. Only nylon nets may be used in inside waters. Monofilament of four or less strands is prohibited.

Permits the use of slat traps and cans statewide.

Senate Bill 813 - Nunez

Limits oyster lease fees to \$1 per acre per year.

Senate Bill 814 - Nunez

Provides that bonafide oystermen can use an oyster dredge with a minimum size of two feet after obtaining a special permit to use one under the standard 3 feet minimum size.

Senate Bill 815 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1246.

Senate Bill 816 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1248.

Senate Bill 817 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1249.

Senate Bill 818 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1251.

Senate Bill 819 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1253.

Senate Bill 820 - Nunez

Same as House Bill 1250.

Senate Bill 823 - Nunez

Establishes a fishermen's gear compensation fund to pay fisherman for fishing gear damage and loss (including lost time) due to oil and gas activity.

Senate Bill 824 - Nunez

Provides for the creation of a Lease and Right-of-Way Inspection Fund to be used to inspect the oil and gas industry.

Senate Bill 825 - Nunez

Requires that all pipelines and flowlines and their associated equipment on state-owned water bottoms be properly buried. Requires that all such pipelines be patrolled and kept buried and to be removed immediately after their active life has expired.

Senate Bill 897 - Jumonville

Title only. Amends Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (Public Health & Safety) relative to the wholesale marketing of seafood.

Senate Bill 910 - Nunez

Title only. Amends Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes relative to trawling vessels.

Senate Bill 914 - Saunders

Title only. Amends Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes to provide that exclusive control of fishing be vested in the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Sincerely,

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

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service follows a non-discriminatory policy in programs and employment.