

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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LAGNIAPPE - SPECIAL EDITION

The 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 very sensitive to legislation, so some of the bills may be very important to you. If you need information on any of these bills, call 1-800-272-8186 or 1-342-~~3456~~. The first number is toll-free but is often busy. Someone at either number will be able to answer your questions on the progress of a particular bill and when it will be heard in committee.

Senate Bill 40 - Nunez

Requires that all seafood imported from a foreign country to be labeled as imported when sold at the retail level.

Senate Bill 43 - Nunez

Clarifies language on sales tax exemption for commercial fishermen and exempts commercial fishermen from paying taxes on gasoline and special fuels like gasohol.

Senate Bill 47 - Nunez

Defines a commercial fishermen for the purposes of the Fuel Compensation Fund as any licensed resident who makes over 50% of his income from commercial fishing.

This bill also changes the formula used to determine the size of the payments to each fishermen. The present formula is based on the vessel size, the yearly catch and the crew size. The proposed law uses the amount of fuel brought and the average yearly catch to determine the size of payments.

The bill also provides that payment will be made in any calendar year rather than fiscal year that average fuel costs jump by 15% or more.

Senate Bills 415, 650 and House Bill 1314 - Nunez, Sour and others

Allows oyster water bottoms to be opened or closed for health reasons without going through the Administrative Procedure Act.

Senate Bill 417 and House Bill 1256 - Nunez, Sour and others

Extends the state's control of shrimping to outside waters and prohibits trawling in outside waters (beach to 3 miles out) during the closed season.

Senate Bill 418 - Nunez

Removes the requirement that one member of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion Board be appointed from three names submitted by the La. Catfish Farmers Association. The bill requires that one member of the board shall be a seafood retailer and one shall be a seafood wholesaler.

Senate Bill 421 - Nunez

Establishes the Commercial Fishermen's Fuel Crisis Act. This act would provide direct tax credits against any state and local taxes (except severance taxes) for resident commercial fishermen. The amount of the credit will be partly based on the average yearly increase in fuel prices.

Senate Bill 554 and House Bill 1311 - Nunez, Sour and others

Decreases the minimum mesh size of shrimp trawls from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch (stretched) in the white shrimp season.

Limits the size of butterfly nets to 12 ft. by 12 ft. including sweepers or net extensions.

Senate Bill 644 and House Bill 1317 - Nunez, Sour and others

Provides that a legal slat trap has at least one one-inch crack on each side and the top. The old law required a one inch crack between each slat and that no slat could be wider than six inches.

Senate Bill 647 - Nunez and others

Reduces the license fee for nonresident commercial crab, finfish, and bait fishermen from \$1000 to \$100.

Senate Bill 648 and House Bill 1301 - Nunez, Sour and others

Allows an oyster lease holder to put just his initials (along with the lease number) on the signs on his lease instead of his whole name.

Senate Bill 649 and House Bill 265, Nunez, Sour, M. Hebert and others

Lowers the minimum mesh size for shrimp trawls during the white shrimp season from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches stretched to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches stretched.

Senate Bill 857 and House Bill 1713 - Nunez and Patti

Prohibits the use of a shrimp seine except for the taking of bait shrimp.

Senate Bill 858 and House Bill 1714 - Nunez and Patti

Changes the mesh size for saltwater fish seines from a maximum of 1 inch square (2 inches stretched) to a minimum of 2 inches square (4 inches stretched). Also prohibits connecting two seines together to make one longer than 1200 feet.

Senate Bill 859 and House Bill 1653 - Nunez and Patti

Changes the mesh size of pompano nets in the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Islands from a minimum of 6 inches stretched to a minimum of 5 inches stretched.

Changes the dates for pompano fishing the same area from July 1 through September 30 to May 1 through September 30.

Also prohibits pompano fishing in this area at night.

Senate Bill 861 - Nunez

Changes the minimum mesh size of saltwater gill nets from 2 inches square (4 inches stretched) to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches square (3 inches stretched).

Senate Bill 862 and House Bill 1760 - Nunez and Patti

Requires proof of residency (like a Louisiana driver's license or voter registration card) for the purchase of a resident salt-water commercial fishing license. This is already required for freshwater commercial fishing licenses.

Senate Bill 863 and House Bills 1650 and 1651 - Nunez and Patti

Provides that oyster vessel and dredge licenses be purchased only during the month of August or within 30 days of the death of a vessel owner where the ownership of the vessel is transferred.

Senate Bill 887 - Landry (by request)

Repeals the special law which prohibits the use of seines, nets and webbing in Lakes Des Allemands and Salvador and Bayou Des Allemands except for taking trash fish.

House Bill 249 - Theriot

Gives the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the power to prohibit the use of crab traps in any body of water in the state during shrimp season when crab traps cause problems with shrimp-ing, fishing or recreational boating.

House Bill 480 - Atkins

Exempts freshwater commercial fishermen from having to buy a commercial fishing license and tags for nets.

House Bill 605 - Laborde

Exempts crawfish farmers from having to buy the \$10 fish farming license.

House Bill 697 - Cain (by request)

Prohibits the use of all nets or traps, including slat traps in Bundicks Lake.

House Bill 762

Changes the trespass law. Provides that forest landowners have to put posted signs or the letters "NO" on trees every 500 ft. instead of every 50 ft.

Also does away with the requirement that forest land owners must fence their property with at least a 3-strand wire fence in order to be legally posted.

House Bill 902 - M. Hebert

Changes the maximum mesh size for the inner layer of webbing in a saltwater trammel net from one inch square (2 inches stretched to 1½ inches square (3 inches stretched).

House Bill 963 - Atkins (by request)

Prohibits the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from making any rules or regulations restricting the use of nets in fresh water areas.

House Bill 1056 - Guidry

Makes it illegal to steal crabtraps. First offense carries a penalty of a \$350 to \$500 fine, 30 days in jail mandatory, loss of fishing license for one year and confiscation of the boat and equipment.

House Bill 1099 - Williams

Would allow a single hunter without dogs to hunt racoons at night with a light.

House Bill 1256 - Sour and other

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set shrimp-ing, hunting and trapping seasons without going through the Admin-istrative Procedure Act.

House Bill 1259 - Sour and others

Prohibits the use of leads or wings on hoop nets below the freshwater-saltwater line.

House Bill 1260 - Sour and others

Provides for a license for slat traps of \$5 per 15 traps.

House Bill 1300 - Sour and others

Does away with the minimum 68 count on white shrimp.

House Bill 1302 - Sour and others

Allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to accept oyster leases when the survey plan exceeds by 10% the acreage of the initial application if the new lease does not overlap or im-pact surrounding leases or lease applications.

House Bill 1304 - Sour and others

Provides that the owner of an oyster lease up for renewal be given 10 days written notice of when the Department plans to re-survey his lease. Also requires that the leaseholder be present at the resurvey.

House Bill 1308 - Sour and others

Clarifies language keeping elevated trotlines (fence lines on high water lines) illegal.

House Bill 1310 - Sour and others

Reduces the license fee for nonresident commercial crab, fin-fish and bait fishermen from \$1000 to \$200.

House Bill 1313 - Sour and others

Does away with the closed season on bullfrogs in April and May. Also legalizes the use of spears and gigs that puncture the skin of frogs.

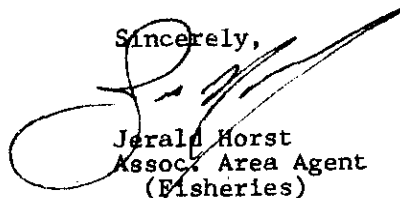
House Bill 1318 - Sour and others

Gives the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the power to pro-hibit the taking of any kind of fish in any part of the state, and gives the Commission the power to make rules and regulations con-cerning commercial fish netting.

House Bill 1629 - Williams

Charges nonresident seafood dealers the same license fee as their state charges our residents to to business in their state.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst
Assoc. Area Agent
(Fisheries)