

# LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Jefferson Parish

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## LAGNIAPPE - SPECIAL EDITION

This Special Edition of the LAGNIAPPE is devoted to the new bills which are before the current Legislature. As you know, the fishing industry is 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 1-800-272-8186 or 1-342-2456. 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 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, feel free to contact me at my office, 341-7271.

### House Bill 4 - Kember

Exempts the purchase of bait, except artificial bait, from sales and use taxes.

### House Bill 149 - Martin, Picard and others

Creates the Louisiana Crawfish Marketing and Research Programs. The program will be paid for by a ¼¢ per pound tax on artificial crawfish bait.

### House Bill 186 - Kember

Provides for a minimum mesh size of three-fourths of an inch square for crawfish nets and traps.

### House Bill 188 - Kember

Puts a limit of one racoon per person, per day, except during trapping season when there shall be no limit. Increases the fines for any racoon violations on first offense from a \$25-75 fine and/or up to 30 days in jail to \$100-350 and/or up to 60 days in jail. Second offense from \$100-200 fine and/or up to 6 months to \$300-550 and 30 to 60 days. Third offense from \$200-500, 60-90 days in jail and loss of license to \$500-750, 60 to 90 days in jail and permanent confiscation of any equipment used in committing the violation.

### House Bill 343 - Haik

Prohibits shell dredging on reefs with live oysters or on exposed reefs.

### House Bill 494 - M. Hebert

Repeals the penalties for trawling or seining over leased oyster beds.

### House Bill 495 - M. Hebert, and Senate Bill 444 - Nunez

Repeals the law that states that oyster vessel licenses must be purchased between August 1 and September 10 of each year.

### House Bill 539 - Williams

Exempts nonresident commercial transport operators from buying a wholesale seafood transport license when purchasing food fish from fish farms in Louisiana.

### House Bill 639 - Hogan and others

Changes the fine for a class four wildlife and fisheries violation from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$750.

House Bill 641 - Hogan and others

Provides that slat traps must have at least one 1-inch crack the length of the trap, on both sides and the top of the trap.

House Bill 643 - Hogan and others

Changes the domicile (headquarters) of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

House Bill 663 - Haik, and Senate Bill 443 - Nunez

Provides that the brown shrimp season open at the same time across the Louisiana coast.

House Bill 664 - Haik, and Senate Bill 447 - Nunez

Prohibits the taking or possession of any saltwater shrimp (except sea bobs) under 68 count, at any time or place in Louisiana. This includes possession by dealers.

House Bill 665 - Haik, and Senate Bill 445 - Nunez

Prohibits the use of beam trawls and butterfly nets that are stationary or anchored and that are not attended and self propelled. This includes barges and wharf nets.

House Bill 666 - Haik

Prohibits the sale of a commercial shrimping license to any person who does not make or intend to make at least 50% of his income from commercial fishing.

Also prohibits the use of a retailer's license for commercial shrimping.

House Bill 723 - Frazier and Charbonnet, and Senate Bill 606 - Casey

Provides that state and local agencies give preference to Louisiana seafood and other products when making purchases, as long as the local products are equal in quality and not more than 5% or \$5,000 more expensive.

House Bill 755 - Hogan and others

Authorizes federal fish and wildlife agents to enforce Louisiana laws.

House Bill 822 - M. Hebert

Provides a maximum mesh size of 2 inches square (4 inch stretched) for purse seines.

House Bill 823 - M. Hebert

Provides that mullet, jack crevalle, drum, ladyfish and Spanish mackérel may be taken by trawls or purse seines.

House Bill 913 - Theriot, Haik and Patti.

Provides that an applicant for a commercial fishing license must only prove his Louisiana residency on his first application and not on renewals.

House Bill 949 - Patti, and Senate Bill 448 - Nunez

Provides that all dealers must buy shrimp only from licensed commercial fishermen.

House Bill 950 - Patti, and Senate Bill 442 - Nunez

Requires that any resident or nonresident shrimper must have a Louisiana commercial shrimp license on board, when the vessel is carrying commercial shrimp in Louisiana waters.

House Bill 951 - Patti

Allows double-rigging with two trawls, 50 feet or less in inside waters.

House Bill 952 - Patti

Prohibits double rig shrimp trawling in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds.

House Bill 953 - Patti

Removes the power to open and close oyster water bottoms from the Department of Health and gives it to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

House Bill 954 - Patti

Allows double-rigging in inside waters, as long as both trawls don't add up to more than 50 feet. This includes Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, where it is presently legal to pull two 50 foot trawls.

House Bill 955 - Patti

Provides that the brown shrimp season be opened at the same date across the Louisiana coast. Also provides that the opening of the season does not have to be based on best technical data available but just on the technical data available.

House Bill 982 - Patti, and Senate Bill 441 - Nunez

Legalizes the use of twin trawls (four-rigs) in outside state waters (beach to 3 miles out).

House Bill 1021 - Hogan and others

Provides a minimum mesh size of 1 3/4 inches square (3 1/2 inches stretched) for seines, trammel nets and gill nets below the saltwater-freshwater line. Under the present law, seines and trammel nets have a minimum mesh size of 1 inch square and gill nets a minimum mesh size of 2 inches square.

Changes the minimum size on commercially caught speckled trout from 10 inches to 12 inches.

Provides for a \$5 saltwater fishing license for sports fishermen who fish south of the saltwater line.

Provides that any commercial net, trawl or rod and reel fishermen who sells saltwater finfish must purchase a seller's license at \$100 for residents, and \$400 for nonresidents. In addition, rod and reel commercial fishermen must buy a \$25 license (instead of the \$250 license now in effect). Net fishermen must buy a \$25 license for seines and nets up to 1,200 feet. Both the commercial net and rod and reel license, and the seller's license must be purchased in January.

House Bill 1062 - M. Hebert and others, and Senate Bill 598 - Nunez

Gives control over all state waters inside and outside (beach to 3 miles out) to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and provides that the Department shall enforce state laws in both areas.

The proposed laws state that no trawling shall be permitted in all state waters during the closed season. This includes outside state waters (beach to 3 miles out).

House Bill 1063 - Patti

Requires the Louisiana Department of Health to use water quality data from other state and local government agencies in checking the quality of water for certifying the quality of Louisiana oysters.

House Bill 1125 - Patti

Moves an area in Breton Sound from inside state waters to outside state waters.

House Bill 1184 - Hogan

Changes the mesh size on commercial freshwater fish seines from a maximum of 2 inches square to a minimum of 2 inches square.

House Bill 1203 - M. Hebert

Adds the words "inside all freshwater and all saltwater areas of the state" to the law which permits the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue permits for equipment to harvest underutilized species.

House Bill 1234 - Patti

Provides that all shrimp seasons open at the same time across the Louisiana coast.

Also provides for a 45 day hopper (pink shrimp) season which will start no later than March 1.

Senate Bill 315 - Nunez and others

Requires commercial fishermen fishing in Louisiana waters to specify what material their nets are made of when applying for a license.

Senate Bill 316 - Nunez and others

Requires retailers and restaurants selling alligator parts and meat to buy a \$5 license.

Senate Bill 320 - Casey and others

Provides that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may require commercial and sport fishermen that catch, and dealers that handle, marine life in Louisiana, to keep records of what they catch or handle. This information will be exempt from the public records act.

Senate Bill 438 - Nunez

Changes the formula by which commercial fishermen can be paid from the Commercial Fishermen's Fuel Compensation Fund. The old formula used the amount in the fund, the number of vessels in Louisiana, vessel size, number of crew and average yearly catch per vessel. This bill would drop the vessel size, number of crew and average yearly catch from the formula and add the quantity of fuel bought. Proof of purchase of the fuel will have to be sent in with the application.

Senate Bill 439 - Nunez

Lowers the maximum assessment against oil and pipeline companies for the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund from \$1,000 to \$600 and provides for a fee rate based on the size of the lease or length of the right-of-way.

Senate Bill 440 - Nunez

Establishes the Advisory Group on Fisheries Management, Development, and Research, and authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Development, and Research Program.

Senate Bill 449 - Nunez

Permits double-rigging in inside waters with two 25 foot trawls.

Senate Bill 454 - Nunez

Allows commercial fishermen to receive tax credits in years when average fuel prices increase. These tax credits can be used to pay any state taxes except severance taxes.

Senate Bill 456 - Nunez and others

Prohibits oil and pipeline companies and their contractors from dumping equipment in state waters. Also requires each company to yearly inspect their right-of-way or lease and remove any discarded equipment and cover exposed pipelines.

Senate Bill 465 - Nunez

Prohibits the use of shrimp seines for any sort of fishing.

Senate Bill 466 - Nunez

Puts a season on mullet fishing, Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 of each year.

Senate Bill 467 - Nunez

Provides that for navigation and safety purposes, that seines used for taking commercial fish must be at least 20 feet apart.

Senate Bill 468 - Nunez

Increases the length of the spring (brown) shrimp season from at least 50 days to at least 70 days.

Senate Bill 469 - Nunez

Exempts chinchara nets from the maximum 1200 foot length for seines.

Senate Bill 470 - Nunez

Establishes a 10 inch minimum size length on speckled trout and a 16 inch minimum size length on redfish for sports fishermen.

Senate Bill 471 - Nunez

Prohibits the sale of nonresident commercial fishing licenses to people who have unpaid, past-due debts in Louisiana, that involve their fishing business.

Senate Bill 633 - Chabert

Does away with the requirement that resident commercial shrimpers must buy their licenses during the month of January. Nonresident shrimpers will still be able to buy their licenses in January only.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 - Landry

Suspends the minimum size limit on channel catfish (eel cats).

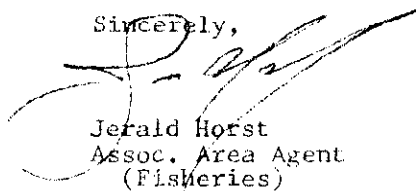
House Concurrent Resolution 87 - Miller

Suspends the minimum size limit on channel catfish (eel cats).

House Concurrent Resolution 93 - Patti

Urges a special task force to study water quality in oyster growing areas of the state and to study the reasons for the decline in oyster production.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
Assoc. Area Agent  
(Fisheries)