

**ACT No. 540**

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1160

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:305.6, relative to commercial crab fishing; to provide for an apprenticeship entry into the fishery; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:305.6 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§305.6. ~~Moratorium on crab trap gear licenses~~ Commercial crab fishing; apprentice license; requirements

~~For commercial license year 2005, no person shall be issued a commercial crab trap gear license unless that person possessed a valid commercial crab trap gear license during any one of the years 2002, 2003, or that portion of 2004 prior to November 15, 2004.~~

A. The commission shall establish a program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry. Such professionalism program shall include education in the proper fishing techniques necessary for the health and sustainability of the species; proper techniques for the best capture and presentation of the crabs for marketability; proper instructions regarding the placement, tending, and maintenance of crab traps to reduce potential conflicts with other user groups, and may include an apprenticeship program. The professionalism program shall be established no later than November 15, 2014, through rules promulgated pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

B. Beginning November 15, 2014, and applicable to license year 2015 and thereafter, no person shall be issued a commercial crab trap gear license unless that person qualifies under one or both of the following provisions:

1                   (1) The person possessed a valid commercial crab trap gear license during  
2                   any two license years between 2011 and 2014.

3                   (2) The person has enrolled in and completed the program to increase and  
4                   elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry established pursuant to the  
5                   provisions of this Section.

6                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
7                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
8                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
9                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
10                  effective on the day following such approval.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_