

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOVE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FISHING/CRABS: Provides for an exemption from the requirement that crab traps have escape rings

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:332(K), relative to methods of taking crabs; to exempt certain
3 traps from the requirement for escape rings; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 56:332(K) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 §332. Crabs; release of crabs in berry stage; method of taking crabs; time
7 limitations; by-catch; penalties; abandoned crab trap removal program

8 * * *

9 K. ~~Beginning January 1, 1998, and thereafter~~ Except as otherwise provided
10 in this Subsection, each crab trap shall have a minimum of two escape rings. All
11 escape rings shall be placed on the vertical, outside walls flush with the trap floor or
12 baffle, with at least one ring located in each chamber of the trap. The minimum sizes
13 of the rings shall be two and five-sixteenths inches in inside diameter, not including
14 the ring material. The rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of
15 a smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Except from April first through
16 June thirtieth and from September first through October thirty-first, escape ring
17 openings shall not be obstructed with any material that prevents or hampers exit of
18 crabs. However, the provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to ~~those crab traps~~

1 any crab trap constructed of wire mesh two and five-sixteenths inches square or
2 greater or any crab trap placed in Lake Pontchartrain.

3 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Dove HB No. 142

Abstract: Exempts certain crab traps from the escape ring requirement.

Present law requires each crab trap to have a minimum of two escape rings. Present law describes the escape rings and specifies the size and location of the rings on the trap. Exempts traps placed in Lake Pontchartrain from the requirement for escape rings.

Proposed law continues present law but adds an exemption for traps which are made of wire mesh 2-5/16ths inch square or larger.

(Amends R.S. 56:332(K))