

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 419

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

FISHING: Provides for hand-grabbing of catfish and the taking of bream in minnow traps

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:320(A)(3) and (C)(1), relative to methods for taking fish; to
3 provide for taking of bream with minnow traps; to allow hand-grabbing of catfish;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:320(A)(3) and (C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 §320. Methods of taking freshwater or saltwater fish

9 A.

10 * * *

11 (3) However, notwithstanding Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection, and
12 any other provision of law to the contrary, bream of any species may be taken when
13 fishing for sport in freshwater by using a minnow trap that does not exceed twenty-
14 four inches in length and having a throat no larger than one inch by three inches for
15 noncommercial bait purposes ~~in any lake not wholly contained within this state~~
16 ~~which is in excess of one hundred thousand surface acres.~~

17 * * *

18 C.(1) No person shall take or possess fish taken by means of spears, poisons,
19 stupefying substances or devices, explosives, guns, tree-topping devices, lead nets,
20 except as provided in R.S. 56:329(B), electricity, or any instrument or device capable

1 of producing an electric current used in shocking said fish; except a barbless spear
 2 or a multi-pronged barbed gig that may be used in salt water for taking flounder. No
 3 person shall take or possess game fish taken by means of snagging devices, not
 4 including bow and arrow. Catfish may be taken by means of snagging devices and
 5 hand-grabbing. Garfish may be taken by means of spears and bows and arrows. It
 6 shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances,
 7 or devices set out ~~hereinabove~~ in this Subsection with the intent to take fish in
 8 violation of the provisions of this Section.

9 * * *

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)]

HB 419 Original

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McFarland

Abstract: Allows bream to be taken in minnow traps for use as recreational bait statewide and allows hand-grabbing, otherwise known as "noodling", as a legal method of taking catfish.

Present law provides the legal methods for taking fish.

Present law allows bream to be taken by minnow traps of a certain size for noncommercial bait purposes only in certain lakes.

Proposed law removes the present law restriction to certain lakes to allow bream to be taken in minnow traps for recreational bait purposes statewide.

Present law prohibits the use of snagging devices for taking game fish, but provides an exception for taking catfish by snagging devices.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that catfish may also be taken by hand-grabbing, commonly referred to as "noodling".

(Amends R.S. 56:320(A)(3) and (C)(1))