

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 440

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON, DOVE, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROWN, COX, GISCLAIR, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, THIERRY, WHITNEY, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

FISHING/SHRIMP: Provides relative to size and configuration of skimmer nets

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:499(B) and (C), relative to shrimping trawls and skimmer  
3 nets; to provide relative to the size and configuration of skimmer nets; and to provide  
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:499(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §499. Trawls, butterfly, and skimmer nets, and cast nets; size of mesh; length;  
9 diameter of butterfly and skimmer nets extensions; prohibited devices

10 \* \* \*

11 B.(1) No person shall take saltwater shrimp with any trawl, skimmer net, or  
12 butterfly net with a mesh size less than five-eighths of an inch square or one and one-  
13 fourth of an inch stretched. No trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net may be used in  
14 closed waters.

15 (2) No person shall use a double butterfly net having an individual net frame  
16 more than twelve feet measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is  
17 greater, each or a single stationary butterfly net having an individual net frame  
18 greater than twenty-two feet measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance  
19 is greater, except that persons on a vessel may use a double butterfly net having

1 individual net frames of not more than sixteen feet measured horizontally or twelve  
2 feet measured vertically, each. A ~~skimmer or~~ butterfly net may be mounted no more  
3 than twenty-four inches from the side of the vessel. Operation of butterfly ~~and~~  
4 ~~skimmer~~ nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation.

5 ~~(3) No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an~~  
6 ~~individual net frame more than sixteen feet measured horizontally or twelve feet~~  
7 ~~measured vertically or twenty feet measured diagonally. Reinforcement framing that~~  
8 ~~may be attached to the net frame shall not be considered in determining the~~  
9 ~~dimensions of a double skimmer net. No person shall use a double skimmer net shall~~  
10 ~~have a lead line with an opening measuring more than twenty-eight seventy-two feet~~  
11 ~~in circumference for each net and a lead line greater than thirty-three feet. No person~~  
12 ~~shall tie individual skimmer nets together to exceed the ~~herein stated~~ specifications~~  
13 ~~contained in this Paragraph or use any trawl in conjunction with a butterfly or~~  
14 ~~skimmer. No person shall use a double skimmer net where the horizontal net frame~~  
15 ~~extends more than twenty feet from the gunwale of the vessel. Operation of ~~butterfly~~~~  
16 ~~and skimmer nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation. A skimmer~~  
17 ~~or butterfly net may be mounted no more than twenty-four inches from the side of~~  
18 ~~the vessel.~~

19 ~~(2)~~ (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection  
20 to the contrary, no person shall take saltwater shrimp with a trawl, skimmer net, or  
21 butterfly net with a mesh size of less than five-eighths of an inch square or one and  
22 one-fourth of an inch stretched in inside waters during the fall inshore shrimp season,  
23 except in that portion of the state's inside waters from the Atchafalaya River west to  
24 the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size  
25 ~~shall be~~ no less than three-quarters of an inch square or one and one-half of an inch  
26 stretched may be used in inside waters during the fall inshore shrimp season.

27 C. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings, or other  
28 attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets ~~or skimmer nets.~~

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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)]

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Harrison

HB No. 440

**Abstract:** Alters the size and configuration limitations for double skimmer nets.

Present law, relative to skimmer nets, prohibits the use of double skimmer nets with a frame more than 16 ft. measured horizontally or 12 ft. measured vertically or 20 ft. measured diagonally. Prohibits the use of a double skimmer with a lead line greater than 28 ft. Proposed law limits the size of a double skimmer to no larger than a 72 ft. opening and a lead line no more than 33 ft.

Present law prohibits a person from tying individual skimmer nets to exceed the size limitation for double skimmers. Proposed law retains this prohibition.

Present law prohibits the mounting of a skimmer net or butterfly net more than 24 in. from the side of the vessel. Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law further prohibits the use of a double skimmer net where the horizontal net frame extends more than 20 ft. from the gunwale of the vessel.

Present law prohibits a person from using sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings, or other attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets or skimmer nets. Proposed law retains this prohibition for butterfly nets but repeals it for skimmers.

(Amends R.S. 56:499(B) and (C))