

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 545

BY REPRESENTATIVES BALDONE, ARNOLD, BILLIOT, CONNICK, DOVE,
GISCLAIR, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HENDERSON, HUTTER, JOHNSON,
SAM JONES, LOPINTO, RICHARD, RICHMOND, SIMON, ST. GERMAIN,
WILLIAMS, AND WOOTON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:325.3(A)(1), and to suspend R.S. 56:428(C) until sixty days
3 after the end of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, relative to
4 commercial fishing, to provide relative to commercial taking of spotted sea trout; to
5 provide that the open season for such taking shall close each year when the
6 maximum annual quota is reached; to temporarily suspend the requirement for oyster
7 lease rental payments; to prohibit the commercial taking of spotted sea trout in
8 certain waters; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 56:325.3(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §325.3. Spotted sea trout commercial taking; annual quota; red drum commercial
12 taking, possession, or landing prohibited

13 A.(1) The commission shall establish a maximum annual quota for the
14 commercial harvest of spotted sea trout taken within Louisiana waters or landed in
15 Louisiana which shall not exceed one million pounds nor shall it be less than five
16 hundred thousand pounds. The commercial taking or harvesting of spotted sea trout
17 shall be prohibited within Louisiana waters west of Mermentau River. The
18 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall establish an open season for the
19 commercial harvest of spotted sea trout which shall run from the second day of
20 January ~~through the last day of July~~ each year ~~or~~ until the maximum annual quota is
21 reached, ~~whichever comes first~~. The commercial harvest or taking of spotted sea
22 trout is prohibited during the period from sunset on Friday through sunrise on

1 Monday, and there shall be no possession of spotted sea trout in excess of the
 2 recreational limit during the period between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. However,
 3 when not on a commercial fishing trip, a person holding a permit for the commercial
 4 taking or possessing of spotted sea trout may take or possess an amount not to
 5 exceed the legal recreational limit of spotted sea trout between the hours of 10:00
 6 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the open season and at any time during the closed season
 7 if that person also possesses a basic recreational fishing license and a saltwater
 8 fishing license. Only a rod and reel shall be used for the commercial harvest of
 9 spotted sea trout. The provisions of this Section are subject to quotas and size limits
 10 as established by law and rules and regulations of the commission. Fish taken under
 11 recreational licenses shall not be sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. The provisions of R.S. 56:428(C) which require payment of oyster lease
 14 rentals by December 31 of each year of the lease are hereby suspended until sixty days after
 15 the end of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____