

Regular Session, 2011

ACT No. 65

HOUSE BILL NO. 75

BY REPRESENTATIVES GISCLAIR AND BALDONE

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

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:333(B)(1) and (2) and to enact R.S. 56:333.3, relative to taking mullet for commercial purposes; to provide relative to taking of live mullet for use as bait for recreational fishing; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:333(B)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:333.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§333. Mullet; saltwater areas

* * *

B.(1) The season for taking mullet shall begin on the third Monday in October of each year and remain open until the third Monday in January. There shall be no commercial taking of mullet during the period from 5:00 a.m. on Saturday through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. ~~Mullet~~ Except as provided in R.S. 56:333.3, mullet may not be taken commercially at any time outside of this season. There shall be no fishing pursuant to the provisions of this Section during the hours after sunset and before sunrise. The provisions of this Section are subject to quotas and size limits as established by law and rules and regulations of the commission.

(2) ~~Mullet~~ Except as provided in R.S. 56:333.3, mullet may only be taken commercially with a mullet strike net.

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§333.3. Live mullet; harvest for bait

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 56:333 and 333.1, live mullet may be taken commercially in both freshwater and saltwater areas for the exclusive

1 purpose of providing live bait. Mullet may be harvested for such purposes only by
 2 cast net. The commission shall adopt rules to regulate such taking and sale of live
 3 mullet for bait. Such regulations may provide for permits, licenses, seasons, live
 4 possession requirements, harvest limits, and other provisions necessary to implement
 5 the provisions of this Section.

6 B. In order to commercially harvest live mullet for bait under the provisions
 7 of this Section, a fisherman shall hold a commercial fishing license and a
 8 commercial cast net gear license. Cast nets used under the provisions of this Section
 9 shall not exceed twelve feet in radius and shall only be operated manually such that
 10 no mechanical device is used to hold open the net nor propel or deploy the net.

11 C. There shall be no commercial taking of live mullet for bait during the
 12 period from 5:00 a.m. on Saturday through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, and there shall be
 13 no fishing pursuant to the provisions of this Section during the hours after sunset and
 14 before sunrise.

15 D. Any violation of the provisions of this Section shall be punishable as a
 16 class three violation under the provisions of R.S. 56:33.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____