

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 270

BY SENATOR WOMACK

FISH/FISHING. Provides relative to retaining and removing invasive species of fish.  
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:329(B)(1), relative to fish and other aquatic life; to provide  
3 with respect to sport and commercial fishing; to provide relative to obstruction of  
4 streams or lakes; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:329(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §329. Obstruction of streams or lakes by fyke nets or other devices

8 \* \* \*

9 B.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, no obstructions  
10 including trawls, skimmer nets, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill  
11 nets, or trammel nets which interfere with the free passageway for fish as defined  
12 **herein in this Section** shall be set within five hundred feet of the mouth of any inlet  
13 or pass, or within five hundred feet of any water control structures, dams, or weirs,  
14 **except for the purpose of retaining and removing invasive species of fish and**  
15 **other nongame freshwater fish of commercial value. When fishing for the**  
16 **purpose of retaining and removing invasive species of fish and other nongame**  
17 **freshwater fish of commercial value, nets are restricted to a mesh size no**

1           **smaller than three and one-half inches bar.** Wings and leads are permitted on  
2           hoop nets in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of the  
3           natural stream or lake but not within the restricted five hundred feet area.

4   \*       \*       \*

5           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
6           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
7           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
8           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
9           effective on the day following such approval.

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          The original instrument was prepared by Angela Lockett-De Jean. The  
          following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative  
          instrument, was prepared by Tyler McCloud.

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  DIGEST  
SB 270 Engrossed                           2022 Regular Session                           Womack

Present law provides that except as provided in present law, no obstructions including trawls, skimmer nets, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill nets, or trammel nets which interfere with the free passageway for fish as defined in present law shall be set within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass, or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams, or weirs.

Proposed law, retains present law and creates an exception for the purpose of retaining and removing invasive species of fish and other nongame freshwater fish of commercial value.

Proposed law provides that when fishing for the purpose of retaining and removing invasive species of fish and other nongame freshwater fish of commercial value, nets are restricted to a mesh size no smaller than three and one-half inches bar.

Present law provides that wings and leads are permitted on hoop nets in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake but not within the restricted 500 feet area. Proposed law retains present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 56:329(B)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to  
the original bill

1. Limits the nongame fish to freshwater fish.
2. Changes the mesh size of from four inches to three and one-half inches bar.
3. Makes technical corrections.