

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 497** HLS 25RS 983

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 11, 2025	11:37 AM	Author: LACOMBE
Dept./Agy.: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries		Analyst: Richie Anderson
Subject: Catch and Cook Program		

FISHING OR INCREASE SD RV See Note
Provides for the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program

Present law authorizes the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to establish the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program to allow retail food establishments to prepare fish from recreational licensed fishermen or alligator hunters. Proposed law expands the eligibility to include licensed charter captains. Proposed law introduces a \$20 annual fee that LDWF, in conjunction with the Louisiana Charter Boat and Restaurant Association can use to promote the program. Finally, the proposed law introduces stricter labeling rules, requiring the date, time, name, and address of the fishermen.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to expand the Catch and Cook Program to include licensed charter captains and introduces a \$20 fee. Proposed law would require LDWF to move this permitting process to the commercial licensing section to allow for revenue to be collected. The department asserts that minimal operational expenses would be incurred to accomplish this such as staff time, printing, and postage fees. The department anticipates that all operational expenses can be absorbed with its existing operating budget.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law introduces a \$20 fee for the Catch and Cook Permit, these funds will be used to promote the Catch and Cook Program. Currently, six restaurants maintain this permit, which would generate \$120 annually. Proposed law may result in an increase in Charter Captains purchasing the permit from LDWF, which would result in a corresponding increase in revenue. Any such increase is speculative and indeterminable, but likely minimal.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

- 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
- 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

- 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
- 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer