

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 4

2018 Regular Session

Bishop

FISHING/RECREATIONAL: Extends the additional saltwater fishing fee dedicated to the LACREEL program

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Authorizes the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to increase the additional \$7.50 fee up to \$9.50.
2. Adds the saltwater fish stock estimate to the list of programs funded by the Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund.
3. Allows up to \$2 million to be used from the Artificial Reef Development Fund for the saltwater fish stock estimate.
4. Requires the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to make an annual report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment on the La. Recreational Creel Survey and saltwater fish stock estimate.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law requires payment of a \$5.50 fee for a saltwater fishing license for residents and \$30 for nonresidents. Further requires that from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2018, an additional fee of \$7.50 be paid for each resident saltwater fishing license issued and dedicates the revenue from the additional fee to the Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund (fund) which is used solely for the administration and conducting of the Louisiana Recreational Creel Survey (LACREEL) and the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) program.

Proposed law extends the applicability date for the additional fee from May 31, 2018, to May 31, 2022.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to increase the additional fee from \$7.50 to an amount not to exceed \$9.50. Specifies that any increase will be used for the administration and conducting of the saltwater fish stock estimate.

Proposed law allows the money in the fund to be used for a saltwater fish stock estimate.

Present law provides for the expenditures of money from the Artificial Reef Development Fund.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that up to two million dollars may be used for the administration and conducting of the saltwater fish stock estimate.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to make an annual report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment on the progress and effectiveness of LACREEL and the saltwater fish stock estimate.

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

(Amends R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(g) and (16)(a) and 302.1(C)(1)(c); Adds R.S. 56:10(B)(16)(d) and 639.8(E)(4))