

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE CORMIER

FISHING/OYSTERS: Reduces the oyster seed ground vessel permit fee and creates associated gear fees (Item #32)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1), relative to the oyster seed ground vessel permit;  
3 to reduce the fee for an oyster seed ground vessel permit; to levy fees for gear used  
4 on permitted oyster seed ground vessels; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §433.1. Oyster seed ground vessel permit; Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit  
8 Appeals Board

9 A.(1) Any oysters taken for commercial purposes from the public natural  
10 reefs or the oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those in Calcasieu Lake or  
11 Sabine Lake, shall be placed only on a vessel which has an oyster seed ground vessel  
12 permit issued exclusively by the department pursuant to rules and regulations  
13 promulgated by the commission. The commission may establish a limit on the  
14 number of permits that may be issued each year after consultation with the Louisiana  
15 Oyster Task Force. Such permit shall be issued in the name of the vessel owner and  
16 shall identify the vessel permitted by including the state registration number or the  
17 United States Coast Guard documented number. The permit shall identify the vessel  
18 that may possess and transport oysters taken from the public natural reefs and oyster  
19 seed grounds. The permit does not grant any rights to the oyster resource or any  
20 rights to harvest oysters from the waters of the state and shall not be sold, exchanged,

1 or otherwise transferred. The permit is valid for one year, beginning on January first  
2 of each calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar  
3 year, and permit holders who hold a valid permit during the prior year may renew the  
4 permit at any time of the year for the current license year and from November  
5 fifteenth for the immediately following license year. The cost of the permit ~~for a~~  
6 ~~vessel from which oysters will be harvested using a single scraper, tongs, or by hand~~  
7 ~~shall be two hundred fifty dollars~~ shall be fifty dollars per year for a resident and ~~one~~  
8 ~~thousand~~ two hundred dollars per year for a nonresident. ~~The cost of the permit for~~  
9 ~~a vessel from which oysters will be harvested using a double scraper or any other~~  
10 ~~legal method of harvest shall be five hundred dollars for a resident and two thousand~~  
11 ~~dollars for a nonresident.~~ In addition to the vessel permit fee, in order to harvest  
12 oysters from the public grounds, a person shall be in possession of a Public Oyster  
13 Seed Ground gear license. The Public Oyster Seed Ground gear license allows  
14 harvest of oysters from the public seed grounds using a single scraper, tongs, or by  
15 hand. The fee for the gear license shall be two hundred dollars per year for a resident  
16 and eight hundred dollars per year for a nonresident. A second scraper may be used  
17 but requires an additional gear license. No vessel shall use or possess more than two  
18 scrapers while harvesting on the public seed grounds. After having been credited to  
19 the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as required by Article VII, Section 9(B) of  
20 the Constitution of Louisiana, all revenues received from purchase of the permit shall  
21 be deposited in the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account, R.S.  
22 56:434.1.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 50 Original                      2020 Second Extraordinary Session                      Cormier

**Abstract:** Reduces the oyster seed ground vessel permit fee and creates associated gear fees (Item #32).

Present law provides for an oyster seed ground vessel permit. Provides for a permit fee of \$250 per year for residents and \$1,000 per year for nonresidents.

Proposed law retains the requirement for an oyster seed ground vessel permit but lowers the annual fee for such permit to \$50 for residents and \$200 for nonresidents. Adds an annual oyster seed ground gear fee of \$200 per scraper for residents and \$800 per scraper for nonresidents. Limits the number of scrapers authorized on the public seed grounds to two per vessel.

(Amends R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1))