

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 447

BY SENATOR HENSGENS

FISH/FISHING. Provides for commercial menhaden harvest reporting. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:325.5, relative to the commercial menhaden fishery; to provide for
3 commercial menhaden harvest reporting; to provide for required data; to provide for
4 confidentiality; to provide for reports to legislative committees; to provide for the
5 powers and duties of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; to provide
6 for a definition; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:325.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§325.5. Commercial menhaden harvest reporting**

10 **A. The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations, in accordance**
11 **with the Administrative Procedure Act, that require companies taking**
12 **menhaden by vessels equipped with purse seines for the purpose of reduction**
13 **fishing to report monthly, beginning in May 2023, commercial menhaden**
14 **harvest reports. The rules and regulations shall provide for the following:**

15 **(1) Monthly reporting shall include the following data for each set:**

16 **(a) Location data in degrees, minutes, seconds, with a defined datum,**
17 **determined by global positioning satellite (GPS) navigational instrument**

1 reading.

2 (b) Estimated volume of harvest.

3 (c) Length of the menhaden estimated based on a sample of the harvest.

4 In addition, the rule shall provide for the size of the sample and the method
 5 used to estimate the length.

6 (2) The form, manner, and the date of the month the department receives
 7 the monthly report.

8 (3) Procedures to preserve the confidentiality of any data, information,
 9 or statistics submitted or collected to comply with federal procedures as set
 10 forth by the United States Department of Commerce or its agencies for
 11 confidentiality of fishing statistics collected from individuals or firms by the
 12 Department of Commerce or its agencies. Any information the department
 13 provides to the public shall not indicate the captain, vessel, or company.

14 B. Beginning February 10, 2024, the department shall annually report
 15 to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on
 16 Natural Resources and Environment the commercial menhaden harvest from
 17 the prior year based upon the aggregated data from the monthly reports.

18 C. For the purposes of this Section, a "set" means when a purse seine is
 19 deployed and encircles a school of menhaden, regardless of whether those fish
 20 are reduced to possession by transferring to the mother ship or steamer.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

DIGEST

SB 447 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Hensgens

Proposed law requires the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to require, beginning in May 2023, monthly commercial menhaden reduction harvest reports.

Proposed law requires the monthly report include for each set the location by GPS, the estimated volume, and length of the fish harvested. Proposed law requires the rule provide for the sample size and method to estimate the length.

Proposed law requires the rule provide for the form, manner, and the date of the month the department receives the report and procedures to preserve the confidentiality Further, requires any public information not indicate the captain, vessel, or company.

Proposed law requires, beginning February 10, 2024, the department to annually report to the oversight committees the commercial menhaden harvest from the prior year based upon the aggregated data from the monthly reports.

Proposed law provides a "set" means when a purse seine is deployed and encircles a school of menhaden, regardless of whether those fish are reduced to possession by transferring to the mother ship or steamer.

(Adds R.S. 56:325.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Changes the reporting of the harvest from estimated weight to estimated volume.
2. Makes a technical correction.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Limits proposed law to menhaden reduction fishing.
2. Makes a technical correction.