

---

## 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)]

---

HB 920 Original

2024 Regular Session

Brown

**Abstract:** Transfers jurisdiction over and regulation of wild crawfish and crawfish harvesters from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law provides that crawfish harvesters are subject to the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Proposed law provides that crawfish harvesters are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and that they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry instead. Proposed law further provides that the harvest of wild crawfish is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Proposed law specifies that the commissioner of agriculture may require that any person who wishes to harvest wild crawfish from the waters of the state for commercial purposes obtain a license from the commissioner to do so.

Present law requires commercial fishermen to have a commercial fisherman's license in order to take fish from state waters. Proposed law exempts from this requirement a person who harvests wild crawfish for commercial purposes.

Present law requires a gear license for the use of crawfish traps. Proposed law repeals this requirement.

Present law provides relative to minimum mesh size for traps for harvest of wild crawfish for commercial purposes. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law prohibits anyone not holding a commercial fisherman's license from operating a commercial fishing vessel and provides that a violation of this provision subjects the vessel owner to revocation of the vessel license and seizure of the vessel and all fish and equipment on the vessel. Proposed law allows crawfish harvesters to operate such vessels.

Present law requires wholesale/retail dealers, retail dealers, restaurants, and retail grocers to buy seafood from licensed commercial fisherman only. Proposed law allows these entities to also purchase wild crawfish from crawfish harvesters.

Present law requires wholesale/retail dealers to complete commercial receipt forms and submit information from these forms to the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries monthly. Proposed law exempts wild crawfish from present law.

Present law exempts crawfish and catfish farmers for transporter license requirements. Proposed law also exempts crawfish harvesters from transporter license requirements.

Present law prohibits the sale of any seafood without a commercial fishing, retail, or wholesale license. Proposed law exempts wild crawfish from this prohibition.

Present law limits the daily take of crawfish to one hundred fifty pounds per person.

Proposed law repeals this limit.

(Amends R.S. 56: 8(40), 304.2(A) and (B), 306.1(A), 306.4(A)(1) and (C)(1), 306.5(B)(1), 307(B), 322(Section heading) and (H), 330(Section heading), (A), and (B), and 415; Adds R.S. 3:556.7, R.S. 56:26, 301.1(E), 303(H), 306(A)(2), 306.6(E), and 327(C)(3); Repeals R.S. 56:305(B)(5), 322(I), 325(A)(12), and 330(C))