

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 872

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D), relative to commercial menhaden reduction fishery
3 vessels; to require vessels to use automatic identification systems; to provide
4 definitions; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to organize and renumber
5 certain definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §8. Definitions

9 For purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the
10 meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly shows a different
11 meaning:

12 * * *

13 (160) "Automatic identification system" means a very high frequency (VHF)
14 radio-based tracking system that allows vessels to automatically exchange data, such
15 as position, speed, and heading, with other vessels, shore stations, and satellites.

16 * * *

17 §325.5. Commercial menhaden; harvest reporting; automatic identification system

18 * * *

19 D.(1) All vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing shall
20 have installed and utilize an automatic identification system (AIS). This requirement
21 shall apply to a carrier vessel or steamer, commonly called a mother ship, and to any
22 purse boat actively engaged in fishing.

1 (2) No vessel that is required to utilize an AIS under this Paragraph shall
 2 engage in fishing without a functioning AIS for more than two consecutive business
 3 days. For a group of vessels cooperating on a set as defined in R.S. 56:325.5, the AIS
 4 of at least two vessels shall be functioning at all times while actively engaged in
 5 fishing.

6 Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
 7 alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 56:8 and to correct any
 8 cross-references to the renumbered Paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions
 9 of this Act.

10 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on April 19, 2027.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____