

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 443 (HB 872)

2026 Regular Session

Zeringue

Existing law provides for the taking of menhaden.

New law provides a definition for "automatic identification system" (AIS) and requires that all vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing use an AIS, including the carrier vessels or steamers (mother ships) and boats used to deploy purse seines when actively fishing.

New law provides an exception for a group of vessels fishing in a set. Specifies that while fishing in a set, the AIS of at least two of the vessels must be functioning at all times.

New law prohibits any vessels required to use an AIS pursuant to new law from engaging in fishing without a functioning AIS for more than two consecutive business days.

Effective April 19, 2027.

(Adds R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D))