

ACT No. 14

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 440

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP,
BROWN, COX, DOVE, GISCLAIR, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, THIERRY,
WHITNEY, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:499(B) and (C), relative to shrimping trawls and skimmer
3 nets; to provide relative to the size and configuration of skimmer nets; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:499(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §499. Trawls, butterfly, and skimmer nets, and cast nets; size of mesh; length;
9 diameter of butterfly and skimmer nets extensions; prohibited devices

10 * * *

11 B.(1) No person shall take saltwater shrimp with any trawl, skimmer net, or
12 butterfly net with a mesh size less than five-eighths of an inch square or one and one-
13 fourth of an inch stretched. No trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net may be used in
14 closed waters.

15 (2) No person shall use a double butterfly net having an individual net frame
16 more than twelve feet measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is
17 greater, each or a single stationary butterfly net having an individual net frame
18 greater than twenty-two feet measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance
19 is greater, except that persons on a vessel may use a double butterfly net having

1 individual net frames of not more than sixteen feet measured horizontally or twelve
2 feet measured vertically, each. A ~~skimmer or~~ butterfly net may be mounted no more
3 than twenty-four inches from the side of the vessel. Operation of butterfly ~~and~~
4 ~~skimmer~~ nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation.

5 ~~(3) No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an~~
6 ~~individual net frame more than sixteen feet measured horizontally or twelve feet~~
7 ~~measured vertically or twenty feet measured diagonally. Reinforcement framing that~~
8 ~~may be attached to the net frame shall not be considered in determining the~~
9 ~~dimensions of a double skimmer net. No person shall use a double skimmer net shall~~
10 ~~have a lead line with an opening measuring more than ~~twenty-eight~~ seventy-two feet~~
11 ~~in circumference for each net and a lead line greater than thirty-three feet. No person~~
12 ~~shall tie individual skimmer nets together to exceed the ~~herein stated~~ specifications~~
13 ~~contained in this Paragraph~~ or use any trawl in conjunction with a butterfly or
14 skimmer. ~~No person shall use a double skimmer net where the horizontal net frame~~
15 ~~extends more than twenty feet from the gunwale of the vessel.~~ Operation of butterfly
16 ~~and~~ skimmer nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation. ~~A skimmer~~
17 ~~or butterfly net may be mounted no more than twenty-four inches from the side of~~
18 ~~the vessel.~~

19 ~~(2)~~ (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection
20 to the contrary, no person shall take saltwater shrimp with a trawl, skimmer net, or
21 butterfly net with a mesh size of less than five-eighths of an inch square or one and
22 one-fourth of an inch stretched in inside waters during the fall inshore shrimp season,
23 except in that portion of the state's inside waters from the Atchafalaya River west to
24 the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size
25 ~~shall be~~ no less than three-quarters of an inch square or one and one-half of an inch
26 stretched may be used in inside waters during the fall inshore shrimp season.

1 C. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings, or other
2 attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets ~~or skimmer nets~~.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____