
DIGEST

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HB 303 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Gisclair

Abstract: Requires Wildlife and Fisheries to use management targets rather than spawning potential ratios for assessment of certain finfish species.

Present law requires the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries monitor and evaluate the health of the black drum, sheepshead, and flounder fish species in La. waters. Further requires a peer reviewed report of the findings be submitted to the legislature every five years. Requires the report contain the spawning potential ratio (SPR) and a biological condition and profile of the species and a stock assessment.

If the data indicate the SPR is below 30%, present law further requires the department to close the season for at least one year and submit to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission management options that have a 50% chance to recover the stock to a 30% SPR within 10 years.

Proposed law retains the requirement for the commission to monitor and evaluate the fish stocks but requires the commission to establish management targets to ensure a sustainable population. Retains the requirement for submission of a stock assessment report every five years but removes the requirement for use of a spawning potential ratio. Further removes the requirement for closing the season but requires that if the fishery is not meeting the adopted targets, the department must submit management options to the commission to ensure the species meets the management targets established for that fishery.

(Amends R.S. 56:325.4(D))