

ACT No. 205

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 303

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:325.4(D), relative to stock assessments of certain finfish; to remove the requirement that the assessments for black drum, sheepshead, and flounder contain certain information for each species; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:325.4(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§325.4. Commercial taking of other saltwater finfish; exceptions; mesh size

* * *

D.(1) The commission shall monitor and evaluate the condition of the black drum, sheepshead, and flounder species in Louisiana waters and establish management targets to ensure a sustainable population. A ~~peer reviewed~~ report of the ~~findings of the evaluation~~ status of each stock and an evaluation of management measures shall be submitted every five years to the legislature no later than March first of ~~each~~ that year. ~~The report shall contain the following information for each species:~~

- (a) ~~The spawning potential ratio.~~
- (b) ~~A biological condition and profile of the species and a stock assessment.~~

(2) If data indicate that ~~the spawning potential ratio is below thirty percent~~ a fishery is not meeting or is likely not to meet the established targets, the department shall, ~~within two weeks after such finding is confirmed, close the season for a period of at least one year, or shall provide; for the commission's consideration;~~ management options ~~derived from data that indicate that the spawning potential ratio~~

1 is estimated to have at least a fifty percent chance of recovery to a thirty percent ratio
2 within ten years or some other appropriate recovery period based on the biology of
3 the stock of the fish, environmental conditions, and the needs of the fishing
4 communities. to ensure that the species can meet the management targets established
5 for that species.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____