

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 290

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

FISHING/OYSTERS: Changes the name of certain oyster harvest gear from "dredge" to "scraper" and provides for limitations on the dimensions of the scrapers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:56(A)(5) and (7), 305(B)(3), 320(B)(3), 435(A) and (B),  
3 435.1(A), 435.1.1(A)(2), and 436(A), relative to oyster harvesting gear; to change  
4 the name of certain gear from "dredge" to "scraper"; to provide for limitations on the  
5 dimensions and use of scrapers on the public seed grounds and natural reefs; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:56(A)(5) and (7), 305(B)(3), 320(B)(3), 435(A) and (B),  
9 435.1(A), 435.1.1(A)(2), and 436(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §56. Seizure or surrender of things illegally used or possessed

11 A. Any enforcing officer may seize:

12 \* \* \*

13 (5) Tackle, seines and other nets, trawls, tongs, ~~dredges~~ scrapers, and other  
14 equipment and devices used in taking of fish, shrimp, oysters, or other aquatic life  
15 contrary to the provisions of this Title.

16 \* \* \*

17 (7) Tackle, ~~dredges~~, and scrapers which are possessed or operated in an  
18 illegal manner or which are required by the provisions of this Title to be licensed or

1 tagged and which are not so licensed or tagged or which are improperly tagged or  
2 which are taken contrary to the provisions of this Title.

3 \* \* \*

4 §305. Commercial gear license; issuance to certain nonresidents prohibited;  
5 moratorium on certain new gear licenses; renewals

6 \* \* \*

7 B. Residents shall pay a commercial gear fee as follows:

8 \* \* \*

9 (3) Oyster ~~dredge scrapers~~: twenty-five dollars for each ~~dredge scraper~~.

10 \* \* \*

11 §320. Methods of taking freshwater or saltwater fish

12 \* \* \*

13 B.

14 \* \* \*

15 (3) Crabs or stone crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab dropnet,  
16 trawl, skimmer net, butterfly net, hoop net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net, or  
17 cast net. A ~~dredge scraper~~ shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs. Crab  
18 traps located in areas north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway and  
19 west of Louisiana Highway 70 and those areas located on the eastern side of the  
20 Mississippi River and inland from the saltwater line are not required to be marked  
21 with a float and float line, unless the trap is placed in a lake.

22 \* \* \*

23 §435. ~~Dredges and scrapers~~ Scrapers; use in removing oysters

24 A. All ~~dredges and scrapers~~ used to harvest oysters from the public seed  
25 grounds and the natural reefs shall be no longer than ~~six feet~~ fifty-four inches in  
26 width measured along the tooth bar. No scraper shall weigh more than one hundred  
27 seventy-five pounds nor shall any scraper use diving boards or hydrofoils.

28 B. ~~The dredge~~ For scrapers used to harvest oysters from the public seed  
29 grounds and the natural reefs, the scraper teeth shall be no longer than five inches in



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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 290 Original

2016 Regular Session

Gisclair

**Abstract:** Changes the name of certain oyster harvest gear from "dredge" to "scraper" and alters the allowable dimensions of a scraper used on the public seed grounds and natural reefs

Present law in several places refers to oyster "dredges". Proposed law changes the term to oyster "scrapers".

Present law authorizes the use of dredges and scrapers no longer than six feet in width measured along the tooth bar. Further provides that the teeth shall be no longer than five inches. Limits the number of dredges that can be in use at any one time to seven.

Proposed law limits scrapers used to harvest oysters from the public seed grounds or the natural reefs to 54 inches measured along the tooth bar with no one scraper weighing more than 175 pounds. Prohibits the use of diving boards or hydrofoils on scrapers.

Proposed law retains the five-inch length limit from present law and requires a minimum of two and one-half inch spacing measured from the center of the tooth to the center of the adjacent tooth with each tooth no thicker than 11/16ths of an inch. Changes the number of scrapers that may be in use at any one time from seven to two. Provides that oyster scraper bags can only be single mesh with a minimum mesh size of three inches stretched.

(Amends R.S. 56:56(A)(5) and (7), 305(B)(3), 320(B)(3), 435(A) and (B), 435.1(A), 435.1.1(A)(2), and 436(A))