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## DIGEST

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HB 290 Engrossed

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 attachment of diving boards, hydrofoils, or any other apparatus intended to create downward pressure 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), 435(A) and (B), 435.1(A), 435.1.1(A)(2), and 436(A))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Remove a section of law applicable to crab dredges rather than oyster dredges.
2. Further refine the prohibition on the use of diving boards and hydrofoils to include any other apparatus or attachment intended to create downward pressure on the scraper.