

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 404 (SB 207)

2017 Regular Session

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Prior law required that the monies credited to the "Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund" (fund) be used by the office of fisheries for data collection and management and conservation of recreational saltwater fish species.

New law limits use of the fund only to the administration and conducting of the Louisiana Recreational Creel Survey (LACREEL) and the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit program (ROLP).

New law prohibits monies allocated to the programs described in new law being used on or for any of the following purposes:

- (1) Creating any exempted fishing permit program or pilot program as recognized and granted by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service, that establishes a limited access or entry program for licensed fishermen, either voluntarily or required, fishing in territorial waters, including the boundary from the shoreline to a distance nine miles into the Gulf of Mexico, as established by federal law.
- (2) Creating limited entry programs including but not limited to lotteries established for any of the following:
 - (a) The issuance of fish harvest tags.
 - (b) The issuance of fish harvest tags on a "first-come, first-served basis" for more than 80 percent of the total allowable catch of an individual species of fish.
 - (c) The limitation of days at sea that further restrict access to a number of days that differs from seasons established for all licensed fishermen by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
 - (d) The creation of fisheries unit efforts or effort units or any other program that limits access for licensed fishermen to fish other than the beginning and end dates of established seasons as determined by the secretary of LDWF in consultation with the LDWF commission or seasons set by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
 - (e) The creation or enforcement of any individual fishing quota or individual transferrable quota systems for licensed fishermen, licensed charter boat fishing guides, and federally permitted licensed charter boat operations in which vessels used in that operation are registered in the state.
 - (f) The establishment of any mandatory reporting programs by licensed fishermen, including required advanced notification of any department personnel prior to commencement of a fishing trip by licensed fishermen.
 - (g) The creation of any mandatory reporting program in which licensed fishermen are required to report their catch immediately upon returning to port after fishing unless during a dockside intercept conducted by LDWF personnel conducting dockside intercept surveys on behalf of LACREEL or ROLP.

New law provides that if LDWF violates any of the prohibitions in new law, the treasurer will not release any more monies credited to the fund to LDWF, until such time as LDWF ceases its violation.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(g); adds R.S. 56:10(B)(16))

