

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study fishing with bow and arrow and to report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by March 1, 2021.

WHEREAS, Louisiana, long known nationally and internationally as the sportsman's paradise, takes great pride in the abundant fish and game available for the enjoyment of state citizens and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, one of the methods of taking fish, bowfishing, which started as a way to sharpen a big game hunter's archery skills for fall hunting season, has transformed into its own outdoor pursuit; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana hosted the U.S. Open Bowfishing Championship last year; and

WHEREAS, bowfishing also provides environmental benefits of controlling certain species of fish that compete with native species; and

WHEREAS, despite these benefits, the current size limitations on species such as red drum cannot operate as intended with the hook and line method of fishing, as the mortality rate of fish caught by bow and arrow precludes catch and release; and

WHEREAS, a different method of fish count limitation may be required for bowfishing to adequately protect the resource; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education for the social and economic benefit of current and future generations, and the department also further strives to provide opportunities for and to encourage the use and enjoyment of these resources in a safe and healthy environment both on land and on water.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study fishing by method of bow and arrow and the feasibility of implementing alternative methods of protecting fishing resources for bowfishing, particularly for the species red drum, through possession limits, quota, or daily take limits and size limits, and to report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by March 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE