New law requires the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to require, beginning in May 2023, monthly commercial menhaden reduction harvest reports.

New law requires the monthly report include for each set the location by GPS, the estimated volume, and length of the fish harvested. New law requires the rule provide for the sample size and method to estimate the length.

New law requires the rule provide for the form, manner, and the date of the month the department receives the report and procedures to preserve the confidentiality of the data. New law further requires any information made public not indicate the captain, vessel, or company.

New law requires, beginning February 10, 2024, the department to annually report to the oversight committees the commercial menhaden harvest from the prior year based upon the aggregated data from the monthly reports.

New law defines a "set" as when a purse seine is deployed and encircles a school of menhaden, regardless of whether those fish are reduced to possession by transferring to the mother ship or steamer.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 56:325.5)