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## DIGEST

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HB 497 Original

2025 Regular Session

LaCombe

**Abstract:** Authorizes charter boat captains to provide fish directly to retail food establishments under the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program.

Present law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish the La. Catch and Cook Program to allow retail food establishments to prepare fish from licensed recreational fishermen or alligator from licensed alligator hunters or from anyone in their party.

Proposed law adds the management and promotion of the program of the dept. in conjunction with the La. Charter Boat Assoc. and La. Restaurant Assoc. and adds licensed charter captains or anyone in their party to the list of who can provide fish to restaurants.

Present law specifies that restaurants can only receive fish or alligator meat that has been cleaned, packaged, and refrigerated.

Proposed law adds that the fish or meat must be within fishing limits and must be labeled in addition to cleaned, packaged, and refrigerated.

Present law requires the labels include the date, time, and name of the fisherman or hunter.

Proposed law adds specificity regarding the date and time to include that it provide when the fish or alligator are caught and requires the address of the captain, fisherman, or hunter.

Present law specifies that no fee is required to participate in the program.

Proposed law modifies present law by adding a \$25 annual fee for participation to be spent on promotion of the program.

(Amends R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C))