
DIGEST

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HB 497 Engrossed

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 management and promotion of the program by the dept. in conjunction with the Office of Recreation and Tourism, 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 their catch 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 requires that the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries provide the name and location of participating food establishments to the Dept. of Health, office of public health, upon request.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add the Office of Recreation and Tourism as a participant in the management and promotion of the program.

2. Remove the proposed \$20 permit fee to be used by the La. Catch and Cook Program for promotion.
3. Remove the requirement that charter boat captains' names and locations be provided to the Dept. of Health, office of public health, upon request.