

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 497

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FISHING: Provides for the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C), relative to the Louisiana  
3 Catch and Cook Program; to allow charter boat captains to provide fish directly to  
4 retail food establishments; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C) are hereby amended and  
7 reenacted to read as follows:

8 §317. Louisiana Catch and Cook Program; preparation of recreational fish or  
9 alligator in retail food establishments

10 \* \* \*

11 B.(1) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby  
12 authorized to establish, manage, and promote, in conjunction with the Louisiana  
13 Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, and  
14 the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program,  
15 whereby a retail food establishment is authorized to prepare any fish legally taken  
16 by a licensed charter captain or a licensed recreational fisherman or any alligator  
17 legally taken by a licensed alligator hunter for consumption by that charter boat  
18 captain, recreational fisherman, or alligator hunter or any person in the charter boat  
19 captain's, fisherman's, or hunter's party.

(2) The program shall be established through the promulgation and adoption of rules and regulations in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such rules and regulations shall include but are not limited to the following which shall be enforced by Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health:

\* \* \*

(b) The retail food establishment shall receive only fish or alligator meat, within individual fishing limits, that has been cleaned, filleted, placed in clean, food-grade, single-service packaging, labeled, and properly refrigerated.

\* \* \*

(d) The fish or alligator shall be properly labeled with the date, and time the fish or alligator are caught, and the full name and address of the licensed charter captain, recreational fisherman, or alligator hunter.

\* \* \*

C. Any retail food establishment or licensed charter captain that wishes to participate in the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program shall apply to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to be issued a participation permit by the department. There shall be no fee for the ~~application process or~~ permit. The permit may be suspended or revoked by the department for any violation of the rules and regulations of this program. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall provide the name and location of each participating retail food establishment to the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, upon request.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 497 Reengrossed

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 Seafood Promotion and Marketing Bd., 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.

#### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change the Office of Tourism to the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board as an entity the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may work in conjunction with to manage and promote the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program.