

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 446

BY SENATOR FESI

FISH/FISHING. Provides for the menhaden fishery. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:325.7, relative to menhaden; to provide for statewide fishing buffers for the commercial menhaden fishery; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:325.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§325.7. Commercial menhaden fishery buffers

A. The menhaden season shall apply to all waters one-half statute mile seaward of the inside-outside line described in R.S. 56:495, except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, including waters in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and in Chandeleur and Breton Sounds as described in Subsection C of this Section. All other inside waters and passes are permanently closed to menhaden fishing.

B. The menhaden season shall apply to the following waters:

(1) Beginning one statute mile seaward of the inside-outside line from the eastern shore of Belle Pass, Louisiana to the eastern shore of Caminada Pass, Louisiana.

(2) Beginning three statute miles seaward of the inside-outside line from

1 the eastern shore of Caminada Pass, Louisiana to the eastern shore of Barataria
2 Pass, Louisiana.

3 (3) Beginning one statute mile seaward of the inside-outside line from the
4 eastern shore of Barataria Pass, Louisiana to the eastern shore of Pass Abel,
5 Louisiana.

6 (4) Beginning one statute mile seaward of the inside-outside line from the
7 intersection of a private levee road and LA-27, at latitude 29 degrees 46 minutes
8 01.54 seconds N, longitude 93 degrees 24 minutes 23.00 seconds W, thence
9 westward to the easternmost point of the rock breakwaters west of Holly Beach,
10 Louisiana, at latitude 29 degrees 46 minutes 00.90 seconds N, longitude 93
11 degrees 29 minutes 26.91 seconds W. All coordinates are in NAD 1983 feet.

12 C. For purposes of the menhaden season, Breton and Chandeleur Sounds
13 are described as that portion of the statutorily described inside waters as shown
14 on a map by Raymond C. Impastato, P.L.S., dated July 20, 1992, and more
15 particularly described as follows: beginning at the most northerly point on the
16 south side of Taylor Pass, latitude 29 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds N, longitude
17 89 degrees 20 minutes 06 seconds W, which is on the inside-outside shrimp line
18 as described in R.S. 56:495; thence westerly to Deep Water Point, latitude 29
19 degrees 23 minutes 36 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 22 minutes 54 seconds
20 W; thence westerly to Coquille Point, latitude 29 degrees 23 minutes 36 seconds
21 N, longitude 89 degrees 24 minutes 12 seconds W; thence westerly to Raccoon
22 Point, latitude 29 degrees 24 minutes 06 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 28
23 minutes 10 seconds W; thence northerly to the most northerly point of Sable
24 Island, latitude 29 degrees 24 minutes 54 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 28
25 minutes 27 seconds W; thence northwesterly to California Point, latitude 29
26 degrees 27 minutes 33 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 31 minutes 18 seconds
27 W; thence northerly to Telegraph Point, latitude 29 degrees 30 minutes 57
28 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 30 minutes 57 seconds W; thence northerly to
29 Mozambique Point, latitude 29 degrees 37 minutes 20 seconds N, longitude 89

1 degrees 29 minutes 11 seconds W; thence northeasterly to Grace Point, at red
2 light no. 62 on the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal, latitude 29 degrees 40
3 minutes 40 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 23 minutes 10 seconds W; thence
4 northerly to Deadman Point, latitude 29 degrees 44 minutes 06 seconds N,
5 longitude 89 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds W; thence easterly to Point Lydia,
6 latitude 29 degrees 45 minutes 27 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 16 minutes
7 12 seconds W; thence northerly to Point Comfort, latitude 29 degrees 49
8 minutes 32 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 14 minutes 18 seconds W; thence
9 northerly to the most easterly point on Mitchell Island, latitude 29 degrees 53
10 minutes 42 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 11 minutes 50 seconds W; thence
11 northerly to the most easterly point on Martin Island, latitude 29 degrees 57
12 minutes 30 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 11 minutes 05 seconds W; thence
13 northerly to the most easterly point on Brush Island, latitude 30 degrees 02
14 minutes 42 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 10 minutes 06 seconds W; thence
15 northerly to Door Point, latitude 30 degrees 03 minutes 45 seconds N, longitude
16 89 degrees 10 minutes 08 seconds W; thence northerly to the most easterly point
17 on Isle Au Pitre, latitude 30 degrees 09 minutes 27 seconds N, longitude 89
18 degrees 11 minutes 02 seconds W; thence grid north a distance of 19214.60 feet
19 to a point on the Louisiana-Mississippi Lateral Boundary, latitude 30 degrees
20 12 minutes 37.1781 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 10 minutes 57.8925 seconds
21 W; thence S60 degrees 20 minutes 06 seconds grid east along the
22 Louisiana-Mississippi Lateral Boundary a distance of 31555.38 feet, latitude 30
23 degrees 09 minutes 57.4068 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 05 minutes 48.9240
24 seconds W; thence S82 degrees 53 minutes 53 seconds grid east continuing along
25 the Louisiana-Mississippi Lateral Boundary a distance of 72649.38 feet, latitude
26 30 degrees 08 minutes 14.1260 seconds N, longitude 89 degrees 52 minutes
27 10.3224 seconds W; thence grid south a distance of 32521.58 feet to the
28 Chandeleur Light, latitude 30 degrees 02 minutes 52 seconds N, longitude 88
29 degrees 52 minutes 18 seconds W, which is on the inside-outside shrimp line as

1 **described in R.S. 56:495; thence southeasterly along the inside-outside shrimp**
 2 **line as described in R.S. 56:495 to the point of beginning.**

3 **D. The commission shall promulgate no rule or regulation for the**
 4 **purpose, in whole or in part, of modifying the commercial menhaden fishery**
 5 **coastal buffer restrictions set forth in this Section before August 1, 2028.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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| SB 446 Original | DIGEST 2026 Regular Session | Fesi |
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Present law authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations for the protection and preservation of fish, including the creation of closed zones and buffer zones within which commercial menhaden fishing is prohibited.

Proposed law retains present law and designates a buffer zone by setting waters subject to the menhaden season. Prohibits the commission from modifying any commercial menhaden buffer zone prior to August 1, 2028.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 56:325.7)