DIGEST

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Gisclair HB No. 75

Abstract: Authorizes taking of mullet for bait purposes during the closed season.

<u>Present law</u> provides for a commercial mullet season opening the third Monday in Oct. and closing the third Monday of Jan. Prohibits commercial take of mullet on weekends, at night, and provides for quotas and size limits as provided by regulations. Prohibits commercial take of mullet outside the season. Further provides that mullet may only be taken commercially by mullet strike net.

<u>Proposed law</u> allows commercial taking of mullet outside the commercial season for the exclusive purposes of providing bait for recreational fishing. Provides that only a cast net may be used and authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt necessary rules and regulations. Requires a commercial fishing license and commercial gear license in order to take mullet outside the season. Limits cast nets to 12 feet long which are operated manually. Prohibits taking of mullet for bait on weekends and at night.

(Amends R.S. 56:333(B)(1) and (2); Adds R.S. 56:333.3)