

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

**FISHING: Provides relative to the taking of live mullet for bait purposes.**

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DIGEST

Present law 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.

Proposed law allows commercial taking of live mullet outside the commercial season for the exclusive purposes of providing bait. 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 live mullet outside the season. Limits cast nets to 12 feet long which are operated manually. Prohibits taking of live mullet for bait on weekends and at night.

Proposed law provides that violations are class three violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$250 - \$500	or	imprisonment not more than 90 days, or both
2nd offense	\$500 - \$800	or	imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture
3rd+	\$750 - \$1,000	&	imprisonment between 90 and 120 days, and forfeiture

Second or subsequent offenses may include revocation of the license for the remainder of the issuance period.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Removed the limitation that the mullet be used for bait only for recreational fishing.
2. Removed the authorization for the commission to provide for fees in the regulations.
3. Provided that the commission also adopt rules regulating the sale of mullet caught under these provisions.
4. Provided that violations are class three violations.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the engrossed bill.

1. Changed "mullet" to "live mullet".

2. Added "live possession requirements" in authorizing the adoption of rules and regulations.