
DIGEST

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HB 198 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

St. Germain

Abstract: Increases the fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery and increases the dedications to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account.

Present law provides for a \$35 commercial crab trap gear license fee for any number of legal crab traps. Dedicates \$5 from each license to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$5 to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account. Exempts residents who hold a senior commercial fishing license.

Proposed law increases the gear license fee from \$35 to \$50. Increases the two dedications from \$5 to \$10 each. Retains exemption for resident senior commercial license holders.

Present law provides for a nonresident gear fee equal to four times the resident rate. In this case, the nonresident gear fee for crab traps is \$140. Dedicates \$20 from each license to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$20 to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account.

Proposed law leaves the nonresident rate at four times the resident rate which would become \$200 per year and increases the dedications to each program from \$20 to \$40.

(Amends R.S. 56:305(B)(2) and (C)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Increase nonresident crab trap gear license fee from \$140 per year to \$200 per year.
2. Increase the dedications of revenue from the nonresident gear fee to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account from \$20 to \$40.
3. Remove authorization for a buoy tagging system for identification of the crab trap owners.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove text exempting resident senior commercial license holders from payment for buoy tags. Authorization for a buoy tag system was previously removed by committee amendments.