

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 303

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:325.4(D), relative to stock assessments of certain finfish; to  
3 remove the requirement that the assessments for black drum, sheepshead, and  
4 flounder contain certain information for each species; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:325.4(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §325.4. Commercial taking of other saltwater finfish; exceptions; mesh size

9 \* \* \*

10 D.(1) The commission shall monitor and evaluate the condition of the black  
11 drum, sheepshead, and flounder species in Louisiana waters and establish  
12 management targets to ensure a sustainable population. A ~~peer reviewed~~ report of  
13 the ~~findings of the evaluation~~ status of each stock and an evaluation of management  
14 measures shall be submitted every five years to the legislature no later than March  
15 first of ~~each~~ that year. ~~The report shall contain the following information for each~~  
16 ~~species:~~

- 17 (a) ~~The spawning potential ratio.~~  
18 (b) ~~A biological condition and profile of the species and a stock assessment.~~

19 (2) If data indicate that ~~the spawning potential ratio is below thirty percent~~  
20 a fishery is not meeting or is likely not to meet the established targets, the  
21 department shall, ~~within two weeks after such finding is confirmed, close the season~~  
22 ~~for a period of at least one year, or shall provide, for the commission's consideration,~~  
23 management options ~~derived from data that indicate that the spawning potential ratio~~

1 is estimated to have at least a fifty percent chance of recovery to a thirty percent ratio  
2 ~~within ten years or some other appropriate recovery period based on the biology of~~  
3 ~~the stock of the fish, environmental conditions, and the needs of the fishing~~  
4 ~~communities.~~ to ensure that the species can meet the management targets established  
5 for that species.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_