
DIGEST

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HB 760 Original

2016 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Provides for fees and issuance of commercial crab gear licenses.

Present law requires commercial fishermen to possess a commercial gear license for each type of gear. A fee charged for commercial crab trap gear license is \$50 for residents and \$200 for nonresidents.

Proposed law increases the fees for residents from \$50 to \$100 and for nonresidents from \$200 to \$400.

Present law distributes the revenue collected for each gear license as follows: \$10 from the resident fee and \$40 from the nonresident fee to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$10 from the resident fee and \$40 from the nonresident fee to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account.

Proposed law retains present law and adds \$80 from the resident fee to the Conservation Fund, \$50 of which shall only be used for the enforcement and regulation of the crab industry and adds from the nonresident fee \$320 to the Conservation Fund, \$200 dollars of which shall only be used for the enforcement and regulation of the crab industry.

Present law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry. Requires the program to include education in the proper fishing techniques necessary for the health and sustainability of the species; proper techniques for the best capture and presentation of the crabs for marketability; proper instructions regarding the placement, tending, and maintenance of crab traps to reduce potential conflicts with other user groups; and authorizes the program to include an apprenticeship program. Requires that the professionalism program be established no later than Nov. 15, 2014, through rules promulgated pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Present law provides that beginning Nov. 15, 2014, and applicable to license year 2015 and thereafter, no person can be issued a commercial crab trap gear license unless that person qualifies under any of the following provisions:

- (1) The person possessed a valid commercial crab trap gear license during any two license years between 2011 and 2014.
- (2) The person possessed a valid wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license and can demonstrate

crab landings through trip ticket submissions during any two years between 2011 and 2014.

- (3) The person has enrolled in and completed the program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry.

Proposed law removes the start date and provides for the required qualifications of which a person would need to meet any one for issuance of a commercial crab trap license as follows:

- (1) Retains the person possessed a valid commercial crab trap gear license during any two license years between 2011 and 2014 and adds 75% of reported income to the Internal Revenue Service was earned from commercial fishing during those two years.
- (2) Retains the person possessed a valid wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license and can demonstrate crab landings through trip ticket submissions during any two years between 2011 and 2014 and adds that the number of crab landings be a minimum of 60.
- (3) Retains the person has enrolled in and completed the program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry.

(Amends R.S. 56:305(A), (B)(2) and (4)(C), and (C)(1), and 305.6(B)(1) and (2))