

SENATE BILL NO. 65

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:332(K), relative to crab traps; to provide for the size and location of escape rings; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:332(K) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§332. Crabs; release of crabs in berry stage; method of taking crabs; time limitations; by-catch; penalties; abandoned crab trap removal program, escape rings

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K. Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, each crab trap shall have a minimum of three escape rings. All escape rings shall be placed on the vertical, outside walls ~~flush with the trap floor or baffle, with at least two rings located in the upper chamber of the trap.~~ **A minimum of two escape rings shall be located in the upper chamber flush with the baffle. A minimum of one escape ring shall be located in the lower chamber no greater than one mesh length from the trap floor. Beginning on July 1, 2022, all escape rings shall be located no greater than one mesh length from the corners.** The minimum sizes of the rings shall be two and three-eighths inches in inside diameter, not including the ring material. The rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of a **an equal or** smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Except from April first through June thirtieth and from September first through October thirty-first, escape ring openings shall not be obstructed with any material that prevents or hampers exit of crabs. However, the provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to any crab trap constructed of wire mesh two and five-sixteenths inches square or greater.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____