

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 535

2021 Regular Session

Orgeron

FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Provides relative to the geographic location for the taking of menhaden

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Reduces the exclusion zone from one half mile to one fourth mile.
2. Authorizes on shore disposal of by-catch.
3. Authorizes agents and employees of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to collect by-catch data.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law creates an exclusion zone which extends from the coastal boundary between Texas and La. to the coastal boundary between Mississippi and La. extending one fourth mile seaward from land where the taking of menhaden is prohibited.

Proposed law prevents the use of vessels and any equipment used for the specific purpose of taking menhaden in the exclusion zone.

Proposed law provides for the following additions and modifications to the exclusion zone:

- (1) From the western edge of Timbalier Island to the eastern edge of Grand Terre, the exclusion zone extends an additional one-half mile seaward.
- (2) From Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass the exclusion zone extends an additional two miles seaward.
- (3) For Breton and Chandeleur Sounds the exclusion zone extends an additional one half mile seaward from the double rig line as defined in present law.
- (4) For the Chandeleur Islands, the exclusion zone shall extend one half mile seaward in all directions.

Proposed law clarifies that the exclusion zone applicable to the Chandeleur Islands may not interfere with any federally designated sanctuary, preserve, or protected waters.

Proposed law allows commercial vessel engaged in, or traversing from engaging in, taking menhaden to retain by-catch for disposal on shore.

Proposed law authorizes the inspection, observation, study, or collection of data from by-catch by agents and employees of the department boarding vessels fishing menhaden.

(Adds R.S. 56:325.5)