Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 890

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON, DOVE, AND ST. GERMAIN AND SENATOR B. GAUTREAUX

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES SEC: Authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop certification standards for Louisiana wild fish and seafood including wild-caught shrimp

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:578.15, relative to a state certification program for Louisiana wild fish; to authorize the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish such program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:578.15 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

<u>§578.15. Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program</u>

<u>A. The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to establish a quality certification program for Louisiana wild fish, as defined in R.S. 56:8, and for Louisiana wild seafood products, including wild-caught shrimp, which are taken, harvested, or landed in Louisiana. The program shall be established through the promulgation and adoption of certification standards in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such standards may include but are not limited to harvest requirements, post-harvest refrigeration requirements, quality standards, handling practices, traceability, branding and branding registrations, recording requirements, compliance standards, and packaging regulations. The secretary may develop and regulate certification protocols, programs, and establish regulatory authority in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry,</u>

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University, and any other state or federal agency deemed appropriate.

B. All seafood product intended to be marketed as Louisiana Wild Seafood certified must meet all criteria and requirements as set out in the department's rules and regulations. Any product sold or attempted to be sold under the auspices of the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program which is in violation of the rules and regulations shall be immediately removed from the market and the disposition of such product shall be delineated in the rules and regulations adopted to establish the program.

C. Any fisherman or seafood dealer who wishes to participate in the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program shall apply to the department to be issued a participation permit by the department. This permit may be suspended or revoked by the department for violation of the provisions of the program. Any holder of such permit who harvests or markets Louisiana wild fish or wild seafood products in accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program shall be authorized to market said product under the auspices of the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Harrison HB No. 890

Abstract: Authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish a certification program for Louisiana wild fish.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish a quality certification program for Louisiana wild fish and wild seafood products, including wild-caught shrimp, which are taken, harvested, or landed in Louisiana. Requires promulgation of certification standards which may include harvest requirements, post-harvest refrigeration requirements, quality standards, handling practices, traceability, branding and branding registrations, recording requirements, compliance standards, and packaging regulations. Further authorizes the secretary to develop and regulate certification protocols, programs, and establish regulatory authority in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University, and any other state or federal agency deemed appropriate.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

Provides that all seafood product intended to be marketed as Louisiana Wild Seafood certified must meet all criteria and requirements as set out in the department's rules and regulations. Any product sold or attempted to be sold under the auspices of the program which does not meet the standards will be removed from the market and disposed of in the manner delineated in the rules

Requires any fisherman or seafood dealer wishing to participate in the program to apply to the department for a participation permit. Such permit may be suspended or revoked by the department for violation of the provisions of the program. Such permit authorizes anyone who harvests or markets Louisiana wild fish or wild seafood products in accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program to market said product under the auspices of the program.

(Adds R.S. 56:578.15)

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.