

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1154

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

FISHING/CRABS: Provides for the size and number of escape rings on crab traps

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:332(K), relative to crab trap escape rings; to provide for a  
3 minimum size for such rings; to provide for the minimum number of escape rings for  
4 each crab trap; to remove the exemption for traps placed in Lake Pontchartrain; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

11 \* \* \*

12 K. Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, each crab trap shall have  
13 a minimum of ~~two~~ three escape rings. All escape rings shall be placed on the  
14 vertical, outside walls flush with the trap floor or baffle, with at least ~~one ring~~ two  
15 rings located in ~~each~~ the upper chamber of the trap. The minimum sizes of the rings  
16 shall be two and ~~five-sixteenths~~ three-eighths inches in inside diameter, not including  
17 the ring material. The rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of  
18 a smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Except from April first through  
19 June thirtieth and from September first through October thirty-first, escape ring  
20 openings shall not be obstructed with any material that prevents or hampers exit of

1 crabs. However, the provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to any crab trap  
2 constructed of wire mesh two and five-sixteenths inches square or greater ~~or any crab~~  
3 ~~trap placed in Lake Pontchartrain.~~

4 \* \* \*

5 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall become effective November 15, 2017, and  
6 shall be applicable to license year 2017 and thereafter.

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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)]

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Gisclair

HB No. 1154

**Abstract:** Provides for the size and number of escape rings on crab traps.

Present law, relative to escape rings on crab traps, requires at least two escape rings on the outside walls of the trap with at least one in each chamber of the trap. Proposed law would require three escape rings with at least two in the upper chamber of the trap.

Present law requires the escape rings to be no less than 2 and 5/16ths inches in diameter. Proposed law would change the diameter to 2 and 3/8ths inches.

Present law exempts from these requirements crab traps with a mesh of 2 and 5/16ths inches and traps in Lake Pontchartrain. Proposed law removes the exemption for traps placed in Lake Pontchartrain.

Effective November 15, 2017, and applicable to license year 2017 and thereafter.

(Amends R.S. 56:332(K))