

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 706

2018 Regular Session

Zeringue

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

**FISHING/RECREATIONAL: Relative to possession limits of filleted red drum, spotted sea trout, or Southern flounder on board a vessel while on the water.**

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DIGEST

Present law prohibits possession of over the daily bag limit of red drum, spotted sea trout, or Southern flounder while fishing or while on the water, unless such recreational saltwater fisherman is aboard a trawler engaged in commercial fishing for a consecutive period of longer than 25 hours and the vessel is equipped to cook. Further prohibits the possession of filleted fish while aboard a vessel on the water.

Proposed law allows a fisherman who holds and possesses a valid recreational fishing license and can demonstrate certain requirements to the department's satisfaction to possess up to the possession limit of filleted red drum, spotted sea trout, and Southern flounder.

Proposed law requires the filleted fish to have sufficient skin remaining on the fillet to allow for identification and be segregated by species into plastic bags or containers that are marked with certain information. Further provides the required length of the fillets for spotted sea trout and red drum.

Proposed law requires the fish to be in the possession of the person who took the fish and prohibits a fisherman from actively fishing or being engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

(Amends R.S. 56:325.1(A)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Require the fillet to be no less than 2/3 of the minimum legal length.
2. Require sufficient skin to be left on the fillet for identification of the species of fish.
3. Remove the requirement for GPS documentation of route taken from the camp to the boat ramp.
4. Change the limit from "bag" limit to "possession" limit.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the engrossed bill

1. Change the requirements to possess up to the possession limit of filleted red drum, spotted sea trout, and Southern flounder.
2. Require the fisherman to use a boat launch south of U.S. Highway 90.
3. Change the length requirements for spotted sea trout and red drum.