

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 721

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

SEAFOOD: Provides relative to shrimp harvesting

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:499.4, relative to commercial shrimping; to create an
3 exception to the prohibition on night shrimping in inside waters of the state; to allow
4 commercial shrimping in certain inside waters beginning at 5:30 a.m.; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:499.4 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §499.4. Night shrimping; inside waters; Vermilion Bay; East and West Cote
9 Blanche Bays; Atchafalaya Bay; exceptions; prohibition

10 A. No person shall take shrimp at night, from one-half hour after official
11 sunset until one-half hour before official sunrise, from the inside waters of Vermilion
12 Bay, West Cote Blanche Bay, East Cote Blanche Bay, and Atchafalaya Bay, from
13 the western shore of Vermilion Bay to the western shore of the Atchafalaya River
14 and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island, as described by the
15 inside-outside line in R.S. 56:495, except that night shrimping shall be allowed in the
16 waters of Southwest Pass at Marsh Island south of a line drawn from the following
17 points: the most southeastward point of Southwest Pass at 29 degrees 36 minutes 47
18 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 32 seconds west longitude east
19 southeast to the Green Light Channel Marker Number 21 at 29 degrees 36 minutes
20 44 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 21 seconds west longitude; thence

1 northeast to a point located at 29 degrees 37 minutes 34 seconds north latitude, 91
2 degrees 59 minutes 36 seconds west longitude; thence southeast to the western shore
3 of Big Charles Bayou at 29 degrees 36 minutes 43 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees
4 59 minutes 17 seconds west longitude.

5 B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this Section, during any open shrimp
6 season, licensed commercial shrimp harvesters may begin trawling in Vermilion
7 Bay, East Cote Blanche Bay, and West Cote Blanche Bay at 5:30 a.m.

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)]

HB 721 Original

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Kerner

Abstract: Allows commercial shrimpers to start trawling at 5:30 a.m. in Vermilion Bay, East Cote Blanche Bay, and West Cote Blanche Bay during any open shrimp season even if 5:30 a.m. would be more than 30 minutes before sunrise.

Present law prohibits the taking of shrimp at night in certain inside waters of the state. Specifies that the prohibition applies from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

Proposed law provides an exception that allows commercial shrimpers to begin trawling in Vermilion Bay, East Cote Blanche Bay, and West Cote Blanche Bay at 5:30 a.m. during any open shrimp season.

(Amends R.S. 56:499.4.)