

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 757

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Provides relative to the taking of menhaden

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:320(J), relative to methods of taking freshwater or saltwater fish; to  
3 prohibit the taking of menhaden; to provide for strict liability; to provide for  
4 penalties; to provide for a definition; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:320(J) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §320. Methods of taking freshwater or saltwater fish

8 \* \* \*

9 J.(1) No person shall knowingly and intentionally authorize, direct, or have  
10 control or ownership of an agent or vessel involved in the taking of menhaden for  
11 commercial purposes within the area designated by the Department of Wildlife and  
12 Fisheries pursuant to LAC 76:VII.307 of the Louisiana Administrative Code.

13 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subpart A of Part II of Chapter 1 of  
14 this Title, whoever violates the provisions of this Subsection shall be held strictly  
15 liable for the taking and punished as follows:

16 (a) For a first violation, the violator shall be fined fifty thousand dollars.

17 (b) For a second violation, the violator shall be fined seventy-five thousand  
18 dollars and the commercial fisherman's license of the violator shall be revoked for  
19 not more than thirty days after notice and an opportunity to be heard at an  
20 administrative hearing has occurred.

1           (c) For a third violation, the violator shall be fined one hundred thousand  
 2           dollars and the commercial fisherman's license of the violator shall be revoked for  
 3           not more than three hundred sixty-five days after notice and an opportunity to be  
 4           heard at an administrative hearing has occurred.

5           (d) For a fourth or subsequent violation, the violator shall be fined two  
 6           hundred fifty thousand dollars and the commercial fisherman's license of the violator  
 7           shall be permanently revoked after notice and an opportunity to be heard at an  
 8           administrative hearing has occurred.

9           (3) For purposes of this Section, "person" means a natural or juridical  
 10          person, including but not limited to a sole proprietorship, corporation, company,  
 11          limited liability company, partnership, limited liability partnership, trust,  
 12          incorporated or unincorporated association, or any other individual or entity.

#### 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 757 Original

2026 Regular Session

Cox

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the taking of menhaden.

Present law provides for the taking of freshwater or saltwater fish.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law prohibits any person from knowingly and intentionally authorizing, directing, or having control or ownership of an agent or vessel involved in the taking menhaden for commercial purposes within the area designated by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Code.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding the provisions of present law relative to penalties, whoever violates the provisions of proposed law will be held strictly liable for the taking and punished as follows:

- (1) For a first violation, a fine of \$50,000.
- (2) For a second violation, a fine of \$75,000 and the revocation of the violator's commercial fisherman's license for a maximum of 30 days after notice and an opportunity to be heard at an administrative hearing has occurred.
- (3) For a third violation, a fine of \$100,000 and the revocation of the violator's commercial fisherman's license for a maximum of 365 days after notice and an opportunity to be heard at an administrative hearing has occurred.

- (4) For a fourth or subsequent violation, a fine of \$250,000 and the permanent revocation of the violator's commercial fisherman's license after notice and an opportunity to be heard at an administrative hearing has occurred.

Proposed law defines the term "person".

(Adds R.S. 56:320(J))