

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 872

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

FISHING/COMMERCIAL: Requires all commercial menhaden reduction fishery vessels to use an AIS system

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D), relative to commercial menhaden reduction fishery  
3 vessels; to require vessels to use automatic identification systems; to provide  
4 definitions; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to organize and renumber  
5 certain definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §8. Definitions

9 For purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the  
10 meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly shows a different  
11 meaning:

12 \* \* \*

13 (160) "Automatic identification system" means a very high frequency (VHF)  
14 radio-based tracking system that allows vessels to automatically exchange data, such  
15 as position, speed, and heading, with other vessels, shore stations, and satellites.

16 \* \* \*

17 §325.5. Commercial menhaden; harvest reporting; automatic identification system

18 \* \* \*

1                   D. All vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing shall have  
2                   and utilize an automatic identification system (AIS). This requirement shall apply  
3                   to both carrier vessels or steamers and purse boats.

4                   Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to  
5                   alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 56:8 and to correct any  
6                   cross-references to the renumbered Paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions  
7                   of this Act.

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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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HB 872 Engrossed

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Zeringue

**Abstract:** Requires all vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing to use automatic identification systems.

Proposed law provides a definition for "automatic identification system".

Proposed law requires all vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing to use an automatic identification system, including the carrier vessels or steamers (also known as "mother ships") and boats used to deploy purse seines.

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber definitions in present law (R.S. 56:8).

(Adds R.S. 56:8(160) and 325.5(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1.       Make technical changes.