

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 two thousand five hundred
17 dollars.

18 (b) For a second violation, the violator shall be fined five thousand dollars.

19 (c) For a third violation, the violator shall be fined seven thousand five
20 hundred dollars.

21 (3) For purposes of this Subsection, "person" means a natural person.

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 Engrossed

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 La. 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 \$2,500.
- (2) For a second violation, a fine of \$5,000.
- (3) For a third violation, a fine of \$7,5000.

Proposed law defines the term "person".

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove the revocation of a commercial fisherman's license as a penalty for violations.
2. Decrease the penalty for a first violation from \$50,000 to \$2,500, for a second violation from \$75,000 to \$5,000, and for a third violation from \$100,000 to \$7,500.
3. Remove the penalty for a fourth violation.
4. Revise the definition for "person" to include only a natural person.