

# ACT No. 443

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 872

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

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 \* \* \*

19 D.(1) All vessels engaged in commercial menhaden reduction fishing shall  
20 have installed and utilize an automatic identification system (AIS). This requirement  
21 shall apply to a carrier vessel or steamer, commonly called a mother ship, and to any  
22 purse boat actively engaged in fishing.

1                   (2) No vessel that is required to utilize an AIS under this Paragraph shall  
 2                   engage in fishing without a functioning AIS for more than two consecutive business  
 3                   days. For a group of vessels cooperating on a set as defined in R.S. 56:325.5, the AIS  
 4                   of at least two vessels shall be functioning at all times while actively engaged in  
 5                   fishing.

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

10                  Section 3. This Act shall become effective on April 19, 2027.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_