

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FISHING/OYSTERS: Authorizes additional means of harvesting oysters on the oyster seed grounds under the oyster seed ground vessel permit

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1), relative to oyster harvest; to authorize additional
3 means of harvesting oysters on the oyster seed grounds under the oyster seed ground
4 vessel permit; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §433.1. Oyster seed ground vessel permit; Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit
8 Appeals Board

9 A.(1) Any oysters taken for commercial purposes from the public natural
10 reefs or the oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those in Calcasieu Lake or
11 Sabine Lake, shall be placed only on a vessel which has an oyster seed ground vessel
12 permit issued exclusively by the department pursuant to rules and regulations
13 promulgated by the commission. The commission may establish a limit on the
14 number of permits that may be issued each year after consultation with the Louisiana
15 Oyster Task Force. Such permit shall be issued in the name of the vessel owner and
16 shall identify the vessel permitted by including the state registration number or the
17 United States Coast Guard documented number. The permit shall identify the vessel
18 that may possess and transport oysters taken from the public natural reefs and oyster
19 seed grounds. The permit does not grant any rights to the oyster resource or any
20 rights to harvest oysters from the waters of the state and shall not be sold, exchanged,

1 or otherwise transferred. The permit is valid for one year, beginning on January first
 2 of each calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar
 3 year, and permit holders who hold a valid permit during the prior year may renew the
 4 permit at any time of the year for the current license year and from November
 5 fifteenth for the immediately following license year. The cost of the permit for a
 6 ~~single scraper vessel~~ from which oysters will be harvested using a single scraper,
 7 tongs, or by hand shall be two hundred fifty dollars for a resident and one thousand
 8 dollars for a nonresident. ~~and the~~ The cost of the permit for a vessel from which
 9 oysters will be harvested using a double scraper or any other legal method of harvest
 10 ~~vessel~~ shall be five hundred dollars for a resident and two thousand dollars for a
 11 nonresident. After having been credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund
 12 as required by Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, all
 13 revenues received from purchase of the permit shall be deposited in the Public
 14 Oyster Seed Ground Development Account, R.S. 56:434.1.

15 * * *

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 142 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Leopold

Abstract: Authorizes additional means of harvesting oysters on the oyster seed grounds under the oyster seed ground vessel permit.

Present law requires a permit for a person to take oysters for commercial purposes from the public natural reefs or oyster seed grounds or reservations. Provides that the cost of the annual permit for use of a single scraper is \$250 for a resident and \$1,000 for a nonresident. The cost of the permit for use of a double scraper is \$500 for a resident and \$2,000 for a nonresident.

Proposed law permits the use of tongs or harvesting by hand under the cost of a permit for use of a single scraper. Further provides that the permit granted for a double scraper also permits the use of any legal means of harvest.

(Amends R.S. 56:433.1(A)(1))