DIGEST

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Greene HB No. 296

Abstract: Authorizes the use of monies in the Artificial Reef Development Fund for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects.

Present law established the Artificial Reef Development Fund. Provides that monies in the fund are to be used for the operation of the artificial reef program in the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, including permitting, establishing, monitoring, and maintenance of the artificial reefs.

Proposed law would allow up to 10% of the annual donations and interest income from the fund to be used by the department to provide funding for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects, particularly in support of the Artificial Reef Program. Provides that such funding may be used for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations working in cooperation with the department.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 56:639.8(E)(3))