

Existing law provides for a commercial mullet season opening the third Monday in Oct. and closing the third Monday of Jan. Prohibits commercial take of mullet on weekends, at night, and provides for quotas and size limits as provided by regulations. Prohibits commercial take of mullet outside the season. Further provides that mullet may only be taken commercially by mullet strike net.

New law allows commercial taking of live mullet outside the commercial season for the exclusive purposes of providing live bait. Provides that only a cast net may be used and authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt necessary rules and regulations. Requires a commercial fishing license and commercial gear license in order to take live mullet outside the season. Limits cast nets to 12 feet long which are operated manually. Prohibits taking of live mullet for bait on weekends and at night.

New law provides that violations are class three violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$250 - \$500	or imprisonment not more than 90 days, or both
2nd offense	\$500 - \$800	or imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture
3rd+	\$750 - \$1,000	& imprisonment between 90 and 120 days, and forfeiture

Second or subsequent offenses may include revocation of the license for the remainder of the issuance period.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 56:333(B)(1) and (2); Adds R.S. 56:333.3)