HLS 15RS-916 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. 198

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

FISHING/CRABS: Increases fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 56:305(B)(2), relative to commercial crab fishing; to increase
3	the fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery; to increase the dedications
4	to certain accounts from the funds collected by the crab trap gear license; to
5	authorize a tag fee for crab trap identification tags; to establish an exception to the
6	senior commercial fishing license exemption; and to provide for related matters.
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8	Section 1. R.S. 56:305(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
9	§305. Commercial gear license; issuance to certain nonresidents prohibited;
10	moratorium on certain new gear licenses; renewals
11	* * *
12	B. Residents shall pay a commercial gear fee as follows:
13	* * *
14	(2) Crab traps: thirty-five fifty dollars to use any legal number of crab traps
15	for the privilege of using crab traps to fish commercially. In addition to the
16	commercial gear license fee set forth in this Paragraph, if the commission
17	implements a buoy tagging system for identification of the owners of crab traps, a
18	fee not to exceed two dollars per tag may be levied by the department. An amount
19	equal to five ten dollars from each commercial crab trap gear license shall be
20	credited to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account as provided in R.S.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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56:10(B)(13), and an amount equal to five ten dollars from each commercial crab trap license shall be credited to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account as provided in R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(e). Any resident who holds a senior commercial fishing license shall be exempt from the provisions of this Paragraph. However, any person who holds a senior commercial fishing license shall not be exempt from payment for a buoy tag.

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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 198 Original

2015 Regular Session

St. Germain

Abstract: Increases the fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery and increases the dedications to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account.

<u>Present law</u> provides for a \$35 commercial crab trap gear license fee for any number of legal crab traps. Dedicates \$5 from each license to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$5 to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account. Exempts residents who hold a senior commercial fishing license.

<u>Proposed law</u> increases the gear license fee <u>from</u> \$35 <u>to</u> \$50. Increases the two dedications <u>from</u> \$5 <u>to</u> \$10 each. Authorizes a tag fee of up to \$2 per tag if the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission implements a buoy tagging system for identification of the owners of crab traps. Specifies that while holders of a commercial senior fishing license are exempt from the gear fee, they are not exempt from the tag fee.

(Amends R.S. 56:305(B)(2))