

HB 1407

2012

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to scuba diver fishing licenses;  
3           amending s. 379.354, F.S.; provides that an individual  
4           diver is not required to hold a fishing license while  
5           on a vessel for hire if the vessel operator maintains  
6           the appropriate license and permits; providing an  
7           effective date.  
8

9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
10

11           Section 1. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (7) of  
12           section 379.354, Florida Statutes, to read:

13           379.354 Recreational licenses, permits, and authorization  
14           numbers; fees established.—

15           (7) VESSEL LICENSES.—

16           (f) If the operator of a vessel that carries scuba divers  
17           for a fee, either directly or indirectly, maintains the  
18           appropriate vessel license under this subsection based upon the  
19           number of persons the vessel is licensed to carry and any  
20           applicable permits, the individual scuba divers engaged in  
21           taking or attempting to take saltwater products are not required  
22           to obtain individual fishing licenses and permits. However, if  
23           such vessel operator does not have the appropriate license, the  
24           scuba divers engaged in taking or attempting to take saltwater  
25           products must have individual fishing licenses and any  
26           applicable permits.

27           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.