

SENATE BILL NO. 447

BY SENATOR HENSGENS AND REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:325.5, relative to the commercial menhaden fishery; to provide for
3 commercial menhaden harvest reporting; to provide for required data; to provide for
4 confidentiality; to provide for reports to legislative committees; to provide for the
5 powers and duties of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; to provide
6 for a definition; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:325.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§325.5. Commercial menhaden harvest reporting**

10 **A. The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations, in accordance**
11 **with the Administrative Procedure Act, that require companies taking**
12 **menhaden by vessels equipped with purse seines for the purpose of reduction**
13 **fishing to report monthly, beginning in May 2023, commercial menhaden**
14 **harvest reports. The rules and regulations shall provide for the following:**

15 **(1) Monthly reporting shall include the following data for each set:**

16 **(a) Location data in degrees, minutes, seconds, with a defined datum,**
17 **determined by global positioning satellite (GPS) navigational instrument**
18 **reading.**

19 **(b) Estimated volume of harvest.**

20 **(c) Length of the menhaden estimated based on a sample of the harvest.**

21 **In addition, the rule shall provide for the size of the sample and the method**
22 **used to estimate the length.**

23 **(2) The form, manner, and the date of the month the department receives**
24 **the monthly report.**

1 (3) Procedures to preserve the confidentiality of any data, information,
 2 or statistics submitted or collected to comply with federal procedures as set
 3 forth by the United States Department of Commerce or its agencies for
 4 confidentiality of fishing statistics collected from individuals or firms by the
 5 Department of Commerce or its agencies. Any information the department
 6 provides to the public shall not indicate the captain, vessel, or company.

7 B. Beginning February 10, 2024, the department shall annually report
 8 to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on
 9 Natural Resources and Environment the commercial menhaden harvest from
 10 the prior year based upon the aggregated data from the monthly reports.

11 C. For the purposes of this Section, a "set" means when a purse seine is
 12 deployed and encircles a school of menhaden, regardless of whether those fish
 13 are reduced to possession by transferring to the mother ship or steamer.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____