

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 468

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

FISH/FISHING. Provides exceptions for certain saltwater fish used as bait. (8/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:325.2(A), (B), and (C), relative to saltwater recreational fish;
3 to provide requirements of possession; to provide exceptions for possession; to
4 provide terms and conditions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:325.2(A), (B), and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 §325.2. Saltwater recreational **fin**fish; total length

9 A. All saltwater **recreational** finfish, ~~except swordfish possessed by a~~
10 ~~recreational fisherman~~, shall have the head and caudal fin intact until set or put on
11 shore. ~~Swordfish and sharks possessed by a recreational fisherman shall not be~~
12 ~~skinned until set or put on shore. Tuna shall retain the caudal fin intact until set or~~
13 ~~put on shore and those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may~~
14 ~~have the head removed as long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the~~
15 ~~minimum size requirement.~~ All saltwater **recreational** finfish shall be measured in
16 accordance with applicable law. ~~Any garfish caught or possessed by a recreational~~
17 ~~fisherman in the saltwater areas of the state may have the head and caudal fin~~

1 removed but, until the fish is set or put on shore, it shall retain a strip of skin
2 sufficient to clearly identify the fish.

3 **B. No person shall possess any finfish parts, such as filleted fish, while**
4 **aboard a vessel on the water.** For the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the
5 harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per
6 person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish
7 and such finfish does not exceed applicable bag limits.

8 C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to ~~bait species,~~ **the**
9 **following:**

10 **(1) Any legally harvested saltwater recreational finfish being utilized for**
11 **bait, which does not have a size limit and is not in excess of any daily possession**
12 **limits.**

13 **(2) King or spanish mackerel may be cut up and utilized for bait so long**
14 **as the carcass is retained with the head and caudal fin intact while such parts**
15 **are in possession aboard a fishing vessel for purposes of determining legal size**
16 **and possession limits. Such carcasses may only be discarded once the parts or**
17 **pieces of those finfish being utilized as bait are no longer possessed.**

18 **(3) Swordfish possessed by a recreational fisherman shall not be skinned**
19 **until set or put on shore.**

20 **(4) Tuna shall retain the caudal fin intact until set or put on shore and**
21 **those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may have the head**
22 **removed as long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the minimum**
23 **size requirement.**

24 **(5) Any garfish caught or possessed by a recreational fisherman in the**
25 **saltwater areas of the state may have the head and caudal fin removed but, until**
26 **the fish is set or put on shore, it shall retain a strip of skin sufficient to clearly**
27 **identify the fish.**

28 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Allain (SB 468)

Present law provides requirements for recreational fisherman to keep intact certain body parts of saltwater recreational fish for purposes of validating length requirements and identifying species.

Proposed law provides that no person shall possess any finfish parts, such as filleted fish, while aboard a vessel on the water.

Present law exempts "bait species".

Proposed law removes exemption for "bait species".

Proposed law provides an exception from present law for any legally harvested saltwater recreational finfish being utilized for bait, which does not have a size limit and is not in excess of any daily possession limits.

Proposed law provides that king or spanish mackerel may be used for the purposes of bait as long as the carcass is maintained intact with head and tail attached while such parts are in possession about a fishing vessel for purposes of determining legal size and possession limits. Further provides that such carcasses may only be discarded when no longer utilizing parts for bait.

Proposed law provides that swordfish possessed by a recreational fisherman shall not be skinned until set or put on shore.

Proposed law provides that tuna shall retain the caudal fin intact until set or put on shore and those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may have the head removed as long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the minimum size requirement.

Proposed law provides that any garfish caught or possessed by a recreational fisherman in the saltwater areas of the state may have the head and caudal fin removed but, until the fish is set or put on shore, it shall retain a strip of skin sufficiently to clearly identify the fish.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 56:325.2(A),(B), and (C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Provides certain possession restrictions on finfish.
3. Provides certain exceptions for fish used as "bait".