

## **House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
March 30, 2016

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Room 4, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman  
Representative James K. Armes III  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Patrick Connick  
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Franklin J. Foil  
Representative Jerry Gisclair  
Representative John E. Guinn  
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Jack Montoucet  
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris  
Representative Malinda B. White  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Su King, legislative analyst  
Tyler S. McCloud, attorney  
Karen Stephens, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

Larry Warino, clerk  
Vivian Hurst, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 420 by Representative Abraham**

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 420, which expands the "Authentic Louisiana" wild seafood certification program criteria.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 420 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 420 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 by Representative Gisclair**

Representative Gisclair presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 30, which urges the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide stricter enforcement of shrimping laws and regulations.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 290 by Representative Gisclair**

Representative Gisclair presented House Bill No. 290, which changes the name of certain oyster harvest gear from "dredge" to "scraper" and provides for limitations on the dimensions of the scrapers.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 290.

John Tesvich, Louisiana Oyster Task Force, no address provided, New Orleans, LA, (504) 912-2750, spoke in support of House Bill No. 290.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove a section of law applicable to crab dredges rather than oyster dredges.
- (2) Further refine the prohibition on the use of diving boards and hydrofoils to include any other apparatus or attachment intended to create downward pressure on the scraper.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

George Barisich, United Commercial Fishermen's Association, no address provided, St. Bernard, LA, (504) 439-2013, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 290.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 290 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 290 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 638 by Representative Gisclair**

Representative Gisclair presented House Bill No. 638, which requires the sale of commercial fishing licenses online.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 638.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 638. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 638 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil,

Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 307 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 307, which establishes a fishing guide apprentice program.

Ryan Lambert, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, 2 Zee Ann Street, Luling, LA 70070, (985) 785-9833, spoke in support of House Bill No. 307.

Ben Weber, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, 62241 Raymond Road, Lacombe, LA 70445, (225) 421-9130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 307.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 307.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to increase the annual fee for a nonresident charter boat fishing guide apprentice license by \$500. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Connick offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 307, to which Representative Billiot objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 8 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Armes, Connick, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Miguez, and Montoucet voted yea. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, White, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to change the effective date to 2018. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 307. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 307 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 760 by Representative White**

Representative White presented House Bill No. 760, which provides for commercial crab gear licenses.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 760.

Peter Gerica, Crab Task Force, 19757 Chef Menteur Highway, New Orleans, LA 70129, (504) 669-4390, spoke in support of House Bill No. 760.

Representative Terry Brown offered amendments to:

- (1) Implement the qualifications for license year 2017 and thereafter rather than having the eligibility qualifications for a commercial crab trap license be applicable immediately.
- (2) Change one of the qualifications for a commercial crab trap gear license from possession of a wholesale/retail dealer's license to possession of a commercial crab trap license accompanied by documentation of at least 60 crab landings for any two years between 2011 and 2014.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Louis Menesses, 1909 Kelly Road, St. Bernard, LA 70805, (504) 682-5621, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

Gregory Kernan, 1742 Jefferson Street, Mandeville, LA 70448, (985) 705-6191, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

George Kernan, 25399 Little Farm Drive, Lacombe, LA 70445, (985) 265-6648, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

Jarred Kernan, 1742 Jefferson Street, Mandeville, LA 70448, (985) 590-0235, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

Nick Felton, New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-9564, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

Douglas Olander, Big D's Seafood, 459 Alice B Road, Franklin, LA 70538, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

James Miles, 47158 Highway 937, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 760.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 760 with amendments, to which Representative Gisclair objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 3 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Bishop, White, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, and Montoucet voted nay.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 760. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 760 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 303 by Representative Leopold**

Representative Leopold presented House Bill No. 303, which requires successful completion of an oyster harvester education program prior to applying for an oyster harvester license.

John Tesvich, Louisiana Oyster Task Force, no address provided, New Orleans, LA, (504) 912-2750, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

Representative Connick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 303 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 303 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Montoucet, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 636 by Representative Leopold**

Representative Leopold presented House Bill No. 636, which amends the public oyster seed ground vessel permit.

John Tesvich, Louisiana Oyster Task Force, no address provided, New Orleans, LA, (504) 912-2750, spoke in support of House Bill No. 636.

George Barisich, United Commercial Fishermen's Association, no address provided, St. Bernard, LA, (504) 439-2013, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 636.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 636.

Representative Leopold offered a motion to report House Bill No. 636 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 636 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 188 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 188, which adds alligator in the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program.

Representative Leopold offered an amendment to make a technical change. Representative Leopold offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 188 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 188 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 423 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 423, which includes reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealers in the trip ticket program.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 423.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 423 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 423 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

**IV. PRESENTATION**

**Coastal Conservation Association**

David Cresson, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), 12241 Industriplex, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 588-4823, spoke for information only and gave an overview of CCA. He provided a booklet, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The committee adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop  
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: