FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

592-582A-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the management of wildlife
3	and saltwater fisheries; amending s. 320.08058,
4	F.S.; authorizing the use of certain annual
5	fees for specialty license plates to promote
6	and market the plates; incorporating the
7	amendments made to s. 370.12, F.S., in a
8	reference thereto; amending s. 370.0603, F.S.;
9	authorizing the deposit of certain funds into
10	the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
11	providing purposes for which funds may be used;
12	amending s. 370.1105, F.S.; correcting a
13	reference; amending s. 370.12, F.S.;
14	authorizing use of certain annual use fees for
15	specialty license plates to promote and market
16	the plates; authorizing the Fish and Wildlife
17	Conservation Commission to use certain annual
18	use fees to buy back certain specialty license
19	plates; amending s. 370.13, F.S.; authorizing
20	the waiver of replacement tag fees for stone
21	crab traps under certain conditions; providing
22	for legislative approval of commission rules
23	establishing equitable rent; amending s.
24	370.135, F.S.; establishing certain endorsement
25	fees for the taking of blue crabs; establishing
26	an annual trap tag fee; authorizing the
27	commission to establish an amount of equitable
28	rent by rule; providing for legislative
29	approval of the rule; authorizing the
30	commission to waive endorsement and trap tag
31	fees for a 1-year period; authorizing the

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waiver of blue crab trap replacement tag fees under certain conditions; requiring the deposit of certain proceeds into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; specifying the use of such proceeds; providing administrative penalties for certain violations; prohibiting the unauthorized possession of blue crab trap gear or removal of blue crab trap contents and providing penalties therefor; providing penalties for certain other prohibited activities relating to blue crab traps, lines, buoys, and trap tags; providing penalties for fraudulent reports related to endorsement transfers; prohibiting certain activities during endorsement suspension and revocation; preserving state jurisdiction for certain convictions; providing requirements for certain license renewal; providing for the expiration of certain provisions unless reenacted by the Legislature; appropriating certain fee revenues to the commission for blue crab effort management program costs; amending ss. 370.14 and 370.142, F.S.; clarifying provisions regulating spiny lobsters; providing for legislative approval of rules establishing equitable rent; authorizing the waiver of spiny lobster trap replacement fees under certain conditions; providing administrative penalties for certain violations concerning spiny lobsters; prohibiting transfer of spiny lobster certificates under certain conditions; amending

1 s. 370.143, F.S.; revising provisions for 2 certain trap retrieval programs and fees; authorizing the waiver of trap retrieval fees 3 4 under certain conditions; amending s. 372.09, 5 F.S.; authorizing the use of certain annual use 6 fees for specialty license plates to promote 7 and market the plates; amending s. 372.672, F.S.; authorizing use of certain annual use 8 fees for specialty license plates to promote 9 10 and market the plates; amending s. 372.83, F.S.; correcting cross-references; reenacting 11 12 s. 380.511(1)(c), F.S., relating to deposit of 13 proceeds from sale of certain specialty license plates, to incorporate the amendments made to 14 s. 320.08058, F.S., in a reference thereto; 15 amending s. 20.331, F.S.; requiring the Fish 16 17 and Wildlife Conservation Commission to adopt 18 and publish a rule establishing due process procedures; amending 370.025, F.S.; revising 19 the commission's rulemaking authority; 20 21 providing an effective date. 22 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 2.4 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) and 25 subsection (18) of section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, are 26 27 amended and, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of that section 2.8 is reenacted for the purpose of incorporating the amendments

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made by this act to section 370.12, Florida Statutes, in a

320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

reference thereto, to read:

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- (1) MANATEE LICENSE PLATES. --
- (b) The manatee license plate annual use fee must be deposited into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund, created within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and shall be used only for the purposes specified in s. 370.12(4).
  - (5) FLORIDA PANTHER LICENSE PLATES. --
- (b) The department shall distribute the Florida panther license plate annual use fee in the following manner:
- 1. Eighty-five percent must be deposited in the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to be used for education and programs to protect the endangered Florida panther, and up to 10 percent of such deposit may be used to promote and market the license plate.
- 2. Fifteen percent, but no less than \$300,000, must be deposited in the Florida Communities Trust Fund to be used pursuant to the Florida Communities Trust Act.
  - (18) LARGEMOUTH BASS LICENSE PLATES. --
- (b) The annual use fees <u>must be deposited in</u> shall be distributed to the State Game Trust Fund and used by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to fund current conservation programs that maintain current levels of protection and management of this state's fish and wildlife resources, including providing hunting, fishing, and nonconsumptive wildlife opportunities. Up to 10 percent of the annual use fee deposited into the trust fund may be used to promote and market the license plate.
- Section 2. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of section 370.0603, Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of that section are amended, to read:

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370.0603 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; 2 purposes. --3 (1) The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall 4 serve as a broad-based depository for funds from various 5 marine-related and boating-related activities and shall be 7 administered by the commission for the purposes of: 8 (j) Funding for the stone crab trap reduction program under s. 370.13, the blue crab effort management program under 9 s. 370.135, the spiny lobster trap certificate program under 10 s. 370.142, and the trap retrieval program under s. 370.143. 11 12 (2) The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund shall 13 receive the proceeds from: (c) All fees collected under pursuant to ss. 370.063, 14 370.13, 370.135, 370.142, 370.143, and 372.5704. 15 (d) All fines and penalties under ss. pursuant to s. 16 17 370.021, 370.13, 370.135, and 370.142. Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 370.1105, Florida 18 Statutes, is amended to read: 19 370.1105 Saltwater finfish; fishing traps regulated.--20 21 (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, or 22 corporation to set, lay, place, or otherwise attempt to fish 23 for saltwater finfish with any trap other than:

specifically permitted under s. 370.13, s. 370.135, s. 370.14, or s. 370.15; (b) A pinfish trap not exceeding 2 feet in any dimension, with a throat or entrance not exceeding 3 inches in

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(a) A crab, spiny lobster crawfish, or shrimp trap

30 (c) A black sea bass trap which has a biodegradable panel and a throat or entrance, the narrowest point of which

height by three-quarters of an inch in width; or

is not more than 5 inches in height by 2 inches in width and the outer dimensions of which do not exceed 2 feet in height, 2 feet in width, and 2 feet in depth. However, such traps may 3 be used only north of latitude 27° N. 4 5 Section 4. Paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to 6 subsection (4) of section 370.12, Florida Statutes, to read: 7 370.12 Marine animals; regulation. --(4) ANNUAL FUNDING OF PROGRAMS FOR MARINE ANIMALS. --8 (d) Up to 10 percent of the annual use fee deposited 9 into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund from the sale of the 10 manatee license plate authorized in s. 320.08058 may be used 11 12 to promote and market the manatee license plate issued by the 13 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles after June 30, 2007. 14 (e) For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the annual use fee 15 deposited into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund from the sale 16 17 of the manatee license plate authorized in s. 320.08058 may be 18 used by the commission to buy back any manatee license plates not issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor 19 Vehicles thru June 30, 2006. This paragraph expires July 1, 2.0 21 2008. 22 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 370.13, Florida 23 Statutes, is amended to read: 370.13 Stone crab; regulation.--2.4 (1) FEES AND EQUITABLE RENT. --2.5 (a) Endorsement fee. -- The fee for a stone crab 26 27 endorsement for the taking of stone crabs, as required by rule 2.8 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is \$125, \$25 29 of which must be used solely for trap retrieval under s.

(b) Certificate fees.--

370.143.

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- 1. For each trap certificate issued by the commission under the requirements of the stone crab trap limitation program established by commission rule, there is an annual fee of 50 cents per certificate. Replacement tags for lost or damaged tags cost 50 cents each. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees, except that tags lost in the event of a major natural disaster declared as an emergency disaster by the Governor shall be replaced for the cost of the tag as incurred by the commission.
- 2. The fee for transferring trap certificates is \$1 per certificate transferred, except that the fee for eligible crew members is 50 cents per certificate transferred. Eliqible crew members shall be determined according to criteria established by rule of the commission. Payment must be made by money order or cashier's check, submitted with the certificate transfer form developed by the commission.
- 3. In addition to the transfer fee, a surcharge of \$1 per certificate transferred, or 25 percent of the actual value of the transferred certificate, whichever is greater, will be assessed the first time a certificate is transferred outside the original holder's immediate family.
- 4. Transfer fees and surcharges only apply to the actual number of certificates received by the purchaser. A transfer of a certificate is not effective until the commission receives a notarized copy of the bill of sale as proof of the actual value of the transferred certificate or

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certificates, which must also be submitted with the transfer form and payment.

5. A transfer fee will not be assessed or required when the transfer is within a family as a result of the death or disability of the certificate owner. A surcharge will not be assessed for any transfer within an individual's immediate family.

## 6. The fees and surcharge amounts in this paragraph apply in the 2005 2006 license year and subsequent years.

- (c) Incidental take endorsement. -- The cost of an incidental take endorsement, as established by commission rule, is \$25.
- (d) Equitable rent. -- The commission may establish by rule an amount of equitable rent per trap certificate that may be recovered as partial compensation to the state for the enhanced access to its natural resources. In determining whether to establish such a rent and the amount thereof, the commission may consider the amount of revenues annually generated by endorsement fees, trap certificate fees, transfer fees, surcharges, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees, incidental take endorsement fees, and the continued economic viability of the commercial stone crab industry. A rule establishing an amount of equitable rent shall become effective only after approval by the Legislature. Final approval of such a rule shall be by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- (e) Disposition of fees, surcharges, civil penalties and fines, and equitable rent. -- Endorsement fees, trap certificate fees, transfer fees, civil penalties and fines, surcharges, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees,

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incidental take endorsement fees, and equitable rent, if any, must be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Up to Not more than 50 percent of the revenues generated under this section may be used for operation and administration of the stone crab trap limitation program. All The remaining revenues so generated must under this program are to be used for trap retrieval, management of the stone crab fishery, public education activities, evaluation of the impact of trap reductions on the stone crab fishery, and enforcement activities in support of the stone crab trap limitation program.

- (f) Program to be self-supporting.—The stone crab trap limitation program is intended to be a self-supporting program funded from proceeds generated under this section.
- (g) No vested rights.--The stone crab trap limitation program does not create any vested rights for endorsement or certificateholders and may be altered or terminated by the commission as necessary to protect the stone crab resource, the participants in the fishery, or the public interest.

Section 6. Section 370.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.135 Blue crab; regulation.--

(1)(a) No commercial harvester shall transport on the water, fish with or cause to be fished with, set, or place any trap designed for taking blue crabs unless such commercial harvester holds is the holder of a valid saltwater products license issued under pursuant to s. 370.06 and a blue crab endorsement issued under this section and the trap has a current state number permanently attached to the buoy. The blue crab endorsement trap number shall be affixed in legible figures at least 1 inch high on each buoy used. The saltwater

products license must be on board the boat, and both the license and the crabs shall be subject to inspection at all times. Only one endorsement trap number may be issued for each 3 boat by the commission upon receipt of an application on forms prescribed by it. This subsection shall not apply to an individual fishing with no more than five traps. 7 (b) It is unlawful for any person willfully to molest any blue crab traps, lines, or buoys, as defined herein, 8

belonging to another without the express written consent of the trap owner.

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A commercial harvester who violates this paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2. Any other person who violates this paragraph commits a Level Four violation under s. 372.83.

a period of 24 calendar months.

Any commercial harvester receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of willful molestation of a trap, in addition to the penalties specified in s. 370.021, shall lose all saltwater fishing privileges for

(c)1. It is unlawful for any person to remove the contents of or take possession of another harvester's blue crab trap without the express written consent of the trap owner available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another's trap gear or removal of trap contents constitutes theft.

a. Any commercial harvester receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of theft of or from a trap pursuant to this section or s. 370.1107 shall, in addition to the penalties specified in s.

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370.021 and the provisions of this section, permanently lose all saltwater fishing privileges, including any saltwater products license and blue crab endorsement. In such cases endorsements are nontransferable.

In addition, any commercial harvester receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for violating this subsection or s. 370.1107 shall also be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000. Immediately upon receiving a citation for a violation involving theft of or from a trap and until adjudicated for such a violation, or receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for such a violation, the commercial harvester committing the violation is prohibited from transferring any blue crab endorsements.

A commercial harvester who violates this paragraph shall be punished under s. 370.021. Any other person who violates this paragraph commits a Level Two violation under s. <del>372.83.</del>

(2) No person shall harvest blue crabs with more than five traps, harvest blue crabs in commercial quantities, or sell blue crabs unless such person holds a valid saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement and a blue crab endorsement (trap number) issued pursuant to this section subsection.

(a) Effective June 1, 1998, and until July 1, 2002, no blue crab endorsement (trap number), except those endorsements that are active during the 1997 1998 fiscal year, shall be renewed or replaced.

(b) Effective January 1, 1999, and until July 1, 2002, trap number holder, or members of his or her immediate

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family, must request renewal of the endorsement prior to September 30 of each year.

(c) If a person holding an active blue crab endorsement, or a member of that person's immediate family, does not request renewal of the endorsement before the applicable dates as specified in this subsection, the commission shall deactivate that endorsement.

(a)(d) In the event of the death or disability of a person holding an active blue crab endorsement, the endorsement may be transferred by the person to a member of his or her immediate family or may be renewed by any person so designated by the executor of the person's estate.

(b) A commercial harvester who holds a saltwater products license and a blue crab endorsement that is issued to the commercial harvester's vessel registration number and who replaces an existing vessel with a new vessel may transfer the existing blue crab endorsement to the saltwater products license of the new vessel.

(e) Persons who hold saltwater products licenses with blue crab endorsements issued to their boat registration numbers and who subsequently replace their existing vessels with new vessels shall be permitted to transfer the existing licenses to the new boat registration numbers.

## (3)(a) Endorsement fees. --

The fee for a hard-shell blue crab endorsement for the taking of hard-shell blue crabs, as authorized by rule of the commission, is \$125, \$25 of which must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.

2. The fee for a soft-shell blue crab endorsement for the taking of soft-shell blue crabs, as authorized by rule of

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the commission, is \$250, \$25 of which must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.

- 3. The fee for a nontransferable hard-shell blue crab endorsement for the taking of hard-shell blue crabs, as authorized by rule of the commission, is \$125, \$25 of which must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.
- 4. The fee for an incidental-take blue crab endorsement for the taking of blue crabs as bycatch in shrimp trawls and stone crab traps, as authorized in commission rules, is \$25.
- (b) Trap tag fees. -- The annual fee for each trap tag issued by the commission under the requirements of the blue crab effort management program established by rule of the commission is 50 cents per tag. The fee for replacement tags for lost or damaged tags is 50 cents per tag plus the cost of shipping. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees.
- (c) Equitable rent. -- The commission may establish by rule an amount of equitable rent that may be recovered as partial compensation to the state for the enhanced access to its natural resources. In determining whether to establish such a rent and the amount thereof, the commission may consider the amount of revenues annually generated by endorsement fees, trap tag fees, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees, and the continued economic viability of the commercial blue crab industry. A rule establishing an

amount of equitable rent shall become effective only upon 2 approval by act of the Legislature. (d) Disposition of moneys generated from fees and 3 4 administrative penalties .-- Moneys generated from the sale of 5 blue crab endorsements, trap tags, and replacement trap tags, 6 or from the assessment of administrative penalties by the 7 commission under this section shall be deposited into the 8 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Up to 50 percent of the moneys generated from the sale of endorsements and trap 9 10 tags and the assessment of administrative penalties may be used for the operation and administration of the blue crab 11 12 effort management program. The remaining moneys generated from 13 the sale of endorsements and trap tags and the assessment of administrative penalties may be used for trap retrieval; 14 management of the blue crab fishery; and public-education 15 16 activities, research, and enforcement activities in support of 17 the blue crab effort management program. 18 (e) Waiver of fees. -- For the 2007-2008 license year, the commission shall waive all fees under this subsection for 19 all persons who qualify by September 30, 2007, to participate 2.0 21 in the blue crab effort management program established by 2.2 commission rule. 23 (4)(a) Untagged trap penalties. -- In addition to any other penalties provided in s. 370.021 for any blue crab 2.4 endorsement holder who violates commission rules requiring the 2.5 placement of trap tags for each trap used for the directed 26

For a first violation, the commission shall assess an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 and the blue crab

harvest of blue crabs, the following administrative penalties

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endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be suspended for the remainder of the current license year.

- 2. For a second violation that occurs within 24 months after any previous such violation, the commission shall assess an administrative penalty of up to \$2,000 and the blue crab endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be suspended for 12 calendar months.
- 3. For a third violation that occurs within 36 months after any two previous such violations, the commission shall assess an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 and the blue crab endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be suspended for 24 calendar months.
- 4. A fourth violation that occurs within 48 months after any three previous such violations shall result in permanent revocation of all of the violator's saltwater fishing privileges, including having the commission proceed against the endorsement holder's saltwater products license in accordance with s. 370.021.

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Any blue crab endorsement holder assessed an administrative penalty under this paragraph shall, within 30 calendar days after notification, pay the administrative penalty to the commission or request an administrative hearing under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

(b) Trap theft; prohibitions and penalties. -- It is unlawful for any person to remove or take possession of the contents of another harvester's blue crab trap without the express written consent of the trap owner, which must be available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another harvester's blue crab trap gear or removal of trap

contents constitutes theft. 31

1	1. Any commercial harvester receiving a judicial
2	disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of
3	theft of or from a trap as prohibited by this paragraph shall,
4	in addition to the penalties specified in s. 370.021 and this
5	section, permanently lose all saltwater fishing privileges,
6	including any saltwater products licenses, blue crab
7	endorsements and blue crab trap tags allotted to him or her by
8	the commission. In such cases endorsements are
9	nontransferable.
10	2. In addition, any commercial harvester receiving a
11	judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for
12	violating this paragraph shall also be assessed an
13	administrative penalty of up to \$5,000. Immediately upon
14	receipt of a citation for a violation involving theft of or
15	from a trap and until adjudicated for such a violation, or
16	upon receipt of a judicial disposition other than dismissal or
17	acquittal for such a violation, the commercial harvester
18	committing the violation is prohibited from transferring any
19	blue crab endorsements.
20	3. A commercial harvester who violates this paragraph
21	shall be punished under s. 370.021. Any other person who
22	violates this paragraph commits a Level Two violation under s.
23	<u>372.83.</u>
24	(c) Criminal activities prohibited
25	1. It is unlawful for any commercial harvester or any
26	other person to:
27	a. Willfully molest any blue crab trap, line or buoy
28	that is the property of any licenseholder without the
29	permission of that licenseholder.
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1	b. Barter, trade, lease, or sell a blue crab trap tag,
2	or conspire or aid in such barter, trade, lease, or sale
3	unless duly authorized by commission rules.
4	c. Supply, agree to supply, aid in supplying, or give
5	away a blue crab trap tag unless duly authorized by commission
6	rules.
7	d. Make, alter, forge, counterfeit, or reproduce a
8	blue crab trap taq.
9	e. Possess an altered, forged, counterfeit, or
10	imitation blue crab trap tag.
11	f. Possess a number of original trap tags or
12	replacement trap tags, the sum of which exceeds by 1 percent
13	the number of traps allowed by commission rules.
14	g. Engage in the commercial harvest of blue crabs
15	while the blue crab endorsements of the license holder are
16	under suspension or revocation.
17	2. Immediately upon receiving a citation involving a
18	violation of this paragraph and until adjudicated for such a
19	violation, a commercial harvester is prohibited from
20	transferring any blue crab endorsement.
21	3. A commercial harvester convicted of violating this
22	paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
23	provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, shall also
24	be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000, and is
25	immediately prohibited from transferring any blue crab
26	endorsement. All blue crab endorsements issued to a commercial
27	harvester convicted of violating this paragraph may be
28	suspended for up to 24 calendar months.
29	4. Any other person convicted of violating this
30	paragraph commits a Level Four violation under s. 372.83.

1	(d) Endorsement transfers; fraudulent reports;						
2	penaltiesFor a commercial harvester convicted of						
3	fraudulently reporting the actual value of transferred blue						
4	crab endorsements, the commission may automatically suspend or						
5	permanently revoke the seller's or the purchaser's blue crab						
6	endorsements. If the endorsement is permanently revoked, the						
7	commission shall also permanently deactivate the endorsement						
8	holder's blue crab trap tag accounts.						
9	(e) Prohibitions during endorsement suspension and						
10	revocation During any period of suspension or after						
11	revocation of a blue crab endorsement holder's endorsements,						
12	he or she shall, within 15 days after notice provided by the						
13	commission, remove from the water all traps subject to that						
14	endorsement. Failure to do so shall extend the period of						
15	suspension for an additional 6 calendar months.						
16	(5) For purposes of this section, a conviction is any						
17	disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.						
18	(6) A blue crab endorsement may not be renewed until						
19	all fees and administrative penalties imposed under this						
20	section are paid.						
21	(7) Subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) shall expire on						
22	July 1, 2009, unless reenacted by the Legislature during the						
23	2009 Regular Session.						
24	Section 7. For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the sum of						
25	\$132,000 is appropriated from the Marine Resources						
26	Conservation Trust Fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation						
27	Commission on a recurring basis for the purpose of						
28	implementing the blue crab effort management program pursuant						
29	to s. 370.135(3)(b), Florida Statutes, and for the						
30	administrative costs of the Blue Crab Advisory Board created						
31	by commission rule						

Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 370.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

370.14 Spiny lobster; regulation.--

- (2)(a)1. Each commercial harvester taking or attempting to take spiny lobster with a trap in commercial quantities or for commercial purposes shall obtain and exhibit a spiny lobster endorsement trap number, as required by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The annual fee for a spiny lobster endorsement trap number is \$125. This endorsement trap number may be issued by the commission upon the receipt of application by the commercial harvester when accompanied by the payment of the fee. The design of the applications and of the trap number shall be determined by the commission. Any trap or device used in taking or attempting to take spiny lobster, other than a trap with the endorsement trap number, shall be seized and destroyed by the commission. The proceeds of the fees imposed by this paragraph shall be deposited and used as provided in paragraph (b). The commission may adopt rules to carry out the intent of this section.
- 2. Each commercial harvester taking or attempting to take spiny lobster in commercial quantities or for commercial purposes by any method, other than with a trap having a spiny lobster endorsement trap number issued by the commission, must pay an annual fee of \$100.
- (b) Twenty-five dollars of the \$125 fee for a spiny lobster endorsement trap number required under subparagraph (a)1. must be used only for trap retrieval as provided in s. 370.143. The remainder of the fees collected under pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be deposited as follows:

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1. Fifty percent of the fees collected shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for use in enforcing the provisions of paragraph (a) through aerial and other surveillance and trap retrieval.

- 2. Fifty percent of the fees collected shall be deposited as provided in s. 370.142(5).
- (3) The spiny lobster endorsement license must be on board the boat, and both the endorsement license and the harvested spiny lobster shall be subject to inspection at all times. Only one endorsement license shall be issued for each boat. The spiny lobster endorsement license number must be prominently displayed above the topmost portion of the boat so as to be easily and readily identified.
- Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 370.142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 370.142 Spiny lobster trap certificate program.--
- (2) TRANSFERABLE TRAP CERTIFICATES; TRAP TAGS; FEES; PENALTIES. -- The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall establish a trap certificate program for the spiny lobster fishery of this state and shall be responsible for its administration and enforcement as follows:
- (a) Transferable trap certificates.--Each holder of a saltwater products license who uses traps for taking or attempting to take spiny lobsters shall be required to have a certificate on record for each trap possessed or used therefor, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 1. The Department of Environmental Protection shall initially allot such certificates to each licenseholder with a current spiny lobster endorsement crawfish trap number who uses traps. The number of such certificates allotted to each such licenseholder shall be based on the trap/catch

coefficient established pursuant to trip ticket records 2 generated under the provisions of s. 370.06(2) over a 3-year base period ending June 30, 1991. The trap/catch coefficient 3 shall be calculated by dividing the sum of the highest 4 reported single license-year landings up to a maximum of 5 6 30,000 pounds for each such licenseholder during the base 7 period by 700,000. Each such licenseholder shall then be 8 allotted the number of certificates derived by dividing his or 9 her highest reported single license-year landings up to a maximum of 30,000 pounds during the base period by the 10 trap/catch coefficient. Nevertheless, no licenseholder with a 11 12 current spiny lobster endorsement <del>crawfish trap</del> number shall 13 be allotted fewer than 10 certificates. However, certificates may only be issued to individuals; therefore, all 14 licenseholders other than individual licenseholders shall 15 designate the individual or individuals to whom their 16 17 certificates will be allotted and the number thereof to each, 18 if more than one. After initial issuance, trap certificates are transferable on a market basis and may be transferred from 19 one licenseholder to another for a fair market value agreed 20 21 upon between the transferor and transferee. Each such transfer 22 shall, within 72 hours thereof, be recorded on a notarized 23 form provided for that purpose by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and hand delivered or sent by 2.4 25 certified mail, return receipt requested, to the commission 26 for recordkeeping purposes. In addition, In order to cover the 27 added administrative costs of the program and to recover an 2.8 equitable natural resource rent for the people of the state, a 29 transfer fee of \$2 per certificate transferred shall be assessed against the purchasing licenseholder and sent by 30 money order or cashier's check with the certificate transfer

form. Also, in addition to the transfer fee, a surcharge of \$5 per certificate transferred or 25 percent of the actual market value, whichever is greater, given to the transferor shall be 3 assessed the first time a certificate is transferred outside 4 the original transferor's immediate family. No transfer of a 5 6 certificate shall be effective until the commission receives 7 the notarized transfer form and the transfer fee, including 8 any surcharge, is paid. The commission may establish by rule 9 an amount of equitable rent per trap certificate that shall be recovered as partial compensation to the state for the 10 enhanced access to its natural resources. A rule establishing 11 12 an amount of equitable rent shall become effective only after 13 approval by the Legislature Final approval of such a rule shall be by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of 14 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. In 15 determining whether to establish such a rent and, if so, the 16 17 amount thereof, the commission shall consider the amount of 18 revenues annually generated by certificate fees, transfer fees, surcharges, trap license fees, and sales taxes, the 19 demonstrated fair market value of transferred certificates, 2.0 21 and the continued economic viability of the commercial lobster 22 industry. All The proceeds of equitable rent recovered must 23 shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used by the commission for research, management, and 2.4 protection of the spiny lobster fishery and habitat. A 2.5 26 transfer fee may not be assessed or required when the transfer 27 is within a family as a result of the death or disability of the certificate owner. A surcharge will not be assessed for 29 any transfer within an individual's immediate family. 30 2. No person, firm, corporation, or other business entity may control, directly or indirectly, more than 1.5

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30 31 percent of the total available certificates in any license year.

- 3. The commission shall maintain records of all certificates and their transfers and shall annually provide each licenseholder with a statement of certificates held.
- 4. The number of trap tags issued annually to each licenseholder shall not exceed the number of certificates held by the licenseholder at the time of issuance, and such tags and a statement of certificates held shall be issued simultaneously.
- 5. Beginning July 1, 2003, and applicable to the 2003 2004 lobster season and thereafter, It is unlawful for any person to lease spiny lobster trap tags or certificates.
- (b) Trap tags. -- Each trap used to take or attempt to take spiny lobsters in state waters or adjacent federal waters shall, in addition to the spiny lobster endorsement crawfish trap number required by s. 370.14(2), have affixed thereto an annual trap tag issued by the commission. Each such tag shall be made of durable plastic or similar material and shall, based on the number of certificates held, have stamped thereon the owner's license number. To facilitate enforcement and recordkeeping, such tags shall be issued each year in a color different from that of each of the previous 3 years. The annual certificate fee shall be \$1 per certificate. Replacement tags for lost or damaged tags may be obtained as provided by rule of the commission. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees.
  - (c) Prohibitions; penalties. --

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- 1. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use a spiny lobster trap in or on state waters or adjacent federal waters without having affixed thereto the trap tag required by this section. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use any other gear or device designed to attract and enclose or otherwise aid in the taking of spiny lobster by trapping that is not a trap as defined by commission rule.
- 2. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use spiny lobster trap tags without having the necessary number of certificates on record as required by this section.
- 3. It is unlawful for any person to willfully molest, take possession of, or remove the contents of another harvester's spiny lobster trap without the express written consent of the trap owner available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another's trap gear or removal of trap contents constitutes theft.
- a. A commercial harvester who violates this subparagraph shall be punished under ss. 370.021 and 370.14. Any commercial harvester receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of theft of or from a trap pursuant to this subparagraph or s. 370.1107 shall, in addition to the penalties specified in ss. 370.021 and 370.14 and the provisions of this section, permanently lose all his or her saltwater fishing privileges, including his or her saltwater products license, spiny lobster endorsement, and all trap certificates allotted to him or her through this program. In such cases, trap certificates and endorsements are nontransferable.
- b. Any commercial harvester receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of willful molestation of a trap, in addition to the penalties

specified in ss. 370.021 and 370.14, shall lose all saltwater fishing privileges for a period of 24 calendar months.

c. In addition, any commercial harvester charged with violating this <u>subparagraph</u> <del>paragraph</del> and receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for violating this subparagraph or s. 370.1107 shall also be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000.

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Immediately upon receiving a citation for a violation involving theft of or from a trap, or molestation of a trap, and until adjudicated for such a violation or, upon receipt of a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal of such a violation, the commercial harvester person, firm, or corporation committing the violation is prohibited from transferring any spiny lobster trap certificates and endorsements.

- 4. In addition to any other penalties provided in s. 370.021, a commercial harvester who violates the provisions of this section or commission rules relating to spiny lobster traps shall be punished as follows:
- a. If the first violation is for violation of subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the commission shall assess an additional administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 and the spiny lobster endorsement trap number issued under pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) may be suspended for the remainder of the current license year. For all other first violations, the commission shall assess an additional administrative penalty of up to \$500.
- b. For a second violation of subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. which occurs within 24 months of any previous such violation, the commission shall assess an additional

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administrative penalty of up to \$2,000 and the spiny lobster endorsement trap number issued under pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) may be suspended for the remainder of the current license year.

- c. For a third or subsequent violation of subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. which occurs within 36 months of any previous two such violations, the commission shall assess an additional administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 and may suspend the spiny lobster endorsement trap number issued under pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) for a period of up to 24 months or may revoke the spiny lobster endorsement trap number and, if revoking the spiny lobster endorsement trap number, may also proceed against the licenseholder's saltwater products license in accordance with the provisions of s. 370.021(2)(h).
- d. Any person assessed an additional administrative penalty pursuant to this section shall within 30 calendar days after notification:
- (I) Pay the administrative penalty to the commission; or
- (II) Request an administrative hearing pursuant to the provisions of ss. 120.569 and 120.57.
- e. The commission shall suspend the spiny lobster endorsement trap number issued pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) for any person failing to comply with the provisions of sub-subparagraph d.
- 27 5.a. It is unlawful for any person to make, alter, forge, counterfeit, or reproduce a spiny lobster trap tag or 29 certificate.

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- b. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly have in his or her possession a forged, counterfeit, or imitation spiny lobster trap tag or certificate.
- c. It is unlawful for any person to barter, trade, sell, supply, agree to supply, aid in supplying, or give away a spiny lobster trap tag or certificate or to conspire to barter, trade, sell, supply, aid in supplying, or give away a spiny lobster trap tag or certificate unless such action is duly authorized by the commission as provided in this chapter or in the rules of the commission.
- 6.a. Any commercial harvester who violates the provisions of subparagraph 5., or any commercial harvester who engages in the commercial harvest, trapping, or possession of spiny lobster without a spiny lobster endorsement trap number as required by s. 370.14(2) or (6) or during any period while such spiny lobster <u>endorsement</u> trap number is under suspension or revocation, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- b. In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to sub-subparagraph a., the commission shall levy a fine of up to twice the amount of the appropriate surcharge to be paid on the fair market value of the transferred certificates, as provided in subparagraph (a)1., on any commercial harvester who violates the provisions of sub-subparagraph 5.c.
- c. In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to sub-subparagraph a., any commercial harvester receiving any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal for a violation of subparagraph 5. shall be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000, and the spiny lobster endorsement under which the violation was committed may be

suspended for up to 24 calendar months. Immediately upon 2 issuance of a citation involving a violation of subparagraph 5. and until adjudication of such a violation, and after 3 4 receipt of any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal for such a violation, the commercial harvester 5 holding the spiny lobster endorsement listed on the citation 7 is prohibited from transferring any spiny lobster trap 8 certificates.

d.e. Any other person who violates the provisions of subparagraph 5. commits a Level Four violation under s. 372.83.

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- 7. Any certificates for which the annual certificate fee is not paid for a period of 3 years shall be considered abandoned and shall revert to the commission. During any period of trap reduction, any certificates reverting to the commission shall become permanently unavailable and be considered in that amount to be reduced during the next license-year period. Otherwise, any certificates that revert to the commission are to be reallotted in such manner as provided by the commission.
- 8. The proceeds of all <u>administrative</u> <del>civil</del> penalties collected pursuant to subparagraph 4. and all fines collected pursuant to sub-subparagraph 6.b. must shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.
- 9. All traps shall be removed from the water during any period of suspension or revocation.
- 27 10. Except as otherwise provided, any person who violates this paragraph commits a Level Two violation under s. 372.83. 29
- 30 (d) No vested rights. -- The trap certificate program shall not create vested rights in licenseholders whatsoever

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and may be altered or terminated as necessary to protect the spiny lobster resource, the participants in the fishery, or the public interest.

Section 10. Section 370.143, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.143 Retrieval of spiny lobster, crawfish, and stone crab, blue crab, and black sea bass traps during closed season; commission authority; fees.--

- (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to implement a trap retrieval program for retrieval of spiny lobster, crawfish, and stone crab, blue crab, and black sea bass traps remaining in the water during the closed season for each species. The commission is authorized to contract with outside agents for the program operation.
- (2) A retrieval fee of \$10 per trap retrieved shall be assessed trap owners. However, for each person holding a spiny lobster endorsement, crawfish stamp number or a stone crab endorsement, or a blue crab endorsement issued under rule of the commission, the retrieval fee shall be waived for the first five traps retrieved. Traps recovered under this program shall become the property of the commission or its contract agent, as determined by the commission, and shall be either destroyed or resold to the original owner. Revenue from retrieval fees <u>must</u> shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used solely for operation of the trap retrieval program.
- (3) Payment of all assessed retrieval fees shall be required prior to renewal of the trap owner's saltwater products license and stone crab and or crawfish endorsements. Retrieval fees assessed under this program shall stand in lieu of other penalties imposed for such trap violations.

In the event of a major natural disaster, such as 2 a hurricane or major storm, which causes major trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster 3 4 emergency area, the commission shall waive the trap retrieval fee. In the event of a major natural disaster in an area 5 declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, such 6 7 as a hurricane or major storm causing massive trap losses, the 8 commission shall waive the trap retrieval fee. Section 11. Section 372.09, Florida Statutes, is 9 10 amended to read: 372.09 State Game Trust Fund. -- The funds resulting 11 12 from the operation of the commission and from the 13 administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to birds, game, fur-bearing animals, freshwater fish, reptiles, 14 and amphibians, together with any other funds specifically 15 provided for such purposes shall constitute the State Game 16 Trust Fund and shall be used by the commission as it shall 18 deem fit in carrying out the provisions hereof and for no other purposes, except that annual use fees deposited into the 19 trust fund from the sale of the Largemouth Bass license plate 2.0 21 may be expended for the purposes provided under s. 22 320.08058(18). The commission may not obligate itself beyond 23 the current resources of the State Game Trust Fund unless specifically so authorized by the Legislature. 2.4 Section 12. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) 2.5 26 of section 372.672, Florida Statutes, to read: 27 372.672 Florida Panther Research and Management Trust 2.8 Fund.--29 (2) Money from the fund shall be spent only for the

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Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 372.83, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 372.83 Penalties and violations; civil penalties for noncriminal infractions; criminal penalties; suspension and forfeiture of licenses and permits. --
- (2)(a) LEVEL TWO VIOLATIONS. -- A person commits a Level Two violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:
- 1. Rules or orders of the commission relating to seasons or time periods for the taking of wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish.
- 2. Rules or orders of the commission establishing bag, possession, or size limits or restricting methods of taking wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish.
- 3. Rules or orders of the commission prohibiting access or otherwise relating to access to wildlife management areas or other areas managed by the commission.
- 4. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the feeding of wildlife, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish.
- 5. Rules or orders of the commission relating to landing requirements for freshwater fish or saltwater fish.
- 6. Rules or orders of the commission relating to restricted hunting areas, critical wildlife areas, or bird sanctuaries.
- 7. Rules or orders of the commission relating to tagging requirements for game and fur-bearing animals.
- 30 8. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the use of dogs for the taking of game.

- 9. Rules or orders of the commission which are not otherwise classified.
- 10. All prohibitions in chapter 370 which are not otherwise classified.
- 11. Section 370.028, prohibiting the violation of or noncompliance with commission rules.
- 12. Section 370.021(6) prohibiting the sale, purchase, harvest, or attempted harvest of any saltwater product with intent to sell.
- 13. Section 370.08, prohibiting the obstruction of waterways with net gear.
- 12 14. Section 370.1105, prohibiting the unlawful use of finfish traps.
- 14 15. Section 370.1121, prohibiting the unlawful taking 15 of bonefish.
  - 16. Section 370.13(2)(a) and (b), prohibiting the possession or use of stone crab traps without trap tags and theft of trap contents or gear.
- 19 17. Section 370.135(4)(b) 370.135(1)(c), prohibiting 20 the theft of blue crab trap contents or trap gear.
- 21 18. Section 370.142(2)(c), prohibiting the possession 22 or use of spiny lobster traps without trap tags or 23 certificates and theft of trap contents or trap gear.
- 19. Section 372.5704, prohibiting the possession of tarpon without purchasing a tarpon tag.
- 26 20. Section 372.667, prohibiting the feeding or enticement of alligators or crocodiles.
- 28 21. Section 372.705, prohibiting the intentional harassment of hunters, fishers, or trappers.

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- (4)(a) LEVEL FOUR VIOLATIONS. -- A person commits a Level Four violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:
- 1. Section 370.13(2)(c), prohibiting criminal activities relating to the taking of stone crabs.

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- 2. Section 370.135(4)(c) 370.135(1)(b), prohibiting criminal activities relating to the taking and harvesting of blue crabs the willful molestation of blue crab gear.
- 3. Section 370.14(4), prohibiting the willful molestation of spiny lobster gear.
- 4. Section 370.142(2)(c)5., prohibiting the unlawful 11 12 reproduction, possession, sale, trade, or barter of spiny 13 lobster trap tags or certificates.
  - 5. Section 372.57(16), prohibiting the making, forging, counterfeiting, or reproduction of a recreational license or possession of same without authorization from the commission.
- 6. Section 372.99(5), prohibiting the sale of 18 illegally-taken deer or wild turkey. 19
  - 7. Section 372.99022, prohibiting the molestation or theft of freshwater fishing gear.
  - Section 14. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 380.511, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:
- 27 380.511 Florida Communities Trust Fund.--
- 2.8 (1) There is created the Florida Communities Trust Fund as a nonlapsing, revolving fund for projects, activities, 29 acquisitions, and operating expenses necessary to carry out 30 this part. The fund shall be held and administered by the

trust. The following shall be credited to or deposited in the 2 Florida Communities Trust Fund: (c) Proceeds from the sale of environmental license 3 plates authorized in s. 320.08058(5). 4 5 Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 6 20.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 7 20.331 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.--(8) ADEQUATE DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES. --8 9 (a) The commission shall adopt a rule establishing 10 adequate due process procedures to be accorded to any party, as defined in s. 120.52, whose substantial interests are 11 12 affected by any action of the commission in the performance of 13 its constitutional duties and responsibilities and the adequate due process procedures adopted by rule shall be 14 published in the Florida Administrative Code. The commission 15 shall implement a system of adequate due process procedures to 16 17 be accorded to any party, as defined in s. 120.52, whose 18 substantial interests will be affected by any action of the commission in the performance of its constitutional duties or 19 20 responsibilities. 21 Section 16. Subsection (4) of section 370.025, Florida 22 Statutes, is amended to read: 23 370.025 Marine fisheries; policy and standards.--(4) Pursuant to s. 9, Art. IV of the State 2.4 Constitution, the commission has full constitutional 2.5 26 rulemaking authority over marine life, and listed species as 27 defined in s. 372.072(3), except for: 2.8 (a) Endangered or threatened marine species for which 29 rulemaking shall be done pursuant to chapter 120; and

1	(b) The authority to regulate fishing gear in						
2	residential, manmade saltwater canals which is retained by the						
3	Legislature and specifically not delegated to the commission.						
4	(c) Marine aquaculture products produced by an						
5	individual certified under s. 597.004. This exception does not						
6	apply to snook, prohibited and restricted marine species						
7	identified by rule of the commission, and rulemaking authority						
8	granted <u>under</u> <del>pursuant to</del> s. 370.027.						
9	Section 17. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.						
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12	SENATE SUMMARY						
13	Authorizes use of various annual use fees for specialty license plates concerning various wildlife species to						
14	promote, market, or buy back such plates. Provides for deposit and use of certain funds in the Marine Resources						
15	Conservation Trust Fund. Requires legislative approval of certain commission rules establishing equitable rent.						
16	Establishes or authorizes waiver of various endorsement						
17	or trap replacement tag fees under certain conditions.  Prohibits certain activities concerning blue crabs or						
18	spiny lobsters. Provides penalties for various prohibited activities concerning blue crabs or spiny lobsters. Reserves state jurisdiction for certain convictions.						
19	Provides requirements for renewal of certain licenses.  Provides for the expiration of certain provisions unless						
20	reenacted in 2009. Appropriates certain fee revenues to the commission for blue crab management. Revises						
21	provisions for certain trap retrieval programs and fees.  Authorizes waiver of trap retrieval fees under certain						
22	conditions. Modifies provisions concerning rulemaking by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (See bill						
the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (See E for details.)							
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