

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Ports and Marine
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2553

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-84, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY REGULATION OF CRAB TRAPS AND FEMALE CRABS BEARING EGGS;
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-84, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-15-84. (1) The commission shall coordinate with the Gulf
8 Coast Research Laboratory in the development of an ordinance for
9 the purpose of taking *Callinectes sapidus* (blue crab) or allied
10 species. The ordinance shall include provisions for the
11 establishment of size limits for individual or market use as well
12 as establishing legal harvest size for the cultivating of peeler
13 crabs and soft-shell crabs.

14 (2) The commission shall establish * * * specifications for
15 crab traps and shall require buoys of adequate size which are
16 identified as to the owner of the buoys and traps. * * *
17 Recreational crabbers may use no more than six (6) crab traps per
18 household. The taking of crabs with drop nets is permitted
19 without a license.

20 (3) (a) It is unlawful to catch, hold or have in possession
21 any female sponge crab or any female crab bearing visible eggs at
22 any time within marine waters. It is not unlawful to catch those
23 crabs unintentionally, if the crabs are immediately returned to
24 the water.

25 (b) This subsection shall not apply to the importation
26 of female crabs, if the shipment of imported female sponge crabs
27 has with it an invoice from a licensed harvester from a state that



28 allows the taking of such crabs or a certificate from the
29 appropriate agency verifying that the crabs were taken legally.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2002.

