

By: Representatives Frierson, Janus, Palazzo To: Marine Resources

## HOUSE BILL NO. 990

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-64.4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO ALLOW LIVE BAIT DEALERS TO BE LOCATED INLAND WITHIN THE THREE  
3 COASTAL COUNTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-64.4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 49-15-64.4. (1) Each live bait catcher boat engaged in  
8 taking live bait shrimp shall pay an annual privilege tax of One  
9 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each boat engaged in those  
10 operations. The operations shall not exceed two (2) boats per  
11 license.

12 (2) Each "live bait dealer" engaging in selling or otherwise  
13 dispensing live bait to sport fishermen shall pay an annual  
14 privilege tax of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and must make written  
15 application to the commission providing the name of the  
16 applicant's "live bait catcher boat," the name of the captain of  
17 that "live bait catcher boat," the dealer's Mississippi state  
18 sales tax number and a sworn statement that dead shrimp will not  
19 be sold in containers having a volume in excess of sixteen (16)  
20 ounces. Licensed live bait catcher boats and licensed live bait  
21 dealers shall not operate as commercial shrimpers or commercial  
22 shrimp dealers or otherwise engage in commercial shrimping  
23 operations. Live bait dealers shall only sell or otherwise  
24 dispose of bait shrimp when alive or dead with heads attached  
25 solely as bait to recreational fishermen or other licensed live  
26 bait dealers as regulated by the commission. Only licensed  
27 commercial shrimpers may transport shrimp across the state line

28 for the purpose of selling or delivering live bait to another  
29 state. Any person, firm or corporation found guilty of purchasing  
30 shrimp from a live bait camp or live bait catcher boat, other than  
31 for the purpose described in this section, shall be fined Five  
32 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the first offense and shall be  
33 fined Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and forfeit all seafood  
34 licenses for a second or subsequent offense. In addition, each  
35 application for a "live bait dealer" license shall contain a  
36 statement of the operating hours, at least eight (8) per  
37 twenty-four-hour period, and the location of the camp which must  
38 be accessible to the general public by public road or waters  
39 located within the three (3) coastal counties. Applications for  
40 "live bait dealers" license must be completed and submitted to the  
41 commission between the first day of January and the last day of  
42 April of each year. Any "live bait dealer" desiring to engage in  
43 the catching of live shrimp in one (1) location and then  
44 transporting them to the dealer's licensed live bait camp by truck  
45 shall first make written application to the commission providing  
46 the make and model of the truck, a Mississippi license tag number  
47 and shall be responsible for its adherence to all regulations duly  
48 adopted by the commission for the transportation of live bait  
49 shrimp. Upon receipt of the application, the commission shall  
50 verify that the applicant is in compliance with all applicable  
51 laws and regulations and after that verification the commission  
52 shall issue a permit authorizing the transportation of live  
53 shrimp.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
55 and after its passage.