

HOUSE BILL 903

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70,
Chapter 2, relative to the commercial fishing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following new language as new part 3:

70-2-301.

(a) It is the expressed public policy of this state under Article XI, Section 13 of the Constitution of Tennessee, that commercial fishing is a necessary and beneficial component to responsible fishery management in this state.

(b) The wildlife resources agency is directed to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations necessary to promote commercial fishing activity as an economically viable commercial enterprise in Tennessee.

70-2-302. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, regulation, or proclamation to the contrary, in order to carry out the directive in § 70-2-301, rules and regulations regarding commercial roe fishing shall provide for the following:

(1) The open season for roe fishing shall be extended to May 15 for the Eastern grand division of the state as defined by § 4-1-202;

(2) Tennessee residents shall be given preference in licensing with a limit on non-resident permits; provided, however, existing license holders as of January 1, 2011, shall be allowed to renew;

(3) Commercial roe fishers shall be limited to ten (10) nets per day, six (6) if in the immediate proximity to a dam;

(4) All nets shall be properly bouyed to promote safety on the waters of this state;

(5) Current size limits and seasons shall be maintained in accordance with regulations maintained by the United States fish and wildlife service; and

(6) The wildlife resources agency shall adopt, by rules and regulations, a plan to maximize the lawful harvest of roe within sound fishery management practices by rotating the waters open for commercial roe fishing.

70-2-303. To assist the wildlife resources agency in developing the rules and plan in accordance with § 70-2-302, there is created a commercial fishing advisory committee who shall be consulted and have input in the rule making process. The committee shall be named by the wildlife resources executive director and shall include licensed commercial fishers and roe fishers, dealers, and buyers. The members of the committee shall serve as volunteers and shall not be paid or reimbursed for time served as committee members.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.