

SB 1153, HCA 1 -- HAND FISHING

SPONSOR: Goode (Hobbs)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 19 to 0.

This bill clarifies that a person will be allowed to hand fish for catfish or carp during the months of June and July.

HCA 1 -- Requires the Department of Conservation to establish regulations for hand fishing.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROponents: Supporters say that the Department of Conservation should regulate hand fishing. Hand fishing has a minimal effect on catfish populations, which are stable or growing in Missouri. There is no difference in catching a fish by jugging or hand fishing.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Self, Hobbs, and Shoemyer (9); Noodlers Anonymous; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that hand fishing has been illegal since 1919. Flathead catfish are not abundant in Missouri and take several years to mature. Hand fishing could severely hurt their populations.

Testifying against the bill were Department of Conservation; and Conservation Federation of Missouri.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst