

SB 1107 -- HAND FISHING

SPONSOR: Cauthorn (Hobbs)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 8 to 4.

This bill allows hand fishing of catfish and carp any time during the months of June and July within all Missouri waters open for hook-and-line fishing. The number of catfish taken by hand is limited to five per season. Any person engaging in hand fishing must use only his or her bare hands and not use any artificial breathing apparatus or other artificial structures. The Department of Conservation will furnish a form to each person taking catfish by hand to provide the department with a complete report within 10 days following the close of the season. Failure to do so will be sufficient cause for the denial of a fishing permit for the following season, and any violation of the laws regarding hand fishing will be a class A misdemeanor.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill regulates the sport of hand fishing, and hand fishermen have been very responsible by requesting regulations regarding hand fishing.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Cauthorn; Noodlers Anonymous; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there are biological concerns with permitting hand fishing in this state. A study is being conducted regarding those concerns, and it would be good to complete the study before legalizing the sport.

Testifying against the bill was Department of Conservation.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst