

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the regulation of commercial catfish fishing on Falcon  
3 Lake.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 66.111(b), Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

- 8 (1) a fish, other than a bass of the genus *Micropterus*,  
9 reared in private water under a fish farmer's license;
- 10 (2) a fish possessed legally outside this state and  
11 transported into this state;
- 12 (3) bass of the genus *Micropterus* reared in private  
13 water under a fish farmer's license and marketed for the purpose of  
14 stocking the water of this state;
- 15 (4) nongame fish regulated under Chapter 67 of this  
16 code;
- 17 (5) channel catfish of more than 14 inches in length or  
18 blue catfish of more than 14 inches in length taken from the public  
19 fresh water of Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Franklin,  
20 Freestone, Gregg, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Jasper, Jefferson,  
21 Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Morris,  
22 Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Red River,  
23 Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Titus, Trinity, Tyler,  
24 Upshur, or Walker County, the public fresh water of the Neches or

1 Trinity River in Houston County, [~~or~~] the public fresh water of the  
2 Colorado River in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Matagorda, or Wharton  
3 County, or the public fresh water of Falcon Lake in Starr or Zapata  
4 County.

5 SECTION 2. Title 7, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by  
6 adding Chapter 351 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 351. STARR AND ZAPATA COUNTIES

8 SUBCHAPTER A. FALCON LAKE

9 Sec. 351.001. COMMERCIAL CATFISH FISHING. (a)

10 Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by Subsection  
11 (b), a person may engage in commercial catfish fishing in the  
12 portion of Falcon Lake in this state that borders Starr and Zapata  
13 Counties if the person:

14 (1) holds the required commercial fishing license  
15 issued by the department; and

16 (2) engages in the commercial fishing on a vessel  
17 licensed as a commercial fishing boat by the department.

18 (b) The department may regulate the amount of catfish taken  
19 from the portion of Falcon Lake described by Subsection (a) if the  
20 department determines that regulation is necessary to protect the  
21 catfish population in Falcon Lake from depletion or waste.

22 (c) The commission may adopt rules related to commercial  
23 catfish fishing in Falcon Lake.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.