

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, a person may engage in commercial
11 catfish fishing in the portion of Falcon Lake in this state that
12 borders Starr and Zapata Counties if the person:

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

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

17 (b) The commission may adopt rules related to commercial
18 catfish fishing in Falcon Lake.

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