

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1181
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 15, 2019;
 1-3 April 16, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water
 1-4 & Rural Affairs; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the regulation of commercial catfish fishing on Falcon
 1-18 Lake.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 66.111(b), Parks and Wildlife Code, is
 1-21 amended to read as follows:

1-22 (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

1-23 (1) a fish, other than a bass of the genus *Micropterus*,
 1-24 reared in private water under a fish farmer's license;

1-25 (2) a fish possessed legally outside this state and
 1-26 transported into this state;

1-27 (3) bass of the genus *Micropterus* reared in private
 1-28 water under a fish farmer's license and marketed for the purpose of
 1-29 stocking the water of this state;

1-30 (4) nongame fish regulated under Chapter 67 of this
 1-31 code;

1-32 (5) channel catfish of more than 14 inches in length or
 1-33 blue catfish of more than 14 inches in length taken from the public
 1-34 fresh water of Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Franklin,
 1-35 Freestone, Gregg, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Jasper, Jefferson,
 1-36 Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Morris,
 1-37 Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Red River,
 1-38 Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Titus, Trinity, Tyler,
 1-39 Upshur, or Walker County, the public fresh water of the Neches or
 1-40 Trinity River in Houston County, ~~or~~ the public fresh water of the
 1-41 Colorado River in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Matagorda, or Wharton
 1-42 County, or the public fresh water of Falcon Lake in Starr or Zapata
 1-43 County.

1-44 SECTION 2. Title 7, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by
 1-45 adding Chapter 351 to read as follows:

1-46 CHAPTER 351. STARR AND ZAPATA COUNTIES

1-47 SUBCHAPTER A. FALCON LAKE

1-48 Sec. 351.001. COMMERCIAL CATFISH FISHING. (a)

1-49 Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by Subsection
 1-50 (b), a person may engage in commercial catfish fishing in the
 1-51 portion of Falcon Lake in this state that borders Starr and Zapata
 1-52 Counties if the person:

1-53 (1) holds the required commercial fishing license
 1-54 issued by the department; and

1-55 (2) engages in the commercial fishing on a vessel
 1-56 licensed as a commercial fishing boat by the department.

1-57 (b) The department may regulate the amount of catfish taken
 1-58 from the portion of Falcon Lake described by Subsection (a) if the
 1-59 department determines that regulation is necessary to protect the
 1-60 catfish population in Falcon Lake from depletion or waste.

1-61 (c) The commission may adopt rules related to commercial

2-1 catfish fishing in Falcon Lake.

2-2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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