

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3251 WP-D

S.B. 133
By: Brown
Natural Resources
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law recognizes certain flora and fauna that serve to symbolize the rich diversity of our state. The lightening whelk has been the official state shell since 1987 due to its unique characteristics and preference for the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. S.B. 133 prohibits the retention of lightening whelk while trawling for shrimp, but does not restrict any other activity associated with shell collecting.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 133 relates to the retention of lightening whelks caught in shrimp trawls.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 77.0191, Parks and Wildlife Code, as follows:

Sec. 77.0191. New heading: RETENTION OF REDFISH, SPECKLED SEA TROUT, AND LIGHTENING WHELKS. Prohibits a person who uses a trawl for the purpose of taking shrimp, on board a boat licensed under this chapter and if there is a shrimp trawl on board, from retaining a redfish, speckled sea trout, or lightening whelk caught in the trawl. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.