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June 18, 2025

Government puts an end to the Longueira law: Senate approves fishing fragmentation by a large majority

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By: El Mostrador News Desk

The regulation is now ready to be enacted into law. The new distribution of fishing quotas, as Minister Grau emphasized, means that in practice, US\$160 million annually that previously benefited the industrial sector will now be allocated to artisanal fishing.



With 38 votes in favor and one abstention (from UDI Senator Enrique Van Rysselberghe), the Senate Chamber approved the report of the Joint Commission formed to settle the discrepancies that arose between both Chambers regarding the project that establishes a new division between the artisanal and industrial fishing sector.

With this result, the regulation initiated in a presidential message was ready to be enacted as law, after the deputies gave their support to the text previously.

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Yesterday, Economy Minister Nicolás Grau highlighted that the transfer of quotas involves an amount of **\$160 million** that, each year, went to the industrial sector and will now be allocated to artisanal fishing. In terms of monetary volume, this is the largest redistribution of resources since the mining royalty.

Today, the points submitted to the Joint Committee were: the allocation of quotas for Chilean sea bass, anchovy, Spanish sardine, and common hake. The following was approved:



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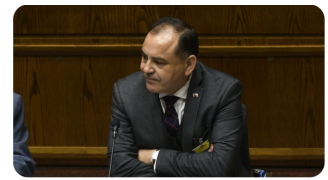
Today's News

1. **For anchovy** in the maritime area encompassing the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Atacama, and Coquimbo, the catch allocation will be established within the ranges of 85% to 55% for the artisanal fishing sector and 15% to 45% for the industrial fishing sector, with an initial percentage of 55% for the artisanal sector and 45% for the industrial sector. Annual adjustments within these ranges will be governed by the following rules: a) If the industrial sector does not meet its assigned effective catch in the previous year, the allocation for the artisanal fishing sector will increase by 10 percentage points per year. b) If the industrial sector achieves its annual effective catch allocation, it may maintain its initial percentage or increase it by up to 10 percentage points per year.
2. **For Spanish sardines** in the maritime area encompassing the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Atacama, and Coquimbo, the catch allocation will be established within the ranges of 85% to 55% for the artisanal fishing sector and 15% to 45% for the industrial fishing sector, with an initial percentage of 55% for the artisanal sector and 45% for the industrial sector. Annual adjustments within these ranges will be governed by the following rules: a) If the industrial sector does not meet its assigned catch quota in the previous year, the quota allocated to the artisanal fishing sector will increase by 10 percentage points per year. b) If the industrial sector achieves its annual catch quota, it may maintain its initial percentage or increase it by up to 10 percentage points per year.
3. **For common hake** in the maritime area encompassing the regions of Coquimbo, Valparaíso, Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, Maule, Ñuble, Biobío, La Araucanía, Los Ríos, and Los Lagos, the catch allocation will be determined according to the following rules: a) If the total annual catch quota is equal to or less than 35,020 tons, the applicable allocation will be 45% for the artisanal fishing sector and 55% for the industrial fishing sector. b) If the total annual catch quota exceeds 35,020 tons, the excess will be allocated entirely to the artisanal sector, with a maximum of 50% for each sector.
4. The determination of the **overall catch quota for Chilean sea bass** must maintain or bring the fishery to its maximum sustainable yield. However, the annual overall catch quota must allow for an annual variation of no more than 5% compared to the previous year's catch quota.

En cuanto al financiamiento de la norma, se rechazó el sistema de bidding system for the jack mackerel industry, through which the Executive Branch intended to generate an average of 30 billion pesos over the next three years, was rejected. Therefore, it was approved that industrial vessel owners holding rights derived from transfer contracts of any kind, duly authorized to catch fishing quotas within the Exclusive Economic Zone, must pay a special license fee for the benefit of the Treasury. The license fee will amount to 1.3 monthly tax units for each ton of the resource transferred under the aforementioned contracts. However, the license fee cannot be less than 250 monthly tax units.

The president of the Joint Committee, Senator Fidel Espinoza (PS), addressed the chamber, explaining the agreements reached by the body regarding the allocation of common hake and Chilean sea bass. "We also added a tax license mechanism and noted that the committee agreed to vote jointly on the report," he stated.

Senator Juan Antonio Coloma (UDI) raised constitutional concerns



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regarding part of the content of the Joint Committee's bill. Senators Carlos Kuschel (RN) and Luz Ebensperger (UDI) joined in this interpretation. "A provision appeared that established a license fee, which is a type of charge that must be reviewed by the Chamber and referred to the Finance Committee. This violates the Political Constitution," they argued. They requested that the provision be voted on separately, which did not occur, as Senator Ricardo Lagos Weber (PPD) explained that this was not legally permissible.

Minister Grau explained that "at the Joint Committee meeting, it was agreed to make a new financing proposal because the original one, which was a public tender, was rejected. It was an agreement with the Commission."

Regarding the allocation of the various resources, differences arose concerning the percentages, particularly regarding which sector benefited the most. Regardless, all members of parliament affirmed that "the protection of jobs must always come first, and no one sector should be prioritized over another," and that "this law isn't perfect, but it's much better than what we have now."

Several senators described this legislative step as "historic," saying it "will allow us to leave the Longueira Law behind" and "does justice because it considers the demands of both sectors: artisanal and industrial." Some acknowledged that "it was necessary to build majorities in an agreement that wasn't easy, but it was worth it."

It was also noted that Camanchaca, one of the country's main fishing companies, confirmed it will seek legal recourse to obtain compensation for the effects of this law.

Finally, the death of artisanal fishing leader Paola Poblete, 8 years ago, and the tragedy in which seven fishermen from the Bruma boat lost their lives in Coronel last March were remembered, with assurances that "if we manage to agree on these issues, we will be able to pay them a tribute."



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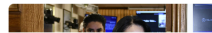
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