

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Joint Resolution 1 (Delegate Stein)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Natural Resources – Fishing – Wild–Caught Blue Catfish**

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This joint resolution urges the U.S. Congress to amend specified federal law and return federal oversight responsibilities related to the processing and inspection of wild invasive catfish caught in the Chesapeake Bay to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The joint resolution states that the rules promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requiring the inspection of fish of the order Siluriformes are unnecessary and burdensome and have led to unintended consequences, which include deflating the market for blue catfish caught in Maryland waters and financially harming harvesters and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The specified federal law referenced in the joint resolution is a definition of “amenable species,” which are subject to regulation under USDA inspection requirements. The definition includes all fish of the order Siluriformes.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SJ 3 of 2020 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HJ 3, received a hearing in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** SJ 4 (Senator Guzzone) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 19, 2021  
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