

CalvertCounty_FAV_HB0019.pdf

Uploaded by: Earl Hance

Position: FAV



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0019 – Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Committee Members:

The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County writes to **SUPPORT HB0019** and respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT** from the Committee. It is our sincere hope that establishing the common name of the northern snakehead as “Patuxent Fish” will correlate into enhanced marketability of the species that, in turn, aids our economy and environment.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2201, or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance, President

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland

cc: Calvert County Delegation

HB 19 - SUPPORT - Commissioners of St. Mary's Coun

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV



**House Bill 19
Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name**

SUPPORT

January 23, 2024

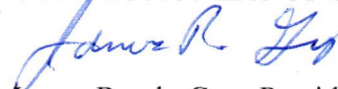
Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT House Bill 19 - Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name** which is being heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support HB 19 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2024/011

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

HB19 2024 (Northern Snakehead Rename).pdf

Uploaded by: Shelby Watson-Hampton

Position: FAV



POSITION STATEMENT

HB19/SB207 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name

January 24, 2024

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) is in support of HB19 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name, entered by Delegate Todd Morgan. As SMADC's mission is to increase the overall economic viability of local producers, we find this bill to be important to the success of local fishermen, and to the local waterways.

The proposed change is intended to address the challenges created by the presence of the invasive snakehead fish in Maryland's waterways. Scientists, environmentalists, fishermen and watermen are all in strong agreement that the invasive fish is wreaking havoc on the ecosystem of the local waterways and needs to be removed as much as possible. One way of ensuring that removal is to make the fish, which has a delicious white flaky meat that is enjoyable to eat, more appealing to consumers. Therefore, this bill seeks to encourage consumer consumption of the snakehead by giving it a new name that will look delectable on local menus. Using a more enticing name, chefs, restaurants, and stores could better advertise and promote the product.

Numerous discussions with stakeholders who currently work to increase the consumption of snakehead make it clear that these efforts suffer from one major problem - the snakehead has a limited market of potential consumers because of its unappetizing name. For this reason, HB19 would rename the snakehead fish with a much more common and desirable name.

Altering the common name of a fish has become a proven and successful way to encourage their harvest and consumption. Renaming the snakehead to make it more marketable would have substantial benefits for our watermen, our economy, and our ecosystem.

We ask that you support SB 0207.

Thank You,
Shelby Watson-Hampton
SMADC Director

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
is a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
P.O. Box 745 Hughesville, MD 20637
Phone - 240-528-8850 ~ Email – info@smadc.com



HB_19_SponserAmendment_123220

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV



HB0019/123220/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

01 FEB 24
14:37:51

BY: Delegate T. Morgan

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 19

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, strike “Patuxent Fish” and substitute “Chesapeake Channa”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in lines 15 and 17, in each instance, strike “**PATUXENT FISH**” and substitute “**CHESAPEAKE CHANNA**”.

On page 2, in lines 15 and 19, in each instance, strike “**PATUXENT FISH**” and substitute “**CHESAPEAKE CHANNA**”; and in lines 24 and 25, in each instance, strike “Patuxent Fish” and substitute “Chesapeake Channa”.

HB19 DTMorgan Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV

TODD B. MORGAN
Legislative District 29C
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3319 · 301-858-3319
800-492-7122 Ext. 3319
Todd.Morgan@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB19 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name

Chairman Korman:

The intent of this bill is to provide a response to the invasive species which has plagued our Patuxent River and other waterways by encouraging the consumption of the Northern Snakehead.

The Snakehead is one of the largest threats facing the native aquatic population in our Patuxent River. The aggressive nature of the fish and its adaptability to a varied of environment has raised concerns from environmental experts and local watermen alike. This bill aims to preserve the natural heritage of our Patuxent and encourage the capture and eating of the Snakehead fish. The Patuxent River is the only self-contained river in Maryland; it touches Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and St. Mary's Counties.

The Crux of this is we have a public relations problem. Watermen want to catch these fish, restaurants want to sell them, and environmental experts want the fish gone. The big roadblock to all of this is the lack of consumer interest in eating the fish. It tastes great, makes delicious fillets, and is considered a delicacy in many parts of the world. However, most people can't get past the name of the fish – nobody wants to eat a fish named the Snakehead!

Fish names have been changed around the world to enhance their marketability to consumers. For example, the Slimehead, had its name changed in the 1980s to the Orange Roughy, and it is now a very popular dish in restaurants globally. Before changing to its modern and exotic name, Mahi-Mahi was known by its common name Dolphinfish. Restaurants adopted its Hawaiian name to reassure diners they were not eating Dolphin.

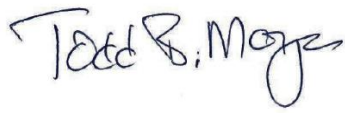
Other examples of name changes include the Patagonian Toothfish better known as the Chilean Sea Bass; Maryland's Striped Bass, known as the Rockfish; and the Goosefish which is more commonly known as Monkfish.

After this simple name change, Monkfish consumption increased over 5 times more than before. This is a tried and tested way to increase the appeal of an unfortunately named fish.

The bill renames the Snakehead, the Patuxent Fish, for the river it has invaded; however, I am not committed to the name and am willing for the committee to consider of other appropriate names.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 19

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd B. Morgan
Delegate, Calvert/St. Mary's Counties (29C)

HB19 Presentation.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV

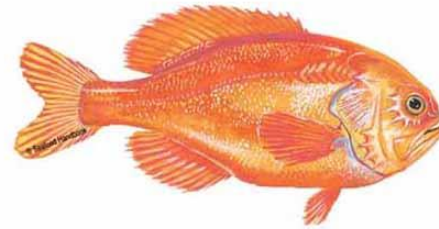
The Patuxent Fish

Renaming the Northern Snakehead:
An Opportunity to Better Manage an
Invasive Species



Examples of Renaming Successes

- Slimehead -> Orange Roughy
- Dolphinfish -> Mahi-Mahi or Dorado
- Patagonian Toothfish -> Chilean Sea Bass
- Striped Bass -> Rockfish
- Goosefish -> Monkfish



Slimehead



Orange Roughy



Dolphinfish



Mahi-Mahi



Patagonian Toothfish



Chilean Sea Bass

In conclusion...

Delegate Todd Morgan
District 29C

Northern Snakehead



Patuxent Fish/Other Names



Bailey Fish_ Northern Snakehead HB 19.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Dean

Position: FWA

RE: HB 0019- Northern Snakehead Common Name
Energy, Education and The Environment Committee

My name is Rachel Dean. I am the Secretary for the Calvert County Watermen's Association, and I am a Commissioner on the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Patuxent River Commission for the State of Maryland. Today, I am here as a seafood business owner. My family owns Patuxent River Seafood, and our business relies on the resources of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. Despite Maryland's best efforts, the invasive snakehead has become part of the Bay's ecosystem. Unfortunately, that means it is negatively impacting our native species. Between the snakehead and the blue catfish, the Patuxent River is suffering. I appreciate the hard work that the State of Maryland is doing to market snakehead, but it is still difficult to get anyone to eat a fish called a snake. That is unfortunate because snakehead rank just behind white perch as the best tasting fish in the Bay. Unless we can do something to convince people to eat more snakehead, these fish might just eat the competition out of house and home—literary. If we can rename the fish, it could help our cause, just like restaurants formerly used the terms "dolphin" on their menus but switched to "mahi mahi" to avoid confusion and outrage among guests. While Delegate Morgan & Senator Bailey's efforts to rename the snakehead the Patuxent fish are a noble cause, it doesn't have a ring to it. A restaurant menu with Patuxent Tacos just doesn't sound right. I would like to offer a friendly amendment. The Bailey Fish. While I am by no means saying Senator Bailey shares the slimy, predatory characteristics of this fish, I do believe his contributions to the conservation of Natural Resources as a NRP Officer and now as a Senator warrant a fish be named after him. Besides, I think we can get behind fried Bailey, Bailey Nuggets, baked Bailey, Bailey tacos, and Bailey bites. I hope the sponsor of the bill will be willing to take this one for the team and cement Bailey fish on restaurant menus throughout Maryland.

Rachel Dean 301-672-3509
382 Dogwood Court/ Lusby, MD 20657
chesapeakefishing@juno.com

P.O. Box 507/Lusby, MD 20657

HB0019_DNR_LOI_ENT_1-31-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Dylan Behler

Position: INFO



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

January 31, 2024

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 19 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The agency is aware of concerns related to marketing snakehead in the food industry under its current common name. The agency is also held to federal law and often works in conjunction with the federal government, other states, and/or universities on research, law, and funding. Therefore, the agency would still need to properly cite articles, studies, and law that contain the common name of Northern Snakehead. Currently, market-related changes and ideas are handled in coordination with the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Seafood Marketing Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

No similar bills have been proposed previously.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill would change the common name of the Northern Snakehead to Patuxent Fish.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)