

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 19

(Delegate T. Morgan, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name

This bill establishes the common name of the northern snakehead as “Chesapeake Channa” under specified provisions of State law and renames the commercial northern snakehead license to be the commercial northern snakehead or Chesapeake Channa license. The bill also requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to, by January 1, 2025, (1) adopt regulations establishing the common name of the northern snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa” and (2) refer to the northern snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa” on all applicable material published by the department.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: A commercial northern snakehead license is established in State law that authorizes the holder to catch for sale northern snakeheads in the tidal waters of the State using (1) a bow and arrow attached to a retrieval line or (2) hook and line. An applicant for a license does not need to hold a tidal fish license (DNR’s traditional, limited entry commercial fishing license) to be eligible for the license.

Small Business Effect: The bill may have a meaningful impact on small businesses in the commercial fishing and seafood industry to the extent the bill contributes to increased marketing and harvesting of northern snakeheads.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 207 (Senators Bailey and Jennings) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 2024
km/lgc Third Reader - March 16, 2024
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