

# HOUSE BILL 19

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0828  
CF SB 207

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By: **Delegate T. Morgan**

Requested: October 3, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the common name of the northern snakehead as the  
4 “Patuxent Fish”; and generally relating to the common name of the northern  
5 snakehead.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 4–701.1 and 4–714(f)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 4–701.1.

15 (a) There is a commercial northern snakehead **OR PATUXENT FISH** license.

16 (b) (1) The license authorizes the holder to catch for sale northern snakeheads,  
17 **COMMONLY KNOWN AS PATUXENT FISH**, in the tidal waters of the State using:

18 (i) A bow and arrow attached to a retrieval line; or

19 (ii) Hook and line.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)    A licensee may not fish with a bow and arrow under the license within  
2 100 yards of:

- 3                   (i)     Another person or vessel;
- 4                   (ii)    A public or private swimming area;
- 5                   (iii)  A diver down flag; or
- 6                   (iv)   An occupied offshore stationary blind.

7           (c)     An applicant for a license does not need to hold a tidal fish license under §  
8 4–701 of this subtitle to be eligible for the license.

9           (d)     A person who wishes to obtain a license shall complete and submit an  
10 application for the license to the Department or any person designated by the Department.

11          (e)     The term of the license is 1 year from September 1 through August 31 of the  
12 following year.

13          (f)     The annual license fee is \$15.

14          (g)     A licensee may not transfer a license issued under this section.

15          (h)     A licensee who fishes for northern snakehead **OR PATUXENT FISH** under the  
16 license shall possess the license.

17 4–714.

18          (f)     Subject to Department regulations, a person may use archery equipment to  
19 fish for northern snakehead, **COMMONLY KNOWN AS PATUXENT FISH**, in Anne Arundel  
20 County waters.

21               SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2025,  
22 the Department of Natural Resources shall:

23               (1)   adopt regulations establishing the common name of the northern  
24 snakehead as the “Patuxent Fish”; and

25               (2)   refer to the northern snakehead as the “Patuxent Fish” on all applicable  
26 material published by the Department.

27               SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2024.