

JACK BAILEY  
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Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Senate Joint Resolution 3 – Commercial Fishery Disaster Declaration Due to Invasive Species**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Joint Resolution 3. This resolution is intended to provide additional support for the Governor's request for a federal commercial fishery disaster declaration; and encouraging further efforts to obtain federal assistance to protect and rehabilitate the State's commercial fisheries as a result of an abundance of invasive species.

This committee is aware of the threat that invasive species of fish, such as the blue catfish and snakehead, pose to our ecosystem and the ability of Maryland's commercial watermen to make a living on the water in our State. Last year, Governor Moore made a request to the Department of Commerce to declare a federal commercial fisheries disaster in Maryland due to the effects that these invasive species have had on Maryland's fisheries, especially now that we have pictures that the blue catfish are eating oysters and threaten the remarkable record spat set in Maryland.

While this request was declined, the State is continuing to work with the federal government on assistance to mitigate the problems associated with invasive species in our waters. Therefore, this resolution not only expresses our support for the original disaster declaration, but also encourages these additional efforts to get federal assistance and support the position that Governor Moore has taken.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Joint Resolution 3. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey