

JAN 14 2000

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2003

BY LARKIN, COHOON, JOHNSON, HEATON,
and WISE

(COMPANION TO SJR 2001)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution designating the channel catfish as the
2 official state fish for the State of Iowa.
3 WHEREAS, the channel catfish (*ictalurus punctatus*) is a native
4 fish to Iowa's prairie streams and rivers inhabiting all 99
5 counties, and is one of the most abundant fish in Iowa lakes,
6 streams, and rivers; and
7 WHEREAS, the channel catfish appearance is easily recognizable
8 by its slender scaleless body, deeply forked tail, fleshy
9 whiskers, and sharp spines; and
10 WHEREAS, the channel catfish can be caught with a wide variety
11 of tackle, most of which is inexpensive and available to all
12 anglers; and
13 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is excellent table fare, with
14 Iowa anglers reportedly eating catfish more often than any other
15 sport fish; and
16 WHEREAS, more Iowans participate in sport fishing than any
17 other outdoor recreational sport with nearly one million anglers
18 spending approximately \$400 million annually and generating \$1.2
19 billion in economic activity; and
20 WHEREAS, the channel catfish are the most preferred fish among
21 Iowa anglers, reaching trophy size above 30 pounds and providing

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1 pole-bending action, with over four million caught annually; and

2 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is an important fish to

3 Mississippi river commercial fishers with nearly 600,000 pounds

4 of channel catfish marketed each year from the river; NOW

5 THEREFORE,

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. STATE FISH DESIGNATED. The channel catfish
2 (ictalurus punctatus) is designated and shall be officially
3 known as the state fish of Iowa.

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS. The director of the
5 department of cultural affairs shall obtain appropriate
6 pictures and other representations of the channel catfish and
7 shall display the pictures and representations in an
8 appropriate place in the state historical museum.

9 Sec. 3. OFFICIAL REGISTER. The editor of the Iowa
10 Official Register shall include an appropriate picture and
11 commentary of the channel catfish in the Iowa Official
12 Register, along with the pictures of the state rock, state
13 flower, state bird, and state tree.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This joint resolution designates the channel catfish as the
16 official state fish of Iowa. The director of the department
17 of cultural affairs shall obtain pictures and other
18 appropriate representations of the state fish and display the
19 pictures and information in the state historical museum. The
20 editor of the Iowa Official Register shall include a picture
21 of the state fish along with pictures of the state rock, state
22 bird, state tree, and state flower.

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