

# Senate Joint Resolution 6 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6  
BY BOULTON and REICHMAN

## SENATE 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  
4 native fish to Iowa's prairie streams and rivers inhabiting  
5 all 99 counties, and is one of the most abundant fish in Iowa  
6 lakes, streams, and rivers; and

7 WHEREAS, the channel catfish's appearance is easily  
8 recognizable by its slender scaleless body, deeply forked tail,  
9 fleshy whiskers, and sharp spines; and

10 WHEREAS, the channel catfish can be caught with a wide  
11 variety of tackle, most of which is inexpensive and available  
12 to all anglers; and

13 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is excellent table fare, with  
14 Iowa anglers reporting that they eat catfish more often than  
15 any other sport fish; and

16 WHEREAS, more Iowans participate in sport fishing than any  
17 other outdoor recreational sport with approximately 500,000  
18 anglers spending approximately \$300 million annually and  
19 generating \$1.2 billion in economic activity; and

20 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is the most preferred fish  
21 among Iowa anglers, reaching trophy size above 30 pounds and  
22 providing pole-bending action, with over 4 million caught  
23 annually; and

24 WHEREAS, the channel catfish is an important fish to  
25 Mississippi River commercial fishers with approximately  
26 400,000 pounds of channel catfish marketed each year from the  
27 river; and

28 WHEREAS, former Senator Eugene S. "Gene" Fraise, who  
29 passed away on November 27, 2020, served in the Iowa Senate  
30 for 27 years after having served on the Lee County Board of  
31 Supervisors for 7 years; and

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32 WHEREAS, during Senator Fraise's time in office, he  
33 advocated for the channel catfish to be designated the  
34 official state fish due to its long history in the state  
35 and the economic impact the fish has on Iowa's aquaculture  
36 industry; NOW THEREFORE,  
37 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS. The director of  
5 the Department of Cultural Affairs shall obtain appropriate  
6 pictures and other representations of the channel catfish  
7 and 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 official  
10 register shall include an appropriate picture and commentary of  
11 the channel catfish in the Iowa official register, along with  
12 the pictures of the state rock, state flower, state bird, and  
13 state tree.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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