

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2842

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 CLARIFY CLASSIFICATION OF CATFISH; TO CLARIFY SHAD AS A NONGAME  
3 GROSS FISH; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC  
4 NOMENCLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 49-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 49-7-1. For the purposes of this chapter, the following  
9 definitions and interpretations shall govern unless otherwise  
10 provided:

11 (a) The following wild animals are classed as game:  
12 bear, white-tailed deer, rabbits and squirrels.

13 (b) The following wild animals are classed as  
14 fur-bearing animals: muskrats, opossums, otters, skunks, weasels,  
15 minks, raccoons, nutria and bobcats; all others shall be deemed  
16 predatory animals.

17 (c) All freshwater fishes in the following families are  
18 classed as game fish: Sunfish family (Centrarchidae) - including  
19 largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), smallmouth bass  
20 (*Micropterus dolomieu*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*),  
21 white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*), black crappie (*Pomoxis*  
22 *nigromaculatus*), redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*), bluegill  
23 (*Lepomis macrochirus*), warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*), green sunfish  
24 (*Lepomis cyanellus*), longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*),  
25 redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*) and shadow bass (*Ambloplites*  
26 *ariommus*); Perch family (Percidae) - including walleye  
27 (*Stizostedion vitreum*), sauger (*Stizostedion canadense*) and yellow

28 perch (*Perca flavescens*); Pike family (*Esocidae*) - including  
29 redbfin pickerel (*Esox americanus americanus*), grass pickerel (*Esox*  
30 *americanus vermiculatus*), chain pickerel (*Esox niger*); Temperate  
31 bass family (*Moronidae*) including - white bass (*Morone chrysops*),  
32 yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), striped bass (*Morone*  
33 *saxatilis*) and hybrid striped bass (*Morone chrysops* x *Morone*  
34 *saxatilis* and/or *Morone saxatilis* x *Morone chrysops*).

35           The following fishes are classed as nongame gross fish:  
36 in the Herring family (*Clupeidae*) - gizzard shad (*Dorosoma*  
37 *cepedianum*), threadfin shad (*Dorosoma petenense*); in the Catfish  
38 family (*Ictaluridae*) - channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), blue  
39 catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), flathead catfish (*Pylodictus*  
40 *olivaris*), yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*), black bullhead  
41 (*Ameiurus melas*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*); \* \* \* in  
42 the Gar family - spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), longnose gar  
43 (*Lepisosteus osseus*), shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*),  
44 alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*); in the Eel family  
45 (*Anguillidae*) - American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*); in the Bowfin  
46 family (*Amiidae*) - bowfin (*Amia calva*); in the Paddlefish family  
47 (*Polyodontidae*) - paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*); in the Minnow  
48 family (*Cyprinidae*) - common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*); in the Sucker  
49 family (*Catostomidae*) - river carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*),  
50 quillback (*Carpoides cyprinus*), highfin carpsucker (*Carpoides*  
51 *velifer*), spotted sucker (*Minytrema melanops*), blacktail redhorse  
52 (*Moxostoma poecilurum*), smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*),  
53 bigmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus cyprinellus*), black buffalo (*Ictiobus*  
54 *niger*); in the Drum family (*Sciaenidae*) - freshwater drum  
55 (*Aplodinotus grunniens*).

56           All fishes native to Mississippi that are not classed as  
57 game fish or nongame gross fish are classed as nongame fishes.

58           All fishes native to foreign countries and all fishes  
59 native to the United States but not native to Mississippi are  
60 classed as non-native fishes.

61           (d) The following are classed as game birds: geese,  
62 brant and river and sea ducks, rails, coots, sora, snipe,  
63 woodcock, sandpipers, tattlers, plovers, wild turkey, quail and  
64 doves.

65           All other species of wild resident or migratory birds  
66 are classed as nongame birds.

67           (e) Closed season: the time during which birds, animals  
68 or fish may not be taken.

69           (f) Open season: the time during which birds, animals  
70 or fish may be lawfully taken.

71           (g) "Commission" means the Mississippi Commission on  
72 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

73           (h) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of  
74 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

75           (i) "Executive director" means the Executive Director  
76 of the Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks.

77           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
78 and after its passage.