

AN ACT concerning

State Boat - Designation

FOR the purpose of designating the skipjack as the State boat.

BY adding to

Article - State Government  
Section 13-312  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1984 Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Recent efforts to restore the environmental integrity of the Chesapeake Bay have rekindled interest and appreciation in this majestic estuary as not only an economic asset but also as the foundation for a way of life for many Marylanders; and

WHEREAS, Nothing better represents the way of life of Maryland watermen than the historic Chesapeake boat known as the Skipjack; and

WHEREAS, Skipjacks were first developed in Maryland over a century ago for use on the Bay in oyster dredging and represent the last fleet of working sail commercial vessels operating in North American waters; and

WHEREAS, These sturdy and rugged vessels, manned by stalwart Maryland watermen, still set out before dawn in the often frigid winds of the Chesapeake each year from November to March to harvest the bounty of the Bay; and

WHEREAS, Current Maryland law, in an era of power-driven commercial craft, still affords a unique role for this wind-powered vessel; and

WHEREAS, Fewer than three dozen licensed and working Skipjacks still skim the surface waters of the Bay, in the manner of the fish they were purportedly named after; now, therefore,

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

Article - State Government

13-312.

THE SKIPJACK IS THE STATE BOAT.