

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2005 RECONVENED SESSION

## CHAPTER 916

*An Act to amend and reenact § 29.1-574 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-313.2, relating to nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species; penalty.*

[H 2029]

Approved April 6, 2005

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 29.1-574 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-313.2 as follows:**

*§ 18.2-313.2. Introduction of snakehead fish or zebra mussel; penalty.*

*Any person who knowingly introduces into the Commonwealth any snakehead fish of the family Channidae, or knowingly places or causes to be placed into state waters any zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or the larvae thereof, without a permit from the Director of Game and Inland Fisheries issued pursuant to § 29.1-575 is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

*§ 29.1-574. Prohibitions.*

*A. No person shall knowingly import, possess, transport, sell, purchase, give, receive, or introduce into the Commonwealth any member of a species designated as a nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species without a permit from the Director issued pursuant to § 29.1-575.*

*B. Subsection A shall not apply to any person who (i) lawfully catches a snakehead fish of the family Channidae, (ii) subsequently kills such fish, and (iii) notifies the Department, as soon as practicable, of his actions.*