



The First International Snakehead Symposium

July 17th – 19th, 2018 Old Town Alexandria, VA

Snakeheads, particularly Northern Snakehead *Channa argus*, have experienced dramatic range expansions in North America over the past two decades. Commensurate with this expansion has come publicity via a plethora of popular media outlets and a handful of peer-reviewed journal articles resulting from a flurry of research by various state, federal and academic institutions. This controversial group of fish has captivated audiences around the globe, but a great deal of misinformation remains in the public domain due to misconceptions and limited conveyance of legitimate biological and ecological information from the scientific community. Additionally, as *C. argus* continues to spread along the mid-Atlantic coast and now in the central United States, resource managers from newly colonized and neighboring states desire information to inform expectations and implement management strategies. Despite some progress in describing certain aspects of snakehead biology and, to a lesser extent, ecology, the list of unknowns remains great. Snakeheads are often implicated as a vector of ecosystem destruction and/or restructuring, yet nearly no conclusive evidence of such exists. Furthermore, various facets of spawning behavior, early life history and recruitment are poorly understood at best. There is a paucity of studies describing interactions between snakeheads and other species, and their ecosystem effects are thus largely unknown. This symposium aims to fill some of these gaps and bring the most germane and timely research and management information to the forefront.



Please visit the VA Chapter AFS webpage for more information or contact john.odenkirk@dgif.virginia.gov. First call for presentations and early registration coming soon.