

FISH

IDENTIFY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Working together in Michigan for healthy waters



Photo credit: Seotaro, (cleaned up and denoised by Estrilda, and edited by Laitche.)

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Exotic fish are popular pets in aquariums and water gardens. Well-meaning people sometimes release unwanted pet fish into waterbodies thinking they are doing the right thing but they can become invasive and detrimental to our environment. Some outcompete our native fish for food and habitat. Released pets can also introduce harmful pathogens and diseases to our native wildlife.

Additionally, it is not humane to release unwanted fish in Michigan waterways. Pet fish may lack the necessary skills to survive in the wild or may not be able to tolerate Michigan's climate.

REPORT INVADERS

Suspected invasive fish in shipments or available for sale should be reported to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources immediately: [800-292-7800](tel:800-292-7800)

Report invasive species found in the wild to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: misin.msu.edu

The list of state-regulated species is regularly updated. For the latest information: mi.gov/invasivespecies

Multiple, high resolution photographs should be included with invasive species reports to ensure accurate identification.



RIPPLE
REDUCE INVASIVE
PET & PLANT ESCAPES

DON'T LET IT LOOSE

Protect our waterways by following a few simple steps:

Never release aquarium or water garden plants or animals into local waterways.

Give or trade unwanted fish or plants with another hobbyist, environmental learning center, aquarium or zoo.

Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.

Dispose of aquatic plants by sealing them in a plastic bag and placing them in the trash. Do not compost.

Inspect and rinse new aquatic plants to rid them of seeds, plant fragments, snails and fish.

Build water gardens well away from other waters.

For more information on how to reduce invasive pet and plant escapes, visit canr.msu.edu/ripple



Grass carp | *Ctenopharyngodon idella*

- Can reach lengths of more than 5 feet and can weigh more than 80 lbs.
- Eyes sit even with the mouth.
- Large scales appear crosshatched.
- Shorter top/dorsal fin than goldfish or common carp.

These fish species are also regulated under NREPA Part 413 but are not as likely to be found in the aquarium or water garden trade: bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), Eurasian ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), round goby (*Apollonia melanostomus*), sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*), wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*) and zander (*Sander lucioperca*).

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



LIST OF REGULATED SPECIES AS OF 10/19/2021

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GET TO KNOW

THE INVADERS

REGULATED FISH SPECIES

Certain fish species cannot be sold in Michigan due to their invasive potential. If they were to be released into the wild they could have devastating consequences on our aquatic ecosystems. These species could be sold unintentionally if they are misidentified by a wholesaler or retailer.

Michigan laws regulate the possession and sale of live fish species listed as prohibited or restricted in Part 413 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act or the Invasive Species Order Amendment No. 1 of 2020.



Rudd | *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

- Lengths can reach 1 ½ feet.
- Deep and stocky body with green-brown back, brassy yellow sides and near-white belly.
- Fins on bottom of body are bright red-orange.
- Top and tail fins are red-brown and tail fin is forked.



Stone moroko | *Pseudorasbora parva*

- Approximately 3 inches long.
- Yellowish-green to silver body color.
- Pale yellow fins, top fin has darker stripe.
- Young individuals have a dark stripe along the side.



Bitterling | *Rhodeus sericeus*

- Small, average length is 2 inches.
- Grey-green back with silvery white sides and belly.
- Metallic streak on each side near tail.
- Pale orange fins with gray shading.



Ide | *Leuciscus idus*

- Can reach up to 1 ½ feet.
- Large-bodied fish with back and belly distinctly arched.
- Small, bluntly pointed head and forked tail fin.
- Can be silver or gold.



Photo credit: Zach Randall of Florida Museum of Natural History

Japanese/oriental weatherfish | *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*

Other names: dojo, weather loach, amur weatherfish

- Body length can reach 1 foot but typically smaller.
- Small, narrow mouth with thick and fleshy lips and six barbels/whiskers.
- Eel-like brown body with greenish grey-brown marbled markings on top and pale silver coloration on the underside.



Northern snakehead | *Channa argus*

Other names: amur snakehead, eastern snakehead, ocellated snakehead

- Body length can reach up to 2 ½ feet.
- Tan with dark brown mottling.
- Sharp teeth similar to a pike or pickerel fish.
- Extended bottom fin.