

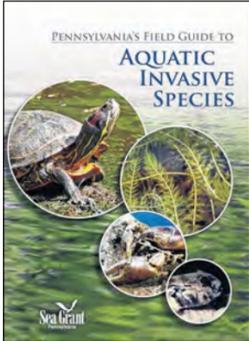
NIE Connect with your environment
Learn about environmental issues, in your community and how you can get involved.

Pennsylvania bans 11 invasive species

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

It's your responsibility to know the laws to prevent new invasions. Did you know the sale, barter, possession or transportation of the following invasive species is banned in Pennsylvania?

- Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*).
- Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*).
- European rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*).
- Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*).
- Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*).
- Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*).
- Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*).
- Snakehead (all species).
- Tubenose goby (*Proterothinus marmoratus*).
- Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*).
- Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*).



PA SEA GRANT

The Pennsylvania Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Field Guide can help you identify new AIS infestations and slow or stop their spread.

ANNA McCARTNEY, a communications and education specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant, can be reached by e-mail at axm40@psu.edu.



ANNA McCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Discarding unused bait in the water can cause irreparable harm to a fishery. Invasive species can be mixed in with bait, particularly if it was harvested in the wild. That bait can also harbor viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a serious fish disease. When using live bait, purchase only from a dealer selling certified disease-free bait and never move bait or fish from one body of water to another.

No bait and switch

Anglers can protect waterways from invasive species

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

At the end of a fishing trip, it's not uncommon for anglers to release some straggling minnows, worms or other unused bait into the water or to save and use the bait at another body of water.

But dumping live bait into the water or on shore has helped many non-native animals become established in new waterways. Although unintentional, the results have been catastrophic.

These invaders are often aggressive and lack natural predators in their new environment, so they tend

to spread or reproduce quickly. They contribute to habitat destruction, loss of native species, changes in food webs and the spread of pathogens.

These changes can affect commercially valuable species and are typically irreversible. In many cases, efforts to eradicate or control invasive species are prohibitively expensive. Prevention and early detection are the best ways to control new invasions and anglers are the greatest line of defense.

What can anglers do?

1. Learn to identify invasive species.
2. Only buy live bait from reputable dealers and fol-

low state regulations.

3. Don't release fish, plants or animals into the water unless they came out of that body of water.

4. Dispose of unused bait, dead fish and fish parts in a secure trash area away from the water. And remember: Freezing bait doesn't kill viruses or disease.

5. Empty all water from boats, buckets, bilges, live wells and other equipment and remove all mud, plants and aquatic life from equipment before moving it to another body of water.

6. Thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and boating equipment, including bait

buckets, boots, boats, and trailers before moving them to another body of water.

7. Report any new invaders at <http://fishandboat.com/ais-reporting.htm>.

Whether you fish or not, you can help spread the word! Inform your angler friends about properly disposing live bait. To learn more and to access an invasive species field guide, visit www.paseagrant.org.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Neighborhood Art House students collected and documented trash in their neighborhood.

Parade could teach people not to litter

Neighborhood Art House students and their leader, Pat Lupo, O.S.B. are among eight Erie County groups participating in Pennsylvania Sea Grant's Center for Great Lakes Literacy project, Great Lakes Great Stewards. Groups are required to conduct a cleanup and data collection in their neighborhood as one of their service-learning projects throughout the year.

Art House students collected and documented 20 pounds of trash around Holland and East 10th streets. Their data will be added to the PA Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup data and sent to the Ocean Conservancy to be included in worldwide totals.

Below are some student comments about the cleanup:

After doing the ICC we should have a big parade in Erie to show lots of people what happens when you litter. We could wear costumes that look like recycling bins and garbage cans and carry lots of signs and posters that show people why litter is bad for the environment. There could be a big sign

at the end that shows how fish eat litter and get sick and how if people eat the fish, they can also get sick. — Abby Aguilar, age 10, and Nathan Martinez, age 10

I feel bad that so many people litter. I felt good picking up the litter; otherwise it will end up in the lake and animals might eat it and die. — Valentino Rodriguez, age 8

I have actually done the ICC for three years and I enjoy doing it because I feel good about my friends and cleaning up the Earth and inspiring other people to do it.

My group researched EarthShip homes made out of garbage in New Mexico that people have been working on for a while. They are using solar panels, plastic bottles, tires, soda cans, milk jugs and plastic bags. Inside they have furniture. The solar panels provide heat and they have ventilation for cooling. I think that this is a great way to use our junk and keep it out of the landfill and make the Earth a better place for our children and grandchildren. — Jahir Rodriguez, age 11



KEVIN KELLEY/Contributed photo

The first occurrence of rusty crayfish in western PA was documented at the Presque Isle Bay Vista 3 launch in November 2013. Stop them from damaging local waterways and from reaching densities like this in the Susquehanna River.



PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Round gobies were found in Lake LeBoeuf at Waterford in early August. This aggressive aquatic invasive species poses a significant danger to the French Creek watershed biodiversity. You can learn more about round gobies at <http://youtu.be/lwHHA9TPDI>.



FACEBOOK.COM/84-LAKES

Invasive Asian carp were found among fish stocked in 84 Pay Lakes in Somerset Township. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission closed the site until further notice. Visit <http://youtu.be/tekJq3L0gPA> for identifying juvenile Asian carp and <http://youtu.be/B490WRcR38> for adults.



MARYLAND SEA GRANT

Bait worms are usually packaged in live seaweed that harbors many live animals and plants, which hitch a ride to wherever the bait is sold. Throwing out unused bait and its packaging in the trash prevents invasive species from harming fisheries.

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Check out these websites to learn more:

- <http://fishandboat.com/ais.htm>
- www.protectyourwaters.net/
- www.paseagrant.org/topics/invasive-species/
- www.baitwormstudy.net

Use the websites listed to learn more about the round goby and other invaders. What did you learn that you did not know before? How often do stories about invasive species appear in the news? Is the media doing a good job to get the word out so we don't help the invaders spread to new areas?

Write a letter to the editor telling what you learned and why it is important to inform the public about this important issue. Send your letters to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in "your space."

