

# If you think you caught a **SNAKEHEAD**

- **DO NOT** put the fish back into the water.
- Take a side view photo of the fish (*if possible*).
- Kill it, freeze it (*double bag*) and contact your local LDWF office or call the ANS Hotline.
- Make sure to note the exact location of the catch. This is helpful to determine species distribution and control/management strategies.

## Why should I care?

Louisiana's climate is similar to their native habitat, meaning snakeheads can easily flourish in our waterways.

Northern snakeheads are a highly predatory species that will out compete and prey on our native aquatic species.

Northern snakeheads have the potential to devastate Louisiana's recreational and commercial fisheries.

## For more information or to report a possible snakehead, contact:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Office of Fisheries  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765.2800  
[www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)



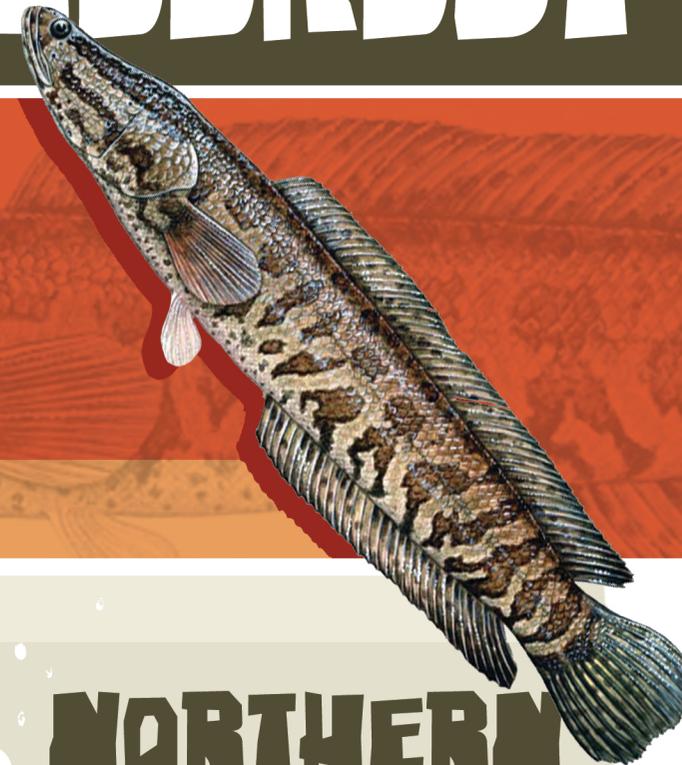
## To report any Aquatic Invasive Species 24-hours a day call:

1.877.STOP.ANS  
(1.877.786.7267)  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: BOWFIN USFWS/D.RAVER;  
SNAKEHEAD SUSAN TRAMMELL, BUGWOOD.ORG

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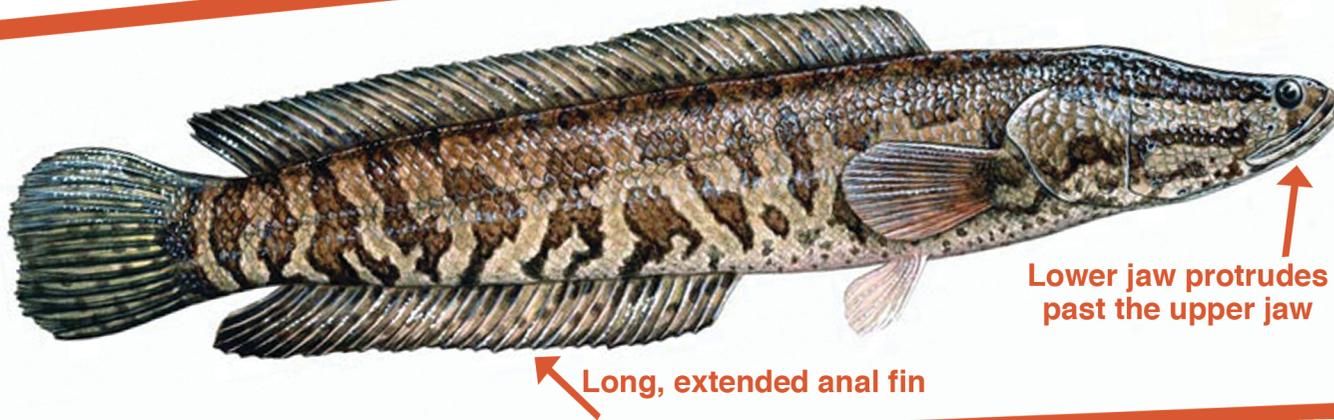
# BE ON THE LOOKOUT



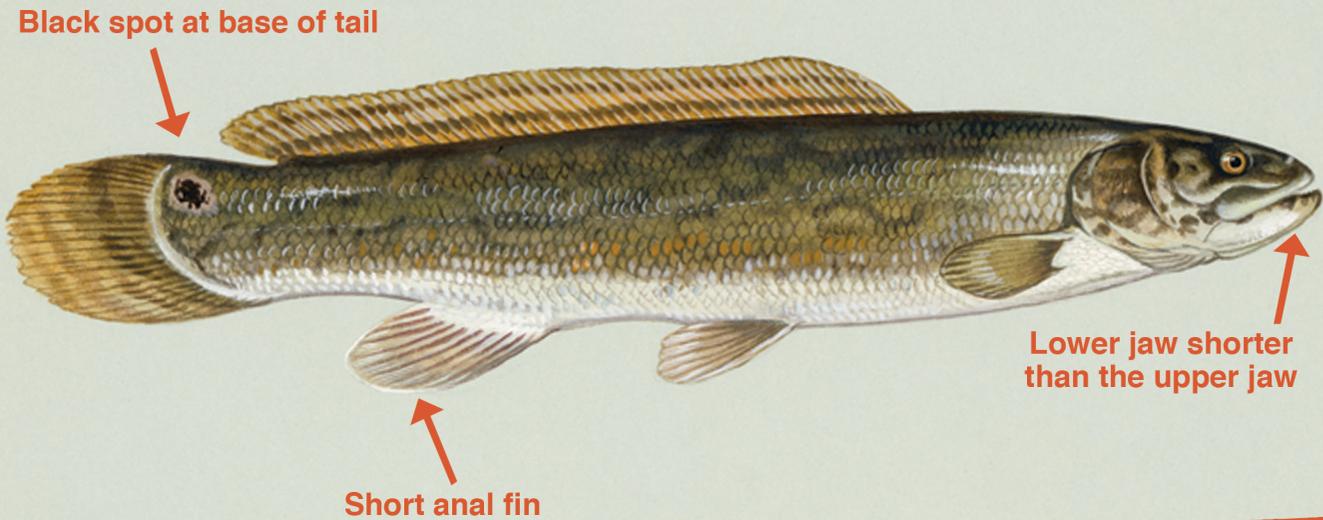
# NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

# FRIEND OR FOE?

How to tell the difference



Northern Snakehead  
**NON-NATIVE SPECIES**  
← Potential Invasive Species



Bowfin (Choupique)  
← **NATIVE SPECIES**

## FACTS ABOUT NORTHERN SNAKEHEADS

Snakeheads are native to Asia. Their name comes from the enlarged scales that cover their heads. Snakeheads are obligate air breathers. Unlike most fish, they must obtain oxygen directly from the air rather than water. They can live up to three days outside of water. They can move short distances on land through a wiggling motion. They are highly predatory,

consuming mostly fish, but will also eat other small aquatic animals such as

frogs and crawfish. Both male and female snakeheads are very protective of their eggs and fry. They can grow up to 3 feet in length. Four different species of snakehead currently found in the United States are: bullseye, blotched, giant, and northern. Only Northern snakeheads are found near Louisiana and present a current threat. Northern snakeheads have been reported in the following states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. They were released into the wild through fish markets and the aquarium trade. They have no known natural predators in the United States. Only the giant snakehead is known to attack humans. Currently, no known reproductive populations exist in the United States.