

# BEWARE

## Saltwater

### Asian Tiger Prawn

(*Penaeus monodon*)

- Dark color with white and yellow stripes
- Occasionally have red line extending length of body
- Larger than and competes with native shrimp



### Lionfish

(*Pterois spp.*)

- Red, white, and brown stripes with elongated dorsal and pectoral fins
- Found on reef structures and hard bottoms
- Venomous spines
- Aggressive predator that competes with and feeds on native reef organisms



## Freshwater

### Northern Snakehead

(*Channa argus*)



- Brown with dark blotches, long dorsal and anal fins, flattened head
- Aggressive predator
- Often confused with the native bowfin

### Rio Grande Cichlid

(*Herichthys cyanoguttatum*)



- Dark color, white and blue spots
- Large forehead
- Territorial
- Competes with and often confused with native panfish

### Apple Snail

(*Pomacea spp.*)



- Brown, black, or yellow banded shell
- Large, up to 10 cm
- Attach pink or orange egg clusters to vegetation or structures above water line
- Feeds on aquatic vegetation
- May carry parasites that infect humans

### Silver Carp

(*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)



- Leaps out of water and injure boaters
- Competes with native filter feeding fish & shellfish

### Bighead Carp

(*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)



- Competes with native filter feeding fish & shellfish

### Common Carp

(*Cyprinus carpio*)



- Disturbs bottom sediments and uproots native aquatic vegetation when feeding

### Black Carp

(*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)



- Threatens populations of native snails and mussels

### Grass Carp

(*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)



- Disturbs bottom sediments and uproots native aquatic vegetation when feeding

# Aquatic Invasive Species

Controlling and Identifying Aquatic Invasive Species in Louisiana

[www.wlf.la.gov](http://www.wlf.la.gov)





# Why Are Invasive Species Bad?

**Invasive species are harmful in Louisiana because they may:**

- Spread rapidly due to a lack of natural predators
- Feed on native species and reduce native population sizes
- Outcompete native species for food and habitat resources
- Introduce new parasites and pathogens

**A species is considered invasive when:**

1. It is introduced into a new area, outside of its native range
2. Its presence disrupts native food webs



Louisiana's sub-tropical climate provides suitable habitat for invasive species from all over the world. Stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species is extremely difficult, especially in Louisiana with our interconnected waterways. LDWF needs your help to locate invasive species and to prevent new invasive species from becoming established.

*A waterbody plagued by  
Silver Carp.*

Nerissa Michaels/AP/Illinois River Biological Station via  
Houma.Today.com

## How Can You Help?

Information about the location of various invasive species is an important tool in helping biologists combat spreading. Fortunately, you can help by taking the following actions:

**If you see/catch any of these species:**

- Record date and location (GPS coordinates preferred)
- If caught, place organism in a labeled bag and freeze
- Contact LDWF at 225-765-0765

**Other ways to help:**

- Never release aquarium pets purchased from pet stores into the wild. Contact LDWF for proper disposal of unwanted pets.
- Never empty live fish, bait, or water from a bait well from one body of water into another.



*Label, Bag & Freeze!*

**Invest in the Future...Geaux Fish Louisiana!**

This public document was published at a total cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ copies of this public document were published and partially paid for by an Aquatic Invasive Species Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this first printing at a cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents about the impacts of aquatic invasive species. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies.