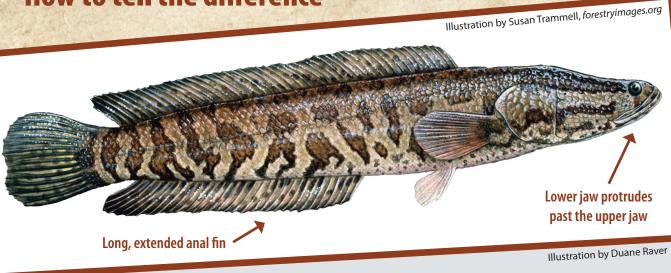
FRIEND OR FOE?

How to tell the difference

Black spot at base of tail

Short anal fin



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 snakeheads are currently found in the United States: bullseye, blotched, giant, and northern. Only the northern snakehead has been found in Louisiana. Northern snakeheads have been reported in the following states: Mississippi, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Louisiana. They were released into the wild through fish markets and the aquarium trade.

Lower jaw shorter than upper jaw

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 can out compete and prey on our native species.

Northern snakeheads could impact 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
225-765-3977
www.wlf.la.gov

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

ANS Hotline: 225-765-3977

ANS Email: AquaticInvasives@wlf.la.gov

Bowfin illustration by Duane Raver Snakehead illustration by Susan Trammell, forestryimages.org

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