

Crayfish in Trouble

Crayfish are one of the most endangered groups of animals in North America. Habitat loss and pollution are a threat to crayfish, but the biggest concern may be the introduction of **invasive crayfish** in our waterways. Invasive crayfish overtake habitat in large numbers and eat the food that native crayfish need. Many fish do not eat invasive crayfish, like the Rusty Crayfish, because it grows large and is aggressive.

Invasive Crayfish Found in Pennsylvania:

- Virile Crayfish
- Rusty Crayfish
- Red Swamp Crayfish
- White River Crayfish



The Rusty Crayfish has invaded eastern Pennsylvania waterways.



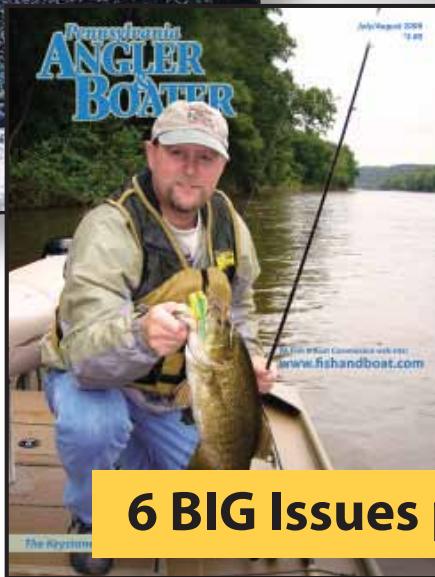
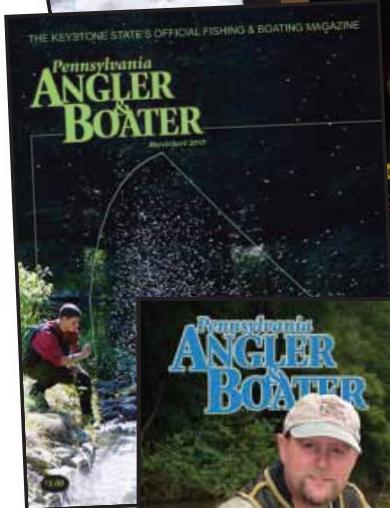
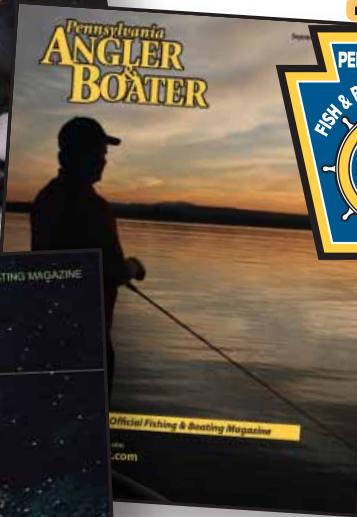
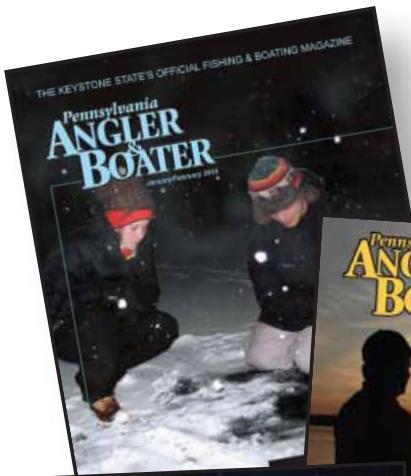
TAKE ACTION!

You can help stop the spread of invasive crayfish by not using crayfish as fishing bait. Artificial crayfish lures work well. If you collect a crayfish to use as fishing bait, you must immediately remove its head behind its eyes, unless you are using it to fish in the same water you took it from. It is against the law to move a crayfish to another body of water. Live crayfish cannot be sold for fish bait in Pennsylvania. For more information, see the current *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary*.

Crayfish have not been well-studied. We need to learn more about Pennsylvania crayfish to protect them. The Pennsylvania

Fish & Boat Commission is partnering with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and crayfish biologist Dr. Zachary Loughman to conduct crayfish surveys in western Pennsylvania.

If you find a crayfish chimney or burrow, record the GPS coordinates through a smartphone app and send it to Dr. Loughman at zloughman@westliberty.edu. Dr. Loughman is interested in crayfish data from across Pennsylvania, especially burrowing crayfish. You can also visit the West Liberty University Crayfish Conservation Laboratory Facebook page to ask questions and follow Dr. Loughman's work.



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