

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Aquatic Invasive Species: Northern Snakehead



Native Species: Bowfin



Native Species: Burbot



Aquatic Invasive Species, such as the northern snakehead, have significant negative impacts on Pennsylvania native fish populations through predation, displacement, competition for food and disruption of native aquatic systems. With the dangers that these species pose, and their similar identifying characteristics to native fish species such as the bowfin and burbot, anglers need to accurately identify these fish species.

Northern Snakehead

- An Aquatic Invasive Species, not native to Pennsylvania.
- They grow to a maximum length of about 33 inches.
- Generally tan in appearance, with dark brown mottling; jaws contain numerous canine-like teeth (similar to pike or pickerel); scales on the top of the head.

Bowfin

- **A candidate species in Pennsylvania. This is a species that could become threatened or endangered. Anglers are encouraged to release this fish.**
- They grow to a maximum length of about 32 inches.
- Generally tan-olive in appearance with dark olive reticulation; bony scales; jaws contain small canine and peg-like teeth; no scales on the top of the head.
- Fins of a mature male bowfin are lime-green to blue-green before, during and after spawning.

Burbot

- **An endangered species in Pennsylvania, inland populations only. As an endangered species, by law, they must be returned unharmed to the water.**
- They grow to an average length of 26 to 30 inches.
- Generally dark olive to brown with a mottled pattern.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Report Aquatic Invasive Species: www.fishandboat.com/ais-reporting.htm

