

# The PLAY NUISANCE SPECIES Game

**START HERE**

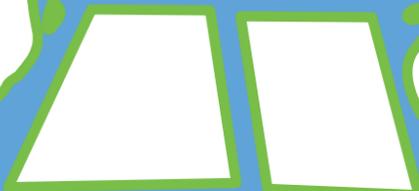


You decide to keep a few nice bass that you just caught. As you put them into the live-well, you notice stagnant water from your last fishing trip. You dump the live-well overboard and refill. **MOVE BACK 5 SPACES**

Pretty purple flowers line the bank of your favorite fishing hole. You decide to dig some up to plant in your water garden. **MOVE BACK 2 SPACES.**

You pull into a cove to try your luck with the panfish. Your propeller gets stuck - but why? **MOVE BACK 3 SPACES**

**2**



While fishing you catch a trout with an eel attached to it. You think it's so neat you take it home to release it in the stream behind your house. **MOVE BACK 4 SPACES.**

**3**

You lift anchor and find a thick glob of aquatic plants - roots and all. It would make a nice addition to your neighbor's new pond. **MOVE BACK 4 SPACES.**

**4**

As the fishing slows in the heat of the day, you decide to go to shore for a break. You are carefully wading near shore and notice crunching below your feet. Reaching down, you grab a handful of interesting little clams. You like them so much, you take some home to put in your aquarium and the town's water supply reservoir. **MOVE BACK 6 SPACES.**

**6**

**5**



**7**

As you retrieve your boat, you take a few minutes to scrub the hull. **MOVE AHEAD 8 SPACES.**

**10**



Those brightly colored, spiked flowers seem to be everywhere you look. You tell your friends that they may look nice, but they're nasty. **MOVE AHEAD 6 SPACES**

**8**

You accidentally kick over your bait bucket and everything inside dumps into the water. There goes all your bait! **MOVE BACK 1 SPACE.**

**9**

You brought along your favorite pet turtle, which you bought from the local pet store. Thinking the turtle would be much happier in the wild, you release it into the water and wave as it swims away. **MOVE BACK 5 SPACES.**



**DIRECTIONS:** Help reduce the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Read all about them in the rest of the PLAY Newsletter. You'll need a playing pawn or marker (coin, kernel of corn, small stone, etc.) for each person playing the game, and a die. Roll the die and move forward the correct number of spaces. Read the space where you land and do as it says. Then read the results below. If you land on a blank space, pass the die and wait patiently until it's your turn again. The winner is the first person to reach "Finish."

- 1** Purple Loosestrife Penalty: Yikes! One month later your water garden is overcrowded by this invasive weed.
- 2** Eurasian Watermilfoil Mystery: Aha! This feathery, dense-growing underwater plant clogs propellers and makes poor fish habitat.
- 3** Hydrilla Hubub: Oh no! This submerged plant spreads quickly and will likely overgrow the pond and crowd out native plants.
- 4** Sea Lamprey Lesson: Oops! That's no eel! It's a sea lamprey. You just helped spread them where they don't belong.
- 5** Zebra Mussel Mayhem: Oh my! You just helped spread zebra mussel larvae from one waterway to another.
- 6** Asian Clam Catastrophe: Those interesting little clams cause serious water supply problems by blocking intake pipes and water flow.
- 7** Congratulations! You helped reduce the spread of nasty nuisance species like the zebra mussel.
- 8** Way to Go! By encouraging your family and friends to leave them alone and not transplant them, you can do your part to keep purple loosestrife from spreading and becoming a problem.
- 9** Awful Accident: Not only did you introduce those baitfish to a new waterway, but you may also have dumped very small young animals, eggs and larvae that you could not see. It's never a good idea to empty your bait bucket into the water.
- 10** Turtle Timeout: Your pet turtle was probably a red-eared slider - a turtle native to the southern states. They are more aggressive than our local turtles and may bully them off of important basking rocks and logs. It's very important to keep your pets as pets. Don't release them into the wild when you get tired of taking care of them. And don't assume they'll be happier in the wild.