

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

PLAY



Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

FALL 2001

PA'S Least Wanted



Aliens. Invaders. Nuisances. Pests. Threats to biodiversity.

No, we aren't describing the latest Hollywood movie. We are describing aquatic nuisance species. This issue of PLAY focuses on aquatic nuisance species. Either accidentally or on purpose, humans have introduced species that aren't native to Pennsylvania. These organisms find that Pennsylvania's aquatic habitats are able to meet their needs. In turn, these organisms have a negative effect on the critters (including humans!) and plants that are native to Pennsylvania.

Several words used throughout this issue might be new to you. Those words and their definitions are in the box at right.

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are aquatic animals and plants that have been introduced into new ecosystems. They harm the natural resources in these ecosystems and the human use of these resources.

Biodiversity. The variety of species, their genetic makeup, and the natural communities in which they occur.

Introduced species. A species living outside of its natural geographic range. Can be deliberately or accidentally introduced or brought into the new ecosystem. Also called *exotic, alien, non-native, nuisance or invasive species*.

Invasive. Spreading or taking over. Invasive species often take over or dominate a habitat.

Native. An animal or plant originating in a region or geographic range. For example, brook trout are native to Pennsylvania.



Purple loosestrife along the Susquehanna River.



title illustration: Ron Kuhn, photo: Ted Walke

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