

# NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

*Northern Snakehead*



## Frankenfish

Frankenfish and Fishzilla are two nicknames that have been given to the Northern Snakehead. These nicknames come from the Northern Snakehead's menacing

looks and voracious appetite. Its head is flattened, which makes it look somewhat like a snake. Northern Snakeheads also have a mouthful of sharp teeth.

## Monster Moves?

Northern Snakeheads can breathe air by using a series of chambers in their heads. But, can they move across land breathing only air? Not really. Young Northern

Snakeheads may be able to wiggle their bodies across land for short distances. However, this can only be done under wet conditions.

## Alien Invaders

Northern Snakeheads are from China, Russia and Korea. Snakeheads were once sold in the United States in pet shops and live fish markets. People most likely released them into our waterways.



## Northern Snakeheads are a problem, because they:

- Are aggressive predators
- Can transmit parasites and diseases
- Compete with popular sportfish, such as Largemouth Bass
- Reproduce rapidly
- Do not have natural predators to control their numbers

# Mistaken Identity

The Bowfin and Burbot are native fish of Pennsylvania that can be mistaken

for Northern Snakehead. Look for the differences below.

## Aquatic Invasive Species: Northern Snakehead



## Native Species: Bowfin



## Native Species: Burbot

