

END THE SPREAD

OF INVASIVE NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAILS

Mud snails are established in four of the Great Lakes, and four rivers in Michigan.



Mud snails can be spread by attaching to boating and fishing equipment. Without natural parasites and with few predators, mud snails are invading trout streams across the state.

ANATOMY OF A MUD SNAIL



- Cone-shaped shell
- 5-6 whorls
- Opening on right side (with shell pointed up)
- Individuals found in Michigan are light to dark brown
- The snails measure 1/8"—about the size of a grain of rice.

CLEAN YOUR BOATS AND FISHING GEAR

Cleaning gear between waterbodies is the most effective way to prevent mud snails from spreading. New research at the Aquatic Ecology Lab at Oakland University found Formula 409 Multi-Surface Cleaner to be an effective step in the decontamination process.

1. Inspect
2. Brush or wipe to remove debris
3. Brush and Spray with Formula 409 Multi-Surface Cleaner
4. Rinse
5. Dry



NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAILS

The **New Zealand Mud Snail** is an invasive aquatic species that now inhabits some Michigan lakes, rivers and streams and is expanding its range. Mud snail populations are increasing in some of our most valued trout streams across the state. As mud snails take over, they can reduce the numbers of native macroinvertebrates that fish feed on. Some fish, including rainbow and brown trout, will eat mud snails. Because the snail's shell can't be digested, the fish receive no nutrition, which can lead to smaller fish sizes and poor fish health.

Photo: Gary Miller



Trout can disperse mud snails rapidly since mud snails can pass through trout gastrointestinal tracts unharmed. Once mud snails move in to a water body, there is no real way to remove them, so it is important that everyone takes steps to prevent their spread to new locations.

What can you do to help? New Zealand mud snails are easily spread by human activities such as boating and fly fishing. You can help by carefully inspecting and cleaning all gear including boats, waders, nets and rods before bringing them to a different lake or stream.

If you find mud snails, please report them to the contacts below.

www.misin.msu.edu

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