

NOT WANTED



NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL
ALIAS: POTAMOPYRGUS
ANTIPODARUM

Distribution: Native to freshwater lakes and streams in New Zealand. Populations of the snail were first detected in the U.S. in the mid-1980s. They have been found in the Western U.S. in the waters of Idaho, Montana, California, Arizona, Oregon, and Utah. In the Eastern U.S., they have appeared in the waters of Lake Ontario.

Size: Up to 6 millimeters (1/4 inch) in length.

Description: It is an operculate snail, meaning it has a 'lid' that can seal the opening of its shell. When looking at the opening, the shell spirals in a clockwise direction. It can be either gray or brown in color.

Impacts to Aquatic Ecosystem:

Mudsnails are a cause of concern because they can form densities of over one-half million per meter square. They impact the food chain for native fish and change the physical characteristics of streams. The snail has the ability to withstand desiccation and a wide range of temperatures. The snail is capable of asexual reproduction, meaning that a single individual can multiply exponentially. These characteristics give it the potential to become a widespread nuisance species.

Means of Introduction: Possible introduction into the U.S. from the aquarium trade. A major pathway of spread appears to be anglers, with hitchhikers clinging to fishing gear.

Status in Maryland: Currently not in Maryland.



Legal Standing: Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

*Special provisions for delivering specimens to authorities, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

For more information on invasive species in Maryland visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

