Oriental Weatherfish
*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*

**Identification**
Long, cylindrical, eel-like body and a mouth that is small, narrow and has six barbells.

**Why is it a Problem?**
As a nonnative species that can survive a wide range of water temperatures and a low oxygen level, oriental weatherfish may reduce populations of aquatic insects that are important as food to native fish.

**Range/Habitat**

**Similar Species**
Sometimes mistaken for the Kuhl loach (*Pangio kuhlii*), particularly when young.

**Legal Status**

**Control and Prevention**
Do not release unwanted pets or live, unused fish purchased as food into Maryland waters.

**Method of Introduction**
Oriental weatherfish is native to Eastern Asia. In Hawaii, the species was presumably introduced by Asian immigrants in the 1800s, likely to serve as food and bait. Introductions in the continental states were presumably the result of fish farm or aquarium releases during the twentieth century.

**Want to know more?** Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.
Sources:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/invasive_species/most_unwanted.asp


http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/invasive_species/docs/oriental_weatherfish_fact_sheet.pdf