

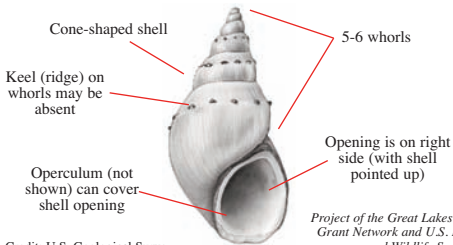


Not Actual Sizes

New Zealand Mudsnail WATCH

How to Identify New Zealand Mudsnails

(Use the following illustration as a guide; some characteristics may be absent.)



Credit: U.S. Geological Survey

Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS![™]

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

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General Characteristics

- *Small, up to 1/5 inch (5 mm) long*
- *Difficult to distinguish from native snails; shell more elongated*
- *Usually horn-colored, but ranges from light to dark brown*

New Zealand Mudsnaails

New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) are tiny invasive snails that threaten the food webs of trout streams and other waters. Native to New Zealand, they were first found in Idaho's Snake River in 1987. They quickly spread to other Western rivers, sometimes reaching densities over 500,000 per square meter. In the Great Lakes, mudsnails were first found in Lake Ontario in the early 1990s. Since then, they have been reported in lakes Superior, Michigan and Erie. In 2012 they were found in Black Earth Creek in southern Wisconsin.

Anglers pose a risk for spreading New Zealand mudsnails because they can be moved on waders and gear. They can close their shells allowing them to survive out of water for days. One snail can reproduce and start a new infestation. Eradicating infestations is nearly impossible. Your help in detecting and reporting new infestations is vital for preventing their spread.

What you can do

- **Learn** to recognize New Zealand mudsnails (see back cover).
- **Clean** off aquatic plants, animals, and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts and other recreational gear left in lakes.
- **Drain** water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving water access – drain bilge, live and baitwell by removing drain plugs.
- **Dispose** of unwanted plants, live bait, worms and fish parts in the trash.
- **Scrub** soles of footwear with stiff bristled brush.
- **Rinse** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure hot water **AND/OR**
- **Dry** everything for 5 days or more **OR wipe** with a towel before reuse.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed container with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program in Manitowoc, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR in Madison, (608) 266-6437; or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland, (715) 682-6185.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession of invasive aquatic animals and plants. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions.