

# STOP

# The Invasion



Photo courtesy of Robyn Draheim, Portland State University

## New Zealand Mudsnail

*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*



Photo courtesy of USGS

### What is it?

New Zealand Mudsnails are tiny (less than 6 mm) aquatic snails that are adaptable to diverse climatic and environmental conditions. It is found in freshwater and brackish environments.

### Is it here yet?

Yes. New Zealand Mudsnails were first discovered in the Lower Columbia River in 2002 and, more recently, was discovered November 16, 2009, in Olympia's Capitol Lake. The only other known locations are in the Lower Columbia River and on Long Beach peninsula.

### Why should I care?

New Zealand Mudsnails are considered a high invasive threat to freshwater and brackish water environments. They can dominate river and lakebed habitat by achieving densities of over 100,000 per square meter. They outcompete native aquatic snails and insects that other species depend on for food. Disruption of the food chain and nutrient cycling can lead to reduced growth rates and lower populations of fish species.

### How can we stop it?

Clean, Drain and Dry any watercraft after use—this prevents hitchhiking of any aquatic invasive species including fish and shellfish diseases, plants, and other animals. Thoroughly brush-off any debris from waders, boots, and equipment that came in contact with stream or lake water, then wash the gear in hot water (140°F), or freeze the gear overnight.

### What should I do if I find a New Zealand Mudsnail?

Call: **1-888-WDFW-AIS**, **1-877-9-INFEST** or report online at [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov)

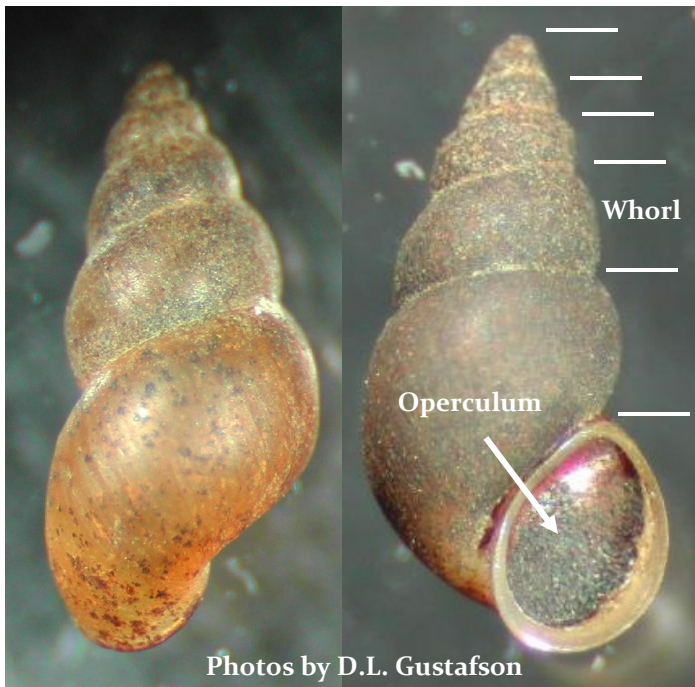
## Report

## Sightings:

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1-877-9-INFEST

[invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://invasivespecies.wa.gov)



Photos by D.L. Gustafson



## New Zealand Mudsnail Characteristics:

- New Zealand Mudsnails have five or six whorls and are generally light to dark brown, but can appear black in color, especially when wet.
- Adults are 4 to 6mm. in length.
- Generally self-reproducing by cloning and are live-bearing—a single snail can rapidly reproduce and colonize a new area.
- The opening of the shell has a movable cover called the operculum, that allows the snail to seal itself inside, which protects it from short-term exposure to chemicals. It can survive out of water for weeks in damp, cool conditions, and it can pass-through the digestive tracts of fish and birds unharmed.
- They can tolerate a wide range of habitats, including brackish water, and many different substrates such as rock, gravel, sand and mud.
- It is a nighttime grazer, feeding on plant and animal detritus, algae, sediments and diatoms.

## New Zealand Mudsnails may be Confused with:

- Several species of native freshwater and estuarine snails due to its small size. A powerful magnifying loop or microscope may be needed to positively identify them.

## For more Information visit:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/index.htm>

<http://www.esg.montana.edu/aim/mollusca/nzms/>

<http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/ans/nzms.php>

<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/spoc/nzms.php>

[http://www.protectyourwaters.net/hitchhikers/mollusks\\_new\\_zealand\\_mudsnail.php](http://www.protectyourwaters.net/hitchhikers/mollusks_new_zealand_mudsnail.php)

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.asp?speciesID=1008>

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