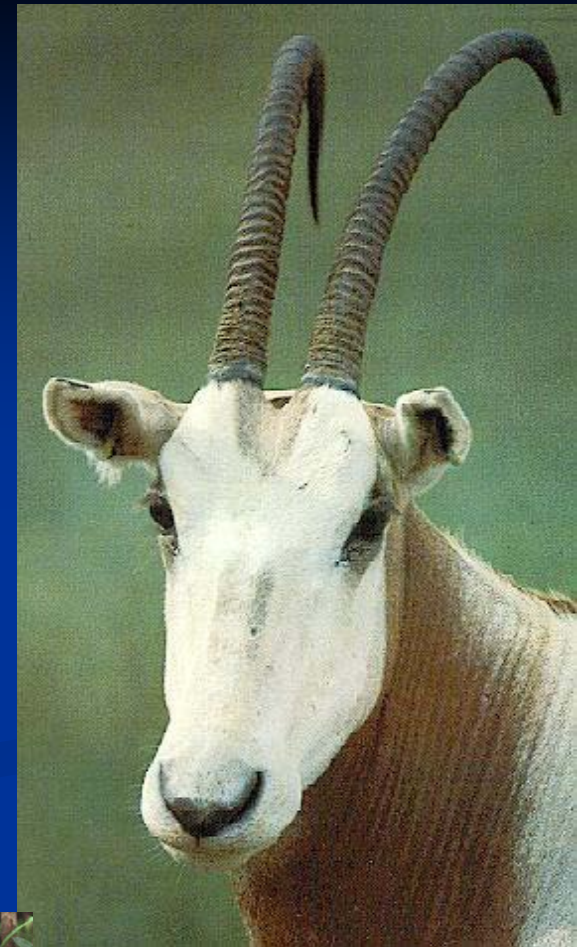




Peter Jenkins  
Defenders of  
Wildlife



# Non-native Wildlife Imports

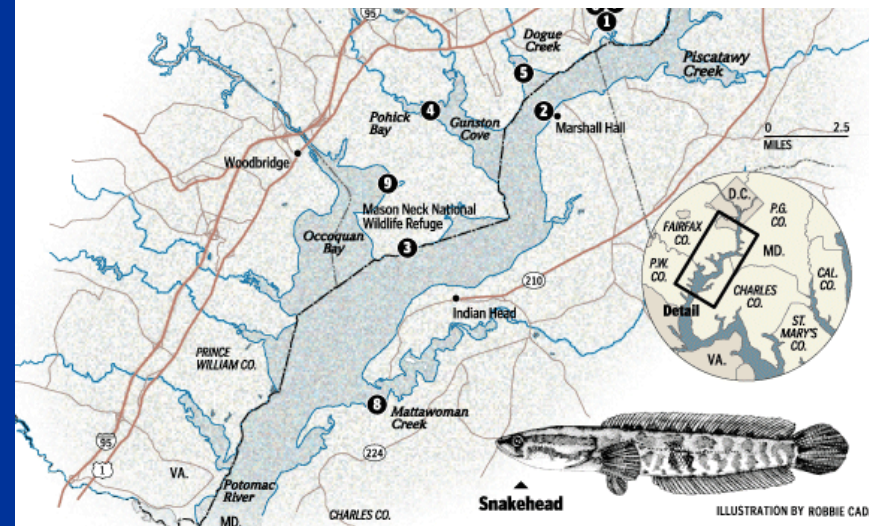


# Wanted dead, not alive INVADING SPECIES

## Northern Snakehead, *Channa argus*



Aliases: *Unknown*



A look at the snakeheads caught in the Potomac and its tributaries in the past two months:

| BODY OF WATER          | STATE | DATE   | LENGTH (In inches) |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------------------|
| 1 Little Hunting Creek | Va.   | May 7  | 12                 |
| 2 Potomac River        | Md.   | 12     | 12                 |
| 3 Potomac River        | Va.   | 15     | 13                 |
| 4 Pohick Bay           | Va.   | 27     | 14.5               |
| 5 Dogue Creek          | Va.   | June 3 | 14.5               |
| 6 Little Hunting Creek | Va.   | 17     | 24                 |
| 7 Little Hunting Creek | Va.   | 23     | 15                 |
| 8 Mattawoman Creek     | Md.   | 24     | 17                 |
| 9 Kane's Creek         | Va.   | 27     | 18                 |

NOTE: Snakeheads were discovered in Crofton, Md., pond in the summer of 2002—6 adults and approximately 1,000 babies. On April 26, 2004, a 19-inch snakehead was found in Pine Lake in Wheaton (not shown on the map).



Asian carp anyone?





# BROKEN SCREENS

The Regulation of Live Animal  
Imports in the United States



## ■ Scope of pre-import screening challenge:

- 2,241 non-native animal species imported

| Import Quantity           | Total Number of Counted Specimens | Additional Total Uncounted Imports, by Weight   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 5 year total<br>2000-2004 | 1,073,796,735                     | 5,186,644 kilos                                 |
| Annual Average            | 214,759,347                       | 1,037,329 kilos                                 |
| <b>Daily average</b>      | <b>588,000 specimens</b>          | <b>plus 2,842 kilos<br/>or &gt; 3 tons (US)</b> |

# Screening Process

- Defenders' 4 months of research  
+
- IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group's prototype Global Register of Invasive Species (GRIS)



## APPENDIX B

## PRELIMINARY INVASIVENESS AND DISEASE RISK ANNOTATIONS FOR IDENTIFIED NON-NATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES IMPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES, 2000-2004

## NOTES:

- Key to common abbreviations in annotations appears at end of table (page 47).
- Annotations do not include all available risk information and are not definitive as to risks in the United States.
- Annotations are for invasiveness risk unless a disease risk is noted.

| Genus                 | Species               | Common name and annotation   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| NON-NATIVE AMPHIBIANS |                       |  |
| <i>Ambystoma</i>      | <i>mexicanum</i>      | Mexican salamander, GRIS, amphib. disease, <i>Molec. Ecol.</i> 14:213-24   |
| <i>Anelopus</i>       | <i>varius</i>         | Harlequin toad, amphib. disease, <i>Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.</i> 95:9031-9036   |
| <i>Anelopus</i>       | <i>zetekii</i>        | Golden frog, amphib. disease, <a href="http://www.calacademy.org/science_now/headline_science">www.calacademy.org/science_now/headline_science</a> |
| <i>Bombina</i>        | <i>variegata</i>      | Yellow-bellied toad, GRIS  |
| <i>Dendrobates</i>    | <i>aureatus</i>       | Green and black dart-poison frog, NAS Impact; and amphib. disease, <i>J. Vet. Diagnost. Invest.</i> 11:194-199                                     |
| <i>Dendrobates</i>    | <i>azureus</i>        | Blue dart frog, amphib. disease, <i>J. Vet. Diagnostic Invest.</i> 11:194-199  |
| <i>Dendrobates</i>    | <i>tinciorius</i>     | Dyeing poison frog, amphib. disease, <i>J. Vet. Diagnost. Invest.</i> 11:194-199   |
| <i>Kaloula</i>        | <i>pulchra</i>        | Asian painted frog, GRIS   |
| <i>Litoria</i>        | <i>aurea</i>          | Green and golden bell frog, NAS Impact, GRIS   |
| <i>Litoria</i>        | <i>caerulea</i>       | Great green treefrog, NAS Impact, GRIS; and amphib. disease, <i>Proc. Nat Acad. Sci.</i> 95:9031-9036  |
| <i>Psychadena</i>     | <i>mascareniensis</i> | Mascarene grass frog, GRIS   |
| <i>Rana</i>           | <i>ridibunda</i>      | Marsh frog, GRIS   |
| <i>Rana</i>           | <i>temporaria</i>     | European or common frog, amphib. disease, <i>Vet Record</i> 137:72-3   |

TOTAL ANNOTATED NON-NATIVE AMPHIBIANS: 13 of 172 imported non-natives

## NON-NATIVE BIRDS

# Infectious agents introduced to the United States via imports of live animals, 1996-2006

- Exotic Newcastle's Disease
- Heartwater
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever
- Monkeypox Virus
- Viral Hemorrhagic Disease of Rabbits
- Chytridiomycosis
- Ranavirus

# Summary Numbers, 2000-2004

- ~ 3,000 total animal species imported
- 2,241 identified non-native animal species imported were “coarse-screened”
- 302 of those were annotated for potential invasiveness and/or disease risk
- Only 34 of those 302 had a regulatory restriction in place by USFWS (18), APHIS (5) or CDC (11)

# White Paper:

## Economic Impacts of Live Animal Imports Into the United States

Timm Kroeger, Ph.D.

[www.defenders.org/  
animalimports](http://www.defenders.org/animalimports)



# Key Recommendation

Congress needs to:

- adopt a more protective national standard
- give USFWS authority to prohibit species that have not been risk screened

# HR 669 – Key Provisions

- **SEC. 2 – PURPOSE**

- **SEC. 3 – RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**Note:** Section 3(f) “grandfathers” animals of species later prohibited.

- **SEC. 4 – LIST OF APPROVED SPECIES**

- **SEC. 5 – LIST OF UNAPPROVED SPECIES**

- **SEC. 6 - PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES**

- **SEC. 7 – PERMITS**

- **SEC. 8 – FEES**

- **SEC. 10 – RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW**

- **SEC. 14 DEFINITIONS**

**Note:** Definition of non-native wildlife species excludes domesticated animals

# Policy Options – Champagne or Beer??

## Champagne:

HR 669

\* 41 bi-partisan co-sponsors

Lots of public support, but heavy opposition

## Beer:

possible new, improved, more moderate Senate bill

- basic approach – Discussion Draft

Australia, Israel and New Zealand have pre-import screening systems that work and comply with international law

Why not the USA?