

New Zealand Mudsnail

Potamopyrgus anitpodarum

Identification Up to 6mm in length; operculate (can seal its shell with a “lid”); gray or brown.

Why is it a Problem? Can form densities of over 1 million snails per square meter; may adversely impact food chain for native trout and alter physical characteristics of streams.



Range/Habitat Fresh-water dweller; established primarily in Western U.S., including Idaho, Wyoming, California, Oregon, and Montana; recently reported in Lake Ontario; have not yet been found in Maryland.

Similar Species Typically occurs in denser colonies than native snails; has more elongated shell.

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

Method of Introduction A major pathway of spread appears to be anglers, with hitchhikers clinging to fishing gear.

Control and Prevention Mudsnaileds can reproduce asexually, so it only takes one to introduce the species to a new area. Anglers should be vigilant in cleaning their equipment of mud, especially if they have been fishing in lakes or rivers where the snail has already spread.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.