Snakehead
U.S. Distribution

Northern Snakehead

Species from the genus *Channa* or *Parachanna* are referred to as snakeheads. Snakeheads are native to southern and eastern Asia and parts of Africa. They have historically been sold in the U.S. as food in Asian markets and also as pets, and were released via these sources. Snakehead have now been introduced into waters in Arkansas, California, Florida, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusettes, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Wisconsin. They are able to adapt to a variety of habitats and can live for long periods of time (up to four days) out of water. Snakehead feed primarily on other fish, but also eat insects, plants, crustaceans, reptiles and even small birds and mammals. There are no known natural predators of snakehead in the U.S. Once this species becomes established it is very difficult to eradicate.

Snakehead primarily spread through intentional or unintentional introduction as fish or their eggs and through water currents.

<u>If you are using snakehead infested waters please remember to:</u>

- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from your gear and equipment. This includes all types of watercraft, waders, boots, clothing, buckets – anything that comes into contact with the water.
- ✓ **CLEAN** all equipment and gear of plants, mud and debris. *Never move a plant or animal from one location to another*.
- ✓ **DRY** everything thoroughly. In Wyoming we recommend drying for 5 days in the summer, 18 days in the spring or fall, or 3 days at freezing temperatures.