Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council's

Invasive Aquatic Species of Greatest Concern to Pennsylvania

Updated August 2026

Tier Descriptions:

Tier 1

Early Detection/Prevention: Species in this category are absent from target regions and should receive the highest level of early detection survey efforts. Natural resource professionals should conduct delineation surveys for Tier 1 species and assign species detected to the appropriate tier.

Tier 2

Eradication: Species in this category occur in small localized populations and should receive the highest level of early detection response efforts. High impact species with low enough abundance and suitable treatment method(s) should make eradication feasible in a given area.

Tier 3

Containment: Species in this category are spreading and increasing in number, and should receive targeted and strategic management to slow their spread as they are likely too widespread to eradicate. Surrounding regions could be left at risk if Tier 3 species are left unattended.

Tier 4

Local Control: Species in this category are established throughout the state or target region and cannot be feasibly eradicated. Land managers should instead focus efforts on localized management over time to contain, exclude, or suppress to protect high-priority resources like rare native species or recreational assets. Managers are advised to be strategic when deciding if/when to control Tier 4 species.

Tier 5

Monitor: Species in this category need more research, mapping, and monitoring to understand their invasiveness. This includes naturalized species and cultivated-only species that are known to be invasive in other regions, but are not yet invasive here. Invasiveness may change with environmental or genetic changes. Land managers should monitor populations on a regular basis to see if they are starting to become invasive. If invasive infestations are detected, species should be assigned to an appropriate tier.

Common Name	Latin Name	Statewide Tier	Erie Basin Tier	Ohio Basin Tier	Potomac Basin Tier	Susquehanna Basin Tier	Delaware Basin Tier
Bloody Red Shrimp	*Hemimysis anomala*	2	3	1	1	1	1
Chinese Mysterysnail	*Cipangopaludina chinensis*	4	4	4	4	4	4
Fishhook Waterflea	*Cercopagis pengoi*	2	3	1	1	1	1
Freshwater Tubenose Goby	*Proterorhinus semilunaris*	2	4	1	1	1	1
Goldfish	*Carassius auratus*	4	4	4	4	4	4
Grass Carp	*Ctenopharyngodon idella*	3	3	2	2	2	2
Japanese Mysterysnail	*Cipangopaludina japonica*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Mud Bithynia (Faucet Snail)	*Bithynia tentaculata*	2	3	1	1	1	1
New Zealand Mudsnail	*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*	3	4	2	2	3	3
Northern Snakehead	*Channa argus*	3	1	1	1	3	4
Oriental Weatherfish (Pond Loach)	*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*	M	M	M	M	M or 2	M
Quagga Mussel	*Dreissena bugensis*	2	4	1	1	2	2
Rainbow Smelt	*Osmerus mordax*	M	M	M	M	M	Native
Red Swamp Crayfish	*Procambarus clarkii*	2	1	2	2	2	3
Red-eared Slider	*Trachemys scripta elegans*	4	4	4	3	4	4
Round Goby	*Neogobius melanostomus*	3	4	3	1	1	1
Rudd	*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*	2	4	1	1	1	1
Rusty Crayfish	*Faxonius rusticus*	3	2	2	3	4	3
Scud	*Apocorophium lacustre*	2	1	2	1	1	1
Amphipod	*Echinogammarus ischnus*	3	4	1	1	1	1
Spiny Waterflea	*Bythotrephes longimanus*	3	3	2	1	1	1
Virile Crayfish	*Faxonius virilis*	3	M	1	3	3	3
Water Flea	*Bosmina coregoni*	3	3	2	1	1	1
Western Mosquitofish	*Gambusia affinis*	2	1	1	1	2	2
Yellow-bellied Slider	*Trachemys scripta scripta*	3	1	2	2	2	3
Zebra Mussel	*Dreissena polymorpha*	3	4	4	1	3	2
Flathead Catfish	*Pylodictis olivaris*	3	3	Native	1	3	3
White Perch	*Morone Americana*	3	3	2	Native	Native	Native
White River Crayfish	*Procambarus acutus*	3	1	3	3	3	3
Asiatic Clam	*Corbicula fluminea*	4	4	4	4	4	4
Common Carp	*Cyprinus carpio*	4	4	4	4	4	4
Alewife	*Alosa pseudoharengus*	3	4	2	Native	Native	Native
Allegheny Crayfish	*Faxonius obscurus*	4	Native	Native	4	4	3
Sea Lamprey	*Petromyzon marinus*	3	4	1	Native	Native	Native
African Clawed Frog	*Xenopus laevis*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Big-eared Radix	*Radix auricularia*	2	1	1	1	2	2
Bighead Carp	*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black Carp	*Mylopharyngodon piceus*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blotched Snakehead	*Channa maculata*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Tilapia	*Oreochromis aureus*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Calico Crayfish	*Faxonius immunis*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Carter's Moss Animal	*Lophopodella carteri*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Chinese Pond Mussel	*Sinanodonta woodiana*	1	1	1	1	1	1
European Fingernailclam	*Sphaerium corneum*	1	1	1	1	1	1
European Stream Valvata	*Valvata piscinalis*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Giant Snakehead	*Channa micropeltes*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ide	*Leuciscus idus*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marbled crayfish	*Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pink Salmon	*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Red Shiner	*Cyprinella lutrensis*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Redbelly Tilapia	*Tilapia zillii*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Ruffe	*Gymnocephalus cernuus*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Silver Carp	*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Catfish	*Ictalurus furcatus*	2	1	Native	1	1	3
Alabama Bass	*Micropterus henshalli*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Freshwater Jellyfish	*Craspedacusta sowerbii*	4	4	4	4	4	4
Swamp Eel	*Monopterus albus / javanensi species complex*	M	M	M	M	M	M
Golden Mussel	*Limnoperna fortune*	1	1	1	1	1	1