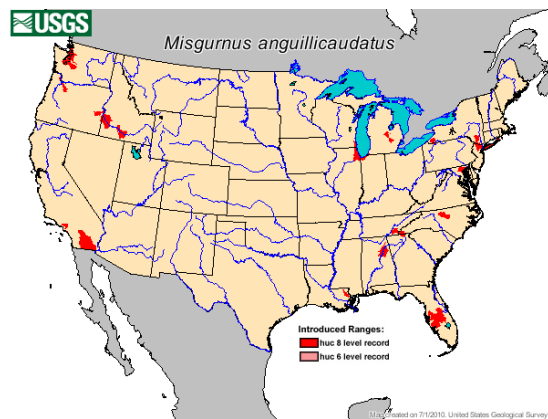


Oriental Weatherfish

Misgurnus anguillicaudatus

Identification Long, cylindrical, eel-like body and a mouth that is small, narrow and has six barbells.

Why is it a Problem? As a nonnative species that can survive a wide range of water temperatures and a low oxygen level, oriental weatherfish may reduce populations of aquatic insects that are important as food to native fish.



Range/Habitat Established in Shiawassee River and L. Michigan (U.S.EPA 2008). Established in California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Washington, and possibly in Louisiana. Reported from Tennessee and North Carolina. Found in Baltimore, Maryland in 2008 in Gwynn Falls and again in 2009 in the Patapsco River.

Similar Species Sometimes mistaken for the Kuhli loach (*Pangio kuhlii*), particularly when young.

Legal Status

Control and Prevention Do not release unwanted pets or live, unused fish purchased as food into Maryland waters.

Method of Introduction Oriental weatherfish is native to Eastern Asia. In Hawaii, the species was presumably introduced by Asian immigrants in the 1800s, likely to serve as food and bait. Introductions in the continental states were presumably the result of fish farm or aquarium releases during the twentieth century.

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

Sources:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/invasive_species/most_unwanted.asp

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=498>

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/>

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/invasive_species/docs/oriental_weatherfish_fact_sheet.pdf