

Anglers

You can protect fishing areas by not releasing live bait into local waterways. Anglers can introduce new species when non-native live bait is used and either escapes from the hook or the bait well, or is accidentally or intentionally released. Non-native live bait can threaten the environment, local economies, and human health. The best method of control is the prevention of species introduction and spread; however, this requires awareness and informed decision making on your part.

Red Swamp Crayfish

Procambarus clarkii

Native to the south-central United States and northeastern Mexico this species has been introduced to California, Hawaii, and many eastern



states including Georgia. It is likely that introductory pathways include aquaculture and live bait release by anglers. The red swamp crayfish occurs in both freshwater and brackish water habitats. Extensive burrowing activity can lead to increased bank erosion and habitat loss. This species is also aggressive and territorial and can out-compete native species. The red swamp crayfish can also serve as an intermediate host for many fish parasites. *Photo credit: Chris A. Taylor*

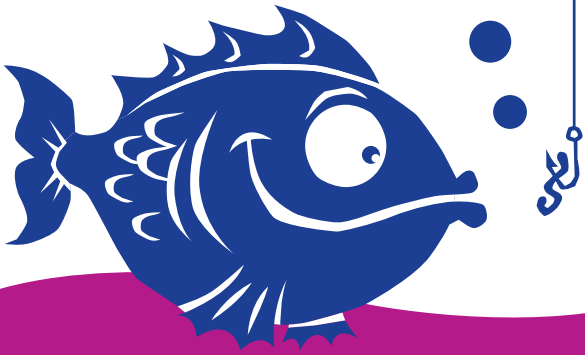
Other fishing related invasives include from left to right: Common carp and Asian Clam.



Photo credits: Common carp, L.Lovshin; Asian clam, N. Burkhead.

The prevention and control of invasive species requires modifying the public's behaviors, values and beliefs, and changing the way decisions are made.

— *National Invasive Species Council's National Management Plan 2001*



What Can You Do?

Become part of the solution to reduce the threat from invasive species by practicing the following responsible behaviors:

- Never release bait (or packaging) into the water if it did not come from that specific body of water.
- Share leftover live bait with other anglers.
- Use native bait.
- Use cut bait or artificial lures.
- Empty your bait bucket in the trash before leaving the fishing area.
- Avoid dipping your bait bucket into a body of water if the bucket contains water from another area.
- Be familiar with any bait regulations; in some waters, it is illegal to use live bait.
- Follow the cleaning instructions below, especially when moving to a new fishing area:
 - Use high pressure, hot (40 °C or 104 °F) water.
 - If hot water is not available, salt water is the next best alternative.
 - If equipment cannot be exposed to hot water dip in 100% vinegar for 20 minutes OR 1% table salt solution (2/3 cup of salt for 5 gallons of water) for 24 hours.
 - If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before using in another body of water.

For more information on aquatic invasive species or to report an unusual sighting, please visit

www.marex.uga.edu/shellfish

