

Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

The Most Troublesome Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River Basin

August 4, 2025

In June 2003, the 28 states of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) were surveyed to determine the "most troublesome" Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) in the Mississippi River Basin (MRB). The states identified 46 plants, microorganisms, mollusks, fish and mammals.

In 2022, the Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) Prevention and Control Committee (PCC) began discussions to revise the Most Troublesome List. Over a three-year timeframe, several efforts were completed to inform this revision including the following:

- Change in panel name from Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Compiling species listed in approved State ANS/AIS Management Plans.
- Compiling species listed in state laws or regulations.
- Compiling species listed as federally injurious wildlife.
- Compiling state regulations on invasive carp.
- Completing a priority pathogens project that included input from all member states to identify the pathogens of greatest concern. Please refer to this list for pathogens as microorganisms are no longer included here.
- Presentations from USGS NAS at panel meetings to stay current on new or expanding AIS.
- Facilitating an all-panel discussion at the 2023 Colorado MRBP Coordination Meeting.
- Surveying MRBP members on which of the originally listed species should remain on the revised list or be removed.
- Surveying MRBP members on their highest priority species.
- Surveying MRBP members on the programmatic priority of invasive carp, zebra/quagga mussels, and their top five AIS within their states.
- Numerous MRBP PCC meeting discussions.
- All panel webinar on July 15, 2025.

Combined, these efforts have resulted in the following updated list of Most Troublesome AIS in the Mississippi River Basin. This list is in alphabetical order and not categorized by priority within the species categories. It is also not descriptive of funding, capacity, legal authority, presence/absence, or other management factors. This list is intended to be used as a simple reference that indicates AIS of high concern by a majority of Panel members. The list will be evaluated regularly and updated, as needed, by the PCC in the future.

In 2025, the AIS listed below are considered by the MRBP membership to be the Most Troublesome in the Mississippi River Basin. Species are listed in alphabetical order.

Species denoted with an * indicate that there is some native range within the Mississippi River Basin and this listing applies to geographic areas where the species is not native.

Crustaceans (6)

- Kentucky River Crayfish - *Faxonius juvenilis**
- Marbled Crayfish - *Procambarus virginalis*
- Rusty Crayfish - *Orconectes rusticus**
- Red Swamp Crayfish - *Procambarus clarki**
- Waterflea, Fish Hook - *Cercopagis pengoi*
- Waterflea, Spiny - *Bythotrephes cederstroemi*

Fish (17)

- Alabama Bass - *Micropterus henshalli*
- Asian Swamp Eel - *Monopterus albus*
- Brook Stickleback - *Culaea inconstans**
- Carp, Black - *Mylopharyngodon piceus*
- Carp, Bighead - *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*
- Carp, Common - *Cyprinus carpio*
- Carp, Grass - *Ctenopharyngodon idella*
- Carp, Prussian - *Carassius gibelio*
- Carp, Silver - *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*
- Nile Tilapia - *Oreochromis niloticus*
- Northern Snakehead - *Channa argus*
- Red Shiner - *Cyprinella lutrensis**
- Round Goby - *Neogobius melanostomus*
- Ruffe - *Gymnocephalus cernuus*
- Sea Lamprey - *Petromyzon marinus*
- Western Mosquitofish - *Gambusia affinis**
- White Perch - *Morone americana*

Mammals (1)

- Nutria - *Myocastor coypus*

Mollusks (8)

- Apple Snails - *Pomacea sp.*
- Asian Clam - *Corbicula fluminea*
- Chinese Mystery Snails - *Cipangopaludina chinensis*
- Golden Mussels - *Limnoperna fortunei*
- Japanese Mystery Snails - *Cipangopaludina japonica*
- New Zealand Mud Snail - *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*
- Quagga Mussel - *Dreissena bugensis*
- Zebra Mussel - *Dreissena polymorpha*

Pathogens - Please refer to the MRBP's Priority Pathogen project [here](#) for a list of the 37 species identified by membership in 2024.

Plants (17)

- Alligator Weed - *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- Brazilian Egeria - *Egeria densa*
- Brittle Naiad - *Najas minor*
- Crested Floating Heart - *Nymphoides aquatica*
- Cuban Bullrush - *Cyperus blepharoleptos*
- Curly-Leaf Pondweed - *Potamogeton crispus*
- Eelgrass Hybrid - *Vallisneria x pseudorosulata*
- Eurasian Watermilfoil - *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Flowering Rush - *Botanus umbellatus*
- Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*
- Parrot Feather - *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- Phragmites (nonnative) - *Phragmites sp.*
- Purple Loosestrife - *Lythrum salicaria*
- Salvinia - *Salvinia sp.*
- Starry Stonewort - *Nitellopsis obtusa*
- Water Hyacinth - *Eichhornia crassipes*
- Yellow Floating Heart - *Nymphoides peltata*