

# Invasive Crustaceans

10A

Spiny and  
Fishhook  
Waterfleas



Photo: Igor Grigorovitch,  
Bugwood.org

10B

Rusty  
Crayfish



Photo: U.S. Geological Survey Archive, U.S.  
Geological Survey, Bugwood.org



## Spiny and Fishhook Waterfleas

**Class:** Branchiopoda

**Order:** Diplostraca

**Species:**

**Spiny - *Bythotrephes longimanus* (Leydig)**

**Fishhook - *Cercopagis pengoi* (Ostrowmov)**

They compete with juvenile fish for food and damage aquatic gear. Anglers often discover new infestations. Both species collect in masses on fishing lines and downrigger cables. These masses can clog the first eyelet of rods, damage a reel's drag system, and prevent fish from being landed. In certain conditions, eggs can resist drying, remain viable and establish a new population when spread to inland waters. You can help stop this invader when you Inspect, Clean and Dry your aquatic equipment and by reporting any sighting to FWP by calling 406-444-2449 or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/AIS/aisSighting>. For more information and to visit the source link to:

Spiny waterflea <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=162>

Fishhook waterflea <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=163>



## Rusty Crayfish

**Class:** Malacostraca

**Order:** Decapoda

**Species:** *Orconectes rusticus* (Girard)

through competition and disease. These crayfish can also cause the destruction of plant bed abundance and diversity. You can help stop this invader by not transporting them, illegally introducing any via aquarium dumps, or using them as bait, and by reporting any sighting to FWP by calling 406-444-2449 or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/AIS/aisSighting>. For more information and to visit the source link to:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=214>

