

, Invasive Crustaceans

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Spiny and Fishhook Waterfleas

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Photo: Igor Grigorovitch, Bugwood.org

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Rusty Crayfish



Class: Branchiopoda Order: Diplostraca Species: Spiny - *Bythotrephes longimanus* (Leydig) Fishhook - *Cercopagis pengoi* (Ostrowmov)

Spiny and Fishhook Waterfleas

These predacious crustaceans are small with long, barbed tail spines. They are native to Europe and were introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1980s via ballast water. They spread via overland transport of resting eggs on fishing gear, in bilge water, livewells, and bait buckets.

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=162



Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Species: Orconectes rusticus (Girard)

Rusty Crayfish

The rusty crayfish spreads via aquarium dumping, bait buckets, and ballast water. It is a common aquarium crayfish. Females can carry fertilized eggs; therefore one female can start a new population. Native crayfish populations have been eliminated by the rusty crayfish

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://twp.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

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

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