



Texas Invasive, Prohibited and Exotic Aquatic Species

The organisms listed here are legally classified as exotic, harmful, or potentially harmful. No person may possess or place them into water of this state except as authorized by the department. Permits may be issued allowing individuals to possess, sell, import, export, transport or propagate listed species for zoological or research purposes; for aquaculture (allowed only for Blue, Nile, Mozambique, or Wami tilapia, Triploid Grass Carp, or Pacific White Shrimp); or for aquatic weed control (for example, Triploid Grass Carp in private ponds). [Permit applications](#) can be found on our website. For information about possession of tilapia for pond stocking or non-commercial aquaponics, contact the Permits Coordinator at Coordinator at IFpermits@tpwd.texas.gov or (512) 389-4444. The full text of the regulations can be found in the Texas Administrative Code ([31 TAC Ch 57A](#)).

Check our [Quick Reference Guide](#)* for illustrations that can help identify these organisms and distinguish them from other species that share similar characteristics.

* This document is an excerpt from the Guide to Identification of Harmful and Potentially Harmful Fishes, Shellfishes and Aquatic Plants Prohibited in Texas [PWD BK T3200-376 (1999).] The [complete 370-page book](#) is available as a PDF in our publications section. Note that the list of prohibited exotic species has changed since this guide was published and not all species are included and scientific classification has changed for others.

Fish

Air sac catfishes, Family Heteropneustidae

All species

African Lute Fishes, Family Citharinidae, subfamily Distichodontinae

All species of

genera *Belonophago*, *Euganthichthys*, *Ichthyborus*, *Mesoborus*, *Phago*, and *Paraphago*

African Pike Fishes, Family Hepsetidae

All species

African Tiger Fishes, Family Alestiidae

All species of genus *Hydrocynus*

Arapaima, Family Osteoglossidae

Arapaima gigas (Arapaima)

Asian Pikeheads, Family Osphronemidae

All species of the genus *Luciocephalus*

Carp and Minnows, Family Cyprinidae

All species and hybrids of species of genera:

Aspius, *Pseudoaspius*, *Aspiolucius* (asps);

Abramis, *Blicca*, *Megalobrama*, *Parabramis* (Old World breams);

Hypophthalmichthys ([bighead](#), silver, and largescale carp);

Mylopharyngodon ([black carp](#));

Ctenopharyngodon ([grass carp](#)) | [Learn about using triploid grass carp for vegetation control](#);

Cirrhinus, *Thynnichthys*, and *Gibelion* (catla);

Leuciscus (European daces);

Tor and *Neolissochilus* (barbs and mahseers);

Rutilus (roaches);

Scardinius (rudds);

Elopichthys (yellowcheek);

Catlocarpio (giant barb);

Labeo (sharkminnows) except *Labeo chrysophekadion* (black sharkminnow)

Pseudorasbora parva (stone moroko)

Dogtooth characins (Payara and vampire tetras), Family Cynodontidae

All species of genera *Hydrolycus*, *Rhaphiodon* and *Cynodon*

Dourados, Family Characidae

All species of genus *Salminus*

Electric Eels, Family Electrophoridae

Electrophorus electricus

Electric Catfishes, Family Malapteruridae

All species

European and Asian catfishes, Family Siluridae

Silurus glanis (Wels catfish)

Freshwater Eels, Family Anguillidae

All species except *Anguilla rostrata* (American eel)

Freshwater Sleepers, Family Odontobutidae

Percottus glenii (Amur sleeper)

Freshwater Stingrays, Family Potamotrygonidae

All species

Lampreys, Family Petromyzontidae

All species except *Ichthyomyzon castaneus* (chestnut lamprey) and *I. gagei* (Southern brook lamprey)

Marine Stonefishes, Family Scorpaenidae

All species of

genera *Choridactylus*, *Dampierosa*, *Erosa*, *Inimicus*, *Leptosynanceia*, *Minous*, *Pseudosynanceia*, *Synanceia*, and *Trachicephalus*

Nile Perch, Family Centropomidae

All species of genus *Lates*

Pike Killifish, Family Poeciliidae

Belonesox belizanus

Perch, Family Percidae

All species of the genus *Sander* (pikeperches) except *Sander canadensis* (sauger) and *S. vitreus* (walleye) and hybrids between those two species

All species of the genus *Gymnocephalus* (European ruffes)

Perca fluviatilis (European perch, also called redfin)

Piranhas, Family Characidae

All species of genera *Catoprion*, *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, and *Serrasalmus* (closely related Dorados also prohibited; see above)

Round Gobies, Family Gobiidae

All species of genus *Neogobius*

Seatrouts and Corvinas, Family Sciaenidae

All species of genus *Cynoscion* except *Cynoscion nebulosus* (spotted seatrout), *C. nothus* (silver seatrout), and *C. arenarius* (sand seatrout)

Snakeheads, Family Channidae

All species | [Learn more about snakeheads](#)

South American Parasitic Candiru Catfishes, Family Trichomycteridae

All species

South American Pike Characids, Family Ctenoluciidae

All species of genera *Ctenolucius* and *Boulengerella*

South American Pike Characoids, Family Acestrorhynchidae

All species of genus *Acestrorhynchus*

Swamp Eels, Rice Eels or One-Gilled Eels, Family Synbranchidae

All species

Temperate Basses, Family Moronidae

All species except *Morone saxatilis* (striped bass), *M. chrysops* (white bass) and *M. mississippiensis* (yellow bass) and hybrids of these three species

Temperate Perches, Family Percichthyidae

All species

Tilapia, Family Cichlidae

All species of genera *Coelotilapia*, *Coptodon*, *Heterotilapia*, *Oreochromis*, *Pelmatolapia*, *Sarotherodon*, and *Tilapia*

Trahiras or South American Tiger Fishes, Family Erythrinidae

All species

Walking Catfishes, Family Clariidae

All species

Whale Catfishes, Family Cetopsidae

All species

Shellfish

Applesnails, Family Ampullariidae

All species of the genus *Pomacea*, except *Pomacea bridgesii* (spiketop applesnail)

Giant Ram's-horn Snails, Family Ampullariidae

All species of genus *Marisa*

Mittencrabs, Family Varunidae

All species of genus *Eriocheir*

Mudsnails, Family Hydrobiidae

All species

Mussels, Family Mytilidae

Limnoperna fortunei (golden mussel)

Oysters, Family Ostreidae

All species except *Crassostrea rhizophorae* (mangrove oyster), *C.*

virginica (Eastern oyster), *Dendostrea frons* (frond oyster), *Ostrea stentina* (dwarf oyster), and *O. permollis* (sponge oyster)

Penaeid Shrimp, Family Penaeidae

All species of genera *Penaeus*, *Litopenaeus*, *Farfantepenaeus*, *Fenneropenaeus*,

Marsupenaeus, and *Melicertus* except *Litopenaeus setiferus* (white

shrimp), *Farfantepenaeus aztecus* (brown shrimp) and *F. duorarum* (pink shrimp)

Southern hemisphere freshwater [crayfishes](#), including redclaw crayfish, Family Parastacidae

All species

Zebra and Quagga Mussels, Family Dreissenidae

All species of genus *Dreissena*

Aquatic Plants

African Elodea (also called Lagarosiphon), Family Hydrocharitaceae

[Lagarosiphon major](#) ([African elodea](#), [Oxygen-weed](#)) | [Read more about Lagarosiphon](#)

Alligatorweed, Family Amaranthaceae

[Alternanthera philoxeroides](#) | [Read more about Alligatorweed](#)

Ambulia, Family Plantaginaceae

[Limnophila sessiflora](#) ([Asian marshweed](#))

Brazilian Peppertree, Family Anacardiaceae

[Schinus terebinthifolius](#)

Dotted Duckweed, Family Araceae

[Landoltia punctata](#)

Duck-lettuce, Family Hydrocharitaceae

[Ottelia alismoides](#)

Eurasian Watermilfoil, Family Haloragaceae

[Myriophyllum spicatum](#) | [Read more about Eurasian watermilfoil](#)

Exotic Bur-reed, Family Typhaceae

[Sparganium erectum](#)

False Pickerelweeds, Family Pontederiaceae

All species of genus *Monochoria*

Floating hearts, Family Menyanthaceae

[*Nymphoides cristata* \(crested floating heart\)](#)

[*Nymphoides peltata* \(yellow floating heart\)](#)

Hydrilla, Family Hydrocharitaceae

[*Hydrilla verticillata*](#) | [Read more about Hydrilla](#)

Paperbark (Melaleuca), Family Myrtaceae

[*Melaleuca quinquenervia*](#)

Purple Loosestrife, Family Lythraceae

[*Lythrum salicaria*](#)

Salvinia, Family Salviniaceae

All species of genus *Salvinia*, including but not limited to [*Salvinia molesta* \(Giant salvinia\)](#) and [*Salvinia minima* \(Common salvinia\)](#)

Torpedograss, Family Poaceae

[*Panicum repens*](#)

Water Hyacinths, Family Pontederiaceae

[*Eichhornia crassipes* \(Floating water hyacinths\)](#) and [*Eichhornia azurea* \(Rooted water hyacinths\)](#)

Waterlettuce, Family Araceae

[*Pistia stratiotes*](#)

Water Spinach, Family Convolvulaceae

[*Ipomoea aquatica* \(Ong choy, Rau mong, Kangkong\)](#)

Wetland Nightshade, Family Solanaceae

[*Solanum tampicense* \(Aquatic soda apple\)](#)