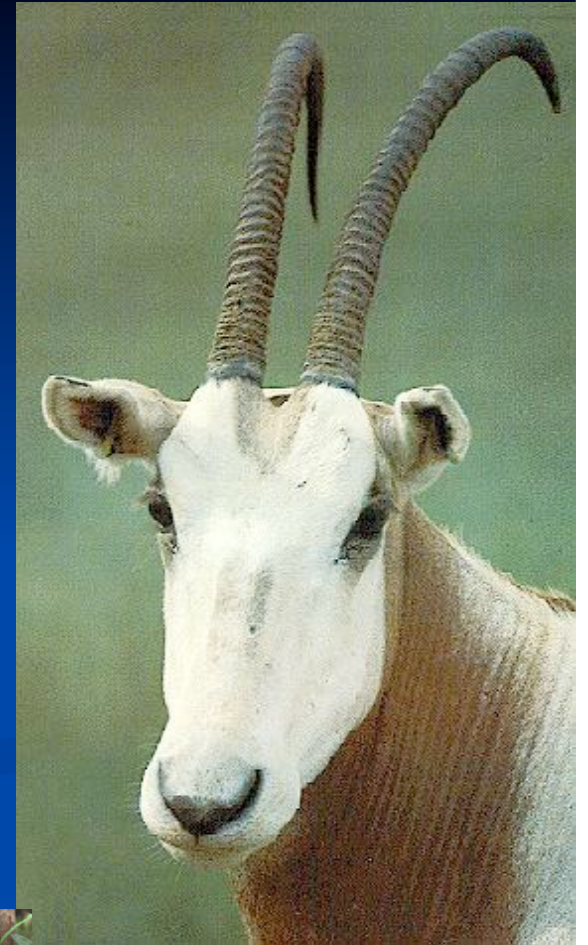




Peter Jenkins  
Defenders of  
Wildlife



# Non-native Wildlife Imports

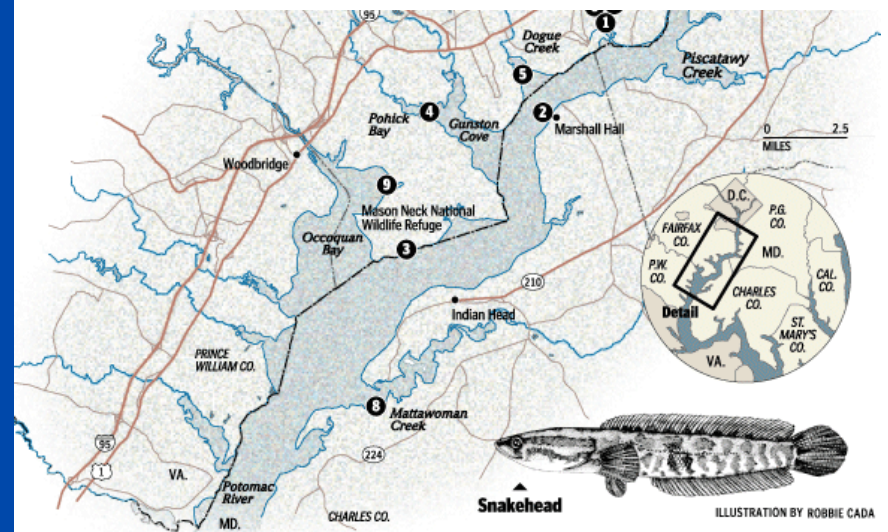


# Wanted dead, not alive INVADING SPECIES

## Northern Snakehead, *Channa argus*



Aliases: *Unknown*



A look at the snakeheads caught in the Potomac and its tributaries in the past two months:

BODY OF WATER	STATE	DATE	LENGTH (In inches)	
1 Little Hunting Creek	Va.	May 7	12	
2 Potomac River	Md.	12	12	
3 Potomac River	Va.	15	13	
4 Pohick Bay	Va.	27	14.5	
5 Dogue Creek	Va.	June 3	14.5	
6 Little Hunting Creek	Va.	17	24	
7 Little Hunting Creek	Va.	23	15	
8 Mattawoman Creek	Md.	24	17	
9 Kane's Creek	Va.	27	18	

NOTE: Snakeheads were discovered in Crofton, Md., pond in the summer of 2002—6 adults and approximately 1,000 babies. On April 26, 2004, a 19-inch snakehead was found in Pine Lake in Wheaton (not shown on the map).

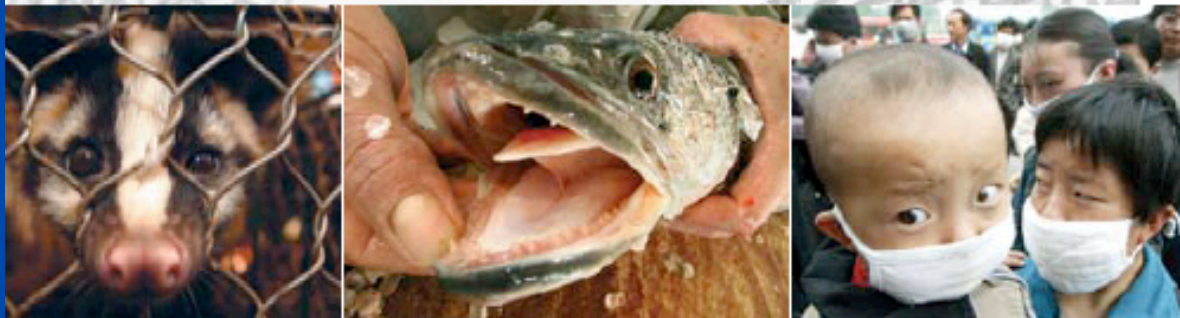
GRAPHIC BY LARRY FOGEL AND FARHANA HOSSAIN—THE WASHINGTON POST



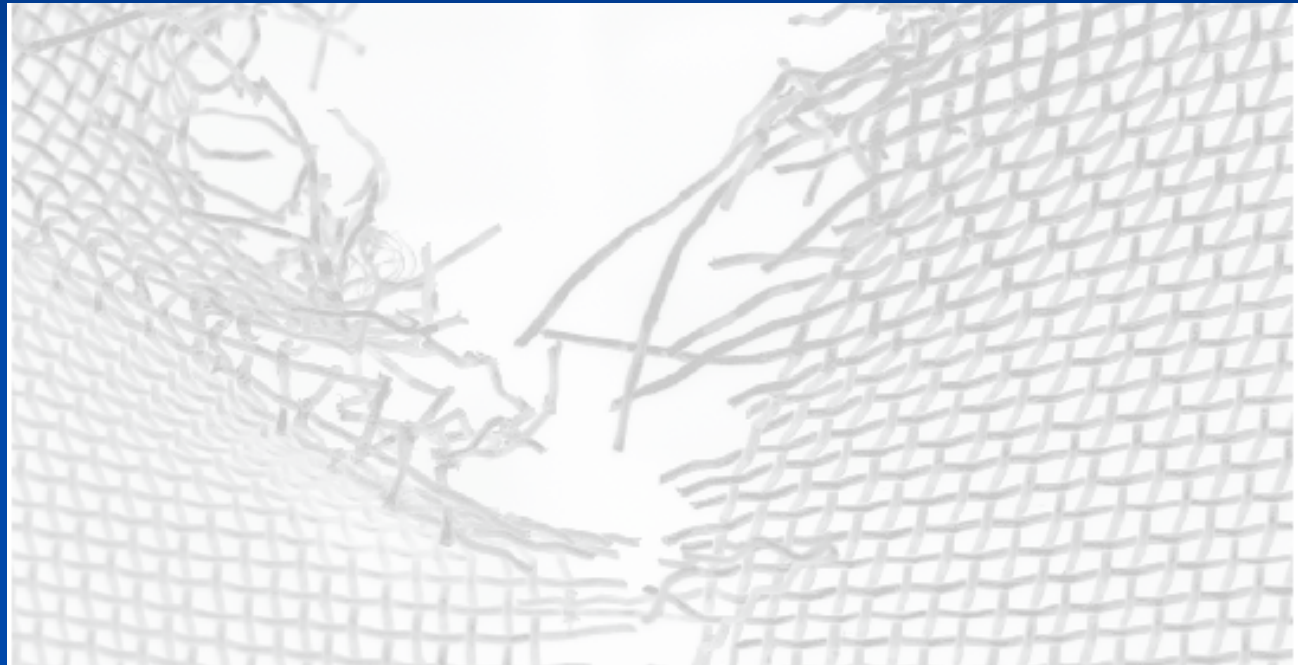


# BROKEN SCREENS

The Regulation of Live Animal Imports in the United States



**Screen metaphor -  
We did not invent it.**



## National Invasive Species Council's 2001 National Management Plan:

- Action Items 14 and 15 called for Federal pre-import screening:

*“During the first phase a screening system for first-time intentional introductions will be developed, with different agencies taking the lead as appropriate for the different types of species. The screening system will then be modified by those same lead agencies during the second phase to deal with species already moving in the U.S.”*

- First phase was due by **December, 2003**, and second phase by **2006**. None of these screening systems have been completed .

■ Scope of pre-import screening challenge:

- 2,241 non-native animal species imported

Import Quantity	Total Number of Counted Specimens	Additional Total Uncounted Imports, by Weight
5 year total 2000-2004	1,073,796,735	5,186,644 kilos
Annual Average	214,759,347	1,037,329 kilos
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>588,000 specimens</b>	<b>plus 2,842 kilos or &gt; 3 tons (US)</b>



# Infectious agents introduced to the United States via imports of live animals, 1996-2006

Infectious Agent	Most Recent Documentation	Imported Host	Known Carrier Hosts	Infected Animals	Status in U.S.
Exotic Newcastle's Disease <sup>i</sup>	1999	Various avian species	Various avian species	Poultry	Localized, recurring outbreaks
Heartwater <sup>ii</sup>	2000	African tortoise tick	Lizards, snakes, and tortoises	Domestic livestock, white-tailed deer	Present
Malignant Catarrhal Fever <sup>iii</sup>	2002	Ankoli cattle	Wildebeest	Ruminant species	Eradicated
Monkeypox Virus <sup>iv</sup>	2003	Giant Gambian rats	Giant Gambian rats	Humans, prairie dogs	Eradicated
Viral Hemorrhagic Disease of Rabbits <sup>v</sup>	2005	European rabbit	European rabbit	European rabbit	Localized, recurring outbreaks
Chytridiomycosis <sup>vi</sup>	2006	American bullfrog	American bullfrog, African clawed frog	Amphibians	Present
Ranavirus <sup>vii</sup>	2006	American bullfrog	American bullfrog	Amphibians	Present

## APPENDIX B

## PRELIMINARY INVASIVENESS AND DISEASE RISK ANNOTATIONS FOR IDENTIFIED NON-NATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES IMPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES, 2000-2004

## NOTES:

- Key to common abbreviations in annotations appears at end of table (page 47).
- Annotations do not include all available risk information and are not definitive as to risks in the United States.
- Annotations are for invasiveness risk unless a disease risk is noted.

Genus	Species	Common name and annotation
NON-NATIVE AMPHIBIANS		
<i>Ambystoma</i>	<i>mexicanum</i>	Mexican salamander, GRIS, amphib. disease, Molec. Ecol. 14:213-24
<i>Anelopus</i>	<i>varius</i>	Harlequin toad, amphib. disease, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 95:9031-9036
<i>Anelopus</i>	<i>zetecki</i>	Golden frog, amphib. disease, <a href="http://www.calacademy.org/science_now/headline_science">www.calacademy.org/science_now/headline_science</a>
<i>Bombina</i>	<i>variegata</i>	Yellow-bellied toad, GRIS
<i>Dendrobates</i>	<i>auratus</i>	Green and black dart-poison frog, NAS Impact; and amphib. disease, J. Vet. Diagnost. Invest. 11:194-199
<i>Dendrobates</i>	<i>azureus</i>	Blue dart frog, amphib. disease, J. Vet. Diagnostic Invest. 11:194-199
<i>Dendrobates</i>	<i>tincoriuis</i>	Dyeing poison frog, amphib. disease, J. Vet. Diagnost. Invest. 11:194-199
<i>Kaloula</i>	<i>pulchra</i>	Asian painted frog, GRIS
<i>Litoria</i>	<i>aurea</i>	Green and golden bell frog, NAS Impact, GRIS
<i>Litoria</i>	<i>caerulea</i>	Great green treefrog, NAS Impact, GRIS; and amphib. disease, Proc. Nat Acad. Sci. 95:9031-9036
<i>Ptychocheilus</i>	<i>mascareniensis</i>	Mascarene grass frog, GRIS
<i>Rana</i>	<i>ridibunda</i>	Marsh frog, GRIS
<i>Rana</i>	<i>temporaria</i>	European or common frog, amphib. disease, Vet Record 137:72-3

TOTAL ANNOTATED NON-NATIVE AMPHIBIANS: 13 of 172 imported non-natives

## NON-NATIVE BIRDS

**Proportion of identified non-native animal species imported into the United States with annotations for potential invasiveness and/or disease risk, 2000-2004**

Taxonomic Group	Total Imported Non-native Species	Non-native Species with Risk Annotations	Proportion of Non-native Species with Risk Annotations
<b>VERTEBRATES</b>			
<b>Amphibians</b>	172	13	8 %
<b>Birds</b>	559	129	23 %
<b>Fish</b>	121	36	30 %
<b>Mammals</b>	263	61	23 %
<b>Reptiles</b>	710	52	7 %
<b>TOTAL VERTEBRATES</b>	1,825	291	16 %
<b>TOTAL – ALL INVERTEBRATES</b>	416	11	3 %

# Summary Numbers, 2000-2004

- ~ 3,000 total animal species imported
- 2,241 identified non-native animal species imported were “coarse-screened”
- 302 of those were annotated for potential invasiveness and/or disease risk
- 34 of those 302 have a specific regulatory restriction in place by USFWS (18), APHIS (5) or CDC (11)

# Key Recommendation

Congress needs to pass new legislation:

- adopt a risk-averse national standard
- give USFWS authority to prohibit wildlife imports that have not been screened for risk

## Policy Options for Congress

1. Greater funding for regulation, research, monitoring and rapid response.
2. More comprehensive Federal authority over wildlife imports and interstate commerce:
  - HR 669 – Non-native Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act  
\* 40 bi-partisan co-sponsors
  - possible new, improved, more moderate Senate bill?

**Australia, Israel and New Zealand have pre-import screening systems that comply with international law and reduce invasions.**

**Why not the U.S?**



[www.gisp.org/publications](http://www.gisp.org/publications)

Best Practices in Pre-import Risk Screening  
For Species of Live Animals in International Trade