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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Snakeheads

Re: Snakeheads

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Date: : 2012/8/21 7:21:39

URL:

As per Mike's post - VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries info on Snakeheads and Bowfin:

### **Snakehead Fish**

As a family, snakeheads are native to parts of Asia and Africa. The northern snakehead is native to China, and possibly Korea and Russia.

Typically found in a wide variety of habitats

Northern snakeheads grow to a maximum length of about 33 inches

Generally tan in appearance, with dark brown mottling; body somewhat elongated; long dorsal fin; jaws contain numerous canine-like teeth (similar to pike or pickerel)

Capable of breathing air using an air bladder that works as a primitive lung (not found in most fish)

Able to hibernate in cracks and crevices during cold temperatures and to go dormant in the mud during droughts

Voracious top-level predator, eating mostly fish, but also eats other aquatic wildlife and frogs

Capable of moving short distances on land using its pectoral fins; can live out of water for as many as three days

Favored as a food fish throughout southeast Asia; also believed to have curative powers. Also sold in the aquarium trade.

Four species have been found in the U.S., in eight states, probably the result of releases from personal aquariums or to develop local food sources

No natural predators in the U.S.

### **Bowfin**

In Virginia, native to the Coastal Plain and possibly lower Piedmont; occasionally found in other parts of the state

Typically associated with swamps and sluggish open marsh-fringed rivers; found in both shallower and deeper waters in Virginia

Grows to a maximum length of about 32 inches

Generally tan-olive in appearance, with dark olive reticulation; body somewhat elongated; long dorsal fin; bony scales; jaws contain small canine and peglike teeth; black spot at the base of the tail (more prominent in males)

Capable of breathing surface air using an air bladder as a lung (not found in most fish)

Able to withstand periodic droughts by going dormant in the mud

Nocturnal, but most active at dusk and dawn; predatory generalist eating fish, aquatic invertebrates and frogs

### **Why Should We Care?**

Exotic species like snakeheads may have significant impacts in the U.S., including:

Impacts to local fish populations through predation or displacement and competition for food; disruption of native aquatic systems

Transmission of parasites or diseases, including those affecting humans  
Potential impacts on local economies dependent on fishing or related resources

### What Can You Do?

If you find a snakehead fish, kill it....

link to source (VA Dept of Game & Inland fisheries): <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/snakehead-id.asp>

Attach file:

 Northern Snakehead.jpg (40.93 KB)



 Bowfin.jpg (40.70 KB)

