

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : New Zealand Mud Snails and felt sole boots

Re: New Zealand Mud Snails and felt sole boots

Author: : salmonoid

Date: : 2013/12/24 11:27:11

URL:

While I believe that banning felt soles is indeed a knee-jerk reaction to a much larger problem, in that it probably only eliminates a small percentage of an invasive attack vector on our streams, it is still important to take a look at all possible ways that invasives spread. My current batch of wading boots are all rubber soled, but, it would be extremely ignorant of me to not be concerned about invasives tagging along. There are many nooks and crannies on the boots where some mud snails could get caught and hitch-hike from one drainage to another. I do fish Spring Creek and it would be irresponsible for me to do any amount of wading there, and then hop over to a small mountain freestoner and fish there, without doing something to try and make sure my gear is as clean as it could be.

Sometimes, you don't need science to show you the proof. Sometimes, common sense is all you need, to know that you COULD be a carrier for invasive, meaning it's possible that they do hitch-hike on your gear, be they felt soles, rubber soles, or bare feet. I think felt soles are a lower threat to spread mud snails, then they are something like didymo.

As noted, the spread of invasives occurs over a much larger attack vector than fishing gear, and the use of a bilge pump to empty a bilge can be responsible for transporting an invasive from one continent to another. However, we, as anglers, can have a much more localized effect, by transporting invasives from one drainage to another. Ultimately, I am pessimistic that we will ever control the spread of invasive species, because there are much larger factors that influence their spread than us anglers. But we can still do our small part to help slow their spread. Just because we can't control the ducks or geese, or the water in bilges doesn't mean we get a free pass to not take a look at our own boats or waders or boots.