

February 17, 2011

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CITY OF CHICAGO ISSUES TICKET FOR INVASIVE SPECIES
Department of Environment Aims to Increase Awareness

Chicago's Department of Environment (DOE) recently issued a citation and associated fine under the City of Chicago's invasive species ordinance. The violation involved approximately 350 Oriental weather loaches, an invasive fish species, being imported from China through O'Hare Airport by a tropical fish wholesaler based in the Chicago suburbs. The Oriental weather loaches were destined to be sold at aquarium stores throughout the region. If released into area waterways, Oriental weather loaches can reach high densities and outcompete native fish for food.

DOE worked with experts at The Shedd Aquarium to positively identify the fish and appropriately dispose of them. The Shedd will also likely be using some of the fish in their invasive species section in the aquarium and in research to better understand how they impact native fish populations--all of which is in accordance with the City of Chicago's Invasive Species Ordinance.

The ordinance, which passed City Council in 2007, makes it unlawful to possess invasive species that are on the regulated list. The 2007 list consisted of aquatic (water-based) invasive plants and animals. In 2009, the regulated list was updated to include land-based invasive plants. While there are many more invasive species that could cause harm in the region, the current list prioritizes species that are in trade, not yet prevalent in the city, and pose the greatest threat to the environment. The City of Chicago worked with scientists, industry leaders and other stakeholders to compile the regulated species lists below.

In the first year following the passage of the regulated species list, enforcement visits to affected industries, including garden centers, bait shops, aquariums, and live fish markets, were educational, involving warnings if regulated species were found. The "grace period" for the aquatic and land-based species ended in 2008 and 2010, respectively, and enforcement of all the regulated species is in effect. DOE and Animal Care and Control annually inspect dozens of businesses for the regulated species, as well as respond to complaints or notifications from other agencies, as was the case with the Oriental weather loach. Fines range from \$100 to \$500 for individuals and \$1,500 to \$3,000 for businesses licensed in Chicago.

The City of Chicago has long been a strong advocate for preventing invasive species, including Asian carp, from being introduced in to the Great Lakes.

For more information, please visit www.cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies.

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Regulated (aquatic) animal species:

Hypophthalmichthys nobilis (Bighead carp);
Neogobius fluviatilis fluviatilis (Monkey goby);
Perca fluviatilis (European perch);
Phoxinus phoxinus (Eurasian minnow);
No known common name (Anodonta woodiana);
Xenopus laevis (African clawed frog);
Cipangopaludina chinensis (Chinese mysterysnail);
Misgurnus anguillicaudatus (Oriental weather loach);
All species from the genera *Channa* and *Parachanna*, from the family *Channidae* (Snakehead).

Live transport (aquatic) species (species that can be transported live, but not sold live):

Mylopharyngodon piceus (Black carp);
Hypophthalmichthys molitrix (Silver carp);
Ctenopharyngodon idella (Grass carp/White amur);
Orconectes rusticus (Rusty crayfish).

Regulated plant species (aquatic):

Trapa natans (Water chestnut);
Egeria densa (Brazilian elodea);
Ranunculus lingua (Greater spearwort);
Houttuynia cordata (Chameleon);
Myriophyllum aquaticum (Parrot feather watermilfoil);
Hydrilla verticillata (Hydrilla or water thyme);
Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth);
Ipomoea aquatica (Water spinach);
Iris pseudacorus (Pale yellow iris);
Myriophyllum spicatum (Eurasian watermilfoil);
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (European frog-bit);
Butomus umbellatus (Flowering rush).

Regulated plant species (terrestrial):

Akebia quinata (Chocolate vine);
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Elegans porcelain berry vine);
Anthriscus sylvestris (Wild chervil);
Celastrus orbiculatus (Oriental bittersweet);
Humulus japonicus (Japanese hops);
Leymus arenarius (Lyme grass);
Ligustrum spp. (Privet);
Miscanthus sacchariflorus (Amur silver grass);
Paulownia tomentosa (Princess tree);
Phellodendron amurense (Amur corktree);
Phellodendron japonica (Japanese corktree);
Polygonum cuspidatum (Japanese knotweed);
Quercus acutissima (Sawtooth oak);
Ranunculus ficaria (Lesser celandine).

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