

# STOP

## The New Zealand Mudsnail In the Musconetcong River!



This snail spreads by hitchhiking on waders, boats and fishing gear.  
*Stop it getting into nearby streams.*

# 40,000,000

PRODUCED BY  
1 FEMALE SNAIL  
IN 3 YEARS

# CLEAN YOUR WADERS TO PROTECT NJ TROUT STREAMS

### INSPECT

gear carefully.  
Snails hide in  
treads & socks

### TREAT

Remove debris.  
Rinse with  
potable water

### DRY

waders  
completely

Avoid using felt  
soled waders

Freeze waders for 24  
hours OR see website  
for other options

Dry for 72 hours before  
using in other streams



Visit [www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org) to learn  
more about this snail in our watershed





# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Interior Region 1, North Atlantic-Appalachian  
1234 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
(MUSC)

Musconetcong River Management Council (MRMC) Member Organizations  
Musconetcong National Wild and Scenic River

March 22, 2022

RE: Musconetcong National Wild and Scenic River – New Zealand Mud Snail Notification

Dear Musconetcong River Management Council Member Organization:

Designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 2006, the Musconetcong River is managed in a partnership arrangement where the National Park Service (NPS) works with local communities like yours to implement the *Musconetcong River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP)*, 2011.

This unique partnership between the federal government and local townships, counties and the state of New Jersey helps ensure the Musconetcong River is protected by the very people who live along it. This management arrangement requires significant coordination and cooperation at all levels of government. The NPS found that working with a Musconetcong River Management Council (MRMC), comprised of riverside townships like yours, counties, and the NJDEP, is the most effective way of protecting a national resource like the Musconetcong River.

In 2018, the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA), a local not-for-profit organization that partners with the MRMC, discovered and documented the invasive “New Zealand Mudsail” (NZM) in the Musconetcong River. The MWA notified the MRMC, NPS, Trout Unlimited and the NJDEP of its finding. Since 2018, the MWA has tracked the spread of the invasive snail into different parts of the river.

The NZM is native to New Zealand, and was discovered in the United States decades ago, in western rivers popular with anglers. It is very small, often just a couple of millimeters long, and lives in a conical shell that protects the snail from the digestive tracts of fish and birds. It also reproduces very aggressively: one snail over three years can have as many as 40 million progeny. The NZM has no known predators in the U.S., and, in some rivers in New Zealand, has replaced up to 40% of river biomass. The snails are capable of outcompeting local benthic macroinvertebrates, such as stoneflies and mayflies, and are generally thought to be spread by hitchhiking on wader boots, clothes, gear, kayaks, canoes, tubes, boats and fishing tackle. As a result, Trout may have less food to survive, and fish waste energy trying to eat something which provides no nourishment, decreasing their overall health and survival rate.

With the support of the MRMC, and Trout Unlimited, the MWA has installed equipment/gear/boot cleaning stations at popular angler access points along the river. It has also sampled dozens of sites in the river corridor, and continues to track the snail's spread. In addition, the MWA has placed invasive species signage along the river to inform anglers and recreators about how to prevent the spread of NZS. Recently, MWA dedicated space on its website <https://www.musconetcong.org/new-zealand-mudsnail> to inform the public about how it can take action to keep NZM from spreading to other parts of the Musconetcong River, and to other rivers in the region.

Since 2018, the NZM has infested popular fishing access sites from the Riegelsville and Finesville Area. As of 2021 it has progressed upstream past Hampton and Changewater.

Trout season opening day in New Jersey is April 9, 2022. The MRMC and the NPS asks that you post this enclosed notification in your municipal buildings, and in places you think anglers and paddlers congregate. The MWA, with support from township representatives on the MRMC, is doing its best to take action to slow the spread of NZM. We ask that residents who enjoy the Musconetcong River help MWA and the MRMC slow the spread of NZM in the Musconetcong River, and to help reduce the risks of spreading NZM to other rivers.

Thank You,  
Sincerely,



Paul Kenney  
National Park Service River Manager  
Musconetcong National Wild and Scenic River

Copy: Charlie Fineran, MRMC Chair  
Keith Fritschie, Trout Unlimited  
Alan Hunt, MWA Policy and Grants Director  
Superintendent, Upper Delaware NS&RR (UPDE)  
Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap NRA (DEWA)  
Richard Dodd, Chair, Lower Delaware River Management Council

