



Fishhook Water Flea

Cercopagis pengoi

History

- * Fishhook water flea was first found in North America in 1998 in Lake Ontario

Characteristics

Fishhook water flea:

- * Aggressive, predatory zooplankton that preys on smaller zooplankton
- * Long tail spine with up to three pairs of barbs near its end
- * Head is essentially composed of a single, large eye

Habitat

Fishhook water flea:

- * Estuarine habitats, lakes, marine habitats, wetlands
- * Tolerates wide range of salinity and temperature

Known Distribution

Fishhook water flea:

- * New York and Great Lakes region
- * Native to Europe and Asia

Impacts

Fishhook water flea:

- * A voracious predator that eats smaller zooplankton; competes with native fish and invertebrates that eat zooplankton
- * Interferes with fisheries by clogging nets and fishing gear

