



Northern Snakehead

Channa argus

Characteristics

- * Torpedo-shaped body that tapers towards the tail
- * Light brown with dark brown patches covering the body
- * Large mouth with sharp teeth
- * Anal fin extends from middle of body almost to the tail
- * Can grow up to 4 ft (1.2 m) long and weigh up to 15 lb (6.8 kg)
- * Capable of breathing out of water (in moist environments) for up to 7 days

Habitat

- * Swamps, shallow ponds, slow-moving streams
- * Vegetated or muddy bottoms
- * Fresh water with a temperature range of 0-30 degrees C

Known Distribution

- * Massachusetts, New York
- * Native to China and Korea

Impacts

- * As a voracious top-level predator with no natural enemies, could devastate the freshwater food web



Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*)

Credit: USFW - M. Goehle



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