

# Invasive Species Alert

## Oriental Weatherfish

(*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Eel-like body that's brown with greenish grey-brown marbled marking on the dorsal side and pale silver coloration on the ventral side
- small, narrow mouth with thick and fleshy lips and six barbels
- Body length may reach 28 centimeters, but averages are smaller
- Sexually dimorphic, where the female is often longer than the male



Photo by Noel M. Burkhead, U.S. Geological Survey

**Habitat:** These fish are often found in shallow, low-gradient waters with muddy or silty substrates. They can survive in oxygen-poor waters and through long droughts by burrowing into soft substrates, owing to the intestine acting as an accessory respiratory organ.

**Diet:** Oriental weatherfish primarily consume small benthic invertebrates and detritus.



Photo by Pamela Woods

**Native Range:** Eastern Asia

**U.S. Distribution:** Established in Shiawassee River and lower Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Indiana, Oregon, and Washington; Has been collected in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Maryland.

**Local Concern:** Competition for aquatic insects puts native fish populations at risk. There may also be a significant reduction in macroinvertebrate abundance and an increase in turbidity and nitrogen levels of standing water.

**Other Names:** Japanese weatherfish, dojo, weather loach, amur weatherfish

**Means of Introduction:** Aquarium trade, use as a bait fish

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