

## Asian Swamp Eel (*Monopterus albus*)

Historical Presence	Abundance	Life History	Management
Exotic	Rare	Freshwater	Invasive

### General Information

An eel-like body with no fins, tiny eyes, and triangular shaped gill slit on throat. Likely introduced from food sources or aquaculture, this invasive primitive predator is only found in Spring Lake, NJ, where NJDFW conducts regular removal via electrofishing to control the population. It can survive out of water for several days, breathe air in low-oxygen environments, and reverse-sex as necessary. It is particularly damaging because it can establish in virtually any waterbody where it is introduced. Displacement of native species as a result of competition is a concern.



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### Geographic Range

Native to Asia from n. India and Burma to China, likely Russia, Japan, and Indo-Malay Archipelago. Established in n. GA and s. FL. Found in Spring Lake, NJ (2008).

### Habitat Description

Slow moving, heavily vegetated waterbodies including pools of tannic, mud-bottomed streams and rivers; marshes, wetlands, ditches, canals, ponds and other impoundments.

### Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	Tolerant of low DO
Temperature	25 – 31 °C
pH	5 – 7
Turbidity	Tolerant of turbid conditions
Current	Low

### Diet

Fry	Invertebrates
Juveniles	Invertebrates
Adults	Fish, crustaceans, invertebrates
<b>Notes:</b> A voracious predator, consuming a wide range of prey.	

### Reproduction

Time of Year	Year round, temp. dependent	Age Males Mature	
Temperature Range	25 – 31 °C	Age Females Mature	1 – 3
Water Depth	Surface	Nest	Breeding burrow, bubble nest
Substrate	Mud	Egg Type	Demersal
Time of Day	Night	Parental Care	Male guards
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	6 – 9
Velocity Range	None	Oxygen Level	

**Notes:** All individuals are born and mature as females and some later transform into males.

### Size and Growth

Maximum size up to 1020 mm. Maximum longevity is 10 years of age.

## References

(Liem 1963; Guan et al. 1996; Freeman et al. 2005; Shafland et al. 2009)

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