

FISHHOOK WATERFLEA, SPINY WATERFLEA

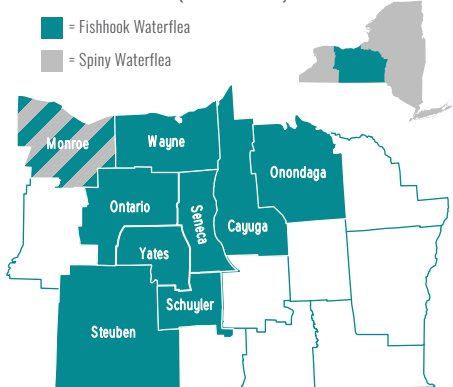
Cercopagis pengoi &
Bythotrephes longimanus
Origin: Eurasia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Fishhook and spiny waterfleas are tiny crustaceans less than 1.25 cm in length, with long, sharp, barbed tails. The tail of spiny waterflea is straight, while the fishhook waterflea has an angled tail-spine with a distinguishing “fishhook” like loop at the end of the tail.

HABITAT

These species inhabit freshwater and brackish lakes. The fishhook and spiny water fleas prefer cooler temperatures over warmer areas of a lake.

THREAT

Fishhook and spiny waterfleas are predators of small zooplankton, such as *Daphnia*. This results in direct competition between the waterfleas and small planktivorous fishes. Few predators can eat them due to the long, spiny tails, which can result in exponential waterflea population growth. The waterfleas also contribute to biofouling issues, as their tails collect on fishing equipment and lines.

MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As these species are most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body.

REFERENCE - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/7/2017].

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