

Spiny Waterflea

INVASIVE

(Bythotrephes longimanus)

History:

Native to Europe and Asia, they were introduced into the Great Lakes by ballast water discharged from ballast tanks. They were first discovered in Lake Ontario in 1982.

Characteristics:

- Adults range from 1/4 to 5/8 inch long.
- Single long tail with small spines along its length.
- Tail is over 70 percent of the animal's total length.
- Tail contains from one to four pairs of thorn-like barbs
- Large black eye

Habitat:

They prefer deep lakes, but can be found in shallow lakes and rivers. Found in every level of the water column.

Impacts:

In some lakes, they caused the decline native zooplankton. They can clog eyelets of fishing rods, stuck on fishing line and prevent fish from being caught.

Means of Spread:

Spread by attaching to fishing lines, anchor ropes, and fishing nets. They also can be unintentionally transported in bilge water, bait buckets, or live wells.

Known Distribution:

In Minnesota: Yes

Where Located: Rum River

