Habitattitude

What is $Habitattitude^{TM}$?

Created circa 2000
Nationally branded campaign targeting aquarists and water gardeners
Links environmental messages with beneficial actions

DOI/PIJAC MOU (2009)

Designed to reach targeted audiences





DOI/PIJAC MOU

- Collaborate on education/public awareness
- Unify public/private sectors to address potential impacts of unwanted pets
- Seek consistent/effective communications
- Develop/implement a work plan
- Scripts, DVDs, articles, other educational materials
- Support involvement all levels within respective communities

Goals and Objectives

- Education/Public Outreach
 - Clearly articulate issue
 - Explain risks and how to minimize
 - Provide guidance on what to do
 - Moves 'beyond brochures.'
 - Engage social media

Habitattitude

- Raise public awareness
- Engage people
- Promote unified environmental messages



Habitattitude...

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

Joint Advisory Council, The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program









RESOURCES

ACTIVITIES

NEWS

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

BECOME A PARTNER

FAOS

Habitattitude – Adopt a conservation mentality. Protect our environment by not releasing unwanted fish and aquatic plants.

Welcome to a site for aquarium hobbyists, backyard pond owners, water gardeners and others who are concerned about aquatic resource conservation. Americans enjoy a diversity of hobbies, many of which involve our natural environment. And protecting these resources is an important part of our overall enjoyment.

A concern we must all address is the expansion of harmful plants, fish and other animals throughout our country. Representing one of our greatest natural resource challenges, stopping the spread of these species appears simplistic, but global economic linkages complicate the issue. A variety of commercial and governmental activities have accidentally introduced aquatic invasive species and various aquatic resource users and consumers unknowingly spread them to other waters. If these species become established, they can wreak environmental havoc, degrade aquatic resources and make waters unusable for recreation.

This issue is relevant to everyone, but especially to those who enjoy aquaria, backyard ponds and water gardens. Increased scrutiny on our activities and their perceived linkages with the growing challenge known as invasive





Habitattitude_M

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

An ANS Task Force Partnership Representing the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program









RESOURCES

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AOS

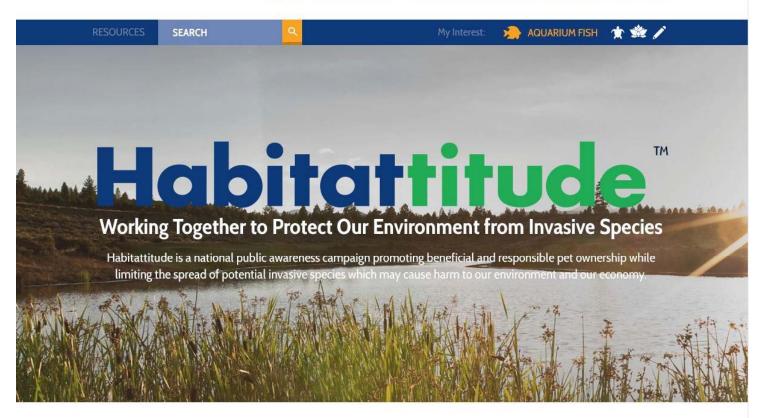
FAQs

In this FAQ, you can find answers to general questions about the national aquatic hitchhiker problem. If you desire more detailed information, please contact us with your specific questions or return to the Home Page where you can find links to more specific information about common hitchhikers, cleaning and prevention procedures, resources, materials and other topics.

- What is an aquatic invasive species?
- How do aquatic invasive species come into the United States?
- How and when can I prevent the spread and/or introduction of aquatic invasive species?
- Why should I use this simple procedure to prevent aquatic invasive species?
- · Are aquatic invasive species just a problem in navigable waters?
- Do I have to know which aquatic invasive species are in which lake or river?
- · How do I find out which aquatic invasive species are invading my state waters?







Habits + Habitats + Attitudes = Habitattitude™

Select the right pet. Do right by your pet. Do right by our environment!

Habits + Habitats + Attitudes = Habitattitude

Ensure that pets are thoughtfully chosen and well-cared for.

here are a lot of factors that go into choosing the right pet. When deciding which pet is right for you, do your research. Consider your lifestyle, your work schedule, the future size of the pet, as well as housing and feeding needs.

Also, discuss your options with local veterinarians, animal breeders, pet store staff, and friends with pets. There are many helpful books, magazines, and websites that will help you choose the pet that is compatible with your lifestyle.

A responsible pet owner's goals:

- Provide your pets with the best possible care
- Provide suitable facilities for the health and well-being of your pets so they do not escape into the wild

Choose wisely. And if you are not able to maintain or care for your pets, find a re-sponsible way to dispose or transfer your pets and plants to a new home.

Remember: When it comes to pets, a quick decision may be a poor decision.



In the News



OCTOBER 24, 2015

Courtesy of TIME Magazine

Article Title Will Go Here

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Read Full Article

Become Informed About the Effects of Invasive Species on Our Environment

- What are some of the environmental risks posed by invasive species?
- How can I prevent introducing invasive species into the environment?
- How can I inform others about Habitattitude?

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How can I prevent introducing invasive species into the environment?

any well-meaning pet owners try to solve these problems by setting their pets free, releasing them into the natural environment which in most states is illegal. If you or someone you know is faced with needing to find a new home for a pet, please read the following Pet Placement Guidelines in order to make the best possible decision for the animal.

Pet Placement Guidelines (Alternatives to Release)

- Contact a local pet store for suggestions on placement or for possible returns
- Give to a responsible family member, friend, pet owner/water gardener, or school
- Donate to or trade with a local hobbyist club (i.e.: reptile society, aquarium society, reptile society)
- Find an organization willing to accept and care for the type of pet involved
- Contact a veterinarian for guidance about humane euthanasia
- Seal aquarium/terrarium plants in plastic bags and dispose of them in the trash

Remember: Releasing your pet into the natural environment puts your companion animal and the environment at risk. In virtually every state, it is illegal to release your pet into the natural environment.

My Interest

Click on the icons below to learn more about your specific interest.









HOME ABOUT HABITATTITUDE™ IN THE NEWS **GET INFORMED**

HABITATTITUDE PARTNERS CONTACT

RESOURCES MY INTEREST AQUARIUM FISH

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS WATER GARDENING

EDUCATION



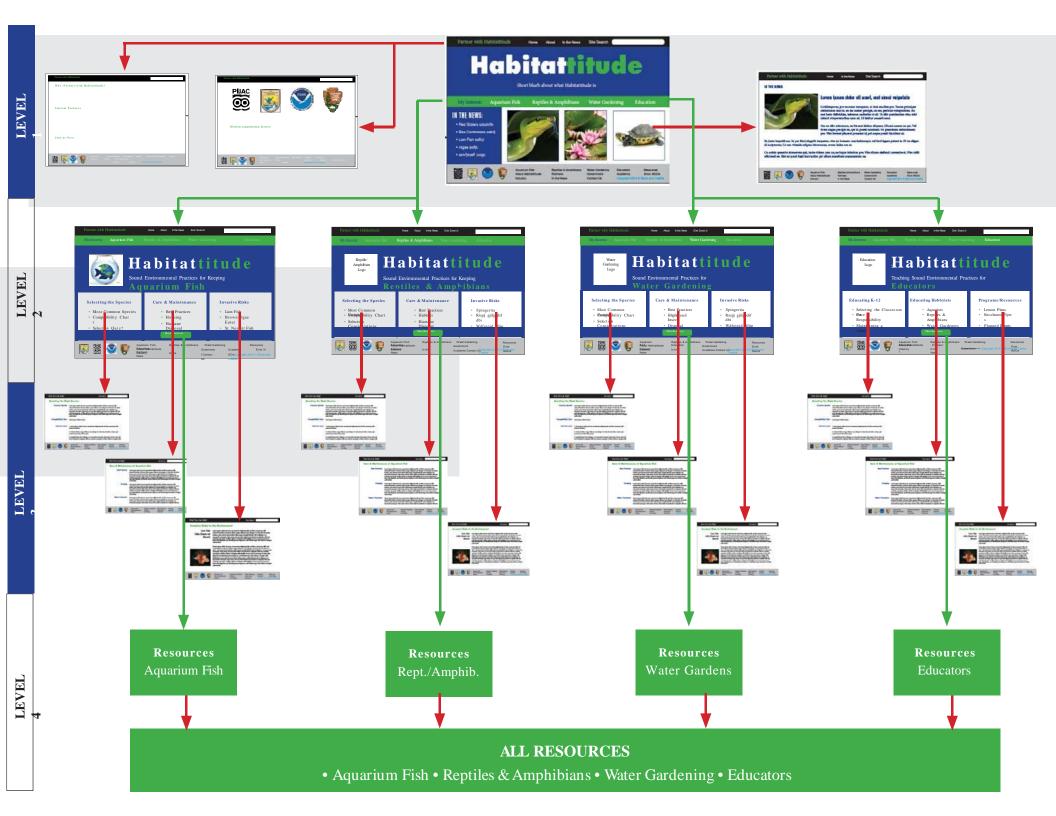




Habitattitude™ is a partnership of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. National Park Service.







Partner with Habitattitude

My Interest:

Aquarium Fish



Habitattitude[™]

Sound Environmental Practices for Keeping

Aquarium Fish

Selecting the Species

- Most Common Species
- Compatibility Chart
- Selection Quiz?

Care & Maintenance

- Best Practices
- Housing
- Humane Disposal

Invasive Risks

- Lion Fish
- Brown Algae Eater
- St. Nesbitt Fish

More Resources









Aquarium Fish About Habitattitude

Reptiles & Amphibians Partners: In the News

Water Gardening Government Educatio Academit 2014 @ BILNGOS

Resource s Envir.



Selecting the Right Fish

In trying to create the ideal environment for your fish, you have to be aware of what they need to thrive. Not only do they have to be pleasing to your eye, you need to consider:

Compatibility

Schooling

Tank Size

Water Requirements

Growth

Food

Health

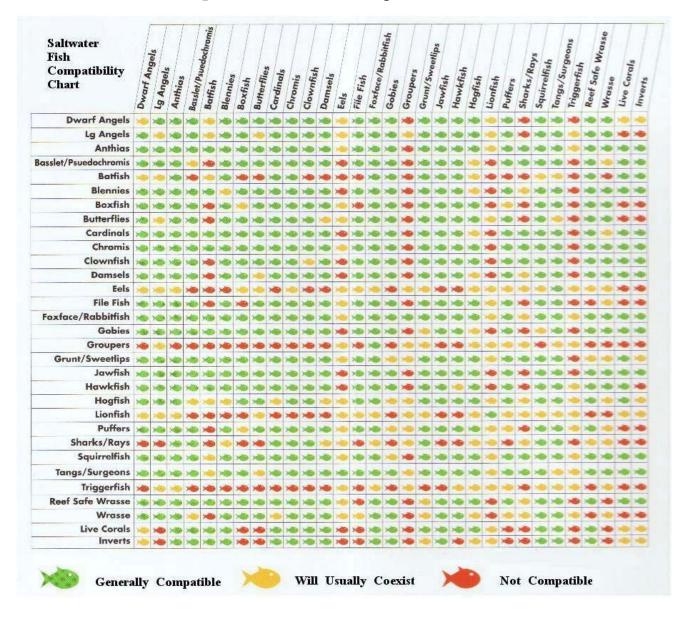
Special Needs

Disposition

Care & Maintenance



Compatibility





Fish come in a variety of sizes, colors and shapes. Make sure you have the right size tank to ensure a healthy environment.

Tank Size



30-55 Gallon Tank

Dartfish
Goby
Dottyback
Flame Angelfish
Clownfish
Possum Wrasse
Damselfish
Royal Gramma
Flame Hawkfish
Blenny Species

55-100 Gallon Tank

Mystery Wrasse
Tobacco Basslet
Flasher Wrasse
Bluehead Wrasse
Midas Blenny
Yellow Tang
4-Eye Butterfly
Bluejaw Triggerfish
Bicolor Goatfish
Comet

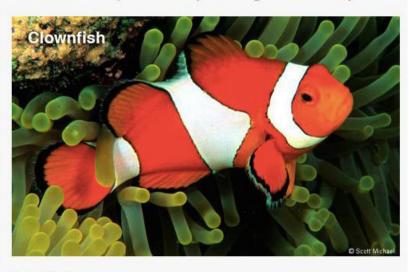
100-200 Gallon Tank

Foxface Rabbitfish Scott Fairy Wrasse Spanish Hogfish Small Triggerfish Blue Tang Royal Blue Tang Squareback Anthias Black Bar Soldierfish Dogface Puffer French Angelfish



Care & Maintenance

Clownfish Species - (30-55 gallon tank)



Scientific Name

Genus Premnas, Amphiprion

Minimum Tank Size

30 gallons

Max Size

3 - 7 inches (8-18 cm)

Care Level

easy

Die

omnivore: small marine invertebrates, small frozen foods, algae, flake or pellets

Reef Safe?

yes

Temperament

peaceful to semi-territorial



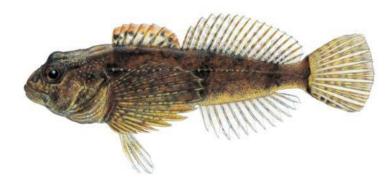
Invasive Fish











Species will be keyed to federal and state lists as appropriate.



Educational Resources:

Valuing and Using Live Animals

Learn More

Pets in the Classroom:

- Choosing an Appropriate Pet
- Safety Tips

Learn More

Learning about Invasive Species:

Lesson plans, modules & projects

Learn More

Develop a Good HABITATTITUDE!

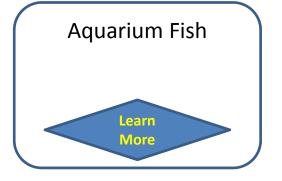
Responsible Release Get Help!

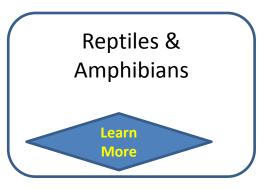
> Learn More



Pets in the Classroom:

Choosing A Pet or Plant







Pets in the Classroom:
Safety Tips

Learn
More

I don't have to add info here, being done by other authors on the Habitattitude Team. Johnson-Mead, Lois Clare, 7/20/2015JLC1

Valuing and Using Live Organisms: Improving Energy and Outcomes

Teachers who use a live specimens or bring in a classroom pet often notice a change in the way students approach learning, which can enhance their curriculum.

Simply by adding a living example of an organism to your curriculum, discussion, spark interest in caring for the environmental and changing behavior,

develop stronger human: animals connections, and improve attitudes about learning and school.

Want to improve air quality for your students?
Want to bring soothing sounds to a bustling classroom?
Want to incorporate a valuable educational tool, which models how different organisms balance out an ecosystem?



Simply add a plant or water garden to YOUR classroom & you can achieve these results! Researchers at NASA's Stennis Space Center conducted studies1 to learn how plants and soil work together to remove toxins to make indoor air cleaner, which is a system space station astronauts routinely use to maintain optimal air quality.

Pets in the Classroom

Safety Tips

Let's Stay Safe!

After handling classroom pets, it is essential that students learn good health practices, which start with thorough hand washing.

Try this video for kids from the Saskatoon Health Region in Canada on how to properly way to wash you hands and stay safe!



Photo & video credit: www.sakatoonhelthregion.ca

Animals in Aquariums and Salmonella!

Let's listen to Special CDC Instructions for schools on how to prever spread of Salmonella!

Click the dragon to listen!

Photo credit: www.cdc.gov

Teachable Moments!

Responsible pet ownership in the classroom involves making sure that all users known how to care for and maintain the safety of the animals in their charge.

- Take the Adopting a Classroom Animal Pledge! {Don't Let it Loose!]
- Post the Adopting a Classroom Animal CARE SHEET in your room



Responsible Release... GET HELP!

What **should** you do and who **can** you turn to when you need to make a change?

Popular classroom pets, can be exotic animals such as reptiles, fish, & birds, which live quite long, grow large, and can be more than a school can manage.

So what Steps Should You Take to release your pet properly?

Step 1: Questions for consider

- Have I considered sharing ownership responsibilities with another class or teacher?
- Did I try to find another home for our pet?
- Will a local pet store consider taking our pet?
- Are there local veterinarians who might help?

If the answer to most of these questions is **Yes**, you may be ready to release your classroom pet.

Step 2: Involve your Students in the Process of Responsible Release

Daniel Kriesberg, author of *A Sense of Place: Teaching Children About the Environment with Picture Books* writes that, "By learning about their habitats,.... children see first hand the connection animals and plants have with their habitat. Children also learn a critical lesson: We all have a habitat, we all need a habitat, we all need to learn to live with our habitat, and the only way to do this is to know **your habitat**.

Get Help!

Exotic animals (reptiles, fish, & birds) are popular classroom pets. Yet they can grow quite large or live longer than some schools can manage.

So what **should** you do and who **can** you turn to when you need to make a change? **Did you Know?** Invasive species could be transmitted by school teachers releasing critters into the wild.

Learn more at

Online and Local Resources:

Listed below are several agencies and groups who will assist you in making the right choice for your pet! For a full list, click on the source link at the end of the page¹.

- <u>Rescue Network</u> provides a list of pet rescue groups by state.
- Veterinarians LocalVets.com provides a directory of shelters by state or zip code.
- Animal Shelters will help you locate rescue groups who place exotic pets into new homes.
- <u>Petsmart.com</u> or <u>Petco.com</u> are pet stores that may take your exotic pet so it won't be released into the wild
- <u>SEPARC</u> (Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) is a member of PARC, a national organization supporting and partnering with amphibian and reptile conservationists.
- <u>State Wildlife Agencies</u> occasionally host special events to turn in potentially exotic pets such as the <u>Exotic Pet Amnesty Program</u> through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) which works to reduce nonnative species releases into the wild and to encourage responsible pet ownership.
- Sample school module: http://www.oregonlive.com/enviro nment/index.ssf/2012/08/invasive_species could be tran.html



Biology 101:

Get Habitattitude!™

If it has fins, a shell, claws, or leaves - study it, but never let it go.

Live study specimens like mosquito fish, rusty crayfish, and hydrilla can become harmful invaders if released into our lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands.



www.Hubbattttude.net



How can you help?

- Check aquatic plant orders for seeds, plant fragments, snails, and fish.
- Give or trade unwanted live study specimens with another school, environmental learning center, aquarium, or zoo.
- Seal aquatic plants in a plastic bag and dispose in the trash.
- Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.

For more information, visit: www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais



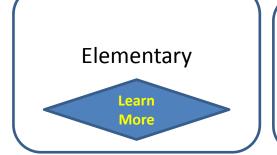
Learning about Invasive Species:

Lesson plans, modules & projects:

Welcome to Learning about Invasive Species! These pages are designed to help teachers access helpful information, projects, and curriculum designed to teach specific information about common invasives.

We selected age-appropriate set of modules to teach basic fundamentals about this relevant and very important ecological topic. At the end of each unit, you and your students can **answer** FAQs such as:

- What is an aquatic invasive species?
- How do aquatic invasive species come into the United States?
- How and when can I prevent the spread or introduction of invasive species?
- Are aquatic invasive species just a problem where I live or in several parts of the United States?









Have a favorite Invasive Species Project?

Click here to Share your Story!



Resources

Stone Moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*)
Ecological Risk Screening Summary

Updated June 2011

Provide samples & links: research papers, risk screens & assessments, videos, posters, PowerPoint presentations, Best Management Practices, exhibits, watch cards, print-ready materials, etc.



Photo: Photo Credit

1 Distribution

P. parva is not documented as either introduced or established anywhere in the United States (including territories).

From: http://www.europe-aliens.org/speciesFactsheet.do?speciesId=50307#

Native Range

East Asian region including the basins of the rivers Amur, Yang-tze, Huang-ho, Japanese islands, western and southern parts of the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan.

Nonindigenous Occurrences

In Europe, it was first recorded in 1961 from southern Romania and Albania. In 1972 the species was recorded from the European part of the former USSR – the Danube delta and Dniester. In slightly over 40 years it has almost entirely colonized Europe, proceeding rapidly from east to west, including Hungary, Czechoslovakia, France, Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, northern Greece, Turkey and the western part of the Balkans, Poland, Italy, England and Denmark.









- Inspect plant orders and remove seeds, other plant fragments, snails, and fish.
- Give unwanted pets and study specimens to a school, aquarium, or zoo.
- Dispose of aquatic plants in the trash.
- Contact a retailer for possible returns or a veterinarian for guidance on humane disposal of animals.



DO NOT RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT







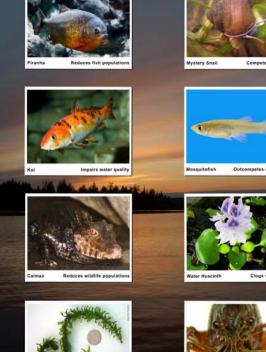








































UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION











Release or escape of pets and plants from aquariums and water gardens can harm recreation, our environment, and our economy.



DO NOT RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT





Get Habitattitude!

Do right by your pet. Do right by our environment.

Water garden fish, snails and plants can become harmful if they escape to our lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands.

How can you help?

- ✓ Build water gardens well away from other waters.
- Check aquatic plant orders for seeds, plant fragments, snails and fish.
- Give or trade unwanted pets and plants with another water gardener, environmental learning center, aquarium or zoo.
- Seal aquatic plants in a plastic bag and dispose in the trash.
- Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.





DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

PIJAC - U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE - NOAA'S SEA GRANT

www.Habitattitude.net

For more information, visit: www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais











Habitattitude

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

Do Right By Your Pet. Do Right By Our Environment.

Alternatives to releasing unwanted pets, aquatic plants or study specimens:

- ✓ Contact a retailer for proper handling or for possible returns
- ✓ Give or trade with another aquarist, pond owner or water gardener
- ✓ Donate to a local aquarium society, school or aquatic business.
- ✓ Seal aquatic plants in plastic bags and dispose in the trash
- ✓ Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for humane disposal guidance

















www.Habitattitude.net



Ecological Risk Screening Summaries





Stone Moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*) Ecological Risk Screening Summary

Updated June 2011



Photo: Photo Credit

1 Distribution

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Wels Catfish (Silurus glanis)
Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 2011 Updated October, 2011



Photo http://animal.discovery.com/fish/river-monsters/killer-fish-photos/images/wels-catfish-photo

1 Native Range, and Status in the United States

From Freyhof and Kottelat (2008):

Native Range

Afghanistan; Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; China; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Pakistan; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Sweden; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan

Nonindigenous Occurrences in the United States

Not native to, or known to be established in, the United States.

2 Biology and Ecology

1





Next Steps

Steering Committee (MOU Parties - FWS, PIJAC, NPS)

Complete populating website
Hardin/Meyers/Eason complete Reptile and Water Garden Tracks

Advisory Committee (NOAA, AFWA, NISC, USDA, NGO, Academia)

Review content

Recommend how to broaden campaign partner engagement

Advice on Integration of social since principles and research into campaign

Promote national, regional and local delivery of revitalized Habitattitude

Recommend materials for inclusion in Resources Section

Identify tools/BMPs that can be used by industry, hobbyists, NGOs, and

government to manage invasion risks



Next Steps

Implementation Committee

- Design strategies to achieve greater engagement by local partners
- Recommend types of materials needed to deliver messages (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, posters, artwork)
- Periodically recommend content updates
- Encourage partners to provide up-to-date items for the Resource section

Re-launch — November, 2015

Habitattitude's Future

"For every complex problem there is a simple solution...

and it is wrong."

H. L. Mencken

Habitattitude

- Raise public awareness
- Engage people
- Promote unified environmental messages

Washington, DC 20036

202-452-1525

mmeyers@meyersalterman.com

info@pijac.org