

Notifiable aquatic freshwater pests in NSW

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Aquatic Biosecurity, NSW DPI

A number of freshwater pests are notifiable under NSW legislation.

This means there is a duty, or legal obligation, to notify authorities if you know or suspect the occurrence of one of these pests.

Why are certain freshwater pests notifiable?

Several freshwater pests are listed as notifiable because they are exotic to Australia and if established here could impact severely on the economy, human health or the environment.

Some other pests that already exist in Australia are notifiable because there is a control program in place, or the pest occurs in parts of Australia other than NSW.

By remaining vigilant and notifying as soon as you suspect a notifiable pest, you can play a vital role in protecting aquatic industries and preventing pest spread in the NSW aquatic environment.

What is notifiable?

All aquatic freshwater pests which are notifiable in NSW are tabled in Appendix 1.

In NSW you must notify the suspicion or awareness of:

- **Prohibited matter**

Prohibited matter is high risk matter we do not want in NSW and is not established in NSW, although we may occasionally have infestations that are quickly eradicated.

Examples of prohibited matter include species of Tilapia and other freshwater finfish. A full list is contained in [Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act](#).

Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

- **Other listed notifiable pests**

In addition to Prohibited Matter, [Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#) lists several species as Notifiable Matter. It is illegal in NSW to possess, sell or move species listed as Notifiable Matter. A person has a duty to notify an Authorised officer if they suspect the presence of any of these pests. Examples of notifiable matter include Speckled Mosquitofish and Redfin Perch.

Who must notify?

There is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of notifiable matter. The duty to notify is detailed in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* ([Sections 30](#) and [38](#)) and the Biosecurity Regulation 2019 ([Clause 7](#)).

This duty applies to an owner, occupier, or person in charge, care, control or custody of a premises (such as a property), or a carrier or thing (such as an animal, animal product, vehicle or equipment) to which the notifiable matter relates.

This duty also applies to a person consulting in their professional capacity (such as a veterinarian, aquaculture staff or commercial fisher). There is no requirement to report if you know the matter has already been reported.

How do you notify?

By notifying as soon as you suspect a notifiable pest you can play a vital role in protecting the economy, human health and the environment from aquatic pests.

Suspicion or awareness of **prohibited matter** must be immediately reported to an authorised officer. This can be done by phoning:

- The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline)

Suspicion or awareness of **other listed notifiable pests** must be notified within one working day. This can be done by:

- The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline), or
- Emailing aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Contacting a NSW Department of Primary Industries authorised officer
- Reporting online: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity/reporting>.

When in doubt as to whether you are dealing with prohibited matter or another listed notifiable pest, it is better to phone to ensure you fulfil your duty to notify.

What information must be included in the notification?

A person must notify of the following:

- a) the person's full name and contact phone number
- b) details of the notifiable matter
- c) the location of the notifiable matter including, if the notifiable matter is on a property with a property identification code (PIC), the property identification code. If the

- property does not have a PIC, the location must include the road/street/lane number.
If this is unavailable, the lot and deposited plan (DP) number must be provided
- d) any other information requested by the authorised officer.

Further information:

For general inquiries regarding aquatic biosecurity, phone 02 4982 1232 or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Appendix 1: List of prohibited matter¹ and Schedule 1 notifiable freshwater finfish

Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Yellowfin goby	<i>Acanthogobius flavimanus</i>
Yes	Pike characin	<i>Acestrorhynchus microlepis</i>
Yes	Siberian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser baerii</i>
Yes	Siberian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser baerii</i> subsp. <i>baerii</i>
Yes	Baikal sturgeon	<i>Acipenser baerii</i> subsp. <i>baicalensis</i>
Yes	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>
Yes	Yangtze sturgeon	<i>Acipenser dabryanus</i>
Yes	Lake sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Yes	Russian/Danube sturgeon	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>
Yes	Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>
Yes	Sakhalin sturgeon	<i>Acipenser mikadoi</i>
Yes	Japanese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser multiscutatus</i>
Yes	Adriatic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser naccarii</i>
Yes	Fringebarbel sturgeon	<i>Acipenser nudiventris</i>
Yes	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>
Yes	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> subsp. <i>oxyrinchus</i>
Yes	Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> subsp. <i>desotoi</i>
Yes	Persian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser persicus</i>
Yes	Sterlet	<i>Acipenser ruthenus</i>
Yes	Amur sturgeon	<i>Acipenser schrenckii</i>
Yes	Chinese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>
Yes	Starry sturgeon	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>
Yes	European sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>
Yes	White sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>
Yes		<i>Alfaro amazonus</i>
Yes	Knife-edged livebearer	<i>Alfaro cultratus</i>
Yes		<i>Alfaro huberi</i>
Yes	Yellowbelly gudgeon	<i>Allomogurnda nesolepis</i>
Yes	Snail bullhead	<i>Ameiurus brunneus</i>
Yes	White catfish	<i>Ameiurus catus</i>
Yes	Black bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i>
Yes	Yellow bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>
Yes	Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Yes	Flat bullhead	<i>Ameiurus platycephalus</i>
Yes	Spotted bullhead	<i>Ameiurus serracanthus</i>

¹ It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

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Yes	Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>
	Banded Grunter	<i>Amniataba percoides</i>
Yes	Gangetic climbing perch / koi	<i>Anabas cobojus</i>
Yes	Climbing perch	<i>Anabas testudineus</i>
Yes	Flatnose catfish	<i>Anaspidoglanis macrostoma</i>
Yes	Four spined stickleback	<i>Apeltes quadracus</i>
Yes	Bighead carp	<i>Aristichthys nobilis</i>
Yes		<i>Astyanacinus moorii</i>
Yes	Banded tetra	<i>Astyanax aeneus</i>
Yes	Banded astyanax	<i>Astyanax fasciatus</i>
Yes	American gar/Armoured gar	<i>Atractosteus spp. (all species except A.spatula)</i>
Yes	Ubangi shovelnose catfish	<i>Bagrus ubangensis</i>
Yes	Copper mahseer	<i>Barbodes hexagonolepis</i>
Yes	Pike minnow/Pike killifish/top minnow	<i>Belonesox belizanus</i>
Yes	Bicuda/Pirapucu	<i>Boulengerella cuvieri</i>
Yes	Golden pike-characin/Pirapoco	<i>Boulengerella lucius</i>
Yes	Pirapoco	<i>Boulengerella xyrekes</i>
Yes	Giant cichlid/Yellow belly cichlid	<i>Boulengerochromis microlepis</i>
Yes	Catla	<i>Catla catla</i>
Yes	Giant barb	<i>Catlocarpio siamensis</i>
Yes		Centrarchidae family
Yes	Angler catfish	<i>Chaca bankanensis</i>
Yes	Burmensis frogmouth catfish	<i>Chaca burmensis</i>
Yes	Squarehead catfish	<i>Chaca chaca</i>
Yes	Snake head	<i>Channa spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Mrigal	<i>Cirrhinus cirrhosus</i>
Yes	Walking catfish	<i>Clarias spp. (all species)</i>
Yes		<i>Colossoma spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Mojara/Lambari	<i>Ctenobrycon hauxwellianus</i>
Yes		<i>Ctenobrycon multiradiatus</i>
Yes	Grass carp	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
Yes	Silverbelly ctenopoma	<i>Ctenopoma argentoventer</i>
Yes	Tailspot ctenopoma	<i>Ctenopoma kingsleyae</i>
Yes	Manyspined ctenopoma	<i>Ctenopoma multispine</i>
Yes	Ocellated labyrinth fish	<i>Ctenopoma muriei</i>
Yes	Twospot climbing perch	<i>Ctenopoma nigropannosum</i>
Yes	Eyespot ctenopoma	<i>Ctenopoma ocellatum</i>
Yes	Mottled ctenopoma	<i>Ctenopoma weeksii</i>
Yes	Brook stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>
Yes	Pacific fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator latifrons</i>

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Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes		<i>Dormitator lebretonis</i>
Yes	Fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator maculatus</i>
Yes	Pygmy sunfish	<i>Elassoma</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Electric eel	<i>Electrophorus electricus</i>
Yes	Large scaled spiny cheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris amblyopsis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris andamensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris annobonensis</i>
Yes	Ramu freshwater gudgeon	<i>Eleotris aquadulcis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris balia</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris brachyurus</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris daganensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris fasciatus</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris feai</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris melanura</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris oxycephala</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris pellegrini</i>
Yes	Smallscaled spinycheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris perniger</i>
Yes	Spotted sleeper	<i>Eleotris picta</i>
Yes	Spinycheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris pisonis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris pseudacanthopomus</i>
Yes	Sandwich Island sleeper	<i>Eleotris sandwicensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris senegalensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris soaresi</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris tecta</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris tubularis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris vittata</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris vomerodentata</i>
Yes	Reedfish	<i>Erpetoichthys calabaricus</i>
Yes		<i>Erythrinus</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Pike	<i>Esox</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia</i> spp. (all species except <i>G. holbrooki</i>)
Yes	Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>
Yes	Redfin bully	<i>Gobiomorphus huttoni</i>
Yes	Bigmouth sleeper	<i>Gobiomorus dormitor</i>
Yes	Pacific sleeper	<i>Gobiomorus maculatus</i>
Yes	Aba aba	<i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>
Yes		<i>Helicophagus leptorhynchus</i>
Yes		<i>Helicophagus waandersii</i>
Yes	Banded jewelfish	<i>Hemichromis fasciatus</i>
Yes	African pike	<i>Hepsetus odoe</i>
Yes	Twospot livebearer	<i>Heterandria bimaculata</i>

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Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Stinging catfish	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>
Yes	Roughback whipray	<i>Himantura kittipongi</i>
Yes	Marbled freshwater whip ray	<i>Himantura krempfi</i>
Yes	Marbled whipray	<i>Himantura oxyrhyncha</i>
Yes	Aimira	<i>Hoplerythrinus</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Trahira	<i>Hoplias</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Beluga	<i>Huso huso</i>
Yes	Pike characin/Giant tigerfish	<i>Hydrocynus</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Silver carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>
Yes	Tropical carp-gudgeon	<i>Hypseleotris cyprinoides</i>
Yes		<i>Hypseleotris tohizonae</i>
Yes	Balsas catfish	<i>Ictalurus balsanus</i>
Yes	Lerma catfish	<i>Ictalurus dugesii</i>
Yes	Blue catfish	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>
Yes	Headwater catfish	<i>Ictalurus lupus</i>
Yes	Rio Verde catfish	<i>Ictalurus mexicanus</i>
Yes	Chapala catfish	<i>Ictalurus ochoterenai</i>
Yes	Yaqui catfish	<i>Ictalurus pricei</i>
Yes	Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Yes	Orangefin labeo	<i>Labeo calabasu</i>
Yes	Rohu	<i>Labeo rohita</i>
Yes	Forktail lates	<i>Lates microlepis</i>
Yes	Nile perch	<i>Lates niloticus</i>
Yes	Twospot lebiasina	<i>Lebiasina bimaculata</i>
Yes	South American lungfish	<i>Lepidosiren paradoxa</i>
Yes		<i>Leptolebias aureoguttatus</i>
Yes	Marbled pearlfish	<i>Leptolebias marmoratus</i>
Yes	Barred tail pearlfish	<i>Leptolebias minimus</i>
Yes	Opal pearlfish	<i>Leptolebias opalescens</i>
Yes	Electric catfish	<i>Malapterurus</i> spp. (all species)
	Weatherloach/Oriental Weatherloach	<i>Misgurnus anguillicaudatus</i>
Yes	Cornish jack	<i>Mormyrops anguilloides</i>
Yes	Round goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>
Yes	Shiner	<i>Notropis</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Ozark madtom	<i>Noturus albater</i>
Yes	Smoky madtom	<i>Noturus baileyi</i>
Yes	Chucky madtom	<i>Noturus crypticus</i>
Yes	Elegant madtom	<i>Noturus elegans</i>
Yes	Mountain madtom	<i>Noturus eleutherus</i>
Yes	Slender madtom	<i>Noturus exilis</i>
Yes	Saddled madtom	<i>Noturus fasciatus</i>
Yes	Checkered madtom	<i>Noturus flavater</i>

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Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Yellowfin madtom	<i>Noturus flavipinnis</i>
Yes	Stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>
Yes	Black madtom	<i>Noturus funebris</i>
Yes	Carolina madtom	<i>Noturus furiosus</i>
Yes	Orangefin madtom	<i>Noturus gilberti</i>
Yes	Piebald madtom	<i>Noturus gladiator</i>
Yes	Tadpole madtom	<i>Noturus gyrinus</i>
Yes	Least madtom	<i>Noturus hildebrandi</i> subsp. <i>hildebrandi</i>
Yes		<i>Noturus hildebrandi</i> subsp. <i>lautus</i>
Yes	Margined madtom	<i>Noturus insignis</i>
Yes	Ouachita madtom	<i>Noturus lachneri</i>
Yes	Speckled madtom	<i>Noturus leptacanthus</i>
Yes	Black River madtom	<i>Noturus maydeni</i>
Yes	Brindled madtom	<i>Noturus miurus</i>
Yes	Frecklebelly madtom	<i>Noturus munitus</i>
Yes	Freckled madtom	<i>Noturus nocturnus</i>
Yes	Brown madtom	<i>Noturus phaeus</i>
Yes	Neosho madtom	<i>Noturus placidus</i>
Yes	Pygmy madtom	<i>Noturus stanauli</i>
Yes	Northern madtom	<i>Noturus stigmosus</i>
Yes	Caddo madtom	<i>Noturus taylori</i>
Yes	Scioto madtom	<i>Noturus trautmani</i>
	Tilapia/Mozambique Mouthbrooder	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>
Yes	Tilapia	<i>Oreochromis</i> spp. (all species except <i>O. mossambicus</i>)
Yes	Ripsaw catfish/Black doras/ Black shielded catfish	<i>Oxydoras</i> spp. (all species)
Yes	Sentani gudgeon	<i>Oxyeleotris heterodon</i>
Yes	Marble goby	<i>Oxyeleotris marmorata</i>
Yes		<i>Oxyeleotris siamensis</i>
Yes		<i>Oxyeleotris urophthalmoides</i>
Yes		<i>Oxyeleotris urophthalmus</i>
Yes	Mekong giant catfish	<i>Pangasianodon gigas</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius bedado</i>
Yes	Basa	<i>Pangasius bocourti</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius conchophilus</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius djambal</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius elongatus</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius humeralis</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius kinabatanganensis</i>

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Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes		<i>Pangasius krempfi</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius kunyit</i>
Yes	Spot pangasius	<i>Pangasius larnaudii</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius lithostoma</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius macronema</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius mahakamensis</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius mekongensis</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius myanmar</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius nasutus</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius nieuwenhuisii</i>
Yes	Yellowtailed catfish	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius polyuranodon</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius rheophilus</i>
Yes		<i>Pangasius sabahensis</i>
Yes	Shortbarbel pangasius	<i>Pangasius tubbi</i>
Yes	Discus ray	<i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>
Yes	Pantanal parasitic catfish	<i>Paravandelia oxyptera</i>
	Redfin Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>
	Speckled Mosquitofish/Dusky Millions Fish	<i>Phalloceros caudimaculatus</i>
Yes	Southern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus erythrogaster</i>
Yes	Mississippi paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>
Yes	Marbled lungfish	<i>Protopterus aethiopicus</i>
Yes	Gilled lungfish	<i>Protopterus amphibius</i>
Yes	African lungfish	<i>Protopterus annectens</i>
Yes	Slender lungfish	<i>Protopterus dolloi</i>
Yes	Chinese swordfish/paddlefish	<i>Psephurus gladius</i>
Yes	Ninespine stickleback	<i>Pungitius pungitius</i>
Yes	Red piranha	<i>Pygocentrus spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Flathead catfish	<i>Pyloodictis olivaris</i>
Yes	Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>
Yes	Pink happy/Slender happy/Cunene happy/Green happy	<i>Sargochromis spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Blackchin tilapia	<i>Sarotherodon spp. (all species)</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe angolensis</i>
Yes	Golden barbel	<i>Schilbe banguelensis</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe bocagii</i>
Yes	Butterfish	<i>Schilbe brevianalis</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe congensis</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe djemeri</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe durinii</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe grenfelli</i>
Yes	Silver butter catfish	<i>Schilbe intermedius</i>

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Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes		<i>Schilbe laticeps</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe mandibularis</i>
Yes	Shoulderspot catfish	<i>Schilbe marmoratus</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe micropogon</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe moebiusii</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe multitaeniatus</i>
Yes	African butter catfish	<i>Schilbe mystus</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe nyongensis</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe tumbanus</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe uranoscopus</i>
Yes	Yangambi butterbarbel	<i>Schilbe yangambianus</i>
Yes		<i>Schilbe zairensis</i>
Yes		<i>Serranochromis spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Redeye piranha	<i>Serrasalmus spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	European catfish/Wels catfish	<i>Silurus spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Redbelly tilapia/Black mangrove cichlid/Spotted tilapia	<i>Tilapia spp. (all species except T. buttikoferi)</i>
Yes	Tench	<i>Tinca tinca</i>
Yes		<i>Tomeurus gracilis</i>
Yes	River carp/Deccan mahseer/High backed mahseer/Jungha mahseer/Thai mahseer	<i>Tor spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Valencia toothcarp	<i>Valencia hispanica</i>
Yes	Freshwater minnow	<i>Zacco platypus</i>