

Sorting Out Snakeheads

COMPARING THE NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD TO THE NATIVE BOWFIN

Northern Snakehead (invasive species)



Pelvic fins close to pectoral fins and gills

Extended anal fin

- Native to China
- Can grow about 33 inches long and are generally tan with dark brown mottling
- Jaws contain many small teeth similar to pike and pickerel
- Capable of breathing air, can go dormant in the mud during drought and can move short distances on land using their pectoral fins
- Can live out of water for up to three days in moist environment

Susan Trammell, bugwood.org

Bowfin (native species)



Pelvic fins set back from pectoral fins and gills

Black spot at base of tail

Short anal fin

- Typically found in swamps and backwater of sluggish rivers
- Can grow to about 32 inches long and are tan-olive with dark olive patterning
- Jaws contain peg-like teeth
- Black spot at the base of the tail
- Can also breathe air and withstand droughts by going dormant in the mud

Duane Raver/USFWS



Keeping the Natural State natural.

If you catch a snakehead or find one in your area, please keep the fish and contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Regional Office in Brinkley, **(877) 734-4581**, or the Fisheries Division in the Little Rock Office, **(501) 223-6428**.