Records & Labeling and their roles in controlling aquatic introductions

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Records & Labels

- In general, accurate labeling and record keeping are neither contributing to or preventing new AIS
- Educational labels geared toward the end consumer may have value in reducing introductions
- They are important tools in containing spread of accidentally distributed species



Current Industry Standards

- In general, most orders will go out with a packing slip indicating what species are in the shipment. At least common name, may include scientific name depending on shipper and/or origin.
- All bags in a shipment will typically have a label affixed with the species name and consignee.
- Tracking number on the label also identifies the shipper and consignee.



Records & Labels

- Accuracy of labels and invoices is irrelevant if inspectors are unable to identify the species
 - Limitation of a white list regulatory system
 - Easier to train inspectors to identify a small number of prohibited or restricted species versus identifying 40,000 legal species
- Any introductions are most likely to come from end consumer
 - Responsible entities in the pet trade are not intentionally introducing anything
 - Continue to push for consumer education. Habitatitude.

	Amphibians & Invertebrates (Snails, Shrimp, Crabs, and Crayfish)		
22251403	African Clawed Frog (NO AZ, CA, HI, KY, MT, NV, NJ, NC, OR, VW, WA)	6	
22251404	Albino African Clawed Frog (NO AZ, CA, HI, KY, MT, NV, NJ, NC, OR, VW, WA)	6	
22251334	Black Mystery Snail (NO GA)	12	
3034256	Magenta Mystery Snail (NO GA)	12	
22251339	Assassin Snail (NO GA)	12	
22251728	Black Racer Nerite Snail	6	
3011983	Orange Rabbit Snail (NO GA)	3	
22251762	Assorted Fancy Shrimp	12	
22251408	Red Cherry Shrimp	6	
22251731	Red Rili Shrimp	6	1

Resource Gaps Contributing to AIS

- A comprehensive prohibited species lists by state than would be incorporated in labels and inventory systems by distributors
- No responsible distributor intentionally ships prohibited species to states where they are illegal
- Tremendous difficulty in knowing laws from 50 states plus US territories, as well as county & city regulations
- Each state may have multiple agencies involved in regulating plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians and reptiles (DEP/DNR/F&W/Ag/Etc)



Resource Gaps Contributing to AIS

- USFWS 3-177 Requirements for Tropical Fish
 - ▶ All fish are combined
 - Crustaceans, mollusks, amphibians broken out on separate lines



Solutions

- A comprehensive site for regulations
- Suppliers continuing to educate their customers
 - There are species in trade that are not appropriate for all keepers
 - Beginning hobbyists should be discouraged from keeping these species
- Alternatives for consumers when they are no longer able to care for a pet
 - Amnesty Days
 - Rescue Organizations
 - Humane Euthanasia
 - Aquarium Society Fish Fry Fundraiser



Solutions

- Bag labels and tank labels for retailers to educate customers about the risks of releasing pets
- Tank labels for in-store use designating 'monster fish'



Case study-Zebra Mussels

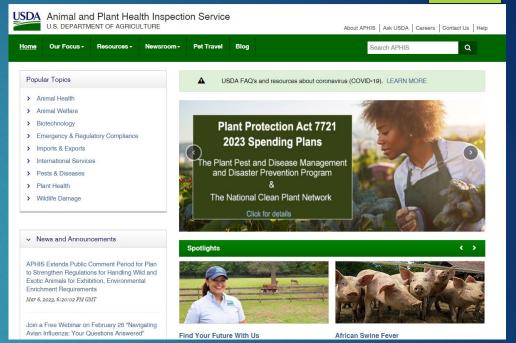
- Perfectly illustrates a coordinated and cooperative approach
- Zebra mussels were found in a retail store in Washington in 2021
- Found in moss balls that were shipped from a US distributor but originated in Ukraine
- It was determined that all the moss balls in trade at that time went back to the same source, and were potentially contaminated



Image Credit: Wyoming Game & Fish

Case Study-Zebra Mussels

- Proper sales records allowed our industry to quickly locate all the moss balls that had been sent out
- All distributors reached out to their customers that had purchased these moss balls with instructions to destroy them
- Every one of these moss balls was inspected and cleared by USDA
- New regulations require USFWS clearance for moss balls in addition to USDA





Thanks for your attention