



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.

INVOICE/ 5D See History		DATE			
PAST DUE		02/20/2023			
		INVOICE #			
		516654			
TRACKING NUMBER	TERMS	SALES REP	SHIP DATE	SHIP VIA	CUSTOMER CODE
1Z9369X86641...	30-DAYS	BG1	02/20/2023	UPS AIR	IRGYUL
ITEM CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ORIGIN	QTY	
	BOX#				
10005-F	GLOFISH(R) BARB-GALACTIC PURPLE(R) (NO PR)	PUNTIUS TETRAZONA	US	100	
	BOX#				
12012-F	GLOFISH(R) TETRA-STARFIRE RED(R)	GYMNOCORYMBUS TERNETZI	USA	120	
	BOX#				
1268-F	GLOFISH(R) TETRA-ELECTRIC GREEN(R)	GYMNOCORYMBUS TERNETZI	USA	240	
	BOX#				
12013-F	GLOFISH(R) TETRA-COSMIC BLUE(R)	GYMNOCORYMBUS TERNETZI	USA	120	
	BOX#				
1288-F	GLOFISH(R) TETRA-SUNBURST ORANGE(R)	GYMNOCORYMBUS TERNETZI	USA	120	
	BOX#				
SUB	SUBTOTAL				

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

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'



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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

The screenshot shows the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website. The header includes the USDA logo, the text "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE", and navigation links for "About APHIS", "Ask USDA", "Careers", "Contact Us", and "Help". A search bar labeled "Search APHIS" is also present. The main content area features a "Popular Topics" sidebar with links to Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Biotechnology, Emergency & Regulatory Compliance, Imports & Exports, International Services, Pests & Diseases, Plant Health, and Wildlife Damage. A central banner highlights the "Plant Protection Act 7721 2023 Spending Plans" for the "The Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program & The National Clean Plant Network". Below this is a "Spotlights" section with two featured articles: "Find Your Future With Us" and "African Swine Fever".



Thanks for your attention