Illegal Seafood...

By Federal regulation, it is illegal to import these species into the United States or transport them across State lines, without a permit.

- **snakehead**
- **walking catfish**
- **Chinese mitten crab**

It is illegal to possess these fish, without a permit, in certain northeast states:

- **black carp** (illegal in CT, ME, & NY)
- **grass carp** or **white amur** (illegal in CT, MA, ME, & NH)
- **silver carp** (illegal in CT, ME, & NY)
- **bighead carp** (illegal in CT, ME, & NY outside of NYC and Westchester county)

What can happen to people who import illegal seafood?

- In 2002, a New York City man was sent to prison for 3 months and fined $3,000 for importing Chinese mitten crabs.
- In 2005, a Los Angeles man was fined $230,000 for importing and selling live snakehead fish.

Consequences...

Releasing live seafood:

- **COSTS MONEY!**
  
  In 2002, Maryland spent about $50,000 to remove snakehead fish from just three ponds.

- **SPREADS HUMAN AND ANIMAL DISEASES!**
  
  Cholera, a human disease causing severe diarrhea and often death, has been found in several live seafood tanks in Hong Kong.

- **AFFECTS NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS!**
  
  The Chinese mitten crab eats saltwater plants, salmon and sturgeon eggs, shrimp, and young fish.

- **IS ILLEGAL!**
  
  It is illegal to release non-native live fish and turtles into the wild. If caught, you could be fined or sent to jail.

Live and Fresh Seafood: Into the pan, not into the wild

Eat your seafood, never release it.
Put all seafood waste into the trash.
Be extra careful with non-native seafood.

*Seafood refers to all edible fresh and saltwater animals and plants.*
Eat your seafood, never release it...

WHY? If non-native live seafood is released it can cause harm by eating plants and animals such as fish that people eat. Either freeze unused live seafood or put it in the trash, don’t release it. It is illegal to release non-native live fish and turtles into the wild.

Put all seafood waste into the trash...

WHY? All live and fresh seafood, and seafood waste products, carry diseases and parasites that can infect other animals or people. Fish heads, fish scales, guts, and shells should always be put in the trash. Never dump seafood waste into street gutters, rivers, lakes, or the ocean.

Be extra careful with non-native seafood...

WHY? It can be more harmful to release or dump non-native seafood than native seafood. These kinds of seafood, found at the supermarket, are often non-native:

- Eel
- Catfish
- Carp
- Algae
- Crabs
- Clams & Oysters
- Turtles